

As part of democratization, government puts special priority on raising education standard in belief that national education plays key role in nation building

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov—*The following is the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein on the occasion of 94th Anniversary National Day.*—Ed

I would like to extend heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the citizens of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 94th anniversary of National Day, which falls on 16 November.

This significant day depicts the nationalistic sentiment displayed in the history of education in Myanmar. It is also on this historic day that the very first national education law designed to improve the quality of education for the entire citizenry came into effect.

The government has entered the Third Wave of Reform in implementing its all-round national development measures on all fronts.

A national concern is the emergence of an

education system that is capable of taking the country to a new level of prosperity and developing reliable human resources while cherishing and promoting the language, literature, culture and tradition of every ethnic group.

As part of democratization, the government puts special priority on raising the education standard in the belief that national education plays a key role in nation building. It is through education that people can be aware of the importance of political stability, tranquility, unity, economic development, better living standards, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Strenuous efforts are under way to design and up-

grade curricula at all levels that can meet national and international criteria, with the aim of bringing about youths who value a code of conduct, democratic practices and human rights. In addition, extensive measures are taken to make education compulsory and free for all school-age children.

Priority has been given to projects to reduce poverty and promote education standards from early childhood education to higher education including technical and occupational education. In doing so, emphasis is placed on the right to education for every citizen by implementing special and inclusive education programs.

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President U Thein Sein says ASEAN has become more integrated in recent decades

BRISBANE, 15 Nov—President U Thein Sein left Nay Pyi Taw for Brisbane, Australia, on Friday evening to attend the G-20 Summit, arriving in the eastern Australian city on Saturday morning, sources said.

Following a warm welcome by Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, where the two-day G-20 Summit has kicked off, President U Thein Sein addressed the G-20 Summit meeting on the agenda of global economic growth and promotion of job creation.

On the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations, President U Thein Sein said that the Southeast Asian bloc has become more integrated in recent decades, which he emphasized prompted Myanmar to set the theme for ASEAN Chair 2014 as “Moving forward in unity to a peaceful and prosperous community”.

As a huge market with a population of 609 million, the ASEAN region enjoys an annual growth rate of 5% on average, with combined GDP hitting US\$2.5 trillion.

The establishment of the ASEAN economic community will ensure a free, smooth flow of com-

modities, investments and currencies in the region, thereby enabling skilled workers to migrate, with the president saying regional cooperation is expected to reach a new high in years to come.

He stressed that while assuming the chairmanship, Myanmar is determined to help develop small and medium-sized enterprises and deepen cooperation between the government and the private sector, adding that ASEAN and the G-20 share the same objective in the effort to initiate macroeconomic development.

(See page 3)



President U Thein Sein attends G-20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia.—MNA

Toyota launches its 9th Dream Car Art Contest for children

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 15 Nov—Toyota Motor Corporation on Saturday launched its 9th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, a picture drawing

Eain Oo Thwe, a seven-year-old winner, who was selected as the best 90 in the Toyota's global dream car art contest 2014, and her mother pose for photo in front of her picture.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



contest for kids, with the aim of inspiring creativity in youth and encouraging their interest in the automotive industry.

This is the second time for Myanmar to be among the participating countries. The Japanese automaker expects to receive more than 1,000 drawings from children 15 years of age and below. Of them, nine winners from three categories will be chosen to participate in the world

(See page 3)

Japan donates transport facilities for Dala jetty in Yangon

YANGON, 15 Nov—A Japanese agency has handed over a passenger shelter, two jetties and three ferries to the Ministry of Transport, sources said.

JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency, handed over the documents at Nanthida Wharf here on Saturday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung pledged that Myanmar will deepen its friendly ties with Japan.

The two countries established their diplomatic

relations in 1954.

The union minister extended words of appreciation to the Japanese agency for the donation on behalf of Yangonites, who he said rely on public transports for daily commutes.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi stressed the importance of infrastructural development in national development. According to the Japanese ambassador, over 30,000 passengers commute from Yangon to Dala on ferries.—MNA

MOVING FORWARD IN UNITY TO A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY (MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS)



Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak at handover ceremony of ASEAN chairmanship.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with leaders of ASEAN at opening ceremony of 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



President U Thein Sein attends ASEAN+3 Summit at MICC in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

12th ASEAN – INDIA SUMMIT

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 12 November 2014



President U Thein Sein seen with leaders of ASEAN countries and Indian PM at 12th ASEAN-India Summit.—MNA

NATIONAL

As part of democratization, government puts special...

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Measures are being taken for the emergence of a free and active educational environment at universities and nurturing disciplined and patriotic youths capable of overcoming difficulties and challenges.

As the development of each region is essential for national development, it is important to utilize the strength and participation of local people and resources in the regional development tasks. It is necessary to explore natural resources in respective regions, to manage

them for future use and to coordinate for the effective use of education resources at universities in combination with natural resources.

The entire national people are witnessing unprecedented development in the political, economic and social sectors and in the peace process since independence was regained in the new democratic nation that resulted from the cooperation of the entire national people. An evidence of achievements to be proud of in the international arena is the successful hosting of the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and being able to lead the entire region for equitable development as the chair of ASEAN.

On this auspicious occasion, with all seriousness, I

would like to urge all the national people, taking advantage of these achievements, to successfully overcome the difficulties and challenges along the democracy journey with the united strength of the entire national people and to march towards the goal of democracy with firm determination and active and united strength of the entire national people by upholding the objectives of the 94th Anniversary of the National Day such as:

- (1) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the Union Spirit
- (2) To uplift national education standards
- (3) To preserve the independence and sovereignty of the nation
- (4) To build a new, modern, developed nation.

President U Thein Sein says ASEAN has become...

(from page 1)

ASEAN welcomes the Brisbane Action Plan, with the president saying that the G-20 Agenda, "Stronger, Sustainable and Balanced Growth", is believed to nar-

row inequality and the rich-poor gap between countries.

In addition, President U Thein Sein pointed out the emergence of young entrepreneurs in the ASEAN region, saying youths play

a key role in development activities.

In the evening, the president attended a dinner hosted in honour of leaders attending the G-20 Summit.

MNA



President U Thein Sein together with leaders at G-20 Summit.

MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Australian Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott.

MNA



Toyota launches its 9th Dream Car Art Contest for children...

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contest, said U Aye Zaw, chairman of TTAS Co Ltd, Toyota's first authorized dealer in Myanmar.

Celebrity Chit Thu Wai, a judge of the contest, urged parents to encourage their children to create artworks with their own ideas, as a majority of young people in the country are influenced by their parents.

Artist Nyein Chan Su said the contest may help children to develop their imagination, and invited people to enjoy the o-day Japan-Myanmar event which will be held in Yangon on 6 and 7 December where children will receive an opportunity to reveal their artistic skills.

As part of its social contribution initiatives, Toyota Motor Corporation, Japan's largest automaker, has held the contest since 2004 around the world. The 8th contest attracted more than 660,000 children from over 70 countries.

In Myanmar, 324 children took part in the contest. Eain Oo Thwe, a seven-year-old girl, was one of the winners in the last year's contest, with her drawing being selected among the best 90 in the world contest. She said her winning artwork was created based on her dreams and that she planned to try again to be victorious in the world contest.

GNLM



Cherry (1) donated by Japan seen in Yangon River. (News on page 1) —MNA

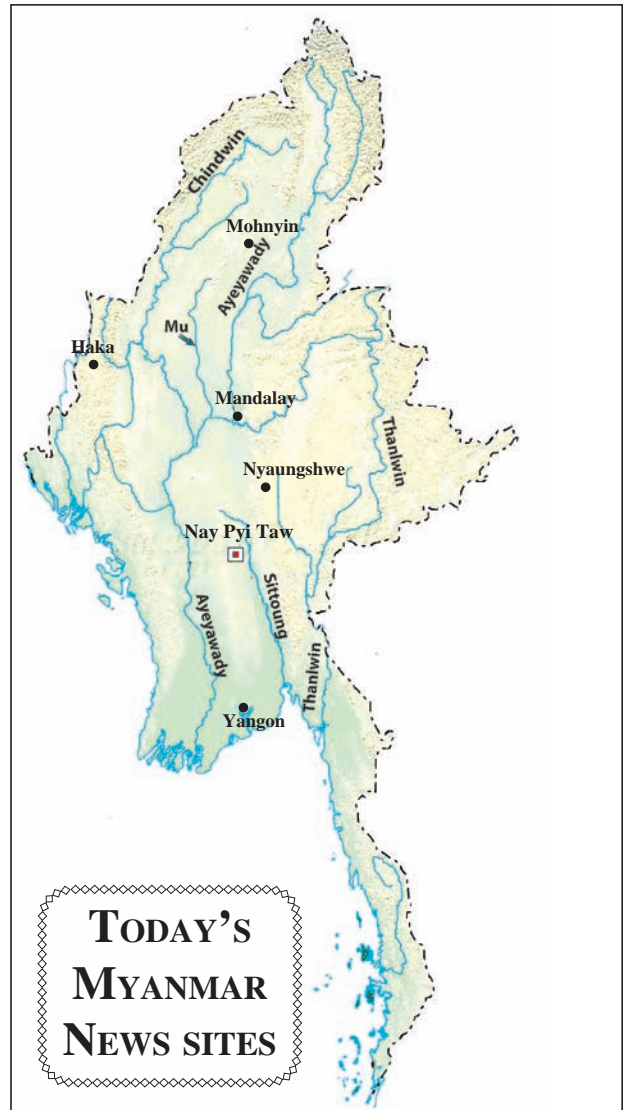
Election in Chin State discussed



HAKA, 15 Nov—A roundtable discussion on the peace process and an election for strengthening ethnic voices in Myanmar was held at Haka Baptist Association in Haka, Chin State, on Thursday.

Chin State Election Sub-commission U Lian Oak and State Election officer U Lin Kyaw explained election issues. Media and social organizations participated in the discussions and raised questions to officials.

Chin State IPRD



Two journalists to join delegation bound for China

MOHNYIN, 15 Nov—Correspondent U Myo Aung from Mohnyin and correspondent U Win Aung of Mogaung, who will leave for China along with members of the Upper Myanmar journalists association, left Mohnyin Station for Mandalay on 14 November.

At the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of Dehong Prefecture of the People's Republic of China, a 10-member delegation led by Honorary Chairman of the Upper Myanmar Journalists Association U Sein Win Aung (Chairman of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association) and Chairman U Htay Aung will leave



Mandalay on 16 November to pay a one-week visit to Dehong Prefecture located in Yunnan Province. The Upper Myanmar Journalists Association

was set up on 20 August, 2014.

GNLM-001

Farmers use combine harvesters in harvesting paddy plantations

NYAUNGSHWE, 15 Nov—Vietnam Palethwe hybrid paddy and Palethwe Basatima hybrid paddy on 15.94 acre plots were harvested with a combine

harvester in Tilaw Village-tract, Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State on Thursday.

The head of the township's Agriculture Department, U Zaw Win Tun, explained the use of high-yield paddy strains, applying modern agriculture techniques to transform manual to mechanized farming, and harvesting with a combine harvester so as to minimize loss and waste and save time and money. He said that skilled farm workers are essential for transforming the agricultural system. Therefore, he added that training is being carried out on production of hybrid paddy seeds and use of good agricultural patterns. Vietnam Palethwe paddy yielded 181.43 baskets per acre and Palethwe Basatima, 115.69 baskets per acre. In Nyaungshwe there are 6,451 acres of the Shweyinaye paddy strain under cultivation, 1,106 acres of the Hsinshwe-wa strain, 1,189 acres of the Shwewatun strain and 1,487 acres of the Palethwe paddy strain, totalling 10,233 acres.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Nay Myo Thurein

Sweater sales up in PyinOoLwin Township as cold season descends

MANDALAY, 15 Nov—Sales of warm clothing have been rising in the scenic hill town of PyinOoLwin Township since the early period of the cold season arrived.

Textile shops in PyinOoLwin are purchasing woolen sweaters, coats, jerseys and various clothes made of wool to meet the rising demand of local people.

As of the first week of November, sales of sweaters have been high in PyinOoLwin, with sweaters of various designs attracting customers at markets.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Six outstanding firefighters honoured in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 15 Nov—A ceremony to honour six firefighters who participated in putting out a fire that broke out at the Main Oil Installation in Mahaangmye Township was held at the hall of Mandalay Central Fire Station on 14 November.

Director U Kyi Win of the Fire Services Department

praised the six firefighters for their relentless efforts in putting out the fire and presented certificates of honour to them.

The firefighters put out the fire that engulfed an oil tanker truck that was filled with fuel from the oil installation.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Japan agrees with India to step up talks on US-2 aircraft export

BRISBANE, 15 Nov — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi agreed on Friday to step up talks over Japan exporting its US-2 amphibious aircraft to the south Asian nation, a senior Japanese government official said.

During their 90-minute talks over dinner, the two also confirmed their defence ministers will meet at an early date, said Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato. Both Japan and India are concerned about China's territorial ambitions and military buildup in the region.

Abe and Modi met in Brisbane, Australia, before the start on Saturday of a two-day Group of 20 summit there.

India has been negotiating to possibly purchase

the US-2, which can be used in search and rescue operations, after Tokyo last April eased its rules on the sale of defence equipment and the transfer of defence technology.

The US-2 is manufactured by ShinMaywa Industries Ltd, based in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, and is used by the country's Self-Defence Forces.

Abe and Modi also agreed that Japan and India will hold a so-called two-plus-two dialogue involving their vice foreign and defence ministers as soon as possible, with an eye to upgrading the talks to the ministerial level, Kato said.

The talks between Abe and Modi took place just days after the Japanese prime minister met with Chinese President Xi



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands prior to their meeting on 14 Nov, 2014, in Brisbane, Australia, where the Group of 20 summit begins the next day.

KYODO NEWS

Jinping in Beijing on Monday, the first direct talks in more than two years due to

relations strained over differences involving territory and wartime history.

Kato quoted Abe as telling Modi that Japan is "making efforts to create stable Japan-China relations."

On the economic front, Abe pitched Japan's shinkansen high-speed bullet train technology for the train network that India plans to build between Mumbai and Ahmadabad in western India, Kato said.

To tackle global issues, Abe emphasized the need to bolster security ties between Japan, India, the United States and Australia, while expressing hope that reform of the UN Security Council will move forward as next year marks the 70th anniversary of the world body, according to Kato.

Both Japan and India seek to become permanent members of the council.

Kyodo News

HK student protest leaders unable to leave for Beijing due to invalid documents

HONG KONG, 15 Nov — Leaders of student protest groups in Hong Kong, who planned to fly to Beijing and seek direct meetings with top Chinese leaders, were denied boarding for their flight on Saturday due to invalid documents. Federation secretary general Alex Chow, and three other key student leaders of Occupy Central movement arrived at Hong Kong's international airport Saturday afternoon to leave for Beijing, but were denied boarding for their Cathay Pacific flight after being informed that their travel documents were invalid. Their Home Return Permit, the visa which Hong Kong residents require to travel to mainland China, had been cancelled, said an airline company staff.

Hong Kong's Chief Secretary for Administration Carrie Lam said on the same day that there is no need for the student leaders to take their demands to Beijing, saying that the central government in Beijing is well aware of the different opinion of some Hong Kong people and has made decisions accordingly.—Xinhua

New Zealand, S Korea complete free trade agreement talks

WELLINGTON, 15 Nov — New Zealand and South Korea have completed free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced on Saturday.

"The FTA will put New Zealand exporters back on a level playing field with competitors from (South) Korea's other FTA partners, such as the United States,

Chile and the European Union," Key said in a statement.

"(South) Korea is New Zealand's sixth largest export destination for goods and services and eighth largest import source of goods and services, with total two-way trade of 4 billion NZ dollars (3.16 billion US dollars) in the year ending June 2014," said Key.

"At the moment our

exporters to (South) Korea pay 229 million NZ dollars (181.07 million U.S. dollars) a year in duties. Under the FTA, New Zealand exporters will save an estimated 65 million (51.39 million US dollars) in duties in the first year alone."

On entry into force, tariffs would be eliminated on 48 percent of current New Zealand exports and duties

on New Zealand's current exports would largely be eliminated within 15 years of entry into force.

Trade Minister Tim Groser said the FTA would create more opportunities for New Zealand businesses and deliver cheaper products to consumers.

"There are positive outcomes for agricultural exports, as well as the forestry

sector, the fisheries industry and exporters of all industrial goods. Government procurement, trade in services and investment are all subject to high quality commitments," Groser said in a statement.

The FTA would next go through a legal verification and translation process, before it could be signed.

Xinhua

Indonesia to promote maritime cooperation to prosper global economy in G20

JAKARTA, 15 Nov — Indonesian President Joko Widodo planned to highlight the importance of development in the maritime sector and its contribution to enhancing global economy in the upcoming G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia, a senior Indonesian official said on Friday. "During Australia's chairmanship period, G20 has set commitment to increasing global economy growth by 2 percent. That target is in line with Indonesia's domestic growth target of 7 percent," Toferry Soetikno, Economy and Environment Development Director at the Foreign Affairs ministry said. President Widodo has committed to putting more efforts in developing the nation's maritime sector in a bid to attain the growth target.

As a country located in the intersection of two oceans and two continents, the archipelago country of Indonesia has an enormous potential to become the world's 'maritime axis' that would greatly benefit the nation.

President Widodo intends to enhance sea transportation through what he called as Sea Toll Road programme.

According to the programme, the government would build more seaports and provide more vessels to boost distribution of goods and people, linking cities in different islands across the nation whose territory spans 5 million kilometres from western to eastern tips.

The plan would be integrated with other plans to develop fishery sector and improve ship dockyards in the country to cope with increasing demands for vessels to serve the programme.—Xinhua

Powerful quake strikes off eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 15 Nov — An earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale jolted the eastern parts of Indonesia on Saturday morning, but there had been no initial report of damages and casualty, officials said.

The quake took place

at 09:31 am Jakarta Time (02:31 GMT) with the epicenter 155 km northeast of Bitung town in North Sulawesi Province and with a depth of 10 km under sea bed, said Jerisman, an official of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

A USGS report said put the depth at 47 km under sea bed.

A tsunami warning was immediately put in place after the quake, but then it was lifted as only waves as high as 0.09 meter off the Jailolo island and

0.01 metre off the Tobelo island of North Maluku province were detected by the agency.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 4 MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) at Manado, the provincial capital of North Maluku and 2 to 3 MMI in Talaud town of North Sulawesi, he said.

Another quake of 6.3 magnitude occurred a half hour in Bolaang Mongondow of North Sulawesi Province which borders North Maluku Province.

Indonesia is prone to quakes as it lies on a vulnerable quake hit zone called "the Pacific Ring of Fire."

In December 2004, about 170,000 people were killed in Aceh of the Sumatra island as result of a mega tsunami triggered by a 9.0- magnitude quake.

Xinhua



This TV grab taken on 15 Nov, 2014 shows a news report about an earthquake hitting North Maluku, Indonesia. An earthquake measuring 7.3 on Richter scale jolted North Maluku in east Indonesia Saturday morning.—XINHUA

Leaders of Japan, US, Australia to meet Sunday morning

BRISBANE, (Australia), 15 Nov — The leaders of Japan, the United States and Australia will hold their first trilateral meeting in about seven years Sunday morning on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

During the planned talks among Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, US President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, they are expected to agree to beef up their security coopera-

tion amid China's growing assertiveness in the South and East China seas.

The three leaders are also likely to pledge to work together toward an early conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade initiative negotiations.

Other topics they may take up during the meeting in Brisbane, Australia, include preventive measures against the spread of the Ebola virus and how to deal with the Islamic State militant group.

Kyodo News

Russian TV channel says photos show MH17 shot down by fighter jet

Moscow, 15 Nov — Russian state-controlled TV has broadcast what it called "sensational" photographs, which it said supported Moscow's theory that Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down by a Ukrainian fighter jet.

Several commentators who have examined the photographs have described them as forgeries, however.

The photographs, said to be taken by a Western satellite, appear to show a fighter jet firing a missile at a passenger plane over eastern Ukraine where the Malaysian airliner was shot down on 17 July, killing all 298 people on board.

Moscow has long said it believed the aircraft was destroyed by a Ukrainian military jet, while Western officials say evidence suggests the plane was hit by a Russian-made surface-to-air missile fired by separatist rebels.

The photographs were aired on a Friday evening news show "Odnako", which said they had been sent to a Russian expert by a man called George Bilt, who had presented himself as a graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "We have at our disposal sensational photographs presumably made by a foreign spy satellite in the last seconds of the Malaysian Boeing's flight over Ukraine," Channel One presenter Dmitry Borisov said.

"The pictures support

that version which has hardly been heard in the West."

Since being aired by Channel One, the photographs have met with widespread scepticism.

Andrei Menshenin, a commentator for independent Russian radio station Ekho Moskvy, called the TV report a "pseudo-sensation", and said the angle of attack indicated by the photographs did not correspond to the location of the damage.

Bellingcat, a British investigative journalism website, described the photographs as "a crude fabrication", highlighting what it said were several inconsistencies, which included signs that the photos had been partly compiled from historical Google Earth imagery dating from 2012.

During the course of the Ukraine crisis Russian state television has frequently aired reports, sometimes including apparently sensational evidence, that back the Kremlin's version of events.

In July, an opinion poll by the Levada Centre polling agency said only three percent of Russians believed the Malaysian airliner was hit by rebels, with 82 percent saying it was shot down by the Ukrainian armed forces.

The publication of the photos came on the eve of a G20 summit in Brisbane, where President Vladimir Putin faces strong criticism from Western leaders for Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Reuters

Japan, Caribbean nations to cooperate more in UNSC reforms

TOKYO, 15 Nov — Foreign ministers of Japan and Caribbean nations agreed on Saturday in Tokyo to bolster cooperation in pushing for reform of the UN Security Council next year, the 70th anniversary of the international body's founding.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida also promised his counterparts from the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, that Japan will continue providing aid to some Caribbean countries no longer eligible to receive Tokyo's official development assistance due to their economic growth, according to a joint statement issued after their meeting.

Given the community's influence in the United Nations, Japan hopes

to gain the group's support for its bid to win a nonpermanent seat on the Security Council in a 2015 election for the 2016-2017 term and secure a permanent seat.

The joint statement showed the foreign ministers' agreement on "the need to reform the United Nations Security Council in a way that reflects the geopolitical realities of the 21st Century."

The ministers agreed to "strengthen their collaboration with a view to converging their positions to achieve concrete outcomes" next year.

Japan is also keen to counter China, which is strengthening its clout in the Caribbean region through economic aid, Japanese officials and experts

said.

In an opening speech, Kishida said Japan and CARICOM have built friendly relations based on shared basic values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

The 15-member CARICOM comprises Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Montserrat, a British overseas territory.

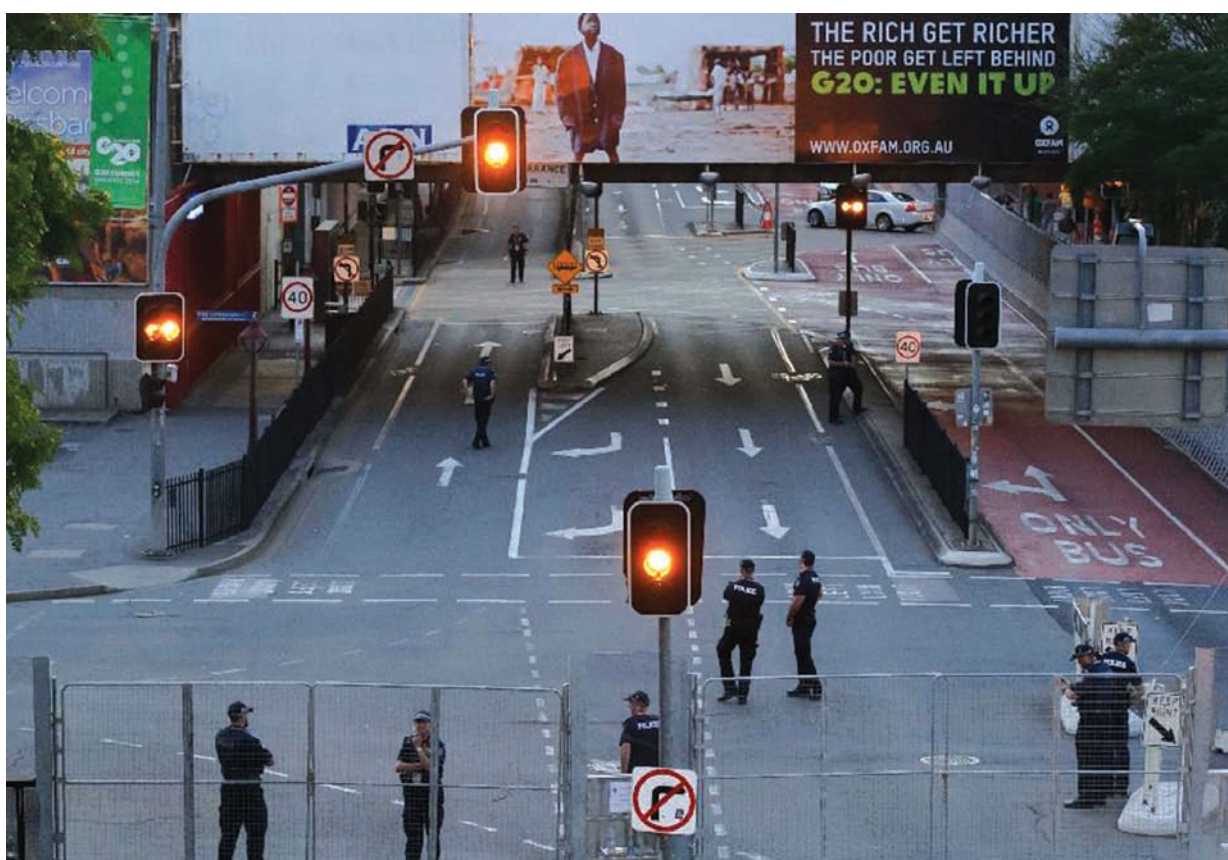
Kishida and his CARICOM counterparts agreed to cooperate in resolving issues facing the international community such as global warming and natu-

ral disasters and to broaden their exchanges, the statement showed.

The foreign ministers of Japan and the Caribbean nations also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining maritime order based on international law for "open, free and secure" seas, according to the statement.

It was the fourth foreign ministerial meeting between Japan and CARICOM following the first in 2000 and succeeding ones in 2010 and 2013.

Ties between Japan and CARICOM have continued to deepen through the years. In July, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and leaders of the community held their first summit meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.—*Kyodo News*



Police officers patrol near the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in Brisbane, Australia, on 14 Nov, 2014. The G20 Summit will be held here from 15 to 16 Nov, 2014 —XINHUA

G-20 leaders to issue statement to fight Ebola epidemic

BRISBANE, (Australia), 15 Nov — Leaders from the Group of 20 economies are likely to issue a statement on Saturday pledging to fight the Ebola pandemic, a move suggesting they see the outbreak in West Africa as a serious downside risk to the world economy, sources close to the matter said.

In the statement slated to be released on the first day of their two-day summit in Brisbane, Australia, the G-20 is expected to commit to taking measures to prevent Ebola from spreading, such as prodding drugmakers to quickly come up with a vaccine and providing economic aid to countries plagued by the disease, the sources said.

The leaders of the G-20, representing over 80 percent of global gross domestic product, are set to wrap up their meeting on Sunday after finalizing the "Brisbane Action Plan" designed to boost their collective gross domestic product by more than 2 percent by 2018 and approving a new rule to handle the failure of big banks without resorting to taxpayer bailouts in the midst of a financial crisis.

With the world economy losing momentum, the focus is on whether all members will smoothly reach a deal on how to bolster global growth. The United States has called for fiscal stimulus, but some countries — in particular Germany — remain wary of augmenting public spending.

The leaders have gathered a month after the International Monetary Fund in October trimmed its 2015 growth forecast for the global economy to 3.8 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from its estimate in July, due partly to fears the eurozone may sink into deflation.

The G-20 members have already agreed on growth strategies that are estimated to push up their collective annual economic growth by 1.8 percent. In Brisbane, they will put the final touches to strategies in a bid to achieve the target of increasing the group's collective GDP by an extra 2 percent.—*Kyodo News*

Scotland may seek new independence vote if UK delays devolution — Salmond

Italian protesters rally against job market reform



Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond speaks during a news conference in Edinburgh in this 19 Sept, 2014 handout photo by the Scottish Government.

REUTERS

PERTH, 15 Nov — Scotland may seek another independence vote if Britain's rulers fail to honour their pledge to grant it further autonomy, outgoing Scottish National Party leader Alex Salmond warned on Friday, less than two months after Scots spurned independence.

Salmond, in his final speech as party leader, told members that Scotland would eventually secure his dream of independence from London. He also delivered a warning to British Prime Minister David Cameron:

"Let the message be very clear from this hall and from this country ... Prime Minister — delay, prevaricate, block or obstruct the implementa-

tion of what Scotland was promised, and Scotland will take matters into our own, democratic, hands."

In a last-ditch attempt to shore up support for the United Kingdom days before the 18 September referendum that threatened to break it apart, Britain's three main political parties promised to give more powers to Scotland.

"If the Westminster gang reneges on the pledges made in the campaign, they will discover that Hell hath no fury like this nation scorned," Salmond told the party conference in Perth, 450 miles (725 km) north of London.

Since the vote, in which Scots voted 55-45 percent to preserve the 307-year-old union with England, London politicians have bickered over what amounts to a full-scale overhaul of the way the United Kingdom is ruled.

Party leaders insist they will grant the promised powers to Scots and the British government says they will be imple-

mented after the national election next May.

But Salmond made clear that he had not given up on his dream of full independence, an issue that Cameron said had been settled for a generation or even a lifetime by the referendum.

"Scotland will become an independent nation," said Salmond, 59. "The dream is alive and well and will succeed."

Since the vote, the SNP's support has surged. A poll by Ipsos-MORI last month said the party, which won just six seats in London's House of Commons at the last election, had enough backing now to win 54 of the 59 Scottish seats in 2015.

That could turn it into Britain's third party, able to decide which of the UK-wide parties could form a government to rule the country it tried to leave.

"In 2015, the Westminster election offers a real possibility of putting Scotland in the driving seat," Salmond said.

Reuters

ROME, 15 Nov — Tens of thousands of people marched on Friday in several Italian cities against labor market reform planned by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's government.

A security alert had been in place since early morning in the capital city Rome, where five different rallies took place. A major march brought protesters to the Economy Ministry amid tight security measures.

Some demonstrators threw smoke bombs and eggs towards the ministry's offices, and had minor clashes with police forces.

There was a peaceful flash mob at the Colosseum, Rome's most symbolic monument, who climbed the scaffolding of an ongoing restoration to display protest banners.

The controversial Jobs Act, a reform proposed by the government to grant firms more flexibility in hiring and firing employees, cancels the right to reinstatement in all cases of layoffs, and only permits it in cases of discriminatory and disciplinary dismissals.

The right to reinstate-

ment currently is granted to workers in companies with more than 15 employees in case of unjustified layoffs.

The reform was passed by the Senate early in October, and has to be approved by the Lower House. Some changes in the text could still be introduced after a probable confidence vote called by the government, as it happened in the Senate, to shorten debate and bring all of the government's allies to speedily approve the bill.

The reform has been at the centre of animated clashes within Unions, leftist political forces and even Renzi's centre-left Democratic Party (PD) over the past weeks, amid arguments that such reform would only fuel social insecurity and discourage permanent contracts, without really lifting the economy.

Internal tensions eased on Thursday, however, when most of PD left-wing dissenters agreed to amend some changes in the Jobs Act to guarantee that employees fired on the basis of groundless disciplinary complaints have the right to get their jobs back.

Xinhua

Fund shortage forces UN agency to cut food rations for refugees in Kenya

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Nov — Around half a million refugees, mainly from Somalia and South Sudan, in northern Kenya will see their food rations halved starting Saturday as a result of funding gap, a UN spokesman said here on Friday, quoting a source of the World Food Programme (WFP).

"WFP says that it has done everything it could to avoid reducing rations but will have to cut them by 50 percent, starting tomorrow, as it struggles to raise 38 million US dollars to cover its refugee operation for the next six months, including 15.5 million US dollars urgently required to address food needs through January 2015," Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here.

Paul Turnbull, the WFP deputy country director for Kenya, in a press release on Friday said that "Cutting rations is the last resort and we're doing it to eke out the limited food we currently

have available over the next 10 weeks, as we continue to appeal to the international community to assist."

Each month, WFP distributes 9,700 metric tons of food for some 500,000 refugees in Kenya, at a cost of almost 10 million US dollars.

Refugees are given a food ration of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, a nutrient-rich maize-soya blend and salt, providing 2,100 kilocalories per person per day, the recommended emergency ration. From mid-November, the refugees will receive a food ration equivalent to 1,050 kilocalories per day.

Scores of South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya following the outbreak of civil war in December last year, while in Somalia, refugees fled more than two decades of conflict.

"WFP depends entirely on voluntary contributions from donors who generously support food assistance for refugees," said Valerie Guarnieri, WFP's regional

director for East and Central Africa. "With competing humanitarian needs around the world, we realize budgets are tight, but nonetheless, we must call for more funding so that we can work with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to meet the urgent needs of these vulnerable people, who have no other means of support," Guarnieri said.

The half-rations are expected to last until the end of January 2015, when a shipment of food assistance donated by the United States — sufficient for six weeks' food requirements — is expected to arrive.

In 2014, international donors have contributed 68.8 million dollars to support food assistance for refugees in Kenya, the agency said.

WFP also provides specialized fortified foods to young children, as well as to pregnant women and nursing mothers, to stave off malnutrition. —Xinhua



A Russian BMD armoured personnel carrier and troops open fire on targets during a training exercise in the village of Nikinci, west from Belgrade, on 14 Nov, 2014. Russian soldiers parachuted into open fields in western Serbia on Friday as part of an unprecedented joint military drill that has stirred controversy in the European Union candidate-country given the West-Russia standoff over Ukraine. The one-day anti-terrorist exercise, around 50 km (30 miles) from Serbia's border with NATO-member Croatia, illustrated the balancing-act Belgrade faces; safeguarding relations with its big-power ally while pursuing closer integration with Europe at a time of deep West-Russia tension. — REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 November, 2014

Children are the future of the country

By Aung Khin

Child labour risks are rising around the world, especially in countries that are geographically closed, experiencing civil war and having closed economies. According to figures compiled by UNICEF last year, child labourers number 85 million, accounting for some 10.5 percent of the world's children.

The International Labour Organization has estimated that the number of children working in harsh and dangerous job conditions has declined by half since 2000 as more countries have adopted

legislation outlawing child labour. However, poverty, war and human trafficking are detrimental to this effort.

The 2014 Child Labour Index published by Maplecroft, a global risk consulting firm, concluded that there are two major trends responsible for governments failing to tackle the worst forms of child labour: insecurity created through poverty and war, and economies where child labour is a product of state-sponsored programmes.

When families cannot afford to feed themselves or their children, children are forced into serving as labourers at teashops or vending on street corners to make enough to feed themselves. Such conditions can damage the mental or physical development of these children.

However, the Ministry of Labour has pledged to start implementing the ban on child labour by December 2014 after Hluttaw passed International Labour Organization Convention 182 into law regarding the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Hopefully, this effort will lead to the abolishment of

child labour in Myanmar, which is abhorrent.

Developing countries like Myanmar should make more efforts to prevent children from being taken out of school. Such a practice is a serious problem for the future of the country.

It is globally accepted that the middle class performs a crucial role in the development of a country, while the upper class focuses on working or investing abroad after they have completed their education at prominent universities. Therefore, measures should be taken seriously to fulfill the middle class role by helping the livelihoods of grassroots families.

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A Nostalgia for the Banks of the Lemyo River **Dr. Saw Mra Aung**

At the news of the rowdy demonstrations and uncontrollable violence in Sittwe, the capital of the Rakhine State, which occurred in March 2014, I, as a Rakhine national, was on edge. A few days later, when the vice-president and some union ministers together with the Government of Rakhine State dashed off to Rakhine State and acceded promptly to the demands of the demonstrators and the situation returned to normal, I could let out a sigh of relief. I could not help but heartily thank the Union Government and the Government of Rakhine State for their timely control over the almost unbridled situation and restoring peace and law in the riotous areas. I, as a Rakhine as well as a citizen of the Union of Myanmar, have always wanted to hear and see Rakhine State, part of the Union, ever safe, peaceful, tranquil, prosperous and developed. As I am saddled with a heavy load of duties and tasks, I, despite being desirous of visiting my native land, cannot do so but am always all ears to its news.

Rakhine State is a very pleasant crescent-moon shaped coastal strip in the westernmost part of Myanmar, hemmed in by the Bay of Bengal to the west and the Rakhine Yoma to the east with the two major rivers - Kalandan River and Lemyo River in its northern part forming their fertile alluvial river-valleys dotted with ancient city-states like Danna-vati, Vesali, Lemyo cities and Mrauk-Oo founded by ancient Rakhine kings. In addition to its richness in historical heritage, it is also a land of enormously unexploited natural resources,

marine and land, laying in wait for development as well as of diverse ethnic cultures and customs and breath-taking beauties to study and enjoy for foreigners and the ethnic peoples from other parts of Myanmar.

The Laymyo River rises in the mountainous terrain in southern Chin State and then meanders for 140 miles through the alluvial plains in the northern Rakhine State to the Bay of Bengal with its numerous tributaries. The river is so named after the four cities (myos) such as Parin, Panca, Khrait and Laungkrat which had been thriving successively in its valley throughout ancient monarchical times. It is also called "Incana Nadi" in Pali meaning 'The River Yielding Pure Gold', because it is said to have produced a lot of pure gold in ancient times. As it was along the course of this river that King Culacandara, a powerful Vesali king, went round the kingdom on itinerary and some Mrauk U kings went on military expeditions to Bengal and Hamsavati, it is regarded as a historically important river in Rakhine region. The Laymyo River, with its banks dotted with ancient pagodas, ruined or renovated, and sites of ancient cities built by Rakhine kings and a panorama of paddy fields, groves of betel-nut palms and plantations of seasonal vegetables and a roll of gray, distant mountain ranges in the background, is a beautiful and pleasant river indeed!

Minbya, my native town, lies on the western bank of the upper reach of the Lemyo River, about 40 miles north-east of Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State. I was born there over 40

years ago and brought up there until I was aged eight years. It was then a sleepy and run-down town, with a thickly-forested towering mountain range called "Kyain Taung" in Rakhine accent (Mountain where the Bodhisatta lived when he was reborn as king of parrots) to the west and the raging Lemyo River to its east, rapidly eroding the bank where the town is situated and forming new islands in the middle of the river with the sediments deposited and earth eroded.

My house was then in a quarter called "Pyidawtha" (meaning "Happy Land" which was coined by U Nu for his land allocation program) on the outskirts of the town. My paternal grandparents lived together with us. On some Uposatha (sabbath) days during the vassa (rains-retreat), I accompanied my grandmother to a monastery at the foot of Kyain-Taung, whose presiding Sayadaw was said to be a friend of my father's. While the Sayadaw was administering the Eight Precepts (Uposatha Sila) to the sabbath-keepers, I, as a child, used to go about in the precincts together with other children. There was an ancient pagoda stump at the back of the monastery with a plum tree nearby. We plucked plums with a length of bamboo and ate them with great relish. At the lunch-time, we partook of meal with dried fish mingled with potato in thick oil and Thanet-thoke, a Rakhine traditional dish, a salad containing concomitants such as boiled babana-buds and long-bean, water-cress, sesame, ground-nut, fried chilli, etc in thin oil. In the after-

noon, the Sayadaw sometimes called me to the store-room and gave me bananas, sweets and other snacks lay people had donated to him and asked me to work hard at my studies. On a few Sundays especially in winter and summer, my mother took my elder brothers, elder sister and me to the top of the Kyain Taung on pilgrimage, taking lunch-boxes and other eatables, as if going on a picnic. We had to climb the mountain along the foot-path zigzagging around the side of the mountain. On the both sides of the path were sometimes seen Inkyin trees (Sala trees) covered with white flowers, sometimes Danyin (Pithecellobiumlobatum), mango, jack-fruit and May-in (Bouea burmanica) trees laden with fruits. The top of the mountain was packed with many religious structures such as pagodas, white-washed and gold-gilded, rest-houses, monasteries, ordination-halls (sima), pavilions surmounted with tiered roofs housing Buddha images of various styles - seated, standing and reclining. Upon reaching the top of the mountain, we first paid homage to the large reclining Buddha image in the style of entering into the Mahaparinabbana right in front of the Kyain Taung Pagoda. We then went round the religious edifices. What attracted my attention most were statues depicting the Ten Major Birth-stories of the Buddha (Maha Jataka). When it came to the lunch-time, we grouped together and had lunch in a stretch of brick-floor topping a large rocky spur jutting out, from which we could have a bird-eye's view of a vast flat, fertile alluvial plain below extending

as far south as the eyes could reach. We could see the Lemyo River winding with its tributaries through this plain covered with rice fields in the chequered patterns.

The majority of the inhabitants of Minbya were the Rakhines while the minority included the Bahmars, the Chins, the Mros, the Thets and the Bengalis. Especially, most Khamis, Thets, Mros and Bengalis lived at villages in the neighbourhood of Minbya. They cultivated vegetables, bred live-stocks, fished in the creeks and lakes and hunted in the forests nearby. They transported their local products like seasonal fruits, vegetables, fermented nipa milk, molasses liquid, fishes, meat, fowl, hand-made wares, etc to Minbya Myoma Market by water and land routes. So the market was a swarm of multi-ethnic national races. Most of the Bengalis were menial workers such as coolies, water-carriers, milk-sellers, barbers, etc. It is noticed that due to the faithfulness and workaholic nature, some Rakhine wealthy business-men employed some Bengalis as their confidantes. The Bengalis, the Mros, the Khamis and the Thets lived on harmonious and intimate terms with the Rakhines. Some of my play-mates and classmates were Bengali boys. We learnt and played amicably and harmoniously. Thus could we then establish a peaceful, harmonious multi-ethnic society.

However, a murder of a young Buddhist girl by a Bengali occurred near Kyauknimaw Village in Rambye Island in May 2012. It sparked off a quarrel between Local Rakhines and some Bengalis living in the

neighbourhood. But some people with ill-intentions added fuel to the flame by spreading rumours and baseless news to sow discords among the peoples of different beliefs in the society, having recourse to the internet, mobile phones and other highly efficient communication devices. At the instigation of these subversive people, peoples of different beliefs launched violent assaults and retaliatory attacks on each other, making the society unstable. The unrest took on a religious conflict and spread to the whole Rakhine State like wild fire in no time, affecting the peaceful and harmonious society which sustained for some years. Law and order no longer prevailed. Peace was shattered. But, within a few days, the Union Government, in co-operation with the Rakhine State Government and other local and international non-governmental organizations, could bring the riotous situation under control. Security measures were undertaken urgently. Law and order was restored and peace re-established quickly.

Rehabilitation works were carried out promptly. Instigators, infiltrators and conspirators were exposed and charged immediately. Refugee camps were constructed and victims were sent there and provided with food, clothing and health-care services. Authorities concerned and local and international non-governmental organizations visited the camps and encouraged the victims, fulfilling their requirements. World leaders fixed their eyes and ears on the case of conflict-ridden Rakhine State.

(See page 9)

ARTICLE

A Nostalgia ...

(from page 8)

Aids from foreign countries, the UN, other international humanitarian organizations, locals from other parts of Myanmar came in incessantly.

However, a rehabilitation measure is, by nature, a long-term one. So Rakhine State is still facing challenges and hurdles in security, social, economic, health, educational, environmental sectors. It is noticed that with the appointment of a new Chief Minister recently, rehabilitation measures and development works have gained more speed. A few days ago, some union ministers paid visits to Rakhine State and met and discussed with local authorities and local populace about construction of high-ways, ports, schools, hospitals and dispensaries, creation of job opportunities, vocational training, construction of housing estates of affordable prices, electricity and water supply, establishment of Ponnagyun Industrial Zone, situation of refugee camps, enforcement of law, management of border-line security and illegal immigration, preservation of cultural and historical heritage, etc. It is also read in a

private newspaper that the Union Government granted 6000 lakh kyats to preserve the cultural zones in Mrauk U. They are encouraging news for Rakhine people who are awaiting the share of the nation-wide reform processes being implemented by the Union Government. These development measures would be consolations to them for what they have lost and suffered during the conflict.

In fact, Rakhine State is teeming with natural and human resources which are on tab for exploitation. The sea with innumerable species of fish and other sea animals and an inestimable amount of natural gas and petroleum and other minerals formed and trapped in its underlying sedimentary rock-beds to the west of Rakhine State and lush and luxuriant ever-green forests in the Rakhine Yoma to the east are inexhaustible treasures of Rakhine people. The fertile soil of the flat alluvial plain criss-crossed by the Kaladan River, the Laymyo River and the Mayu River and its uncountable tributaries yields a bountiful supply of various crops and cereals. If these natural resources are to be explored and exploited through the use of high technologies, Rakh-

ine State would no doubt become an economic potential for Myanmar within a few years. Ancient cities like Dannavati, Vesali, Khrait, Laung-krat and Mrauk Oo with a wealth of archaeological artefacts like Buddha images, stone-inscriptions with Brahmi letters, votive tablets, coins, pottery, beads, images of ogres, celestial beings and others mythical creatures, pagodas, stupas, temples, palace sites, city-walls, moats, ramparts, etc and beautiful sea-beaches Ngapali in Thandwe Township, Kamthaya in Gwa Township and Point in Sittwe Township and small Chaduba islands studded with rocks and greenery coconut-palms and fringed with slivery sands lining the Rakhine coast are good resources to promote cultural tourism and eco-tourism which can earn lots of foreign exchange annually. It is heard that measures are being implemented to provide the whole Rakhine State with electricity by December 2014 and to establish the Kyauk Pyu and Ponnagyun Industrial Zones soon. If all these ideas and projects could be realized successfully, many job opportunities would emerge in Rakhine State, thereby barring many Rakhine young

people from leaving their native land en masse for Yangon and neighbouring countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, etc to be able to look for the greener pasture. If the Yangon-Sittwe High Way is to be upgraded, land-price to be reduced and electricity to be made available twenty four hours a day, many foreign investors would shift their attention to Rakhine State with their eyes glued to its gorgeous resources almost untouched and cheap working forces. Thus would Rakhine State be a thriving region with a high economic prospect.

In those days, Rakhine State, separated by a wide expanse of the sea full of perils on the west and a high thickly-forested mountain range infested with dangerous beasts on the east from the neighbouring regions, remained an isolated region for many years, having a limited exposure to them. So, no doubt, there would have been misunderstanding and mistrust between the Rakhines and the peoples living in the neighbouring regions like the Bahmars, Bengalis, etc. The superstitious ideas claiming that the Rakhines were aggressive, recalcitrant, retract-

able, obstinate, and indulgent in drinking alcohol, the Bahmars honey-tongued, ostentatious, flippant but disloyal, etc and the Bengalis rancorous, terrorizing, introvert, parochial and of conspiratorial nature would have been common among them at that time. But these subjective mental attitudes have nothing to do with the defined characteristics of a particular race or religion but they depend only on the individuality of a particular person. Such sort of over-generalization or jumping to conclusion should be shaken off at this age of globalization like today, for this can inhibit the social dealings and international relations. There are many soft-minded Rakhine teetotallers, many straight-forward, candid, faithful Bahmar philanthropists and many sociable, magnanimous, kind-hearted Bengalis. Especially, the Rakhine youths who are to participate in the nation-building endeavours in the future should no longer exercise such iniquitous over-generalization or follow their own hunches in dealing with other peoples but, on the other hand, should make as many contacts with other races as possible and do a lot of reading so that they can broaden

the horizons of their general knowledge and keep abreast with those of other races in the international arenas. The other ethnic peoples on their parts should treat the Rakhines with understanding, forgiveness and sympathy.

In conclusion, Rakhine State is now starting to witness development in all sectors. I on the part of the author suggest that social security, health-care services, access to education, job opportunities, enjoyment of rest and leisure, equal salary, living standard adequate for health and other well-beings, the chance to participation in the preservation of customs, culture, language, literature and historical heritage, enforcement of law, etc should be made available to the peoples of Rakhine State. At the same time, I wish that Rakhine State be a peaceful, harmonious, secure and prosperous community in so short a period. Now I am trying to relieve the heavy load of my responsibilities and duties to the end of my strength. So I think that I can soon set my foot again on the bank of the Laymyo River, my native land from which I have been 30 years apart to enjoy my child-hood memories amongst my child-hood friends.

Act East Policy vis-à-vis Pivot to Asia

Is 'Act East Policy' of the Modi Government in India an answer to the United States 'Pivot to Asia' foreign policy architecture?

Though, actually envisaged at "bolstering strategic and economic ties" with Southeast Asian countries, it aims at tapping the region for greater investment and connectivity. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "our ties with South East Asia are deep rooted. Strengthening relations with ASEAN nations is an important part of our 'Act East' policy. It is central to our dream of an Asian century, where India will play a crucial role".

Given the shift in the global focus from Trans-Atlantic to Asia Pacific, Myanmar has acquired a strategic position for the countries of the region. Given the unprecedented optimism and determination articulated by PM Modi in the world's largest democracy, Myanmar must remain hopeful that the new government in India is going to embrace it open heartedly in strength-

ening its ties and rebuilding synergies. PM Modi regards it as "a valued friend and priority area". In his recent visit to the country, he focused on strengthening ties in the fields of culture, commerce and enhancing connectivity with Myanmar.

Besides, India has had strong partnership and played a greater role with other countries of Southeast Asia. For instance, its partnership with Singapore in building "Smart Cities" and "Skill Development" has been commendable. They have exchanged exciting ideas about urban development. In the 50th year of bilateral relations between the two countries, focus has been on "youth, knowledge and innovations". As a part of "Make in India Campaign" PM Modi has invited the Malaysian companies to invest in India and was impressed by the affordable "Housing Scheme" developed there. Further possibilities of economic cooperation have been discussed with Thailand, along with tourism and common Buddhist heritage.

In addition, closer cooperation was sought with Indonesia for combating common challenges. Emphasis has also been laid on possibilities of economic cooperation with Philippines by giving impetus to technology, manufacturing and potential for tourism by creating a "Buddhist Circuit" in India. Brunei welcomed India's continued support and its reframed "Act East Policy". It has been supportive of expansion and deepening of relations with ASEAN.

Nevertheless of these bilateral rhetoric, focus has also been on clean energy, solar energy, Indian Satellites for SAARC countries, international partnership against all terrorism, call against cyber space turning into a new theatre of conflict and maintaining peace and stability in South China sea. International cooperation has also been in sought in combating pandemics and linkages between religion and terrorism.

Isn't above mentioned facts, a glimpse of the India's arrival on the world

scene and a clear message to the United States about a rising India which could not be ignored? In fact the "Lion King" image of the Indian Prime Minister at the ASEAN and East Asia Summit inspired US President Barack Obama to greet him as the 'Man of Action'. Given his presently acquired 'Rock-Star' image, he has charmed away not only the Indian crowd at New York's iconic Madison Square Garden, but the whole world as well following him like a 'Pied Piper'!

In the light of above facts, Obama's grand strategy of 'Pivot to Asia', redefining its engagement and rebalancing the emerging power dynamics in Asia, has been shaping the foreign policy architecture in the United States. China has been perhaps, a motivating factor behind the US 'Pivot to Asia' strategy for increasing its footprint in the region. On the other hand, this might also be attributed to the India's urge for playing a greater role in the region owing to its troika of dividends in the

Sonu Trivedi

words of Modi—namely, 'democracy, demography and demand'.

Changes in the domestic politics of India and renewed focus on nationalism have been reflected in the arena of foreign policy as well. Continued focus on Indian identity, cultural nationalism and Hindutva has changed the perspective with which the whole world looks at India. The immense enthusiasm reflected by the Indian community to Modi's address be it in Madison Square, Myanmar or Melbourne Cricket Ground and the over whelming response received by the international media has made him the most sought out leader of the world today. It is this outlook which makes the world apprehensive about the growing might of India especially in the sub-continent.

Moreover, its present bid to transform India into a global manufacturing hub and encouraging investors to take advantage of the at-

tractive opportunities being offered through 'Make in India' campaign has long term implications. All big powers and rising economies of the region are keeping their options open and waiting for a share in the improved investment climate in India. In the name of liberalising the policy regulations and reducing the bureaucratic delays, the novel initiative has much to offer.

India in its bid to turn the rhetoric of 'Look East Policy' to action oriented 'Act East Policy' has given a signal about its arrival on the world stage and a force to reckon with. India's latest bid to woo the Southeast Asian neighbours by focusing on historical and civilizational ties has raised the alarm bell and given a loud and clear signal to the West. Given the history of United States realpolitik of shifting alliances, priorities and commitments, the Southeast Asian countries are welcoming greater Indian involvement in the regional architecture of Asia.

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

OTTAWA, 15 Nov — The man who shot and killed a Canadian soldier in October and then stormed the country's Parliament with a rifle before being shot down himself, had taken a tour of the building less than three weeks earlier, a parliamentary spokeswoman said on Friday.

The information suggests that Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, a Muslim convert who struggled with drug addiction, may have planned the 22 October attack well in advance.

Heather Bradley, spokeswoman for House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer, confirmed that Zehaf-Bibeau is shown on video footage taking a tour of the Parliament building on 4 October.

Such tours take the public into the central Hall of Honour, down which

Zehaf-Bibeau ran on 22 October with a gun and a knife, past the room where Prime Minister Stephen Harper was meeting with his Conservative caucus.

Zehaf-Bibeau was shot dead outside the Library of Parliament at the end of the Hall of Honour, not far from the Conservative caucus room and another room where opposition New Democratic Party legislators were meeting.

Police have said Zehaf-Bibeau made a video of himself beforehand saying he was motivated by his opposition to Canadian foreign policy. Police said the video, which has not been released to the public, also showed he had religious motives.

The attack came the same week that the Canadian government sent jet fighters to the Middle East

to take part in air strikes against Islamic State militants.

In the wake of Zehaf-Bibeau's attack, current and former intelligence and police officials told *Reuters* that they did not have the resources to track closely all the Islamic extremists who may pose a threat in Canada.

Police have said that Zehaf-Bibeau was not under surveillance at the time of the attack. A US government source told *Reuters* that he was regarded as a threat by Canadian authorities but not enough to warrant constant surveillance.

Reuters

Canadian gunman toured Parliament weeks before attack



Marcus Cirillo, 5, covers his ears during a salute during the funeral procession for his father, Cpl Nathan Cirillo in Hamilton, Ontario on 28 Oct, 2014 as Cirillo's mother, Kathy Cirillo (2nd L) and his sister Natasha Cirillo (2nd R) look on.—REUTERS

Perpetrators of US sailors' assault will 'pay the price,' Turkish foreign minister says

ISTANBUL, 15 Nov — Turkey's foreign minister on Friday described an assault on US sailors in Istanbul this week as reprehensible and vowed that the attackers would "pay the price for their actions."

Members of the nationalist Turkish Youth Union attacked three US sailors on a crowded street in Istanbul on Wednesday, shouting "Yankee go home", throwing paint at them and trying to pull hoods over their heads. Video footage was later posted on the group's website.

Twelve people were detained but released by an Istanbul court on Thursday. They could still face charges for causing insult and injury, however.

"The relevant Turkish authorities are conducting a full investigation ... We will take all necessary precau-

tions to ensure that such isolated incidents do not occur again," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said during a visit to Australia.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the United States is "satisfied that the Turkish government is taking this incident seriously."

Psaki noted that senior Turkish officials have condemned the incident and that prosecutors are pursuing a criminal investigation. She said the American Embassy in Istanbul has been in close touch with Turkish authorities on the matter.

Anti-American sentiment is running high in Turkey, with a recent poll indicating only 19 percent of Turks have a favourable view of the United States.—*Reuters*

Islamic State commanders liable for mass war crimes



Paulo Pinheiro, chairperson of the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria

GENEVA, 15 Nov — Islamic State commanders are liable for war crimes on a "massive scale" in northeast Syria, where they spread terror by beheading, stoning and shooting civilians and captured fighters, UN investigators said on Friday.

Their report, based on over 300 interviews with witnesses and victims, called on world powers to bring the commanders before the International Criminal Court for both war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"In carrying out mass killings of captured fighters and civilians following military assaults, ISIS (Islamic State) members have perpetrated egregious violations of binding international humanitarian law and the war crime of murder on a massive scale," said the report.

Foreign fighters have swollen the group's ranks and dominate its leadership structure, the report said. A separate UN report has said 15,000 foreigners have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq.

"The commanders of ISIS have acted wilfully, perpetrating these war crimes ... They are individu-

ally criminally responsible," the report added, saying the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, wielded "absolute power".

Paulo Pinheiro, who chaired the UN panel, told a news conference that its findings would add to a secret list of war crimes suspects from all sides in Syria's civil war, in which some 200,000 have been killed since March 2011.

Since US-led air strikes began targeting Islamic State in Syria in late September, its fighters have begun taking up positions in civilian houses and farms, leading to civilian casualties, the report said.

It found that Islamic State, also known as ISIS, was depriving 600,000 people in the north of deliveries of food and medical aid, and enforcing its radical interpretation of Islamic law through "morality police".

These ordered lashings and amputations for offences such as smoking cigarettes or theft; one female dentist in Deir al-Zor had been beheaded for treating patients of both sexes.

Reuters

Iraqi government forces close to Baiji refinery

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov — Iraqi government forces got within a kilometre (half a mile) of the country's biggest refinery on Friday, the closest they have come to breaking an Islamic State siege of the facility in months of fighting, two army officers and a witness said.

Fighting raged in a village between the complex and the nearby town of Baiji, near a deserted area believed to contain roadside bombs planted by the militants that have been preventing an advance, they said.

A witness said security forces had crossed a bridge close to the refinery, 200 km north of the capital.

"Daesh (Islamic State) militants are escaping to the direction of a river. Airplanes are targeting them," said an army captain.

Iraq has been struggling with widespread security challenges since the ultra-hardline Sunni insurgents swept through the



Smoke rises from an oil refinery in Baiji, north of Baghdad on 19 June, 2014.—REUTERS

north in June, fuelling sectarian tensions.

On Friday, two bombs exploded in Baghdad in separate attacks, killing a total of 23 people, police and medical sources said.

Islamic State fighters seized the city of Baiji and surrounded the sprawling refinery in that first advance in June.

The group also controls territory in neighbouring Syria and has

proclaimed a caliphate straddling both countries.

Iraq's army initially put up little resistance to Islamic State. But it has been helped in recent weeks by US-led air strikes on militant positions.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi sacked 26 military commanders this week for corruption and incompetence in the aftermath of the Islamic State advance. In September, he

retired two senior generals as part of an overhaul of the country's armed forces.

Speaking through an aide after Friday prayers, Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali-al-Sistani reiterated his criticism of corruption in the military.

He also called on the government to get its finances in order, fund projects and create jobs.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Women with diabetes have high risk of suffering a stroke: Austrian expert

VIENNA, 15 Nov — Women with diabetes are twice at the risk of suffering a stroke as those without the disease, an Austrian expert said here on Thursday ahead of World Diabetes Day on Friday.

Recent studies have shown that women with diabetes are three times more likely to have a stroke than men who have it, Alexan-

dra Kautzky-Willer from the Medical University of Vienna and the Vienna General Hospital said.

The reason for the increased risk is the disturbed blood sugar regulation, Kautzky-Willer said. "The vascular function and blood coagulation are particularly unfavourable changes, which lead to women having a higher risk for the forma-



tion of thromboses."

She said the higher blood sugar levels are not the only problem. Hypertension, inflammations, and various lifestyle factors such as depression also play a role, meaning not only diabetes therapy should be sought.

"It is about a general lifestyle intervention and treatment of all risk factors," she said, adding increased

exercise is important, as although women generally eat healthier than men with less fat and red meat in their diets, they also engage in less activity.

Lifestyle changes implemented earlier on can also prevent gestational diabetes, a risk factor for type 2 diabetes later in life, and also cardiovascular disease, the expert said.—Xinhua

UBS looking to take back bonuses from forex traders

ZURICH, 15 Nov — UBS AG (UBSN.VX), among the six banks fined this week for their role in the global foreign exchange scandal, is looking at clawing back bonuses from its traders.

A UBS spokeswoman

confirmed a *Financial Times* report, which said UBS and four other banks were preparing to take back millions of dollars in bonuses from traders.

Regulators on Wednesday fined six major banks a total of

\$4.3 billion (2.74 billion pounds) for failing to stop traders from trying to manipulate the foreign exchange market, following a year-long global investigation.

Switzerland's financial regulator said on the same day that it had begun enforcement proceedings against 11 former and current unnamed UBS employees and that it would limit bonuses for some employees of the bank.

HSBC Holdings Plc (HSBA.L), Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc (RBS.L), JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) and Citigroup Inc (C.N) are the other banks looking to take back bonuses, according to the *FT* report.

JPMorgan declined to comment on the *FT* report, while RBS, Citigroup and HSBC were not immediately available to comment.—Reuters



The logo of Swiss bank UBS is seen on a building in Zurich on 12 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Hedge funds piled into Alibaba shares in third quarter

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — Hedge funds scooped up shares of China's Alibaba Group Holding in the third quarter, making the e-commerce giant one of the most commonly bought stocks among some of the biggest US investors, according to regulatory filings on Friday.

Among the institutional investors that took new stakes in Alibaba were Soros Fund Management, the hedge fund firm founded by billionaire George Soros; Jana Partners, the \$11 billion (7.02 billion pounds) hedge fund run by Barry Rosenstein; Janus Capital Management; Tiger Management; Louis Bacon's Moore Capital Management; John Paulson's Paulson & Co; David Tepper's Appaloosa Management; Dan Loeb's Third Point, Viking Global Investors LP and Leon Cooperman's Omega Advisors.

Alibaba made its market debut in late September



The logo of Alibaba Group is seen inside the company's headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province early on 11 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

after a \$25 billion initial public offering that ranked as the largest ever. Since pricing at \$68 per share in the IPO, the stock has surged to about \$115.

The 10 hedge funds bought the following stakes in Alibaba: Viking Global had 11.4 million Alibaba shares with a \$1 billion market value; Soros Fund Management, 4.4 million shares; Paulson & Co, 1.9 million shares; Third Point, 7.2 million shares; Janus

Capital Management, 3.464 million shares; Tiger Management, led by Julian Robertson, one of the most influential hedge fund managers, 1.216 million shares, making Alibaba the largest single holding listed on Tiger's 13F form filed with regulators on Friday; Moore Capital, 1.52 million shares; Omega Advisors, 410,000 shares; Jana, 300,000 shares; Appaloosa, 725,000.

Reuters

Rat poison chemical found in pills linked to India sterilization deaths

BILASPUR / RAIPUR, (India) 15 Nov — Tablets linked to the deaths of more than a dozen women who visited a sterilization camp in India are likely to have contained a chemical compound commonly used in rat poison, two senior officials in Chhattisgarh state said on Saturday.

Preliminary tests of the antibiotic ciprocin tablets were found to contain zinc phosphide, Siddhartha Pardeshi, the chief administrator for the Bilaspur district, told *Reuters*.

The antibiotics were handed out at the mass sterilization held a week ago in the impoverished state. At least 15 women have died, most of whom had attended the camp.

Authorities tested the

tablets after being informed that zinc phosphide was found at the nearby factory of Mahawar Pharmaceuticals, the firm at the centre of investigations into the deaths at a government-run family planning camp, Pardeshi and Chhattisgarh health minister Amar Agarwal said.

Samples of the drugs have now been sent to laboratories in Delhi and Kolkata to verify that the tablets were contaminated as the preliminary report suggested, Pardeshi said.

"But, this is what we anticipate," he said. "Symptoms shown by the patients also conform with zinc phosphide (poisoning)."

Mahawar, run from an upscale residential street



Women, who underwent surgery at a government mass sterilization camp, pose for pictures inside a hospital at Bilaspur district in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh on 14 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

in state capital Raipur, had been barred from manufacturing medicines for 90 days back in 2012 after it was found in to have produced sub-standard drugs, but it did not lose its li-

cense. An investigation is now under way into why the drugs were bought locally when there was enough stock of the medicine with the state's central procurement agency, Agar-

wal said.

"There was no incentive to procure locally so we need to investigate why it was done. This means something is wrong," he said.

More possible victims arrived at hospitals from villages on Thursday and Friday, some clutching medicine strips from Mahawar and complaining of vomiting, dizziness and swelling, a doctor at the district's main public hospital said on Friday.

The new patients had not attended the sterilization camps, but had consumed the drugs separately, the doctor and another official said.

The state government said it had seized 200,000 tablets of Ciprocin 500 and

over 4 million other tablets manufactured by Mahawar.

Police have arrested Ramesh Mahawar, the firm's managing director, and his son.

Mahawar has said both are innocent.

India is the world's top sterilizer of women, and efforts to rein in population growth have been described as the most draconian after China. Indian birth rates fell in recent decades, but population growth remains among the world's fastest.

Sterilization is popular because it is cheap and effective, and sidesteps cultural resistance to and problems with distribution of other types of contraception in rural areas.

Reuters

Prince William and wife Kate to visit US 7-9 December

LONDON, 15 Nov — Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate, who is pregnant with their second child, will make a quick visit to the United States next month which will include a visit to the 11 September memorial in New York City, Kensington Palace said on Friday.

Their son Prince George, who was born last July, will not be going with them on the 7-9 December trip, which will take the couple to New York for the first time.



Britain's Prince William (L) and his wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge leave the Royal Variety Performance in London on 13 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

The son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and his first wife Diana, William will also go to Washington DC to attend an anti-corruption conference on the smuggling of wildlife parts and the illegal ivory trade.

Kate will stay in New York where she will be accompanied by the wife of Mayor Bill de Blasio, Chirlane McCray, on a visit to a local child development centre.

In New York, the couple, known officially

since their 2011 wedding as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, will also attend a basketball game to promote cooperation between the NBA and organizations in Britain of which they are patrons.

The last time the couple visited the United States was in 2011, when they went to California.

The Duchess, who only recently resumed official duties after a severe bout of morning sickness, is due to give birth next April.—Reuters

US to put \$3 bil into int'l climate fund for developing countries

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — The United States will contribute \$3 billion (about 350 billion yen) to a UN-backed fund tasked with assisting developing countries' efforts to combat global warming, the White House said on Friday.

The Green Climate Fund, a mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is designed to funnel money to developing countries to mitigate their hardship from effects of climate

change such as rising sea levels and torrential rain.

Established at UN climate talks in Mexico in 2010, the fund is scheduled to begin operation next year.

Germany and France have already made pledges of \$1 billion each to the fund, while Japan is expected to put in up to \$1.5 billion.

Developed countries are chipping in to show their commitment to the issue in the run-up to next

year's Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, called COP21 for short, where participants hope to devise a new framework for tackling climate change.

In another pre-COP21 pledge, the United States and China, the world's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases, jointly announced earlier this week their emissions reduction goals for beyond 2020.

Kyodo News

Window washers describe 'panic' of dangling 69 floors above New York



Window washers Juan Lopez and Juan Lizama (L) take part in a news conference to recount their rescue from a malfunctioning scaffold on the side of One World Trade Center a day before in New York on 14 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — Two window washers who dangled from a broken scaffold 69 floors above the ground at One World Trade Centre said on Friday their emotions ranged from terror to resolved calm while they awaited rescue and the rest of New York held its breath.

Two days after the harrowing accident at the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, Juan Lopez, 33, said the scare has convinced him to end his

days of high-altitude work — at least for now.

"There's a lot of options for window cleaning - a lot of ground floor jobs," he said. "I will probably do that." Lopez and his partner in the misadventure, Juan Lizama, 41, described their emotions in the two hours before firefighters pulled them to safety through a hole cut in the building's glass shell as throngs of people watched from the street.

"In the beginning it

was panic and pretty much survival," Lopez said at his union's headquarters.

Lizama said he tried to find words to allay their fears. "I told Juan, 'This is something that is not in our hands, be patient, help is coming,'" Lizama said.

He then called his wife. "I said, 'There is an emergency but it's all under control,'" he said.

Before starting work on Wednesday morning, the men had performed a regular safety check on their window-washing platform and then descended from the top of the 104-story building to the 43rd floor to begin work. They made it up to the 69th floor by mid-afternoon when suddenly the left side of the platform became stuck as the right side continued rising. The platform was left dangling at a nearly vertical angle high above the National 11 September Memorial in lower Manhattan. Lopez said the scaffold emergency stop device had not worked properly.

Reuters

Three border policemen, 10 militants killed in E Afghan attack

ASADABAD, (Afghanistan), 15 Nov — At least three Afghan border policemen and 10 militants were killed after Taliban militants attacked security checkpoints in eastern province of Kunar on Saturday morning, police said.

"Unknown number of Taliban militants armed with guns and heavy weapons stormed three security checkpoints in Dowkalan area of Nari District at around 5:00 am (local time). The attack left three border police martyred and two others wounded," border police spokesman Adriss Mohmand told Xinhua.

In retaliatory firing by the Afghan forces, about 10 militants were killed and 10 others were wounded in the district bordering Pakistan, the source said, adding several foreign militants were among the killed and injured.

Earlier reports said five police were killed during the clash which lasted for about five hours in the province with Asadabad as its capital, 185 km east of Afghan capital of Kabul.—Xinhua

Pope to visit typhoon-devastated area during Philippines trip



VATICAN CITY, 15 Nov — Pope Francis will visit the Philippines region devastated by Typhoon Haiyan last year, with four million people still homeless, when he makes his second trip to Asia in January, the Vatican said on Friday.

Romualdo Redona and his younger sister Angel offer prayers and candles at the grave of their siblings, who were victims of the onslaught of super typhoon Haiyan a month ago, buried in a vacant lot along a main road in Tanuan, Leyte Province, central Philippines on 23 Dec, 2013. — REUTERS

During the 12-19 January trip he will spend two days in Sri Lanka, where Catholics are a tiny minority in the mostly Buddhist country, before moving on to the Philippines, Asia's largest Roman Catholic country.

In Sri Lanka, where a 26-year-old civil war ended in 2009 with the military defeat of Tamil Tiger separatists, the pope will visit the Shrine of Our

Lady of Madhu, one of the most important Catholic sites on the island.

Francis will spend five days in the Philippines, all but one in the capital, Manila, according to a Vatican programme of the trip.

He will devote one day to Tacloban, where 6,300 people died last year when Typhoon Haiyan smashed into the country.

He will celebrate a Mass, meet survivors and inaugurate a new Church-run centre for the poor.

Reuters

Prasoon Joshi pens song on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

MUMBAI, 15 Nov — National award winning lyricist Prasoon Joshi has written a song to mark the ongoing 'Swachh Bharat' campaign.

'Swachh Bharat Ka Irada' has been sung by Kailash Kher, Prasoon's daughter Aishaanya Joshi along with many children. It has been composed by Vishal Khurana. "Although everybody should follow Gandhi, it is only the community at large that reaps the benefit. If my endeavors make a difference to the perspective of ten more around me, I am more than happy to continue my contributions... The anthem poem 'Swachh Bharat Ka Irada' roots from the idea of Gandhiji's vision for a clean India," Prasoon said in a statement. Prasoon has written lyrics for songs in several films such as 'Fanaa', 'Rang



'Swachh Bharat Ka Irada' has been sung by Kailash Kher, Prasoon's daughter Aishaanya Joshi along with many children. It has been composed by Vishal Khurana.—PTI

De Basanti', 'Taare Zameen Par', 'Black' and 'Delhi 6'.—PTI

Elvis Presley's first recording up for auction

LONDON, 15 Nov — The first record King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley made is expected to fetch a fortune at auction in January next year. In June 1953, an 18-year-old Presley went to the Memphis Recording Service to record 'My Happiness' and 'That's When Your Heartaches Begin'. He wanted to find out what his voice sounded like on record and paid USD 4 for the session.

He returned to record sessions for Sun Records the following year and went on to become the King of Rock and Roll. The auction will take place in January, reported BBC online.

It will be one of 68 rare artefacts to be auctioned at his former home of Graceland in Memphis. The announcement from

Graceland described the record as "part of the 'Holy Grail' of artefacts in rock 'n' roll history". Presley was said to have made the recording partly as a present for his mother. But the family did not have a record player, so he took it to a friend's house to listen to the results of the session and left it there.

This will be the first time it has come up for public sale. The other items in the auction will include his driving licence, issued in 1952, a 1955 contract to perform on the Louisiana Hayride radio and TV programmes and a jacket worn in the film Viva Las Vegas.

The auction will take place on 8 January, what would have been the star's 80th birthday. The items have not been given estimated values.—PTI

Reality TV star Diem Brown dies of cancer at age 32

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — Reality TV star Diem Brown, who gained fame on the MTV show "Real World/Road Rules Challenge," died on Friday in New York after battling cancer, *People* magazine reported. She was 32.

"Diem was a true fighter and brought passion to everything she touched," MTV said in a statement. Brown had chronicled her fight against the disease in a blog for People.com.

When Brown joined MTV in 2006 to appear on "Fresh Meat," she revealed that she had ovarian cancer. After surgery and chemotherapy, she returned to the network to appear in "The Duel."

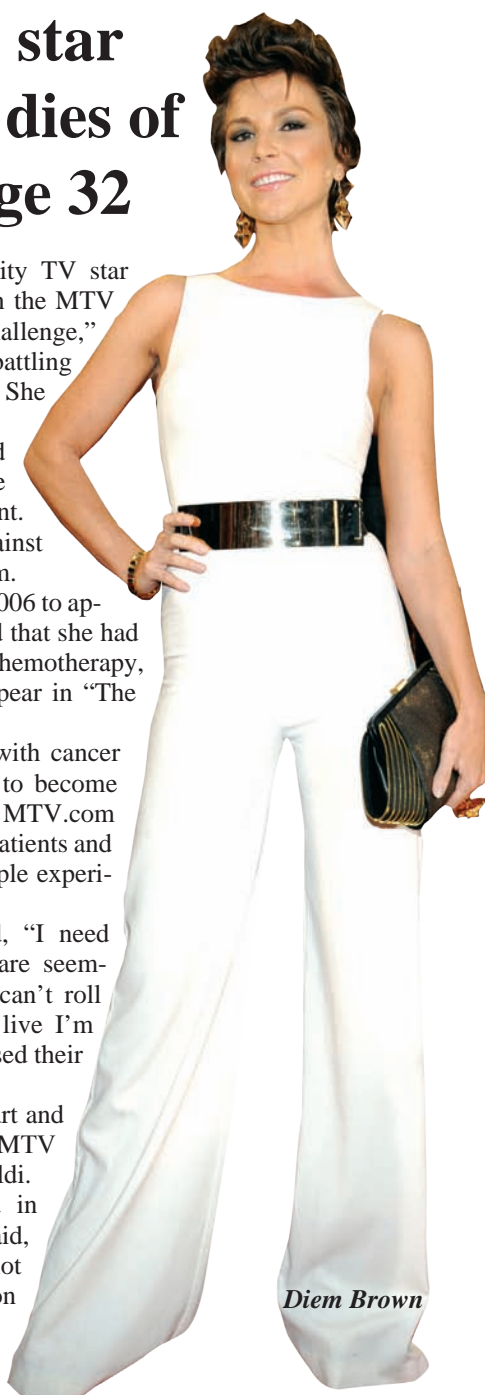
Brown was again diagnosed with cancer in 2012 and used her experience to become a patient advocate. She hosted an MTV.com special that year for young cancer patients and founded a gift registry site for people experiencing medical hardship.

On Tuesday, Brown tweeted, "I need prayers and advice. My doctors are seemingly giving up but I won't and can't roll over. Whatever option I have to live I'm grabbing." Brown's friends expressed their grief on Twitter.

"Hard to say with a heavy heart and teary eyes, fly high @DiemBrownMTV #RIP," tweeted actress Brittany Baldi.

Chet Cannon, who appeared in MTV's "Real World: Brooklyn," said, "I believe in a heaven and I have not doubt she was received lovingly on the other end."

Reuters



Diem Brown

Creations of Statkevicius presented at fashion show in Lithuania



A model presents a creation of Juozas Statkevicius in the spring-summer 2015 fashion show in Vilnius, Lithuania on 13 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

Author Michael Lewis prevails in 'Big Short' libel appeal

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — The author Michael Lewis did not libel a money manager in his 2010 best-seller "The Big Short," a divided federal appeals court ruled on Friday.

By a 2-1 vote, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York rejected an appeal by Wing Chau and his firm Harding Advisory LLC over 26 alleged defamatory statements.

Chau sued Lewis in 2011 over a chapter titled "Spider-Man at the Venetian," which recounted a January 2007 dinner conversation at the Wynn Las Vegas hotel between Chau and hedge fund manager Steven Eisman, who was allegedly betting against collateralised debt obligations that Chau favoured.

Many CDOs were backed by residential mortgages that soured as housing prices slid. Their unravelling was one cause of the 2008 global financial crisis.

In suing Lewis, Eisman and Lewis' publisher WW Norton & Co, Chau said the book portrayed

him and other CDO managers as "crooks or morons," and included made-up quotations suggesting he was incompetent or violated his duties to investors.

Writing for the 2nd Circuit majority, however, Circuit Judge Richard Wesley said that while Chau's pride may have been wounded, the defendants were not liable.

"Market events of 2008 and 2009 may undoubtedly influence one's perception as to whether going long on CDOs meant Chau was a fool, or Chau was a rube, or his motivations were avarice; but hindsight cannot give such opinions a defamatory meaning," Wesley wrote. "Chau's feelings may be hurt but his claims were rightly dismissed."

The 2nd Circuit upheld a March 2013 dismissal of Chau's lawsuit by US District Judge George Daniels.

Circuit Judge Ralph Winter dissented, saying the challenged statements could have led a jury to find that Chau cheated investors



Author Michael Lewis smiles during an interview at Reuters regarding his book about high-frequency trading (HFT) named "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt," in New York on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

or committed civil or criminal fraud.

Chau's lawyer Steven Molo did not respond to requests for comment.

Celia Goldwag Barenholtz, a lawyer for Lewis and WW Norton, said her clients are pleased with the decision.

She also said Chau refused to talk with Lewis for the book.

Eisman's lawyer David Schulz said accepting

Chau's arguments would have "chilled informed commentary" on public events.

"The Big Short" was a *New York Times* best-seller for 28 weeks.

Chau is awaiting a decision in a US Securities and Exchange Commission proceeding on whether he defrauded investors in a CDO for which Harding was collateral manager.

Reuters

Honda sparks 6-star Japan vs Honduras

TOYOTA, (Japan) 15 Nov — Keisuke Honda scored and assisted twice as Asian champions Japan blew away Honduras 6-0 in a friendly on Friday.

Joining Honda on the scoresheet were Maya Yoshida and Yasuhito Endo, while substitutes Takashi Inui, who scored twice, and Yohei Toyoda opened their national team accounts.

Japan last scored six goals in a single game in June 2012 when they thrashed Jordan 6-0 at home in a World Cup qualifier under Javier Aguirre's predecessor Alberto Zaccheroni.

Japan play Australia in Osaka on Tuesday in their final match before the Asian Cup in January.

"We started the game really well," Honda said. "We managed to score first from a set piece and that really helped settle the team. The important thing is to keep this going (for the Asian Cup)."

"The national team needs to be made up of aspiring players and we always need to be on our toes. But the next game is another start; we have to be sharp for the next one. We can't let up."

Aguirre gushed about

Honda, just like the way Zaccheroni used to.

"He's very motivated," said Aguirre, whose team was coming off a 4-0 defeat to Brazil in a friendly in Singapore last month. "I think he's started to realize that of all our players who play abroad, he is the most important."

"(Shinji) Kagawa is also very important, but Honda is the bar of our team. I've been working with him for three months now, and I know what he's thinking just by making eye contact."

"He's also at a stage in his career where he's becoming a seasoned player. If he had hit that free kick near the end, it would've been an incredible performance from him."

"We played well today. We wanted to give the fans a win to enjoy after our painful defeat to Brazil."

Aguirre's men had scored a combined three goals in their first four games under the Mexican manager.

But with World Cup veterans like Endo, Atsuto Uchida and captain Makoto Hasebe back in the mix, they equaled that in the first half Friday at Toyota



Keisuke Honda scores Japan's second goal in the first half of an international friendly against Honduras at Toyota Stadium in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 14 Nov, 2014. Japan won 6-0. —KYODO NEWS

Stadium. The hosts were in front after just nine minutes, when Yoshida nodded in a deflection off goalkeeper Donis Escobar from an Endo left-wing corner.

Honda made it 2-0 four minutes before halftime. He grabbed Hasebe's clearance from midfield and kept his cool on the run before the AC Milan marksman slotted the ball past Escobar, his first goal for Japan since the 2-1 defeat to Ivory Coast at the World Cup.

In the 44th minute, Hon-

da set up Endo for a brilliant strike, laying off outside the box for the Gamba Osaka man, who smashed the ball into the back of the net for his 14th goal in 147 international appearances.

Japan kept the momentum going on the other side of halftime as Inui, with Honda's assistance, struck on the break two minutes into the second half in winning his first cap since a 3-2 win over Belgium in November last year.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(16-11-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:20 am**
 - * Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
 - * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 am**
 - * News / International News
- 9:30 am**
 - * Documentary(ASEAN)
- 10:20 am**
 - * Science and Technology Programme
- 12:00 noon**
 - * News/ International News / Weather Report
- 12:30 pm**
 - * Round up of The Week's International News
- 2:45 pm**
 - * Musical programme
- 3:40 pm**
 - * Documentary
- 4:00 pm**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 4:30 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Economic)
- 5:15 pm**
 - * Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 6:15 pm**
 - * Teleplay
- 7:30 pm**
 - * Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News / International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
 - * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:00 pm**
 - * News
 - * Tasty Trip (Shan State)

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-11-14 07:00 am~ 17-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * On the River
- * World News
- * Today Myanmar "YUFL"
- * Local News
- * Making of Nawarat Rings
- * World News
- * ID Show "Education"
- * Local News
- * Short Trip With Steve (Mon State)
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Hemale
- * Local News
- * The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Local News
- * The Exhibition Hall of The Great Chronicle of Buddha
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Festival
- * World News
- * Paper Flower
- * Local News
- * Human Right, Human Dignity International Film Festival "My Daughter"
- * World News
- * Sons of the lake
- * Local News
- * Paper Lantern Festival 2014
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Sunee

18 arrested in Brazil in Petrobras corruption case

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Nov — Brazil on Friday arrested at least 18 people linked with a corruption scheme of state oil giant Petrobras, the federal police said.

The investigation named "Operation Car Wash" has led to arrests in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro,

Minas Gerais, Pernambuco and Parana, as well as the Federal District, home to the capital of Brasilia. A total of 49 search and seizure warrants have been issued.

The arrested, including high-level executives such as Renato Duque, former director of engineering and

services at Petrobras, will be charged with corruption, fraud and money laundering, among others, the police said.

The Petrobras saga, which involves the embezzlement of 10 billion Brazilian reais (3.84 billion US dollars), became a hot

topic during the presidential runoff in late October.

The Veja weekly reported days before the election that President Dilma Rousseff, who was seeking re-election, personally knew the scheme. Rousseff angrily denied any knowledge.

Xinhua

New cafe could be the cat's meow for pet-loving New Yorkers

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — A cat cafe is opening in New York City, where small apartments and landlords' rules can make keeping pets tough for animal lovers.

At Meow Parlour, customers can book reservations online to spend time with one of a dozen cats roaming the storefront space on Manhattan's Lower East Side, co-owner Christina Ha said on Friday.

The fee will be \$4 per half hour, she said.

The latest in cat cafes that have sprung up around the world, this one could

capitalize on the needs of New Yorkers unable to keep cats of their own.

Pet ownership in New York City is about 60 percent lower than the national average, according to a 2012 study by the city's Economic Development Corporation.

Some 500,000 cats and 600,000 dogs live in New York City, a rate of one pet for every three households, the study found.

Pet ownership is dampened by the city's tight living quarters and apartment buildings that do not allow pets, it said.

"There are so many

New Yorkers who want to play with cats but don't have the space or the money to keep them," Ha said.

Meow Parlour, which will have coffee, tea, pastries and other sweets on the menu, is set to open mid-December. All the cats will be available for adoption.

First popularized in Japan, cat cafes have caught on in Europe as well. Pop-up cat cafes have opened in the United States, and a permanent cat café opened last month in Oakland, California. Others are planned in Denver, Portland and elsewhere.—Reuters



A giant shoe car cruises during the "Tour de Takong" (Tour of High Heels) in Marikina City, the Philippines, on 13 Nov, 2014. Residents took part in the annual Tour of High Heels or stiletto race in celebration of the Shoe Festival in Marikina City, which is also known as the "shoe capital" of the Philippines.

XINHUA

Maloney goal gives Scotland precious win over Ireland



Scotland's Shaun Maloney (L) celebrates his goal against Ireland with teammate Charlie Mulgrew during their Euro 2016 Group D qualifying match at Celtic Park Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland on 14 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

GLASGOW, 15 Nov — Shaun Maloney's moment of sublime skill gave Scotland their first home victory over Ireland in 53 years as they beat their neighbours 1-0 in their Euro 2016 Group D qualifier at Celtic Park on Friday.

Described afterwards as "an epic duel" by Scotland manager Gordon Strachan, who, like Friday's counterpart Martin O'Neill, is a former Celtic manager, the game was played at a breakneck pace, oozing passion and with endless physical challenges.

There were only occasional flashes of skill but no shortage of excitement, commitment and an old-fashioned physicality to the match.

Scotland defender Grant Hanley was lucky to stay on the field after bringing down Shane Long to break up an attack just 12 minutes in and he was also lucky not to score an own goal late in the game when he headed against his own bar.

His yellow card was the first of only five in the game, which showed admirable restraint in a bruising encounter from Serbian referee Milorad Mazic.

He could have handed out twice as many for challenges from both sides that ranged from the late to the very late.

Both sides launched frenzied attacks but created little in the way of goalscoring opportunities until Maloney struck in the 75th minute, curling the ball past David Forde following a well-worked corner, which he took himself, to break the deadlock.

Strachan praised the player and coaching assistant Stuart McCall, whom he credited with creating the short corner routine that led to the goal.

"It was Stuart's idea," Strachan told reporters. "You need to be a great player to score from there, so Shaun can be delighted with himself."

Reuters

Ronaldo scrambles narrow win for Portugal over Armenia

LISBON, 15 Nov — Cristiano Ronaldo scrambled a second-half goal to give Portugal an uninspiring 1-0 win over Armenia in their Euro 2016 qualifier on Friday in Faro.

The Portugal captain broke the deadlock in the 72nd minute when the ball rebounded to him two metres from goal after Roman Berezovski saved Ricardo Quaresma's shot, although he still needed two attempts to put it in.

It was his 52nd goal in 117 appearances and made him the competition's all-time top scorer in qualifying and finals combined,

but it was the high point of an otherwise below-par performance which included firing three free kicks straight into the defensive wall.

Portugal moved second in Group I with six points from three games while Armenia are on one point.

Armenia had good chances when Henrikh Mkhitaryan forced Rui Patrício to make a difficult save in the 14th minute and Kamo Hovhannisyan also tested the Portugal goalkeeper in the opening half hour.

Portugal came to life after Quaresma replaced

Danny in the 70th minute and within two minutes he set up the winner for Ronaldo.

Eder was guilty of a terrible miss when he mis-cued from Ronaldo's cross in the 86th minute and headed against the post three minutes later.

Jose Bosingwa, 32, made his international return for Portugal after a four-year absence while the starting lineup also featured Ricardo Carvalho, 36, and former Tottenham Hotspur, Porto and Valencia forward Helder Postiga at centre forward.

Reuters



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Armenia during their Euro 2016 qualifying match at Algarve stadium in Faro on 14 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Djokovic, Wawrinka into semifinals at ATP World Tour Finals

LONDON, 15 Nov — Novak Djokovic sealed year-end world No 1 position for a third time after completing round-robin play with a 3-0 record at the ATP World Tour Finals here on Friday.

The 27-year-old Serbian, who also finished at the top in 2011 and 2012, defeated sixth seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-2 in the day's match and qualified for the semifinals.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion will meet Japan's Kei Nishikori in Saturday's semifinals.

In the day's other Group A match, Australian Open winner Stan Wawrinka beat US Open champion Marin Cilic 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to qualify for the semifinals as runner-up in the group. Wawrinka will take on Swiss compatriot and six-time champion Roger Federer.

Djokovic has become the seventh player to finish year-end No 1 on three occasions, following in the footsteps of Pete Sampras



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates winning his tennis match against Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London on 14 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

(6), Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer (5), Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe (4) and Rafael Nadal (3).

Chris Kermode, the ATP Executive Chairman and President, said, "Novak has had another outstanding season and is truly deserving of his place as No 1."

"Being world No 1 is probably one of the most

difficult and biggest challenges that a tennis player can have, so it's incredibly fulfilling and I'm very happy with this achievement," said Djokovic. "It's been a long year and it's one of the ultimate challenges. I'm just glad to be standing here with the trophy knowing how many legends of the sport have done the same before." —Xinhua



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland reacts during his men's singles tennis match against Marin Cilic of Croatia at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London on 14 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS