

President U Thein Sein delivers address at Workshop on Urban and Housing Development Policy and Projects

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov —It is necessary to implement affordable housing projects in which houses can be purchased in installments or with mortgages by the poor, the disabled, retirees, family members of fallen soldiers and the low-income public as well as projects for public rental houses for those who cannot afford affordable homes as they do not have regular incomes, President U Thein Sein said in his speech at the Workshop on Urban and Housing Development Policy and Projects held in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The president told the workshop that the purpose of the workshop is to develop national policy, laws, rules and regulations covering the entire nation for the development of the urban and housing sector that can effectively contribute to the socioeconomic development of the people and serve the national interest and to draft uniform policies, rules and regulations for states and regions based on the national policy.

The government has been implementing people-centred development

tasks for living and basic socioeconomic development of the people since it took office, the president said.

The president pointed out that it is important to hold consultations not only with departmental staff but also with towns' elders who have permanently settled in

towns to develop rural and urban development projects that can provide food, clothing and shelter and job opportunities.

The government is taking measures to relocate the homeless as well as to address illegal squatters while efforts are being made to improve the living standards of the people, the president explained, saying it is vital to consider the employment situation as well as the residential situation of the poor.

As development partners, experts, scholars, Hluttaw representatives, representatives from states and regions are participating in the workshop, it is

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
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(21 November, 2014)

Assignment of Deputy Minister

Under Sub-Sections (a) and (d) of Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Paragraph (ix) of Sub-Section (b) of Section 16 of the Union Government Law, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr San Lwin has been assigned as Deputy Minister at the President Office Ministry (5).

Sd/Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar



President U Thein Sein highlights relocation of homeless and squatter at Workshop on Urban and Housing Development Policy and Projects.—MNA

SME development branches training aims promote SME knowledge among staff: Industry Ministry

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 21 Nov—The Department of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development under the Ministry of Industry in cooperation with the

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on Thursday organized its 15th batch of staff of SME development branches for training here, aiming to

develop the private sector and promote SME financial knowledge among staff.

The two-day capacity-building training is scheduled to provide knowledge on an overview of entrepreneurs and the classification of roles of different

participants involved in the private sector development of Myanmar as well as specific roles and tasks of SME development branches, said Mrs Irina Scheffmann, head of the programme at GIZ.

She added that lack of knowledge is the main challenge to the development of the SME sector in Myanmar, so GIZ will continue to provide knowledge of business skills to the sector development.

The two-day course admitted 28 trainees. The organizers managed to train more than 300 staff officers

from SME development branches in regions/states and the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (DISI) this year.

“The GIZ has a future plan to extend its support for the department of SME development and its decentralization process with capacity-building exercises and financial support for office infrastructure,” said an official from GIZ.

In his opening remarks, U Aung Myo Khaing, director of the SME Development Department, said the small and medium enterprise bill is under discussion at the Pyithu Hluttaw. It consists of effective rules and regulations on developing the SME sector and it is expected to be enacted soon.



15th batch of staff of SME development branches for training.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Discussions on constitutional reform continue at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday approved an agreement to be signed between Myanmar and Russia to cooperate in military intelligence, followed by discussions on a report submitted by a committee responsible for the implementation of constitutional change.

U Than Nwe of Buda-lin constituency suggested that decentralization will promise individual states and regions control over

their own affairs, a federalism demanded by ethnic parties, calling for a constitutional change so that states and regions parliaments will enjoy the right to elect their regional chiefs.

Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region constituency-4 said that ideologies and policies keep changing in the world, hinting that the constitution should be amended in a way that will ensure a win-win situation.

U Steven Tha Beit of

Chin State constituency-4 called the constitution the lifeblood of the nation but pointed out the need to change undemocratic sections, citing the changing patterns of the country's political, economic and social settings as well as of international relations.

U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw constituency said that the constitution is meant to safeguard and promote the interests of the ruled, noting that a constitution is a political pact



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives participate in debate on constitutional amendment in Friday's session.—MNA

reached between the ruler and the ruled.

He added that con-

stitutional amendments should take into consideration political and economic reforms, national reconciliation and ethnic conflicts.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Myanmar taking measures to reduce trade deficits

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — A question was raised at the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday on how to deal with the country's trade deficits, with Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan responding that the fiscal year of 2014 from 1 April to 12 September saw export earnings of US\$4,965.726m and import of \$7,366.937m, resulting in a trade deficit of \$2,401.211m.

Regarding measures to enhance the export volume, the deputy minister said that priority has been given to rice, beans and pulses, oil crops, fishery products, textiles and clothes, and wood and forest products.

He added that rules and regulations have been relaxed to boost exports, expecting that trade deficits will become less when finished products can make

inroads into neighbouring markets.

Another question was concerned with the writing of the e-government master plan and how to implement its functions. In connection with the question, U Thauang Tin, deputy minister for Communications and Information Technology, said that the master plan is being drawn up since March 2014 with the help of the Asian

Development Bank.

The plan is expected to be completed next March, with the deputy minister saying it will include action plans for state/region governments as well.

Efforts will be made to ensure that ministries can follow the master plan, he said, adding that successful implementation of the e-government system will take 20 months.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss amendment bills



Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — The speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw informed the Hluttaw session on Friday of the approval of the Pyithu Hluttaw on bills amending laws stipulating the salaries, allowances and titles of union level officials, the chairman and members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and chairmen and members of self-administered regions and areas.

However, the Pyithu Hluttaw sent the bills amending the laws stipulating the salaries, allowances and titles of state/region level officials, representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and state/region Hluttaw representatives and leading members of self-administered regions and areas to the Amyotha Hluttaw with added notes.

Afterwards, members of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Tin Mya, U Maung Aye Tun and Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan submitted the bill on the budget allocation proposal, the report on repealing the Agricultural Produce Markets Act and the bill repealing the Agricultural Produce Markets Act, respectively. The act was enacted in 1941 so it fails to reflect the current situation.

The Amyotha Hluttaw session today also agreed to debate the bills amending the Diplomats and Consular Officers (Oaths and Fees) Act and amending the United Nations (Rights and Exemptions) Act submitted by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin.—MNA

Ministry of Electric Power, Austria-based ANDRITZ Hydro sign MoU for Deedoke Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — The Hydropower Administration Department under the Ministry of Electric Power and Austria-based ANDRITZ Hydro GmbH, a global supplier of electromechanical equipment and services for hydropower plants, on Thursday signed an MoU

for the development, operation and transfer of Deedoke Hydropower Project on Myitnge River.

The project area is located 12 miles from Yeywa Hydroelectric Power Plant in Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region. Under the MoU, ANDRITZ Hydro will establish a 66 MW

low-head power plant there through a JV or B.O.T system.

U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Electric Power, clarified the government's current activities to increase electricity services in the country and future plans for sustainable power generation, urging

the project implementing bodies to obey the Environmental Conservation Law and offer support for regional development.

In his speech on the occasion, U Khin Maung Soe said he believes ANDRITZ Hydro will implement the project in line with the law as it has a good reputation among countries.

As part of efforts to develop the electricity sector, the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar and the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of Austria also signed an MoU on technology cooperation in May.

According to the Ministry, only 36% of the country's population uses electricity, with the remaining people living without electricity. People in Rakhine State will gain access to electricity through state-owned power grids in December.—MNA



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe attends signing of MoU on development, operation and transfer of Deedoke Hydropower Project on Myitnge River.—MNA

Myanmar Catholics celebrate anniversary of their faith

YANGON, 21 Nov — Catholics in Myanmar celebrated their quincentenary anniversary of their faith at Saint Mary's Cathedral on Bo Aung Kyaw Street here on Friday morning, with Oswald Cardinal Gracias extending greetings on behalf of Pope Francis,

sources said.

Congregations gathering at the event paid homage to Jesus, saying prayers. A grand celebration will be made at Thuwunna Stadium on 23 November.

Catholicism in Myanmar dates back 500 years from 1511 to 2011.—MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein delivers address at Workshop...

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vital to take into account the availability of investment as well as far-sighted modern projects, the president said.

The government is planning to implement insurance systems, installment systems and loan systems not just for housing for government staff but also for stipends for higher education and health care for their offspring, the president continued.

In conclusion, the president urged the participants to contribute to the development of the socioeconomic status of all citizens in accordance with the long-term goals of all-round national development projects and the framework for economic and social reform.

Afterwards, the president posed for a documentary photo with the participants.

The participants held discussions on urban devel-



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Chairman Mr Wolfgang Semper of Andritz Hydro, Austria, and party.—MNA

opment policy, infrastructure development and housing policy and development projects.

Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein reviewed the papers and a discussion of the workshop in the afternoon.

The workshop con-

cluded with remarks by Vice President U Nyan Tun.

Also present at the workshop were Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers, deputy ministers, mayors, Hluttaw representatives, members of state/region governments, foreign diplomats and resource per-

sons.

President U Thein Sein on Friday met Chairman Mr Wolfgang Semper of Andritz Hydro, Austria, and party at the Presidential Palace here to discuss investment opportunities in the process of generating electricity and environmen-

tal conservation.

Both sides also discussed the progress of social welfare tasks, increasing the number of technology-related training programs to develop human resources, sustainable power generation with the use of advanced techniques and

scholarship programmes for engineering students.

Also present at the call were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Maung Soe and U Zayar Aung, as well as the Austrian ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Sports and Physical Education Institute, University of Medicine in Taunggyi



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views training of students from Sports and Physical Education Institute (Taunggyi).—MNA



others including staff quarters and related buildings and work being conducted for ensuring electricity and water supply presented by Director-General Dr Zaw Than Myint of the Medical Science Department.

While giving necessary instructions, he stressed the importance of the role of building inspection teams to ensure buildings meet set standards and worksite safety and fire prevention measures.

Upon completion, the University of Medicine (Taunggyi) will become the fifth medical school in the country to nurture qualified health professionals.

In his closing remarks, the vice president stressed the need to develop distance learning programmes and modern teaching aids needed to link with medical schools in foreign countries.

Then the vice president and party observed documentary photos of construction of the university and work progress in building construction and staff quarters.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Taunggyi) and the University of Medicine (Taunggyi) on Friday.

On his visit to the institute of the Ministry of Sports, the vice president heard reports on the establishment of sports and physical education institutes in Yangon, Mandalay,

Mawlamyine and Taunggyi, the selection of trainees depending on types of sports, the combination of sports and studies during education, matters related to health care and accommodation for trainees and arrangements being made to turn out outstanding athletes for the country and work to be done by Deputy Director-General U Tun Myint Oo and Union Minister for Sports

U Tint Hsan.

In his speech, the vice president stressed the need to formulate short-term and long-term plans for realization of success in sports such as athletics and swimming and called for measures to be implemented systematically from now on to ensure sustainable development in different types of sports apart from the 10 types of sports for which training is being

conducted at the sports training institutions.

Next, the vice president and party toured the institute and observed sports training being undertaken, learning centres and progress in the construction of men's and women's hostels.

The Sports and Physical Education Institute (Taunggyi) is the fourth one following the opening of institutes in Yangon,

Mandalay and Mawlamyine. The two institutes in Yangon and Mandalay are graded A while Mawlamyine and Taunggyi are graded B.A., with a total of 150 trainees taking 10 types of sports courses at the institute in Taunggyi.

During his visit to the University of Medicine (Taunggyi), the vice president heard reports on progress in the construction of the main building and

MYANAUNG, 21 Nov—The missionary capacity enhancement course 1/2014 was opened at the Dhammayon of Gukoelon Monastery in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on Friday, organized by the Myanaung Township Religious Protection Group. Chairman of the group Thayagon Monastery Sayadaw U Sasana explained the purpose of the training course.

Consultative lawyer of the group U Aye Paing gave lectures on applied law subject to the trainees from 21 to 23 November. Altogether 66 trainees from villages of the township attended the course. Awards will be presented to five outstanding trainees.

Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)

Missionary capacity enhancement course conducted



Course on rehabilitating human trafficking victims given in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 21 Nov—The Mandalay Region Women's Affairs Organization organized a course for taking care of human trafficking victims at its of-

fice on Theikpan Street in Mandalay on Wednesday.

The organization's Chairwoman Daw Su Su Lwin and Secretary Daw Thanda Phone Win ex-

plained the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and implementation of a capacity enhancement plan.

SIP Tun Tun Naing

Paddy plantations need water to thrive in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 21 Nov—Some paddy plantations need water for the plants to thrive in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, sources said.

A total of 17,720 acres of paddy plantations are grown in the township, but some of them are irrigated by Pyaungpya, Khetlan, Kanna, Wetlu and Myaing-

tha dams yearly.

This year, rain-fed paddy plantations still need water due to unfavourable weather in the late monsoon.—Htay Myint Maung



of the No 11 Anti-Human Trafficking Police Platoon gave lectures on prevention of trafficking in persons to members of community surveillance groups.

The training course lasted up to 21 November, attended by 30 female trainees.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Dimawhso of Kayah State opens Institute of Agriculture



DIMAWHSO, 21 Nov—A ceremony to open the Institute of Agriculture (Dimawhso) under the Agriculture Department was held in Ngwetaung Village, Dimawhso Township, Kayah State, on Friday.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and ministers, Deputy Director-General U Aye Tun of the department and local people attended the ceremony.

Kayah State Minis-

ter for Planning and Economic Development U Taw Rei, State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Poe Rei Yan Aung and the deputy director-general formally opened the archway of the institute.

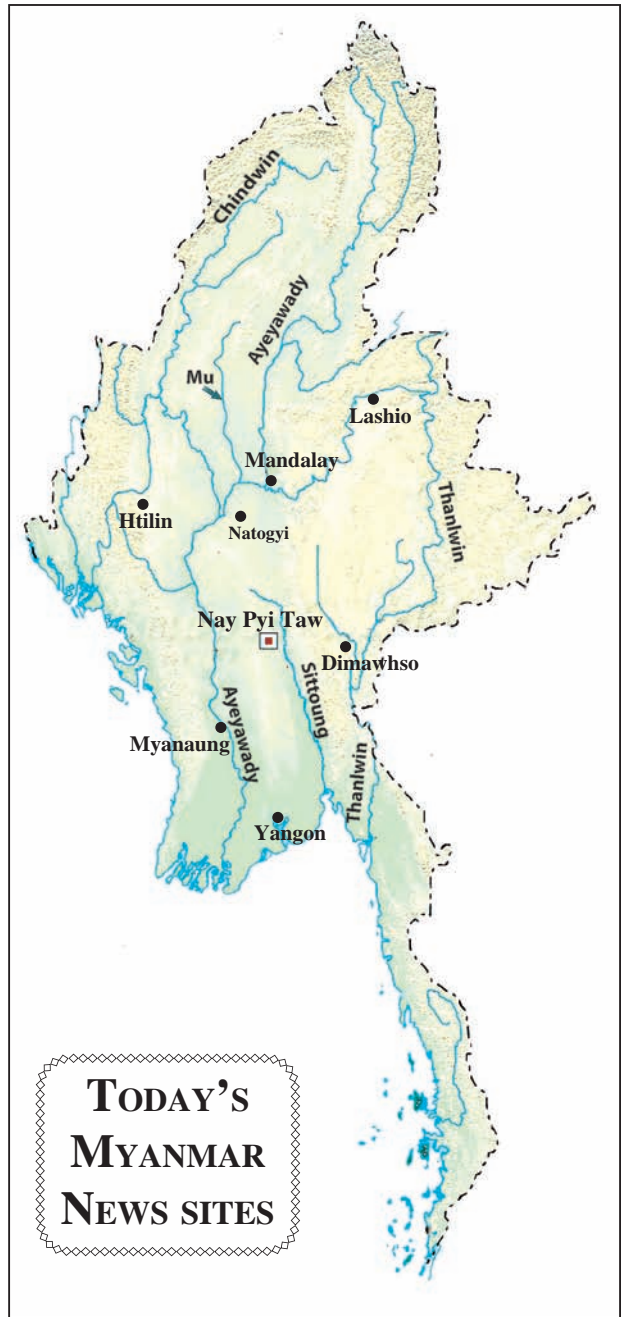
Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo said that the institute started as the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding High School from 1972 to 1998. Now, it was upgraded to an institute in

order to train local nationals. This year, the institute admitted 66 trainees for the first-year course.

Principal of the institute Daw San San Aye reported on preparations for academic and management matters.

The chief minister and party visited the office of the institute, the computer lab, the library and plantations.

Dimawhso Township IPRD



LOCAL NEWS

Staff issue citizenship scrutiny cards to locals

LASHIO, 21 Nov— Head of Lashio Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Lay Maung and staff made a trip to Loikham village of the township, Shan State on 17 November and issued citizenship scrutiny cards to the local people through a one-stop service.

At Basic Education High School in Nampaung

Village, they delivered the citizenship cards to the students under the Moe Pwint Plan-7.

At the ceremony, Shan State Hluttaw MP U Sai Myint Kyu and Deputy Director U Saw Naing of Shan State INRD handed over 252 CSCs for the students to Headmistress Daw Nang Marlar Myint.

Zaw Lwin (Lashio)



Heavy machinery, tractors available at Mandalay branch of company



MANDALAY, 21 Nov— Myan Shwe Pyi Tractors Co Ltd opened its branch at the corner of 51st and Mingala streets in No 2 Industrial Zone in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, on Thursday.

Mandalay Region ministers and the chairman of the company formally opened the branch office and viewed heavy machinery, generators, machinery parts and a worker training centre.

Caterpillar machinery, dumpers, concrete mixers and tractors are available at the branch office of Myan Shwe Pyi Tractors Co Ltd in Mandalay.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Policing procedures explained in Myanaung

MYANAUNG, 21 Nov — A press conference on policing procedures of Myanaung Township Police Force was held at the Dhammayon of Myoma police station on Thursday.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tun Pe explained the causes of crimes in Myanaung Township, the arrest of fugitives, cooperation with the European Union for enhancement of policing work and the exposing of major crimes by police in cooperation with local people.

He distributed pamphlets on provisions of criminal laws related to the police and the arrest of fugitives, prevention of bribery cases and taking action against police officers who take bribes.

Commander of Myanaung Myoma Police Station Police Captain Maung Maung Tar briefed the attendees on the root causes of crimes and the important role played by people in cooperating with the police in exposing the criminal cases.—Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)

Mandalay Region marks 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

MANDALAY, 21 Nov — A ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was observed at Mandalay Education College in Mandalay on 20 November.

Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan, chairman of the Mandalay Region Committee of the Rights of the Child, said that the government is implementing the policies and plans for serving the interests of children in cooperation with NGOs and people. He revealed that the Ministry of Health

is placing emphasis on the lives of children while the Ministry of Education is carrying out long- and short-term plans for upgrading the education standard of children. The minister noted that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is taking care of children, orphans and the children who need protection at training schools and vocational schools so that the children have the improved capacity to rejoin society with self confidence.

Region in-charge Daw Mi Mi Hlaing of Save the Children reported on CRC

Day and its purposes.

The region minister and officials enjoyed performances of students from the school for the girls, the school for the deaf and mentally handicapped children, the World Vision school for children, and a women's vocational training school in drama and songs.

They also visited the booths of the schools.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed in New York on 20 November 1989 and came into force on 2 September 1990.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Volunteers ready to donate blood in Htilin Township

HTILIN, 21 Nov — Fifteen people from Htanbin-gon village and 52 from Htilin village in Htilin Township of Magway Region arrived at Htilin Township Hospital recently to check their blood groups in order to donate blood to needy patients at the hospital. Head of Township Health Department Dr Sein Po and health staff checked the blood groups and gave health care services to the volunteers.

Gangaw District IPRD



Librarian and staff issue membership cards to students from Basic Education High School No 1 in Natmauk, Magway Region, on 20 November to borrow books from library of Township Information and Public Relations Department.—HLA WIN (TOWNSHIP IPRD)

Japan PM dissolves lower house for election to push “Abenomics”

TOKYO, 21 Nov — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe dissolved the lower house of parliament on Friday for a general election in which he hopes to gain a fresh mandate to continue his economic policies after putting off a major tax hike.

Voting in the House of Representatives election will be held 14 December following a two-week campaign from 2 December.

Abe called a snap election on Tuesday after announcing the postponement of the second phase of a consumption tax hike planned for October 2015 by 18 months.

The decision to put off raising the tax from the current 8 percent to 10 percent until April 2017 came in the wake of gloomy economic data that showed the country's gross domestic product contracted for the second consecutive quarter in the July-September period.

In a televised Press conference on Tuesday, Abe announced he was calling an election to seek the voters' verdict on his “Abenomics” policy package, saying postponing the



Japan's lower house members throw their arms in the air, a traditional gesture, on 21 Nov, 2014, at the chamber in Tokyo, as the House of Representatives was dissolved for a general election.—KYODO NEWS

tax hike was a “serious decision” that would affect the people's lives and the economy.

Abenomics, aimed at pulling Japan out of deflation, features substantial monetary easing, fiscal spending and growth-oriented reforms.

Opposition parties, however, have criticized Abe's decision to seek a fresh mandate as ground-

less.

By calling an election halfway through the term of current lower house members until 2016, Abe aims to take advantage of disarray in the opposition camp while his popularity is still relatively high to cement his grip on power until 2018, political observers said. His Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition ally Komeito par-

ty dominate both chambers of parliament.

But his political gambit has caused bewilderment among the public. A survey by *Kyodo News* shortly after Abe's press conference showed 63.1 percent of respondents said they do not understand the premier's move to seek a new mandate, while 30.5 percent said they support it. “Our party will look

for wins for everyone we officially endorse or recommend,” Sadakazu Tanigaki, LDP secretary general, told reporters on Friday morning when asked how many seats the party would target in the election.

Abe's policies to strengthen the economy have produced a lot of results but have “some weakness,” Tanigaki said. “We will try to generate a positive growth cycle for the economy and continue to fight until the end of the election.”

Abe had a relatively smooth run in his second stint as prime minister from December 2012 until two female Cabinet ministers he appointed in September resigned over scandals after less than two months.

Political analysts say Abe also wants an early election held before debate starts on controversial issues his government is pushing such as the right to collective self-defence and the restart of nuclear reactors.

The Abe administration is meanwhile struggling to make progress on the issue of North Korea's

abductions of Japanese nationals despite his longtime commitment to the issue, and this is another area that could push the prime minister's approval rating lower.

Yukio Edano, secretary general of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, criticized Abe on Friday for deciding to dissolve the house, saying, “I don't understand what this dissolution is for.”

Earlier this week, Abe said he will resign if the ruling coalition fails to secure a majority, or 238 seats, in the powerful lower house, whose number of seats will be reduced to 475 as part of an overhaul addressing vote value disparities.

The LDP and Komeito currently hold a two-thirds majority in the 480-seat house. Later Friday, the government will finalize 2 December as the date of the official start of campaigning, as well as the 14 December voting date for the first lower house election since December 2012, when the LDP returned to power with Komeito by trouncing the DPJ.

Kyodo News

China's defence chief calls for better dispute management mechanisms

BEIJING, 21 Nov — China's defence minister on Friday urged that the Asia-Pacific region be equipped with better dispute management and military-to-military consultation mechanisms to prevent tensions from escalating.

“The Chinese military stands ready to seek appropriate solutions to relevant issues in collaboration with other parties and share information at a timely manner,” Defence Minister Chang Wanquan told a security forum on the outskirts of Beijing, attended by officials and experts from about 50 countries.

Chang proposed that countries having territorial disputes with China “establish (together) accessible and efficient dispute management and control mechanisms” for ensuring long-term stability and enduring prosperity in the region, add-

ing that it is necessary to settle conflicts with “full respect to historical facts and the international law.”

His proposal at the forum came after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed last week during their first talks that the two countries, whose ties have been fraught with tensions over the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, will work harder toward the establishment of a maritime communication mechanism to avert unforeseen circumstances.

To bolster mutual trust, Chang also called on Asian countries to “transcend Cold-War thinking and base their decisions on the reality” of a changing security environment.

By promoting “regular, open and inclusive contacts” between defence officials, he said, the region's security ar-

chitecture needs foster “a stronger sense of belonging to the community of common destiny.”

Since 2006, the Xiangshan Forum, organized by the China Association for Military Science, has been held biennially. Starting from this year, it will be held annually and try to attract more participation of foreign defence officials, not just scholars.

Some analysts say China's decision to upgrade the forum is aimed at easing concerns over its growing military clout and creating a counterbalance to Asia's foremost influential security forum, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue held every year in Singapore.

At the dialogue, involving top government officials and experts, China's increasing assertiveness has been in the limelight in recent years.

Kyodo News

Japan-bound plane makes emergency landing in Philippine airport

MANILA, 21 Nov — A Japan-bound All Nippon Airways jet made an emergency landing at an airport in the Philippine capital region of Metro Manila on Friday morning, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said.

CAAP said All Nippon Airways flight NH950 departed the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)

at 9:54 am local time but was forced return to the airport half an hour after it took off due to smoke in the jet's cockpit.

“An initial report said that after 5 miles on air, the pilot requested Manila tower for an emergency landing due to smoke in the cockpit and safely landed at 10:19 am,” the state agency said.

On board the aircraft

were 174 passengers, including an infant and 10 crew members, including two pilots and eight flight stewards. CAAP said the plane, a *Boeing B767* type aircraft, landed safely at runway 0/64. Two aircraft accident investigators were immediately dispatched by the state agency to determine the cause of the incident.

Xinhua



People view photos taken by children during an exhibition in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20 Nov, 2014. A one-month-long exhibition of children's photos kicked off here on Thursday to mark the Universal Children's Day.—XINHUA

Japan, S Korea diplomats to hold talks next Thursday in Seoul

TOKYO, 21 Nov — Senior officials from Japan and South Korea will hold talks next Thursday in Seoul, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday.

The issue of women who were forced to work in wartime brothels for the Japanese military and are euphemistically known as “comfort women” in Japan is expected to be discussed at the director general-level talks. The issue is a major obstacle to holding summit talks between the Japanese

and South Korean leaders.

“We would like to continue our dialogue at various levels and make headway (in improving bilateral ties),” Kishida said at a Press conference.

The two countries are also expected to lay the groundwork for foreign ministerial talks involving Japan, China and South Korea envisioned to take place by the end of the year at the earliest.

Bilateral relations have remained strained over the issue of comfort women,

many of whom were Korean. South Korean President Park Geun-hye, who took office in 2013, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who took power in 2012, have yet to hold a formal one-on-one summit meeting.

At the Thursday meeting, Japan is expected to say that the Abe government upholds a 1993 statement issued by then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono which acknowledged for the first time the Japanese military’s involve-

ment in setting up “comfort stations” and the use of coercion in recruiting women to provide sex to Japanese soldiers before and during World War II.

Japan will be represented by Junichi Ihara, head of the Foreign Ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and South Korea by Lee Sang Deok, director general of the South Korean Foreign Ministry’s Northeast Asian Affairs Bureau.

South Korea has repeatedly demanded that

Tokyo settle the issue in a way that is acceptable to the surviving victims, including an apology and compensation.

Japan, for its part, maintains that the issue of compensation was legally settled with South Korea under a 1965 bilateral agreement when the two nations normalized ties.

It will be the first meeting between Ihara and Lee since they met 19 September in Tokyo. The director general-level talks have been held roughly

every month since their first round in April but they were not held last month apparently due to tensions caused by the indictment of a Japanese journalist in South Korea.

Tatsuya Kato, the former Seoul bureau chief of Japan’s Sankei Shimbun daily, was indicted in October on charges of defaming Park in an article about her whereabouts on the day of the deadly ferry disaster in April. Japan has since protested the action.

Kyodo News

In blow to PM Cameron, UKIP party wins second parliamentary seat

GILLINGHAM, LONDON, 21 Nov — Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives lost a second parliamentary seat to UKIP in Britain on Friday, an embarrassing defeat that foreshadows a possible political upheaval in next year’s national election.

With distrust of mainstream parties and anxiety about immigration rising, UKIP, the UK Independence Party, comfortably beat Cameron’s party in a special election in the southeast English constituency of Rochester and Strood six months before what is shaping up to be a closely-fought national vote.

“Rochester and Strood was our 271st most winnable seat,” Mark Reckless, UKIP’s winning candidate, said after the results were announced. “If we can win here we can win across the country.”

Cameron’s right-leaning Conservatives and the opposition left-wing Labour Party are facing simultaneous challenges from UKIP and Scottish nationalists that could revolutionise a two-party system in place since 1945.

The victory for UKIP, which favours an immediate British EU exit and sharply lower immigration, will unsettle businesses, investors and European part-



Nigel Farage (L), leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), shakes hands with Mark Reckless, the former Conservative Party member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood, during the by-election ballot count at Medway Park in Gillingham, southeast England on 21 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

ners who fear Britain could be slipping towards an exit from the European Union. Comments by Reckless immediately after his win will do little to steady those nerves.

“If you believe that the world is bigger than Europe, if you believe in an independent Britain then come with us and we will give you back your country,” he said, to prolonged applause from supporters.

Reckless was a Conservative lawmaker until he became the party’s second parliamentarian to defect to UKIP in September triggering Thursday’s vote. His new party hopes his electoral success will spur

other defections.

Reckless won 16,867 votes or just over 42 percent of the vote, giving him a majority of 2,920, less than opinion polls of voter intentions had suggested but still a comfortable win.

Cameron’s Conservatives, who won the seat in 2010 with a majority of almost 10,000, came second with 13,947 votes despite mobilising all their resources to try to hold the seat. Labour, which on Thursday night found itself embroiled in an awkward scandal after one of its senior lawmakers was accused of sneering at working class voters, came third with 6,713 votes. — Reuters

Still long way to go for Iran nuclear deal — Fabius, Kerry

PARIS, 21 Nov — French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and his US counterpart, Secretary of State John Kerry, acknowledged on Thursday there was some way to go to iron out differences with Iran over its nuclear programme. “We want a deal, but important points of difference remain,” Fabius said in a joint statement with Kerry in Paris. “We hope that we can reduce those in the coming days, but that will depend on the attitude of the Iranians.” Fabius, whose country is deemed to have a tough stance in the talks, is due to head to Vienna before the weekend.

Kerry said he shared Fabius’ view and noted the so-called P5+1 group which also includes Britain, China, Germany and Russia, that are meeting Iranian officials this week in Vienna had a united approach even



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) shakes hands with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius prior to their meeting at the Quai d'Orsay Foreign Affairs ministry in Paris on 20 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

if there could be “minor differences” between all them.

“On the fundamental principles ... we are in agreement that you have to be able to verify this, there has to be limits, an acceptable level and we are confident of our unity,” he told a separate news conference at the US Embassy in Paris.

Asked whether the most likely conclusion on 24 November was an exten-

sion in talks — something diplomats have said privately is probable — Kerry said that was not being talked about. “We are not discussing an extension, we are negotiating to try and get an agreement,” he said. “If you get to the final hour and you need to look at alternatives then we’ll look at them,” he said, ahead of travelling to Vienna later on Thursday.

Reuters

US to send new troops to Iraq even before Congress OKs funds

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — Some of the 1,500 new US troops authorized to advise and train Iraqi forces in their fight against Islamic State militants will deploy to the country in the next few weeks without waiting for Congress to fund the mission, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press

secretary, said leading elements of the US force would begin moving to Iraq in the coming weeks, even if Congress has not yet acted on a \$5.6 billion supplemental request to fund the expanded fight against the militants who overran northwestern Iraq earlier this year.

Officials initially indicated they needed to lawmakers to approve the

funding before the Pentagon could start the mission, but General Lloyd Austin, the head of US troops in the Middle East, recommended starting the effort using resources already available to him.

“The commander ... can reallocate resources inside his theatre as he deems fit. So he is going to .. try to get a jump start on this programme,” Kirby told reporters, adding that congressional approval of the \$5.6 billion was still needed to carry out the “more robust programme.”

Kirby’s comments came just days after US officials said some 50 special operations troops had been sent to Ain al-Asad air base in Anbar Province in Iraq to establish an operation to advise and train Iraqi troops.

Reuters



Iraqi security forces take part in an intensive security deployment against Islamic State militants in Adhaim, a village in Diyala Province north of Baghdad on 13 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 22 November, 2014

Lest you mistake politics for poisonous fruit

By Kyaw Thura

At the outset, it is worth stating that public participation is at the heart of any democratic government. In other words, democracy requires the involvement of the public. Unfortunately, in our country, the majority of people still assume that it would be a nice idea to stay away from politics. Most of them are accustomed to living in fear as a result of being haunted by the shadow of the recent past.

With a complete realization of the situation,

the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has often called for public involvement in politics, stressing the fact that politics is a national concern. Even then, many people are heard to claim that politics is a dirty practice, a silly waste of time.

In fact, politics is about promoting, enhancing and strengthening democratic structures while catering to the needs, hopes and aspirations of the people. It is therefore important for ordinary people to open their eyes to the reality that “we hold all the strings in the shaping of our own destiny”.

It is only natural that all representatives in their electioneering promise the best of things for citizens, which is why any government, after coming to power, should serve public interests not only with high ambitions but also with realistic objectives. In addition, it is necessary for a government to give individuals more choice about how they can participate in the political process

for the simple reason that any decision the government makes affects their lives.

All in all, it is the people who are the decision-makers in electing a government. The power therefore lies in the hands of the people. It is therefore quite natural that a government must be at the service of the public. In the end, the only measure of how successful a government is how well it treats its citizens.

Write for us

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

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

The Second last old capital city “Amarapura” Part V Amarapura under the four successors of Badonsachen [Bodawpaya]

*Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt*

Badonsachen's son the Crown Prince passed away in 1808 after his military expedition to Rakhine and transfer of Maha Muni Buddha Image to Amarapura. The Crown Prince had two sons (1) Sagaing Min and (2) Thayawaddy Min. Thayawaddy Min had two sons Pagan Min and Mindon Min who called Sagaing Min Bagyidaw [senior uncle]. So Sagaing Min was more wellknown as King Bagyidaw. Badonsachen selected Sagaing Min as his successor to throne. When Badonsachen died in 1819 Bagyidaw became king. Hardly a year passed when he became king, he moved back to old capital city Inwa, where he reigned till 1837 when he was overthrown by his younger brother Thayawaddy Min.

Thayawaddy Min thought that the glary and auspiciousness of Inwa were gone forever as proved by the defeat of his elder brother Sagaing Min [Bagyidaw] in the first Anglo-Myanmar War of 1824-26, causing loss of territories, heavy war indemnity and damaging national pride and prestige which the infamous Treaty of Yandabo which the British unfairly imposed upon Myanmar. His elder brother Sagaing Min was weak and under the influence chief queen Namadaw Mei Nu frequently suffered moments of mental derangement. So Thayawaddy Min thought that weak king must be replaced. Besides he never signed the Treaty of Yandabo which he wanted to flout at any given opportunity, and fight the British aggressors out of the kingdom. Accordingly, with his followers he marched to Shwebo, the Land of Victory of King Alaungpaya and staged a coup. Sagaing Min and royal family were arrested. Although the deposed Sagaing Min was well treated, Nanmadaw Mei Nu and her followers were put to death. After these events, Thayawaddy moved his capital back to Amarapura. Since then Inwa was deserted for good.

When Amarapura became Capital City again it was renovated, extended and modernized. Each of the three kings namely

Thayawaddy Min, Bagan Min and Mindon Min rebuilt Amarapura in his own idea and design. The events that took place during their reigns were remarkably significant for Myanmar history.

To begin with, King Thayawaddy renovated and re-embellished Amarapura where he built a new palace. In Myanmar chronicle he was recorded as “the founder of Second Amarapura and builder of a new palace”. On the 10th waxing moon of Waso [July] in the Myanmar Era 1202 [1846 AD] the ceremonially received “Raja Bisaka” [formal coronation] and was conferred the regal title “Thiri Pawara Loka Dipati Mahadhamma Rajadhirajah”. His chief queen was also given the regal title “Thiripawara Mahayadana Padoma Devi”.

Within nine years of his reign, King Thayawaddy was pre-occupied with the idea of redemeaning the two lost territories—Rakhine and Taninthayi. He tried to reform and modernize his armed forces. He reconstructed fortifications and replanned and rebuilt his capital and towns including Yangon. He patronized and awarded rewards to outstanding writers and performing artists. True to the tradition of a noble Buddhist king, he repaired and renovated old religious monuments and built new ones of which a big pagoda of a fine architectural design, built by the side of a natural lake “Zaung Kalaw” to the north east of his capital was “Loka Muni Culla”. A big stone inscription set up in the precinct full records his deeds of good merit.

In politics, Thayawaddy was farsighted and were informed of the Anglo-French colonial rivalry reaching South-east Asia. He knew that these two Western Powers would come to his kingdom unless he took timely measures to prevent them. Burney suggested the exchange of Rakhine and Taninthayi with Pegu. That indicated to King Tharawaddy that the British would proceed with their territorial aggression in Myanmar. When Burney found that he was no longer a persona grata as a British Resident at the Court of Tharawaddy, returned home on the excuse of ill health.

Now the way was opened to King Tharawaddy to move forward with the plan he deemed best. In 1841 the court of Am-

arapura issued the announcement of the king's intended pilgrimage to Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Yangon. The announcement was soon followed by the sending of an advanced party to make preparation for the royal visit, causing much alarm among the British. The British Commissioner of Taninthayi sent an alarmist report to the Governor-General of British India saying the Burmese king was advancing to Yangon with 40 thousand troops to invade Taninthayi. The British Intelligence learnt that the “Burmese were constructing in Yangon not only palace, court, and offices, but also barracks, armoury, stone-houses, war boats, and vessels as if they were preparing for war. Myanmar Communities in lower Myanmar were much excited to see their king coming in state.

The declared intention of the king's riverine journey to Yangon was to worship Shwedagon. But did he have other motives? The following detail account of the king's progress attested that he intended to recover his lost territories by his might and main.

“After security and defence measures were taken and arrangements for maintenance of law and order were carried out, King Tharawaddy took a stately trip to Dagon via the Ayeyawaddy River. The following was the order of his flotilla.

“(1) The white Sampan, carrying the Buddha Images and Shin Pyu Paya, copies of Tipitaka, 8 images of Arahats Saints and Minister in charge of glebe lands, and his clerks supervising, took the lead of the procession

(2) Boats, Sampans, and rafts, carrying over 1500 gunners from Amyint, Taungtha, Alakapa, Myo Tha, and Pyay towns who formed the army under the command of royal son Prince Pyay followed next Prince Pyay bearing the title “Thiri Maha Thiha Thura Dhamma Yaza” was appointed General.

(3) Boats, Sampans, Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats carrying soldiers from the army under the command of Prince Taik Kala followed next.

(4) Boats, Sampans, Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats carrying soldiers from the army under the command of Prince Myin Kun followed next.

(5) Boats, Sampans, Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats carrying soldiers from the army under the command of Prince Thibaw followed next.

(6) Boats, Sampans, Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats carrying soldiers from the army under the command of Prince Thonze next.

(7) Boats, Sampans, Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats carrying soldiers from the army under the command of Prince Tayoke Myaw followed next.

(8) The glass-mosaic gilt Sampan bearing the royal elder brother who was the fourth ruler of Ratanapura Capital and builder of the palace (ex-king Bagyidaw). It was led by two Let pyi boats.

(9) The Sampan bearing the daughter of the royal elder brother and her ladies-in-waiting followed next.

(10) The Sampan bearing the Myosa of Magwe and the concubines whom he looked after followed next.

(11) The raft carrying royal treasurers in the care of Mingyi Maha Min Hla Nawrahta the Atwin Wun and Myosa of Zayun, and Maha Min Hla Thinkhaya, the Minister of Royal Steeds followed next.

(12) Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats carrying Myo Wun, Ponna Wun, Min Gyi, Maha Thiri Thihathu, Jailor, Myo Sayey and troop of Shay Yon Taw.

(13) Boat, carrying two Mingala Cannons on wheel, 30 cannons on wheel, an artillery of over 100 Feringees [Portuguese] and Pathi-Indian men under the command of the Minister of Artillery [Amyauk Wun].

(14) Barges, Kattu, Lwan Kyin and other boats, carrying the white standard of Shey Win war drums, war gongs, 6 big cannons, gold shields, gold hlwars, gold kas, Mone Lancers, Kaung Han troopers, Ywe Let ya gunners, Shwe Pyi gunners, gunners of Pyinzala town, totalling over one thousand in strength, with Mingyi Maha Min Khaung, the Commander of the Shey Win Taw in charge, Shey Win Sachi Ney Myo Theinkha Kyaw Thu as Sitke, Shey Win Sayey Nawrahta Kyaw Thu as Na Khan, Daing Sayey Nawrahta Yan Aung as Tatyey.

(To be continued)

Union Minister observes increasing development momentum in Shan State



Union Minister U Ohn Myint views progress of Rural Development Bank in Mandalay.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint made trips this week to the self-administered zone and division in Shan State.

On 18 November, he inspected rural roads, water supplies and basic education schools in Laukkai and Chinshwehaw townships.

While in Kaungkha, Kutkai Township, the union minister met departmental personnel, local militia and representatives of ethnic groups and towns' elders and urged them to make all-out efforts for restoring peace and the prevalence of law and order in Namkham and Palaung regions.

Locals reported on requirements of power supply, transport and livestock breeding on a commercial scale. The union minister fulfilled the requirements of Hsenwi, Kutkai, Namkham, Muse and Tamoey towns. On 19 November, the union minister viewed construction of Rural Development Bank in the compound of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Kyweseikan, Mandalay.

At Natyaygan fishery camp-3 in Mandalay, the union minister inspected fish breeding tasks and instructed officials to improve fish breeding and production of the camp.—MNA

At Natyaygan fishery camp-3 in Mandalay, the union minister inspected fish breeding tasks and instructed officials to improve fish breeding and production of the camp.—MNA

Venerable monks focus on religious affairs, Vinicchaya affairs in top-level meeting

YANGON, 21 Nov — The 6th Plenary Meeting of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued for the second day on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township on Friday.

Venerable Buddhist monks discussed religious affairs and disputes, the second meeting of the abbot training school central supervisory committee, draft rules for faculty members and students of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities, the formation of the central education committee for Dhammaçariya, Pahtamabayan, Nikaya, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga in 2015, the election of Vinaya enforcement committee members, the report of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee branch and Vinicchaya affairs.

MNA

Social Security Board, JIMTEF sign MoU on cooperation in public health

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — The Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the Japan International Medical Technology Foundation (JIMTEF) on Thursday signed an MoU on cooperation in public health at the Ministry here.

The MoU will serve to promote staff capacity building and health care services, Union Minister U Aye Myint said.

He went on to say that plans are underway to invite foreign direct investment to provide opportunities in the health care industry, which is one of the methods of providing better services to the public.

Currently, the Ministry is planning to sign agreements with local hospitals and clinics to give advanced health care services to security card holders, U Aye Myint added.

MNA

University faculty members urged to conduct more research to raise their capacity



Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo highlights capacity enhancement of faculty members of Technological and Computer universities.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — Faculty members and office staff are to abide by State policies, directives, rules and regulations to manage academics, student affairs and finances, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said at the coordination meeting of universities of technology and computer science at the ministry on 19 November.

He stressed the need to train students through information technology to be in step with the latest trends and urged faculty members to conduct research continuously to raise their qualifications so as to turn out qualified students.

Deputy Minister Dr Ba Shwe instructed officials to change their mindset for the development of their technological capability and in turning out skilled technicians.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat explained that the ministry is

boasting four working bays that can service more than 200 cars per month. The after-sales facility also comes with body and paint repair services that can handle not only cosmetic repairs but also structural repairs to damaged vehicles. The facility has more than 80 visitor parking lots located both indoors and outdoors.

"It is truly an honour to represent the world's leading premium car brand

implementing its vision and mission with the strength of nine departments.

Departmental heads discussed academic and management matters of respective universities as well as future plans.—MNA



A 10-member delegation led by general secretary Daw Hnin Wai of MWEA seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Bangkok of Thailand to attend METALEX 2014 Show from 19 to 21 November.—MWEA

Prestige Automobiles opens first BMW sales & service facility in Myanmar

By Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 21 Nov — Prestige Automobiles, the authorised BMW importer in Myanmar, recently opened its first BMW sales & service facility in Yangon — the largest and most advanced premium car brand building in the country.

Located at the corner of Pyay Road and Narnattaw Street, Kamayut Township,

the three-storey BMW facility occupies a total area of more than 6,000 square meters. The new facility comprises a display area that can hold up to eight BMW vehicles, along with a customer lounge area on the first floor. The second floor houses the sales office and meeting rooms, while the service centre is located on the third floor,

boasting four working bays that can service more than 200 cars per month. The after-sales facility also comes with body and paint repair services that can handle not only cosmetic repairs but also structural repairs to damaged vehicles. The facility has more than 80 visitor parking lots located both indoors and outdoors.

"It is truly an honour to represent the world's leading premium car brand

in Myanmar. Our showroom facility, which took nine months to complete, is currently the most advanced car showroom and service centre in Myanmar. Apart from offering a comfortable showroom environment for our customers to view our cars, we have state-of-the-art servicing equipment and facilities. For instance, our car body repair tools are able to handle not only surface repairs, but structural

repairs to damaged vehicles as well. We look forward to providing our local customers with exciting new BMW models as well as the best possible customer service from our staff," said Mr. Chan Mya, managing director of Prestige Automobiles.

"BMW Asia is delighted to deliver Sheer Driving Pleasure to Myanmar. The move is part of our strategy to expand our reach to more customers in

this part of the world, and to provide local customers with the BMW products that best cater to their needs. With the experience and expertise of the Prestige Automobiles team, we are confident that they are the best candidate to represent BMW in Myanmar," said Mr. Ramesh Divyanathan, director of Sales Channel Development and Customer Relations of BMW Group Asia.

US seeks ways to stop Americans from becoming 'foreign fighters'

BOSTON, 21 Nov — The US Department of Homeland Security has set up a task force to identify ways to prevent Americans from travelling abroad to become "foreign fighters," a problem that the government has said is one of the nation's top security concerns.

The task force, which was disclosed on Tuesday in the Federal Register, will also examine whether current security policies are adequate to prevent the return of "foreign fighters" who have been trained

overseas.

FBI Director James Comey said on Tuesday that his agency is tracking close to 150 Americans that it believes travelled to Syria in recent months, potentially to join armed groups.

He said Americans fighting with foreign jihadist groups were a top concern for the FBI because of the possibility they could return to the United States with the training, expertise and connections required to launch an attack on home soil.—Reuters



FBI Director James Comey takes a question from a reporter during a news conference at the FBI office in Boston, Massachusetts on 18 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Swedish appeal court upholds Assange detention order

STOCKHOLM, 21 Nov — A Swedish court rejected on Thursday an appeal by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to revoke a detention order issued over allegations of sexual assault, but called on prosecutors to make more effort to question him.

Assange's Swedish lawyer said the decision would be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The 43-year-old Australian has been stuck inside Ecuador's London embassy since June 2012 to avoid a British extradition to Sweden, which wants to question him on allegations of sexual assault and rape but have insisted he must come to Sweden first.

Assange's lawyers have argued that the arrest warrant should be repealed because it cannot be enforced while Assange is in the embassy, and Swedish prosecutors had not travelled to London to interrogate him.

"There is no reason to set aside the detention

solely because Julian Assange is in an embassy and the detention order cannot be enforced at present for that reason," the Svea Court of Appeal said in a statement.

The court also said Swedish prosecutors had not made enough effort to interrogate Assange outside Sweden and said the "failure of the prosecutors to examine alternative avenues is not in line with their obligation".

Per Samuelson, one of Assange's lawyers, told Reuters he read this to mean that the court believed the defence was right, but that it did not dare take the full consequences and lift the detention order.

"If you don't do it now, the arrest warrant will go next time, that is how it looks, like a warning," he said of the court's comments.

Prosecutor Marianne Ny said in a statement: "Like the court of appeals says, there is every reason to continue considering how the case should be



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange gestures during a news conference at the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London on 18 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

taken forward."

Assange denies the allegations and says he fears Sweden would extradite him to the United States, where he could be put on trial for one of the largest classified information leaks in US history.

Samuelson said Assange would not leave the embassy before he could do so without risking ending up in a US prison.

"This is about the threat of extradition to the US and 35 years of jail there," Assange's lawyer said. "As long as that threat remains, there is no doubt he will stay at the embassy."

Assange was initially taken into custody in London but freed on bail, later claiming political asylum in Ecuador's Embassy.

Reuters

Australia fears Islamist radicals joining forces with biker gangs

SYDNEY, 21 Nov — Australia is confronting what authorities say is a growing threat from home-grown Islamist radicals and fears a new danger is about to rumble over the horizon — would-be militants hooking up with biker gangs.

Islamism and organized crime are already mixing, said retired New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Clive Small, and the new gang members use radical Islam as a justification for joining.

"You can have a person who says I'm in it (a gang), I'm selling drugs, because Australia's a bad place and we need to raise money to take over," Small told Reuters.

"So you've got this rationale which justifies almost anything you want."

More than 800 police were involved in counter-terrorism raids in Sydney and Brisbane in September, which authorities said thwarted a plot by militants linked to the Islamic State to behead a random member of the public.

Last month, Australia passed laws aimed at preventing youngsters going to fight in Iraq and Syria, where scores of Australians have joined militant groups, and is on high alert for attacks at home by radicalized Muslims.

Convicted murderer and



Members of the Mongols Motorcycle Club prepare to ride away from their clubhouse compound located in western Sydney on 9 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Brothers 4 Life gang boss Bassam Hamzy adopted the mantle of radical Islam behind bars while ordering his gang to join forces with the Bandidos Motorcycle Club in a bloody drug war, media said.

The new link between radical Islam and bikers is partly a consequence of Australia's changing demographics.

More than a quarter century ago, when Mark "Ferret" Moroney joined the Finks Outlaw Motorcycle Club, members were like him: tough, covered in tattoos and,

like much of Australia at the time, white.

The gangs have since been transformed by an influx of members of Middle Eastern origin, some of whom do not even ride motorcycles.

"It changed the clubs' style a little bit. In the Mongol Nation you must have a motorcycle to be a member or to hang around," Moroney, who defected from the Finks in 2013 to become national president of the rival, all-white Mongol Nation, said.—Reuters

New Zealand aircraft to serve another year in counter-piracy mission

WELLINGTON, 21 Nov — A New Zealand air force P3 Orion aircraft is to remain in the Gulf of Aden for another year to support the international operation against piracy, Defense Minister Gerry Brownlee announced on Friday.

"New Zealand has had a P3 Orion supporting international counter-piracy operations as part of the Combined Maritime Forces since earlier this year and that deployment is coming to a close," Brownlee said in a statement.

"The Orion has performed a valuable role that has been welcomed by our international part-

ners."

As a trading nation, New Zealand had a direct interest in ensuring that global shipping routes were protected from piracy and transnational crime.

"Our decision to extend the deployment of a P3 Orion to the Gulf until December 2015 is a reflection of the importance New Zealand attaches to multilateral security efforts," Brownlee said.

As part of a detachment to the United States Naval Forces Central Command, the aircraft would contribute to a range of maritime security operations.—Xinhua



Pakistani soldiers inspect the train at the blast site in southwest Pakistan's Mustang on 20 Nov, 2014. At least 12 people were injured when a passenger train derailed after a blast in southwestern Pakistan on Thursday, local media reported.

XINHUA

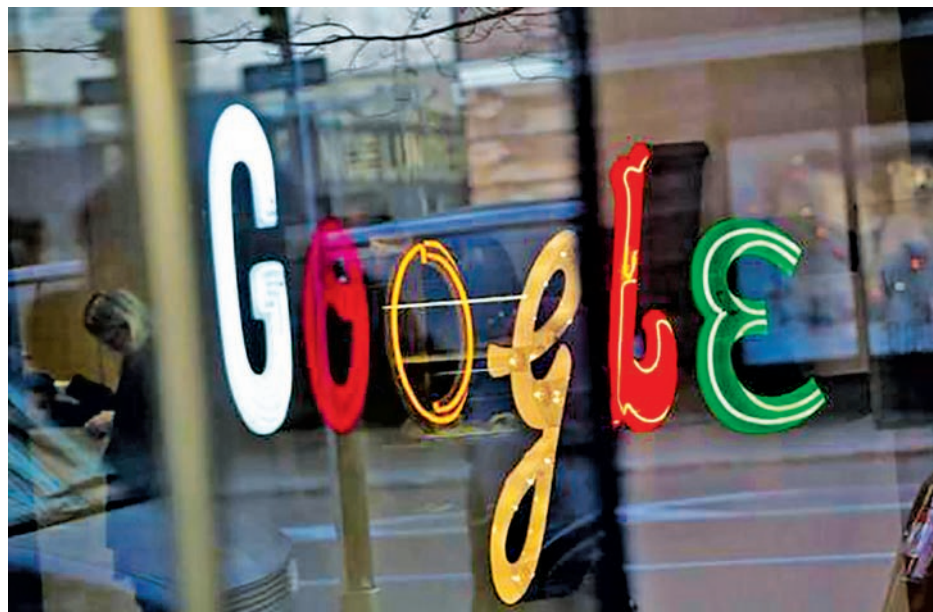
Google, Rockstar agree to settle patent litigation

NEW YORK, 21 Nov — Google Inc (GOOGL.O) has agreed to settle litigation with patent consortium Rockstar, though terms of the deal were not disclosed in a court filing made public this week.

Rockstar, which counts Apple Inc (AAPL.O) as an investor, outbid Google and paid \$4.5 billion (2.87 billion pounds) in 2011 for thousands of former Nortel Network Corp patents as the networking products supplier went bankrupt.

In October last year, Rockstar sued Google and several handset manufacturers whose phones operate on Google's Android operating system. Rockstar accused Google of infringing seven Nortel patents, all related to search engine technology.

Google and Rockstar have agreed to settle "all matters in controversy between the parties," according to a filing in an Texas federal court on Monday. However, the document does not say whether Rockstar has also settled with



The Google signage is seen at the company's offices in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

handset makers including Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS).

A Google spokesman declined to comment on Thursday, and Rockstar representatives could not immediately be reached. Samsung and Apple spokespeople were also not immediately available.

Google and Rockstar have reached a term sheet,

which will be "reduced to a definitive agreement" over the next few weeks, the court filing said.

On that same day, Rockstar sued several handset makers over a different batch of patents. Google then asked a California judge to rule that devices using the Android platform had not infringed the patents cited by Rock-

star against the handset makers.

Google succeeded in halting the Texas proceedings against the handset makers while its California case plays out. Earlier this month Cisco said it had signed a term sheet with Rockstar and would take a \$188 million charge related to that agreement.

Reuters

HIV drugs show promise in treating common eye disease

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — A class of drugs used for three decades by people infected with the virus that causes AIDS may be effective in treating a leading cause of blindness among the elderly.

HIV drugs called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), including AZT and three others, blocked age-related macular degen-

eration in mice and worked well in experiments involving human retinal cells in the laboratory, researchers said on Thursday.

In HIV-infected people, NRTIs block an enzyme the virus uses to create more copies of itself. The new research shows the drugs also block the activity of a biological pathway responsible for activating inflammatory

processes in the body.

It is that previously unrecognized quality that makes NRTIs promising for treating macular degeneration as well as graft-versus-host disease, a rarer ailment that can occur after a stem cell or bone marrow transplant, the researchers said.

University of Kentucky ophthalmologist Dr Jayakrishna Ambati, who

led the study published in the journal *Science*, said macular generation affects an estimated 50 million people worldwide.

"With the aging of the population, it is projected to affect 200 million people by the year 2020. It is therefore critical that we develop new and improved treatments for this disease, which is growing like an epidemic," Ambati said.

Macular degeneration causes cells to die in the macula, a part of the eye located near the center of the retina that permits vision in fine detail.

The chronic disease has two forms: "dry" and "wet." Several treatments exist for "wet" macular degeneration but only about a third of patients get significant vision improvement. There are no approved treatments for the "dry" form, which is much more common but less severe.

The "wet" type occurs when abnormal blood vessels grow under the macula and leak blood and fluid. The "dry" form occurs when cells in the macula break down.—Reuters

Cable & Wireless helped Britain spy on the world — Channel 4

LONDON, 21 Nov — Telecommunications firm Cable & Wireless helped Britain eavesdrop on millions of Internet users worldwide, Channel 4 reported on Thursday, citing previously secret documents leaked by a fugitive former US National Security Agency contractor.

Cable & Wireless, which was bought by Vodafone (VOD.L) in 2012, provided British spies with traffic from rival foreign communications companies, Britain's Channel 4 television said, citing documents stolen by Edward Snowden. Channel 4 said Cable & Wireless gave Britain's GCHQ eavesdropping agency access by renting space on one of the arteries of global communications, a cable that runs to the southern English region of Cornwall.

The Channel 4 report, which was impossible to immediately verify given the secrecy of the surveillance programmes, said Cable & Wireless carried out surveillance on Internet traffic through its networks on behalf of British spies.

The documents cited in the report were not shown on Channel 4's web site. But previous disclosures by Snowden have illustrated the scale of US and British eavesdropping on everything from phone calls and emails to Internet and social media.

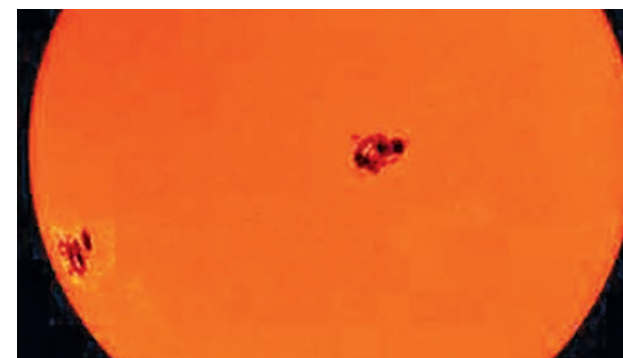
Some telecommunications and Internet companies in Britain and the United States were asked or forced to cooperate with the eavesdropping programmes, according to previous media reports. When asked for comment on the Channel 4 report, Vodafone said in a statement that it had examined the history of Cable & Wireless compliance and found no evidence that would substantiate the allegations.

"We have found no indication whatsoever of unlawful activity within Vodafone or Cable & Wireless and we do not recognize any of the UK intelligence agency programmes identified," it said in a statement. "Furthermore, Vodafone does not own or operate the cables referred to."

It added that national laws require it to disclose some information about its customers to law enforcement agencies or other government authorities when asked to do so.

Reuters

Japan records huge sunspot cluster 66 times size of Earth



TOKYO, 21 Nov — Japanese space probe and observatory have recorded huge sunspot activity with a sunspot cluster 66 times the size of Earth, the *Asahi Shimbun* reported on Thursday.

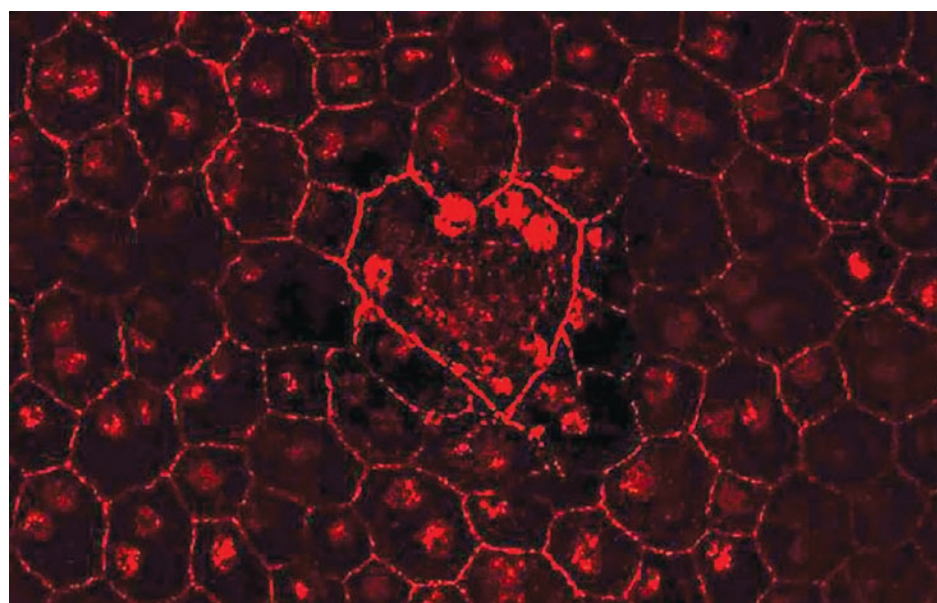
Images of the sunspot cluster were released by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on Wednesday.

The solar observation probe Hinode and NAOJ took pictures of the sunspots on 16-30 October, before the sun's rotation obstructed the view. The sunspot cluster could be seen again on 15 November, but it had shrunk to one-third of its peak size on 26 October.

Sunspots appear in big clusters when the sun is most active. Large solar flares, a phenomenon triggered by sunspot activity, were also observed on the surface of the sun on six occasions in October.

Solar activity intensifies and then decreases over an 11-year cycle, according to the observatory. The sun currently appears to be in one of the most active phases of that cycle, it said.

The last time such a huge sunspot appeared was in 1990. That sunspot was 74 times the size of Earth and was observed over a four-month period.—Xinhua



Retinal pigment epithelium (cell borders in red) treated with an HIV/AIDS drug are seen in an undated handout picture courtesy of Younghee Kim from the University of Kentucky.—REUTERS

Pacific free trade talks likely to resume in US on 7 December

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — Twelve countries involved in a Pacific free trade initiative are arranging to resume their negotiations on 7 December in Washington, a *US trade* magazine said on Thursday.

Officials from the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and eight other countries are set to take part in working-level talks on a trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership through 12 December, likely involving chief negotiators, it said.

The negotiators for the US-led scheme, which would cover some 40 per cent of global gross domestic product, are expected to discuss remaining sticking points such as tariffs, intellectual property and reform of state-owned firms. Bilateral meetings could also be held.

The countries have given up striking a broad deal by the end of the year despite holding ministerial and leaders' meetings earlier this month in Beijing.

The eight other TPP member countries are Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Japan and the United States, the two largest economies in the framework, are still at odds over market access for agricultural and automotive products and a bilateral accord is widely seen as vital to accelerate the whole process.

Kyodo News

Japan raises military profile in naval war games with US

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON PACIFIC OCEAN, 21 Nov — Japan stepped up its role in large-scale war games with the United States this week, with one of its admirals commanding air and sea maneuvers that the US military described as the most complex ever overseen by the Japanese navy.

The Keen Sword exercises involving more than 30,000 Japanese troops and 11,000 US personnel come as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeks a higher profile for Japan in the security alliance.

At the same time, Washington has encouraged Tokyo to take a greater share of the defence burden, especially as China's military modernizes rapidly.

Rear Admiral Hidetoshi Iwasaki commanded a flotilla of two dozen destroyers, including American ships, in the Pacific Ocean south of the Japanese mainland during the exercises, which are held every other year.

Iwasaki, a commander of a Japanese Self Defence Force escort flotilla, played a more prominent role than his predecessors in previous Keen Sword drills, beginning months

ago with the formulation of battle plans and culminating in an unexpected event during the highly scripted games, officials said.

His main task during the exercises was to guard America's prize military asset in Asia, the nuclear aircraft carrier *USS George Washington*, from surface and undersea threats.

"It is the largest and most complex operation in which a (Japanese naval officer) has been the sea combatant commander," said Rear Admiral John Alexander, commander of the George Washington battle force.

As Alexander spoke, the roar and rattle of *F-18* jet fighters taking off and the scrape of landing tail hooks on the flight deck above his cabin provided a steady reminder of the complex war games overhead.

The George Washington battle group is the most potent maritime force in Asia and the heart of the US Seventh Fleet.

Alongside the 100,000-tonne US behemoth sailed Iwasaki's flag ship, the guided-missile destroyer *Kirishima* — its rising-sun ensign, a sym-



US Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force ships steam in formation during their military manoeuvre exercise known as Keen Sword 15 in the sea south of Japan, in this 19 Nov, 2014 handout provided by the US Navy.—REUTERS

bol inherited from the wartime Imperial Navy, flying from its main mast.

Japan and the United States are reviewing their security alliance for the first time in 17 years, with the conclusion in the coming months expected to give Japan's military a bigger role in defending the home islands.

Abe has made a priority of strengthening Japan's military, reversing a decade of defence spending

cuts, easing curbs on arms exports and reinterpreting the pacifist postwar Constitution to allow Japanese troops to fight overseas for the first time since World War Two.

As President Barack Obama pivots the US security focus toward Asia, his budget-strapped government wants Japan to take greater responsibility for its own defence.

"The US-Japan defence relationship has

historically suffered from being unbalanced, with the Americans being required to do too much of the 'hard work'," said Grant Newsam, a research fellow at the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies.

"This is no longer politically sustainable, especially in Washington DC," said Newsam, a former US Marine liaison officer to the Japanese army.

Reuters

Bird flu outbreak hits second Dutch farm, exports to remain frozen

AMSTERDAM, 21 Nov — A second Dutch farm was hit by an outbreak of bird flu, the government said on Thursday, prompting the destruction of 43,000 chickens and prolonging restrictions on trade in the world's leading egg-exporting country.

A three-day, nationwide ban on the transporta-

tion of all poultry, eggs and related farm products was extended until Sunday, a statement said. The measures have already caused up to 100 million euros (79.7 million pounds) in losses for farmers, said Gert-Jan Oplaat, president of the poultry farmers' association. Industry groups say an extension

could bankrupt smaller producers. Infections have also been discovered on farms in Germany and Britain.

The infection announced on Thursday was of the H5 strain, the government said, but it was unclear if it was the highly-contagious H5N8 virus discovered last week at a farm 20

km (12 miles) away. As in the previous outbreak, authorities imposed a 10 km (6 miles) exclusion zone around the farm in Ter Are, in the central Netherlands, and were testing four nearby farms for the virus. The first case in the Netherlands was reported last weekend in the village of Hekendorp,

prompting the culling of 150,000 laying hens. Tests show that bird flu viruses found in Germany, the Netherlands and Britain are similar to one that devastated poultry flocks in South Korea earlier this year, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said on Wednesday. —*Reuters*

Australian navy seizes heroin worth \$158 million near east Africa



Australian Navy ship HMAS Toowoomba is seen from the Japan Coast Guard Gulfstream V aircraft as it flies over the southern Indian Ocean as they look for debris from missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 on 1 April, 2014.—REUTERS

NAIROBI, 21 Nov — An Australian Navy warship patrolling Indian Ocean waters seized heroin worth \$158 million near east Africa this week, a navy official said on Thursday, one of the region's biggest heroin hauls in recent years.

East Africa has become a key export route for Afghan heroin destined for Europe but regional maritime forces, short of funds and anti-trafficking expertise, have struggled to stem the flow of narcotics through their territorial waters.

Crew from the frigate *HMAS Toowoomba* board-

ed a dhow in international waters on Monday and confiscated 388 kg of heroin in hessian bags after an intelligence tip-off, the 30-country Coalition Maritime Forces (CMF) naval group said in a statement on its website.

"The teams ashore and onboard the ship provided key pieces of the puzzle which led to this successful intercept," said Cath Hayes, the commanding officer of *HMAS Toowoomba*.

HMAS Toowoomba was deployed as part of CMF to counter piracy, militancy, smuggling and other illegal activities in

an area covering the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman.

The CMF did not give the precise location of the seizure but to date most of the major heroin seizures in east Africa took place near Kenya and Tanzania, widely seen as the main gateways for Afghan drugs into east Africa.

In April, another Australian warship near Kenya raided a dhow with 1,023 kg of heroin on board, which remains the record heroin haul seized by the CMF in the region.

Reuters

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st November, 2014: Isolated light rain or thunder-showers are likely in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

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Residents in western New York call snow worst in memory

NEW YORK, 21 Nov — Fresh snow fell on Thursday in snowbound western New York, where longtime residents described the blast of winter weather as the worst in memory.

At least eight deaths were blamed on the storm.

Some areas of New York state along the Great Lakes had nearly 2 feet (60 cm) of new snow on top of accumulations as high as 5 feet (1.5 metres) from earlier in the week.

The National Weather Service said parts of the region could expect 3 feet (90 cm) more snow before skies clear on Friday.

"I've been in a lot of snowstorms, and this is by far the worst. There's been more snow in the shortest period of time I've ever seen," said Chuck Specht, 58, who reported 7 feet (2.1 metres) of snow at his house in Marilla, New York.

Specht was trying unsuccessfully to clear a patch in the snow for the family dog to relieve itself, he said.

"Even for seasoned veterans, this is getting to be a bit much to handle," he said.



Heavy equipment works to clear a road following an autumn snow storm in Lackawanna, near Buffalo, New York on 20 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

The Buffalo Bills will not play their home game against the New York Jets on Sunday because of public safety concerns, the National Football League said. The NFL said it was in the process of rescheduling and relocating the game.

The Bills had earlier offered to pay \$10 an hour plus game tickets to people willing to shovel what it said were 220,000 tons of snow in its stadium.

The National Hockey League postponed the Buffalo Sabres' home game

against the New York Rangers on Friday night "due to the continuing weather-related difficulties in the Greater Buffalo area and out of respect for the fans of the Sabres."

Erie County Deputy Executive Richard Tobe said roof collapses posed a threat, especially at mobile home parks.

"With this heavy snow load now, there are buildings that are in danger," he said.

Nearly 5 feet of snow

had Tom Irwin, 68, and his family housebound since Monday in Derby, New York, near Buffalo.

"We decided to make the most of it. We put the Christmas tree up," he said. "It's certainly the worst storm we've experienced, and we've been here just under 30 years."

States of emergency are in effect for 10 counties, driving was banned on many roads and 140 miles (225 km) of the New York State Thruway were closed.

Reuters

Britain pledges 720 million pounds to UN Green Climate Fund



Smog surrounds The Shard, western Europe's tallest building, and St Paul's Cathedral in London on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 21 Nov — Britain has pledged up to 720 million pounds on Thursday to a United Nations fund to help poor nations cope with global warming, the government said.

tions fund to help poor nations cope with global warming, the government said.

The contribution is equivalent to around 12 percent of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), whose total funds currently stand at around \$9 billion (5.74 billion pounds), based on pledges from 13 countries, it said. At the weekend, the United States pledged \$3 billion and Japan promised \$1.5 billion. Germany and France have pledged \$1 billion each. Britain's contribution will come from existing funds earmarked for international climate work. High-level fund donors are meeting in Berlin on Thursday. The UN has set an informal target of raising

\$10 billion this year. Italy, Canada and Australia are among the major donors yet to announce pledges.

The cash is intended to help emerging economies curb their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changes such as heatwaves, mudslides and rising sea levels, widely seen as vital to unlock a UN climate deal meant to be agreed in late 2015 in Paris. The GCF is a major part of a 2009 plan to increase financial flows from public and private sources to help developing nations tackle climate change to \$100 billion a year by 2020.—Reuters

EU duty approval to come just in time for Kenya's Valentine roses

NAIROBI, 21 Nov — The renewal of a duty-free regime between the European Union and five east African nations may not win approval until January, an EU official said, bringing it dangerously close to the Valentine's Day holiday so lucrative for Kenya's flower growers.

The flowers sold in the two weeks leading up to 14 February account for about a third of annual sales for Kenya's flower producers, some 90 percent of them roses, according to the Fresh Producers Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK).

"We're looking at the third or fourth week of January. I do not think it's going to be possible to speed up the procedures further," Lodewijk Briet, EU ambassador to Kenya, told Reuters.

A European Union tax on fresh fruit, vegetables and flow-

ers from the five nations has been in effect since 1 October after the parties missed a deadline to renew the duty-free export regime.

Although they reached an agreement to renew last month, the pact now awaits approval by the European Parliament and European Commission.

"We should certainly not take parliament for granted," Briet said. Chief executive of FPEAK Stephen Mbithi said he was still hopeful of approval by the end of December.

Horticulture — the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, flowers and nuts — is a leading source of foreign exchange for Kenya alongside tea exports and tourism, and agriculture accounts for about a quarter of Kenya's gross domestic product.—Reuters



A worker tends to rose-flowers in this file photo, to be exported to Europe ahead of Valentine's Day, inside a greenhouse at the Oserian farm in Naivasha, 100km (62 miles) from Kenya's capital Nairobi, on 12 Feb, 2009.—REUTERS

Anniversary of Convention on Rights of Child held in UN headquarters



Young participants speak during an event marking the global launch of UNICEF "Imagine Project" and the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 20 Nov, 2014. The UNICEF "Imagine Project" is a musical and technological initiative helping to highlight the challenges children face and raise funds for UNICEF's work worldwide.—XINHUA

Mike Nichols, award-winning American director, dies at 83

NEW YORK, 21 Nov — Mike Nichols, a nine-time Tony Award winner on Broadway and the Oscar-winning director of influential films such as "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," "The Graduate," and "Carnal Knowledge," died on Wednesday at age 83. The prolific director passed away at his home of cardiac arrest, his spokeswoman said. A private service for the family will be held this week, followed by a memorial at a future date.

No director had ever moved between Broadway and Hollywood as easily as Nichols, one of the few people to win the Oscar,



Director Mike Nichols poses next to a poster for his new film "Closer" as he arrives for the film's premiere in Los Angeles in a 22 Nov, 2004 file photo.—REUTERS

Tony, Emmy and Grammy Awards.

Nichols, whose career first blossomed with a comedy partnership with Elaine May in the late 1950s, was

married to Diane Sawyer, former anchorwoman of ABC's "World News Tonight" broadcast. ABC News President James Goldston announced Nichols' death in a memo to staff, saying he "passed away suddenly on Wednesday evening." "In a triumphant career that spanned over six decades, Mike created some of the most iconic works of American film, television and theatre," Goldston said. "He was a true visionary." In memory of Nichols, marquees on Broadway theatres in New York will be dimmed on Friday evening for one minute.—Reuters

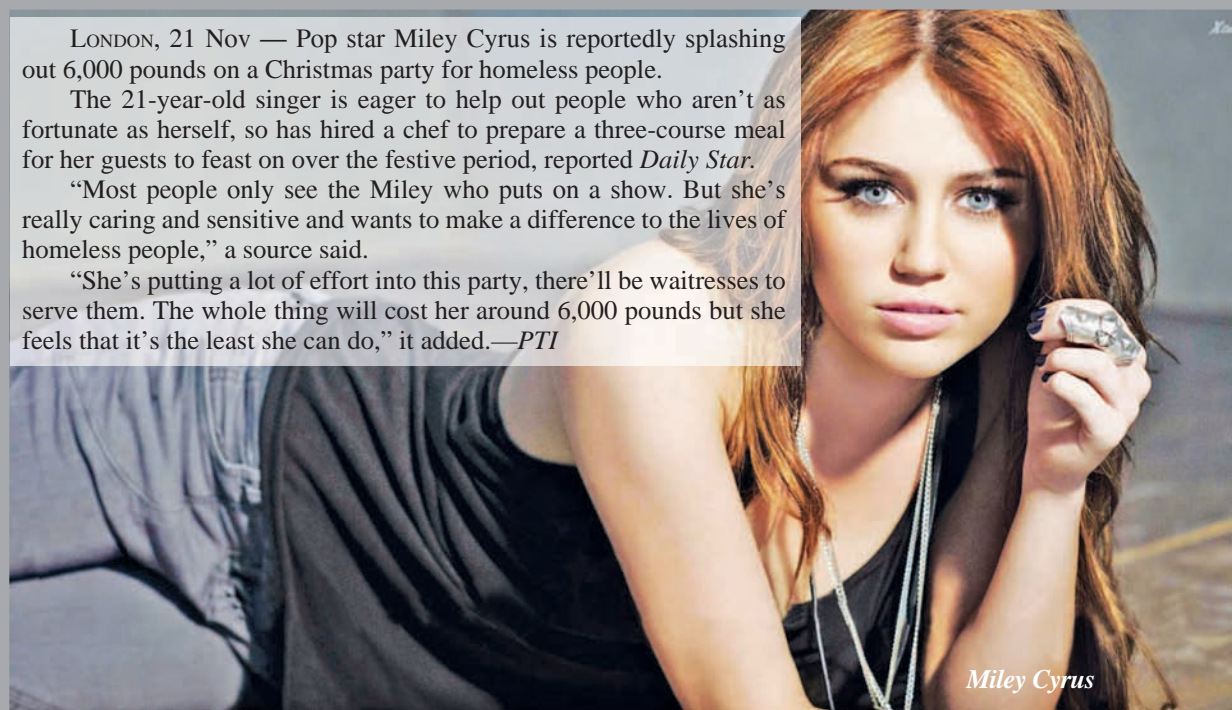
Miley Cyrus' Christmas party for homeless people

LONDON, 21 Nov — Pop star Miley Cyrus is reportedly splashing out 6,000 pounds on a Christmas party for homeless people.

The 21-year-old singer is eager to help out people who aren't as fortunate as herself, so has hired a chef to prepare a three-course meal for her guests to feast on over the festive period, reported *Daily Star*.

"Most people only see the Miley who puts on a show. But she's really caring and sensitive and wants to make a difference to the lives of homeless people," a source said.

"She's putting a lot of effort into this party, there'll be waitresses to serve them. The whole thing will cost her around 6,000 pounds but she feels that it's the least she can do," it added.—PTI



Miley Cyrus

Angelina Jolie to quit acting for direction

LOS ANGELES, 21 Nov — After a successful acting career, Angelina Jolie says she has found her true calling as a director.

The Oscar-winning actress, who made her debut as a director with critically acclaimed war drama 'In the Land of Blood and Honey', picked up another challenging project, the incredible life journey of World War II veteran Louis Zamperini that releases this Christmas, for her second film.

In an interview to *DuJour*, Jolie said she fought for the project which was gestating for almost half a century.

Jolie, 39, feels she is finally at home with directing. "I've never been comfortable as an actor; I've never loved being in front of the camera. I didn't ever think I could direct, but I



Angelina Jolie

hope I'm able to have a career at it because I'm much happier," Jolie told the luxury magazine.

When asked whether she plans to give up acting entirely, Jolie said, "Absolutely." But before that happens, Jolie is multitasking as a writer, actor and di-

rector for period love story 'By the Sea', starring husband Brad Pitt. The movie is about a 1970s American couple and their complicated marriage during a trip to France.

"Compared to 'Unbroken', this film is a walk in the park. The tricky thing is directing myself and directing Brad. It's hard, dramatic material, and we're balancing."

It is first time that the two are working together after meeting on the set of 2005 film 'Mr & Mrs Smith'.

"It's a heavy film, and it's not easy for us. But even as you struggle through it, you're in the trenches together and you don't expect it to be easy. We're challenging each other and that's a really good thing."

PTI

'Aladdin' writer to pen Robert Downey Jr's next

LOS ANGELES, 21 Nov — 'Aladdin' scribe Terry Rossio has been roped in to pen the film based on unfinished notes developed by Hollywood star Steve McQueen before his death, which will star Robert Downey Jr 'Yucatan' is described as an 'epic adventure heist' film. It is based on a 1700-page treatment written by the iconic in the late 1960s, reported *Deadline*.

McQueen's detailed template for the movie was found in two leather-bound trunks after his death. His vision involved a renegade salvage expert's search for Mayan treasure in the Yucatan Peninsula in Southern



'Aladdin' scribe Terry Rossio has been roped in to pen the film based on unfinished notes developed by Hollywood star Steve McQueen before his death, which will star Robert Downey Jr.—REUTERS

Mexico. "To imbue a McQueen project with a sense of how he might have made it nowadays is a challenge and a thrill. Rossio is more than a great writer, he's the perfect fit to embrace the existential nature of the project with the action, story and characters that drive 'Yucatan'," Downey, 49, said

in a statement. The updated plot is under wraps, but Rossio and Downey Jr are using the original premise as a jumping-off point for a mind-bending adventure story. Downey Jr's wife Susan Downey is producing with him and David Gambino, along with Dan Lin from Lin Pictures.—PTI

Christoph Waltz set for Walk Of Fame honour



Christoph Waltz will become the 15th Austrian-born celebrity to unveil a star. PTI

LOS ANGELES, 21 Nov — Austrian actor Christoph Waltz will receive the 2,536th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame this December. The 58-year-old Oscar winner's friend and 'Django Unchained' director Quentin Tarantino will be among the speakers inducting Waltz prior to the unveiling, reported *Hollywood Life*. Announcing the news, Ana Martinez, the producer of the Walk of Fame ceremonies, said, "Christoph Waltz is one of Austria's greatest exports and Hollywood is thrilled to add his name to our internationally known Walk of Fame." The ceremony will come between the US releases of two of Waltz' films — comedy 'Horrible Bosses' 2 and Tim Burton's drama 'Big Eyes'. Waltz will become the 15th Austrian-born celebrity to unveil a star — the others include Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hedy Lamar, Peter Lorre and Billy Wilder.—PTI

GENERAL

Martinez dismisses Keane's Irish claims as 'nonsense'

LONDON, 21 Nov — Everton manager Roberto Martinez dismissed Ireland assistant manager Roy Keane's claims that the Premier League club put pressure on their players not to play for Ireland as "complete nonsense" on Thursday.

Keane suggested that Everton put pressure on their Ireland players to exaggerate injuries so they would miss internationals but Martinez dismissed that when he spoke to reporters before Saturday's match against West Ham United.

Aidan McGeady, Darren Gibson, Seamus Coleman and James McCarthy are all Ireland regulars and Martinez said Keane's comments were "complete nonsense".

Asked if what Keane said upset him, he said, "No. The only thing I care about is the players."

"We've produced four



Everton manager Roberto Martinez kicks away the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 5 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

players for the Republic of Ireland, four incredible characters, four players who just love playing for their country and it is disappointing when you see that someone could put that in doubt.

"I have a good relation-

ship with Martin O'Neill, the Ireland manager, we keep in touch frequently and we share information, and at this club we are very proud when our players represent their countries."

Everton are hoping that McCarthy, Coleman and

Gibson will be fit to face West Ham and also hope that Leighton Baines will be fit following a hamstring injury.

West Ham could be without two players who have been crucial to their excellent start to the season.

Senegal striker Diafra Sakho, who has scored six goals for the Hammers in six starts, suffered a back problem which forced him out of his country's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier with Botswana on Wednesday.

Midfielder Stewart Downing, who played for the opening 45 minutes of England's friendly against Scotland on Tuesday, suffered a knee injury and is a doubt for the Goodison Park clash.

West Ham are fourth in the standings and unbeaten in their last five league matches.

Manager Sam Allardyce told reporters he was prepared to wait until Saturday morning before finalising his lineup. — Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(22-11-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am

* Nice & Sweet song

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:40 am

* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

* News / International News

9:50 am

* Colour of ASEAN

10:20 am

* Current Affairs

12:00 noon

* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

* Hluttaw Image

12:45 pm

* Round up of the Week's TV Local News

1:15 pm

* Round up of the Hluttaw News

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (English)

5:15 pm

* Game for Children

7:00 pm

* News

7:20 pm

* Teleplay

8:00 pm

* News / International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Business News

9:00 pm

* News

* Myanmar Series

* Gitadagale

* Phwintbarohn

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-11-14 07:00 am~ 23-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * The Planetary Posts
- * World News
- * History of MraukU Pagoda
- * Local News
- * Ar Khar New Year Festival
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * Human Right, Human Dignity Film Festival "Seller"
- * World News
- * Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
- * Local News
- * Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
- * World News
- * In The Studio "Aw Thada"
- * Local News
- * Pa O in the Union
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * The Hills of Phowintaung and Shwebataung
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass "Contemporary Art"
- * Local News
- * Traditional Matrimony of Khamti Shans
- * World News
- * Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
- * Local News
- * Oboist and His Life
- * World News
- * In The Studio "Six Thu"

Irish abstract artist Scully paints for big walls in China



Artist Sean Scully poses with his works "Landline Brÿke 5.14" (L) and "Landline Blue Blue" at the Timothy Taylor Gallery in London on 20 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

LONDON, 21 Nov — Irish-American abstract artist Sean Scully counts Irish rocker Bono among his pals and collectors. He wouldn't be unhappy if some of China's 1.4 billion people also took a shine to his art being displayed at a retrospective in Shanghai later this month.

Scully, 69, and something of a bear of a man, is delighted that billionaire Chinese property developer Dai Zhikang will show some 100 of his artworks at his Shanghai Himalayas Museum from 24 November until 25 January. The collection ranges from early in his career to the present day, many of them giant canvases painted with big rectangles of colour.

The exhibition is, Scully said, the first big retrospective of modern abstract Western art ever mounted in China. He is pleased it is his works that have been selected, and not some of the perhaps buzzier contemporary art world figures like Jeff Koons or Damien Hirst. "My art is meant to be global and that's why I do abstract art," he told Reuters. "But my work is not simply formalist, it's layered with all kinds of artistic, social and cultural references and this I think has been very attractive to the Chinese."

It also will be a test of whether Scully's work can crack the increasingly affluent Chinese art market. His works already are held by Western collectors and museums.

The exhibition will include early canvases when Scully began work as a figurative artist, including some land and seascapes, to the present-day paintings where geometric shapes predominate. — Reuters

Texas woman sues family after her dogs kill neighbour's pet beagle

HOUSTON, 21 Nov — The owner of three pit bulls and a pit-bull mix is seeking up to \$1 million in damages after her dogs entered the Houston-area property of her neighbour and fatally attacked her neighbour's 10-year-old beagle.

Emerald White said she was trying to retrieve her four dogs from her neighbour's yard when the beagle attacked her, causing her dogs to attack, the lawsuit said.

The beagle's owners, the Baker family, said the pit bulls broke into their yard and started the incident that left their beagle, Bailey, dead a few minutes after the attack ended in the Houston suburb of Texas City.

White's attorney, Paul LaValle, told local broadcaster KHOU-TV: "I'm getting the hate mail and the death threats. They have a very good PR campaign working for the family that owned the beagle."

White's lawsuit said her neighbours were negligent and that she suffered from mental anguish, disfigurement, pain, loss of earnings and a fear of future disease because of the beagle attack.

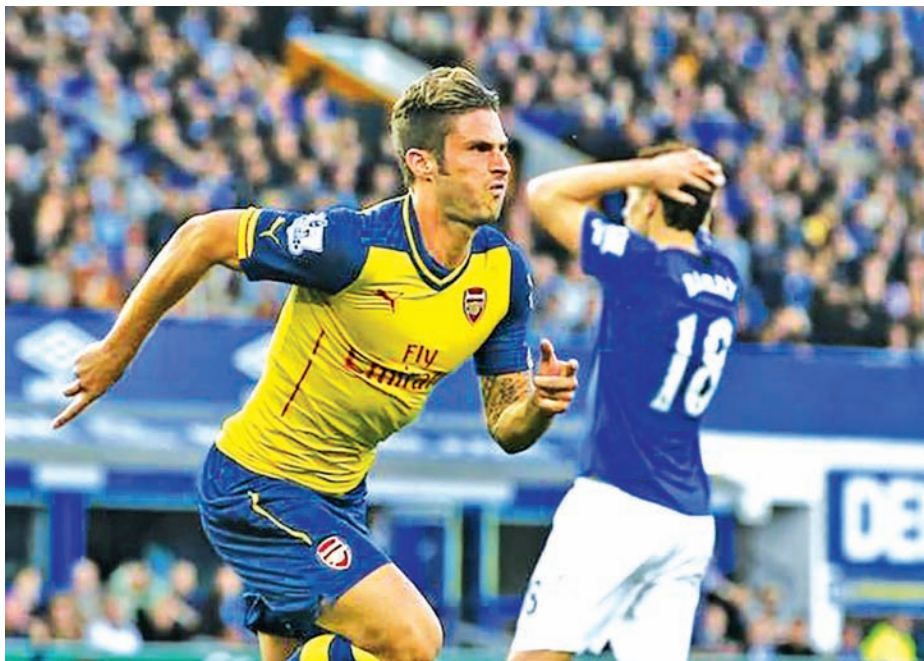
The Baker family told KHOU-TV it had no plans to sue White because it would not bring their dead pet back.

"Bailey ... laid up next to the house and died," Steve Baker told the broadcaster. — Reuters



Dujiangyan is not only home to an irrigation system on the Minjiang River meant to prevent flooding in Sichuan Province, it is also a famous scenic spot featuring many attractions. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000. Dujiangyan, first established in the 3rd century BC, has the oldest extant irrigation system in the world. — XINHUA

Arsenal's Giroud ready to return against United — Wenger



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud (L) celebrates after scoring a goal against Everton during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 23 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 21 Nov — Arsenal's France striker Olivier Giroud could return for their Premier League clash with Manchester United on Saturday after recovering from a broken leg nearly a month ahead of schedule.

Giroud, 28, broke his left tibia in the closing seconds of Arsenal's 2-2 draw at Everton on 23 August, moments after scoring a 90th minute goal that secured a point for the Gunners. "He is three or four weeks ahead of schedule," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told a news conference on Thursday.

"Originally we planned to have him back for competition at the beginning of next year. So

he's one month ahead."

Giroud played in the opening four games of the season, including the Community Shield curtain-raiser against Manchester City at Wembley where he scored Arsenal's third goal in their 3-0 win over the Premier League champions.

He then came on as a second half substitute in the opening league game against Crystal Palace and played the full match in the Champions League playoff first leg against Besiktas before being injured against Everton.

Arsenal reacted to the loss of the Frenchman by buying Danny Welbeck from United on the closing day of the transfer win-

dow and he has scored five times, although only two of those goals have been in the Premier League.

Welbeck is expected to face United on Saturday for the first time since leaving the Old Trafford club.

Wenger also confirmed that 32-year-old midfielder Mikel Arteta, who pulled a hamstring in the 3-3 Champions League draw with Anderlecht on 4 November, is ready to return after missing the 2-1 Premier League defeat at Swansea City five days later.

"It's just a question of how ready they are, but they are available," Wenger was quoted as saying on the club's official website.—Reuters

Iniesta back in training before Sevilla clash

BARCELONA, 21 NOV — Barcelona's Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta was back in training on Thursday as he continues his recovery from a calf strain.

Iniesta sustained the injury in last month's 3-1 defeat at Real Madrid in the La Liga 'Clasico' and although he has yet to be given the all-clear by the club's medical staff he could feature in Saturday's game at home to fifth-placed Sevilla.

Thomas Vermaelen, who joined from Arsenal in the close season but has yet to make his official debut, and fellow defender Jeremy Mathieu also trained on Thursday as they bid to shake off niggling injuries, Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es).

They are second in La Liga after 11 matches, two points behind leaders Real, who play at Eibar on Saturday.

Iniesta's return would provide some much-needed creativity in a side that



Barcelona's Andres Iniesta (R) battles for the ball with Malaga's Juanpi during their Spanish first division soccer match at La Rosaleda stadium in Malaga, southern Spain, on 24 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

has struggled for goals in recent outings.

Uruguay striker Luis Suarez, whose ban for biting an opponent at this year's World Cup expired the day before the 'Clasico', has still not opened his account in three La Liga appearances and one in the Champions League for his new club.

Brazil forward Neymar has been in fine form

but four-times World Player of the Year Lionel Messi has been off colour and remains one goal short of the Spanish top-flight record of 251 set six decades ago by ex-Athletic Bilbao striker Telmo Zarra.

Messi has been on 250 since netting against Eibar on 18 October. The 27-year-old, who has struck 18 times against Sevilla in 11 outings in

all competitions, failed to score either in the 'Clasico' or in Barca's subsequent two games against Celta Vigo and Almeria, a long drought by his standards.

Messi also raised eyebrows this week when he gave the strongest hint yet that he might consider leaving Barca, although his father Jorge later played down his son's comments and said an exit was not currently on the agenda.

Messi's Argentina and Barca team mate Javier Mascherano told a news conference on Thursday that Messi was only expressing "what all soccer players think".

"In football you cannot predict what you are going to do in six years, you can't know what you will do in the future," added the former Liverpool player.

"That's the reality. He is in good shape and he wants to keep winning with Barca."—Reuters

Moyes has brought new intensity to Sociedad — Martinez



David Moyes

MADRID, 21 Nov — David Moyes has brought a new level of intensity and ambition to Real Sociedad since the former Manchester United and Everton manager took over as coach, defender Inigo Martinez said on Thursday.

Moyes replaced the sacked Jagoba Arrasate at the Basque club, who are struggling in 15th place in La Liga, and they play their first game under the Scot's orders at Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday.

Martinez said Moyes has transformed training sessions since arriving in San Sebastian last week and it was up to the players now to translate his orders into success on the pitch.

"Above all it is the intensity he brings to training, in the aggression he demands," Martinez told a news conference when asked how things had changed since Moyes took over.

"He is really on top of everything, he pressures you constantly from the side of the pitch and this is something that motivates players," added the centre back.

"The intensity we are seeing now was not there before and we need to learn everything he knows and then put it to use at the weekend."

Saturday's match against Depor at the Riazor is a good chance for Moyes to begin his career in Spain with a win to follow up the 2-1 victory at home to champions Atletico Madrid in their last outing.

Depor are a shadow of the team that won La Liga in 2000 and blazed a trail in Europe over the following several seasons and are 17th after 11 matches, one of five clubs including Sociedad on nine points.

"He (Moyes) is a coach who demands every player give their all and commit 100 percent in every duel and every tackle," Martinez told reporters.

Reuters

Wawrinka forgets London trauma, ready for Davis Cup final

LILLE, (France), 21 Nov — Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka left the ATP World Tour Finals feeling wrecked last weekend but said on Thursday he had fully recovered for the Davis Cup final against France.

The world number four wasted four match points in losing a tight semi-final to Roger Federer in London last Saturday when he fumed at his team mate's wife for heckling between serves.

Both players settled the argument and have played down the row with Wawrinka having showed he is back to his best after struggling for form following his Australian Open triumph.

He showed terrific improvement in London and is now mentally rested as well.

"Clearly on Saturday night I was destroyed. It was difficult to accept that loss. I did everything I could to win that match," Wawrinka told a news conference on Thursday after the draw ceremony for this weekend's Davis Cup final.

"Sunday was also a difficult day. It's always difficult to take. I was hurt."

But a change of scenery and a new objective have helped Wawrinka turn the page.

"When I came here with the physio and everything, everything was different. It was a new week, a new state of mind," he said. "So mentally it was easy for me to switch, to forget about this big disappointment, start on something positive."—Reuters