

Dr Sai Mauk Kham urges Shan nationals to strive to turn their homeland into most developed region



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham joins Shan New Year festival held in Taunggyi on 22 November.—MNA

TAUNGGYI, 22 Nov — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered a New Year address at the 2109 Shan New Year festival held at the Aweiyar hot-air balloon ground in Taunggyi, on Friday sources said.

The State Constitution allows ethnic groups to reinforce their cultural heritage, with the vice president

saying that periodicals in ethnic languages can now be published as long as they adhere to existing laws.

With 55 townships and five self-administrative regions, Shan State is the largest of all 14 states and regions, Dr Sai Mauk Kham said, adding that other significant characteristics of Shan State are

the world-famous Golden Triangle Region, Pinlong, the birthplace of the ethnic conference in the country's struggle for independence and the world-famous Inle Lake.

He urged Shan nationals to strive to turn their homeland into the most developed region while living in peace and harmony with other ethnic communities.

Shan State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Lon Seng read out a message sent by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, with a message sent by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairwoman of the Committee for Rule of Law and Stability of the Pyithu Hluttaw, placed on record.

Vice President Dr

Sai Mauk Kham viewed booths of agriculture and Shan literature, culture and history.

The vice president later visited a Buddhist community centre in Taunggyi, where he paid homage and presented offertories to Sayadaws.

This year's Shan New Year falls on 22 November.—MNA

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Constitution pivotal for State and Tatmadaw: Commander-in-Chief



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and VOA's Than Lwin Tun seen in exclusive interview on 22 November.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said Saturday that the Constitution is the lifeblood of the State

and the Tatmadaw.

In an interview with Voice of America at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in the capital, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the Constitution needs

to be upheld as it was approved with the support of 92.48 percent of eligible voters of the country.

He also said that the Tatmadaw is responsible (See page 3)

Union ministers inspect major renovations to Yangon University's hostels

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — Union Ministers at President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein inspected major renovations to student hostels at the Yangon University campus on Saturday.

The Union ministers

gave necessary instructions while overseeing the renovation and upgrading of four female student hostels—Thiri Hall, Malar Hall, Innaya Hall and Yadana Hall—and three male student hostels—Sagaing Hall, Pinya Hall

and Bago Hall.

The Ministry of Education is carrying out major renovations and structural development of Yangon University without altering its original characteristics.

MNA



Union Ministers inspect renovation works at hostels of Yangon University.

MNA

Farmers, company hold meeting on cooperation in paddy cultivation



NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — A coordination meeting between MAPCO Com-

pany and local farmers on mutual cooperation in cultivation of summer paddy

was held at the monastery in Tegyigon Village, Zabuthiri Township,

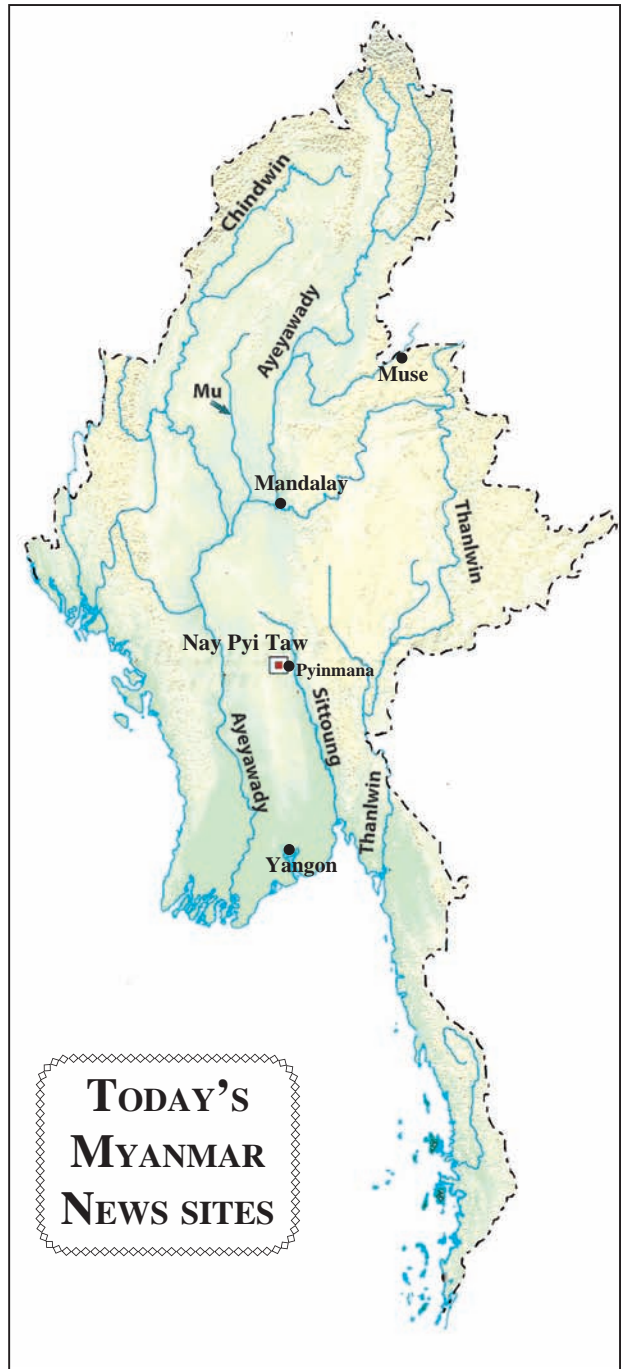
on 20 November.

They plan to grow 700 acres of summer paddy in the 2014-15 fiscal year in Zabuthiri Township.

The company will deliver quality paddy seeds, fertilizer as well as agricultural loans to the farmers and purchase paddy produced by the farmers. The company and farmers coordinated boosting on production of paddy and cultivation of crops through good agricultural patterns.

The meeting was attended by 54 summer paddy growers.

Min Min Latt
(Mandalay University)



Training course turns out skilled tailors in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — A basic tailoring course 2/2014 concluded at the hall of Pyinmana Township General Administration Department in Dekkhina District of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

Daw Ahmar, a member of the central executive committee of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, made a speech and presented gifts to trainers and certificates to trainees.

Thanks to the training, the local women are on their way to sustaining their livelihoods through tailoring.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)



Checking of cargo blocks traffic at Muse border trade post

MUSE, 22 Nov—Severe traffic congestion at the 105th mile commodity trade zone in Muse Township, northern Shan State, was caused by the inspection of vehicles loaded with maize and watermelons heading to China.

The cargo trucks on

the Myanmar side waited for a week to reach their destinations due to the traffic congestion, sources said.

The small number of traffic police have not been able to control the traffic congestion on a daily basis but they are now

closely cooperating with local police and auxiliary fire brigade members as

part of their daily work.

A similar situation sometimes occurs at the 16th mile station, forcing vehicles to wait between three to five hours daily.

Htay Myint Maung

Pyinmana BEMS No 2 awards outstanding students

PYINMANA, 22 Nov—Basic Education Middle School No 2 in Mingala Ward, Pyinmana Township, held an award ceremony for outstanding students in the 2013-14 academic year, on 21 November.

Headmistress Daw San San Myint delivered a speech and presented prizes to 112 outstanding students. She also gave certificates of honour to donors who contributed cash to the fund of the school.

Ko Htaik (Pyinmana)

Firefighting drill held at Pobbathiri BEHS No 13

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — A fire drill was performed at Basic Education High School No 13 in Pobbathiri Township on 21 November.

Deputy Head of Township Fire Services Department U Nyi Nyi Win explained the root causes of fire outbreak and fire preventive measures to all. Firefighters demonstrated putting out a fire in a practical manner.

The drill was led by the school's headmistress and attended by over 600 students and teachers.

Shwe Ye Yint



NATIONAL

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann held talks with local people at a town hall in Thazi of Mandalay Region on Saturday.

In the meeting, the speaker said the more we listen to the voices of the people, the more we will be able to fulfill their needs.

While striving for ensuring peace, stability, development, national reconciliation and the rule of law and democratization of the country, there has been much debate on the 2008 constitutional amendment in Parliament, and the process connected with Parliament will take place when the issue of the constitutional amendment under debate ends on 25th November, said the speaker.

He went to say that reform is a must for an individual, a group and a certain country. It is wrong to take

a dogmatic stance against reform, but it is also wrong to make a forced change to points that need not be amended.

The speaker said he was open to suggestions, inviting those present to present their needs freely at the meeting.

In his concluding remarks after hearing reports, the speaker shared his belief that the country would achieve democratization, however hard the path.

After the meeting, the speaker visited Pann-son monastery in Pyawbwe, Yay-le monastery in Thazi and Yanaungmyin monastery in Yamethin and presented offertories to the members of Sangha there.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann is seen after a meeting with local dignitaries in Tharzi.—MNA

Myanmar will achieve democratization, however hard the path: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker



Myanmar Journalists Association pays respects to seasoned journalists



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint is paying respects to Myanmar veteran journalists.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Nov — The Myanmar Journalists Association organized a ceremony to pay respects to seasoned journalists for the first time at City Hall in Yangon on Saturday.

The ceremony began with MJA Chairman U Ko Ko explaining the aims of forming the association and stressing the need to maintain the custom of paying due respects to elders, describing the respect-paying ceremony as a highly significant cultural heritage of Myanmar.

Next, Union Minister at President Office U Aung Min and Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee for Development of Sports,

Culture and Public Relations Thura U Aye Myint read out messages sent by President U Thein Sein and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann to the first respect-paying ceremony of the Myanmar Journalists Association. Then, those present including Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Union Minister U Aung Min, Deputy Ministers U Pike Htway and U Than Swe and departmental heads paid respects to the doyen literati and presented gifts and cash donations to them.

Union Minister U Aung Min handed the MJA chairman over K 1 million

donated by the President to the seasoned journalists.

Next, responsible persons received cash donations made by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister U Aung Min, the Ministry of Information and Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint. During the first respect-paying ceremony, 57 seasoned journalists aged above 75 were presented each with K 300,000, a SkyNet receiver and K 50,000 and a handset from mobile carrier Ooredoo.

MNA

Constitution pivotal for State...

(from page 1)

for protecting the Constitution as he believes the Constitution was drawn up through far-sighted views of State leaders.

The Senior General said that even though the campaign by the National League for Democracy Party to amend Article 436 of the Constitution has won five million supporting votes, the will of the remaining 46 million people in the country must be considered.

He also confirmed that Article 59 (F) of the Constitution is not targeted at anyone, but just intended to safeguard the national affairs of the whole country.

Regarding the question of a ceasefire agreement, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the Tatmadaw absolutely supports a peace and ceasefire agreement, and that it is emphasizing positive approaches in this matter.

He also said the Tatmadaw has suspended offensive operations in accordance with the in-

struction of the president, adding that the 19 November attack in Kachin State was just a warning after the previous incidents.

He said the Tatmadaw is cooperating with the Myanmar Peace Centre in peace-making efforts and expecting the success of this mission.

The Commander-in-Chief also said that the Tatmadaw did not release news about every incident to prevent more conflicts as there is the possibility of unfair reporting from some media groups.

He also noted differing views on use of the term "federal army." The United Nationalities Federal Council claimed "federal army" in a different way, said the senior general, adding that national leader General Aung San preferred the term Pyidaungsu to that of union or federal.

He also said military members have to observe both military principles and civil rules as the punishments for them fall un-

der both military and civil laws.

The Senior General promised that an investigation will be carried out into the death of journalist Aung Naing, who was also known as Par Gyi.

He also said that land seizure cases are very complicated, and that the Tatmadaw has already released the lands of farmers.

On its external relations, the Tatmadaw is objectively promoting ties with foreign militaries such as the United States and neighbouring countries.—Myawady

Catholics host dinner to mark Quincentenary Jubilee

YANGON, 22 Nov—A dinner was hosted to mark the quincentenary of Catholic Church in Myanmar at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Saturday. Bishop Justine Saw Min Theik from Hpa-an extended greetings. Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Representative of the Pope, gave blessings to the congregation. Bishop Isaac Danu gave thanks and said prayers before the dinner. Among the congregation were Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and others.

MNA

U Kyaw Zwar Minn presents his Credentials to Swedish King

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Sweden, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, on 18 November 2014 in Stockholm.—MNA

Fuel subsidy cuts slash Indonesian President Jokowi's popularity

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — Public satisfaction with newly installed President Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, has dropped in the wake of his decision to cut subsidies on fuel prices, a survey by pollster Indonesian Survey Circle showed on Friday.

"It is not 100 days yet in for Jokowi's government, but the public satis-

faction has dropped significantly," said Ade Mulyana, a researcher with the pollster widely known by its acronym LSI.

The latest data show public satisfaction has plunged from more than 80 percent before he was inaugurated to 44.94 percent only a month after he took office on 20 October.

The survey of 1,200

respondents was done on 18 and 19 November, after the government announced the fuel price hike.

Jokowi announced late 17 November the price low octane gasoline would rise by 2,000 rupiah (\$0.16) to 8,500 rupiah per liter and the diesel price by 2,000 rupiah to 7,500 rupiah per liter.

The decision was tak-

en despite declining of global oil prices to cut the budget deficit.

Indonesia had estimated fuel subsidies would require 276 trillion rupiah next year, about 15 percent of state spending.

According to LSI, Jokowi's popularity declined because of a lack of communication before the fuel price hike and also be-

cause of the rising cost of basic necessities.

The LSI researcher said the fuel price hike was considered an unwelcome added burden on the people's daily living expenses.

Among respondents, 74.38 percent said their lives are harder when faced with higher fuel costs.

Ade said Jokowi was very popular among people

with lower incomes during the election, but that support is slipping now.

Known as a "down-to-earth" president, Jokowi said he was ready to become unpopular over fuel prices. "There must be pros and cons and the government will appreciate every input," he said when announcing the subsidy cuts.

Kyodo News

Cambodia marks 4th anniversary of Water Festival stampede

PHNOM PENH, 22 Nov — Cambodia on Saturday held a Buddhist ceremony to commemorate the fourth anniversary of Water Festival stampede in which 353 people died.

Phnom Penh Municipal Governor Pa Socheatevong joined hundreds of the family members of the victims to mark the anniversary at a memorial monument for the dead.

During the ceremony, more than 100 Buddhist monks chanted in religious language in order to dedicate to the souls of the dead as attendees laid flowers and lit incense sticks to pray for the dead to rest in peace.

"We share our deep



A woman holds the photo of her son who died in a Water Festival stampede four years ago, at a memorial monument in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 22 Nov, 2014. Cambodia on Saturday held a Buddhist ceremony to commemorate the fourth anniversary of Water Festival stampede in which 353 people died. —XINHUA

sympathy to the family members of the dead in the stampede on the last day of the Water Festival four years ago, "Pa Socheatevong said.

"We have never forgotten them and will hold such commemorative ceremony every year to honour them," he said.

The stampede accident happened on 22 Nov, 2010, the final day of the Water Festival, which is the largest annual festival in the Southeast Asian nation. After the tragedy, the government canceled the Water Festival celebrations for three consecutive years and just resumed it this year.

Xinhua

Indian president says must use might to safeguard sovereignty

NEW DELHI, 22 Nov — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee said on Friday that his country is committed to peace, but it must be prepared to use its "might" if the need arises.

"India is firmly committed to peace but we must be prepared to use our might to safeguard the sovereignty of our nation, should the need ever arise," President Mukherjee said at an airbase in the north-eastern state of Assam.

"While the nation grows and develops in all realms, the subcontinent also faces varied threats especially from non-state actors. To preserve peace and harmony and promote all-round development, it is imperative for us to have an effective deterrence and a strong defence," he added.

The Indian president is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. —*Xinhua*

Japan PM Abe's snap election call risky: US foreign affairs expert

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made a risky move in deciding to hold a snap election and delay a planned but unpopular consumption tax hike, according to a US-based expert on Japan.

Sheila Smith, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a Washington think tank, said during a recent interview that Abe's decisions would affect his political capital and bring uncertainty into the political process, and could hamper future legislative goals. She said that the election may not lead to a greater consolidation of Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which held

a solid majority when the lower house was dissolved on Friday.

"Whatever the results of the election are, I doubt they will be as strong for the LDP as what the LDP has today. I think gambling on the public's response is very risky," Smith said.

The election, to be held 14 December, is a way for Abe to gain a public mandate to defer the consumption tax hike for 18 months. But Smith noted that regardless of the timing, the Japanese people would be against such a policy.

"Will the Japanese people be happy if you're going to say we're not going to do 2 percent now but we'll decide 2 percent

next spring?" Smith said, referring to a planned hike of the sales tax rate by 2 percentage points to 10 percent.

"No. Either way, you're going to get a 'no' answer to that," she said.

"I don't think you need an election to postpone the consumption tax. I think postponing the consumption (tax) and having an election will make it harder for the Abe Cabinet to do what it needs to do."

Describing Abe as having gained public support for being "decisive and determined" on economic policy, Smith said he will now be perceived as "wavering" and that his political capital will be af-

fectured by the decision to dissolve the House of Representatives, the powerful lower house of Japan.

This would, Smith said, introduce "an awful lot of uncertainty in the future of the Abe Cabinet," impacting legislation other than the consumption tax.

Smith said Abe faces challenges such as regional revitalization and nuclear reactors that need to be addressed. "The election

will not accomplish any of those goals. In fact it could be a setback to some of those goals," she added.

While the election outcome will greatly impact domestic issues, Smith doubted its effect on Tokyo's relations with Washington, saying "I don't think this has anything to do with US relations honestly, in terms of the government to government relationship." —*Kyodo News*

Beijing closes 6,900 wells to protect underground water

BEIJING, 22 Nov — Beijing will gradually shut down 6,900 urban wells in the next five years to protect groundwater and improve drinking water quality. The wells provide 240 million cubic metres of water annually, one fourth of the Beijing's urban sup-

ply, said Zhang Ping, deputy head of the Beijing water authority.

Aging of facilities and poor management mean that the quality of water from wells cannot be guaranteed in some areas, resulting in a steady stream of complaints from

citizens, said Zhang. The middle route of the gigantic south-to-north water diversion project will soon come on-stream, bringing 1 billion cubic metres to Beijing each year from a reservoir on the Hanjiang River, making possible closure of the wells. —*Xinhua*



Photo taken on 21 Nov, 2014 shows the scene of the plenary meeting of the 5th Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, capital of China. The two-day Xiangshan Forum focuses on security in the Asia-Pacific region. The biennial event, organized by China Society of Military Sciences, has been held since 2006. It will be held annually starting this year. —XINHUA

Obama to visit India in January for Republic Day, talks with Modi



US President Barack Obama and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi end their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on 30 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — US President Barack Obama will visit India in January to attend Republic Day celebrations and meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the White House said on Friday.

Obama will attend the 26 January ceremony, which commemorates the enactment of India's Constitution in 1950, as chief guest and become the first US president to attend the event, according to the White House and Modi's tweet. During his first meeting with Modi in Washington in September, Obama offered help for the Indian Navy in light of China's expanding presence in Asia.

The US and Indian leaders also agreed in the talks on a plan to hold a trilateral foreign ministerial meeting involving the United States, India and Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January this year.—Kyodo News

Major powers, Iran racing against time for nuke deal: White House

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — The world's major powers and Iran are racing against time to reach a deal over Teheran's nuclear programme, with another extension of the negotiations not being the focus, said a White House spokesman on Friday.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz said Secretary of State John Kerry was in Vienna, Austria, for talks in his last-ditch efforts to close the "remaining gaps," as the 24 November deadline is fast approaching.

"We are pressing hard," Schultz told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Las Vegas, Nevada. "We are running against the clock. Obviously the deadline is Monday, and our folks there are working furiously to meet it."

"We're going to race against the clock to get this done," he added.

Despite rife speculation about another extension of the talks between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group of Britain, China,

France, Russia, the United States plus Germany, State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said the issue is not the focus of the ongoing talks.

"We're focused on the 24th of November," he told reporters at a daily news briefing. "We're not talking about an extension with the Iranians. We're not focused on that."

Hope for a comprehensive deal by Monday is

fading, as gaps remain on some key issues, which include the size and scope of Iran's nuclear programme, particularly the number of centrifuges Iran will be allowed to operate, and the nuclear-relevant sanction relief for Iran.

"Serious gaps do remain, and throughout the negotiations, the P5+1 have put forth proposals that are consistent with our core objectives and consistent with

Teheran's expressed desire for a viable civilian nuclear programme," Schultz said.

Iran and the six powers agreed in July to extend their nuclear talks for another four months till 24 November, as they could not narrow down significant gaps on core issues during the past six months.

The two sides began their latest round of talks in Vienna on Tuesday.

Xinhua



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R), Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif (L) and EU envoy Catherine Ashton arrive for a meeting in Vienna on 20 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

Obama signs order expanding US Afghanistan role

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — US President Barack Obama has signed a secret order authorizing a broader military mission in Afghanistan in 2015 than originally planned, the *New York Times* reported on Saturday.

The decision ensures a direct role for American troops in fighting in Afghanistan for at least

another year, it said, adding Obama's decision was made during a White House meeting with national security advisers in recent weeks.

In May, Obama said the American military would have no combat role in Afghanistan next year. Missions for the remaining 9,800 troops would be limited to training Afghan

forces and to hunting the "remnants of al-Qaeda", he said.

Obama's new order lets American forces execute missions against the Taliban and other militant groups threatening US troops or the Afghan government.

The new authorization also allows US air strikes to support Afghan forces

on combat missions and US troops occasionally to accompany Afghan troops on operations against the Taliban.

The Times did not mention if the change would affect the number of American troops deployed to Afghanistan.

The change emerged from debate over two imperatives: Obama's promise to end the war in Afghanistan, and the Pentagon demand to let American troops fulfil their remaining missions there, the *Times* reported.

Some civilian aides have argued against risking American lives next year in operations against the Taliban, saying there should only be a narrow mission against al-Qaeda, it said.

But generals urged Obama to define the mission more broadly if intelligence showed extremists threatening American forces. Two issues shifted the debate, the *Times* said.

Obama's Afghanistan strategy faces stiffer criti-

cism after the advance of Islamic State forces in Iraq and Syria, it said, while Afghanistan's new president has been more accepting of a broader American military mission than his predecessor.

Asked about the report, a senior administration official said the US combat mission in Afghanistan would be over by year-end, as Obama had announced in May.

"Safety of our personnel is the president's first priority and our armed forces will continue to engage in operations in self-defence and in support of Afghan security forces," the official said.

"While we will no longer target belligerents solely because they are members of the Taliban, to the extent that Taliban members directly threaten the United States and coalition forces in Afghanistan or provide direct support to al-Qaeda, we will take appropriate measures to keep Americans safe."—Reuters

UK troops in largest armoured deployment in Eastern Europe for six years

LONDON, 22 Nov — Britain is carrying out its largest armoured deployment in Eastern Europe for six years, in a joint exercise with Poland to reassure it in the wake of Russia's intervention in Ukraine, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

Last month NATO-member Poland said it was drawing up a long-term plan to shift some of its military strength towards its eastern border, following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea earlier this year.

Britain said around 1,300 of its soldiers were taking part in the bilateral UK-Polish field training exercise in southwest Poland alongside a Polish cavalry brigade and tank battalion.

Reuters



US Marines march with flags during a handover ceremony, as the last US Marines unit and British combat troops end their Afghan operations, in Helmand on 26 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

FBI arrests two would-be Ferguson bomb suspects — law enforcement source

FERGUSON, 22 Nov — Two men suspected of buying explosives they planned to detonate during protests in Ferguson, Missouri, once a grand jury decides the Michael Brown case, were arrested on Friday and charged with federal firearms offenses, a law enforcement official told *Reuters*.

Word of the arrests, reported by a number of media outlets on Friday, came ahead of the grand jury's widely anticipated decision on whether the white police officer who fatally shot Brown, an unarmed black teenager, should be indicted on criminal charges.

The 9 August slaying of 18-year-old Brown under disputed circumstances became a flashpoint for US racial tensions, triggering weeks of sometimes violent protests in the St Louis suburb by demonstrators calling for Wilson's arrest.

He was instead placed on administrative leave, and Ferguson has been bracing for a new wave of protests, especially if the grand jury chooses not to indict Wilson. An announcement was believed to be imminent.

Against this backdrop



Protesters wearing Guy Fawkes masks take part in a candlelight vigil outside the Ferguson Police Department in Ferguson, Missouri, on 21 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

of heightened tensions, according to a law enforcement source, two men described as reputed members of a militant group called the New Black Panther Party, were arrested in the St Louis area in an FBI sting operation.

As initially reported by CBS News, the men were suspected of acquiring explosives for pipe bombs that they planned to set off during protests in Ferguson, according to the official, who spoke to *Reuters* on condition of

anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss the case.

The official said the two men are the same pair named in a newly unsealed federal indictment returned on 19 November charging Brandon Orlando Baldwin and Olajuwon Davis with purchasing two pistols from a firearms dealer under false pretenses.

Both men were arraigned on Friday in federal court, the law enforcement source said.

The FBI and other fed-

eral agencies were reported to have stepped up their presence in the St Louis area in recent days in anticipation of renewed protests after the grand jury's decision in the Brown case is made known.

An FBI official in St Louis declined to comment except to say that the two men named in the indictment had been arrested. Officials from the US Attorney's Office for eastern Missouri were not immediately available for comment. —*Reuters*

Russia calls for cutting off financial support for ISIL

Moscow, 22 Nov — Financial support provided for the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) must be cut off, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said on Friday, noting that the campaign should be based on the international law and respect for national sovereign rights. The ISIL has become the most affluent terrorist organization ever existed, as it not only receives financial support from outside, but also amass wealth through drug trafficking and oil proceeds from the sites it has seized, the Russian diplomat said.

The group's assets are used to finance arms purchase and recruit mercenaries from around the world, *Interfax* news agency quoted Bogdanov as saying.

"International financial flows to the ISIL must be cut off by approaches based on international law and with respect for the sovereignty of related countries," Bogdanov said.

Meanwhile, he stressed that the United Nations Security Council must take the principal responsibility

of fighting with extremist groups like the ISIL for international peace and security.

Bogdanov also accused the United States of not complying with international law in the fight against the ISIL. "Actions of the US-led coalition do not comply with the international law and generally-accepted practice of countering terrorism."

The coalition does not coordinate its operations with the Syrian government, Bogdanov said, adding that ground operations to fight the militants should only be conducted by the armed forces of Iraq and Syria. "All assistance should be provided to related states like Iraq and Syria to ensure that their armies, defense and security forces as well as the police are well-trained and armed," Bogdanov said. ISIL, an alternate acronym of the group Islamic State, has seized vast swaths of territory in northern Iraq since June and announced the establishment of a caliphate in areas under its control in Syria and Iraq. —*Xinhua*

Five Ukrainian parties agree to form parliamentary coalition

KIEV, 22 Nov — Five of the six Ukrainian political parties that passed the 5 percent vote threshold on the 26 October parliamentary elections agreed on Friday to form a parliamentary coalition.

The deal, proposed by the political bloc allied with President Petro Poroshenko, was signed by leaders of the People's Front Party of Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk, the Samopomich Party headed by Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi, the Radical Party of politician Oleh Lyashko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Fatherland Party.

Negotiations on forming the coalition started in late October. Although the full coalition programme was not unveiled, Yatsenyuk said that the deal includes provisions on implementing "difficult, painful, but much-needed" reforms

in the country.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Yatsenyuk said the parliamentary coalition will pave the way for the formation of a new government in the near future.

"We are preparing a simple, clear and understandable programme on the activities of the cabinet on the basis of the coalition deal," Yatsenyuk said.

The People's Front Party won the eighth Ukrainian parliamentary elections, while the political bloc that supports Poroshenko came second followed by the Samopomich Party, the Opposition Bloc Party, the Radical Party and the Fatherland Party.

The pro-Russian Opposition Bloc, led by former Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko, announced earlier they would go into opposition instead of joining the pro-European coalition. —*Xinhua*

EU agrees law to curb plastic bag use

BRUSSELS, 22 Nov — EU governments unanimously approved a new law to slash the use of plastic grocery bags on Friday, hoping to curb litter on land and a spreading "plastic soup" in the world's oceans.

The measure, drafted with the European Parliament, has been criticized by the new EU executive. It says states may struggle to implement legislation which proposes using minimum prices or other methods to cut bag numbers by 80 percent in a decade.

That was echoed by a trade body for the plastics industry. It favours an end to supermarkets giving bags away free, a measure already applied in some countries. But it said a patchwork of national rules could impede EU trade.

Member state envoys endorsed the plan to give governments a choice of either banning free plastic bags, or setting binding targets to bring the average annual consumption of lightweight bags below 90 per

person by the end of 2019 and 40 by December 2025.

The Commission's first vice-president Frans Timmermans said this week the executive supported efforts to cut bag use that has created a "plastic soup", but warned governments they would have to be able to enforce the new law. If states do not comply, the Commission can take them to the bloc's highest courts, which

have the power to impose fines.

The average EU citizen used 176 plastic bags in 2010, few of which were recycled.

That figure is similar to in other rich economies, including the United States, where local initiatives have also been taken to curb use of lightweight plastics.

Some EU states will need to take no action since

pricing measures have already produced reductions of up to 90 percent. Danes use an average of only four light plastic bags a year. Poles and Portuguese use 100 times as many, EU data show.

Danish Greens lawmaker Margrete Auken, who negotiated for the European Parliament, called the new law "an historic breakthrough". —*Reuters*



A worker selects white plastic bags at a dumping ground in Uhohlicky village near Prague on 10 April, 2013. — REUTERS

Islamic State targeted in 30 air strikes by US, allies

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — The United States and its allies have staged 30 air strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq since Wednesday, the US Central Command said on Friday.

The 23 strikes in Iraq included six near Baiji that hit Islamic State buildings, vehicles and tactical units while buildings, vehicles, a guard post and two tactical units were destroyed near

Sinjar in four air strikes, Central Command said. Similar targets were destroyed or damaged west of Kirkuk, near Mosul and Ramadi and in Tal Afar.

In Syria, six strikes near Kobani destroyed staging areas, buildings and two tactical units, while another near Ar Raqqa damaged an Islamic State barrack, Central Command said.

Reuters



Smoke rises after what activists said was an airstrike by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Raqqa, eastern Syria, which is controlled by the Islamic State on 19 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Egypt closes schools in Sinai towns as area inches towards open war

ISMAILIA, 22 Nov — Egypt has indefinitely shut schools in two border towns in northern Sinai as the army prepares to intensify a battle with Islamist militants that turned the daily trip to lessons into a "journey of death".

Local people say children's education has fallen victim while the military stages air strikes against jihadists, who are targeting soldiers and police, and have started beheading army informers.

"We are putting our lives at risk on a daily basis," said Mohamed, a teacher who lives in the town of Sheikh Zuweid. "Sometimes there is fire between gunmen and the armed forces and sometimes stray bullets hit some of us."

Militancy has surged in the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel, Gaza and the Suez Canal, since the army ousted an elected Islamist president last summer. At least 33 security personnel were killed last month and

one Sinai-based group has pledged its loyalty to Islamic State, which has overrun large areas of Syria and Iraq.

Army checkpoints dot the main roads in northern Sinai which residents fear is turning into an all-out war zone. This made the daily school run arduous, and dangerous if militants targeted the troops manning them. "We've started calling the trip to and from school the journey of death," said another teacher, declining to be named.

Since the militant attacks on 24 October, Egypt has imposed emergency rule in parts of Sinai, evicted hundreds of families and demolished their homes to create a buffer zone along the Gaza border about 350 km (220 miles) northeast of Cairo.

The government hopes that by clearing the 1 km-deep area of residents, buildings and trees, it can stem the flow of arms via tunnels from Gaza to the Sinai-based jihadists.

Reuters

Canadian vets plan to join Kurdish fight against Islamic State

OTTAWA, 22 Nov — Several former Canadian soldiers plan to join Kurds to combat Islamic State militants in coming weeks, Canadian media reported on Friday, bolstering the ranks of foreigners fighting alongside the group.

Earlier this month, a Canadian-born immigrant to Israel became the first foreign woman to join Kurds battling Islamic State in Syria.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation said a half-dozen former armed forces personnel were enlisting, citing unnamed sources. Meanwhile, the *National Post* newspaper said veterans had formed a group called the First North American Expeditionary Force to help link would-be fighters with Peshmerga units and to provide financial help.

"I got put on this Earth to do one thing," CBC quoted one of the men, who served in Afghanistan, as saying on condition of anonymity. "I got this fire in me. I still



A tank belonging to the Kurdish security forces is seen being transported during an intensive security deployment in Diyala Province north of Baghdad on 19 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

want to soldier on."

Canada's defence department declined to comment on the reports.

Canadian fighter jets joined US-led air strikes against Islamic State in Iraq last month. The decision to join the campaign was followed by fatal attacks on two soldiers in Canada in October that police said were carried out

independently by radical recent converts to Islam.

Ian Bradbury, an organizer at the First North American Expeditionary Force was quoted in the *National Post* as saying the group provided logistical support to one 26-year-old veteran, Dillon Hillier, who flew to northeastern Iraq last week.

"As long as nobody's

being trained here, as long as we're not forming any militia, it's all in bounds," Bradbury was quoted as saying.

It quoted Hillier as saying: "I look at what I'm doing as no different than when thousands of Canadians went to fight the Germans in World War Two."

Reuters

In Mali's desert French troops hunt al-Qaeda well by well



A French soldier from Operation Barkhane rides in an armoured vehicle in Timbuktu, on 5 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

NORTH OF TIMBUKTU, (Mali) 22 Nov — If the French army and its allies are to keep al-Qaeda at bay in the desert of northern Mali they must stop them seizing the biggest prizes in the sea of white sand — the wells.

So this month a column of soldiers from France, Burkina Faso and Mali, in armoured vehicles and pick-up trucks, churned towards a village

north of Timbuktu where herders water camels and goats.

They were looking for signs of infiltration by militants who need water as much as the locals do and aim to convert villages to their ideology.

France uses drones, jets and helicopters in its Operation Barkhane mission to eliminate jihadist sanctuaries across five Sahel countries, but winning

local support is key and that means face-to-face contact, soldiers said.

In days of patrolling with French forces around Timbuktu, villagers told *Reuters* they valued the multinational security presence and detested al-Qaeda. Villagers waved at the patrols at every stop.

"If MINUSMA (UN peacekeepers) and France leave we'll go back to Mauritania," said Mohamed Ould Aboubacar, 67, an elder who returned to the village last month from a refugee camp.

At this village, they ducked under a blanket that served as the door to the chief's tent and rested their rifles on a carpet. They asked *Reuters* not to name the village or the chief for security reasons.

An officer, who gave his name only as Lieutenant Nicolas, asked after the health of the chief, the village and its well and then turned to a key question: "Have you seen any strangers or foreigners

come here?"

The chief said the only visitors were thirsty camel herders.

France launched its operation in Mali in January 2013 to drive out militants who had seized control of the north. They scattered the insurgents who continue to launch attacks, mostly in the Kidal region and near the porous borders of Algeria and Libya.

French forces say they face a dilemma. To hold back the militants in the area requires a long term commitment and Mali's army is not yet ready.

"The institutions exist in Mali. They just simply need to be made to work," said Colonel Jean-Michel Luccitti, the senior French commander in Mali.

Mali began fresh talks with mostly Tuareg rebels in Algiers on Thursday aimed at ending decades of uprisings in the north. A successful outcome could free up Malian forces to counter al-Qaeda, Luccitti said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 23 November, 2014

A living wage, a sound urbanization policy and social stability

By Aung Khin

A living wage is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their needs that are considered to be basic. The needs include shelter and other incidentals such as clothing and nutrition. However, the living wage differs from the minimum wage in that the latter is set by law and so can fail to meet the requirements for a basic quality of life.

The cost of living includes a wide range of expenditures from shelter to medical treatments. Among them shelter is the most important. When people lack shelter, they cannot feel secure about their daily lives. In this circumstance, the cost of rent for grassroots people who do not have their own shelter should not be a heavy burden. Even if they do not possess their own shelter unfortunately, they need affordably priced shelters.

While cities are growing at unprecedented and challenging speeds, the cost of shelter is rising. As cities develop, a better urbanization policy will be required. In a developing country, the problem of income gaps cannot be solved in the short-term. Therefore, policy should be designed to improve the living conditions of grassroots people, especially in slums and hazard-prone areas.

Both the urbanization policy and job creation are important to improve the lives of low-income

people. Only then will all citizens be able to enjoy social stability. Various stakeholders such as officials from national and local governments and private sector groups should collaborate to realize a good urbanization programme. The difficulties of the vulnerable should be tackled with serious measures to prove the success of economic transformation.

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Impact of Advertisements

by Myo Myint

Advertisements aim to effectively inform as many people as possible about the quality, benefit, and price of a product, or service and where it is available using attractive visuals and with as few words as possible. It also tries to promote brand recognition, brand loyalty, and increase sales. A variety of means and mediums such as billboards, newspapers, magazines, journals, TV, cinema screens, notice boards, flyers, pamphlets, wall sheets and vinyl sheets are used for advertising. In Myanmar, with the rise in the number of FM radio stations, the radio has also been put to service for advertisement. Another new effective channel, especially to reach out to young people for advertisement, is the Internet. Giving free samples, souvenirs and discounts for new products, making donations of products, and holding demonstrations on the use of new products have also become novel ways to draw attention to new products. In addition, with people becoming more enamoured with celebrities, for those advertisers who can afford it, star-studded product launches, exhibitions, shows, and event sponsorship have become popular ways to promote sales and gain publicity.

It is generally ac-

cepted that advertisements benefit many parties, such as product advertisers, consumers, the media used for advertising, people who allow billboards to be set up on their property, including the local development councils, advertising agencies, the advertisement production teams, and celebrities who not only make the product famous, but also make themselves famous.

An advertiser spends huge sums of money on advertisements, but he/she gets a lot back in return for the money spent. Through advertising, the advertiser can get brand recognition and make his company better known to the public. He/She can inform the public about the differences between his products from similar products of other manufacturers. He/She can make his product popular and memorable to people. He can raise sales and expand markets. He/She can attract investments and capable staff. On the part of the consumer, through advertisements, he/she comes to know about new products in the market. He/She gets the necessary information to compare contents, benefits, services, and price with other similar products, and also gets to know where it is made and is available. However, as the saying goes, not everything that shines is gold. Unfortunately, neither is everything that is mentioned in an advertisement true. Hence, the consumer

needs to be discerning, so that he/she is not misled or cheated. The main requirement on the part of the advertiser to be successful is the need to be honest about his products, or services. Fortunes made dishonestly are easily lost. If the products and services are good, the users themselves advertise the product, on behalf of the manufacturers, or service providers.

Advertisers must consider the impact that their products can have on people, especially children, and the environment, and not just the profit they can make. There are strict regulations relating to the advertisements of certain products. For instance, liquor and cigarettes as social and health hazards are banned from advertising in Myanmar. However, there are manufacturers who try to hoodwink authorities. For instance a liquor manufacturer produces a small quantity of bottled water with the same brand name as their liquor products and inserts advertisements related to their liquor products, as if they were advertising the bottled water, thereby giving it pretence of legality using surrogate brand. Some of the alcohol companies use indirect means that are both cheap and effective to advertise their products. They distribute free vinyl sheets with advertisements of their liquor products to poor families living near main roads, such as the

Yangon-Mandalay highway, and these families use the vinyl sheets to protect their houses that are in poor condition from the weather, thereby unwittingly serving as free billboards for advertising liquor products.

There are also advertisements that try to mislead people who are naive and believe whatever comes out in print. Falsely advertising some products, such as low quality clothes, may not cause much harm. However, misleadingly advertising products like medicine or food that contain ingredients that are harmful, or have no beneficial effects, and make false claims can harm the health of users, even to the extent of causing death. In addition, there are also educational institutions that make false claims about the value of their certificates as well as the prestige of international institutions they are supposedly linked with. There are also instructors whose credentials are of suspect. Doctorates are conferred by universities, and not countries, and usually the name of the university is put in brackets after the PhD, not the country. Therefore, credentials of those who advertise themselves as holders of PhD (USA), (UK) etc. should be doubly checked.

Advertisements can

also have huge social impacts. As the aim of advertisements is to attract attention and create a strong impression of the product, the same advertisements are shown repeatedly. This repeated showing of the improper way some women dress and some people behave in TV and newspaper advertisements that have very little relationship to the products and services advertised, and are against the norms of Myanmar culture, serve as unacceptable and harmful models for our young people. An indirect negative impact of advertisements is showing on TV, serialized foreign movies that advertisers prefer to use to place advertisements of their products because of popularity with viewers. Consequently, these movies are imported by those who give very little thought about the adverse impact on the young people because of the enormous income derived from advertisements. Some of these foreign movies have a serious effect on the behavior of our young people. Due to the daily exposure to foreign cultures, young people, both males and females, have come to regard behavior in alien cultures as norms and have started to imitate the manners of those belonging to these cultures which were once regarded as unacceptable acts in Myanmar culture, such as, women openly drinking alcohol, girls having many boyfriends at the same time, girls proposing to boys, girls riding piggyback on boys and embracing each other in public

view, girls wearing revealing dresses, etc. etc.

Every country has the right as well as the responsibility to protect its culture. It is true that modernization and change are a necessary part of progress, but change must not be at the expense of the positive aspects of its culture, nor due to the negative influences of other cultures. The negative impacts of advertisements can be countered effectively and easily, firstly, by advertisers giving recognition to the fact that some of their advertisements can have serious negative consequences, and taking more responsibility of their action. Secondly, the public needs to be more vigilant and vocal about advertisements that are dishonest and have socially negative influences and register their complaints with the authorities concerned. Thirdly, consumer protection associations should be more active in protecting the less-informed and naive members of the public from the dangers of advertisements that mislead or that promote behavior contrary to Myanmar culture. Finally, if the authorities concerned feel that current laws are not adequate enough to deal with unscrupulous advertisements, then they should work for stricter laws in the interest of all the citizens of the country and the preservation of its fine traditions and culture.

ARTICLE

Is it Possible to Quit Smoking ?

Of course it is ! With a strong will and a firm determination it is possible. However, how long that process will take will depend on the individual and how strong and firm is the will and determination that person possesses. “If there is a will there is a way”. If the facts and data I had laid bare in my previous article “Can Smoking Kill?”, are not persuasive enough to make you quit smoking or at least contemplate quitting, I will try again to convince you. In that article I had written about the hazards and the adverse consequences of smoking and how quitting it can drastically reduce the risks of smoking-related deaths and various diseases, adding years to your life.

In this article I will give the reasons why you should quit smoking and how to achieve it, based on my own experiences and knowledge gained from the Internet.

Reasons why you should quit smoking

I will attempt to present the reasons in a format that will make reading and remembering them easier:

1. Smoking can result in premature deaths.
2. Smoking can affect every organ in the body.
3. Smoking can cause the following diseases:-
 - Cancer (of almost every organ, including blood)
 - Stroke
 - Heart attack
 - Chronic bronchitis
 - Blood clotting -- can result in the amputation of one or both legs
 - Many other non-life threatening diseases:-
 - Difficulty in conceiving for women.
 - Can affect men's sperm, causing infertility.
 - Can affect bone health, especially in women.
 - Can increase the risks of cataracts.
 - Can cause type 2 diabetes mellitus and makes it hard to control.
 - Can cause rheumatoid arthritis.
 - Can cause general adverse effects on the body.
4. Quitting smoking can drastically reduce the risks of all the above mentioned diseases.

Ten Excellent Reasons to Quit Smoking

If the threats of death and all the dreadful diseases mentioned are not convincing enough to persuade you to quit smoking, I will make another attempt to make you want to quit. If that does not work, I can't help except pray for you.

The following reasons may not sound threatening at all, but they might do the trick for those who are conscious of their images, well-being and safeties.

1. Facial wrinkles:

Smoking reduces the flow of oxygen and nutrients to the skin cells by shrinking the blood vessels. This may worry women more than men. Won't be pretty anymore !

2. Impotence:

Smoking reduces the blood flow, which is believed to be one of the main causes of erectile dysfunction. Not good !

3. Stained teeth, bad breath:

Particles from cigarette smoke stain teeth brown and yellow, they produce odour-producing bacteria in the mouth. Gum disease and loss of teeth are common. Disgusting !

4. You and your general vicinity stink:

Cigarette smoke has an unpleasant odour that lingers on everything from skin, hair, clothing and curtain. The scent is very repelling to others around you. Awful !

5. Brittle bones:

Smoking affects the production of estrogen and other hormones necessary for healthy bones and can lead to osteoporosis in both men and women, which is the major cause of fractures in elderly persons. Undesirable !

6. Depression

Most smokers are stressed or depressed persons. They thought nictines are stimulants, in fact they are depressants.

Connections between smoking and depression has been well established. Bad for your image !

7. Crummy role model:

Children emulate adults, Every time you light up, you are telling the kids around you that smoking is OK. Be a good role model !

8. Fire:

Fire caused by lighted tobacco products can result in loss of lives and properties. If that does not impress you, remember the time the tobacco fire burned on a hole in your best dress.

What a waste !

9. Poor circulation:

Red blood cells are designed to carry oxygen throughout the body. In smokers, oxygen molecules are displaced by the components of cigarette smoke, blocking the transfer of life-giving oxygen and leads to stroke. Drooling, paralysis and loss of speech are not pretty sights !

10. Looks stupid:

The smokers look stupid, given the fact that they are knowingly smoking themselves into trouble, if not to death, with all the educating about the adverse consequences of smoking available today. Pity you !

How to Quit Smoking

In this section, I will discuss how the smoking habit can be kicked, based on my own experiences. There are two different ways to quit smoking:-

1. By gradually reducing the number of cigarettes smoked in a day.
2. By abruptly stopping to smoke.

When I first contemplated quitting smoking, I made some inquiring from those who had succeeded in quitting. The opinions are varied, but they all boiled down to the two methods mentioned above. Of the two methods, I preferred the second one to the first. I had tried both and found that the second method suited me better. However, it may depend on the individual and his or her will power and degree of determination.

I started smoking at the age of sixteen and was a heavy smoker at that and never gave a thought to quit-

By *Khin Maung Myint*

ting until I was nearly twenty five. At that stage I was attending a rigorous training that demanded much physical exertions. The smoking started to take toll on my stamina and general health constitutions. I barely hung in there to complete the training course. I was able to do that only due to my timely quitting to smoke. It was not an easy task, but the prospect of failing the course motivated me. I started by using the first method, gradually reducing the number of cigarettes smoked daily. That method took very long, as I was attached to the nicotine, which I was still receiving, though in small doses. So I switched to the second method and achieved my goal. However, that required a very strong will and a firm determination, which at that time was provided by the motivation to complete the course along with the others. The first week after quitting was the worst period. The effects of the nicotine withdrawal was almost intolerable, and the urge to reach for a cigarette was very intense. After one week I had totally overcame all those obstacles.

In my waning years, when I reflect back on my life, I noticed that the only evil I had ever indulged in, was smoking. It was due to peer pressure that I started smoking and it was also the peer pressure that made me smoke again after quitting twice. I finally succeeded after the third quitting. I don't blame them but myself, for my weakness to yield to their influences. By peer pressure, I do not mean that my friends or colleagues forced me. Whenever I was among a group of smokers, the scent of nicotine was very enticing and at that moment if someone offered a smoke, it was very difficult to deny, not because that person was insistent but, because I had not entirely got rid off the nicotine crave. That is peer pressure and if you are trying to quit smoking and you're not confident that you had kicked the habit for good, avoid those crowds as much as you possible.

Discourage Tobacco Smoking

Smoking should be discouraged by every means possible, the followings are some of my suggestions :-

1. Educate young people at the early age not to smoke, both at home and at schools.
2. Elders, especially the parents should refrain from smoking in front of young children.
3. Elders should not ask children to light cigarettes, cheroots and other smoking substances for them .
4. Do not leave cigarettes within easy reach of children and teenagers.
5. Ban smoking tobacco, vaping (smoking) e-cigarettes, in public places.
6. Hike the price of cigarettes and other smoking materials drastically by levying high excise taxes and duties.

Looking forward to a smoke-free environment

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

First three beneficiaries of Yoma Yangon International Marathon 2015 announced

By *Kyaw The-ein (MNA-Ext)*

YANGON, 22 Nov — The organisers of the Yoma Yangon International Marathon (“YYIM”) for 2015 are proud to announce the first three organisations that have been selected as beneficiaries of fund-raising efforts in relation to YYIM 2015. Following an evaluation of the support and assistance required and in

line with the YYIM 2015's charity theme of “Run for Children”, Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd (“Yoma Strategic”), First Myanmar Investment Company Limited (“FMI”) and Yangon City Development Committee (“YCDC”), have thus far selected the three organisations — YCDC Day Care Center, Su

Taung Pyae Youth Development Center, and Aung Za Bu Youth Development Center.

These selected organisations currently provide educational and residential support to a combined total of more than 3,000 children, many of whom are orphans and come from ethnic areas. Additional beneficiaries may be selected over the coming months and will be announced as

and when they have been confirmed. Supporting underprivileged children in Myanmar is the common theme for selection of the charities.

“As the Yoma Yangon International Marathon continues to grow in size and stature, so must our social contribution. I sincerely hope each marathon participant is inspired to contribute towards our charity drive and along

with the efforts of our Charity Ambassadors, we will collectively help the children of Myanmar to have a better future”, said Andrew Rickards, CEO, Yoma Strategic.

The third YYIM, taking place on 11 January 2015, will feature a new philanthropic component spearheaded by the Charity Ambassadors driving fundraising efforts for the beneficiaries. The Char-

ity Ambassadors will be undertaking a number of fundraising events and will be helping to raise the profile of the YYIM and the selected charities. Members of the public can make a donation in support of the YYIM Charity Ambassadors and the selected charities by visiting the GIVEasia website: www.giveasia.org/movement/yomayangoninternational-marathon2015.

Yili to invest 327 mln USD in NZ dairy

HOHHOT, 22 Nov — Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co Ltd, one of China's largest dairy producers, said on Friday it will invest 2 billion yuan (327 million US dollars) in four dairy projects in New Zealand.

Yili on Friday unveiled its Oceania production base in Waimate, South Island, New Zealand, which has involved investment of 1.2 billion yuan.

The base, covering packaging, production, processing and research and development, is the largest integrated dairy production base in the world, according to Yili. The move came as increasingly more Chinese customers prefer overseas dairy products as the reputation of local brands was damaged in the melamine-tainted baby formula scandal in 2008.

The second-phase investment will be four projects, a raw milk processing plant, a UHT milk plant, a milk powder plant and a packaging plant.

Also on Friday, Yili signed an agreement with Lincoln University of New Zealand to focus research on how to improve nutrition and to ensure quality of dairy products.—Xinhua

LONDON, 22 Nov — Next week's "Black Friday", a traditional discount day for US retailers, looks set to be the biggest ever for British shops as more join in the promotional event to kickstart Christmas sales.

The Friday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday was named Black Friday because spending would surge and it would indicate the point at which American retailers began to turn a profit for the year, or go "into the black".

A survey commissioned by Barclays found that 65 percent of Britain's multi-channel retailers plan Black Friday promotions this year on 28 November.

Amazon introduced Black Friday discounts to Britain in 2010 and last year major UK store groups such as John Lewis [JLP.UL], Dixons and Asda joined in.

Sales updates published in January showed it had a significant impact

Retailers look to US Black Friday for Christmas lift—off



Oxford Street is illuminated after singer Cheryl Fernandez-Versini switched on the Oxford Street Christmas Lights in London on 6 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

on Christmas trading. John Lewis reported an early peak in sales last year, which it said was driven by

Black Friday, followed by a surge in the last 10 days.

Visa Europe forecasts that 518 million pounds

(\$810 million) will be spent online on Visa cards on 28 November, making it the biggest day ever for

e-commerce in the UK. It expects a further 500 million pounds will be spent on the following Monday, 1 December - dubbed Mega Monday as prior to the rise of Black Friday it was the busiest online shopping day of the year as people spent their November pay packets.

"Following a jump last year, retailers are making a bigger Friday push this time round," said Visa Europe's UK MD Kevin Jenkins. Last year Tesco, Britain's biggest retailer, had Black Friday promotions online. This year it will extend the event to selected stores. Asda's Black Friday event last year proved popular but was marred by fights breaking out among shoppers chasing limited stock in some crowded stores.—Reuters

WHO says plague in Madagascar has killed 40 people out of 119 cases

GENEVA, 22 Nov — An outbreak of the plague has killed 40 people out of 119 confirmed cases in Madagascar since late August and there is a risk of the disease spreading rapidly in the capital, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

So far two cases and one death have been recorded in the capital Antananarivo

but those figures could climb quickly due to "the city's high population density and the weakness of the healthcare system", the WHO warned.

"The situation is further complicated by the high level of resistance to deltamethrin (an insecticide used to control fleas) that has been observed in the country," it added.—Reuters

Ebola death toll rises to 5,459; Cuban doctor 'stable'

GENEVA, 22 Nov — The death toll in the Ebola epidemic has risen to 5,459 out of 15,351 cases identified in eight countries by the end of 18 November, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday. The figures showed an increase of 39 recorded deaths and 106 new cases since those issued on Wednesday.

"Transmission remains

intense in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone," the WHO said, referring to the three hardest-hit West African countries that account for all but 15 of the deaths.

All six known Ebola cases in Mali have now died and 327 contacts exposed to the virus are being monitored in the capital Bamako, it said.

A Cuban doctor, the

first infected with Ebola, was evacuated overnight from Sierra Leone to Geneva by the WHO. Swiss authorities told a news briefing on Friday at University Hospital of Geneva, where Felix Baez is in isolation, that he was in a stable condition. The 43-year-old is being given the experimental drug ZMapp, made by Mapp Biopharmaceutical, they said.

Earlier on Friday, the WHO declared that a separate outbreak of Ebola in Democratic Republic of Congo was over after no people showed symptoms for two incubation periods since the last case. In all, there were 49 deaths out of 66 people infected in the remote northwestern Equateur Province.

Reuters

Nissan will not rush to launch fuel cell cars, vice chairman says

SINGAPORE, 22 Nov — Nissan Motor Co Vice Chairman Toshiyuki Shiga said on Friday in Singapore the company will continue to focus on the sale of electric vehicles and not "rush" into fuel cell vehicles.

"We need to promote the electric vehicle first rather than hydrogen," he said in an interview with Kyodo News, adding Nissan only plans to promote fuel cell cars "in the long term future."

"At the moment we are showing quite good results for the electric vehicle sales...we have a quite optimistic view for the future EV expansion," he said. "Nissan is still the leader of the electric vehicle (and) wants to keep the lead in the world."

He said although he regards both electric and fuel cell vehicles as important, the fuel cell car market is challenging in the initial stage due to the high cost of installing hydrogen stations. "At the moment, especially in the case of Japan, the cost or investment for a hydrogen station is still quite expensive even though the government is now ready to provide some subsidy," he said.

In January 2013, Nissan, Daimler AG and Ford Motor Co joined forces to share research, develop-



ment and investment costs to develop fuel cell electric vehicle technology for the launch of their own cars.

Shiga other car makers are rushing to launch fuel cell cars so as to meet US regulations on zero emission vehicles for export into its market, but Nissan is already able to comply with that requirement.

It introduced the world's first mass-production electric car, the Leaf, in 2010 in Japan and the United States, and has sold it globally since 2012.

It has already introduced its EV in about 40 countries, with some countries giving incentives to EV buyers.

"Without government support, it is quite difficult to launch fuel cell cars now, not only in Japan but also other countries. The electric vehicle is more economically feasible for the customers," Shiga said.

Kyodo News



A man walks by a mural with health instructions on treating the Ebola virus, in Monrovia, on 18 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

‘Star-gazing’ shrimp discovered in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 22 Nov — A tiny shrimp equipped with large, candy-striped eyes to ward off predators has been discovered in South African waters, the University of Cape Town said on Friday.

The 10-15 mm-long crustacean has been christened the “star-gazer mysid” as its eyes seem to gaze permanently upwards. Similar to insects’ eyes, they each look in a different direction.

“The vivid ringed patterns are thought to be there to make the eyes appear to belong to a much bigger creature, and hence to scare off predators,” the university said. It is officially named *Mysidopsis zsilaveczi* after

Guido Zsilavec, the underwater photographer who discovered it.

The university’s senior marine biologist, Charles Griffiths, could not identify the species when Zsilavec brought it to him and so samples were sent to an expert in Vienna.

Zsilavec also recently found a new type of nudibranch, a soft-bodied sea slug, around Cape Town, a city situated at the meeting of the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

“It’s amazing that we’re still finding so many new species in heavily dived waters such as False Bay, right on our doorstep,” Griffiths said.—*Reuters*

Star formation theories challenged by new telescope discovery

SANTIAGO, 22 Nov — Theories about how massive stars are born could be revised after astronomers in Chile found evidence that the dust and gas surrounding a young star could survive bombardment by the star’s own radiation.

The Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array, or ALMA, observed a young star in the constellation of Scorpius that has a mass about 15 times greater than that of the Sun.

A star forms from a collapsing gas cloud. The nascent star attracts more gas and dust due to gravity, gradually creating a spinning “accretion disk”

from which planets can be formed. Some of that material is fired off in supersonic jets of gas.

Particularly high mass stars, though, emit ultraviolet radiation in their birth that many astronomers have thought until now would destroy the disk and jets and impede the star’s formation.

However, ALMA, an array of radio telescopes, showed that such radiation can peacefully coexist with gas and dust — the first time such a confirmed observation has been made.

“Many astrophysicists who study star formation thought that these disks and jets couldn’t survive

China urges international cooperation for safer cyber environment

BEIJING, 22 Nov — The First World Internet Conference held in the river-town of Wuzhen called for global Internet interconnectivity and shared governance by all.

China is ready to work with other countries to deepen international cooperation, respect sovereignty on the Internet and uphold cyber security, said President Xi Jinping in a message of congratulations on Wednesday.

Considering the openness and interconnection of network, China is calling for strengthening international cooperation on cyberspace security, stability and prosperity.

In fact, according to official media report, more than 40 countries and re-

gions in the world have issued cyber security strategies. For instance, in the latest two years, neighbouring countries such as ROK, Japan, India and DPRK have all issued strategies for cyber security.

In this matter, China chooses not to turn cyber space into another battlefield, or capitalize on virtual reality, but to advocate a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyber space and support relevant international rules under the framework of the UN.

Looking at the world, the construction of a safe cyberspace would be a complex and long-term task. Some kinds of conflicts and challenges will be inevitable. Under the circumstance, China has



obligation and condition to conduct better international cooperation, take part in the global activities and is already on its way to provide safer cyber environment for all.

With “An Interconnected World Shared and Governed by All” as its theme, the three-day conference covers issues on

new media, mobile Internet, cross-border e-commerce, cyber terrorism, Internet financing, cyberspace security and Internet governance.

The conference saw roughly 1,000 Internet professionals, officials and experts from more than 100 countries and regions in attendance.—*Xinhua*

2014 likely to be warmest year in Austrian recorded history

LONDON, 22 Nov — The year 2014 could be the warmest year for Austria since temperature recordings first began, the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) said in a press release on Thursday. The ZAMG said its first assessment of this year’s temperatures shows a 90 percent probability that it would be a record year for temperatures. “If December is not extremely cold, 2014 will be the warmest year since the beginning of temperature measurements in 1768,” said ZAMG climatologist Alexander Orlik.

The only way a record year would be prevented is if December were as cold as the 1960s, but that would

not be likely according to current temperatures. The ZAMG said May and August of this year have so far been the only months with below average temperatures compared to the period between 1981 and 2010. November has also been unusually mild, the main reason being mild air coming from the south and southwestern Mediterranean regions.

Orlik said the past 100 years have shown a persistent increase in average temperatures, and despite sometimes large fluctuations from year to year, the overall temperature level has consistently risen, particularly since the 1980s, and especially in the spring and summer months.—*Xinhua*

Samsung files ITC complaint to block Nvidia chips from US

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has filed a complaint with the US International Trade Commission seeking to block computer-graphics chips made by Nvidia Corp from the US market, Bloomberg reported.

Samsung had accused Nvidia of infringing several of its chip-related patents and for making false claims about its products, counter-suing after Nvidia filed a suit against the company in September.

The Korean company’s lawsuit came after Nvidia accused it and rival Qualcomm Inc of infringing patents on its graphics-processing unit (GPU).

Samsung, which had filed the lawsuit in a US federal court on 4 November, is seeking damages for deliberate infringement of several technical patents, including a few that govern the way semiconductors buffer and use data.

The Bloomberg report said that the ITC complaint also named computer-parts manufacturers Biostar Microtech International Corp and Elitetgroup Computer Systems Co.—*Reuters*

Banking culture breeds dishonesty, scientific study finds

LONDON, 22 Nov — A banking culture that implicitly puts financial gain above all else fuels greed and dishonesty and makes bankers more likely to cheat, according to the findings of a scientific study.

Researchers in Switzerland studied bank workers and other professionals in experiments in which they won more money if they cheated, and found that bankers were more dishonest when they were made particularly aware of their professional role.

When bank employ-

ees were primed to think less about their profession and more about normal life, however, they were less inclined to dishonesty.

“Many scandals... have plagued the financial industry in the last decade,” Ernst Fehr, a researcher at the University of Zurich who co-led the study, told reporters in a telephone briefing. “These scandals raise the question whether the business culture in the banking industry is favoring, or at least tolerating, fraudulent or unethical behaviors.” Fehr’s team conducted a laboratory game

with bankers, then repeated it with other types of workers as comparisons.

The first study involved 128 employees all levels of a large international bank — the researchers were sworn to secrecy about which one — and 80 staff from a range of other banks.

Participants were divided into a treatment group that answered questions about their profession, such as “what is your function at this bank;” or a control group that answered questions unrelated to work, such as “how many hours of TV

do you watch each week?”

They were then asked to toss a coin 10 times, unobserved, and report the results. For each toss they knew whether heads or tails would yield a \$20 reward. They were told they could keep their winnings if they were more than or equal to those of a randomly selected subject from a pilot study.

Given maximum winnings of \$200, there was “a considerable incentive to cheat,” Fehr’s team wrote in the journal *Nature*, online on 19 November.

The results showed

the control group reported 51.6% winning tosses and the treatment group — whose banking identity had been emphasized to them — reported 58.2% as wins, giving a misrepresentation rate of 16%. The proportion of subjects cheating was 26%.

The same experiments with employees in other sectors — including manufacturing, telecoms and pharmaceuticals — showed they don’t become more dishonest when their professional identity or banking-related information is emphasized.

Reuters

At least 28 killed in northern Kenya bus attack

MANDERA, (Kenya), 22 Nov — Suspected Al-Shabaab militants attacked a public passenger bus in Mandera, northern Kenya, early Saturday, killing 28 people and injured several others, government official and police confirmed.

Mandera East Deputy County Commissioner, Elvis Korir, said initial reports indicate that a team of more than 100 armed gunmen stopped the Nairobi-bound bus and ordered everyone out at around 5:30 am local time.

“We are told the 100 armed men stopped the bus just after it left Arabia area and all the passengers were asked to come down and divided into two groups of Somalis and non Somali,” Korir told *Xinhua*, adding that the non Somali group was sprayed with bullets.

“We are also told more than 28 have been killed and many others injured, but we are yet to know the exact circumstances, but we are planning to dispatch a team of security personnel to the scene,” the government official said.—*Xinhua*

Five Syrians killed in carbon monoxide poisoning in southern Turkey

ANKARA, 22 Nov — Five Syrians died from carbon monoxide poisoning in Antalya province southern Turkey on Friday night, private *Dogan* news agency reported on Saturday.

The bodies of the five Syrians were found poisoned from carbon monoxide gas of a bucket stove living in a new neighbourhood and a large family of employees in their daily work in Korkuteli town of the tourist province of Antalya, according to the report.

The five Syrian people who died were ranging between the ages of 7 and 19, said the report, adding that an investigation into this incident was underway.

Xinhua

Eight die in helicopter crash in Romania



Emergency aid workers inspect the site where a military helicopter IAR-330 Puma built in Romania, crashed near Malancrav on 21 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

BUCHAREST, 22 Nov — Eight people died when a military helicopter carrying 10 people crashed in the central Romanian county of Sibiu on Friday, the country's emergency response agency said. Romania's defence ministry said the helicopter, an IAR-330 PUMA built in Romania, crashed at about 0840 GMT.

“There are eight people dead,” Bianca Sabau of the emergency response agency told *Reuters*. “Two victims who have suffered burns were evacuated,” she added.

The 10 were stationed at a military airbase in central Romania and were on their way to a military drill exercise.

The ministry said it would provide more details after the victims' families have been notified.

The cause of the crash was unclear and Minister Mircea Dusa and air force officials were travelling to the site for an investigation.—*Reuters*

UN envoy announces agreement on Gaza rebuilding materials

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Nov — The UN special coordinator for the Middle East, Roberterry, announced on Friday that an agreement has been reached between Israel, the Palestinian Government of National Consensus and the United Nations, under which some 25,000 homeowners in Gaza can access materials to repair their damaged homes starting next week.

“The Government of National Consensus will soon make a separate announcement on the process to access the building materials,” UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news

briefing here.

“Mr Serry said that as part of the understandings reached, materials procured under the mechanism may only be used for their intended purpose, and that the UN will undertake spot checks to monitor compliance,” Dujarric said.

“He added that the UN will undertake every effort to assist Palestinian Government of National Consensus in reconstructing Gaza, including in providing financial support to home owners, but cautioned that existing resources are insufficient,” he added.—*Xinhua*

Cuba, Congo to boost technical military cooperation

HAVANA, 22 Nov — Senior military officials from Cuba and the Republic of Congo met here in the Cuban capital to discuss expanding technical military cooperation, state daily *Granma* reported on Friday.

During the meeting, Chief of the General Staff of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) Alvaro Lopez Miera and his visiting Congolese counterpart Guy Blanchard Okoi mulled plans to lift cooperation in the technical military field, according to the daily. The Congolese military delegation began its official visit on Tuesday, with Blanchard laying a wreath at a memorial to Cuban independence heroes Antonio Maceo and his aide Francisco Gomez.

“We came here as brothers and friends to visit the Cuban army,” Blanchard said at the time, adding that “with my visit the links between our peoples will be strengthened.”

During their stay in the Caribbean island, the Congolese envoys are scheduled to tour military colleges and sites of historical and cultural interest.

Xinhua

Third Dutch chicken farm hit by bird flu

AMSTERDAM, 22 Nov — A Dutch bird flu outbreak has spread to a third farm, the government said on Friday, prompting inspections at dozens of other farms in the Netherlands, a leading exporter of eggs and poultry.

The latest infection was discovered on a chicken farm in the northern town of Kamperveen, more than 100 km (60 miles) from two farms where infections have been reported in the past week, the Economics Ministry said in a letter to parliament.

All 10,000 birds would be destroyed and an exclusion zone of 10 km (6 miles) was imposed. Inspections were to be carried out at 32 nearby farms.

Three out of 12 Dutch provinces have now reported the illness, which is fatal for chickens.

A total of 203,000 chickens were being de-

stroyed and a national lockdown on all transport of chickens, eggs and poultry products was crippling an industry that employs tens of thousands of workers.

Around 2,000 Dutch businesses, with more than 100 million chickens, produce more than 10 billion eggs a year, more than 6

billion of them destined for export.

Two of the three Dutch infections are the H5N8 strain of the illness, which has also been found on farms in Germany and Britain in recent weeks.

The H5N8 strain has never been detected in humans, but it led to the destruction of millions of

farm birds in Asia, mainly South Korea, after an outbreak earlier this year.

Tests showed that the bird flu viruses in Europe are similar to one that devastated poultry flocks in South Korea, the intergovernmental World Organization for Animal Health said.

The Dutch measure, which has also halted all exports, could soon lead to shortages of chicken meat and eggs in the European Union because the Dutch are the region's top supplier of both eggs and poultry meat.

With a population of less than 17 million, the Netherlands is the world's second largest exporter of agricultural products after the United States, selling \$79 billion euros (63.19 billion pounds) of agricultural goods abroad last year.

Reuters



A man wearing a protective mask and suit inspects a container containing eggs and the bodies of culled chickens at a poultry farm, where a highly contagious strain of bird flu was found by Dutch authorities, in Hekendorp on 17 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

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MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1446)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW voy No (1446) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (943) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (062)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (062) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NINOS VOY NO (1025)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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



Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters perform during a parade at an airbase in Tezpur, India, on 21 Nov, 2014. — XINHUA

Two German nationals arrested over train vandalism in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 Nov — Two German nationals have been arrested for allegedly vandalising a subway train earlier this month, local media reported on Saturday.

The men, both 21, were nabbed by Malaysian police at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Thursday and extradited to Singapore on Friday, the *Straits Times* reported.

They are expected to be charged on Saturday with trespassing as well as vandalism, which carries a sentence of up to three years in jail or a maximum fine of 2,000 Singapore dollars (1,600 US dollars), and a mandatory three to eight strokes of the cane.

The vandalism was detected on the morning of 8 November, before the train entered service. The police are still investigating how the two men allegedly gained access to the depot to spray graffiti on the train. There was speculation that it had been an inside job after sources said no intrusion was detected, but the latest revelation raises fresh questions about security at the train depots.

This is the third breach at the depot since 2011, with two happening this year, despite improvements such as reinforced steel fences and intrusion detection systems. The depot at Changi was also breached in May 2010.

Both the train service operator SMRT and the Land Transport Authority said they would work with relevant parties to enhance the security of the transport network.

Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to Cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 23rd November, 2014: Isolated lightrain or thunder-showers are likely in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State and weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair 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: Decrease of night temperature in the Upper Myanmar area.

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EU seeks fresh start for TTIP negotiation

BRUSSELS, 22 Nov — The European Union (EU) Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom said on Friday they seek a fresh start for negotiation on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

After the trade ministers from 28 member states discussion, Malmstrom highlighted the transparency should be improved during the TTIP talks, saying such topic took much time during the council's meeting.

In a statement issued during the meeting, the council underlines the importance of maintaining the positive efforts undertaken so far and the need to approach the US side to discuss meaningful possibilities to improve trans-

parency, including the access to all negotiating documents in order to let Member States develop constructive discussions with civil society.

TTIP has drawn criticism from the public of the EU over the regulation and foreign investment treaty, which causing concern over undermining the goods standards and citizens interests. The chairman from Italy, rotating presidency country of the EU, admitted the progress of negotiation not fast after one and half year talks, noting that the window opportunity for concluding the free trade agreement remained open until beginning of 2016. He added that public consultation is ongoing to address further public concerns.

However, the Council

reconfirmed its strong expectation of concluding a deep, ambitious, balanced and mutually beneficial agreement on all three pillars of the negotiations as soon as feasible, according to the Council mandate.

To achieve this aim, it is essential to have clear and strong political supports for the negotiations by both parties which will boost TTIP talks and facilitate the conclusion of the agreement according to a positive timeline." Tariffs between the EU and the US are already low (4 percent on average), but the combined size of the EU and the US economies and the trade between them means that dismantling tariffs could be a massive boost for growth and jobs.

Xinhua

Landslides in West Sumatra, Indonesia kill two

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — Heavy downpours in West Sumatra Province triggered landslides earlier on Friday, killing 2 people, an official said.

The landslides occurred at around 02:00 am Jakarta Time along a main toll road at Sinjunjung district and blocked the traffic, but the soil and stones were later removed, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the Indonesian national disaster manage-

ment agency.

A house was hit and damaged in Ranah Pinago village. "Two people were found dead under the rubble of the house at 05:15. But two others were rescued safely," the official told *Xinhua* over phone.

The agency warned of more possible landslides in the coming months as more rain is expected.

Xinhua

James Cagney's 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' Oscar fails to sell



The 1942 Oscar for Best Actor given to James Cagney for his role as the patriot showman George M Cohen in the musical "Yankee Doodle Dandy", shown here in New York on 26 Sept, 2000, is among items from the actor's estate to be auctioned in New York on 27 September.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — James Cagney's best actor Oscar statuette for the 1942 musical film "Yankee Doodle Dandy" went unsold at auction in Los Angeles, in a rare offering of film's top award.

Auction house Nate D Sanders said on Friday they were attempting to secure a private sale of the gold statuette, which is currently owned by a private collector.

Bidding in the Thursday night auction started at \$800,000 and the auction house had said they believed bidding could surpass \$1 million. There were no bids on the trophy. It is rare for an Oscar statuette to go up for sale as the Academy Awards' organizer, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, began making winners since 1951 agree to offer the prize back to the Academy for \$1 before selling it.

Cagney, who died in 1986 at age 86, was one of the most enduring performers of Hollywood's golden era having starred in films like 1949's "White Heat" and 1938's "Angels with Dirty Faces." He was nominated for three Academy Awards.

The Academy has in the past gone to court to stop some sales of Oscar statuettes.—Reuters

Keira Knightley feared she would be fired from 'Pirates of the Caribbean'



Keira Knightley

NEW YORK, 22 Nov —British actress Keira Knightley said she feared filmmaker Jerry Bruckheimer would fire her from 'Pirates of the Caribbean' when she was 17. The 29-year-old actress said she learned to work hard and keep her head down after

bad press over her weight and acting in her early career, reported *New York Post*.

"Being a teenager that's come out of sort of big blockbuster films, there was a lot of criticism. People saying, 'She can't act, she can't do it. What's the

point? She's pouty, she's thin.' "Being a teenager, you do read it all and you go, 'Oh, my God, I am that awful. I remember going to Hollywood. I had only packed a small bag because I was convinced they were going to fire me," Knightley said.—PTI

Julia Roberts pays tribute to Mike Nichols

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — Actress Julia Roberts has paid tribute to late director Mike Nichols, calling him her "most cherished friend" in a touching tribute following his death on Wednesday.

The 47-year-old 'Pretty Woman' star worked with the filmmaker on his last two directorial projects, the Oscar-nominated 'Closer' in 2004 and 'Charlie Wilson's War' in 2007, and she said the sudden passing of her "remarkable and amazing" has left her devastated, reported *People* magazine.

"There are so few heroes in our world. So few impeccable craftsmen, so few people who personify unconditional love and friendship. Mike Nichols was like no other. In every way he was remarkable and amazing," Roberts said.

"His musings were like pearls, his jokes were timeless and perfectly placed, his stories – detailed and wholly entertaining, his warm embrace was where you wanted to live forever," she added. Closing her tribute, Roberts said, "He was my most cherished friend."—PTI

Robert De Niro settles property tax dispute



NEW YORK, 22 Nov — Actor Robert De Niro has agreed to pay officials in a New York town USD 130,000 in legal fees after deciding to drop his

long-running court battle over a property tax assessment.

The 71-year-old 'Raging Bull' star purchased his Hudson Valley pad via his

Riverside Trust in 1997 for USD 1.5 million, but expanded the estate in recent years to include two guest houses, a swimming pool, basketball court, boxing

Hollywood star Robert De Niro decided to drop his long-running court battle over a property tax assessment.
REUTERS

space and film production suites, reported *New York Times*.

The extensive renovations prompted tax officials to revalue the property at USD 6 million in 2010, and De Niro challenged the estimation, insisting it was only worth USD 4 million. A judge ruled against the star in June, prompting De Niro to launch an appeal.

He has since reached a settlement with the local authorities in Gardiner and agreed to drop the appeal and pick up the bill for costs they incurred while defending their assessment.

PTI

The trailer for Disney's 'Cinderella' released



LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — Disney has unveiled the new trailer and preview still for 'Cinderella', its live-action remake of the 1950 animated classic.

'Downton Abbey' star Lily James takes on the title role of Ella, whose life is turned upside down when her wealthy father remarries then unexpectedly passes away, reported E! online.

Cate Blanchett takes on the role of Cinderella's cruel stepmother, while Holliday Grainger and Sophie McShera will play her

'Downton Abbey' star Lily James takes on the title role of Ella.—PTI

daughters Anastasia and Drisella. Helena Bonham Carter will play the Fairy Godmother with 'Game of Thrones' star Richard Madden as Prince Charming. Hayley Atwell, Stellan Skarsgård and Derek Jacobi also feature in the supporting cast for the fairy tale, which will be directed by Kenneth Branagh.

"It is impossible to think of Cinderella without thinking of Disney and the timeless images we've all grown up watching. And those classic moments are irresistible to a filmmaker," Branagh said.

'Cinderella' will open on 13 March in the US and 27 March in the UK.—PTI

GENERAL

Chalmers University of Technology to offer free online course on graphene

STOCKHOLM, 22 Nov — The Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden has said it will offer a free online course, open to anyone, on the super-material graphene starting next year.

According to a press release sent out on Friday, as of the beginning of 2015, Chalmers University of Technology will start its first mooc — massive open online course — free of charge and accessible to anyone with a computer.

The first course to be

offered is “Introduction to Graphene Science and Technology.” The subject of graphene — a pure, very strong, lightweight carbon similar to graphite — is at the forefront of a European Union research initiative based at Chalmers University.

Course content will be showcased in short video clips of five to seven minutes each. “This is a new and different way for us to take on the role of knowledge disseminator in our society,”

Maria Knutson Wedel, vice

president for undergraduate and master’s education at Chalmers was quoted as saying. With a computer and an Internet connection, course participants all over the world can watch video lectures, take part in discussions, do assignments and take exams, the release said.

“Previously, we have primarily shared knowledge on a local and national level.

The technology today enables global knowledge sharing; we can reach people who need the knowledge in

question no matter where they are located in the world,” said Wedel.

She believes that moocs can be very useful as supplementary or continuing professional development for people who in the working world, as this type of education also results in a degree and a title, something which companies consider when hiring.

The next mooc in line after the course on graphene will be on sustainability in everyday life, starting in May 2015.—Xinhua

Zidane coaching ban overturned

BARCELONA, (Spain), 22 Nov — Zinedine Zidane has had a three-month ban for coaching Real Madrid’s B team without the correct licence overturned on appeal, the club confirmed on Friday.

“Spain’s Administrative Court for Sport (TAD) has accepted the case put forward by the club which means that the first and second trainers of Real Madrid Castilla — Santiago Sanchez and Zinedine Zidane — can carry out their profession,” read a statement.

It follows a court ruling last month to allow the pair to continue coaching the B team, which is in the third tier of Spanish football, while the appeal was heard.

A World Cup winner with France and Champions League winner with Real, Zidane began working for the B side ahead of this season supposedly as an assistant to Sanchez although it was claimed he was in fact running the team but without the necessary coaching certificate for the role.

Zidane’s defence included the fact that he had the necessary licence that covered him to coach in France and other European countries.—Reuters



Real Madrid’s coach Carlo Ancelotti (L) and assistant Zinedine Zidane react during the Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match against Bayern Munich at the Arena stadium in Munich, on 29 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Davis Cup final attracts record crowd



A general view shows the clay court during the Davis Cup final singles tennis match between France’s Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Switzerland’s Stanislas Wawrinka at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d’Ascq, near Lille, on 21 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

LILLE, (France) 22 Nov — A record crowd of 27,432 people took their seats at the Pierre Mauroy stadium for the Davis Cup final between France and

Switzerland on Friday.

The French tennis federation (FFT) and the International tennis federation (ITF) said the previous record for a sanctioned tennis match had been set in Seville in 2004 for the Davis Cup final between Spain and the United States.

The FFT said it expected the stadium to be at full capacity again for Saturday’s doubles and Sunday’s reverse singles.

The Pierre Mauroy stadium usually hosts Ligue 1 club Lille’s games with a maximum capacity of just over 50,000 in soccer configuration. The roof has been closed for the Davis Cup final.

Reuters

Mudslide strikes home in California area that saw wildfire this year

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — A mudslide slammed into a house in a Southern California suburb on Friday where wildfires had left hilly terrain barren of trees and brush, prompting authorities to warn residents that more such landslides were likely in the near future. The mudslide in Glendora occurred before dawn, overtopping a retaining wall the owners of the house built in their backyard and leaving a 4-foot-tall pile of mud resting against the back of the house and its garage, Los Angeles County Fire Department inspector Rick Flores said.

The backyards of another four residential properties in the area about 20 miles east of Los Angeles were littered with mud and debris, which did not reach the homes on those lots, he said.

The mudslide followed a rainstorm in the Glendora area that dumped nearly half an inch of rain on the barren hillside, said National Weather Service meteorologist Carol Smith. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for the area a short time before the mudslide, she said. In January, the so-called Colby Fire in the foothills near Glendora burned about 2,000 acres. Three men whose illegal campfire ignited the blaze were convicted of related charges in federal court, with two men sentenced to several months in prison and a third still awaiting sentencing.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(23-11-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:15 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* MRTV’s Youth Programme

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* Amazing World

9:00 am

* News / International News

9:40 am

* Beautiful (ASEAN)

10:50 am

* Science and Technology Programme

12:00 noon

* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:45 pm

* Round up of the Week’s International News

3:15 pm

* 2014 Suzuki Cup (Live) (Myanmar & Malaysia)

5:15 pm

* Musical Programme

6:00 pm

* News/ Weather Report

6:50 pm

* Documentary

7:20 pm

* Weekly Entertainment News

8:00 pm

* News / International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 pm

* News
* Tamyethnar
* Takwetsar

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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-11-14 07:00 am~ 24-11-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News

* The Man and The Elephant

* World News

* Today Myanmar “ASEAN Traditional Food”

* Local News

* The Caves

* World News

* A Nun’s Creation in Fruit Carving

* Local News

* A Visit to Kyauk Kyi

* World News

* Made in Myanmar “Mixxo”

* Local News

* The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Episode-2)

* World News

* 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”



Image provided by Chile’s Defence Ministry shows Chilean and Argentinean soldiers participating in the South Cross II joint exercise, at the Training Camp of Chile’s Army Especial Operations Brigade, in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 21 Nov, 2014. —XINHUA



Shot putter Valerie Adams of New Zealand (R) poses with World-record pole vaulter Renaud Lavillenie of France (L) after receiving their 2014 IAAF Athletes of the Year trophies during the IAAF Gala in Monte Carlo on 21 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Frenchman Lavillenie, Kiwi Adams are Athletes of Year

PARIS, 22 Nov — Pole vault world record holder Renaud Lavillenie and Olympic shot put champion Valerie Adams were named World Athletes of the Year at an IAAF gala in Monaco on Friday.

It marked the first time that field event athletes had won both awards and the first time a male pole vaulter or a female thrower collected the honours, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said.

Frenchman Lavillenie, 28, set the world record of 6.16 metres in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk in February, breaking Sergei Bubka's 21-year-old mark. He also won 21 of 22 competitions.

"This is really the dream season for me," he said when accepting the honour.

"I think the world record contributed to the award but I won other

competitions too. I wasn't as good as Valerie, I lost one competition, but 21 out of 22 is not too bad in an event which is quite unpredictable."

Adams, 30, claimed a ninth global title when she retained her world indoor crown in Sopot, Poland.

The New Zealander was unbeaten in 2014 and boosted her winning streak to 56 competitions, having not lost since 2010.

Reuters

Late Lavezzi goal sends champions PSG to the top

PARIS, 22 Nov — Champions Paris St Germain went top of Ligue 1 for the first time this season when Ezequiel Lavezzi's late goal earned a 3-2 win at Metz on Friday, the club's first victory there in 11 years.

The Argentine forward struck seven minutes from time to give PSG 30 points from 14 games, two ahead of Olympique de Marseille who take on Girondins de Bordeaux on Sunday. PSG were 2-0 up after 16 minutes following Javier Pastore's opener and Gaetan Bussmann's own goal but they conceded two penalties in four minutes early in the second half, both converted by Modibo Maiga.

Argentine midfielder Pastore flicked the ball past Cedric Carrasso at the end of a sharp counter attack to put PSG ahead after nine minutes. Seven minutes later Bussmann deflected Lavezzi's free kick into his own net with his knee.



Paris St Germain's Javier Pastore (L) celebrates his goal against Metz with his team mate Ezequiel Lavezzi during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Saint Symphorien stadium in Metz on 21 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

PSG coach Laurent Blanc had to make an early substitution when Yohan Cabaye limped off and he was replaced by Clement Chantome.

Maiga reduced the ar-

rears four minutes into the second half after Siargai Krivets was brought down by Adrien Rabiot.

Metz then benefited from another successful Maiga penalty after Greg-

ory van der Wiel handled before Lavezzi rounded off his man-of-the-match performance with his late goal to give unbeaten PSG their fifth league win in a row.

Reuters

Liverpool's Rodgers unfazed by Selhurst Park return

LONDON, 22 Nov — Brendan Rodgers says he is not haunted by the memories of throwing away a 3-0 lead against Crystal Palace last season, but after a poor start to the current campaign the Liverpool manager will not want to see a repeat performance at Selhurst Park on Sunday. Liverpool's chances of claiming their first league title in 24 years last season were effectively ended when they drew 3-3 at Palace a week after losing 2-0 to Chelsea. "That wasn't the game that cost us," Rodgers told a news conference on Friday. "The damage was always done in the Chelsea game. That was the one that changed it for us.

"But on reflection I was extremely proud. Maybe the

excitement to claw back the goal difference on Manchester City overtook us.

"It will be equally as tough against Palace this season." Rodgers's side have looked a shadow of the team that ran Manchester City so close for the title last season and are 11th in the Premier League table with 14 points from 11 matches. Liverpool's cause has not been helped by persistent injuries to Daniel Sturridge and Rodgers confirmed the England striker is unlikely to be fit until next year because of a thigh problem.

"He has just been extremely unfortunate — the last time he played was August," Rodgers said.

Reuters



Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers

Beaten Federer consoled by shaking 'ghost' off his back



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to France's Gael Monfils during their Davis Cup final singles tennis match at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille on 21 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

LILLE, (France), 22 Nov — Despite his defeat by Gael Monfils in Friday's second singles rubber of the Davis Cup final, Roger Federer found something to smile about as the Swiss got "a ghost" off his back.

The 17-times grand slam champion, who lost 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 as France drew level 1-1 following Stan Wawrinka's opening victory over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, explained that the recent discomfort he felt in his back began to ease the longer the contest went on.

"It wasn't all negative. I started to feel better as the match went on. That's very encouraging," Federer told a news conference.

"You don't have to be in unbelievably excruciating pain but it takes a while for it to leave your mind.

It's like a ghost. "But that's why it was good for me to play three sets today. It definitely gives us a lot of information. I would think that I'm going to get better as the weekend goes on."

Switzerland captain Severin Luthi now has to decide whether to pair Federer and Wawrinka in Saturday's doubles.

He named Michael Lammer and Marcio Chiodinelli at Thursday's draw and has until one hour before the match to change his lineup.

Asked if he was able to play three days in a row, Federer sounded optimistic.

"I would be ready to do that if, as ever, it's the best choice," he said.

"I know there are less risks than a few days ago, or less than this morning,

so I'm making myself available for the team as much as I can, 100 percent, not only as a player but in whatever role I can play," added Federer. "I'm there to support them and support the team. This is what I always do."

Wawrinka said he was ready to play on Saturday when the Swiss pair will face Richard Gasquet and Julien Benneteau unless France captain Arnaud Clement decides to replace the latter with Tsonga.

"I'm always ready to play everything. But we'll do like we always do...we'll discuss and see where we are," said Wawrinka who was impressive in his 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat of Tsonga.—Reuters