

President U Thein Sein leaves for China to attend APEC Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — President U Thein Sein left Nay Pyi Taw on a special flight on Friday afternoon to attend the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership, APEC Summit in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

The president was seen off at the airport by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Ohn Myint, Dr Kan Zaw, U Khin Maung Soe, U Win Shein, Dr Myint Aung and U Ye Htut, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials.

Host China highlighted the regional connectivity as one of the prioritized sectors this year. The summit will approve the roadmap for connectivity partnership of APEC to raise development of



President U Thein Sein being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing before departure for China to attend the APEC Summit to be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China.—MNA

Asia-Pacific region based on bilateral reliance and cooperation in development and coordination in

policy affairs. The president will attend the summit as a special guest at the invitation of the People's

Republic of China.

The president and party arrived in Beijing, the People's Republic of Chi-

na at 6 pm local time and proceeded to Diaoyutai State Guest House. (See page 3)

BMWs handed over for ASEAN Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—BMW Asia and its authorized importer for Myanmar, Prestige Automobiles, handed over a sponsored fleet of 99 BMW limousines to serve the leaders and delegates attending the ASEAN Summits to Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw

at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The fleet comprised flagship BMW 7 Series, the BMW 5 Series Executive Sedan and the BMW X5 Sports Utility Vehicle.

Managing Director U Chan Mya of Prestige Automobiles and Senior Regional Manager for International

Direct and Special Sales Mr Thierry Weidenbach handed over the BMWs to the union minister.

"We are proud to be a sponsor of the ASEAN Summit chaired by Myanmar. As the Official Limousine for the event, we are confident that the attending leaders and delegates will enjoy and appreciate the



BMW automobile seen in front of Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw at the ceremony to donate them to ASEAN Summit.

MOE THU

Ministry of Health, its agencies, discuss overall public health development

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 7 Nov—The Ministry of Health together with its partner organizations gathered Friday to discuss progress made in

the prevention of tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency virus and malaria and progress in other development tasks. Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, deputy director-general of the Disease Control Branch under the Ministry of Health, said the rate of HIV transmission in Myanmar has decreased to 0.40 per cent in 2014 from 0.95 per cent the previous year and that it is expected to extend drug treatment to more than 100,000 people with HIV in 2016. Although the body has been increased to provide health care opportunities to more than 75,000 patients, more anti-HIV drugs are needed for more than 120,000 patients nationwide, he added.

According to the 2013 survey, about 7,000 people

are diagnosed with HIV each year in Myanmar. The Ministry of Health is now expanding its free medical services to both tuberculosis and multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis patients, but some among them do not know that TB drugs are available free.

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein also clarified the current activities and future expectation against malaria. The ministry is planning to reduce outbreaks and death tolls from malaria in 2015 and already is accelerating its health care services to control drug-resistant malaria, which mostly breaks out in border regions.

For 2014-2015 FY, the Ministry of Health has a more than K650 billion budget and is carrying out overall development tasks for public health

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Paddy pollination aimed at raising quality strains

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Farmers should choose the best quality of paddy strain to produce over 200 baskets of paddy per acre, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said at the Palethwe hybrid paddy pollination ceremony on 100-acre mechanized farm in west Kyagu village in Dekkhinathiri Township

on Friday.

Union ministers U Soe Maung, U Kyaw Hsan, Dr Ko Ko Oo, Dr Daw Khin San Yi and U Maung Myint explained assistance of ministries concerned for development of agriculture sector and requirements of farmers.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe and Country Representative Dr Madonna of International

Rice Research Institute explained cooperation of Myanmar with IRRI, production of Palethwe hybrid paddy quality seeds, practice of good agriculture pattern and nurturing of agriculturists.

The union ministers viewed sample of quality paddy seeds, the modern paddy sorting machine, milling of paddy.—MNA



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union ministers view thriving paddy plantations at pollination ceremony.—MNA

Experts participate in long term energy master plan consultation workshop

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Asian Development Bank (ADB) held the long term energy master plan consultation workshop at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on 4 November.

Mr Peter Brimble, Deputy Country Director of ADB Myanmar Resident Mission delivered

an opening remark at the consultation workshop and energy sector experts from Intelligent Energy Systems Pty Ltd of Australia, Mr Michael Emmerton and Mr Stuart Thorncraft, presented about the Long Term Energy Master Plan and the progress of work.

About 40 representatives from Energy Policy and Planning Office of NEMC, ADB, Civil Society Organization, Development Partners, foreign embassies, NGO and INGO, and private companies participated in the workshop and exchanged their views on the plan.

NEMC together with the Energy Sector Experts from Intelligent Energy Systems Pty Ltd of Australia and Myanmar International Consultants Co Ltd of Myanmar are drafting the plan under the ADB's technical assistance program TA 8356.

MNA

Yangon University signs MoU with Jeju National University

YANGON, 7 Nov — Yangon University and Jeju National University has signed a memorandum of understanding to promote bilateral cooperation, officials have said.

The signing ceremony took place at Yangon University in Kamayut, Yangon Region, on Friday, with Yangon University Rector Dr Aung Thu and Jeju National

University President Prof Dr Huh Hyang-jin signing the MoU and exchanging it.

Yangon University has so far entered 20 agreements with foreign univer-

sities since 2013. The Myanmar's oldest facility is planning to turn itself into a university that adopts the faculty system, according to sources.

MNA

Ministry of Health, its agencies, . . .

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improvement in partnership with NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies and other donor organizations.

At the meeting, the WHO recognized the ministry's effort in directly providing health care services.—GNLM

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, deputy director-general of the Disease Control Branch under the Ministry of Health, clarifies the progresses of health care service.—KHAING THANDA LWIN



Union FM meets Slovak Dy PM



NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Dr Miroslav Lajcak

at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to exchange views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—MNA

Chairperson of Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee meets Slovak Dy PM

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Chairperson of Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Dr Miroslav Lajcak at Hall-12 of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

MNA



Coca-Cola invites you to attend Taunggyi stop of the Coca-Cola Happiness Journey

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Coca-Cola Myanmar invites you to attend the third stop of the highly anticipated Coca-Cola Happiness Journey to be held in Taunggyi's Kyauk Taing Stadium on Saturday and Sunday 8 and 9 November from 3pm to 6pm. The Taunggyi leg of the Happiness Journey will see popular Myanmar vocalists Sai Sai Kham Leng, Bunny Phyo, Jack San Tun, Eaint Chit, Mi Sandi and Me N Ma Girls treat attendees to performances of their hit songs as they take to the stage in the name of the Coca-Cola "Uplifting Break" experience.

It is the first time Coca-Cola is bringing the Happiness Journey to

Taunggyi and for Sai Sai Kham Leng to perform in his hometown as a Coca-Cola Myanmar brand ambassador. Sai Sai Kham Leng said, "I share the same values as Coca-Cola of optimism and bringing happiness to people and I am excited that the brand is hosting Happiness Journey concerts in my hometown Taunggyi. I'm looking forward to seeing my fans, performing for them, and being part of exciting times with Coca-Cola!"

There will be photo opportunities at the event and interviews with the various performing artists can be facilitated upon request. Please share your RSVP with TODAY Ogilvy Public Relations.

Kyaw The-ein (MNA-Ext)

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein leaves for...

(from page 1)

In his tenure, the president had paid two goodwill visits and attended two summits in China, and now is the fifth time of its kind.

Before leaving for China, President U Thein Sein held talks with a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Dr Miroslav Lajcak at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Friday morning.

They discussed cooperation in establishment of infrastructure, agriculture, education, health and water resources management sectors, prospects of peace talks and rehabilitation and experience of Slovak Re-



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Dr Miroslav Lajcak and party.—MNA

public on democratization process.

Before separation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, Czechoslovakia much cooperated with Myanmar in agriculture and industrial sectors

from 1950 to 1990.

The visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the

Slovak Republic will be the first trip of high-ranking officials between the two countries after the Slovak Republic was established.

At the meeting, the Slovak Deputy Prime Minister said that the Slovak Republic supports reform process of Myanmar and will cooper-

ate in providing assistance to Myanmar in line with the European cooperation framework.

MNA

Permanent residence system for foreigners to be introduced soon

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Vice President U Nyan Tun delivered an address at the fourth coordination meeting of the Management Committee for Permanent Residence System for Foreigners held at the hall of the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Also present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Dr Daw Khin San Yi, U Kyaw Lwin, U Aye Myint and deputy ministers.

In his speech, the vice president said that the management committee for permanent residence system for foreigners chaired by a vice president has been formed with 9 union ministers as there is a need to catch up the situation changing with the times.

The permanent residence system will be implemented soon as almost all tasks required have been carried out, the vice president added.

As the system is implemented for the first time in the history of Myanmar, all step-by-step measures were negotiated thoroughly, according to the vice president.

The vice president expressed his belief that the system is the one that will strengthen the favourable conditions of Myanmar at

right time and it will enable scholars, experts, intellectuals and investors from other countries as well as former Myanmar citizens to contribute to the national development.

In conclusion, the vice president urged officials concerned to enact the by-law for the system and carry out other measures to be taken properly as soon as possible.

Then, Secretary of the committee Union Minister U Khin Yi briefed the participants on the background of the system and measures

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Mr. Vijay Nambiar, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

They cordially discussed progress of political reform process, peace-making process, scrutiny of citizenship in Rakhine State, resettlement of victims and cooperation with the UN in undertaking peace and stability and development of Rakhine State.—MNA

for protection of national security and interests and small and medium enterprises and the draft by-law.



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Mr. Vijay Nambiar, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar.—MNA

Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials took part in the discussions.

After the discussions, the vice president fulfilled the requirements. —MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun highlights practice of permanent residence (PR) system in Myanmar.—MNA

Myanmar Attorney General receives Slovak Justice Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Dr Tun Shin, Attorney-General of the Union, accepted a courtesy call by a delegation led by Mr Tomas Borec, Minister for

Justice of the Slovak Republic, at his office here on Friday, sources said.

At the call, Dr Tun Shin explained to Mr Borec the functions of his office

across the country and exchanged views on legal affairs of both countries.

Slovak signaled its desire to sign a memorandum of understanding with

Myanmar at the ministerial level, Mr Borec said, extending an invitation to Myanmar's attorney general to his country.

MNA

Roads to be closed temporarily

NAY PYI TAW, 7 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 machinery 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 Pinyinman-Taungnyo road.

Security Committee

Mandalarians perform meritorious deeds on fullmoon day of Tazaungmone



MANDALAY, 7 Nov—Devotees in Mandalay offered Mathoe robes to Maha Muni Buddha Im-

age on fullmoon day of Tazaungmone, flowers, water and oil lights to Buddha images in down-

town Mandalay and meals to members of the Sangha at the Dhammayon in the wards.

Wellwishers served people from four corners with traditional foods and snacks on the auspicious

day. At night, pagodas, stupas, religious edifices, residences and offices were illuminated with mul-

ti-coloured lightings and paper lanterns.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Mechanics repair agricultural equipment of farmers

LASHIO, 7 Nov—Technicians from No 56 Agricultural Mechanization Station in Lashio, northern Shan State, give after sale services to local farmers who bought agricultural machinery from the station.

The station has sold 33 power-tillers and 97 items of various

agricultural machinery to local farmers from Hanna Village-tract in Lashio Township. The mechanics and technicians repaired the machinery from 4 to 7 November as after sale services.

Most of the agricultural machinery are in use at farming works.—*Zaw Lwin (Lashio)*

Buddha images conveyed round Dawei urban area

DAWEI, 7 Nov—The conveyance of 28 Buddha images was held in the precinct of Shwetaung-sar Pagoda in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 5 November.

In tradition, local people conveyed the Buddha images to their respective wards and villages for public obeisance in

the last week of October. They sent back the Buddha images to the prayer hall of the pagoda. Members of the pagoda board of trustees kept the images at the temporary prayer hall for public obeisance from 3 to 7 November.

On 5 November, the Bud-

dha images were conveyed round Dawei town with recitation of religious verses by the religious associations.

Local people have held conveyance of the Buddha images round the town on a grand scale for 105 years.

Taninthayi Region IPRD

Smooth transport on Myingyan-Yaywun-Mandalay road section

NATOGYI, 7 Nov—Local people are enjoying smooth transport as Myingyan-Yaywun-Mandalay Road has been expanded with pedestrian ways on either side, said engineer Daw Theint Theint Tun of Natogyi Township Public

Works.

Gas Power Company and Public Works jointly conducted the maintenance of the 54 miles long Myingyan-Yaywun-Mandalay Road. Thanks to their concerted efforts, the road is smooth and straight to give

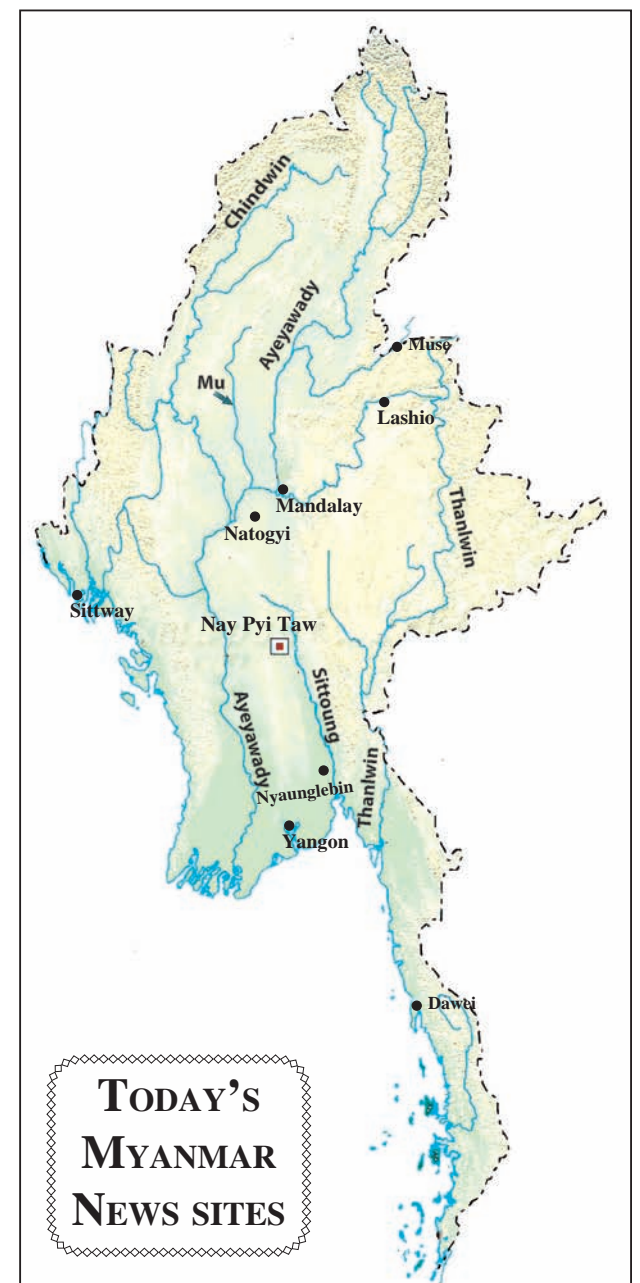
better transport to the local people.

The company upgraded the 20 miles long section from Myingyan to Natogyi with maintenance of road section, bridges and conduits while Public Works repaved the five-mile sec-

tion from Htanzin to Myittha and expanded the road with three feet wide part on either side.

Now, local people can travel from Myingyan to Mandalay within three hours.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)



LOCAL NEWS

NYAUNGLEBIN, 7 Nov — The centennial Pujaniya of Lawkahita Marazein bronze Buddha image took place in the precinct of Sasana Thawbanakayon Monastery beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Myoma Ward 3 in Pyuntaza, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on Thursday.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the bronze Buddha image.

In commemoration of the centennial celebration of the Buddha image, local people offered rice to over 200 Buddhist monks in the afternoon. Wellwishers donated lightings at monastery and pagodas and held charity fair to serve the people with 16 items of foods.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Centennial Pujaniya of bronze Buddha image celebrated in Nyaunglebin Tsp



Land plot price hikes in Natogyi to open bank branches

NATOGYI, 7 Nov—The government is giving encouragement to development of private economic sector.

Private banks are making preparations to open their branches in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, in early 2015.

Kanbawza Bank is constructing a building in the place of U Shwe Brokerage beside Myingyan-Mandalay Road in Ward 4 of Natogyi to open its branch.

CB Bank is choosing the plot for construction of bank branch in urban area of Natogyi. The bank officials negotiate with local

land owners for the plot of bank branch.

Due to manipulation of land plot prices by private banks, the price of land plots in Natogyi is rising day by day.

Htay Myint Maung

MCDC to buy device of checking dyes on foods

MANDALAY, 7 Nov—Sanitation Department of Mandalay City Development Committee invited tender for purchase of the devices to check dyes from foodstuffs. Tenders are to be submitted to the department, not later than 12 November.

A combine team comprising officials of MCDC, Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department and Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health performed a surprise check at the food shops in the market.

They picked out 34 items of samples from the foods and checked them at the laboratory of FDA.

Of them, some items of foods were declared as inappropriate foods for consumers and banned to sell in the market.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Merchants, local people face traffic congestions at Muse border trade centre

MUSE, 7 Nov—The border trade area in Mongyu 105th-Mile Village in Muse, at the border between China and northern Shan State is seen hustle and bustle with various sizes of vehicles with loads, traders and people. Traffic congestion causes near fuel stations at the exit of Asia World toll gate daily.

In the open season, the trucks with loads of seasonal fruits such as watermelon and maize flow into the border trade centre so

as to export the products to China.

“I spent two hours in the traffic congestions today. Responsible persons ignored to clear the traffic jams. Drivers of various vehicles coordinate clearance of traffic congestions. It needs to assign traffic police at the busy points. If not, traffic accident rate will be on the increase and transportation will be delayed,” said Ko Sai Naw Mein, a driver.

Michael Yoe Shar



Rakhine nationals take part in Inter-District Sepak Takraw Tournament



SITTWAY, 7 Nov—The Rakhine State Chief Minister's Trophy Inter-District Sepak Takraw Tournament was opened at Danyawady Hall in Sittway on 5 November.

Contending teams from five districts of Rakh-

ine State are taking part in two sessions of the tournament. Four teams each participated in the tournament in the morning and evening sessions. Five women's and men's teams, totalling 10 are taking part in the competitions by showing

their excellent skills so as to secure the championship trophy.

Final matches in both men's and women's events will be held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony on 8 November.—Rakhine State IPRD

Chess tournament in Sittway

SITTWAY, 7 Nov—The Rakhine State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-District International Chess Tournament kicked off at No 4 Basic Education High School in Sittway, city of Rakhine State, western part of the nation,

as of 5 November.

Each chess team is formed with five players. Chess team each from Sittway, MraukU, Maungtau, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe districts are taking part in the tournament.

Officials will present-

ed first, second and third prizes to winners in the singles' event, and the team with top score will secure the championship trophy.

The final matches and prize presentation will be held on Saturday.

Rakhine State IPRD



Two reactors to restart in Japan after getting local go-ahead

KAGOSHIMA, (Japan)
7 Nov — Kagoshima Gov Yuichiro Ito on Friday gave the green light to restarting two nuclear reactors in the southwestern Japan prefecture, setting the stage for the two to become the first of the country's 48 offline commercial reactors to resume operation.

The process to secure local approval started after the Nos 1 and 2 reactors at Kyushu Electric Power Co's Sendai plant cleared a set of tougher safety requirements introduced in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis, even though a majority of the public is said to be against bringing nuclear reactors back online.

The actual resumption of the two reactors is expected next year, as the Nuclear Regulation Authority needs to carry out further checks before the restart.

The nod by the governor effectively wraps up the process of winning local approval on the issue, as the prefectural assembly and



An employee of Kyushu Electric Power Co walks in front of reactor buildings at the company's Sendai nuclear power plant in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

the mayor of Satsumasendai city that hosts the plant have already indicated their approval.

As the prefectural assembly moved to adopt a petition in favour of restarting the reactors, nuclear opponents who came to listen to the discussions shouted, "Don't you hear the voices of the residents of the pre-

fecture?" and "You should be ashamed!"

At one point, the chair had to call for silence because the protestors were shouting, "We are against nuclear restarts!"

Among residents of Satsumasendai, Masahiro Iwashita, 64, said he was disappointed that discussions have proceeded on the

assumption that the reactors will be restarted.

"There has been no occasion to properly garner opinions of the residents in the prefecture...I will not give up efforts to stop the restart," he said.

But a taxi driver in the city expressed hope the reactors will be reactivated swiftly and help boost the

local economy.

"There are not many jobs in this area and the number of customers has decreased," Michio Yamada, 66, said.

During meetings to explain the outcome of the reactors' safety assessment, local residents have voiced concerns on whether the plant, located in a region with active volcanic sites, will be safe in the case of an eruption of nearby volcanoes and whether evacuation plans will be effective.

The scope of "local approval" has also been called into question.

While Ito has said it can be represented by the opinions of the prefecture and the host city, assemblies of some municipalities near the city have insisted they also have a say, as their residents could also be seriously affected by a nuclear accident.

Under Japan's new nuclear-disaster mitigation guidelines, revised after the Fukushima crisis, areas that need special prepara-

tions, such as evacuation plans, have been expanded to a 30-kilometre radius of a plant from the previous 10 km.

The local assemblies that are calling for more say in the matter are located within the 30-km radius.

In the case of the Fukushima crisis, which saw three reactors suffer meltdowns after the plant was hit by a huge earthquake and tsunami, residents living within a 20-km radius of the plant and some areas beyond had to evacuate. Still, more than 120,000 people live as evacuees.

All of Japan's 48 commercial reactors have been offline since two reactors at Kansai Electric Power Co's Oi nuclear complex in Fukui Prefecture shut down for mandatory regular checkups in September last year.

As Japan revamped its nuclear regulations in July last year, reactors are now first required to clear the regulations before resuming operation.—*Kyodo News*

Japan PM adviser, China top diplomat met ahead of APEC

TOKYO, 7 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's key foreign-policy adviser has held talks with China's top diplomat in Beijing, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Friday.

In a meeting held on Thursday, Shota-ro Yachi, head of Japan's National Security Secretariat, and State Councilor Yang Jiechi are believed to have discussed the format of potential contact between their top leaders on the margins of a regional economic summit next week.

Suga told a Press conference that Yachi and Yang, who outranks China's foreign minister, exchanged opinions on bilateral relations in general, while saying he has not been informed about details of their meeting.

Asked to comment on China's precon-

ditions for what will be the first summit between Abe and President Xi Jinping amid strained bilateral relations, he said, "Japan's stance remains unchanged."

Japan has said the summit should be held without preconditions, possibly during the two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, beginning on Monday.

China has demanded that Abe promise not to visit the war-related Yasukuni Shrine again and his government acknowledge the existence of a territorial issue over the Japanese-administered, Chinese-claimed islands in the East China Sea.

Yachi is expected to return to Japan later Friday.

Kyodo News

A year after super-typhoon Haiyan hit Philippines: normalcy amidst unsolved problems

MANILA, 7 Nov — A year after super-typhoon Yolanda, internationally known as Haiyan, hit the central Philippines on 8 Nov, 2013, life in the worst-hit areas, including Tacloban City, is almost back to normal. Signs of normalcy can be seen in the hassle and bustle of the market place, the ubiquitous tricycles (three-wheeled passenger motorbikes) causing traffic jams in some city streets and people lining up in fast-food outlets and flocking to reopened malls.

In the rural areas of the province of Leyte of which Tacloban City is the capital, farmers have gone back to tilling their farms and fishermen have resumed their daily struggle to eke out a living. While normalcy is now noticeable in Tacloban City, there are still signs of extreme poverty in some areas with many still don't have enough food to eat not to mention the lack of shelter and sanitation facilities. There is also the lack of employment opportunities for the displaced families.

In a report, Save the Children Philippine country director Ned Olney was quoted as saying that poverty is still high in the typhoon-hit areas, whose resi-

dents are already among the poorest in the Philippines.

"There's no question in my mind the poor are poorer than they were before the typhoon... many thousands of families in the typhoon-affected areas are still living hand to mouth," Olney said.

With strength of 270 kilometres per hour, Yolanda was the strongest typhoon to hit landfall anywhere in the world. It was followed by tsunami-like waves that literally wiped out Tacloban City. Official government data show that the number of dead from the disaster topped 6,300 while 28,689 were injured and 1,061 still missing. But local officials said that the death toll could be as high as 10,000 because some of the dead could have

been sucked by the receding flood waters and their bodies were never recovered.

Total number of people affected was placed at 13 million or 7.8 percent of the country's population.

The World Health Organization placed the Yolanda disaster at Category 3, which was at par with the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the Haiti earthquake in 2010. After the disaster, scores of foreign countries came to help in the rescue and recovery efforts. These included China which sent its state-of-the-art Peace Ark Hospital Ship to provide treatment to the injured survivors. China also dispatched medical teams and sent relief assistance.

Xinhua



Typhoon Haiyan survivors weave mats in a cave in Basey, Eastern Samar, in central Philippines on 6 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Indonesia to lift defence budget to boost weaponry modernization

JAKARTA, 7 Nov — The Indonesian government will increase the budget for defence from the current level of 0.8 percent of the state budget to 1.5 percent, Defence Minister Ryamizard Rayacudu said here on Thursday.

Minister Raymizard stressed that the move aims to change the slow pace of the development of the country's weaponry in recent years, in part due to economic crisis, to put it on a par with other ASEAN countries.

The 0.8 percent of the state budget amount is equal to 83 trillion rupiah (some 6.815 billion US dollars), according to the ministry.

Minister Raymizard said the improvement of Indonesian weaponry quality has

to rely much on local contents.

"We need a self reliance on weaponry. We do not rely on other countries," he said at a defence seminar here.

President Joko Widodo has disclosed that he will continue the modernization of weaponry in the country which has been undertaken by former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

According to Yudhoyono, the modernization drive targets to achieve what he called "a minimum essential force," not aiming to trigger an arm race in the region. Terrorism, human trafficking, insurgency and drug smuggling are among the main challenges facing Indonesian armed forces.

Xinhua

APEC ministers to adopt road map for new free trade zone

BEIJING, 7 Nov—Ministers of 21 Asia-Pacific countries are set to discuss ways to boost regional integration and adopt a road map toward the creation of a new free trade area at a two-day meeting in Beijing starting on Friday in the run-up to a summit next week. But the road map would not include detailed steps for when and how to crystallize the vision of the massive Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific being pushed by Beijing, amid reluctance expressed by the United States and its allies,

negotiation sources said.

China, the chair of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, had sought to fix a target year of 2025 for a possible implementation of the FTAAP, but the United States and Japan blocked the effort fearing it could compromise ongoing talks for the narrower US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact that includes Japan but not China, the sources said.

Beijing had also called for a commitment on the launch of a "feasibility

study" for the FTAAP to mark the effective start of negotiations, but the language has already been dropped from a draft of the APEC leaders' declaration to be announced after their 10-11 November summit, the sources added.

On the sidelines of the APEC forum, the 12 countries involved in the TPP will hold their own ministerial meeting on Saturday, seeking to advance their stalled talks.

Washington has not officially announced the TPP gathering, apparently out

of consideration for Beijing, which is concerned such a meeting could take the limelight away from the series of APEC meetings it is hosting.

The TPP, if realized, would be the world's largest free trade zone encompassing around 40 percent of global output, while the APEC-wide FTAAP, the idea of which first emerged in 2006, is seen by some critics as a Chinese attempt to counter the TPP.

With the TPP initiative a core part of the US "pivot" to Asia, President

Barack Obama had said he envisioned the 12 countries would produce a substantial outcome in time for his trip to Beijing, amid China's increasing clout in the region. But it is unlikely the TPP negotiating members will announce a basic agreement during the APEC forum as they remain apart over several difficult issues including intellectual property rights concerning copyrights and patents, and how to deal

with Japanese tariffs on agricultural products.

Japan's TPP minister Akira Amari and US Trade Representative Michael Froman recently admitted they were not expecting the 12 countries to reach an agreement in Beijing, while White House press secretary Josh Earnest also said Monday there would not be a significant breakthrough in trade talks while Obama is in Asia.

Kyodo News

MH17 crash investigators seek local help to reach wreckage in conflict zone

AMSTERDAM, 7 Nov — Accident investigators looking into the July crash of a Malaysia Airlines plane in eastern Ukraine said on Thursday they would probably hire local contractors to collect wreckage still beyond their reach because of a continuing pro-Russian insurrection.

The crash of flight MH17 as it flew over the conflict zone stirred angry mutual accusation between Moscow and the West over who was responsible. Investigators have had little access to the site which is under rebel control. The Dutch Safety Board said Dutch officials would go to the crash site to help with an operation that could begin in days. A recent mission to repatriate body parts and belongings of the 298 victims involved local emergency services. Kiev accuses separatists of shooting down the plane. Russia says a Ukrainian military aircraft shot down MH17, more than two thirds of whose passengers were Dutch. Dutch authorities were able to reach the site of the crash for the first time in weeks on 31 October after fighting between government forces and rebels had eased off under a truce.—Reuters



An Emergencies Ministry member searches for belongings at the site where the downed Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crashed, near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo) in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, on 13 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

NATO chief vows no loss of gains in Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 Nov — NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to stabilizing Afghanistan and ensuring that the gains made are preserved after the foreign combat mission ends in 2014.

Afghan security forces have been largely left to fight the Taliban on their own this year, in their first real test since the militant Islamists were ousted from power in 2001 by US-led forces. Government forces hold cities and towns and district centres have also largely held out but police and army casualties have been described as "unsustainable" and the Taliban have regained territory in strategic provinces where they have resumed the role of de facto government.

"Much has been sacrificed over many years to give Afghanistan a chance to succeed," Stoltenberg told troops at Camp Morehead in Wardak Province, where US special forces have been training their Af-



Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani (R) and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg attend a news conference in Kabul on 6 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

ghan counterparts to take over. "We cannot and we will not allow these gains to be lost," he said, according to a NATO statement.

More than 4,600 Afghan troops have been killed in the war against the Taliban this year, a 6.5 percent increase over last year.

Underscoring the growing violence, officials in the eastern province of Paktia accused the Taliban of executing eight civilians.

The militants claimed responsibility, saying the men who were shot were members of the security forces. President Ashraf Ghani told a joint news conference with Stoltenberg that NATO's investment in the country's 350,000 strong security force had been a success and that he looked forward to working with the alliance. "After 31 Dec, 2014, only Afghan forces will be responsible for the

use of weapons, this however does not mean an end to cooperation with NATO, but the start of a new process," he told reporters.

A contingent of about 10,000 foreign troops, most of them American, will stay in Afghanistan after the end of the year to train and support Afghan forces. About 1,800 Americans will be involved in counter-terrorism operations.

Reuters

Canada businesses impatient for China growth as Harper promotes trade ties

HANGZHOU, (China) 7 Nov — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper kicked off his trade mission to China on Friday facing criticism from businesses that the troubled diplomatic relationship between the two nations has hampered their efforts to tap China's burgeoning market.

Harper, on his first visit to China in two years, announced the opening of four new trade offices in the cities of Hangzhou, Xian, Xiamen and Tianjin to help the entry of Canadian businesses into the fastest growing regions of China. The trip is Harper's third to China since he took office in

2006. But as he kicked off a conference bringing together Chinese and Canadian executives looking to do business with each other, some Canadian executives said political and economic irritants between the two countries have made it hard to keep pace with competitors in other countries.

"Any time there are those geopolitical things that are beyond the control of the businessman ... it slows things down big time," said David Curtis, president and CEO of Viking Air Ltd, a British Columbia-based company that makes small seaplanes.

Curtis said China, with



Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen wave while boarding a Royal Canadian Air Force plane before departing for China, in Ottawa on 5 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

hundreds of cities near waterways, offers a "huge" opportunity for his company, but he has been stymied by slow progress trying to get the company's Twin

Otter seaplane certified in China — though it is already certified in 75 other countries. He said other nations appear to understand that government-to-gov-

ernment interaction is especially important in China, while Canada neglects the relationship.

"You can bet our colleagues to the south in the United States, in France, in Brazil, their political leaders — whether mayors or the prime minister or the president — are talking aerospace, and it is so important. We need to have our products front and centre, and the politicians talking about it," he said.

China is Canada's second-largest trading partner after the United States. In 2013, two-way merchandise trade between the countries reached C\$73.2

billion (\$64 billion), accounting for 7.7 per cent of Canada's total merchandise trade. Canadian Trade Minister Ed Fast, who has accompanied Harper on the visit, said Canadian businesses were partly to blame for their slow progress into China. "Canadians tend to be quite cautious, we tend to be risk-averse."

It takes quite something to push Canadian companies over the line to look at markets beyond North America, and it is my role as trade minister to do that," Fast told the business delegates at the conference in eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 8 November, 2014

Difficulties, problems and trouble are man's best friends

By Kyaw Thura

It is safe to assume that difficulty, problems and trouble are synonymous. Nobody in his right mind would ever embrace them. Nobody would ever want to hear, see or meet them. If possible, everyone would keep themselves aloof from difficult, problematic and troublesome experiences.

On the other hand, all three have a huge reserve of latent potential for self-improvement.

In fact, most people lack the ability to practise passivity out of their negativity. It is this ability that distinguishes the ordinary from the extraordinary.

Difficulties, problems and trouble have one thing in common. They do not discriminate on grounds of sex, race or religion. Strange as it may seem, it has been widely accepted that unpleasant situations are stepping stones to success. That is why we need to practise gratitude for whatever difficulty comes our way because focusing on negativity will only increase our sensitivity to sorrows and painful feelings. It is therefore necessary to give careful consideration to the fact that failure, if used wisely, can awaken our dormant potential.

It should be noted nobody is born successful or destined to fame. Successful are the people who could realize their full potential in the face of

difficulty. In a sense, hardship is an acid test of the extraordinary. It beats people from all social strata, showing no discrimination and no mercy even to losers. It does, however, bow low before the brave. All in all, great people are ordinary people with extraordinary potential to knock out whatever difficulty comes their way. Therefore, difficulties, problems and trouble, though cruel by nature, are indeed man's best friends.

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Where Fantasy meets Reality.....

Sonu Trivedi

Can fantasy meet reality in this digital world? The digital world consisting of wealth of information and ocean of knowledge touches upon life of one and all. It offers a domain to fulfill promises and tremendous opportunities of its time. It is a signal and harbinger of actualizing our dreams amidst real life adversities in a virtual world.

In contemporary time, which is ruled by a techno savvy world, is it possible to keep away the real world from the virtual world? Knowingly or unknowingly in a subtle manner, expectations of the real world gets translated into the virtual world. This virtual world is full of illusions where anything and everything is a possibility. We try to relive our fantasies which might be far apart from our reality. Keeping all hopes high in search of meaning of life, the digital world offers a platform where one could conquer the whole world. But, out of the virtual world when one faces reality, the end appears to be gloomy.

It is believed that the two constitutes opposite ends of the same pole which may never meet. It is advised that there is no gloominess when one tempers with expectations in reality. People also suggest that we must try to maintain a balance between reality and fantasy and that it should be well moderated rather than focusing on extremes. Besides, we must not get so lost in fantasy that you lose sight of reality. This, how-

ever, may lead to suffocation of our desires and sensitivities resulting in hopelessness. But, how to have hope when all hopes seem to have come to an end! The answer lies in the words of Aristotle who eloquently believes, "Hope is a waking dream" and Gandhi who says, "Always believe in your dreams".

The strong magnetic attraction between the opposite ends of the poles must be taken into consideration before arriving at any conclusion. Rather than considering fantasy and reality as two opposite ends of a pole, it would be more appropriate to regard it as the two sides of the same coin. No matter how farther apart they are, there is a strong bonding which brings them together. In fact, reality and fantasy represent different facets of life at different times as perceived by us through our own lenses. We all know the difference between fantasy and reality. We live in an objective world and try to maintain a balance between the two. This is precisely the reason why we can live in a real world, yet allow ourselves to fantasize and even seek fantasy.

The digital world acts as a facilitator in living our dreams in a virtual world. Our wildest dreams and fantasies may become real here. Though it might just be an

illusion, nevertheless, it brings pleasure in this materialistic world. No matter how short-lived it might be, but it gives a chance to the user to be happy and cheerful and look beyond the miseries and real life hardships. The charm and enthusiasm offered by it bestows reason for existence in reality. What is the harm in fantasizing, so long as it is not impinging our real life responsibilities? The little hope it offers paves the whole world before us to be conquered.

Reality sans fantasy adds to melancholy and anxiety as well as frustration in everyday life resulting in extreme negativities. However, fantasies must relate to the realities of the outside world. Preventing fantasy from taking over reality by increasing the distance between the two is not the answer to those who believe so. Rather bridging the gap between the two will go a long run in cementing ties and strengthening bonds of intimacy.

I hope the message is loud and clear to those who believe that the two can never meet and that both should be kept apart. Needless to say, but one should remember the words of Paulo Coelho in the novel *The Alchemist*, "Never stop dreaming".....

(The author teaches in Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi)

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Let schools' bell-tolls reach all ears of youths

Kin Mg Oo

Our nation, our land
Never-changing from just, fair and independent.
That guarantees peace and tranquility for all
Equal rights granted by law.
Our nation, our country
The policy it holds is very clean.
To retain our Union consolidated,
The deep and solemn resolution we made.
It is our national heritage.
Being our forefathers' inheritance,
we will cherish it till the planet's end.
We will protect our land
from enemies and invaders' hand.
Let's sacrifice our lives,
for the nation, eons and eons, to survive.
This is our own land and our country.
It is our noble duty,
to perform for the benefits of our posterity.

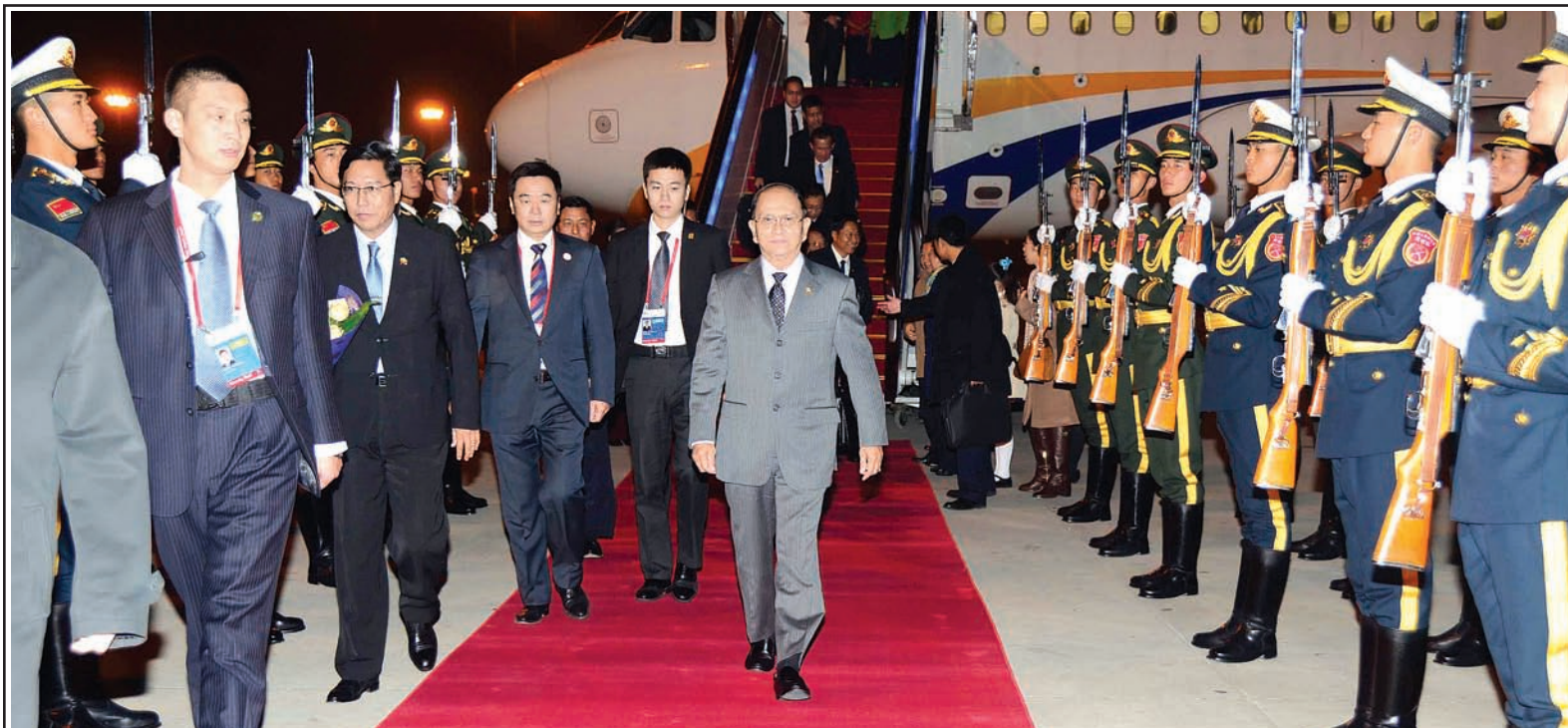
In spite of my advancing age, the above poorly rendered unrhymed lines (forgive me if the composition was pretty crook in the eyes of scholars) are still reminiscent of my younger days. It is none other than the national anthem heard through the loudspeaker in a school campus in the immediate vicinity where I have been staying. It has been being heard almost daily during these days. Who on earth will forget these lyrics that had been on our lips sometime in the past? While listening to it, I cannot help entertaining the thought of the past. Nearly half a century ago, we willingly and whole-heartedly sang it in unison every morning assembly hours in our school days. Some sang in whisper with a few students closing their lips, but there could be the sound heard even outside our school compound. The lyrics of the song is meaningful and it is not an exaggeration to say that it was really sweet in our ears. It is arguably the most effective song that gives the spirit of patriotism in us, not forcefully indoctrinating the spirit into our minds. Comprehending the essence of the anthem to the full will help us learn to love our motherland.

Throughout the history, our forefathers showed their patriotism and gained the Independence. Although we had no chance to depict ours in the same way, we too had the latent huge reserve of that spirit in us. Patriotism is not the thing that is to be repeated ostentatiously in public. When it comes to showing it, I dare say, we will never be conspicuous by our absence. This is not our rhetorical attitudes toward the motherland. We savored the fruits of the freedom gained by our ancestors' efforts, with relish. We need to reciprocate the gratitude of the country and to be dutiful to the nation by contributing our individual labor. We firmly believe that it is the most important thing for us to never ever betray our country intentionally or otherwise. As known by all, patriotism means love of one's country and willingness to defend it. We must keep it in our mind that blind or excessive patriotism can lead to xenophobia and racism which nobody accepts in our civilized world.

Generally speaking, young minds can be said to be simple and honest. They are free from jealousy and selfishness. Likewise, we belonged to the same kind. We had an aim each and tried our best to implement them, intending to be nation-builders. Financial and other difficulties made some drop out before proceeding to learn at universities and colleges, and some got their degrees and diploma certificates to choose different kinds of jobs and occupations. Thus, we lived different lives. We became professors, lecturers, teachers, medical doctors, military and civil officers, businesspersons, workers and farmers, serving our country in our own ways. Some sacrificed their lives for the nation and some had cushy lives. Some held the leading roles in the decisive sectors of the State. As time went past, frankly speaking, our minds are usually inclined to change. Greed is one of the factors that made our pure minds alter. Why didn't we have unadulterated purity of mind? A bad system begat an unwholesome society which made our community turn colored. Under the old education system, we lost the chance of being educated on moral

(See page 9)

NATIONAL



*President
U Thein Sein being
welcomed at Beijing
International Airport
by officials and the
Guard of Honour on
his visit to attend
APEC Summit.
(News on page1)*

MNA

Let schools' bell-tolls reach...

(from page 8)

lessons. That is, lessons on civic duty faded away from our school syllabus. It has only two words, but it teaches us how to behave ourselves in our society, how to keep ethics and moral principles, and furthermore how to abide by the law. Despite living in poverty and appalling conditions, there were very few people for whom dignity and self-respect are sacrosanct. For lack of these qualifications, the character of most of the populace (=ours) had weakened in strength, hence the increasing numbers of crimes, corruption and malpractices in the country. We all are responsible for this. We need to stand corrected. It is never belated for us to abandon our old unwholesome habits and change our selfish mindsets. In fact, our days will be gone when we could contribute our labor to our mother land. We are going to hand over our responsibilities to our younger generation. Our youths need to have intellectual capacity and manual skills, mental and physical powers. It is heartening to hear that the Education Department is planning to put in the school syllabus, the civic duty which plays an important role for character building. Schools are said to be the places that have originated the spirit of exercising national discipline, which is inextricably linked with civic duty. We warmly welcome the government's effort to put school age children in class-rooms. Simultaneously, a nearly-half-a-century-old poem by our well-known poet, Ko Lay (Inwa Gonyi), the title of which I no longer remembered. The poem highlighted the then and present day's situations

of children who were not even entitled to the primary education. It reads as follows:

There can be heard
noises of saws, chisels and hammers.
At the open space here,
there are buzzing masons and carpenters,
building a two-storeyed school of grandeur.
12 years old little boy
is carrying sand and brick pile
to eke out his life.
Yet the school is not designed
for the illiterate poor boy.

Excellent as the government's plan is, underage workforce is ubiquitous in our country. Some are eking out their lives as errand boys and barkers in cafes and food stalls while some are earning their living by going about streets to collect recyclable unwanted things. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that most of them even know little about 3-Rs. I would not like the government's noble plan to extinguish aborning{=while being implemented}. It passes belief that we can build up a peaceful and prosperous nation without taking these affairs into consideration. Granted that being educated and knowledge of civic duty can boost one's ego and superego, time is of the essence to eradicate the illiteracy of the above-said low-born children and to cultivate their moral, attitudes and ways of thinking. There is a saying, "A stitch in time saves nine.", isn't there? A person who was robbed of his possessions can regain the same amount he lost or more, but the one who was morally deprived, they sure as

hell will get worse and worse, becoming a good-for-nothing one for the society. Without knowing the value of self-respect, they are ready to get involved in any undignified scramble for the easy pickings. They will do any mischievous deeds and they are not above lying, cheating people out of money and betraying their fellow members, as is the way with villains. Imagine how a country full of such persons will turn out!

The Oxford Dictionary defines that civics means the school subject that studies the way government works and deals with the rights and duties that you have as a citizen and a member of a particular society. It is not a promulgated law as such, it can be said to be a recipe for peace and tranquility. It gives common sense for us to learn abiding by laws, rules and discipline. Most parents of the working class did not send their offspring to schools in the mistaken belief that they too would enter the same working environment one day. We need to convince them that schools are of great importance to develop their character-building which can upgrade their individual career, so that they are willing to send their children to learning centers. We, all the citizens, should take part in the government's campaign against illiteracy and the project of putting school-age children in our class-rooms, working hand in hand with the government, NGOs and well-wishers. If we will make concerted efforts in unison, the project will be in motion for sure. Would that we have lived to see our schools welcoming all school-age boys and girls with open arms!

May all our youths be cultivated ones!

Preparations for hosting 25th ASEAN Summit and related summits in Nay Pyi Taw



*Security personnel check those who
enter venues of ASEAN Summit
and related meetings
in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA*

*Police checking a vehicle at the
entrance to ASEAN Summit for
security reason on road
section.—MNA*

US Aegis system zaps cruise, ballistic missile targets in test

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — The US Aegis missile defence system on Thursday destroyed two cruise missile targets and one ballistic missile target nearly simultaneously in a test conducted by a US Navy destroyer off the coast of Hawaii, the US Missile Defence Agency said.

The test, which took place just after noon Hawaii Time/0100 GMT, validated a new upgrade of the Aegis missile defence system built by Lockheed Martin Corp, and two different missiles built by Raytheon Co, the agency said. The successful test comes amid ongoing tensions between the United States and Russia over Russia's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine earlier this year.

The new capability tested on Thursday is due to be installed on US Navy Aegis destroyers, and will be part of the "Aegis Ashore" sys-

tem that will become operational in Romania next year, providing parts of Europe a defence against potential ballistic missile attacks.

The test involved the *USS John Paul Jones*, a Navy destroyer, the Missile Defence Agency (MDA), and US Pacific Command. It also included sensors flown on two *MQ-9 Reaper* unmanned planes built by privately held General Atomics, the agency said.

During the test, a Raytheon Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IB guided missile successfully intercepted a short-range ballistic missile target, while two low-flying cruise missile targets were engaged at nearly the same time by Raytheon's SM-2 Block IIIA guided missiles, the agency said.

It was the first live-fire test in which the Aegis system engaged a ballistic missile target and several

cruise missile targets at the same time. MDA said the test marked the 29th successful intercept in 35 attempted flight tests of the Aegis system since 2002.

Riki Ellison, founder of the nonprofit Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance, said the test of the Baseline 9 upgrade for Aegis would boost the US military's ability to defend against multiple threats, and save money in the future. "This long-awaited capability will exponentially increase our air and missile-defence capabilities, allowing Navy ships to defend themselves against incoming cruise missiles while simultaneously tracking and defeating ballistic missiles threatening other areas," Ellison said.

He said it would eliminate the need for US Aegis destroyers to have backup defences or "shotgun" ships as protection while provid-



A military policeman looks through binoculars before the official groundbreaking ceremony of the site for the US Aegis Ashore missile defence facility, located in a former airbase from Deveselu, that will form part of a shield to protect Europe next to Deveselu village, 182 km (113 mile) east of Bucharest on 28 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

ing ballistic missile defence.

Raytheon said the test demonstrated the capability of its missile technology.

"This test showcases the US's ability to defend against numerous ballistic and cruise missile threats in

'raid' scenarios," said Taylor Lawrence, president of Raytheon Missile Systems.

Reuters

Sri Lanka landslide deaths linked to early warning failures



Rescue teams from the Sri Lankan military engage in rescue operation work at the site of a landslide at the Koslanda tea plantation in Badulla on 29 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

COLOMBO, (Sri Lanka), 7 Nov — Four days before the village of Meeriyabedda was swept by a landslide that killed at least 10 people, district officials received early warning that the area was in danger — but those warnings were not effectively relayed to villagers, officials said this week.

Closing such gaps in early warning systems is becoming increasingly crucial as Sri Lanka is hit by a growing number of disasters caused by extreme

weather linked to climate change, experts say.

During the third week of October, after heavy rainfall, the National Building Resources Organization (NBRO) issued warnings that the region around Meeriyabedda was in danger of landslides, including a specific warning for the village the night before the disaster, said NBRO officials. The message was conveyed to local administrators at the Haldumulla Divisional Secretariat, the

administrative unit the village falls under, the officials said. However no formal warning or evacuation alert was disseminated among the villagers, they said. On 29 October, a landslide swept the hilly village in Badulla District, about 220 km southeast of the capital, Colombo.

A week after the landslide, 10 bodies have been recovered and 28 have been listed as missing, according to the Disaster Management Centre, the government au-

thority overseeing the relief operation.

Indu Abeyratne, the head of early warning systems at the Sri Lanka Red Cross, said there was no formal and tested procedure in Meeriyabedda on how to receive warnings, distribute them among villagers and coordinate follow-up action. "There was no such plan in place, so the warning proved useless," Abeyratne said.

The disaster in Meeriyabedda is the third incident in less than two years where dozens of lives have been lost for the want of better early warning dissemination, experts said. In November 2011, 29 died in Sri Lanka's Southern Province when gale force winds hit the coast. In July 2013, over 70 were killed in the same region when the onset of the annual South West Monsoon came earlier than anticipated.

"We need to be much more efficient in getting our warnings to the people in danger," said Disaster Management Centre spokesperson Sarath Lal Kumara.

In the 2011 and 2013 disasters, there was some confusion as to whether warnings were issued. But at Meeriyabedda, there was no ambiguity, experts say.

Reuters

Obama to host US Congress leaders as post-election battles boil

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — Republican victors of Tuesday's US congressional elections break bread with Democratic President Barack Obama on Friday as the two sides assess what legislation can be enacted in coming months despite years of confrontation.

In the run-up to the lunch meeting at the White House, it was clear that in this post-election era, Obama and Republicans controlling the Congress next year would continue going at each other, just as they did before the 4 November vote.

House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner and Senator Mitch McConnell, who is set to become Senate majority leader in January, said they intend to send Obama legislation repealing all or parts of the president's landmark health-care law.

Obama countered that he will ignore Republican warnings and use his executive powers to ease some restrictions on undocumented residents, since House Republicans have steadfastly refused to advance immigration legislation.

"Finding common ground is going to be hard work. But it will be even harder if the president isn't willing to work with us,"

Boehner warned at a Press conference on Thursday.

The White House took a more optimistic tone ahead of the meeting, saying Obama was committed to working with Republicans on issues of shared interest like infrastructure, tax reform and international trade even as differences remain on health care and immigration.

Friday's meeting is expected to focus on some major bills that must be passed promptly, once Congress begins its post-election "lame duck" session on Wednesday.

It will be the "old" Congress, the one that ends its legislative session in mid-December and has a Democratic Senate pitted against a Republican House, that must produce these bills. At the top of the list is a \$1 trillion spending bill to keep the government running beyond 11 December, when current funding runs out.

Other bills likely to see action in the month-long session include one to extend some temporary tax provisions, a bill renewing Pentagon programmes and an expiring terrorism risk insurance bill that is important to developers of major construction projects in big cities.

Reuters

Who shot bin Laden? Former US Navy SEALs make rival claims

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — Members of the US Navy Seal commando team that killed Osama bin Laden at his Pakistan hideout in May, 2011 are making conflicting claims as to who actually shot the al-Qaeda leader.

The Washington Post published a story on Thursday quoting Rob O'Neill, a former SEAL, as claiming to have fired the fatal shot that hit bin Laden in the forehead after O'Neill stormed into a room in bin Laden's house in Abbottabad.

The claim by O'Neill, who travels the country giving motivational speeches, was countered by a source close to another SEAL team member.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the team member told

him the fatal shot was fired by one of two other men who entered the room before O'Neill.

The Post said O'Neill acknowledged shots were fired at bin Laden by at least two other Seal team members, including Matt Bissonnette, a former Seal who wrote a 2012 book about the raid entitled "No Easy Day."

The book did not identify the person who shot bin Laden.

NBC News quoted Bissonnette on Thursday as saying: "Two different people telling two different stories for two different reasons ... Whatever he (O'Neill) says, he says. I don't want to touch that."

Last year, after *Esquire* Magazine published an interview with an anonymous SEAL member, now wide-



Residents look up towards a military helicopter flying over the compound where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad, in this 4 May, 2011 file picture.—REUTERS

ly reported to have been O'Neill, who claimed to have shot bin Laden, other media outlets questioned

the account.

An article entitled "Who really killed bin Laden," by Peter Bergen, a

CNN analyst and al-Qaeda expert, quoted a then-serving SEAL team member saying the story as present-

ed by *Esquire* was "complete BS."

A representative of a speaker's organization which says it represents O'Neill said he was unavailable to comment. O'Neill's page on the website of the organization describes his career as a SEAL, but makes no mention of a role in killing bin Laden.

Bissonnette's lawyer, Robert Luskin, acknowledged on Thursday that Bissonnette for some time had been under criminal investigation by both the Naval Criminal Investigation Service and the Justice Department for possible violations of a US espionage law because he did not seek official clearance before publishing his book.

Bissonnette denies wrongdoing.—Reuters

Syrian troops recapture key gas field in Homs

DAMASCUS, 7 Nov — The Syrian troops on Thursday recaptured a key gas field in the central province of Homs after battles with the Islamic State (IS) militants, according to the state news agency SANA.

The troops recaptured the al-Shaer gas field and the surrounding hills a week after the IS fighters captured that strategic site alongside other gas wells from the government troops in the eastern countryside of Homs. A day earlier, the army units recaptured the al-Muher and Hajjar gas fields in eastern countryside of Homs, said SANA, adding that the troops killed 20 militants near the Hayan gas field in the eastern part of Homs. The recaptured gas fields are important as they feed the city of Homs and the capital Damascus with the necessary gas for generating electricity in both provinces and the southern Syrian areas in general. The IS, previously known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, has self-proclaimed an Islamic Caliphate in areas striding Syria and Iraq.

It has also succeeded in capturing almost all of the oil fields in the oil-rich province of Deir al-Zour in eastern Syria on the borders with Iraq.—Xinhua

Beyond Burkina Faso, Africa's 'Black Spring' hopes may be premature

DAKAR, 7 Nov — Inspired by protests in Burkina Faso that ousted one of Africa's longest-serving leaders, opposition activists across much of the continent are hoping for a "Black Spring" to mirror the Arab Spring. The experience of Clement Mierassa suggests their hopes are premature.

Mierassa, an opposition leader in Congo Republic, wanted to capitalize on last week's uprising that ousted Blaise Compaore after he tried to change Burkina Faso's constitution to extend his 27-year rule. He organized a meeting to oppose any similar move by his own veteran President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

But the gathering at Mierassa's Brazzaville home on Tuesday had only just begun when police vehicles surrounded the house. Armed officers beat up the participants and arrested them.

From Congo Republic to Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo to Rwanda, several "Big Men" rulers are approaching the end of their mandates amid concerns that they may try to cling to power by changing their countries' laws.

Particularly in West Africa, some opposition supporters believe they can

thwart such ambitions in the same way that Arabs in North Africa forced out the rulers of countries such as Tunisia and Egypt in 2011.

"After the Arab Spring, this is the Black Spring," said Martin Aglo, a law student from Benin where the opposition has already organized demonstrations against any attempt by President Boni Yayi to stay in power.

Long-serving African leaders, such as those in Angola, Zimbabwe and Equatorial Guinea, face emerging pressures at home from restless unemployed youth, discontent over inequality and democratisation demands, magnified by expanding social media.

But not all African states can replicate Burkina Faso's readiness for change.

The poor, cotton-producing state south of the Sahara desert already had a tradition of street protest and military-supported social uprisings. Marxist military captain Thomas Sankara led a popular revolution in 1983 inspired by Fidel Castro's rise to power in Cuba in the late 1950s.

Opposition movements elsewhere want Compaore's downfall to serve as a warning to their

own rulers. "I am full of admiration for what happened in Burkina Faso ... Our African leaders should draw a lesson from this," said Mierassa in Brazzaville, where Sassou-Nguesso has spent a total of 35 years as president.

However, they face more firmly entrenched rulers and elites than did the protesters in Burkina Faso. Crucial to the success of Compaore's overthrow was army sympathy with the disgruntled masses, following a 2011 military revolt over unpaid bonuses.

As the crowd swelled to hundreds of thousands in

Ouagadougou's Place de la Nation, soldiers stayed in their barracks, allowing the protesters to set the parliament ablaze.

By contrast, presidents of wealthy oil-producing states, such as Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos or Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema, can use state resources to grease the wheels of political patronage and invest in the loyalty of their military hierarchies. Another factor in Burkina Faso was a lively, youth-orientated grassroots movement, led by many disaffected former allies of the president, as

well as a history of winning government concessions through dogged protests.

"I don't think it's going to unleash a wave of revolution (across Africa) or topple people like Dos Santos or Obiang," said Jennifer Cooke, Director of the Africa Programme at the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

But she added: "I do think it is a manifestation of pressures that other countries are going to face ... The example may embolden other citizens elsewhere."

Reuters



A man takes a picture of the burned parliament building in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, on 31 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

One dead, 16 wounded in ammonia leak in Israel

JERUSALEM, 7 Nov — A firefighter died and at least 16 people were injured in an ammonia leak in central Israel on Thursday night, officials told *Xinhua*.

The man perished as a leak of at least eight tons of ammonia emerged at Hod-Hefer, a meatpacking factory in the industrial zone of Hefer Valley, and more than a dozen rescue teams rushed to the place in an attempt to halt the leak, a spokesperson for Israel's firefighting service told *Xinhua*.

"A 58-year-old man was moderately injured and 15 were slightly injured," a spokesperson for Magen David Adom, Israel's rescue service, said in a text message sent to *Xinhua*.

Hundreds of people in the close vicinity of the factory were evacuated by the police and residents in a two-km range were asked to remain in their homes with the doors shut.

The spokesperson said the incident apparently occurred as one of the worker accidentally hit a tank containing 60 tons of the hazardous gas.

Xinhua

German court rejects railways lawsuit, rail strike to continue

FRANKFURT, 7 Nov — A German court dismissed an attempt on Thursday by rail operator Deutsche Bahn to stop a nationwide strike through an injunction by the GDL train drivers' union which has crippled the country since Wednesday, labour court judge Ursula Schmidt said.

The court ruled the strike does not violate any laws and is not out of proportion. The decision means that the strike over negotiating rights and pay by the union with its 20,000 members will continue until Monday, idling some 196,000 Deutsche Bahn workers and millions of travellers. State-owned rail operator Deutsche Bahn had filed the injunction with the court on Thursday after the GDL drivers' union rejected an offer of me-



Residents walk through the flood after heavy rain, in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, on 6 Nov, 2014. The residents of Transradio and San Sebastian neighbourhoods of Esteban Echeverria township continued being affected due to the overflows of Matanza River.— XINHUA

FAO says world food prices stabilizing despite prices fell for 7th straight month

ROME, 7 Nov — World food prices dropped for the seventh consecutive month in October, their longest decline in nearly two decades, though the latest dip was small and UN Food and Agriculture Organization officials said prices were stabilizing.

The overall index fell just 0.2 percent in October, with the overall Food Price Index averaging 192.3 points for the month. Overall, the index is at its lowest point since August 2010, and the seven straight months of decline is the longest such stretch since

the mid-1990s.

Prices for cereals and grains were stable for the month, with a continued drop in rice prices offsetting slight rises in world prices for wheat and corn. Rice prices are falling in the wake of near record harvests in Asia.

Dairy prices, meanwhile, fell 1.9 percent because of strong production in Europe, and meat prices were 1.1 percent lower, as beef prices were pushed down by strong production in Australia.

But sugar prices rose 4.2 percent because of dry

conditions in Brazil, and prices for oils and fats climbed 1.6 percent because of lower palm oil production in Indonesia and Malaysia.

It was the first time two of the five commodity groups saw prices rise in the same month since March.

The next installment of the FAO index, which is based on a basket of 55 goods and 73 price quotations in five major food commodity groups, will be released on 4 December.

Xinhua

Japan to provide new aid of up to \$100 M to Ebola-hit W Africa

TOKYO, 7 Nov — Japan will provide up to \$100 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Ebola-hit West Africa, the government said on Friday.

The aid comes on top of \$40 million Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged at the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

Japan will introduce its efforts against the deadly virus in a series of upcoming international conferences, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga

said at a Press conference.

Abe is scheduled to attend summit meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the Association of South-east Asian Nations and the Group of 20 economies this month. "The spread of Ebola has been a threat to international peace and security," the top government spokesman said. "The situation remains severe, so we have made the decision to accelerate assistance."

Kyodo News

Brazilian president pledges to fight inflation, cut spending

BRASILIA, 7 Nov — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said on Thursday that her government will work to control inflation and trim public spending to spur economic growth. Brazil will combat inflation with fiscal measures, instead of relying on interest rate hikes, Rousseff told a Press conference. "We're going to ... tighten controls on inflation, place fiscal boundaries ... cut spending. We're going to examine all the accounts with a magnifier and see what can be reduced and what can be cut," said Rousseff.

She won a tightly contested presidential runoff in late October. But since more than 48 percent of the electorate voted for her pro-business rival, she has come under pressure to adopt some new economic policies.

Rousseff has designated a new finance minister, whose identity will be unveiled after the upcoming Group of 20 summit.—*Xinhua*

One killed, four missing as Indian naval vessel sinks

MUMBAI, 7 Nov — One person was killed and four others are missing as one naval vessel sank outside Visakhapatnam harbour on Thursday evening, local media reported.

Due to flooding, the naval auxiliary ship, *Torpedo Recovery Vessel A72*, sank outside the Visakhapatnam harbour of South India, according to Navy sources.

"The vessel was on a routine mission to recover torpedoes fired by fleet ships during a routine exercise, when it experienced flooding in one of its compartments," the Navy said.

One sailor has lost his life during the rescue operation and four personnel are reported missing. 23 personnel have been rescued safely by the Search and Rescue (SAR) ships dispatched to the area," Navy said in a statement issued in Delhi.

Navy officials said the flooding happened when the vessel was on its way back after collecting the

"dummy" torpedo that was used in the exercise.

The incident happened within 10-15 kms off Vizag post," a Navy spokesperson said in Visakhapatnam. The boat sunk because of "some flooding", he said. The *Torpedo Recovery Vessel (TRV)* is an auxiliary vessel which is used to recover practice torpedoes fired by fleet ships and submarines.

The ship, which is 23 meters long and 6.5 metres at the beam, was built by Goa Shipyard in 1983 and has served the Indian Navy for the last 31 years.

The accident is one of the many that the Navy has witnessed over in recent times involving submarines. In 2013, 18 sailors were killed in a blast and fire aboard submarine *INS Sindhurakshak*, while in February 2014, two naval officers lost their lives in a fire onboard the *INS Sindhurakshak*. It led to the resignation of then CNS Admiral DK Joshi.

Xinhua



A passenger uses his mobile device to check for available commuter trains, while standing next to a closed regional train of German railway Deutsche Bahn at the train station in Hanau on 6 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

diation and began what will be the longest strike in the German railway's post-war history.

Deutsche Bahn had hoped the court would stop the strike and appoint mediators. Deutsche Bahn,

which had seen the chances of success as limited, can appeal the decision.

Reuters

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MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (110W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (110W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (058W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU voy No (058W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (375N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (375N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (116)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (116) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
Phone No: 2301186



People participate in the parade commemorating the National Unity Day, in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 4 Nov, 2014. The National Unity Day marks the liberation of Moscow from Polish invaders in 1612. The monument to Minin and Pozharsky was erected in Moscow in 1818.—XINHUA

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, the depression over the Central Bay of Bengal has almost stationary and centered at about (480)miles Southwest of Patheingyi (Myanmar), (390)miles East-Northeast of Chennai (India) and (300)miles Southeast of Vishakhapatnam (India). It is forecast to move West wards. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th November, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

US Coast Guard, Air Force seek missing pilot in Gulf of Mexico

MIAMI, 7 Nov — The United States Air Force and Coast Guard crews searched the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday for a missing pilot whose F-16 fighter jet lost contact with its base during a routine training mission, officials said.

The aircraft, based out of Tyndall Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle, was believed to have crashed about 57 miles south of Panama City, according to the US Coast Guard.

No wreckage has been located, the Air Force said.

“While the aircraft has not been found, search teams are working under the assumption that the aircraft has crashed into the water,” according to

a news release from Tyndall Air Force base.

“The rescue of our Airman is our top priority,” Col Mark O’Laughlin, 325 Fighter Wing Vice Commander was quoted as saying in the statement.—Reuters



A woman is helped after an explosion in a chemical product factory in Alta Cordoba neighbourhood, in Cordoba Province, Argentina, on 6 Nov, 2014. The accident wounded at least 12 persons and caused damages in nearby houses and other facilities, according to local press.—XINHUA

S Korean parliament passes three bills to deal with ferry disaster

SEOUL, 7 Nov — South Korean National Assembly passed three bills on Friday to deal with the deadly ferry disaster, more than 200 days after the ferry *Sewol* sank off the southeastern coast on 16 April leaving more than 300 dead or missing.

The Ferry Sewol Special Act, or the bill to form an investigative committee for a probe into the maritime disaster, was passed with 212 votes in favour, 12 against and 27 abstentions. About 50 lawmakers failed to participate in the vote.

The act was based on an agreement made by rival political parties on 31 October to form the committee comprised of 17 special investigators. Candidates for the committee's chief will be recommended by the bereaved families of the victims.

For as long as 18 months, the committee will look into the country's worst peacetime disaster in decades, which claimed more than 300 lives, mostly high school students.

Separately, a special prosecutor will make a probe into the accident for as long as 180 days. The prosecutor will be given authorities to investigate and indict.

The so-called YooByung-eun Act was passed with 224 votes in favour, 4 in opposition and 17 abstentions. The act will make it possible for the law enforcement authorities to expropriate assets and property from the criminal and third parties, including the criminal's family members, when the worst disaster occurs.

Yoo, the fugitive owner of the ferry, was found dead on 12 June in the southern city of Suncheon, and his eldest son was arrested at a hideout in a town just outside of *Seoul* on 25 July.

The son was sentenced to three years in prison on Wednesday for misappropriating 7.39 billion won (7.3 million US dollars) from the ferry *Sewol*'s operator Cheonghaejin Marine and six other affiliates. The revised bill to form government ministries was passed with 146 in favour, 71 against and 32 abstentions. The bill stipulates that the National Safety Ministry will be launched to serve as a control tower for national safety and disaster management. The firefighting agency and the coast guard will be disbanded and absorbed into the ministry.—Xinhua

New 'Star Wars' film will be called 'The Force Awakens'

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — The upcoming instalment of the "Star Wars" film franchise has finished shooting and will be called "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," Walt Disney Studios said on Thursday.

The film is scheduled to be released in December 2015 and will star Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o, Andy Serkis, Adam Driver and Oscar Isaac.

"The Force Awakens" is the first of three "Star Wars" instalments Disney said it would make after it bought "Star Wars" production company Lucas-Film for \$4.05 billion in 2012.

The film, in which



Participants wearing Star Wars costumes are seen at the Royal Parc after the Balloon's Day Parade in Brussels on 6 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

original "Star Wars" actors Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill will reprise their original roles, will be set 30 years after 1983's Episode VI: Return

of the Jedi." "Star Trek" filmmaker JJ Abrams will direct "The Force Awakens," the seventh film in the space epic series created by George Lucas.—Reuters

O2 Arena to host Elvis Presley exhibition

LONDON, 7 Nov — An exhibition titled 'Elvis At The O2: The Exhibition Of His Life' is all set to open here next month.

Organizers of the show have confirmed that the show will last for nine months and will feature a huge range of memorabilia, including a virtual tour of the Memphis mansion where the music legend died in 1977, reported BBC online.

Priscilla Presley, who was married to the singer for six years, commented, "While each and every item contains a lifetime of memories, we are more than happy to allow these treasured memories to leave Graceland."

"Elvis meant so much to me and our daughter Lisa (Marie Presley), but



Priscilla Presley, who was married to the singer for six years, commented, "While each and every item contains a lifetime of memories, we are more than happy to allow these treasured memories to leave Graceland.—PTI

we both know that our family truly shares him with the world." In total, the exhibition will feature more than 300 items, including a red MG from the 1961 film 'Blue Hawaii', among many other eye-catching pieces that help to tell the story of his life.

Meanwhile, exhibition co-ordinator Nic Wastell said, "For people who can't get to Graceland, Graceland is coming to them."

The new show is scheduled to open on 12 December and will run until 31 Aug, 2015.

PTI

Jennifer Lopez thought people just hated her

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — Jennifer Lopez says there was a time when she would get affected by all the negativity surrounding her and assumed that people just hated her.

The pop star, 45, who is currently promoting her memoir 'True Love', said she is still working on being herself, reported E! News.

"I would describe the woman I am today as a work in progress, a 'WIP'!. And this was the beginning of what I think is going to be a life-long journey of being content and happy with myself." I have to know how great I am, you know—all of us need to know how great we are," Lopez said.

"That we're worth it...All of the things I'm involved with have the same message and it's that you must love yourself first, that the love that you're looking for is inside you. That sounds like a weird thing sometimes but it's so real..."

You always have to be the most important. That's what love is," she said.

Despite her fans all over the world, Lopez says she would often focus on negativity.

"We have a tendency to focus on the negative and I let that work on my self-esteem. I was always thinking that people didn't like me, they just hated me...It's such a ridiculous notion, we tend to do this to ourselves," she said.—PTI

I took break because I didn't have fire in my belly: Cheryl Fernandez-Versini

LONDON, 7 Nov — Pop star Cheryl Fernandez-Versini has revealed that the two-year music break was necessary in her career to get some reality check. The 31-year-old singer said people warned her to take such a long break because it might ruin her career, reported Digital Spy.

"People were like, 'You're crazy, you shouldn't do this. It's a bad career move'," she recalled. "(I said), 'It's me or me mental health'. Honest. My gut instinct was like, 'It's enough'. For the first time since I wanted to be a popstar, I didn't have any fire in my belly. Without realising it, I had gone to a dark place. I needed a reality check and get some real feelings back," she said.

The singer, who is married to husband Jean-Bernard Fernandez-Versini, also revealed that she is not ready to have children yet. "I've got 11 nieces and nephews, and I've been through every single stage with all of them. I had three of them down a couple of weeks ago, and I love having them. But it's also nice saying, 'Bye! Go see your mam and dad now!'.—PTI

'Transporter' reboot gets delayed until summer 2015

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — 'The Transporter Legacy' is all set to hit theatres on 19 June, 2015. The film, which is a sequel of 'Transporter', was scheduled to make its way out on 6 March, 2015, but moved back to summer, reported Ace showbiz.

It's set to face off Fox's drama 'Paper Towns' and Pixar's animation 'Inside Out (2015)'. Jason Statham will not reprise his tough guy role as driver Frank Martin in this fourth installment. He will be replaced by new guy Ed Skrein.

Other cast members include Loan Chabanol, Radivoje Bukvic, Gabriella Wright and Anatole Taubman.—PTI

GENERAL

To inform all relatives and friends far and near DAW SAN YI (aged 88 years) (PALAW)

Daw San Yi, daughter of (U Hlaing Phoo + Daw Htun Shwe), wife of Col. Situh Kyi Win (deceased), sister in law of Daw Hnin Yee, mother of Kay Thi Kyi Win+ U Aung Lynn (D.G of Asean Dept, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Wai Yi Kyi Win + U Aye Lwin, Tha Doe Kyi Win + Than Than Win, Ohn Mar Kyi Win + Capt. Aung Thein Myint (Lizstar Comp.LTD), (Htay Aung Kyi Win) + Yee Yee Tint, DR Khin Mar Kyi Win (Singapore) + Prof. DR. Aye Aung (North Okkalapa Hospital), Myat Mar Kyi Win (B.E.M.S (5) Hlaing Tharyar), grandmother of eleven, and great Grandmother of five passed away on 6.11.2014 at 3:40 pm at her residence. No 26 C1, Wireless 2 Lane Kaba Aye, will be cremated to Yeway Cemetary on 8.11.2014 (Saturday) at 3:00 pm.

Ronaldo backs campaign to save Portuguese baby in Dubai

LISBON, 7 Nov — Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo has backed a campaign to save a Portuguese premature baby born in Dubai in October by publicizing the campaign on his Facebook page.

“Let’s support baby Margarida. No help is too small,” Ronaldo said in the latest post on his Facebook page, which has over 101 million followers.

The Portuguese star of Real Madrid then posted a link to the campaign page that is raising funds to treat Margarida Queiroz, who was born in Dubai at 25 weeks gestation weighing just 410 grams on 28 October.

The baby’s parent’s health insurance does not cover premature babies and the costs of her treatment since she was born are growing at a rate of around 5,000 euros per day, according to hospital bills posted on the campaign page.

In response to a post on his page by the baby’s grandmother thanking him for publicizing her family’s plight, Cristiano Ronaldo sent the family a message in Portuguese, “Any help could make the difference. I hope the whole family can stay strong.”—Xinhua

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(8-11-14 07:00 am~
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- * Local News
- * Nine Wonders Around The Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
- * World News
- * Products of Myanmar - Mya Setkyar Pure Silk Fabric From Inle Lake
- * Local News
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- * World News
- * In The Studio: Thu Rein

Baby planet photos by Chile telescope most detailed yet

SANTIAGO, 7 Nov — Some of the most detailed images ever taken of new planets being born around a star were published on Thursday, which astronomers said could transform theories about planet formation.

High in the Chilean desert, the Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre-Array, or ALMA, observed the planet-forming disc around the young HL Tauri star, producing the sharpest pictures ever made at sub-millimeter wavelengths.

The pictures show clear concentric rings in the dust left over from the formation of the star, the gaps indicating that planets are already forming, sweeping a path through the material.



Parabolic antennas of the ALMA (Atacama Large Millimetre/Submillimetre Array) project are seen at the El Llano de Chajnantor in the Atacama desert, some 1730 km (1074 miles) north of Santiago and 5000 metres above sea level, on 12 March, 2013. —REUTERS

HL Tauri, about 450 light-years away, is around one million years old, a baby by astronomical standards. At that age, current theories

suggest there should be very little in the way of planet formation around the star, ALMA Deputy Director Stuart Corder told Reuters.

“But what we find is in this very young phase, we see all these gaps in the ring, in the disc, and these gaps are cleared by large

planetary cores,” he said.

“So even at this young age, ALMA has discovered that already large planetary cores are forming, so the process of planet formation has to occur much faster and much earlier than we had ever expected.”

Stars are formed in nurseries of dust and gas clouds, collapsing under the effect of gravity until they eventually ignite.

The remains of the gas and dust that surround the star clump over time into planets, comets and asteroids. The discovery is ALMA’s first observation in a new and more powerful mode that is its near-final configuration. In June, its final antenna was put in place.

Reuters

Romanian Halep splits with coach Fissette

BUCHAREST, 7 Nov — Romanian world number four Simona Halep has split with her Belgian coach Wim Fissette, she announced on Thursday.

“My collaboration with Wim Fissette will come to an end, following a mutual

agreement,” the 23-year-old wrote on her Facebook page.

“It was a good and beautiful year. I want to thank him and wish him good luck in the future.”

The announcement came a week after Halep

was beaten by world number one Serena Williams in the WTA championship final in Singapore.

Halep, who has won eight WTA titles in the last two years, began working with Fissette, who previously coached Kim Clijsters and Sabine Lisicki, in January after splitting with Adrian Marcu.

In 2014, Halep became the highest ranked Romanian in WTA history after reaching the French Open final, losing to Maria Sharapova in three sets, and winning the WTA titles in Doha and Bucharest.

Local media reported that Romanian tennis promoter Ion Tiriac, an extravagantly moustachioed former player who became a billionaire businessman, is helping Halep to find another coach for next season.— Reuters

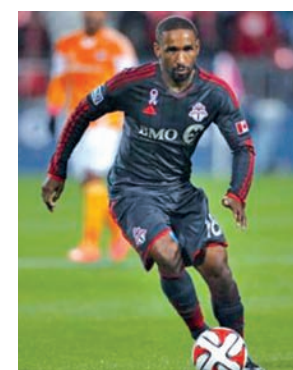


Simona Halep of Romania poses with the runner’s up trophy after losing to Serena Williams of the US in the women’s singles final tennis match of the WTA Finals at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 26 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

QPR keen to sign Defoe in January, says Redknapp

LONDON, 7 Nov — Queens Park Rangers will try to lure prolific FC Toronto striker Jermain Defoe back to the Premier League during the January transfer window if the price is right, the club’s manager Harry Redknapp said on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Defoe, who scored 124 goals during his time in the Premier League, has previously worked under Redknapp at Tottenham Hotspur and Portsmouth. The QPR coach came close to signing the former England international again from Major League Soccer (MLS) team Toronto during the summer but a deal did not materialise. British media claimed on Tuesday that a deal had been done to sign the striker in January but Redknapp said nothing had been confirmed, though



Toronto FC forward Jermain Defoe

he would continue to pursue the player. “No, I don’t think anything is anywhere near being concluded with Jermain,” Redknapp told a news conference on Thursday. “We tried to get Jermain before the deadline (in the summer transfer window), but I don’t think there is any movement on that one at the moment.— Reuters

Passenger plane hits buffalo at airport in western India

NEW DELHI, 7 Nov — A private passenger plane, with 200 on board, had a narrow escape on Thursday in the western Indian state of Gujarat’s city of Surat as it hit a buffalo on the runway as it was about to take off for the national capital, a senior aviation official said.

“As the Delhi-bound flight of Spice Jet was to take off, the buffalo hit it and was sucked in one of its engines. The take off was aborted. All passengers are safe,” he said, on condition of anonymity.— Xinhua

'Jekyll and Hyde' Manchester City take a backward step

LONDON, 7 Nov — Manuel Pellegrini's 'Jekyll and Hyde' Manchester City side have taken a backward step since becoming Premier League champions six months ago as they teeter on the brink of an early Champions League exit. A woeful display in a 2-1 home loss to CSKA Moscow on Wednesday left them without a win and bottom of Group E with two points from four games in Europe's elite club competition.

After an indifferent start to the Premier League campaign, a 1-0 derby win over Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday suggested they may finally be finding the form that saw them crowned champions in May. But after an all-too-familiar failure to take their domestic form into Europe, they must now beat Bayern Munich at home and AS Roma away in their remaining group games to stand a chance of making the Champions League last 16. "That team, in a very short space of time, have taken one almighty step backwards," former Liverpool captain Graeme Souness, a three-time European champion, told Sky Sports on Wednesday. "It's a shadow of the team you saw last year. 'The mark of big players is that they want the ball all the time, even when the roof is caving in, and you didn't see that from City tonight (against CSKA)."

"You saw people go absent, people who didn't want the ball. Half of that team didn't want the ball tonight. That team a few months ago looked like a team of world-class players and one which might dominate English football." Pellegrini has defied the odds in the Champions League before, taking his unfancied former sides Villarreal and Malaga to the semi-finals and quarter-finals respectively.—Reuters

'Greek Messi' back for second spell at Panathinaikos



Sotiris Ninis (R) challenges Nemanja Gudelj during their Europa League soccer match in Alkmaar on 3 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 7 Nov — Greece midfielder Sotiris Ninis returned to his first club Panathinaikos on

Thursday after agreeing a two-and-a-half year contract.

He left in 2012 to join

Serie A outfit Parma but found it difficult to recapture the form he showed at Panathinaikos where he

was labelled the 'Greek Messi'.

Ninis, who has scored three goals in 30 appearances for his country, had a spell on loan at PAOK Salonika last season but has been without a club since having his deal with Parma terminated in August.

"I'm very happy to be returning to Panathinaikos, the club that is my home," the 24-year-old said in a statement. "I can't wait to play in front of the supporters again."

"I want to thank the club's administration for putting their trust in me again, giving me the chance to play football at a high level."

Ninis was aged 16 when he became the second youngest player to represent Panathinaikos in a league match.

Reuters



FC Bayern Munich's David Alaba (L) is challenged by Hamburger SV's Matti Steinmann (R) during their German soccer cup (DFB Pokal) match in Hamburg on 29 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

All-conquering Bayern suffer Alaba injury blow

MUNICH, 7 Nov — Bayern Munich's smooth passage into the Champions League knockout stage hit a speed bump after it emerged on Thursday that versatile Austria international David Alaba will need knee surgery and will be out for several weeks.

All appeared well for Pep Guardiola's fast and flexible team when they beat Roma 2-0 at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday to maintain their perfect record after four games and advance to the Round of 16 with two games to spare, the fastest ever by a German team.

However, the influential Alaba limped off with the injury to his right knee in the 81st minute after another inspired display, an injury that could see Austria's sportsman of the year miss the remainder of the year.

"Following an hour-long examination with the club doctor, (it was discovered that) he has suffered a partial tear of a ligament and meniscus damage," the club said in a statement.

"Alaba will now need to be operated on soon and will be out for several weeks."

Alaba started in defence but switched positions throughout the match, tormenting the Italians with darting runs as he set Franck Ribery up for the opener and had several attempts on goal himself, including a long-range free kick that just missed.

The 22-year-old Austrian is usually deployed as a fullback, combining down the left flank with Ribery but is equally effective in Bayern's midfield, as was the case on Wednesday.—Reuters

McDowell leads by two after first round in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 7 Nov — Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell made a flying, seven birdie start to grab a two-shot lead after the first round of the \$8.5 million WGC-HSBC Champions tournament on Thursday.

McDowell coped well with a fluctuating breeze and thick rough at Sheshan Golf Club to fire a five-under-par 67 after two late bogeys spoilt his card.

He headed a group of six players on 69 that included current US Open champion Martin Kaymer and consistent American Rickie Fowler.

World number two Adam Scott of Australia was a further shot back after a 70, but it was a miserable day for recent US PGA Tour FedEx Cup winner Billy Hor-

schel, who flung his ball into a water hazard in disgust at his final hole after shooting an error-strewn 80.

McDowell is not the longest of hitters and he prefers courses where birdies are hard to come by, so he was delighted when he arrived in Shanghai to find plenty of thick rough on a track that traditionally had yielded low scores.

"A big key to this course is driving the ball well (and) I drove it very well today," the world number 17, who finished third here last year, told reporters.

"I think I missed only one fairway (and that) set up a few opportunities. The greens are in fantastic shape and I actually putted very well, so seven under par through 12 holes was a beau-

tiful start.

"I dropped a couple coming in but all in all, very, very pleased with five under on what I thought was a reasonably tricky day."

McDowell, the 2010 US Open champion, said he did not expect the winning score to be better than 12-under on Sunday. It was a good start for another of Europe's Ryder Cup winning side with team mate Kaymer showing little sign of rust.

This is the German's first official tournament since September team event. He was even par after 10 holes, but remained patient and was rewarded with a strong finish.

"I just kept telling myself, you enjoy the golf course so much, and you will have plenty of birdie chances, so you just need to wait," he said. "Fortunately, it turned out well."

But the day did not turn out so well for American Kevin Stadler (wrist) and Canadian Graham DeLaet (back), who both withdrew during the round.

American Jason Dufner incurred a one-stroke penalty when he absent-mindedly picked up his ball to clean it on the 18th hole, apparently forgetting that the "lift, clean and place" rule was not being used. He shot 72.

Reuters



Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland tees off on the ninth hole during the first round of the WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament in Shanghai on 6 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS