

Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys Shan New Year feast

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited a pagoda festival and a Shan New Year feast held at Hsenwi township, Shan State.

Shan State's Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and ministers opened the festival and the feast.

At the ceremony, the vice president delivered a congratulatory speech on the occasion of Shan New Year.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that these events can be held due to the efforts of local people and the current peaceful situation, especially in the economic and administrative sectors.

He also said that some people have not fully appreciated the reform processes of the government in politics, the economy and administration which have been carried

out since 2011.

The vice president noted that politics gives individuals or a party a clear mandate to implement policies and decisions for the welfare of the country.

He also suggested that people should elect parliamentarians sensibly, while the candidates themselves need to consider seriously whether they can work for the good of the country, and not for selfish reasons.

He also explained that state revenues are allocated by the parliament, and that the government spends the revenues on projects according to its budget, so there is a counter-balance between the parliament and the government.

The vice president reminded the locals to be cautious about which candidates they vote for.

After the pagoda festi-



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views documentary photos on activities of Shan New Year Day.—MNA

val and New Year feast, Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited the monument of the historic Shwe Nandaw residence

and planted a tree marking the 100th anniversary of the grand building.

The vice president

then paid homage at Maha Muni pagoda and donated offertories to the head monk of the township. Dr

Sai Mauk Kham and party arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw from Lashio at 3 pm.

MNA

EU to give Myanmar financial support under development programme



EU ambassador to Myanmar Roland Kobia.

YANGON, 24 Nov — The European Union and its partners will give Myanmar euro 250 million every year under a strategic coopera-



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane.

tion programme from 2014 to 2016, together with loans from EU financial institutions.

EU ambassador to My-



Union Minister for NPED Dr Kan Zaw.

anmar Roland Kobia said that EU countries and partner countries of the development programme have made an agreement to give finan-

cial support to Myanmar in view of the remarkable progress made under the reform process of the Southeast Asia country.

The EU is contributing its support in six major plans, and this strategic co-operation will boost these plans.

Kobia also said that the partner countries that have contributed to this programme include Germany, Denmark, the UK, Sweden, Italy, Finland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Luxemburg, Netherlands and Poland.

U Soe Thane, Union minister at the President

Office, said that the programme came online on 24 November, and euro 30 million will be used for peace-making efforts out of euro 250 million every year.

U Soe Thane said: "Euro 31 million will also be used for parliament, the 2015 election, the rule of law and the judicial system, management, and a census-taking project. This financial support will be useful for the peace-making effort as it is the most fundamental for the development of the country."

Allotment of these funds includes euro 70 million each year for a rural development programme; 40 million for the health sector; euro 44 million for education; euro 14 million for trade and economic development; euro 5 million for human rights issues; euro 16 million for civil societies; and euro 1 million for environmental conservation.

The EU ambassador said that the assistance proves that the EU is very optimistic about the future of Myanmar, and sends a message that the EU will cooperate with Myanmar in major reform processes, including the 2015 election.

Khin Yandana/Tin Soe Myanma Alinn

DRA abolishes registration fee for imported municipal buses

YANGON, 24 Nov — The Directorate of Road Administration under the Ministry of Transport has abolished a rule that levies a registration fee on imported passenger buses to be used for municipal transport effective from 17 November, according to the DRA. Under the rule, the ministry collected five per cent of the original value of imported buses as a registration fee.

Only so-called city buses are now exempt from paying the registration fee, while other types of buses are not, the announcement stated. The move is aimed at increasing the number of modern buses in use in cities, the announcement said.

Second-hand passenger buses are mostly imported to Myanmar as they are cheaper than new buses. A brand new city bus costs around K40 million in Myanmar, and more than 3,000 such buses were imported from October 2011 to October 2014.

Aye Min Soe / GNLM



Union Ministers U Soe Thane and Dr Kan Zaw pose for documentary photo with participants in the ceremony of handing over 250 million euro to Myanmar.—PHOTO: KHIN YANDANA/TIN SOE-MYANMA ALINN

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Debate on constitutional amendment continues at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Representatives continue debate on amendment of constitution on Tuesday's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—The 32nd day session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved membership of Myanmar in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank sent by President U Thein Sein.

The MPs also continued the debate on the re-

port of the Constitutional Amendment Implementation Committee.

U Zaw Tun of Labutta Constituency said that

although the current Constitution was drawn with the purpose to serve the interests of the State and the people, certain sections

which are not conformity with the present time need to be amended.

Daw Khin Than Myint of Ngaputaw Constituency said that now is the time to build trust, national unity and eternal peace among the national people. Therefore, all the people are to build a modern, developed nation by upholding their national duty with regard to non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetration of sovereignty and by practising a multiparty democracy system and market-oriented economic system.

Daw Tin Tin Yi of Kyunsu Constituency said that Myanmar needs the Constitution to have plans of sound foundations. That is why it is necessary to amend and substitute laws that need such action.

U Sai Thant Zin of

Shan State Constituency No 4 said that necessary provisions should be amended in the Constitution with farsightedness for peace and stability and development of the nation, national reconciliation, prevalence of law and order, the democratization process, and fundamental rights of citizens.

Defence Services Personnel Representative Major Thein Tun said that in amending the Constitution, it is necessary to consider the actual situation of the nation and farsightedness of political parties. He noted that the MPs are to adopt the best solutions through coordination in order to not harm the stability of the State.

So far, 130 MPs have participated in the debate on constitutional amendment from 16 November to date.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on bill on discrimination against women, vehicle import policy

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — The Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session on Monday raised questions on the enactment of a law protecting females from violence and the vehicle import policy.

Concerning the law protecting females from violence, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said that females are protected from physical, mental and sexual violence by their fundamental rights in accordance with the state Constitution, existing laws, and traditions.

Myanmar signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1997 to cooperate with the international community in women's af-

fairs, according to the deputy minister.

In addition, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is drafting a bill to protect females from abuse and gender-based violence due to socioeconomic conditions, conservative traditions and conflicts in cooperation with ministry officials, parliamentary representatives, representatives of political parties, legal experts, CSOs and NGOs working for gender equality and representatives of the United Nations Gender Theme Group, the deputy minister added.

The bill has been completed up to chapter 9 and it will be submitted to the parliament upon completion.

Regarding the vehicle import policy, Union Min-

ister for Commerce U Win Myint said that while the ministry has permitted the public to import vehicles regardless of whether they are left-hand drive or right-hand drive since 2009, it is taking measures to allow only the importation of left-hand drives of the previous model year in 2015.

The Ministry of Commerce issues import permits for vehicles while the Customs Department levies import duties and the Directorate of Road Administration registers the vehicles, according to the minister.

However, the union minister said the ministry has no plans to inspect imported cars as to whether they meet international standards.

MNA

More clashes occur in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW 24 Nov — Members of the Kachin Independent Army (Kachin) attacked security camps of the Tatmadaw near Momauk Township in Bhamo district, Kachin State, on Saturday afternoon, according to a report

by Myawady, the military mouthpiece, on Monday.

Another attack on the military by the same group also happened near Dawphoneyang sub-township in Bhamo district Sunday afternoon.

Security forces later

launched counterattacks, the report said.

The Tatmadaw has reportedly sent a letter to the KIA's Conflict Negotiation Committee seeking to avoid more conflicts between the two forces

Myawady

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw approves PR system

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — The bill committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw submitted the anti-dumping bill sent back with some changes to the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) session on Monday.

The differences between the two chambers will be discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw approved the con-

dominium bill and the second amendment bill of the ward/village tract administration law sent back with some changes by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

In addition, the commission tasked with implementation of a proportional representation system submitted its findings to the session.

The commission said that while both the FPTP

and PR systems have advantages and disadvantages, it was in favour of the PR system, citing the fact that the system can represent voters more broadly and it will not be against the Constitution.

The report will be submitted to the Union Election Commission.

The Amyotha Hluttaw session approved the PR system. —MNA

Ceremony held to reunite 80 former child soldiers with parents

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Under the arrangement of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and the Myanmar Watchdog Report Work Committee, a ceremony to hand over 80 former child soldiers to their parents was held at No 1 Transit Centre in Yangon on Monday.

Brig-Gen Tauk Tun of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and Mr. Bertrand Bainvel, the UNICEF representative in Myanmar,

made speeches. Officials presented resignation certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards to the children and handed them over to their parents. Similar ceremonies were held in Yangon. Officials handed over 42 children to their parents on 3 September 2012, 24 children on 15 February 2013, 42 on 7 July 2013, 96 on 18 January 2014, 91 on 1 August 2014 and 109 on 25 September 2014.

Myanmar signed an

18-month plan with the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children (UNCT-FMR) on 27 June 2012 to end the recruitment and use of children as child soldiers. The plan was extended by six more months for the first time on 28 December 2013 and a second time on 28 June 2014. Action was taken against 48 officers and 271 servicemen for recruitment of children.—Myawady

First-year university courses to kick off on 4 December

YANGON, 24 Nov — First-year courses at universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Ministry of Education will begin on 4 December.

The admission lists for the 2014-15 academic year of those who passed the matriculation examination in 2014 have already been announced at all universi-

ties, degree colleges and colleges.

The second year and above courses will begin on 1 December.

MNA

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Thailand to promote cooperation in military affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Vice President U Nyan Tun held talks with Chief of Defence Forces General Worapong Sanganetra of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

They focused on formation of joint commission and the joint border committees for cooperation in promoting bilateral relations, arrangements for friendly relations and coop-

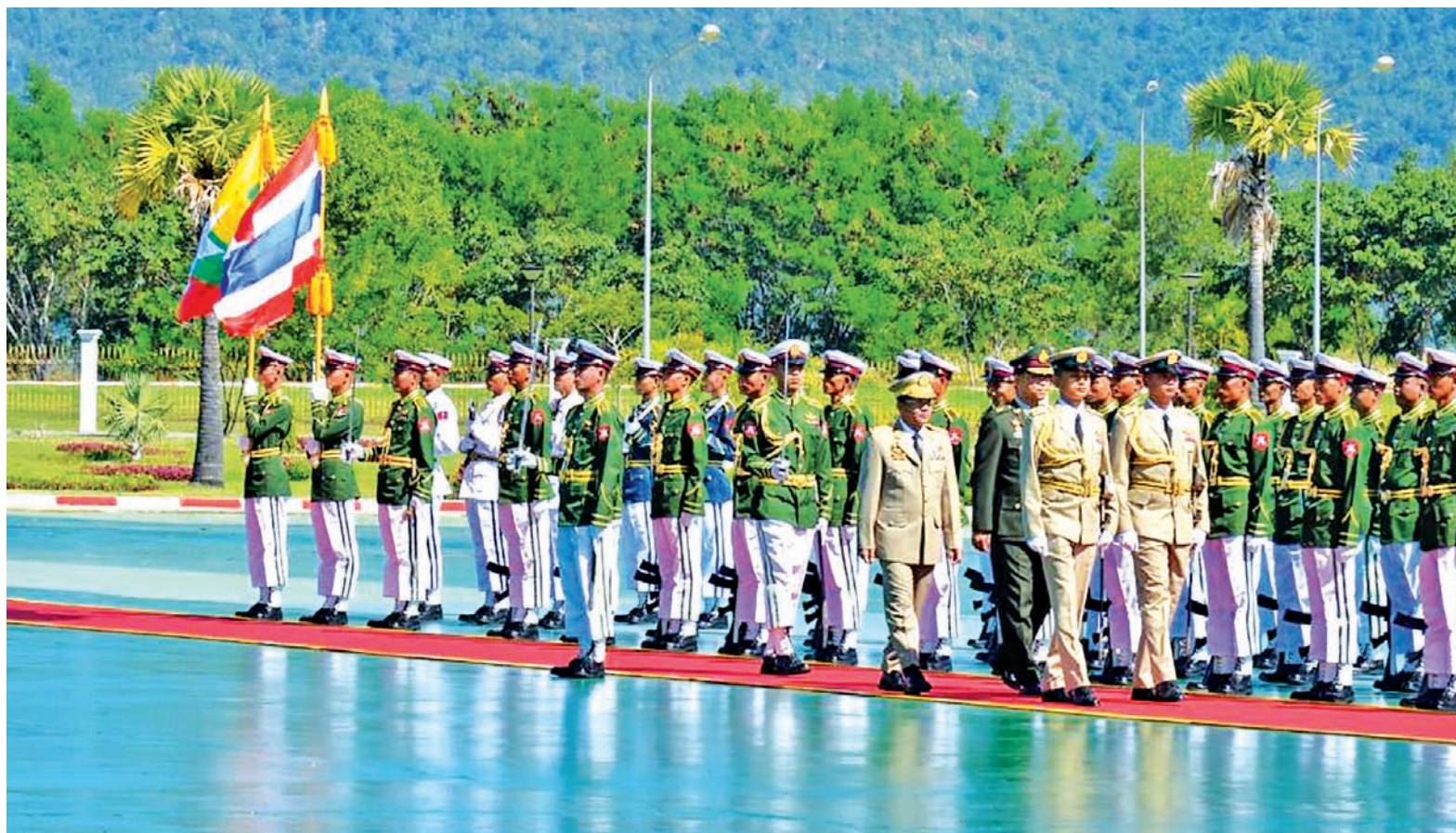
eration between two armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand, and cooperation in peace and stability, rule of law, drug elimination, combating terrorism and prevention of human trafficking at border regions between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Commodore Aung Thaw, U Thant Kyaw, U Han Sein and Daw Win Maw Tun, and the Thai Military Attaché.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Chief of Defence Forces General Worapong Sanganetra of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.—MNA

Myanmar and Thai armed forces to maintain unchangeable relationship



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Chief of Defence Forces General Worapong Sanganetra of the Royal Thai Armed Forces inspect the Guard of Honour.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Myanmar and Thailand, members of ASEAN, have been maintaining friendly relations, diplomatic relations and military relations for sixty years, said Commander-in-Chief of

Defence Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with Chief of Defence Forces General Worapong Sanganetra of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The senior general thanked Thailand for its support in peace-making process of Myanmar for ensuring peace and stability of practising multiparty democracy system. He urged the Thai general to

help all groups participate in eternal peace-making process. The senior general pointed out a key

role of Thailand for ensuring peace and stability and democratization. The senior general confirmed

Myanmar and Thai armed forces will maintain unchangeable relationship.

The Thai general claimed that he will try the best to further cement friendly ties between the two armed forces and promote cooperation between them in his tenure.

After that, they exchanged views on border affairs, effective elimination of narcotic drugs, close cooperation in exchange of information for combating terrorism.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner to the Thai general and party at Aureum Palace Hotel.

In the morning, the senior general welcomed the Thai general at Zeyathiri Beikman and took salute of the Guard of Honour. The senior general presented his entourage to the Thai general who introduced his delegation members to the senior general.

Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party left Yangon by air on Monday to attend the 15th ASEAN

Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15) and the closing ceremony of the 24th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meeting (24th AARM) to be held in Vietnam.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win accompanied by

officials of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and senior military officers.—Myawady

38th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting kicks off in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Emphasis is to be placed on implementation of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, the ASEAN Single Shipping Market, the ASEAN Highway Network Project and the Singapore-Kunming railroad project, Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw said

at the opening ceremony of the 38th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting at the Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Monday.

He urged all ASEAN member countries to strive for implementation of the Brunei Action Plan, the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan and the AEC

Blueprint so as to facilitate the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Altogether 170 delegates from ASEAN countries discussed development of the transport sector and future plans.

The 37th meeting was hosted in Nay Pyi Taw from 3 to 5 June 2014.—MNA

Merit shared for completion of home for the aged

NYAUNGLEBIN, 24 Nov — A ceremony to share merit for construction of Dhamma Yeiktha Home for the Aged was held in the precinct of Sasana Sobhanikayon monastery beside Yangon-Mandalay Road in Ward 3, Pyuntaza, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on 21 November.

The home has three one-storey halls. Ko Aung Soe Myat-Ma Ei Mon Soe and family donated the hall for Mon Cetara grandfa-

thers, U Tun Shwe-Daw Tin Mya and family of Pyuntaza, the hall for Shwe and Mya grandmothers, and U Myo Aung-Daw Khin Yi (Aung Yadana Rice Mill) and family of Pyuntaza, the Bawzana Thalla Aungyadana hall. Other well-wishers donated archways, power supplies, stairways, beds, chairs and other equipment, amounting to over K51 million.

Nay Pyin
(Nyaunglebin)



Talk on dental medicine given in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 24 Nov —The Mandalay Region Dentists Association of Myanmar Dentists Asso-

ciation organized a dental medicine talk at Oriental House at the corner of 64th and 27th streets in Manda-

lay on Sunday.

Association Chairman Dr Aung Kyawt Phone explained the purpose of

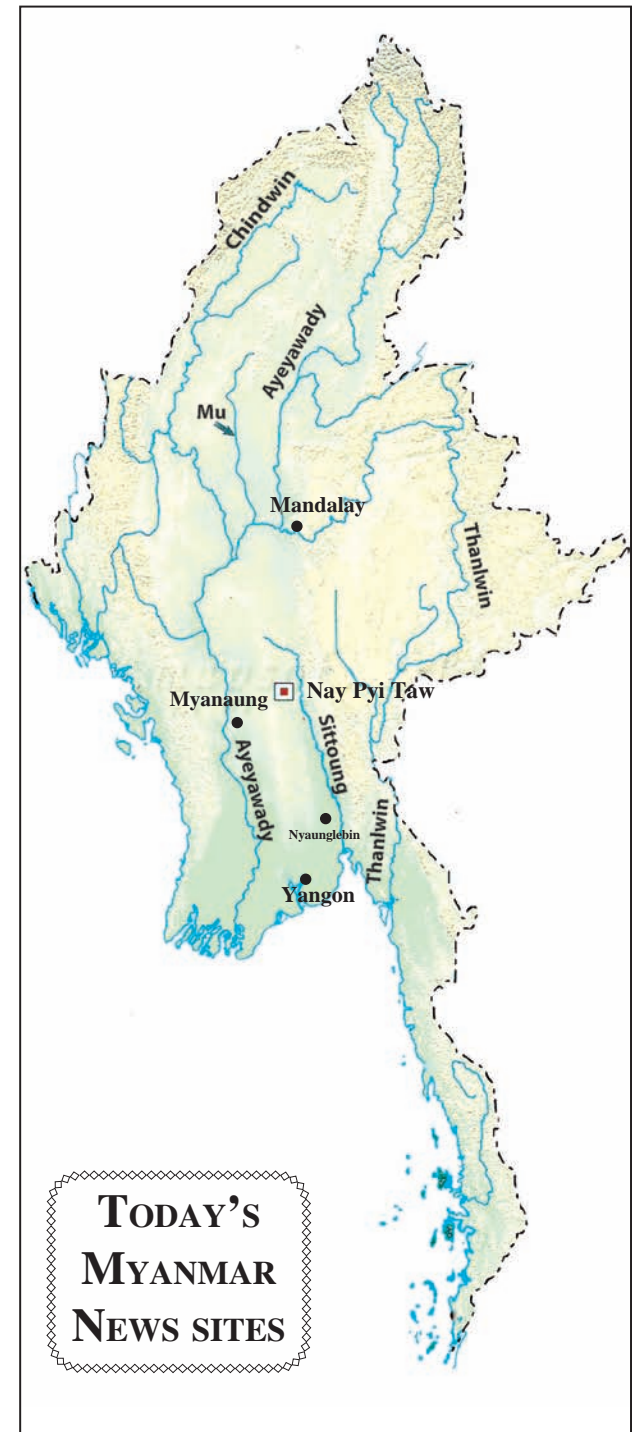
holding the talks.

Dr Aye Min (USA) gave a lecture on chemo-mechanical preparation and 3D obturation of the root-canal system and also replied to queries raised by dentists.

The chairman of the Mandalay region association presented a certificate of honour to the speaker.

The talk was attended by over 90 dentists and executives of the association.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)



TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES

Outstanding students in English and mathematics receive awards



MYANAUNG, 24 Nov —The prize presentation for outstanding students in English and mathematics contests for the 2014-15 academic year was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on Sunday.

Township Education Officer U Win Myint

awarded 84 winners in the English and mathematics contests from grade 5 for matriculation from the basic education schools.

The education officer expressed thanks for donations from U Than Htaik-Daw Mya Min Min Htet and family and Min San Ein.—Win Bo-Township IPRD

Dhamma School opened in Myanaung Township

MYANAUNG, 24 Nov —The Dhamma School was opened at the Youth Development Parahita House of the Monastic Education Post-Primary School in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 23 November.

Secretary-1 of the Dhamma School Foundation Sayadaw Dr Nanavamsa explained the purpose of opening the Dhamma School. U Thein Hsan of the school elaborated on disciplines of the school and timetables.

Altogether 580 students are attending the

Dhamma School every Sunday.—Win Bo-Township IPRD

Departmental officials, entrepreneurs discuss national land utilization policy

MANDALAY, 24 Nov —A discussion on national land utilization policy (draft) of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at Mandalay's city hall on Sunday.

Mandalay Region ministers, Director of Nay Pyi

Taw Forest Department U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and towns' elders participated in the discussions.

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than made a speech.

Director U Kyaw Lwin reported on the national land utilization policy (draft) in brief. The region minister and officials replied to queries raised by entrepreneurs of crops plantations and departmental personnel.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)



LOCAL NEWS

Union information minister meets media persons

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut met the head of the Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department, district-level officials, chairmen of Mandalay Region Journalists Association and Mandalay District Journalists Association and executives, chief editors and editorial staff of Yadanabon and Mandalay

dailies and journals.

The union minister explained the duties and functions of the Ministry of Information. The media persons discussed the process of public service media, media law, prosecution of media, plans for development of media and tasks of the Myanmar Press Council (Interim).

*Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)*



Yadanabon FC Chairman Men's Open Inter-Club Football Tournament kicks off

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—The first round matches of the 2014 Yadanabon FC Chairman Men's Open Inter-Club Football Tournament kicked off at Shwe Mann Taung Ground, Aungmye Mandalay Sports Ground and Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on Sunday.

At Bahtoo Stadium, Galaxy beat Nan Myo Youth 1-0. Thamudaya Maung thrashed No Two 5-2 in Aungmye Mandalay Sports Ground.

A total of 27 football clubs including the Sports

and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) are participating in nine groups.

The second-round knockout matches will be held from 7 to 17 December at the designated venues.

The teams are battling for the K1 million first prize and the K700,000 second prize. In addition, a best player award of K30,000 will be given to the best player in each place, while the player of the tournament will receive K50,000.

*Tin Maung
(Mandalay)*



Two artists show their works at gallery



MANDALAY, 24 Nov—The Together Friend arts show was opened at Thiri Art Gallery on Fine Arts Road in Mingala Housing of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, on 22 November morning.

Chairman of the Upper Myanmar Artists Association U Zaw Win formally opened the show.

The showing of the 55 paintings by art tutors U Zeyar Aye and U Nyan Tun of the Mandalay State School of Fine Arts began on 22 November and will continue until 26 November, 10 am to 5 pm daily.

*Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)*

Children enjoy festivities at Myodaw Park free of charge

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, festivities organized by Equality Myanmar were held at Myodaw Park on Strand Road in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 20 November.

About 900 children from philanthropic schools,

the Thukha Yeikmyon orphanage, a school for the disabled, a school for deaf children and suburban areas enjoyed the festivities free of charge.

Children under 15 were allowed to participate in the modern playground, and well-wishers gave them refreshments.

*Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)*



Talk given on prevention of crimes over land allotment

MYANAUNG, 24 Nov—An educative talk on the prevention of crimes over farmlands, organized by the Myanaung Township Police Force, was held in ward 6 of Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on Sunday.

Commander of Myoma police station Police

Captain Maung Maung Tar explained legal affairs for prevention of crimes over allotment of alluvial lands in the Ayeyawady River.

Ward administrators and local people participated in the land allotment.

*Win Bo-Township
IPRD*



New motorcycle brands seeing high demand in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—New motorcycle brands from China, Thailand and India are flowing into the Mandalay market.

Click 125cc and Scoop 110 motorcycles are particularly popular among youths. The motorcycles made in Thailand sell for between K1.4 million and K1.6 million, with good

second-hand models available for K1.2 million.

The Chinese-made Click and Scoop motorcycles are priced at about K900,000 but demand for them is still low. Therefore, the motorbikes are being sold on installment plans.

Moreover, a sales promotion campaign is being held for Chinese-made

Zongshen motorcycles through a lucky draw programme.

*Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)*

*An official explains
utilization of alluvial
land in Myanaung,
Ayeyawady Region.*

DPJ election platform seeks change in “Abenomics” to narrow wealth gap

TOKYO, 24 Nov — The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan will call for a turnaround in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policies in its policy platform for the upcoming election to narrow disparities in wealth and revive a “wealthy middle-class,” its outline showed on Sunday.

Attacking the government’s “Abenomics” policies as having worsened living conditions, the DPJ platform, to be announced Monday, will seek a “flex-

ible” monetary policy that takes heed of people’s lives and a growth strategy that leads to a better future.

By emphasizing the viewpoint of “ordinary citizens,” the party aims to court voters critical of the Abe administration, centering on unaffiliated voters, according to party officials.

The platform will also seek to apply “every policy resource” to realizing a society without nuclear power in the 2030s and ditching the Cabinet’s decision in

July to reinterpret the Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence.

To deal with so-called gray-zone contingencies that have not developed to the level of necessitating the use of force, the party will propose legislating what it calls a territorial defence law.

On the contentious issue of relocating a key US military in Okinawa, the DPJ will maintain its stance of complying with

an existing accord with the United States to transfer the Marines’ Futenma Air Station within the southernmost prefecture, despite local opposition.

The platform also features the party’s signature measures that it realized when in power between 2009 and 2012, such as income subsidies for farmers and a lump-sum subsidy system for local governments that was scrapped by the current administration.—*Kyodo News*

Indonesia moves to contain risk of inflation after fuel price rise

BOGOR, 24 Nov — The Indonesian government took measures to control the hikes of goods’ prices across the country following the raise of subsidized-fuel prices by nearly 31 percent last week.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday told governors from all 34 provinces in a meeting at the Botanical garden Palace here to check the stockpiles and distribution of goods in their provinces as the president expected the price hikes contributed by the fuel price increase to be no more than 2 percent this year.

“On inflation, I told (the governors) to monitor the stockpiles of goods and their distribution,” Jokowi, as Widodo is known, said after the meeting with the governor at the palace.

“The additional inflation that we target is no more than 2 percent. It must not be over that,” he stressed. That was not in line with the central bank

calculation which has said that the additional inflation from the fuel price hike may reach 3 percent.

Jokowi disclosed that he considered the current goods’ price hikes remained in control.

“We don’t need to worry about the information,” he said. The country’s central bank, Bank Indonesia, has forecast inflation at 3.5 to 5.5 percent at the end of year, but the fuel price rise may push up the inflation.

The Indonesian government rose the fuel prices last Monday by nearly 31 percent to bolster government finances and help with the nation’s trade imbalance. The new policy gives certainty to investors that the Indonesian government plans to build massive infrastructures in the country, as President Jokowi aims to pursue over 7 percent GDP within 2 years, compared with this year’s 5.2 to 5.3 percent GDP expectation.

Xinhua



Delegations of SAARC countries attend the 41st session of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) standing committee ahead of the 18th SAARC summit in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 23 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

Philippine court convicts 9 Chinese fishermen

MANILA, 24 Nov — Nine Chinese fishermen were convicted by a court in western Philippine province of Palawan for poaching on Monday.

Provincial prosecutor Allen Ross Rodriguez said Puerto Princesa City Regional Trial Court Branch 51 Judge Ambrosio de Luna issued the sentence

during the promulgation of the case. Rodriguez said the Chinese fishermen were convicted for violating Section 87 of Republic Act (RA) 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code for poaching and Section 97 of (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation Act for taking of rare, threatened or endangered species.

“For violation of Section 87 or poaching, the court meted each of them a fine of 100,000 US dollars or in case of non-payment, a subsidiary imprisonment of six months,” he said.

Rodriguez said in a phone interview that the fine was in dollars due to the fact that the “Philippines has adopted the provision of

the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Seas or UNCLOS when it comes to poaching.”

As for violation of Section 97 of RA 9147, the prosecutor said the court imposed a penalty of 120,000 pesos (2,700 US dollars) each and/or imprisonment ranging from 12 to 20 years.—*Xinhua*



Indigenous people attend a rally against the militarization in their communities near the Malacanang Palace in Manila, the Philippines, on 24 Nov, 2014. The protestors called for the end of mining activities and the presence of the US military in Mindanao.—XINHUA

Thai king meets PM, ministers easing health concerns

BANGKOK, 24 Nov — Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej met the country’s prime minister and two other ministers on Sunday, helping to ease concern over his health after he was admitted to hospital last month.

Bhumibol, 86, attended an official ceremony at Bangkok’s Siriraj Hospital where he is being treated following an operation to remove his gallbladder.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former army chief who led a May coup that helped remove the remnants of an elected government, attended the ceremony

with the ministers.

Photographs released by the Royal Household Bureau, which tightly controls information about the royal family, show Prayuth, dressed in a white uniform, bowing and the king sitting on a golden chair.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Friday but the palace said doctors had advised the king to cancel the engagement, raising public concerns over the monarch’s health.

The king is revered by many Thais and his portrait hangs in every government building and in many shops and homes.

Bhumibol, a constitutional monarch, made several interventions in the 1970s and 1990s to call for calm during political upheaval. He was silent during the latest crisis, which began in November and culminated in the coup in May.

Thailand has a strict law which makes it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen, heir to the throne or regent. A national police spokesman said on Sunday that two senior policemen face royal insult charges in the latest in a mounting number of these cases following the May coup.—*Reuters*



Well-wishers pray for the health of Thailand’s revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Siriraj hospital in Bangkok on 8 October, 2014.—REUTERS

WORLD

S Korea holds exercise to defend disputed islets

SEOUL, 24 Nov — South Korea on Monday began a military exercise on and around a South Korea-controlled chain of tiny islets also claimed by Japan, according to South Korea's Defence Ministry.

"The exercise is an annual exercise that has been held to protect an integral part of our territory from an external force," Defence Ministry spokesman Wi Yong Seop said at a press briefing.

The maneuvers usually involve the army, navy and air force as well as coast guard patrol ships but the one-day exercise got under way only with the participation of naval forces because of the bad weather, the spokesman said.

Asked if a landing exercise by Marines will be held as scheduled, he said that depends on the weather conditions.

South Korean military exercises around the disputed islets, called Dokdo in Korea and Takeshima in Japan, have always drawn complaints from Tokyo.—Kyodo News

Putin: world leadership determined by economic, defence capabilities, not ratings

MOSCOW, 24 Nov — World leadership is determined by a state's capabilities, not by ratings, which could be an element of internal political struggle, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview for the TASS special project Top Officials.

"World leadership is determined by a state's economic and defence capabilities," Putin said while commenting on a recent Forbes ranking of the world's most powerful people, which

placed the Russian leader on top of the list, followed by US President Barack Obama.

"I don't know how Forbes made these assessments, it is their business. Perhaps, they do this on purpose to exacerbate my relations with Barack Obama, placing him second," he said.

"The President of the United States and I know each other. I can't say that we have quite close relationships but he is a clever per-

son and can evaluate all this. This could be a method of internal political struggle in the United States, especially on the eve of the elections to the Senate," Putin said.

"I don't want now to give an assessment of the US President's steps on the international scene, and we have a lot of contradictions and our views frequently diverge and, all the more so, I don't want to assess his internal political initiatives as this is a separate theme but I know that Obama realistical-

ly assesses what is going on in his country," he said.

"I'm confident that he considers these ratings as an element of struggle aimed at causing him damage," the Russian president said.

Putin said he doubts that US media is independent.

"How can it be independent, if it works in pair with the political opponents of the head of the White House? There is no independence in this regard. This is full dependence and the servicing of certain forces.



Russian President Vladimir Putin

But these are my assumptions," he said.

Itar-Tass

Italy's Renzi wins regional polls, low turnout sends warning

ROME, 24 Nov — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's centre-left Democratic Party (PD) won regional elections in Calabria and Emilia Romagna on Sunday but an exceptionally low turnout suggested growing disillusion among many voters.

Renzi, who has chalked up two other regional election successes since taking office in February and won a record victory in European elections in May, claimed another win, but he acknowledged that large numbers of voters had stayed away.

"The turnout was bad,

the results were good. A clear 2-0. 4 regions out of 4 taken from the centre right in 9 months," he said in a tweet on Monday.

However, after years of economic crisis that has created hardship among a growing number of Italians, there were clear warning signs for Renzi, who is facing increased pressure to push through potentially unpopular economic reforms.

In the central region of Emilia Romagna, traditionally a stronghold of the left, the PD candidate Stefano Bonaccini won 49 percent of the vote with the



Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi arrives to meet Spain's King Felipe at the Chigi Palace in Rome on 19 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

support of the leftist Left Ecology Freedom (SEL) party. However, turnout was just 40 percent, down from some 65 percent at the previous election.

In the southern region of Calabria, where results in some areas were still being counted early on Monday, the PD candidate Mario Oliverio had a score of more than 61 percent with the support of smaller leftist and centrist parties. Turnout was 44 percent against almost 60 percent last time.

In Emilia Romagna, the anti-immigrant, anti-euro Northern League

party, which campaigned in a centre-right coalition including former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, did better than expected, winning nearly 20 percent of the vote, while Forza Italia took 8 percent.

That was well ahead of the anti-establishment 5 Star Movement on 13 percent.

In Calabria, the centre-right coalition led by Forza Italia came second with almost 24 percent of the vote, while the 5-Star Movement took just under five percent.

Reuters

Iran nuclear talks expected to reconvene next month



French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L to R) pose for photographers before a meeting in Vienna on 24 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

VIENNA, 24 Nov — Iran and six world powers are expected to adjourn nuclear negotiations on Monday and reconvene next month

after the latest round of talks failed to clinch a final deal, a source close to the talks said.

Details about the ad-

jourment and resumption of negotiations were still being worked out, though the source said on condition of anonymity that Iran

could not expect any new sanctions relief for the time being. Possible venues include Vienna and Oman, the source said, though nothing had been decided.

"Some progress has been made," said a diplomat involved in the talks. "But we need to discuss some issues with our capitals. We will meet again before the new year. This is an ongoing process."

The talks in Vienna aim for a deal that could transform the Middle East, open the door to ending economic sanctions on Iran and start to bring a nation of 76 million people in from the cold after decades of hostility with the West.

The cost of failure to reach a deal could be high. Iran's regional foes Israel and Saudi Arabia are watching the Vienna talks nervously. Both fear

a weak deal that fails to curtail Teheran's nuclear ambitions, while a collapse of the negotiations would encourage Iran to become a threshold nuclear weapon state, something Israel has said it would never allow.

It became increasingly clear during a week of intensive negotiations between the top US and Iranian diplomats that what officials close to the talks have been predicting privately for weeks will likely be correct: barring a last-minute decision by Iran to compromise, a final deal is still too far off to hammer out by the parties' self-imposed deadline later on Monday.

A European official said the possibility of securing a final agreement "seems physically impossible", echoing comments on Sunday by Iranian officials.

However, Iran's official IRNA news agency on Monday quoted a source close to the Iranian negotiating team as saying they were still focussed on reaching an agreement.

With the deadline just hours away, a possible extension was one of several options for negotiations raised when US Secretary of State John Kerry met Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Sunday, a senior US official said on condition of anonymity.

The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China began the final round of talks with Iran on Tuesday to clinch a pact under which Teheran would curb its nuclear work in exchange for lifting economically crippling sanctions.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 25 November, 2014

Be prepared for climate changeBy *Myint Win Thein*

Myanmar is among the top-ten countries most severely affected by climate change, according to international research organizations. People in Ayeyawady and Yangon Regions still cannot forget the losses of life and property they suffered during and after Cyclone Nargis struck in 2008, the most lethal cyclone in the history of the country.

But cyclones are just one type of natural disaster that Myanmar has been suffering from. In fact, Myanmar is exposed to hazards such as floods, storms, earthquakes, tsunamis and land-

slides, and the occurrence of these natural disasters has increased with the changing climate.

To make Myanmar safer and more resilient against natural hazards, thus protecting lives, livelihoods and development gains, we should integrate the four Rs into our daily lives and practices. Four Rs stand for reduction, readiness, response and recovery. For disaster risk reduction, we should reduce CO2 emissions and accelerate reforestation and the use of renewable energy, constructing disaster-resistant buildings and cooperating with the international community, local governments, government agencies and NGOs in reduction activities. For readiness, we must install early warning systems, build communication networks, raise public awareness and identify hazard-prone areas where buildings with standard designs that can withstand natural disasters should be constructed. Responses to natural disasters should be promptly conducted to prevent losses of life and property as much as possible by develop-

ing disaster response plans for each and every region. Recovery measures include hospitalizing the injured and providing food, clean drinking water, medical care, construction materials and even support for the livelihoods of victims.

Managing a natural disaster is efficient only when each and every one of the people participate in the reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities. So everyone in Myanmar should integrate the four Rs into their daily lives and practices as climate change has accelerated.

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

Improving Labour Productivity*Kyaw Win*

Productivity, putting it simply, is a measure of how efficiently and effectively resources are utilized for production of goods and provision of services. Technically it is the ratio of outputs to inputs. Labour productivity is the output per person (physical/value units) over a period of time. Improving skills and attitudes of workers so that they can produce more goods or provide better service (of required quality with less waste of material and energy) in the time allocated, is one of the principal ways of improving labour productivity.

Productivity improvement is crucial to a country's competitiveness and integration into the global economy. Particularly for developing countries like Myanmar, productivity improvement is essential at this

juncture for the local industries as they are facing competition from foreign investors as well as imports from foreign countries.

Long term international statistical trends show that there is a strong co-relation between National productivity and the level of employment. Experts say that the more productive an economy, the more competitive it is in the global markets and the lower is the unemployment rate. At the same time the more productive enterprise, the more income it can generate and save for new investments with creation of new jobs.

In the ASEAN context, statistics published by some researchers indicate that Myanmar's labour productivity is still low compared to several other member countries. Hence it needs to be improved for Myanmar Industriesto be competitivewhen ASEAN Economic Community

emerges in 2015.

Improving productivity may call for extensive measures such as better management of the supply chain, introducing higher levels of technology, better product or process design etc. However, to improve productivity of labour, enhancing the skills of the workforce at all levels is imperative. To this end, enterprises/employers will have to exert greater efforts to more systematically train their workers, either 'on-the-job' or 'off-the-job' or by sending them to local and foreign training courses that effectively impart skills and knowledge of their occupations.

The 'Employment and Skills Development Law' enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in 2013 is a step towards developing the occupational skills of the workforce through systematic training by employers.

The law requires enter-

prises/employers to train their workers in accordance with their specific needs, either 'on-the-job' or 'off-the-job' or both according to their capacity. It also introduces Occupational Competency Standards (for the more common occupations) against which the workers and apprentices may be trained so that they may be certified as skilled workers. Employers may set up training centres individually or in groups to train their workers. They may also set up accredited Testing Centres to test and certify the skills of the workers so that there is recognition of their skills no matter how they acquired them; either by training or experience on-the-job or both. Enhancing skills and abilities of the workers through systematic training and certification of skills based on Occupational Standards will eventually build up a workforce which will contribute to enhancing labour productivity in Myanmar.

UCSB chairman attends Public Service Excellence and the Post-2015 Agenda Workshop

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — U Kyaw Thu, chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, arrived back in Yangon on 23 November after attending the Public Service Excellence and Post 2015 Agenda Workshop from 17 to 19 November, at the invitation of the UNDP-Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.

On 17 November, U Kyaw Thu attended the workshop at the Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore. During the workshop, he cordially discussed matters regarding public service excellence, the post-2015 agenda and strengthening the public service sector. He also spoke on the reasons why some public ser-

vice reform programmes end in failure and then shared knowledge on how to overcome national-level challenges, complexity and public service in developing countries.

On 18 November, the chairman observed the vision of public service in 2030 with other participants, and then he undertook a study visit to civil service organizations aiming at transition and transformation in Singapore.

On 19 November, he participated in identifying and learning the evidence, knowledge needs, opportunities, topics and alliances for predicting history in public sector reform to move forward.

MNA

Union construction minister inspects progress of roads, bridges in Magway Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin during his inspection tour looked into construction of No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) on Pakokku-Kanma-Pauk Road in Magway Region on Sunday.

The union minister inspected the laying of gravel on a road section linking No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) and the repaving of Pakok-

ku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw Road.

He viewed the upgrading of the Htilin-Yemyetni section in Htilin and construction of a 100-foot concrete bridge.

The union minister also inspected preparations for construction of a concrete bridge to replace the 150-foot Yemyetni bridge, expansion of a section of road on Pontaung-Ponnya

hill and the site for construction of Myitkya bridge.

MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspects repaving of road during his tour of Magway Region.

MNA



Plan underway to vocational schools in regions and states



Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein and Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo explain opening of more vocational schools.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attended the meeting 13/2014 of the technical skills and vocational education enhancement special task force at the Technical and Vocational Education Department on Natmauk Street in Yangon on Monday.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein stressed the

need to discuss arrangement for opening more schools to turn out skillful workers and provide teaching aid.

Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo explained the plans to open vocational training schools and vocational high schools of respective ministries in regions and states.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat submitted a report on future tasks for opening the schools.

MNA

KIA soldier escapes from KIA troop

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—Pvt Khin Maung Win, 26 years, of No 4 Battalion of KIA (Kachin) returned to the legal fold at the military column at 3.40 pm on 22 November.

He was arrested by KIA (Kachin) for recruitment on Gwehtaw Road to Myitkyina after resigning from Mashiyang gold mine in April 2014. He attended the two-month military training as of May at No 4 Battalion of KIA (Kachin). After completion of training, he was assigned duty of militia at the battalion. As he no longer joined the KIA (Kachin), he tried to flee from the battalion several times. On arrival at 17th-Mile camp of No 4 Battalion, he fled to the Tatmadaw column.

Myawady

Union minister carries out social welfare tasks in Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin allotted K75 million for construction of a cyclone shelter in Zeebyu Ywama Village in Bogale Township on 22 November.

She also provided K600,000 for three families that fell victim to fires in Pyapon Township and two families in Bogale Township in addition to donating corrugated iron sheets for

religious buildings.

U Aung Zaw Myint-Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family also donated K500,000 each to construction of the Dhammayon at LeikUgon pagoda and the Kandawmingala home for the aged.

The union minister viewed construction of a building at a vocational training school.

In Dedaye, she donated 115 sets of solar panels for Chaungphyay village electrification.—MNA

Notification on permanent residency system announced

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—The Ministry of Immigration and Population released notification No. 1/2014 on implementation of the permanent residency system in Myanmar. The notification states that the ministry issued the permanent residency rules under Section 16 of the 1947 Myanmar Immigration Act (current provisions).—MNA



Union Minister for SWRR Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presents assistance to fire victims in Ayeyawady Region.—MNA

The National Education Law has a Very Strong Focus on Quality Education for All (CESR and Education Development Partners, 21-11-2014)



Ms Edwina Betts, First secretary, Australia



Mr Bertrand Bainvel, Country Representative, UNICEF



Mr James Stevens, Education Specialist, World Bank



Mr Jonathan Caseley, International Planning Expert, CESR



Mr Konrad de Bartoli, Head of Project, GIZ

YANGON, 24 Nov — On Friday, November 21st, 2014, a high-level meeting was held at the CESR office in Yangon with senior MoE officials, education development partners such as ADB, DFAT (Australia), British Council, Denmark, European Union, GIZ, ILO, Japan/JICA, Myanmar Education Consortium, Norway, Open Society Foundation, Save the Children, Switzerland, DFID (UK), UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank and CESR officers to discuss the National Education Law. The main agreements and recommendations of this meeting are as follows:

1. All participants at the meeting noted that the National Education Law is comprehensive, covering all levels of education from early childhood to life-long learning. The meeting agreed that the National Education Law has a very strong

focus on quality education for all.

2. To elaborate the National Education Law, there is a need to develop by-laws and sub-sectoral laws to operationalize the principles to ensure greater clarity and effective implementation.
3. Education by-laws and sub-sectoral laws should all be consistent with each other, and with other sector laws.
4. In order to improve quality of education it is essential to have the full participation of all parents and community members.
5. Stakeholder consultations are recommended in the development of the by-laws and sub-sector laws.—MNA



Relatives of the 43 missing students of Ayotzinapa arrive at the zone where clandestine graves were found, in La Laguna, in the west of the city of Iguala de la Independencia, in Guerrero, Mexico, on 23 Nov, 2014. According to the local press, skeletal remains and different types of clothing were found in the graves.—XINHUA

Growing UK concern about 'lone wolf' terrorist attacks: top policeman

LONDON, 24 Nov — Law enforcement authorities in Britain are increasingly worried about the risk of a "lone wolf"-style militant attack and have foiled four or five plots this year, London's top police officer said on Sunday.

The assertion, by Bernard Hogan-Howe, the commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police, comes on the eve of a terrorism awareness campaign and as the government prepares to introduce a law that would make it easier for the police to identify who is using a computer or a mobile phone at any given time.

Britain has been considered a target for Islamist militants since the on 11 September, 2001, al-Qaeda attacks on the United States, and 52 people were killed when four young Britons carried out suicide bombings in London in 2005.

Britain raised its terrorism alert to the second-highest level in August, saying militants in Syria and Iraq posed the biggest threat to its security. That meant an

attack was deemed highly likely for the first time since mid-2011. When asked whether lone wolf attacks were now the biggest worry after the 2013 murder of Lee Rigby, a British soldier, by two machete-wielding Muslim converts, Hogan-Howe suggested the risk of further such attacks was increasing.

"We've certainly seen over the last few months a growing concern about exactly the type of attack you just described," he said on BBC TV's Andrew Marr Show. "It doesn't take an awful lot of organizing, it doesn't take too many people to conspire together, there's no great complexity to it, so what that means is that we have a very short time to interdict, to actually intervene, and make sure that these people don't get away with it."

The authorities usually foiled one terrorist plot a year, he said. But in 2014 they had thwarted "four or five" as the frequency and seriousness of such plots had escalated.

Reuters

Afghan women excluded from peace talks with Taliban: aid agency

KABUL, 24 Nov — Afghan women are excluded from efforts to negotiate peace with the Taliban and hard-won rights could be bargained away unless more is done to include them in the process, aid agency Oxfam said in a report on Monday.

In 23 rounds of peace talks tracked by Oxfam since 2005, not one Afghan woman participated in discussions between the Taliban and international ne-

gotiators. In talks between the Taliban and the government, only one Afghan woman was present on two occasions, Oxfam said.

"Negotiations and peace talks to date have taken place predominantly behind closed doors and without Afghan women's knowledge, input or involvement," the report said.

Under the hardline, Islamist Taliban government ousted by US-led forces in 2001, women were banned

Russia will do its best to promote intra-Syrian dialogue - Russian lawmaker

BEIRUT, 24 Nov — Russia will do its best to promote intra-Syrian dialogue, Ilyas Umakharov, a deputy speaker of the Russian Federation Council upper parliament house, told TASS on Sunday.

"It is the most pragmatic way for the Syrian s to reach accord," he said, adding that this subject had been raised at the talks a Russian parliament delegation had had in Damascus on Saturday.

"At a meeting with us, Syrian President Bashar Assad said the government was ready for a dialogue in the name of the interests of

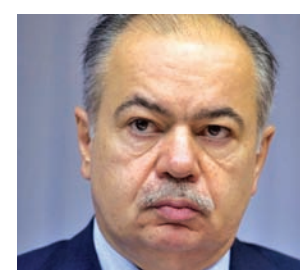
the Syrian people," he said. "We felt his confidence in his words and his commitment to begin a peaceful post-war development of the country as soon as possible."

The Russian delegation paid a visit to Syria "as part of the programme of contacts with the Syrian leaders and was beyond the frames of an exchange of opinions between lawmakers," he noted, adding that such trips "make it possible not only to maintain the temperature in bilateral relations but also to coordinate efforts."

Over the past three

years, according to the Russian lawmaker, the Federation Council had sent four delegations to Syria. Apart from that, a mission of Russian observers monitored the presidential elections in June 2014. "In Moscow, we have received 12 Syrian friends. These were official delegations at various levels, public figures, religious leaders, including the supreme mufti and the patriarch of Antioch," he said.

"The system of contacts that was built in the recent years has acquired a balanced character. We are received in Damascus as



Ilyas Umakharov

old friends," Umakharov noted. "At a meeting with Bashar Assad, we were pleased to enroll his support to joint initiatives geared to promote bilateral partnership. We spoke about attracting Russian regions, North Caucasian republics to cooperation. The Syrian side is raising the issue of establishing air service and transport communication with Russia."

Itar-Tass

Anxious Ferguson waits for grand jury's decision



A St. Louis County Security Officer places police tape along a barricade outside Buzz Westfall Justice Centre in Clayton, Missouri on 23 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

FERGUSON, 24 Nov — After a fourth straight night of low-level protests in Ferguson, Missouri, anxious residents still did not know on Sunday when a grand jury would return a decision on whether to charge a white policeman who shot an unarmed black teen to death this summer.

It appeared that the St Louis suburb, which has become a flashpoint for US race relations since Officer Darren Wilson killed 18-year-old Michael Brown on 9 August, would have to wait until at least Monday

and perhaps longer for an announcement.

The 12-member grand jury adjourned and was to resume meeting behind closed doors on Monday, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Sunday, citing an unidentified St Louis County official. *Reuters* could not confirm that report.

Preaching at the Greater St Mark Family Church, the Rev Tommie Pierson urged the congregation to pull together as a community. "The power to get what you need is already in our hands," he said. "You live

in a democracy; you must participate."

Looking heavenward, Pierson said: "You alone know what the grand jury will do. You alone know what the marchers and demonstrators will do. We ask, oh God, for your protection."

Media reports had suggested the 12-member grand jury panel would have a decision by this weekend. There have been nightly rallies and a high-profile law enforcement presence.

A lawyer for Michael Brown's family criticized how prosecutors have handled the grand jury process, which has dragged on longer than many expected.

The attorney, Benjamin Crump, told ABC's "This Week" programme on Sunday it was the first time in his 20 years as an attorney that a prosecutor had not recommended charges to a grand jury hearing a case.

"Why you can't come in and recommend charges right now based on the probable cause?" Crump said, a reference to wit-

nesses who said Brown had his hands up in the air, signaling surrender, when the officer shot him. Wilson's supporters say he shot Brown in self-defence.

St. Louis County prosecutors have said the grand jury's decision will be announced at a news conference, but the date, time and location remain unknown. Crump said he expected to get about six hours notice before an announcement.

In anticipation of the announcement, barriers were erected over the weekend around the courthouse where the jury meets, and traffic restrictions were imposed on some nearby roads. The streets were largely empty of people on Sunday during torrential rain.

Two people were arrested outside Ferguson police headquarters late Saturday — an activist from Chicago who has been detained during protests three times since Wednesday and a man identified as a Washington, DC based-reporter.

Reuters

Peace Council are women, and their role is largely symbolic, according to Oxfam, which advocates a 30 percent minimum threshold for female inclusion.

The Taliban said on Sunday it was in favor of including women in both the talks and any future government, but only once all foreign troops had left Afghanistan. Under the current plan, US and other foreign forces will stay on throughout 2016.

"If invasion is over and Afghans have a chance to build their own system, then each and every individual, man and woman, in this country can play a role in it," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told *Reuters*.

While Afghans and foreign donors alike are optimistic that new president Ashraf Ghani will do more to protect women's rights, there has been little obvious improvement so far.

Women made up only a small fraction of delegations accompanying Ghani on his first foreign trips to regional powers China and Pakistan, described as part of his effort to revive peace talks with the Taliban.

"Afghans should not have to worry that the world will forget promises made to Afghan women and allow women's rights to be negotiated away," Oxfam country director John Watt said in the report.—*Reuters*

Iraqi Kurds prepare Sinjar mountain offensive

ARBIL, 24 Nov — Kurdish forces in northern Iraq are drawing up plans to break Islamic State's siege of Sinjar mountain, where hundreds of minority Yazidis remain stranded months after fleeing their homes.

Seeking to regain territory and repair pride in his military forces, Masoud Barzani, president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, is overseeing efforts to retake

the mountain, senior party members said.

Islamic State attacked the Sinjar area in August, sending thousands of Yazidis fleeing up the mountain, a craggy strip some 40 miles (65 km) long.

Hundreds of Yazidis were executed, Iraqi officials and witnesses said, by Islamic State militants who see the adherents of an ancient faith derived from Zoroastrianism as

devil-worshippers. A senior UN rights official said the onslaught looked like "attempted genocide".

Kurdish peshmerga forces have regained between 65 and 75 percent of the ground lost to Islamic State in the area since the US began a campaign of air strikes in August, said Halgurd Hikmat, spokesman for the Kurdish Peshmerga Ministry.

But Sinjar's awkward geography — out on a limb

to the west, has made it difficult to penetrate.

"Our priority now is Sinjar," said Hikmat. "A plan will be in place within the coming days."

The strategy was to cut off an Islamic State supply route between Mosul and Syria which runs along the southern foot of the mountain, Hikmat said. He did not elaborate.

Controlling Sinjar would put the peshmerga on three sides of Mo-

sul, the largest city under Islamic State control in northern Iraq, and allow them to gain positions for any future offensive to retake the city and nearby areas which have been the target of Iraqi and US air strikes.

"After that, we must coordinate with Baghdad and the coalition (of Western and Gulf Arab states) to get Islamic State out of Mosul," said Hikmat.

Mosul has become the

focus of the government's military efforts because of both its size and its symbolic status after Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi delivered a public speech at the Grand Mosque there in July, Baghdadi, who sees himself as 'caliph' of an Islamic state he has declared in parts of Iraq and Syria, told his fighters they were victorious after years of patience and holy struggle.

Reuters

Blast targets NATO convoy in Kabul, wounding bystander

KABUL, 24 Nov — At least one civilian was wounded after a bomb attack targeted a NATO-led forces' convoy in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday, sources said.

"An improvised explosive device attached to a bicycle was detonated when the military vehicles were passing by Qabil Bay, an area along Pule-e-Charkhi road in eastern Kabul, injuring one bystander," a security official told Xinhua anonymously.

No member of the convoy was hurt in the explosion which occurred at around 9:00 am local time (0430 GMT), the source noted.

Unofficial source said one foreign soldier was also wounded in the blast.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, but Taliban insurgents routinely claim responsibility for such attacks.

The Taliban has intensified attacks with a string of bombings over the past couple of months as the NATO and US forces are withdrawing from the country. The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from NATO-led troops by the end of year.

On Sunday night, more than 45 civilians were killed and 60 others wounded after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a sport ground in eastern Paktika Province.

More than 1,560 civilians were killed and nearly 3,290 others wounded in

conflicts and Taliban-led attacks in the first six months of 2014, according to a UN mission in the country.

In another development, eight militants were killed and three others wounded after security forces repelled a Taliban attack on security checkpoints in Musa Qala district of southern Helmand Province on Sunday night, provincial police spokesman Farid Ahmad Obid told Xinhua.

More than 34,000 NATO-led coalition troops, down from the peak of 130,000 in 2010, are stationed in Afghanistan. Nearly 24,000 of them are Americans and the United States plans to trim its forces to less than 10,000 next year.

Xinhua



Wounded Afghans receive medical treatment at a hospital in Paktika, eastern Afghanistan, on 23 Nov, 2014. At least 45 people were killed and 60 others wounded after a suicide bomb attack shocked a volleyball ground in Yahya Khel district of Paktika Province, eastern Afghanistan on Sunday evening, officials confirmed.—XINHUA

Iraqi forces say retake two towns from Islamic State



Members of the Kurdish security forces take part in an intensive security deployment after clashes with Islamic State militants in Jalawla, Diyala Province on 23 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 24 Nov — Iraqi forces said on Sunday they retook two towns north of Baghdad from Islamic State fighters, driv-

ing them from strongholds they had held for months and clearing a main road from the capital to Iran.

There was no inde-

pendent confirmation that the army, Shi'ite militia and Kurdish peshmerga forces had completely retaken Jalawla and Saadiya,

about 115 km (70 miles) northeast of Baghdad. Many residents fled the violence long ago.

At least 23 peshmerga and militia fighters were killed and dozens were wounded in Sunday's fighting, medical and army sources said.

"We have liberated Jalawla and Saadiya," said Mala Bakhtiar, a senior official in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party, speaking by phone from a nearby town. He estimated 50 Islamic State fighters may have been killed out of a force of 400.

Iraq's Shi'ite-led government, backed by US-led air strikes, has been trying to push back the Islamic State since it swept through mainly Sunni Muslim provinces of northern Iraq in June, meeting virtually no resistance.

Last week the army broke a months-long siege of the country's largest refinery north of Baghdad, but Islamic State fighters continue to take territory in the western province of Anbar, which shares borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The militants have been fighting in the last two days to take full control of the Anbar provincial capital Ramadi. On Sunday, Iraqi and foreign jets struck Islamic State fighters near central Ramadi, provincial council member Mahmoud Ahmed Khalaf told Reuters. Clashes continued in the city, he said.

Jalawla and Saadiya are located in Diyala Province which is mainly under the control of the Baghdad government forces and Kurdish peshmerga.

Recapturing the towns

would help secure the Kurdish-controlled towns of Kalar and Khanaqin to the north as well as nearby dams and oil fields, peshmerga Secretary-General Jabbar Yawar said. It would also allow the road to be reopened between Baghdad and Khanaqin, close to the Iranian border.

While the hardline Sunni Islamic State forces have not advanced into Baghdad, they hold a ring of towns around the mainly Shi'ite capital and have claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Shi'ite districts of the city.

A car bomb in the Shi'ite town of Yousufiya, 30 km (20 miles) southeast of Baghdad, killed five people on Sunday, police and medics said. Two other bombs in towns near the capital killed four other people.—Reuters

Increase in working mothers bringing changes to PTAs

TOKYO, 24 Nov — An increase in working mothers is changing the way parent-teacher associations operate at schools in Japan.

“Nobody spoke and it was like a funeral rite,” a mother with a child at an elementary school in the Tokyo area said, recalling a board meeting of PTA executive members, all of them selected in a lottery.

Working mothers told her that “it’s impossible to serve as an executive member” even if selected because of the need to come to the school three to four times a month for meetings and events held mostly in the daytime on weekdays, said the mother, a full-time housewife with another toddler girl.

Responding to these voices, the mother’s PTA is now holding more board meetings on weekends, she said.

PTAs, modeled on those in the United States, were introduced at schools in Japan after the end of World War II. Because



Supplied photo shows a festival hosted by a voluntarily operated parent-teacher association at the Sapporo City Satsunae Elementary School in Hokkaido in October 2014. Around 600 people attended the festival.—KYODO NEWS

they have assumed the participation of full-time housewives, whose number increased sharply during Japan’s rapid economic growth era from the mid-1950s through the early 1970s, working mothers have come under implicit pressure to take days off to participate in events. Fathers, in contrast, are excused because of their jobs.

But an increase in two-income households and single-parent homes is placing the accepted wisdom of PTAs under review.

The PTA at Satsunae Elementary School in Sapporo, Hokkaido, changed a bylaw in February last year and allows parents to choose whether to join or quit the association.

The review, proposed

by Takaki Ueda, president of the PTA, was initially opposed by all other executive members fearing that the association would cease to exist. But they discussed the proposal for a year, analyzing a similar move introduced by Nishi Elementary School in the city of Okayama, and decided to discontinue time-consuming and costly

work such as the publication of a journal.

The reform is bearing fruit as 95 percent of parents have joined the PTA at Satsunae. In addition, some 60 parents voluntarily worked for a school festival held in October.

But most PTAs tend to avoid reforms for fear of opposition by former executive members wishing to adhere to tradition. Parents are also reluctant to oppose conventional activities due to concern that their children may be discriminated against.

The burden on working mothers can be eased if employers take necessary steps. Responding to requests from employees, for example, Seiko Epson Corp., an electronics company based in Suwa, Nagano Prefecture, has introduced a system allowing the accumulation of up to 60 paid holidays for parents’ visiting days and participation in PTA activities at schools.

A 36-year-old female

employee with three children appreciates the paid holiday system as she has to take at least a day off per year for weekday PTA activities at her kids’ schools.

Seiko Epson adopted the system in line with its policy of creating working environments friendly to women, who work an average of 21.8 years at the company compared with male workers’ 18.7 years.

Many local activities, including those by PTAs and women’s societies, rely on housewives, according to Naoki Atsumi, director of the Research Department at Toray Corporate Business Research Inc.

While the government is encouraging more women to join the nation’s labour force, the goal will be difficult to attain because women are now assigned “too many roles” in society, Atsumi said.

Women’s social roles should be reviewed, including through “burden sharing with men,” he said.

Kyodo News

Dutch complete recovery of MH17 wreckage: government

AMSTERDAM, 24 Nov — A week long operation to clear the wreckage from the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine has been completed, the Dutch government said on Sunday.

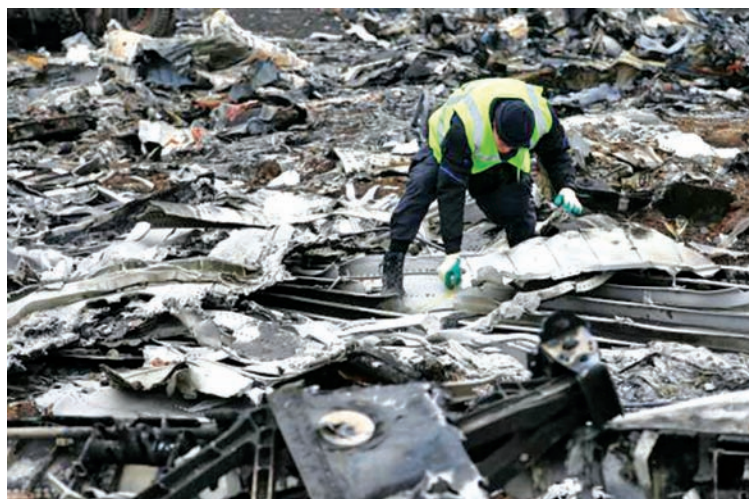
A cargo train took pieces of the *Boeing 777* aircraft to the eastern Ukrainian town of

Kharkov. The wreckage will be transported to the Netherlands and reconstructed as part of the investigation into the cause of the disaster on 17 July.

“Despite the complex circumstances and local safety situation, the team was able to work as planned,” said a statement issued by Dutch authorities.

“A few parts of wreckage were too big for transport by train and arrived in Kharkov by truck yesterday.” The crash, believed to have been caused by a surface-to-air missile fired from pro-Russian rebel territory, killed all 298 passengers and crew, two-thirds of them from the Netherlands.

Reuters



A Dutch investigator works at the site where the downed Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crashed, near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo) in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine on 16 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

UAE hypermarket chain shows interest in Serbian products

BELGRADE/ABU DHABI, 24 Nov — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic conferred on Sunday in Abu Dhabi with Managing Director of the LuLu Group Yusuff Ali, who voiced interest in including Serbian food products in the offer of the UAE’s leading hypermarket chain.

Nikolic stressed that the traditional friendship between Serbia and the UAE secures a stable and certain future of their economic relations, the Serbian president’s media co-operation office said in a release.

Serbia has a long tradition of food production, said Nikolic. “Our food products are of excellent quality and healthy,” the president stressed, adding that Serbian producers in cooperation with scientific institutes are able to pro-



Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and Managing Director of the LuLu Group Yusuff Ali.—TANJUG

vide top quality foods.

He suggested considering the possibility of LuLu Hypermarket investing in the production of foodstuffs requested by its

customers, and invited Ali to visit Serbia and see for himself that it is the right place for food production.

Ali said that he would like to see Serbian food products, primarily fruit and vegetables, in his retail outlets.

LuLu Hypermarket is a retail chain of the multinational LuLu Group International and a company that sets the standards of retail in the region. With over 110 retail and wholesale stores, it enjoys great popularity among buyers across the UAE.

Nikolic meets with Energoprojekt officials in UAE. Nikolic is on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he met with the CEOs of branch offices of the Serbian company Energoprojekt on Sunday.

Tanjug

US Army base in Texas lifts lockdown after suspicious vehicle found

SAN ANTONIO, 24 Nov — A brief lockdown at a US Army base in San Antonio was lifted after officials detained a man on Sunday in what a military spokesman described as a “high-security incident,” while adding there was no threat. One person remained under arrest at Fort Sam Houston after a suspicious vehicle was found in the middle of the post, spokesman Alex Delgado said.

“There were no other passengers in the vehicle and

emergency personnel report no other individuals are suspected of being involved,” Delgado said.

The base is the home of the US military’s medical operations and the centre of its operation to curb the spread of Ebola in West Africa. Two special teams have been trained at the base to be deployed to hospitals fighting the viral disease. Delgado said the driver of the car would remain in custody while base officials investigated. The

spokesman said he was unaware what prompted officials to view the vehicle as suspicious. No-one was injured during the incident, he added. The lockdown, which had stopped traffic from entering the base, was lifted at around 9 pm (CST), about an hour after it was ordered, and the base resumed normal operations, Delgado said. Fort Sam Houston is a highly secure facility with guards posted at all vehicle entrances. —Reuters

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

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Corrigendum

To Correct "Altacor Inc", a company organized under the laws of the state of Michigan, United States of America, carrying on business and having its principle office at 7575 Fulton Street East, Ada, Michigan 49355, UNITED STATES, at page 12, 1st column, line 1, dated. 4 February 2014.

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**WEATHER
REPORT****FORECAST VALID
UNTIL EVENING OF
THE 25th November,**

2014: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Tanintharyi Region 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.

Child under 6 declared brain dead for organ transplant, 2nd case in Japan

TOKYO, 24 Nov — A girl has been declared brain dead in the second such case for a child aged under 6 in Japan, a transplant coordination group said on Sunday, with her parents hoping her organs can save the lives of other children.

The girl suffering from a brain disorder was hospitalized at Juntendo University Hospital, with her organs planned to be harvested for transplantation following family consent, the Japan Organ Transplant Network said.

"It would be a great consolation for us who will be left behind if our daughter can save the lives

of other children at the end of her short life," the girl's parents said in a statement.

The girl's family agreed to provide her heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys and small intestine, the network said. The surgery to extract the organs is planned around Monday afternoon. The heart and lungs are expected to be transplanted to two boys under the age of 10 and the liver is planned to be transplanted to a teenage girl, the network said. According to the network, a doctor diagnosed on Friday that the child donor could be judged as brain dead.

After the hospital con-

firmed the girl's condition was not connected to any abuse, her family members including her parents agreed to provide the organs, the network said.

Under the revised organ transplant law that took effect in 2010, organs can be taken from anyone regardless of their age with family consent, unless the individual in question has explicitly refused to donate. But tougher brain-death criteria are applied to children under 6.

The first case in June 2012 involved a boy who was declared brain dead at Toyama University Hospital.—Kyodo News



China's manned submersible Jiaolong surfaces during a drill in Jiangyin City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 24 Nov, 2014. It is the last drill for Jiaolong before it starts a scientific research voyage in the southwest Indian Ocean on 25 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

Flooding could follow heavy snow in western New York

BUFFALO, 24 Nov — Emergency workers filled thousands of sandbags on Sunday as the area around Buffalo, New York braced for potential flooding as warming temperatures began to melt up to seven feet (2 metres) of snow.

Creeks appeared to be flowing smoothly and no flooding had been reported as the sun began to go down, county officials said.

More than 775 members of the New York National Guard were in Erie County and Buffalo to help with flood prevention after days of work to clear roads and dig homes and cars out of the record snow from a storm that killed 13 people.

Roofs collapsed and some people were stuck in their cars for more than 24 hours when the heaviest snow fall in memory hit areas of New York state along the Great Lakes. The November storm system, dubbed the "Knife Storm," lasted for three days.



The National Weather Service said roads could flood quickly from snow melt since the storm blocked drains, and issued warnings for potential flooding of four rivers and creeks.

"We hope to get back to business on Monday. Government offices will be open. Schools will be open. We are sending teams of structural engineers in to inspect any school that

might have the potential of a structural problem," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said at a news briefing.

Flood warnings were in effect as the NWS said higher temperatures — rising to 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 Celsius) on Sunday and 60 F on Monday — could rapidly unlock up to 6 inches (15 cm) of water.

As the dinner hour set in, no flooding had been

reported, Erie County spokesman Peter Anderson said in an email.

"Resources are being staged for quick deployment and all eyes are on the creeks," he said. "The weather is warmer and snow is melting, but creeks are flowing well."

Cuomo said the state had prepared in case of widespread flooding, moving in hundreds of pumps, tens of thousands of sand-

**Workers
remove
snow from
the roof of
a post office
in the City
of Lackawanna,
New York, on 22
Nov, 2014.**

REUTERS

bags and putting together a robust evacuation plan.

Three sandbagging machines and 176,500 sandbags were among the supplies taken to staging areas. Ellen Przepasniak, spokeswoman for the Erie County emergency operations effort, said sandbags would be quickly deployed to cities and towns that report rising waters.

The state has provided some 3,000 tons of sand to fill the bags, Anderson said.

Inmates from the Erie County Jail holding centre were filling sandbags in a parking lot, as New York city firefighters loaded boats into the backs of pickups and dump trucks.

National Guard deployed front-end loaders, dump trucks and airfield-grade snow-removal trucks for snow removal, as well as tractor-trailers, 20 high axle vehicles for driving through flood waters, and two helicopters.

Reuters

**47 die in Nepal
bus accident**

KATHMANDU, 24 Nov —Police and divers have so far recovered 47 bodies of victims of a bus crash earlier in the week in western Nepal, police said late on Sunday.

The bus believed to have been carrying around 65 passengers plunged into the Bheri River in the Jajarkot district about 400 kilometres west of Kathmandu on Thursday morning. Police and divers recovered three bodies on Thursday, two on Saturday and 42 on Sunday from the bus that remains submerged in the river. Police official Dambar Parajuli told *Kyodo News* by telephone from the district that more bodies are trapped in the bus and efforts will be made on Monday to pull them out. Police say the bus dropped into the ravine when trying to make room for a tractor coming from the opposite direction. Eleven passengers jumped off the bus and survived with injuries.—*Kyodo News*

‘Game of Thrones’ to get a movie?



Game of Thrones

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov — British actor Charles Dance, who played Tywin Lannister on TV drama ‘Game of Thrones’, has

hinted that the fantasy story by JRR Martin may get a movie.

Dance said producers have been actively dis-

cussing a possible movie adaptation. “There’s talk of eventually trying to do a feature film,” the 68-year-old actor told *The Daily*

Beast.

“But I don’t know which of the storylines. There’s so much to cram into a film.” The fantasy drama completed its fourth season currently. The story traces the fortune of many noble families in a fictitious kingdom as they fight for power.

Regular cast members Peter Dinklage, Lena Headey, Emilia Clarke, Kit Harington, and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau are returning for the next season.

Dance, whose character was killed by his son in the fourth season, says his body will make an appearance in the upcoming season.—PTI

Sting to join cast of his troubled Broadway musical ‘The Last Ship’



British singer Sting performs during the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Centennial Awards in New York on 17 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 Nov — Sting will join the cast of his Broadway musical “The Last Ship” next month in a bid to push up flagging ticket sales for the \$15 million (9.5 million pounds) show, the *New York Times* reported on its website on Sunday.

The rock star will appear in the show, the first Broadway musical he has written, based on his ship-building childhood hometown in northeast England, from 9 December and will do eight shows a week through 10 January, the *Times* said.

The show opened on 26 October to mixed reviews, with Sting’s songs winning most of the praise, and it has lost \$75,000 a week since preview performances began on 29 September, the *Times* said.

Sting will fill the role of shipyard foreman Jackie White, played by British actor and singer Jimmy Nail, a friend of the rock star’s who, according to the *Times*, said he was making way for Sting “happily” for the good of the show.

“I’ve been working on this show for five years and been at every rehearsal, every performance, so it’s not like I’ve flown in from Planet Rock Star to save the day,” Sting told the *Times* on Sunday before informing the cast he would be joining them.

Jeffrey Seller, the show’s lead producer, said he had asked Sting to come aboard in part to help give the show a shot at running until June’s Tony awards, Broadway’s top honours.

“Our goal is to win the Tony” for best musical, the *Times* quoted Seller as saying. “We need a boost, we need to break through, we need some ammo,” Seller added, referring to the show’s superstar songwriter.

Sting previously appeared on Broadway in a production of Kurt Weill’s “The Threepenny Opera” which was titled “3 Penny Opera” for its brief run.—Reuters

Boy bands top American Music Awards, ladies lead performances

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov — Boy bands bested pop’s leading women in the top award categories at the American Music Awards on Sunday, but the ladies delivered the most high-octane performances including a derriere-flaunting number by Jennifer Lopez and Iggy Azalea. British boy band One Direction won the top award of the night for artist of the year, and led the winners with three accolades in the fan-voted awards. “It’s amazing because we worked so hard on these last two albums,” band member Liam Payne said. The five-piece band performed its latest single “Night Changes” against a night-time forest backdrop.

Katy Perry also won three awards, but did not attend the awards show because she is on tour in Australia. Boy band power proved strong as Australian newcomers 5 Seconds of Summer won the coveted new artist of the year award.

Azalea, the newcomer Australian rapper, won fa-



vourite rap/hip hop album for “The New Classic” and favourite rap/hip hop artist over Eminem and Drake in both categories. “As musicians, we receive so much critique and we really question what we’re doing, but I think this validates that I’m on the right path,” the 24-year-old Azalea said.

A sultry Taylor Swift performed “Blank Space” on stage and was awarded the first-ever Dick Clark Award for Excellence, in memory of the founder of the American Music Awards who

died in 2012. She received the award from R&B diva Diana Ross. “I’m so blown away to have just received an award from Diana Ross, who over the course of her career stood up for herself so many times in a period when it wasn’t popular for women to stand up for themselves,” Swift said. Much of the three-hour awards show, aired on ABC, was dedicated to performances dominated by the ladies of pop music, including a raunchy rendition of “Booty” by Azalea and Lopez, with lots

of rump-shaking. Pop stars Grande, Selena Gomez and Nicki Minaj opted for less audacious performances showcasing their vocal talents. Grande sang “One Less Problem” and “Break Free” with a jazz twist while an emotional Gomez sang “The Heart Want What It Wants,” rumoured to be about her on-off relationship with Justin Bieber. Minaj and Skylar Grey performed their duet “Bed of Lies.” Grande and Minaj later spiced up the stage with Jessie J with their upbeat “Bang Bang.”—PTI

Puerto Rican band “Calle 13” performs in concert of “Multiviral 2014” tour



Mexican singer Lila Downs (R), sings along with Puerto Rican band “Calle 13”, during a concert of “Multiviral 2014” tour, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 22 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

Celebrity song to aid fight against Africa Ebola crisis tops UK charts

LONDON, 24 Nov — Band Aid 30’s reworked version of “Do They Know it’s Christmas”, a song intended to raise money to fight the spread of Ebola in Africa, went straight to the top of Britain’s single charts on Sunday, the Official Charts Company said.

The track was inspired by a celebrity song of the same name with different lyrics which was recorded in 1984 and raised millions of pounds to fight famine in Africa. Bob Geldof, former lead singer of the Irish rock band the Boomtown Rats, helped mastermind the



Irish band U2’s lead singer, Bono, leaves the recording of the Band Aid 30 charity single in west London on 15 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

track, as he did the original.

The new song, which sold over 200,000 copies in the last week to become the fastest-selling single of the year, has drawn criticism from some Africans

and other recording artists who say it is patronising and perpetuates unhelpful myths about the continent’s problems.

The track’s organisers have strongly rejected those

comments, saying it will raise much-needed funds to fight Ebola. It generated 1 million pounds within minutes of its launch, they say.

The single pushed last week’s number one, a celebrity cover version of Avicii’s “Wake Me Up”, in aid of charity Children in Need, into seventh place.

In the album charts, a new release by boy band One Direction called “Four” dethroned British progressive rock group Pink Floyd’s new album “The Endless River” which fell to fourth place.

Reuters

Liverpool misery goes on but Spurs bounce back to win



Liverpool's Martin Skrtel (L) challenges Crystal Palace's Marouane Chamakh during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park in London on 23 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

LONDON, 24 Nov — Crystal Palace heaped more misery on a mentally frail Liverpool when they came from behind to win 3-1 in the Premier League on Sunday, six months after effectively ending the northern club's title hopes when they drew 3-3.

Liverpool finished second last season but, like Tottenham Hotspur who came

back to win 2-1 at Hull City late on, they have started this term poorly and are looking to climb out of mid-table and back up the standings.

While Spurs moved from 12th to 10th, Liverpool dropped a place to 12th after again losing at Palace, where their hopes of winning the title were so spectacularly dashed last May when they let slip a 3-0 lead as Palace

fought back to level.

This time they wasted a lead they took in the second minute when Rickie Lambert scored his first goal for the club following his move from Southampton in the close season.

Instead of building on it, they crashed to a third successive league defeat as Palace ended a run of five league games without a win. Goals from Dwight Gayle after 17 minutes, then Joe Ledley and a superb curling free kick from skipper Mile Jedinak in the last 12 minutes, gave Palace the points which lifted them out of the bottom three and up to 15th on 12 points — two behind Liverpool. Former Liverpool and England defender Jamie Carragher, now a TV pundit, was scathing about their performance.

"When they came here (to Selhurst Park) last season we said they were mentally and physically weak. Same again now, nothing has changed," he said on Sky Sports.

"As soon as Crystal Palace equalised, Liverpool did not offer anything. They are mentally and physically weak and there is no leadership," he continued in apparent criticism of his ageing former captain Steven Gerrard.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers admitted: "It's a tough moment because of results and we just have to keep our focus on improving, and quickly, because the games now and until the Christmas period are very important and they come thick and fast.

"We made the perfect start but failed to manage the game at 1-0. Obviously, I need to take full responsibility," he told Sky Sports.

Palace manager Neil Warnock said: "It was like an old-fashioned cup tie. We created some great chances and tried to win the game by playing some good football. Overall it was terrific performance, it was a Neil Warnock performance," he beamed.—*Reuters*

Rejuvenated CSKA out to complete amazing comeback

MOSCOW, 24 Nov — CSKA Moscow have had to overcome plenty of adversity in this season's Champions League but two stunning results against Manchester City have left them tantalisingly close to qualifying from the toughest group in the competition.

If the Russian champions beat AS Roma in Moscow on Tuesday, they would only have to avoid defeat in their final match to qualify for the knockout stages from a group which also features English champions City and 2013 winners Bayern Munich.

Roma, level with Moscow on four points, are in

the same position as their Russian hosts, giving the match at the Khimki Arena a crucial feel.

That Moscow are still in the hunt at all, though, seems remarkable after the tribulations of their latest European campaign. After fan violence in their opening Group E game, CSKA were ordered to play games behind closed doors. Then, after losing their opening two games against Roma and Bayern, they were on the brink of a third defeat as they trailed 2-0 at home to City.

Yet they fought back to draw 2-2 before becoming the first Russian side to win a Champions League match

in England for 19 years with a 2-1 victory in Manchester two weeks later.

Leonid Slutsky's side will need little motivation as they look to avenge the 5-1 defeat they suffered against the Italian side in September.

After a campaign ravaged by injury, Slutsky will have the rare luxury of picking from an almost full-strength squad for the visit of Roma. However, CSKA will be without Bebras Natkho, who picked up an injury playing for Israel while Swedish international Pontus Wernbloom is also a cause for concern having picked up a minor knock during their 2-1 defeat at FC

Krasnodar on Saturday.

Roma, who kept up the pressure on Serie A leaders Juventus with a 2-1 victory at Atalanta on Saturday, are without Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa, Maicon and Leandro Castan but will be boosted by the return of Davide Astori, who had missed his team's last three matches with a thigh strain. "We have the possibility to leave things in our own hands for the home game against Manchester City," Roma manager Rudi Garcia said. "We will be playing against a side that has shown they are capable of much more than they showed in the first match against us."—*Reuters*

McIlroy eyes green jacket after stellar 2014

DUBAI, 24 Nov — As he picked up the European money list trophy for the second time in three seasons on Sunday, Rory McIlroy had two words to say when asked for his goals for 2015: "Green Jacket".

To golfers, that phrase means one thing — winning the US Masters, the only major championship to elude the Northern Irishman.

"It's not something I thought possible, I will work hard and make sure I'm ready for that," McIlroy told reporters after

tying for second at the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, the European Tour season-ender.

Winning in Augusta will be tough — no European has done it since Jose Maria Olazabal in 1999 — yet world number one McIlroy is well equipped to end the drought after a season in which he claimed a maiden British Open title, a second U.S. PGA crown and two other European Tour victories.

"In terms of ball striking, I've driven it better, which is a huge part of my game," McIlroy told re-

porters.

"When I drive it well I can give myself shorter irons into greens and more opportunities for birdies. My mid-range putting has been very good this year."

The 25-year-old admitted the pressure of being the world's best had been difficult to handle.

"I used to be uncomfortable. There's added scrutiny and there's added criticism," said McIlroy. "But I learned to deal with it. It's just part of the title. I want to keep it for as long as I possibly can."

McIlroy's 2014 resur-

gence happened despite off-course dramas. He split up with his fiancée, tennis player Caroline Wozniacki, and is involved in a legal dispute with his former agents which led him to miss some tournaments.

"I learned a lot from it. I feel I came through this year stronger and wiser and can go into 2015 in a much better place," said McIlroy.

He said he was encouraged to finish just adrift of Dubai winner Henrik Stenson despite three undistinguished

MYANMAR TV

(25-11-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:15 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* People talks

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

* News / International News

9:45 am

* Business News

10:20 am

* TV Drama Series

11:00 am

* Singing In Different Versions

12:00 noon

* News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Hluttaw Image

2:45 pm

* Traditional Boxing

3:15 pm

* TV Drama Series

4:30 pm

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

5:00 pm

* News

6:20 pm

* Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm

* News

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

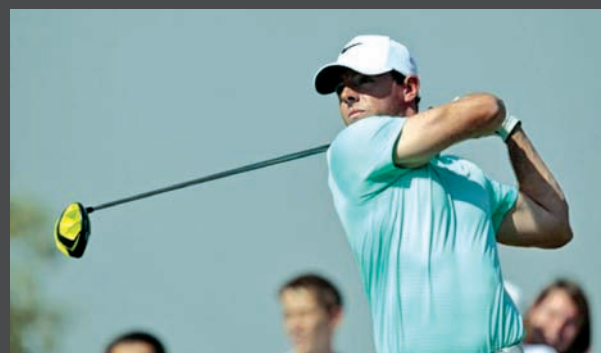
* Hluttaw Image
* Mono Classical Songs

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-11-14 07:00 am~
26-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods- (Straw painting)
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * Local News
- * Choral Dance By Female Dancers
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-10) (Part -2)
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Gonn Shain Wint Htal"
- * Local News
- * Art Students: Sculpture
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
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- * World News
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- * Local News
- * Shan - Flat -Rice-Noodle Soup
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review; Aung Myine, Kyaw Kyar, Sue Sha, Htet Myat"
- * Local News
- * Youth of The Future (Episode-6) (Adino, Drummer)
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Phone Nay"



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his shot from the second tee during the final round of the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai on 23 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

rounds following Thursday's opening 66.

"It's a really big positive, not just going into next year, but the rest of my career," McIlroy added.

"In seasons gone by, a bad week for me would have been middle of the pack or if there was a cut, maybe battling to make the cut."—*Reuters*

Big guns sweat over Champions League progress

LONDON, 24 Nov — There will be plenty of tension in the air in North London on Wednesday when out-of-sorts Arsenal face Borussia Dortmund seeking to qualify from the Champions League group stage for the 15th successive season.

There will be plenty of nerves elsewhere in Europe too as the opening phase of the competition draws to a close with Matchday Five providing the last chance for some clubs to keep alive their hopes of reaching the last 16.

Six teams have already qualified for the knockout rounds: reigning champions Real Madrid, Barcelona, Paris St Germain, Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Porto.

Others, like last season's beaten finalists Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, AS Roma, Shakhtar Donetsk, Bayer Leverkusen and FC Basel have a realistic chance of joining them

with a match to spare, while for others only a dramatic improvement will see them stay in contention.

The latter include big-spending English champions Manchester City who are bottom of Group E with two points from four games but will remain in contention if they beat Bayern at home on Tuesday or CSKA Moscow versus Roma ends in a draw.

Bayern have already clinched top spot but Roma (4 points), CSKA (4) and City (2), are all tightly bunched.

Roma, who beat CSKA 5-1 in the opening match, will go through if they beat the Russians again and City lose at home to Bayern, as they did in the group phase last year when the Munich side beat them 3-1 in Manchester.

While City look for a win over familiar German



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud shoots to score a goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium in London on 22 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

opposition in the north of England, Arsenal will do the same in the capital after blowing their chance of securing a last 16 spot on Matchday Four.

Arsenal were coasting to victory over Anderlecht, leading 3-0 with half an hour to play, before allowing the Belgian side to recover and steal a point in a 3-3 draw.

However, they should

still qualify in second place and will do so if they get at least a draw against Dortmund and the other game between Anderlecht and Galatasaray is also drawn.

But if Arsenal slip up again — entirely possible as Borussia beat them 2-1 at the Emirates in the group stage last season — and if Anderlecht or Galatasaray should win, then nothing will be decided

until the final matchday on 9 December.

Arsenal though are not in the best of form going into Wednesday's game, and their late capitulation to Anderlecht has been followed by successive league defeats to Swansea City and Manchester United.

Some of Europe's traditionally stronger teams are, like Arsenal, also not yet certain of their survival, including five-time European champions Liverpool who are battling to stay alive in Group B.

Liverpool face Ludogorets in Bulgaria on Wednesday, and will be out if Basel beat Real Madrid and the Merseysiders fail to beat the Bulgarians.

Ludogorets, who have been far from disgraced in their first Champions League campaign with a win over Basel to their credit, will finish bottom of the group if they lose and need to beat Liverpool to

have a chance of third spot.

One criticism of the Champions League in recent years has been that the same teams play each other too often in the opening phase, making the competition less exciting.

That will change from next season with a new seeding arrangement in place, but the fourth meeting between Schalke 04 and Chelsea in little over a year could prove incredibly enjoyable for the German side's new coach Roberto Di Matteo.

He led Chelsea to Champions League glory when they won the title in 2012 but was sacked six months later.

Chelsea top Group G with eight points, three points clear of Schalke, and while the Londoners are virtually certain to qualify, Di Matteo's side can make them wait until the last match and boost their chances with a win to lead the table.—Reuters

Pellegrini feeling pressure ahead of Bayern clash



Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini smiles before the start of their English Premier League soccer match against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road in London on 8 Nov 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 24 Nov — Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini is feeling the pressure ahead of his side's must-win match at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday but the Chilean says it is all self-inflicted.

The Premier League champions are bottom of Group E with just two points from four games and require victories from their remaining two matches to stand a chance of qualifying for the last 16.

After a disappointing start to their Premier League title defence and facing an early European exit, Pellegrini says he, more than anyone, understands the importance of

winning the match.

"My own pressure to continue to the next round is an important pressure, more maybe than the owners," he told reporters. "Of course, I think we must be in the next stage."

If beating the 2013 European and current German champions Bayern wasn't enough of a daunting task, City will be without suspended midfield pair, Yaya Toure and Fernandinho, while playmaker David Silva is still sidelined through injury.

The Manchester side did, however, receive a boost when captain Vincent Kompany returned from a calf problem in the side's 2-1 home win

against Swansea City on Saturday.

A City win on Tuesday would mean they visit AS Roma in the final group game with a chance of qualifying for the knockout stage.

Roma travel to CSKA Moscow on Tuesday with both teams level on four points.

Bayern are undefeated in all competitions this season, with Saturday's 4-0 demolition of Hoffenheim further proof of their devastating power even when dealing with a string of injuries.

Captain Philipp Lahm is out for three months with a broken ankle and Bayern are still without Thiago Alcantara, Holger Badstuber, David Alaba and Javi Martinez.

But Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger celebrated his comeback from injury on Saturday by setting up Bayern's fourth goal after coming on as a 77th minute substitute.

Bayern have already secured top spot in the group with two games to spare but promise no complacency in Manchester.

"We will not just go there and play relaxed and see what comes out," said winger Arjen Robben.

Reuters

Vintage Federer seals first Davis Cup for Switzerland

LILLE, 24 Nov — Roger Federer produced a vintage performance to crush Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 and seal Switzerland's maiden Davis Cup title with a 3-1 win over hosts France on Sunday. The 17-times grand slam champion shook off back problems during the weekend and recovered from Friday's defeat by Gael Monfils to hand France a third defeat in their last three finals. With Federer imperious on serve, there was a sense of inevitability in the air at the Pierre Mauroy stadium despite the support of a record 27,448 raucous crowd and Gasquet's decent level of play. He made more unforced errors than the gifted Frenchman — 24 to 21 — but hit an astonishing 62 winners, kneeling down before lying on his chest after wrapping up the match with

a cunning drop shot.

"We fought hard for it. I've been playing this game for almost 15 years and clearly I had never come as close than this past weekend," said world number two Federer, for whom the only major title missing from his collection is now an Olympic singles gold medal. "I'm happy I stayed calm and played a good match when I had to. I'm really happy for all the guys in the team." Gasquet said he was "very disappointed" to lose in straight sets. "It's the first time Roger plays at this level against me," he said. French captain Arnaud Clement had no complaints about the result.

"Right now I think we did everything right, me and the players. But Switzerland were better than us," he said.

Federer dropped only

four points on serve in the opening set, which he sealed with a whipping forehand winner after breaking Gasquet, the world number 26, in the third game.

Varying his shots to devastating effect, Federer toyed with his opponent, who dropped serve in the first and seventh games as the Swiss bagged the second set with a drop shot having not conceded a single break point. Gasquet, sent to the clay court by captain Arnaud Clement in place of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who sustained an arm injury on Friday, looked slightly better at the beginning of the third set as Federer became careless. But the Swiss, who withdrew from last Sunday's ATP World Tour final with a back injury, was still the sharper player and broke on his first opportunity in the fifth game when Gasquet sent a backhand wide.

Stan Wawrinka gave them the first point by beating Tsonga in the first singles rubber before Monfils leveled on Friday. Switzerland were 2-1 up going into Sunday's reverse singles after Wawrinka and Federer teamed up to beat Gasquet and Julien Benneteau in the doubles on Saturday. The fifth match between Wawrinka and Monfils was canceled.—Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer (L) and teammates raise the trophy after winning the Davis Cup final at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, on 23 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS