

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker offers Kathina robes to members of the Sangha in Zeyathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann offered Kathina robes to

members of the Sangha at the Kathina robe offering ceremony of Zeyathiri Township at its hall on Thursday.

Zeyathiri Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun supplicated on township's offering of Kathina robes to the Ab-

bots.

The Speaker and guests offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Zeyathiri Township held the Kathina robe offering ceremony for the first time.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives back from Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—Myanmar delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was seen off at Minsk International Airport by Deputy Minister of Defence of Belarus Chief of Armament Major General Lotenkov, National Defence and Industry Committee Vice Chairman Mr Bykor Igor, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Andrey Grenkovich and Myanmar Consular to Belarus Dr Aung Moe Myint at 8.15 am on 5 November.

The senior general and party left Minsk International Airport and arrived at DME International Airport in Moscow at 10.10 am local time.

During his short stay at the airport, the senior general presented cash awards to Myanmar scholars studying in Russia and urged them to study hard for the interest of the country.

Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Tin Yu, staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office and



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being welcomed back by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe and senior military officers.—MYAWADY

the scholars paid respects to the senior general in accordance with Myanmar tradition.

The senior general and party left the airport at 2.15 pm local time and

arrived at Yangon International Airport on 6 November morning.

The senior general and party was welcomed back at the airport by Commander-in-Chief (Navy)

Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and senior military officers.

The Myanmar military delegation included Lt-

Gen Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Maj-Gen Lwin Oo (Air), Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Lu Aye and senior military officers.

Myawady

INSIDE

Devotees of Buddhism throng religious places in capital city

PAGE-2

Mathoe robes offered to Buddha images at ancient pagodas in Yangon

PAGE-2

Slovak Dy PM arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

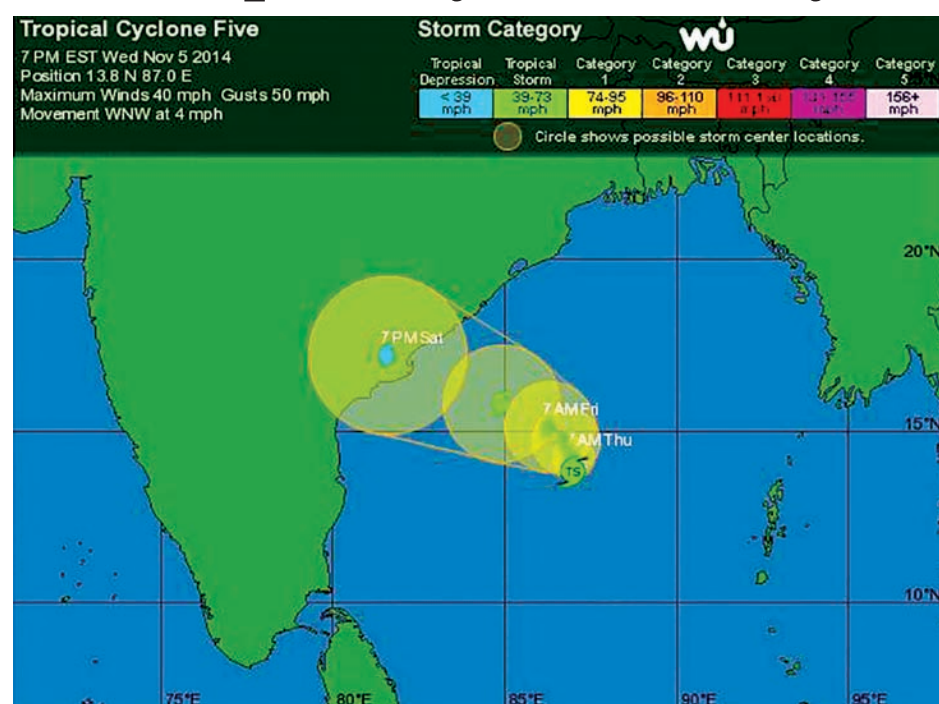
Union Minister attends 12th conference of MRS

PAGE-3

Consultation meeting on Chindwin futures assessment paves way for development opportunities on Chindwin River

PAGE-2

Tropical cyclone likely to hit southeast coast of India



YANGON, 6 Nov — A tropical cyclone over the central Bay of Bengal is moving in a northwest direction and is likely to cross the southeast coast of India on Saturday evening, U Tun Lwin, the former director-general of the Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department, said.

In a Facebook post, the private weather forecaster said the storm is likely to hit Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India on Saturday evening.

According to the observations at 14.30 hrs MST on Thursday by the Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department, the

depression is centered at about 480 miles southwest of Patheingyi in Myanmar, 360 miles northwest of Port Blair in India and 310 miles southeast of Vishakhapatnam in India.

It is forecast to further intensify into a cyclonic storm within 24 hours and move in north-northwest direction, the DMH said.

The present stage of depression is coded yellow as it is not moving towards Myanmar's coasts, according to the DMH.

Under the influence of the depression, rain or thunderstorms are likely to be fairly widespread in the Lower Sagaing, Man-

dalay and Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states with isolated regional heavy rainfall.

Squalls and rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar coasts and surface windspeeds in squalls may reach 40mph.

October and November are the peak months for cyclones over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, and, on average, five cyclones develop each year.

This year has seen three so far, Nanauk in June, Hudhud and Nilofar in October.—GNLM

Devotees of Buddhism throng religious places in capital city

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov — Famous pagodas and monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw were packed with pious people doing meritorious deeds on Thursday, the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, a significant religious day for Buddhists.

Devotees offered flowers, water, lights and foods at religious edifices, with communities holding collective Kathina Robes festivals

at Buddhist monasteries.

Food charities and entertainment programmes took place in every part of the capital city.

In the morning, pious people donned golden lotus robes on Jade Buddha Images in the cave of the Uppatathanti Pagoda in the morning, followed by reciting Pathanna nonstop and offering a decent luncheon to Buddhist monks at the

pagoda.

In the evening at the pagoda, religious people said prayers, recited religious protection verses called parittas in Pali, sat in meditation, and served visitors with refreshments.

Kathina Robes festivals are observed nationwide on a grand scale every year, filling beholders with enjoyment and excitement.

MNA

Mathoe robes offered to Buddha images at ancient pagodas in Yangon

YANGON, 6 Nov — On the fullmoon day of Tazaungmone which falls on 6 November today, a ceremony to offer Mathoe robes to Buddha images was held at Buddha images in four prayers of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

Members of the pagoda board of trustees donated meals to the pagoda at the prayer hall on its platform.

A similar ceremony was held at Botahtaung Pagoda. Officials donated Mathoe robes to the Buddha images of the pagoda and shared merits to all living things.

The Mathoe robe weaving contest was held at Kaba Aye Pagoda on 5 November night, and the robes were offered to seven



The Buddha image has been offered new Mathoe robes at Botahtaung Pagoda.—MNA

Buddha images on the platform of the pagoda.

Shwephonepint Pagoda board of trustees in Pazundaung Township also organized the Mathoe robe weaving contest and offering ceremony on Thursday.

Devotees and pilgrims visited religious buildings

and pagodas in Yangon the whole day and evening. The local people served all visitors from various parts of the city with refreshments.

At night, offices, residences and buildings were illuminated with multi-coloured lights.—MNA



Pilgrims visit Nay Pyi Taw Up-patasanti Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmone.

MNA

Mandalarians doing meritorious deeds on fullmoon day

MANDALAY, 6 Nov — On Samañaphala Day which falls on 6 November 2014, Mandalarians performed meritorious deeds at religious edifices in the ancient city Mandalay.

They held the Mathoe robes weaving contest, lighting festival and Kathina robe offering ceremony.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, wife Daw Myat Ngwe and officials offered Mathoe robes to Maha Muni Buddha Image and presented prizes to women's weaving teams. In the afternoon, they donated Kathina robes to members of the Sangha from 24 monasteries at

Maha Atula Waiyan Atumashi Monastery.

Ancient pagodas and stupas in Mandalay such as Aungdawmu Pagoda, Tooth Relic Pagoda, Shwe Kyee Myin Pagoda and Phayani Pagoda to pay homage and donate gold foils, flowers and meals.

Tin Maung

Finance ministry clarifies its plans for medium-term fiscal framework

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov — The ongoing medium-term fiscal framework is aimed at improving fiscal disciplines for macro-economic initiatives, strategic resource allocation and transparency, the union minister told a meeting at the Ministry of Finance here on 5 November.

U Win Shein, Union Minister for Finance, admitted that differences are likely in annual budgetary statistics between amounts of estimation and realization, urging officials to seek ways to mitigate the divides.

The union minister added that the addition-

al budget allocation law allows more budgets to projects whose estimated amount fails to meet the actual expenditures.

He also invited suggestions from experts in connection with the medium-term fiscal framework which is being drawn up.

MNA

Consultation meeting on Chindwin futures assessment paves way for development opportunities on Chindwin River

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 6 Nov—U Aung Zaw Oo, Sagaing Region Minister for Transport, on Wednesday pledged he will take a message on the formation of a Chindwin River basin organization to the regional chief minister who plays a major role in enhancing the overall development programmes for the Chindwin River at the consultation meeting on Chindwin futures assessment.

The meeting is aimed at discussing key recommendations on future plans for the river as well as seeking effective advice from stakeholders on the future plan for the Chindwin River, a major tributary of the

Ayeyawady River, that is more than 700 kilometers long.

The consultation was organized by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, Stockholm Environment Institute, Myanmar Environmental Institute and the Blue Moon Fund.

During the meeting, participant groups agreed to initiate a watercourse management programme upstream on the Chindwin River as a priority where the river becomes dangerously polluted from mercury used in gold mining operations.

“The Ministry of

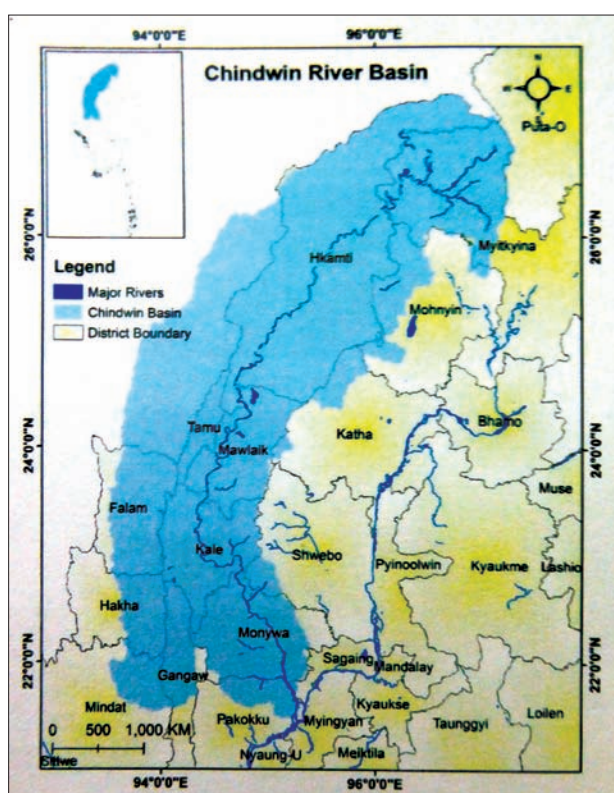
Mines has pushed those mining companies to make corporate social responsibility activities for the region,” U Saw Yu, assistant general manager of Mining-2, said. A watercourse management programme is vital to provide a better transportation service that is also connected with the development of delta as well as the country's economic sector.

U Thaung Lwin, a director of DWIR, said the ministry faces difficult challenges implementing overall waterway management tasks as there are not enough funds but the directorate has carried out river training work at numerous sites along the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers, high-

lighting the role of public participation in development tasks.

The directorate and its partner organizations will also organize a two-day workshop on engaging stakeholders and decision support tools for integrated water resources management in the Chindwin River basin to be held on Thursday at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

The objectives of the workshop are to introduce the techniques for engaging multiple stakeholders in exploring alternative strategies for developing and managing water resources in an integrated way using strategic and participatory planning tools, according to the organizers.—GNLM



The Chindwin River which is the biggest tributary of Myanmar's chief Ayeyawady River.

PHOTO: SEI



Union Minister attends 12th conference of MRS



Minister for Health Dr Than Aung speaking at the 12th Meeting of Myanmar Radiological Society.—MNA

YANGON, 6 Nov—Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung made a speech at the 12th Meeting of Myanmar Radiological Society at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Thursday.

In his speech, the union minister said the government has increased the health spending year by

year to purchase modern medical equipment and to train physicians in order to provide international standard healthcare services.

After the speech, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association Professor Dr Ye Mya explained the tasks of the association and Chair-

man Dr Lin Tun Tun of the organizing committee for the conference and two radiologists explained the purpose of the conference.

Afterwards, the union minister formally opened the medicine and medical equipment exhibition there.

MNA

Roads to be closed temporarily

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—With the aim of ensuring security and traffic safety during the ASEAN Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Yazathingaha Road from Thabyegon roundabout to Gangaw flower roundabout, Tawwin Yadana Road from Shwekyabin

traffic light to Tawwin Yadana Junction (Tungapuri traffic light) and Shwekyabin Road from Shwekyabin traffic light to Yazathingaha Road junction will be closed temporarily from 8 to 15 November.

Highway buses, trucks and heavy ma-

chinery are to use Nay Pyi Taw Council Road turning from Sibin Guest house and Shwekyabin traffic lights and from Zizawa flower roundabout to Yangon-Mandalay expressway and Pyinmana-Taungnyo road.

Security Committee

Slovak Dy PM arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Miroslav Lajcak and party of Slovak Republic on Thursday evening arrived

at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport where they were welcomed by Director-General U San Lwin of the Political Department and officials.

MNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Miroslav Lajcak being welcomed by officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann donates Kathina robes to a Buddhist monk in Zeyathiri Township.
(News on page 1)

MNA

Trees, lamp posts blown down by gale in Yangon

YANGON, 6 Nov—A tornado-like gale blew down power lines, trees, roofs and billboards along Insein Road in Hline and Mayangon Townships in Yangon on Thursday morning.

Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Mayor U Hla Myint, Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint

Thein, Yangon Electricity Supply Board Chairman U Aung Khaing and officials managed to erect fallen power posts and clear the fallen trees to prevent traffic congestion and to supply power to households.

Over 200 staff from Yangon City Development Committee, over 100 staff from Yangon Electricity

Supply Board and members of Red Cross Society and social organizations helped restore electricity and cleared the fallen trees.

About 20 trees and lamp posts were fallen and about five houses were damaged during the gale but no one injured.

Saw Thein Win



Electricians and officials clear debris and re-erect new lamp-posts in the places of damaged posts hit by strong winds.—SAW THEIN WIN

Nursing and midwifery diploma conferred on trainees

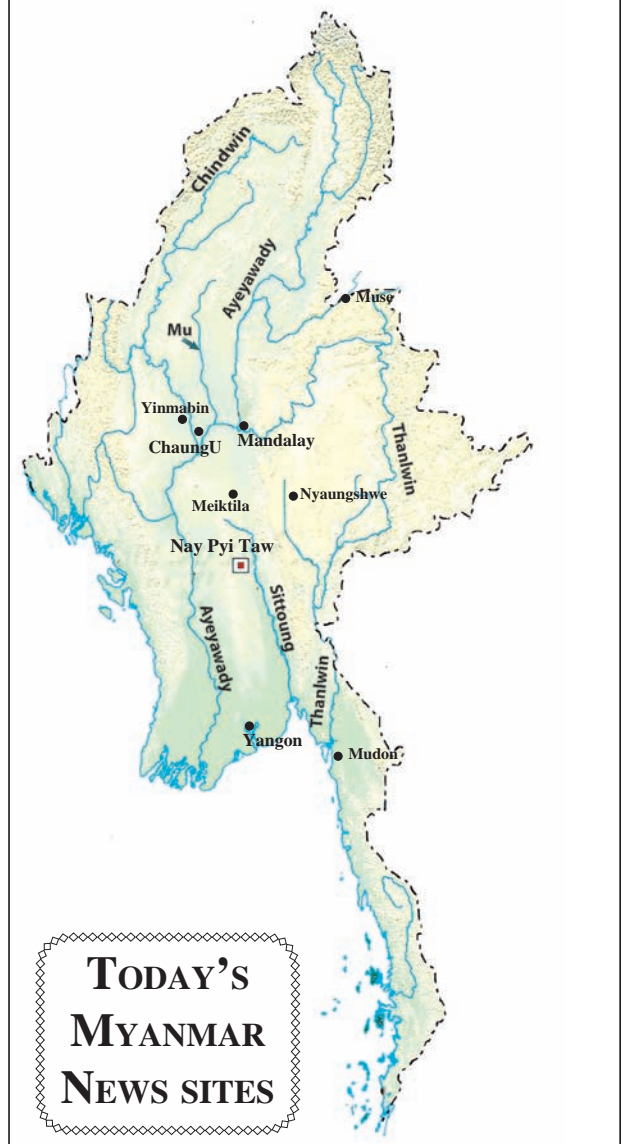


MEIKTILA, 6 Nov — A ceremony to confer certificates to trainees of nursing and midwifery diploma course was held for the first time at Nursing Training School (Meiktila) under the Department of Medical Science at Kandaw Mingala Hall in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, on 3 November.

Principal of the school Daw Mar Mar Myint gave a convocation speech and presented certificates of diploma to 47 trainees.

The training school was opened on 2 July 2001. So far, the school has turned 418 trainees.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Mandalarians enjoy entertainments at market festival

MANDALAY, 6 Nov — The Tazaungdine lantern night market festival took place at Mandalar Mandalay on the opposite site of Mandalathiri Stadium on 73rd street in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay from 6 pm to 10 pm on Wednesday.

Daw Mya Nanda and party of the National University of Arts and Culture and the Mandalay, Pakokku and Kyaukse engineering teams entertained

performances of puppet dancing, monkey dancing, ogre dancing, Ozi dancing, duel dancing, Buddha Pujaniya, U Shwe Yoe-Daw Moe dancing, Shan traditional dance and songs and traditional dancing at the festival.

Wellwishers donated refreshments and traditional snacks to the visitors.

Cartoonists from Mandalay signed their works to be presented as



gifts to the visitors.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Local girls participate in 72nd Mathoe robe weaving contest

MUDON, 6 Nov — Mathoe robes weaving contest in commemoration of the Tazaungdine lighting festival was held on Bogyoke Street in Mindan Ward, Mudon of Mon State on Wednesday.

A member of the organizing committee explained the rules of the Mathoe robes weaving contest.

Girls from eight weaving teams participated in the contest. Officials presented winners in the contest.

The Mathoe robes were offered to Buddha images at ancient pagodas in Mudon and on Taungnyo hill in the southeast of Mudon on 6 November.

Ko Chit (Mudon)

Use of quality cotton strains explained to local growers

CHAUNGU, 6 Nov — The field day of late-monsoon Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton was held at the quality cotton strain plot in Shwebyugwa field in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region, on Wednesday.

Chairman of Township Management Committee U

Hla Thein called for cultivation of late-monsoon Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton strain so as to earn income for growers in a short time. Head of Township Industrial Crops Development Department Daw Khin Htwe Win discussed plant propagation of the quality cotton

strains and good agriculture patterns for boosting per acre yield.

About 120 departmental personnel and local people attended the ceremony and asked about best ways for cultivation and use of quality strains.

Ei Ei Soe (IPRD)

Electrification to uplift living standard of rural people in Inlay region

NYAUNGSHWE, 6 Nov — A coordination meeting on electrification of Nyaungwun Village took place at the monastery in the village in Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State, on 4 November.

Shan State Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Sai Tun Yin explained procedures for implementing the electrification in the village. Township Administrator U Kyaw Zaw Hla reported

on regional development tasks and Chairman of the village electrification committee U Win Oo, reports on progress of power supply tasks.

It was reported that local people of the village funded K11 million for electrification tasks, installing one 160KVA transformer and 11 KVA power line. Moreover, the local people are striving for installation of 2,400 feet long power line in the village.

Myat Thu (IPRD)



LOCAL NEWS

Ancient pagodas crowded with visitors in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 6 Nov — To mark Samañaphala Day, wellwishers served people from various corners with refreshment and Myanmar traditional foods and donated Kathina robes to members of the Sangha and Mathoe robes to Buddha images at the pagodas.

In Mandalay, Mathoe robes weaving ceremonies were held at looms in the precincts of Maha Muni Image, tooth relic pagoda and Chanthaya pagoda to offer Mathoe robes to the



Buddha images.

Not only local people but tourists attended the

Mathoe robe weaving contest, Kathina robe offering ceremony and refreshment

donation ceremony in Mandalay.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Globetrotters see Mingun region as best tourist destination

MANDALAY, 6 Nov — The arrival of globetrotters is on the increase in Mandalay through Mandalay International Airport and they pay visits to Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Sagaing,

Inwa and Mingun regions.

While enjoying the beautiful scene of Ayeyawady River, tourists visited Mingun by private vessel that runs along Mandalay-Mingun route.

Over 40 vessels run Mandalay-Mingun-Mandalay route for transport of travellers at US\$8 per tourists and K5,000 per local people.

The vessels operated

by Ti-Ni Group of Mingun Home for the Aged give transport service to the passengers at fair price.

In 2013, about 200,000 tourists visited Mingun region. From January to October 2014, about 120,000 globetrotters visited Mingun.

It is expected to reach about 250,000 globetrotters to visit Mingun region in 2014 travel season, according to the Hotels and Tourism Development Department.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Kathina offertories donated to monasteries

MYAUNGMYA, 6 Nov—The 21st District/Township Government Employees Kathina Ceremony took place at the hall of Myaungmya District General Administration Department in Ayeyawady Region on 5 November.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Htwe Myint and departmental officials offered Kathina robes to members of the Sangha and sent Padethabin to monasteries.

All Padethabin works of departments in Myaungmya were worth K4,946,040.—Aung Min (Myaungmya IPRD)

CSC issued to eligible citizens in Yinmabin Tsp



YINMABIN, 6 Nov — To enable the local people to hold citizenship evidences, Head of Yinmabin Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Than Myo and staff made field trips on 3 November to Zeebyubin and Thekkapyu villages in the township so as to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to students.

The issuance of the citizenship scrutiny cards

was supervised by Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Myint Thein and Head of District INRD U Thant Zin Ko Ko.

“We welcome endeavours of officers and staff of the department for issuance of CSC to our children in implementing the Moe Pwint Plan,” said village administrator U Kan Zaw.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

Fire destroys Virginia leaves warehouse in Muse

MUSE, 6 Nov — A fire broke out at the warehouse where Virginia leaves were stored at Myan Kokang cigarette factory owned by U Yan Lauk San of Swamsaw Ward in Muse of northern Shan State on 2 November night.

The fire started from pile of Virginia leaves in the warehouse due to over-

head in the weather.

About 150 firefighters led by Head of Township Fire Services Department and police put out the fire with the use of 24 fire trucks and water bowsers.

The fire engulfed one warehouse worth K1.8 million and bags of Virginia leaves worth K6 million.

Muse District IPRD



Village BEPS to get new building

YINMABIN, 6 Nov — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of a new building was held at Basic Education Primary School in Letpan Village in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, on Wednesday.

Township officials drove stakes at the designated places for construction of the new building.

Ministry of Education funded K43.2 million for construction

of a 120 feet long and 30 feet wide one storey building in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



China seeks progress in building new type of relations with US

BEIJING, 6 Nov — China again expressed willingness to work with the United States to build a new type of relations between major countries, saying it is normal for both sides to have disagreements in their relationship.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei made the comment at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on a speech by US Secretary of State John Kerry in a lecture in Washington.

Kerry promoted the importance of enhancing ties with China on Tuesday and expressed concerns about tension in the South

China Sea ahead of President Barack Obama's China visit next week.

"We have noticed Kerry's speech. The 35-year history of diplomatic relations between China and the United States has fully proved that the two countries share important mutual interests and a wide scope for cooperation," Hong said.

Both sides should and can cooperate more at the bilateral, regional and global levels to safeguard stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, he said.

Meanwhile, he noted

the differences in history and culture, social systems and economic development. "It is normal for both to have some disagreements," he said, calling on the two sides to resolve them constructively through respect and seeking common ground while putting aside differences.

China is willing to work with the United States to earnestly implement the consensus reached between the two heads of state. "We are willing to promote building a new model of major-country relations featuring non-conflict and non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win coop-

eration to benefit the two peoples and the world," Hong said.

US President Barack Obama will pay a state visit to China and attend the 22nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Beijing from 10 to 12 November.

The leaders of the two countries will exchange views on Sino-US ties as well as major international and regional issues of common concern. "We welcome President Obama's visit and hope for positive results," the spokesman added.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Barack Obama.

Indian PM likely to expand cabinet, 10 more ministers inducted



Indian PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 6 Nov — Indian PM Narendra Modi is likely to expand his cabinet on Sunday, sources said here on Thursday.

There are now 45 ministers in the cabinet, and more than six ministers are holding more than one portfolio, including Arun Jaitley, who is charge of both the key ministries of finance and defence.

It is reported that Modi is expected to induct as many as 10 new ministers, and Chief Minister of Goa

state Manohar Parrikar could be chosen as the new defence minister.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new ministers is likely to take place on Sunday evening. Amidst talks of a cabinet expansion, Modi took oath along with 45 cabinet ministers on 26 May. With a policy of "minimum government, maximum governance," Modi had appointed only a comparatively small cabinet in his government.

Xinhua

Indonesian defence minister tours Russian section of arms exhibition in Jakarta

JAKARTA, 6 Nov — Indonesian Defence Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu familiarized himself on Thursday with Russian exhibits at INDO Defence 2014 exhibition, TASS reported from the site.

The minister showed a special interest in means of close combat — sniper rifles, pistols, machine-guns and grenade launchers.

He was also briefed on advantages of Kilo class diesel-electric submarines, in particular the 636 project that has long been of interest for Indonesia. These submarines are designed by Rubin Central Design Bureau in St Petersburg.

All in all, there are 22 national pavilions at the defence exhibition that has been held since 2004. It traditionally presents all kinds of arms and military hardware for land troops and naval forces, aircraft and aircraft weapons, sys-

tems and means of air defence, IT technologies, means of unconventional warfare well as systems and means of communication. This year, 525 companies from 45 countries demonstrate their exhibits on a total area of 10,000 square metres. Fourteen

companies present the Russian defence sector at this year's exhibition.

According to Russia's Rosoboronexport state-owned arms exporter, since 1992 Russia has exported to Indonesia Su-27 and Su-30 fighter jets, Mi-17B-5 and Mi-35P helicopters,

BTR-80 armored personnel carriers and BMP-3F infantry fighting vehicles among other armaments.

Besides, some Soviet-era military hardware, including amphibious tanks PT-76 is in the inventory of the Indonesian army.—Itar-Tass



Delegates visit the Indo Defence 2014 Expo and Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 Nov, 2014. The Expo runs from 5 to 8 November, with more than 600 companies from 50 countries exhibiting their latest technologies and systems.—XINHUA

UN praises Filipino resilience a year after Haiyan tragedy

MANILA, 6 Nov — The United Nations chief representative in the Philippines on Thursday praised Filipinos' resilience in recovering from a super typhoon that devastated the country's central island's nearly a year ago.

"We are humbled by the extraordinary resilience of the Filipino people who, despite the unprecedented destruction and tragedy that struck, pushed through individually and collectively, and with generosity of spirit, to this point where recovery is well under way," Luiza Carvalho, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines, said in a statement.

Packing winds of up to 235 kilometres per hour and inducing a tsunami-like storm surge, Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda, swept the central Philippines on 8 November last year, causing massive loss of lives and devastation of properties and infrastructure.

Official government data state that 6,300 people died, a little over 1,000 remain missing, and some 4.1 million people were displaced. The estimated cost of damages is 89.6 billion pesos (approximately \$2 billion).

Carvalho assured the Philippines of continued UN support in the rehabilitation phase of recovery, which began in August after months of humanitari-

an-focused efforts.

"We recognize that 'building back better' will be a complex and long process, particularly the rehabilitation of human settlements and the restoration of livelihoods," she said, while noting that the government has "clearly outlined the work that lies ahead."

Philippine President Benigno Aquino approved the post-Haiyan rehabilitation master plan, which will require almost 170 billion pesos, in late October, and his officials say all projects under it are expected to be completed by 2016, his last year in office.

During the humanitarian phase, the United Nations provided food for some 3.7 million people; feeding counseling for 82,000 mothers; and, prenatal and postnatal care for 23,000 pregnant and lactating women.

It also rehabilitated water systems, benefiting almost 1 million people; provided new or rehabilitated latrines for the benefit of 350,000 people; and provided emergency shelters for 570,000 households.

The international agency also helped 162,000 households get emergency employment, and distributed agricultural seeds and tools to some 100,000 farmers. It built 4,900 temporary learning spaces and distributed learning materials for 545,000 students.

Kyodo News

South Korea plans to buy Russian air cushion landing craft

JAKARTA, 6 Nov — Russia and South Korea are expected to shortly sign a contract under which Russia will build several air cushion amphibious assault landing craft *Murena-E* for South Korea, an informed source from the Russian delegation to INDO Defence 2014 exhibition told TASS on Thursday.

“South Korea already ordered three boats in 2004 and is very satisfied with their operational capabilities, seeking to buy several more that would be upgraded a bit,” he said, adding that India and Turkey are also viewing the purchase of *Murena* craft.

The source said all modifications have already been added in a new project.

“We expect the contract will be signed shortly. By experience of the first contract that was completed in 2007, the lead ship was built in a year-and-a-half and the others within a year,” the source added.

The trio of South Korea’s *Murena* craft will



Murena-E

soon be repaired with repair work conducted by Russian specialists. It is up to the Korean side to de-

cide where repairs will be made, the source said.

“India also shows interest in similar projects.

Besides, negotiations are under way with Turkey,” the source said. He said *Murena* boats could be

landed from Mistral helicopter carriers depending on their design and size.

Itar-Tass

Lunacek: Credibility test for EU enlargement in Balkans



European Parliament (EP) Vice President and rapporteur for Kosovo Ulrike Lunacek

VIENNA, 6 Nov — The accusations of corruption within EULEX have to be investigated urgently, along with everything related to that, and the steps taken as the result have to be transparent, European Parliament (EP) Vice President and rapporteur for Kosovo Ulrike Lunacek said on Wednesday. After a meeting with the EP head of civilian operations Kenneth Dean and director for Western Europe and the Balkans in the European foreign service Fernando Gentilini, she stated she was pleased that

her request for an external investigation of these accusations had been accepted by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, who appointed an independent legal adviser. Lunacek demands a full investigation into the corruption claims, adding that the hearing held on Monday was not satisfactory, because it was evident that the opportunity to investigate immediately similar cases from the past had been missed. That is why the EP decided to send a questionnaire to Mogherini while retaining the right

to establish a parliamentary board of inquiry depending on Mogherini’s response, Lunacek points out.

The credibility of EULEX is not the only thing in question here, but the EU’s entire policy of enlargement in the Western Balkans, she stressed.

If EULEX does not regain the trust of the Kosovo people and EU members, the EU demands for the Western Balkan countries to establish the rule of law and battle corruption will become farcical, she stated.—*Tanjung*

Asia Pacific nations set to endorse anti-graft deal

BEIJING, 6 Nov — Countries in the Asia Pacific region are set to endorse a plan for a China-based information-sharing network to combat corruption, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Thursday.

The network, known as Act-Net, will be based at the training arm of the ruling Communist Party’s top anti-graft body, which has the power to imprison and investigate party officials without charge, the US newspaper reported.

It did not seem that members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation grouping plan to challenge China’s bid to host the anti-graft network, whose initial mandate will run through 2015, the *Journal* said.

China’s President Xi Jinping has sought to widen his far-reaching anti-corruption campaign to suspects who have fled abroad, particularly those who have taken their ill-gotten gains with them.

A draft declaration, seen by the newspaper, says the network will use extradition, mutual legal assistance, and the recovery and return of proceeds of corruption as the means to tackle graft across borders.

Western governments have balked at setting up extradition deals because torture is often used by Chinese legal authorities to extract confessions and capital punishment is widely meted out for crimes, including corruption.

Act-Net will ease the flow of information between law enforcement agencies, but it will not be a regional version of Interpol, people familiar with the matter told the *Wall Street Journal*.

China has extradition treaties with 38 countries, but not the United States, Canada or Australia — the three most popular destinations for suspected economic criminals, according to state media.—*Reuters*

Japan sends PM adviser to China over Abe-Xi talks at APEC

TOKYO, 6 Nov — Japan on Thursday sent Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s foreign policy adviser to Beijing to prepare for a possible meeting between Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of a regional summit next week in the Chinese capital, according to government officials.

Shotaro Yachi, head of the National Security Council, plans to hold talks with State Councilor Yang Jiechi, China’s top foreign policy official, they said.

Amid the growing likelihood that Abe and Xi will make brief informal contact during the two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum starting Monday, Yachi is expected to convey Abe’s request for an official meeting without attaching preconditions.

China has insisted it will not hold a summit with Japan unless it recognizes the existence of a “territorial dispute” over the Senkaku Islands, a group of uninhabited islets in the East China Sea administered by Japan but claimed by China and Taiwan, and Abe promises not to visit the war-related Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo.—*Kyodo News*

Colombia thanks Germany for aiding its peace process

BOGOTA, 6 Nov — Germany has provided Colombia with 116 million euros over the last two years to help end the latter’s decades-long armed conflict, Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin disclosed on Wednesday.

Holguin said although Colombia has a stable economy and does not need such financial assistance, it accepted the aid after considering the importance of advancing the ongoing peace process with the guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest rebel group in Colombia.

She reiterated Colombia’s gratitude to Germany for its aid.—*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 7 November, 2014

The blame game will get us nowhere

By Kyaw Thura

All the people of the world are bound to trade blame in the dynamics of political reform.

This reminds me of a story I read in my teens. One day an anchorite stole into a field of corn and plucked some corncobs. On arrival at his place, he peeled off their sheaves only to see no grain inside. All the corncobs he had gathered were barren. Driven by anger, the anchorite went to the farmer, blaming him for “grainless”

corncobs and accusing him of failing to weed the field. The owner of the corn field responded that the fault was with the soil.

On hearing the farmer’s accusation, the guardian of the land put the blame on the faulty rain patterns. But the guardian of the rains retorted angrily that it was the king who would have to take the blame for any inconveniences caused. In his justification, the king failed to follow the royal code of conduct.

Later, the anchorite went to the palace to ask for permission to be present before the king, who as a result asked his subjects to make investigation into the anchorite’s request. After hearing all the reports, the king ordered his men to bring the anchorite before him.

No sooner was he before the king than he filed complaints about the king’s failure to behave well. The king, as he had learned everything from his subjects, pointed out the anchorite’s immoral con-

duct. The anchorite, after noticing his own unprofessional demeanour, rushed out of the palace.

This story teaches us the importance of the balance between form and function in society. The hardest part is that it is easier to find fault in others than in ourselves. At last, nobody is perfect, but the best part for all of us to do our best for our posterity.

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 wallace.tun@gmail.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.

Should Smoking at Public Places be Banned?

Khin Maung Myint

In my opinion most smokers are aware of the adverse effects of tobacco smoking, but are either reluctant to quit or have difficulty quitting. Whatever the reasons are, they should have some etiquette to abstain from smoking at public places. As it is common knowledge, among educated persons, that second-hand smokers are exposed to the hazards of tobacco smoke as much as the smokers themselves, or even worse as the exhaled smokes may contain other toxic gases. If the smokers cannot quit smoking, let them smoke themselves to death, but the non-smokers should be safeguarded

against involuntary suicides. Thus, I absolutely agree to the idea of banning smoking at public places. I may sound a bit blunt, but I mean no offence to the smokers. However, I was compelled to use harsh words to send the message through to those stubborn smokers and make them kick the undesirable bad habits. I humbly beg forgiveness from the readers, especially my smoker-friends, if they should find my article offending. I sincerely hope they would understand my intentions and good will in writing it. However, if this article could persuade someone to quit smoking, I would be

much gratified and accept their wraths and condemnations gladly.

A few decades ago, in other countries including some of our neighbours, as the people are getting more and more aware of the adverse consequences of smoking, they started choosing where they go. They’d shun public places where smoking is not prohibited, especially restaurants and cafes. As this trend became more widespread and started to hit the businesses, some farsighted restaurant-owners started posting “No Smoking” signs, to lure their customers back. Their innovations are quite effective, others followed suit. Later authorities officially made it compulsory to prohibit smoking

in all public places. To facilitate the enforcement of that restriction, smoking rooms and areas are designated for those who cannot stay away from smoking, to satisfy their cravings for the “killer nicotine”.

Everywhere you go in Thailand and if you are on the lookout, you are bound to notice that smoking in restaurants and cafes are nowhere to be found. Even if the “No Smoking” signs or logos with a circle with a diagonal line, imposed over the image of a cigarette, which is an international sign, was not in sight. This indicates that the public is aware of the consequences of smoking and voluntarily abstain from smoking. I deemed that a result of the awareness education pro-

grams. I believe this to be a familiar sight in other countries in the region, although it is a new experience for me.

Public places like hospitals, airports, train stations, bus terminals, riverine/ocean ferry terminals, some hotels, to mention just a few, in most of our neighbouring countries are prohibiting smoking. At some of the above mentioned places, provisions are made for smokers to pursue their habits. However, the number of people utilizing those facilities are noticeably decreasing, indicating that more and more people are quitting smoking.

In conclusion I would like to urge my fellow countrymen, who are habitual smokers to quit smoking

and warn our youths not to indulge in smoking for fun, thinking they cannot get addicted. I should know best about this fact, as I was addicted to smoking since sixteen and was only able to quit at forty eight, after trying many times starting from twenty five. It took me twenty three years to finally succeed. It all started in my first year at the university. I thought smoking cigarette was stylish after observing the senior students smoking and that I have enough self-control to avoid getting addicted, which proved to be wrong. Smoking is not only detrimental to health, but also a very expensive habit that should be shunned. I intend to write about the reasons why you should quit smoking in my next article.

The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dept., Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

The Promotion of National Education towards the Emergence of World-class Universities

Department of Higher Education
(Lower Myanmar)

Today in the reign of the new government all round development programmes are being carried out at the various levels of every sector and now becoming the third wave.

When reviewing the education reforms carried out for promoting education standard in Myanmar, especially at the higher education level, national education law which has been deliberated and widely debated by all public and academicians, has been enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in order to carry out the education reform pragmatically in accordance with the law.

This education law is Mother Law or Policy Law which covers the various education systems, from the pre-school education which is concerned with the whole national education and has never been implemented in Myanmar, to university education, education tasks at the respective levels and non-formal education, self study education and inclusive education, etc in addition to formal education. This law has been enacted in accordance with the law in order to perform the education tasks in compulsory and pragmatically in the education sector, for the enhancement of education quality, quality assurance and in-

ternational recognition in various sectors: Higher Education sector, Basic Education sector, Teacher Education sector, Technical and Vocational Education sector, etc.

As the National Education Law is a law that encompasses all sectors of education, in order to implement it, it is necessary to continue detailed and extensive deliberation and drafting the required by-laws sector-wise and enact them.

While doing so, short-term and long-term projects are being planned and budget is being projected for the reforms in accordance with the National Education Law and in order to utilize the budget, increasingly allotted every year for investment in education promotion programmes that can gain immediate benefits are identified by making field trips to various regions.

Likewise when we meet local people from different regions, we get their opinions and desires on the education reform which are to be implemented and we are planning to add their desire in the future plans.

In this situation, among the reform of education sectors, especially in reform of higher education sector, all the universities under higher education department are under the supervision of ministry of education and other respective ministries. However, according to the new national education law, chances of autonomous teaching and learning situation and autonomous administrations are given to

all universities. Moreover, according to the new National Education Law, higher education institutions are granted to use government budget which is being raised annually as well as to use their own funding.

The opportunities to create independent and enthusiastic education environment, the opportunities to collaborate with international universities to be recognized by international universities and intellectual organizations when carrying out tasks to promote the university education standard to develop autonomous university which can carry out research work in practical field, business, industrial and manufacturing fields, to get the chance of joining the university based on the qualities, desires and hobbies of the students, to form social organizations as extra-curriculum activities are being included in detail in the higher education law.

Private University law is being drafted after enacting basic rules to raise cooperation of private sector in education law.

Nowadays, it is important to draft Higher Education Law in order to implement practically because National Education Law has been enacted. Each university must carry out the autonomous performance. Concerning this there must be University Act. In this Act, the responsible person and his task must be clearly stated.

(See page 9)

PHOTO GALLERY



Security personnel checking venues for hosting ASEAN Summit and related meetings at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Security measures taken for hosting 25th ASEAN Summit and related summits in Nay Pyi Taw



Security personnel in standby position at their post in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Servicemen checking a vehicle for security reason on road section.—MNA

Escorts rehearse for giving security to delegates to ASEAN Summit.

MNA



Preparations have been made at a hall where 25th ASEAN Summit and related summit will be held in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

The Promotion of National Education towards . . .

(from page 8)

Thus, according to the National Education Law, upgrading the quality of National Education, emergence

of world class universities and grasping the opportunities to carry out the autonomous performance must be undertaken.

To sum up, since it is necessary to perform the tasks in practice, inclusive of people's will and in accordance with the existing law in reforming into new, democratic nation, the rules and laws to be prescribed

sector-wise in future must be the main ones which allow these tasks to be carried out.

Therefore, since the national education law already enacted allows for chances of creating inde-

pendent and active academic surrounding and of upgrading educational qualities, it is the mother law which needs implementing in practice. It is earnestly suggested that all the nationalities must have

the same objectives in drawing up the university acts and laws sector-wise and must work collaboratively for the upgrading of national education and emergence of world class universities.

Obama, Republicans sound conciliatory note but battles loom

WASHINGTON, 6 Nov — President Barack Obama and his powerful US Senate adversary struck a conciliatory tone on Wednesday, but Obama's plans to proceed with new immigration rules foreshadowed a bumpy start to his relationship with a Republican-controlled Congress. Obama and Mitch McConnell, who will become majority leader when Republicans take charge in the Senate in January, signaled they hoped to get past a previously frosty relationship to pass legislation on priorities on which they can both agree.

Republicans swept elections on Tuesday, capturing their biggest majority in the House of Representatives in more than 60 years and gaining a majority in the Senate for the first time since 2006. The election result limits what Obama can achieve without bipartisan support during his final two years in office.

"As president, I have a

unique responsibility to try and make this town work," Obama, a Democrat, said at a White House news conference. "So, to everyone who voted, I want you to know that I hear you."

Obama lauded McConnell, with whom he said he hoped to share some Kentucky bourbon, and House Speaker John Boehner for expressing the wish to seek common ground after the elections. He spoke to both men earlier in the day.

McConnell said he believed Obama was interested in moving forward on trade agreements and tax reform, two issues at a standstill in Washington because of political differences. "This gridlock and dysfunction can be ended. It can be ended by having a Senate that actually works," McConnell told reporters in his home state Kentucky. But the words of reconciliation only went so far. Obama said he intended to go ahead with plans to im-



US President Barack Obama answers questions during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington on 5 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

plement executive actions by the end of this year that could remove the threat of deportation from millions of undocumented immigrants.

McConnell said it would be like "waving a red flag in front of a bull" for Obama to take unilateral action on immigration. The Democrat-controlled Senate passed a bill on the issue last year but House Republicans did not support it. "We're going to take whatever law-

ful actions that I can take that I believe will improve the functioning of our immigration system," Obama said. "If they want to get a bill done ... I'm eager to see what they have to offer. But what I'm not going to do is just wait."

Obama conceded that Republicans "had a good night" on Tuesday but shied away from more descriptive language of the sort he used in 2010, when he described

Republican victories as a "shellacking." The president, whose unpopularity made him unwelcome to many Democrats running for office, plans to meet congressional leaders from both parties at the White House on Friday to take stock of the new political landscape.

Despite the Republican gains, the election was not necessarily an endorsement of Republican policies. Initiatives championed by Democrats to raise the minimum wage and legalize possession of small amounts of marijuana succeeded in a handful of states where they were on the ballot.

With the bulk of election results in, the dollar surged to a seven-year high against the yen and the Dow and S&P 500 finished at record closing highs, reflecting optimism about pro-energy and other business policies.

Obama said he would like to work with Republi-

cans on a deal to pay for repairs to roads, bridges, ports and other infrastructure. He said a tax reform package might be one way of paying for the infrastructure projects.

The new power structure will test Obama's ability to compromise with newly empowered political opponents who have been resisting his legislative agenda since he was first elected in 2008. Americans elected him to a second and final four-year term in 2012. One of the first tests could be a bill to approve the Keystone XL (TRP. TO) crude oil pipeline from Canada, a project about which Obama has voiced reservations.

Republican Senator John Hoeven said in an interview on Wednesday that he has enough votes to pass a bill early in 2015 that would approve TransCanada's long-languishing \$8 billion pipeline project.

Reuters

Demolition of remaining Syria chemical arms sites to begin soon

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Nov — The demolition of a dozen remaining chemical weapons production facilities in Syria is scheduled to begin later this month while work will continue on the verification of the government's declarations, Australia's UN envoy said on Wednesday.

"There are seven hangars and five underground tunnels, which need to be destroyed," Ambassador Gary Quinlan, president of the UN Security Council this month, told reporters after a closed-door briefing by Sigrid Kaag, a UN special adviser on Syria's chemical weapons program. "The destruction is

scheduled to commence later this month and likely to be completed ... around the summer of next year," he added, citing information from Kaag.

He said she also told the 15-nation council about plans to destroy a further facility which was only recently disclosed by the Syrian government. That site, which was revealed in September, was for the production of deadly ricin.

Kaag also spoke of the need to continue verifying the Syrian government's declarations about the extent of its poison gas arsenal and production capabilities, Quinlan said. Western intelligence agencies had

long suspected that Syria failed to disclose the full extent of its chemical arms program. Damascus agreed last year to eliminate its entire chemical weapons program after a sarin attack on 21 Aug, 2013, killed hundreds of people in Ghouta, a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Damascus.

Under the agreement reached with Washington and Moscow, which averted threatened US military action, the Nobel Peace-prize winning Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons oversaw the destruction of 1,300 tonnes of toxic gas chemicals that Syria declared to the Hague-based

body. Syria was supposed to have already destroyed all production, filling and storage facilities, but did not demolish the 12 cement hangars and underground bunkers or the ricin facility.

Syrian UN Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari told reporters the destruction of the 12 production facilities was "scheduled to start during this month, even this week." "They are empty, empty production facilities, empty tunnels. We are talking about technical stuff related to the so-called Syrian chemical programme," Ja'afari told reporters.

"My country and my government are fully engaged, committed towards continuing cooperating with the OPCW to solve all the remaining technical issues," he said. "There is no chemical weapons programme in Syria anymore."

The government denies using chemical weapons and has blamed the opposition for repeated poison gas attacks in the country. Western officials have long dismissed Damascus' accusations that rebels used chemical arms. The rebels have also denied using the banned weapons during Syria's civil war, now in its fourth year.

Reuters

Brazil's Rousseff tries to mend post-election division



President Dilma Rousseff

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Nov — President Dilma Rousseff on Wednesday struck a conciliatory tone following post-election protests by the political opposition.

Meeting with business leaders in the capital of Brasilia, Rousseff pledged to head a government for all political segments, saying "a government has to govern for all voters, regardless of who they voted for." The president was reelected in a late October runoff by a narrow margin of some 4 percentage points.

She also stressed that knowing how to accept defeat was part of the democratic process. In reference

to a spate of protests to her reelection and even calls for impeachment on some social networks, Rousseff said "any attempt at retaliation arising from resentment on the part of those who won or those who lost (the election) represents a misunderstanding of the democratic process."

The president reiterated her willingness to dialogue with the opposition and Congress.

"The main forum for dialogue is the Congress, because that's where all the diversity of the Brazilian nation is expressed. We must value that, because being a diverse society is our main characteristic," she said.—Xinhua



A woman, affected by what activists say was a gas attack, receives treatment inside a makeshift hospital in Kfar Zeita village in the central province of Hama on 22 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Britain says will send more army trainers to Iraq to help fight Islamic State

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — Britain will boost the number of its army trainers in Iraq in the coming weeks to support the Iraqi armed forces' battle against Islamic State militants, the British defence secretary said on a visit to Baghdad on Wednesday.

Britain said last month it had deployed a team of trainers to Iraq to help Kurdish peshmerga fighters maintain and use heavy machineguns against the radical militants who have taken over much of Iraq and Syria in a ruthless military onslaught.

Britain planes have also participated in US-led air strikes against Islamic State, which has beheaded two British aid workers and two US journalists.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon, who met top Iraqi government officials during his visit to Baghdad, said the details of the mission would be ironed out soon.

"We have a small number of people here. We will be looking now to see how we can strengthen that, the

liaison work we are doing in the ministries and the security agencies here," Fallon told reporters.

"This is fairly urgent. We will be doing this in the next few weeks. That's what we have been asked to do."

The United States spent billions of dollars training and funding Iraqi security forces during the occupation of the country following Saddam Hussein's fall in 2003.

The quality of the training was called into question when several hundred Islamic State militants swept through northern Iraq in June, meeting little resistance. The Iraqi army rapidly collapsed in the face of the onslaught, leaving behind weapons and tanks that the al-Qaeda offshoot has been using in its attempts to expand a self-proclaimed Islamic emirate in Iraq and Syria.

Air strikes against Islamic State targets after the group started beheading Western hostages have slowed the militants' advance. But Iraqi and West-

ern officials believe the group can only be defeated if Iraqi security forces improve their performance, and that will take time.

As well as the additional training, Fallon said Britain was looking to fill gaps in Iraqi military equipment.

"We'll be making further gifts of supplies: spares for machine guns, binoculars, first aid kits," he said during a visit to a firing range where British soldiers from the Yorkshire Regiment were training Kurdish peshmerga to use British machine guns.

"We are stepping up our commitment to training and supply of both weapons and ammunition."

Aside from a poor showing on the battlefield, sectarianism is hampering security forces.

Just outside the heavily fortified Baghdad zone where Fallon was speaking, soldiers openly displayed pins on their uniforms that revealed they were members of Iraq's Shi'ite majority. Fallon said Britain would share expertise in roadside bombs and car



Kurdish Peshmerga fighters undergo training by British soldiers at a shooting range in Arbil, in Iraq's northern autonomous Kurdistan region on 5 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

bombs gained while fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"We have some specialist knowledge to contribute there and we are going to see how we can help train the Iraqi forces directly in that," he said.

In recent days the insurgents killed more than 300 members of a Sunni tribe in western Anbar Province. The Iraqi government

hopes the area will help the army to fight the insurgents and the United States wants both sides to revive an alliance that helped defeat al-Qaeda during the US occupation.

However, mistrust between the Shi'ite led administration and the Sunni tribes runs deep. The Albu Nimr tribe said the government and army ignored repeated pleas for help as the Sunni

insurgents approached their village. Fallon said the Albu Nimr, who battled Islamic State for weeks, were an example of the resolve of tribesmen.

"Any casualties are regrettable. Even that shows you that the tribes are taking the fight to IS and they are determined to get IS out of their villages and out of their areas," he said.

Reuters

Islamic State militants use chemical weapons in Syria — Syria's UN envoy



Islamic State militants in Syria's Kobani. The Islamic State attacked Kobani with shells filled with an incendiary chemical agent, causing civilian casualties.

ITAR-TASS

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Nov — Militants of the Islamic State group have launched a chemical attack on the Syrian city of Kobani, Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar Jaafari told reporters on Wednesday. He urged the UN to pay attention to all cases of the use of chemical agents by the Islamists.

The Islamic State attacked the city with shells filled with an incendiary chemical agent, causing civilian casualties, the diplomat said. He added that he already had sent a let-

ter on behalf of the Syrian government to the UN Security Council committee that deals with issues of the prevention of the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their delivery means.

Jaafari expressed indignation over the fact that the countries that have been accusing the Syrian government of using chemical weapons have even not bothered to call for conducting a probe into the alleged use of prohibited ammunition and chemical agents by terrorists.

Russian diplomats have repeatedly urged the United States to consider how harmful double standards are in matters related to chemical weapons in the Middle East. In a statement late October the Russian Foreign Ministry compared the Middle East to a testing site for terrorists to practice skills in synthesizing, producing and using chemical warfare agents.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov voiced his concern over chemical weapons in Libya going out of control. He said the country is out of control, and the risk of losing control over chemical weapons remains. "We talked about that long ago, when NATO's bombardments were still in progress. We kept warning that it was fraught with the proliferation of these weapons about the entire region of North Africa. Now it has happened," Gatilov recalled. "Some have been moved to Mali to end up in the hands of terrorists, and others were smuggled to Syria."—Itar-Tass

US-led air strikes hit al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria — monitor

WASHINGTON, 6 Nov — Air strikes by a US-led coalition set up to fight Islamic State targeted the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front in northwest Syria overnight, an organisation that tracks violence in the Syrian civil war reported on Thursday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the air strikes targeted an office and a vehicle used by Nusra Front in Idlib Province in northwestern Syria, where last week the al-Qaeda-affiliated group routed Western-backed Syrian rebels.

The Observatory also reported the first air strikes against Ahrar al-Sham, another hardline Islamist insurgent group.

Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Observatory, said it marked the second time the Nusra Front has been hit in the US-led campaign. The first was on 23 September — the first day of the US air strikes in Syria that are part of Washington's strategy to "degrade and destroy" Islamic State.

The United States said

that attack had targeted al-Qaeda veterans which it referred to as the Khorasan group.

Nusra Front last week seized control of areas of Idlib province from Western-backed rebel leader Jamal Maarouf, head of the Syria Revolutionaries' Front in northern Syria, confiscating its weapons. It also took positions from the Hazzm movement, another recipient of Arab and Western support.

It marked a big blow to the non-Islamist opponents of President Bashar

al-Assad who have generally struggled against better armed and equipped Islamist groups including Nusra Front and Islamic State.

The United States is planning to expand military support to what it describes as the moderate opposition to Assad as part of its strategy against Islamic State in Syria. Nusra Front was once seen as the strongest insurgent group in Syria but has been eclipsed this year by Islamic State, which has seized wide areas of northern and eastern Syria.

Reuters



Smoke rises above the Syrian city of Kobani after an airstrike by the US led coalition, seen from a hilltop on the outskirts of Suruc, near the Turkey-Syria border on 2 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

French police arrest three in nuclear plant drones probe

PARIS, 6 Nov — Police arrested three people found in possession of remote-controlled drones near one of the nuclear plants involved in a series of mystery overflights by the unmanned aircraft, a source close to the investiga-

tion said on Wednesday.

Two women and a man were apprehended near the Belleville-sur-Loire nuclear plant in central France and two drones were confiscated, the source said.

Interior Minister Ber-

nard Cazeneuve said last week that France had launched an investigation after drones were repeatedly sighted over seven of power utility EDF's atomic plants, raising concerns over nuclear safety.

The drones in question were very small, but police have given no indication of their exact nature. French law bans aircraft of all types from flying within five kilometres of nuclear facilities.—Reuters



View of the cooling towers at the Golfech nuclear plant on the edge of the Garonne river between Agen and Toulouse, southwestern France.—REUTERS

France, US not to tolerate Iran's nuclear programme to build weapons

PARIS, 6 Nov — France and the United States stood firm in refusing Iran's nuclear plan to build nuclear weapons, French and US officials said on Wednesday.

"Iran has the right to use civil nuclear power but not to build an atomic bomb," said French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius.

"We have discussed the negotiations with Iran on its nuclear (programme). It is very important that France and the United States have the same position on this issue," he said when meeting US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Hailing French-US cooperation to face hard challenges, Kerry reiterated the United States' refusal of Tehran uranium enrichment to build nuclear power before a two-day meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Oman by

the end of the week for fresh talks to reach a lasting deal on Teheran nuclear plan.

Iran has been a target of UN sanctions due to its alleged attempts to build nuclear weapons. The West accuses Iran of developing nuclear weapons under cover of civilian nuclear programmes, which Iran denied.

In November 2013, Iran accepted, in exchange for limited sanctions relief, to halt enrichment above 5 percent, neutralize its stockpile of near 20 percent uranium by means of dilution or converting and not to install more centrifuges.

However, West powers asked Tehran to close more centrifuges and not to build a nuclear power. During their meeting, Fabius and Kerry also discussed other "difficult issues", such as the situations in Syria and Iraq.—Xinhua

Man allegedly sold radioactive material to gain from radiation fears

TOKYO, 6 Nov — A 54-year-old man in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture, sold radioactive substances without a permit in an attempt to cash in on radiation fears stemming from the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Tokyo police said on Thursday.

The man has admitted to selling americium-241 to eight people, some of whom used it to test radiation-measuring instruments, said the police, who referred the case to prosecutors.

The police suspect the man sold the substance to the eight people between September 2013 and March this year for 3,500 to 4,500 yen a piece without authorization

in violation of the radiation hazards prevention law.

The man told the police he had bought a total of 15 pieces, placed between metal plates, through an overseas website for 1,100 to 1,200 yen each.

The substance was emitting radiation exceeding the allowable limit, the police said.

According to the police, the man said he expected demand for radiation-measuring instruments to increase after the March 2011 disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Kyodo News

China, Russia agree on military cooperation projects

MOSCOW, 6 Nov — Senior Chinese and Russian military officials said on Wednesday that the two countries have reached agreements on a slew of important military cooperation projects during the 17th round of strategic consultation.

Many cooperation projects in critical areas were agreed upon during the current round of consultation, said Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia Valery Gerasimov while meeting with Wang Guanzhong, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Gerasimov expressed the hope that the projects could help enhance mutual trust and substantial cooperation between the two militaries as military ties between Russia and China are a crucial part of strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking on the same occasion, Wang said that the two militaries have im-

plemented the consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries and witnessed fruitful cooperation in various fields through deepened pragmatic exchanges in recent years.

As the year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the world's anti-Fascist War and will be an important year for the China-Russia military cooperation, China is willing to work with Russia on the implementation of major military cooperation projects to push forward the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, said Wang.

During the 17th round of strategic consultation, the two sides discussed the current international and regional security situations, regional hot issues as well as the relationship between the two militaries and reached important consensus on major cooperation projects of the next year and the future.—Xinhua



A file handout picture shows a F-35 fighter jet manufactured by Lockheed Martin. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) inaugurated on 4 Nov, 2014, its wing production line for the F-35 fighter jet, near Tel Aviv in Israel calling it a milestone in its decades-long partnership with Lockheed Martin, the aircraft's manufacturer.—XINHUA

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OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
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Palestinian protesters take cover during clashes with Israeli security forces in East Jerusalem, on 5 Nov, 2014. A Palestinian motorist rammed his van into pedestrians and then assaulted them with a metal bar in tension-ridden Jerusalem on Wednesday, leaving one person dead and 13 others injured, before being shot dead by Israeli police. —XINHUA

S African rights activist shot

CAPE TOWN, 6 Nov — A renowned South African rights activist was shot and wounded on Wednesday by unknown gunmen, authorities said on Thursday.

Andile Lili, 39-year-

old leader of Ses'khona People's Rights Movement (SPRM), was believed to have been shot in the stomach four times in Khayelitsha, an informal settlement in Cape Town on Wednesday evening, according to police.

"He was shot in front of his house while he was getting into a car. The family heard the shooting. Everyone got out while it was happening. They heard it and those who did it ran away," said SPRM spokesperson Sthembile Majova.

Majova said they are

working with authorities to track down the perpetrators, adding that Lili is in a critical but stable condition in hospital.

The motive behind the killing was unknown.

Police said they were investigating the attempted murder.

No arrests have been made yet.

Lili, also a member of the African National Congress Youth League, has spearheaded protests over poor service delivery in informal settlements in the past. —Xinhua

Russian lawmaker to initiate a bill banning to sell tobacco to persons younger than 21



The current law prohibits to sell tobacco to persons younger than 18. —ITAR-TASS

Moscow, 6 Nov — A Russian lawmaker plans to initiate a bill banning to sell tobacco to persons younger than 21, the *Izvestia* daily writes on Thursday.

The current law prohibits to sell tobacco to persons younger than 18.

Sergei Poddubny, the first deputy chairman of the committee for physical culture, sport and youth affairs of the Russian State Duma lower parliament house, the initiator of the stricter ban, also plans to raise the issue of poor performance of the

current anti-tobacco law.

The anti-tobacco law in Russia came into force on 1 June, 2013, immediately after the World No Tobacco Day. Starting from 1 June, 2013, smoking was prohibited in public places, at hospitals, schools, cultural and sports facilities, in administrative buildings, airports, offices and staircases in dwelling houses. Starting from 1 June, 2014, the ban became effective for long-distance trains and vessels, platforms, hotels, markets and shops. Smok-

ing is also banned at restaurants, cafes and bars. Apart from that, the law prohibits placing tobacco advertising in the mass media and in shops. It is prohibited to stage outdoor tobacco advertising and promotion campaigns or to sponsor such campaigns. It also raises tobacco excises and sets minimum selling prices for cigarettes.

"The law banning smoking in public places is actually not working... At a next plenary week starting from 10 November, we

will have a meeting of our committee, where I will suggest a roundtable meeting be organized on issues of the implementation of the anti-tobacco law. We will also discuss the initiative to ban tobacco selling to persons younger than 21," Poddubny said.

Lawmaker Nikolai Valuev, a former professional boxer, voiced support to this initiative. "As a lawmaker, I will support this bill. I think this is a right and useful initiative. But I am afraid it would not be an easy task to see to it that this law is observed," he told *Izvestia*.

The idea of raising the age of buying tobacco to 21 was first voiced in late 2013 by Yebgevy Bryun, the chief narcologist of the Russian health ministry.

In late October, Vyacheslav Fetisov, a retired professional ice hockey defenceman and now a members of the Federation Council upper parliament house, came out with an initiative to raise the age of buying alcohol from 18 to 21. Bills banning to sell alcohol and tobacco to persons younger than 21 have been submitted to the State Duma more than once but were turned down each time.

Itar-Tass

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WEATHER REPORT

Storm News

According to the observations at (14:30)hrs MST today, the depression over the Central Bay of Bengal is centered at about (480) miles Southwest of Patheingyi (Myanmar), (360) miles Northwest of Port Blair (India) and (310) miles Southeast of Vishakhapatnam (India). It is forecast to further intensify into a cyclonic storm within next (24)hours and move North-Northwest direction.

The present stage of depression is coded yellow state as it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts.

Under the influence of the depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States with regionally and isolated heavy falls.

Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph.

Matthew McConaughey wants to do comic book film



Matthew McConaughey and Camila Alves attend the "Interstellar" premiere.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 6 Nov — "Interstellar" star Matthew McConaughey is not averse to playing a comic

book superhero.

The actor, who was being eyed to play the lead in Marvel's "Doctor Strange"

before it went to Benedict Cumberbatch, said he would love to take on a superhero role only if he feels

he can add something to it, reported Ace Showbiz.

"It's not an area that I'm saying I wouldn't like to go. I don't know, it would have to be a script and a character that I found interesting and one where I can have a personal experience.

"I'm not thinking about a genre like, 'Oh, I really want to do this or I wouldn't want to do that.' If something finds me at the right time, turns me on, and if I can grab a hold of it, see it from the inside and get a feeling that, 'Oh, I've got a way I can do this that can be original,'" he said.—PTI

Jessica Chastain in talks for Marvel film?

LOS ANGELES, 6 Nov — Actress Jessica Chastain says she has been in talks with Marvel studio for a superhero film. Chastain, 37, said nothing was confirmed as she wanted a strong role in the movie, reported Vanity Fair.

"We've talked about aligning our forces in the future. And here's the thing with me... If you're going to be in a superhero movie, you only get one chance.

You're that character forever. So why do a superhero movie and play the boring civilian?" she said.

"Whatever it is, I want a fight scene. I could be an incredible villain. I could be a hero. I want a cool outfit, and I want to kick ass," she added. Chastain said Marvel approached her to play a character that had 'a possibility in the future of becoming' something extraordinary.—PTI



Jessica Chastain

Miranda Lambert, Luke Bryan win big at country music awards

NASHVILLE, 6 Nov — Singer Miranda Lambert won four Country Music Association Awards on Wednesday, and Luke Bryan took home the top honor as entertainer of the year as US politics and the absence

of Taylor Swift played supporting roles in the televised ceremony.

Lambert, 30, who led all nominees with nine nods, earned her record fifth female vocalist of the year award. "I don't know

what to say. I can't believe I'm standing here. I can't believe this is my life," an emotional Lambert said accepting the award she has won five consecutive years. "Damn it! I cry every time." The Texan also won CMA Awards for album of the year for "Platinum," single of the year for the wistful "Automatic" as well as sharing the musical event of the year award with Aussie singer Keith Urban for "We Were Us."

Bryan, 38, earned his first CMA on the back of five hits from his 2013 album "Crash My Party."

"I have long sought to have one of these in my hands," Bryan told reporters. The 48th annual CMA awards show, which competes with the springtime's Academy of Country Music Awards for prestige and television audience, is one of the top promotional events on the country music calendar. Winners are chosen by the CMA's

6,000 members.

Blake Shelton, Lambert's husband, also won his fifth consecutive male vocalist of the year award.

Hosts Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood's show opening drew attention to the absence of Swift, who has shed her country roots for pop music, with a comical song about "Postpartum Taylor Swift Disorder," or PPTSD. Underwood and Paisley's joke that President Barack Obama not caring about PPTSD contributed to Republicans winning the US Senate on Tuesday, drawing strong cheers from the audience. The duo sang "Quarantine" to the tune of Dolly Parton's classic, "Jolene", poking fun at nurse Kaci Hickox, who defied her Ebola quarantine order. Paisley drew criticism on social media for a joke referencing TV sitcom "Black-ish", about an upper-middle-class African-American family.

Reuters



Musician Miranda Lambert accepts the Female Vocalist of the Year Award during the 48th Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tennessee on 5 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Somebody thought I can't become actress: Judi Dench



Actress Judi Dench

LOS ANGELES, 6 Nov — Actress Judi Dench has revealed that a famous person thought she would never succeed in the industry.

The legendary British actress, known for her talents and impressive wit both on and off-screen, made an appearance at last week's BAFTA Los Angeles Jaguar Britannia Awards, reported E!Online.

"I've never actually divulged who this person was but somebody very, very famous... Said to me, 'I'm so sorry but I need to tell you this. You'll never make a film because your face isn't quite properly arranged'," she shared onstage after receiving Albert R Broccoli Britannia Award for Worldwide Contribution to Entertainment.—PTI

Eva Mendes looks glam post delivery



Eva Mendes

LONDON, 6 Nov — New mother Eva Mendes looked glamorous as she was seen for the first time after the birth of her baby girl in September.

The 40-year-old actress, who shares her first child with boyfriend Ryan Gosling, gave birth to the tot on 12 September and looked effortless as she stepped out in a long black cardigan and loose fitting black trousers, reported Daily Mirror.

Mendes has reportedly been using a low carb and high protein meal delivery service to help her shift the extra pounds.

"Eva's flattered that people think she looks good, but she's not taking complete credit for it. She knows genetics plays a big role. She has great genes," a source said.—PTI

GENERAL

Tomita says unknown man placed camera in his bag

TOKYO, 6 Nov — Japanese swimmer Naoya Tomita, who was summarily indicted for allegedly stealing a camera at September's Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, said on Wednesday that someone else placed the camera in his bag at the Asian Games swimming venue.

The 25-year-old Tomita, who intends to give an explanation of what happened at a press conference in Nagoya on Thursday, is looking into filing an appeal in South Korea.

According to the indictment, Tomita stole a camera left at poolside in the press section by a South Korean reporter on 25 September, where the swimmer came to cheer on teammates in a practice at Munhak Park Tae Hwan Aquatics Centre.

Tomita said that while at the venue, an Asian man



Photo shows Japanese swimmer Naoya Tomita, who was summarily indicted for allegedly stealing a camera at the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, in September 2014. The 25-year-old Tomita told Kyodo News on 5 Nov, 2014, that someone else placed the camera in his bag at the Asian Games swimming venue and that he is looking into filing an appeal in South Korea.

KYODO NEWS

around 40 years old grabbed his left hand from behind and at that moment placed something strange in his bag. "I thought I might be in some danger, so I took off," Tomita said, explaining why he did not understand he had a camera in his bag.

When he returned to the athletes' village, he realized the item in question was a camera. Because it did not have a lens, he thought it might be broken and intended to leave it in the athletes' village when he returned to Japan. Asked why he admitted to stealing the camera while under questioning by local police, Tomita said he was told "If I admitted it, the punishment would be light and it wouldn't become a serious matter."

"If I couldn't return to Japan with the team the next day, it would cause a lot of trouble for the Japanese

Olympic Committee, the Japan Swim Federation and (sports apparel manufacturer) Descent. I would really hate that."

Tomita was kicked off the national team and fired by his employer, Descente Ltd. On 7 October, the swim federation said it plans to suspend Tomita until 31 March, 2016.

In a confession Tomita reportedly said, "When I saw the camera, I really had to have it." But the swimmer denies those were his words.

"I absolutely never said that," Tomita said.

Tomita asserted that during the Asian Games, he explained he had not committed the theft to both Daichi Suzuki, the chairman of the swim federation, and Tsuyoshi Aoki, the head of Japan's delegation.

Kyodo News

Hamilton aims for another first in Brazil



Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain holds up his trophy and a bottle of champagne after winning the F1 United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas on 2 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 6 Nov — Lewis Hamilton can set more British Formula One records in Brazil this weekend but it is the world championship he wants and that will have to wait.

No Briton has ever won

six grands prix in a row, or celebrated 11 victories in a single season.

The Mercedes driver, who has already overtaken 1992 champion Nigel Mansell as his country's most successful in terms

of race wins after chalking up his 32nd in Texas last weekend, can do both at Interlagos.

But the novelty — or gimmick — of double points on offer at the last race in Abu Dhabi on 23 November means his second title will remain in doubt even if he takes maximum points on Sunday and team mate Nico Rosberg draws a blank.

Hamilton, who is 24 points clear of the German with 75 still to be won, will be doing his best to deliver another psychological hammer blow to his rival all the same on what promises to be a wet weekend.

"I guess I have a buffer for the next race, if something goes wrong you still have an opportunity to be in

the fight but that doesn't really change my mentality or approach," he told reporters in Austin. "I've never won in Brazil. I nearly won in 2012 but was taken out."

"It is what it is," he said of the double points. "There's no point in getting upset about it. It's just about being positive. I've driven the best I've ever driven this year. "If I continue to do what I've been doing then there's no doubt in my mind that I can come up winning."

Rosberg, who now has the unwanted record for most second places in a season (10) as well as four wins, knows that a mechanical failure for Hamilton and a victory for him would turn everything around.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(7-11-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
 - * Song and Dance of National Races
- 7:00 am**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
 - * Hyper Sports
- 8:00 am**
 - * News / International News
- 8:30 am**
 - * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:00 am**
 - * News / International News
- 10:20 am**
 - * Teleplay
- 11:40 am**
 - * Myanmar Series
- 12:00 noon**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:25pm**
 - * Myanmar Movies
- 2:20 pm**
 - * Musical Programme
- 4:00 pm**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 4:25 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm**
 - * News
- 6:00 pm**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 6:50 pm**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**
 - * News
- 7:20 pm**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News / International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
 - * People Talks
- 9:00 pm**
 - * News
 - * Socio Economic Scenes

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-11-14 07:00 am~ 8-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- * World News
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * Local News
- * Gold: King of All Metals
- * World News
- * TECH School
- * Local News
- * Wedding Day...: Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Kayah Style
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Dobat"
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Thu Rein
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
- * World News
- * Art Students : Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Tazaungdine Festival: Tazaungmone
- * World News
- * Art Students : Their Dream
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Handicrafts
- * World News
- * Short Cut: U Pein Bridge
- * Local News
- * Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
- * World News
- * In The Studio "Ying"

Sculpture, global buying drive Sotheby's biggest auction in its history

NEW YORK, 6 Nov — Sculptures by Alberto Giacometti and Amedeo Modigliani soared to \$101 million and \$70.7 million on Tuesday to lead Sotheby's biggest auction in its history, with Modigliani's "Tete" setting a new auction record for the artist.

The sale of Impressionist and modern art took in a total of \$422.1 million, virtually meeting the high pre-sale estimate of \$423 for the 73 works on offer, of which 80 percent were sold.

Sculpture went a long way toward driving the record results, with 12 pieces bringing in a total of \$191 million, including the top lot, Giacometti's 1951

bronze "Chariot."

While just shy of record for both the artist or any sculpture at auction, the \$101 million price was likely to remain the top-priced work of the two weeks of key autumn sales at Sotheby's and rival Christie's.

Sotheby's had estimated "Chariot" would sell for in excess of \$100 million and Modigliani's "Tete," a 1911-12 stone work never before auctioned, in excess of \$45 million. Estimates do not include commission fees of just over 12 percent.

The record total was driven in part by an increasingly global pool of collectors, said Simon Shaw, Sotheby's co-head of Impres-



A staff member poses in a gallery near "No 21 (Red, Brown, Black and Orange)" by Mark Rothko (L) and stone sculpture "Tete" by Amedeo Modigliani at Sotheby's auction house in London on 10 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

sionist and modern art, who noted that with more than 40 countries represented, "we saw the most diverse bidding pool at Sotheby's since 2004," including "terrific activity from Asia."

Collectors of increasingly rare trophy works in the Impressionist and modern arena spent heavily. An Asian buyer drove the price for van Gogh's "Nature morte, vase aux marguerites et coquelicots" to \$61.8 million, far more than the pre-sale estimate of about \$40 million.

Sotheby's said it was the highest price achieved by a van Gogh at auction since 1998 — long before the current boom.—Reuters

Nine-man Man City suffer humiliating home loss

LONDON, 6 Nov — Manchester City's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League knockout stage were dealt a severe blow after Seydou Doumbia's brace and two red cards subjected them to a humiliating 2-1 defeat by CSKA Moscow at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday.

Doumbia twice capitalized on woeful defending to score, the first inside two minutes, either side of a sweet strike by Yaya Toure who was later sent off.

Halftime substitute Fernandinho was sent off midway through the second half before Toure followed after lashing out at a CSKA player to complete a dreadful night for City who have taken two points from four Group E games.

Russia's CSKA, who were banned from selling tickets for the game following repeated bad behaviour from their supporters, have



Manchester's City's Yaya Toure (C) is shown a red card by referee Tasos Sidiropoulos during their Champions League soccer match against CSKA Moscow at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 5 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

four points, level with AS Roma and eight behind Bayern Munich who beat the Italian side 2-0.

"It is very difficult to understand how we played so bad from the beginning. We were so nervous, we gave away two bad goals. We didn't play," City manager Manuel Pellegrini told Sky Sports.

"It is difficult to know why it was such a low performance from important players. It is a strange moment. It is not just this competition."

Despite not having won a game in this year's competition, Pellegrini had told his pre-match Press conference that his expensively-assembled side

had targeted winning the Champions League.

But his ambitions were dealt an early blow.

Less than two minutes had elapsed when Doumbia, who scored CSKA's first goal and won the penalty for the equaliser in last month's 2-2 draw in Moscow, took advantage of lackadaisical defending to crunch a header past a static Joe Hart.

Toure was at fault for allowing Doumbia space for the opening goal but he more than redeemed himself curling a beautiful free kick into the top corner six minutes later.

With City struggling to play their slick flowing football CSKA fashioned a number of chances on the break and after Doumbia had blazed wide, he added his second.

Reuters

Messi equals Raul's Champions League scoring record

AMSTERDAM, 6 Nov — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi equalled the Champions League scoring record of 71 goals when he struck for the second time in the 76th minute of Wednesday's Group F match at Ajax Amsterdam.

The Argentina four-times world player of the year matched the record set by former Real Madrid and Schalke 04 striker Raul.

Messi moved within one goal of the record when he headed home Marc Bartra's hooked cross after 36 minutes in the Amsterdam Arena to draw level on 70 goals with Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

He matched Raul with 14 minutes remaining, tapping home after exchanging a neat one-two with Pedro.

"Is Messi the best player of all time? Absolutely," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique told reporters. "He is the best player I have ever seen as a player or as a coach."

Messi's feat was also enjoyed by his team mates.

"I'm happy for Leo because of the work he does for the team and because he is number one, the best," Barca midfielder Xavi said. "Leo has a free role along with the others up front, but they also have some important defensive work to do. At this club we all work and when we all work the team functions."

Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi fights for the ball with Ajax's Lucas Andersen during their Champions League Group F soccer match at Amsterdam Arena stadium in Amsterdam on 5 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Liverpool target Chelsea after midweek tinkering

LONDON, 6 Nov — All eyes will be on Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers's team selection when they attempt to end leaders Chelsea's unbeaten start to the Premier League season on Saturday.

Rodgers appeared content to sacrifice Tuesday's Champions League clash at Real Madrid, leaving the likes of Raheem Sterling and Steven Gerrard on the bench as his side lost 1-0.

Despite playing down the changes, pointing to the seven games they have to play in 21 days, most observers felt Rodgers was targeting the home clash with Chelsea and the chance to get Liverpool's domestic title challenge back on track.

Last weekend's disappointing 1-0 defeat at Newcastle United left Liverpool in seventh place, 12 points behind Chelsea who have won eight and drawn two of their games so far.

While that represents a chasm that already looks too big to close, Liverpool are only three points behind fourth-placed Arsenal and the ambition to finish in the Champions League qualification spots is the main priority. "Irrespective of the Chelsea game, we picked the team to try to get a result tonight," Rodgers said after the defeat in Madrid that leaves Liverpool's hopes of reaching the last 16 hanging

in the balance.

"All those that weren't playing tonight, it doesn't necessarily mean they'll play against Chelsea."

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho had his own take on Rodgers' decision.

"Normally, against the most difficult opponents, I will try to go with my best team," he said before his side's 1-1 draw with Maribor on Wednesday that stretched their unbeaten start to the season to a club record-equalling 16 games.

"But who knows? Liverpool might play a fantastic match and win and rest players and the players are in great condition to play against Chelsea.— Reuters

Chelsea equal record after mighty Maribor scare

MARIBOR, (Slovenia), 6 Nov — Chelsea stretched their unbeaten start to the season to a club record-equalling 16 games with a 1-1 Champions League draw against Maribor on Wednesday but the 2012 winners were given a mighty scare.

The Slovenian upstarts, destroyed 6-0 by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago, took the lead in the 50th minute when Macedonia winger Agim Ibraimi curled in a spectacular left-foot shot from the edge of the box.

Maribor, buoyed by a noisy crowd, swarmed all over Jose Mourinho's side and had a great chance to make it 2-0 on the hour when unmarked teenager Luka Zahovic blazed the ball over the bar from six metres with an open goal at his mercy.

Chelsea then upped the tempo and Nemanja Matic equalised with a tap-in at the far post after captain John Terry had headed on a right-wing corner from Cesc Fabregas in the 73rd minute. The Londoners spurned an excellent opportunity to grab all three points when Eden Hazard was tripped in the box with four minutes to go. The Belgian picked himself up to take the penalty but his effort was saved by Jasmin Handanovic. Group G lead-

ers Chelsea still look well placed to qualify for the knockout stages with eight points from four games.

Schalke 04 have five points after losing 4-2 at Sporting Lisbon (four) on Wednesday and Maribor (three) are also in with a chance. A grim-faced Mourinho, who brought on Diego Costa and Oscar for Andre Schuerrle and Willian at halftime and also replaced Filipe Luis with Ramires 11 minutes into the second half, was clearly unhappy with his side.

"We didn't play well in the first half ... and when you don't play well for 90 minutes you take a risk," the Portuguese told Sky Sports television.

"In the last 30 minutes we started to play really well with intensity and

desire and we had a lot of chances but their keeper was magnificent."

Chelsea, runaway leaders in the Premier League, started the game on the front foot with the unmarked Kurt Zouma heading over from six metres and Didier Drogba, making his 100th career appearance in a UEFA competition, forcing Handanovic into a sprawling stop. The longer the half went on, however, the more pedestrian the passing became from the visitors.

Ibraimi's stunning left-foot drive sent the crowd wild and Maribor, back in the Champions League group stages after a 15-year absence, sensed victory but Hazard, Oscar and Fabregas suddenly took hold of proceedings.—Reuters



Chelsea's goalkeeper Petr Cech fails to save a goal from Maribor's Agim Ibraimi (not pictured) during their Champions League Group G soccer match at stadium Ljudski vrt in Maribor on 5 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS