

## Vice President U Nyan Tun meets executive director of World Economic Forum



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Executive Director Philipp Rösler of the World Economic Forum and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov—Vice President U Nyan Tun received Executive Director Philipp Rösler of the World Economic Forum and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace

in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed the vision of Myanmar for its development in annual meetings of the World Economic Forum and the East Asian

Economic Forum, the process of economic reform, and investment opportunities for international organ-

izations and businesses.

It was also attended by deputy ministers U Thant Kyaw and Daw Lei

Lei Thein and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Min.—MNA

## EU Working Together For Myanmar: EU Announces Cooperative Strategy

YANGON, 25 Nov—Since the beginning of the historic transition period, the European Union and its Member States have been actively engaged in supporting Myanmar's economic, social and political development. There can, however, be no standing still. Reforms must continue and need support.

On 24 November 2014, the European Union and its Member States, together with the Government of Myanmar, presented the Joint EU Development Partners' Transitional Strategy for Myanmar 2014-2016.

This ground breaking strategy will maximise co-operation and efficiency between the European Union and its Member States in their support of Myanmar by utilising a single, joint framework in the implementation of development initiatives.

The single framework that will guide the European Development Partners in their assistance to Myanmar represents the EU's and its Member States' commitment to aid effectiveness, working together to make a strong contribution to Myanmar's ongoing development.—GNLM

## World Bank looks to improve farmers' access to irrigation in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 Nov — The World Bank is developing a project to improve the agricultural sector in Myanmar, an official of the global multilateral institution told the Global New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday.

The project, which is aimed at improving existing irrigation systems of the country and offering extensive services to Myanmar farmers, is being formulated in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar, he said.

The US\$100 million project will be implemented in Myanmar following the approval of the board of the executive directors of the World Bank Group, which is expected to take

place next month, he added.

Recently, the Work

Bank released a new report titled "Myanmar: Rice Price Volatility and Pov-

erty Reduction", pointing out that rice price volatility (See page 2)



Photo shows a woman winnowing in a field in Myanmar, where rice is the main farm income source, providing livelihoods for over 50% of the population. The World Bank says rice price volatility in Myanmar is the highest among net rice exporting countries in Asia, preventing Myanmar's rice farmers from earning high profits and keeping many families at or close to poverty income levels.— GNLM/PHOTO: YE MYINT

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# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw accepts proposal for six party round-table talks

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw accepted a proposal Tuesday to hold round-table talks among six parties, namely, the president, the speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (lower house), the speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw (upper house), the chairperson of the main opposition National League for Democracy, a representative of ethnic parties and the commander-in-chief.

U Myint Tun, representative of Bago region constituency (No. 1), submitted the proposal, suggesting the talks to develop a constitution which is

suitable for the existing situation of the country and to create opportunities for the future of the country.

At the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U Thein Swe, representative of Ann township constituency, said the 2008 Constitution has resulted in parliamentary and democratic systems in the country, saying that systematic steps must be taken in charter amendment.

Daw Khin Saw Wai, representative of Yathedaung township constituency, said the priority of constitutional amendment should be placed on

changing some articles which are major hurdles to this endeavor, and also suggested that all the relevant bodies consider the future of the state.

Major Kyaw Naing Htay, military representative, said that the Tatmadaw, together with the public, is taking part in the efforts of national unity and the peace-making process, commenting that the amendments are to be carried out in line with the Constitution.

U Tin Mya, representative of Sagaing region constituency, said that the amendment process should be carried out in accord-



*Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives focus on amendment of constitution on Tuesday's session.—MNA*

ance with the suggestions of parliamentarians.

U Thein Zaw, representative of Myitkyina township constituency, said that the amendment process should not rely on the biases of political parties, ethnicity and or-

ganizations, but rather be based on the welfare of people and the country, with a focus on national reconciliation.

U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairman of the Constitution Amendment Implementation Committee,

urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss constitution amendment processes at the 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of this Hluttaw after reviewing the report of the committee and discussions of 140 parliamentarians.—MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw

# Car substitution programme extended to March 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov — Deputy Minister U Chan Maung of the Rail Transportation Ministry said a program aimed at taking aging vehicles off the roads will be extended from the end of 2014 to March 2015 at Tuesday's session of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House).

Under the programme, the owners of cars over 20 years old, locally made autos and three-wheeled cars can exchange their vehicles for a permit that allows them to import a car with the registration fee waived.

During the 34<sup>th</sup> day of the Amyoth Hluttaw (upper house), the deputy minister said that many old cars remain on the roads despite this programme, not because of the ministry

but because of the owners' preference. Under this programme a total of 14,000 locally made cars, more than 500 three-wheelers and over 130,000 old vehicles have been exchanged for permits.

Responding to a question by a Seikkan Township parliamentarian, Dr Win Myint, deputy minister for health, said expenditures on state health care services come from the budget of the ministry, at a cost of US\$11 per citizen, excluding operational costs such as salaries for staff, accommodation, electricity and fuel.

The deputy minister also said that the World Health Organization has suggested the standard cost should be between \$30 and

\$45 each year.

He noted that the budget allocation of the health ministry for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is K652 billion, or 3.84 percent of the overall budget, which is 0.94 percent of GDP.

Each person in Myanmar is required to pay from 65 to 80 percent of health care costs.

Dr Win Myint also said that the country will need a public healthcare insurance system in the future, and the country is expected to see overall health care services of population coverage, service coverage and cost coverage in 2030.—MNA

## Myanmar, Vietnam focus on friendly relations in Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov — Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Myanmar-Vietnam Friendship Association U Nay Win Tun received Chairman of the Vietnam-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr. Chu Cong Phung and party at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They exchanged views

on the promotion of bilateral relations, enhancement of business in cooperation with Myanmar, development of agricultural technology and industries, technical cooperation in the agriculture sector and cementing friendly ties between the parliaments and peoples of the two countries.—MNA

## World Bank looks to improve...

(from page 1)  
in Myanmar is the highest among net rice exporting countries in Asia, preventing Myanmar's rice farmers from earning high profits and keeping many families at or close to poverty income levels.

According to the new study, rice prices rose by 40 percent between 2009-2013, increasing pressure on Myanmar's overall food security and export competitiveness.

The report revealed that the main cause of rice price volatility in Myanmar is heavy concentration of

paddy production in November and December, resulting in sharp price drops from December to January and spikes between May and October. A fragmented seed market, poor roads, weak phone coverage, unreliable market information, low export diversification, and high costs for rice mills to maintain rice stocks amplify these price fluctuations even further, it added.

Apart from revealing its findings in the report, the World Bank made recommendations for lowering the rice price volatility in Myanmar.

It highlighted the importance of investments in agriculture, infrastructure and an improved business environment for lowering rice price volatility.

Lower costs of doing business and improved access to finance for rice mill owners and traders would reduce storage costs and increase private stocks, acting to smooth price fluctuations.

The report suggested that price volatility in Myanmar could be reduced by spreading rice production more evenly over the marketing year and stressed the need for farmer's improved access to irrigation, availability of seeds with

different harvesting periods and growth durations, and advice on production technologies.

Rice is the main farm income source for Myanmar, where the livelihoods of over 50 percent of the population depend on the performance of agriculture. Rice accounts for 70 percent of Myanmar's total cultivated area and 30 percent of the value of its agricultural production.

The World Bank has produced a series of reports on Myanmar's rice cultivation and industry as part of its overall technical assistance to the country.

GNLM

## Amyotha Hluttaw

# Three bills passed at Amyotha Hluttaw session



*U Zone Hle Thang of Chin State constituency-2.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov — The Amyotha Hluttaw on Tuesday approved the union budget bill, which the Pyithu Hluttaw had returned with remarks.

The Pyithu Hluttaw also returned a bill with remarks concerning salaries, allowances and facilities for members of committees at state/region levels, which came under discussion at the Amyotha Hluttaw.

A representative of

Chin State constituency-2 stressed that the Constitution recognizes the role of such parliamentarians as being the same as that of parliamentarians at the union level, adding that parliamentarians deserve the privileges the Constitution provides.

He spoke in favour of the remarks added to the bill by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Amyotha Hluttaw also approved two other bills.—MNA



## NATIONAL

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives EU ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Ambassador of the European Union Office Mr Roland Kobia at Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They exchanged views

on promotion of relations between Myanmar and EU, the prospects of relations between their armed forces, endeavours of the Myanmar armed forces, the process of peace and stability in Rakhine State, national unity, and the 2008 Constitution.

Myawady

*Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of the European Union Office Mr Roland Kobia.*—MYAWADY



## Amyotha Hluttaw speaker visits Thailand, receives honorary doctoral degree in law



*Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint meets Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.*—MNA

BANGKOK, 25 Nov—Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, currently on a visit to Thailand at the invitation of Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, president of the National Legislative Assembly, laid a wreath at the statue of King Rama II on 24 November, sources said.

U Khin Aung My-

int met Prof Pornpetch Wichitcholchai for a discussion at the latter's office.

U Khin Aung Myint said that legislation is of great importance in national reconstruction, recognizing the multi-functional aspects of both the National Legislative Assembly and the National Reform Council.

In connection with the Ko Tao murder case in which two Myanmar nationals have been charged, the Amyotha Hluttaw is following the matter, the speaker said.

Speaking of economic relations, the speaker stated that Myanmar and Thailand are interdependent economies, whose cooperation will ensure economic growth for both countries.

He showed appreciation for Thailand's invitation by saying that he visited Thailand even at the current crucial time of the issue of constitutional amendment coming under discussion at the parliament.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint met NRC Chairman Mr Thienchay Keeranan at the latter's office.

## U Thit Linn Ohn concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Mongolia.

MNA

## Media roundtable discussion held on challenges to rising ASEAN

YANGON, 25 Nov—The 3<sup>rd</sup> ERIA Editors Roundtable, jointly organized by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and the local Mizzima Media Group, was held here Tuesday on the theme of "challenges to a rising ASEAN".

The event was attended by Union Information Minister U Ye Htut, Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, executive director of ERIA, ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh, Chief Editor of Mizzima Media U Soe Myint and journalists from local and foreign media groups.

Nishimura and U Soe Myint delivered opening speeches, followed by a discussion on the topic "Myanmar-ASEAN Beyond 2015" proposed by the union minister.

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> ERIA Editors Roundtable: Challenges for Rising ASEAN in progress.*—MNA

The participants discussed the possible consequences of the establishment in 2015 of the ASEAN Economic Community during Malaysia's chairmanship of the grouping, the future challenges of the bloc, as well as the preparations of Myanmar.

NHK of Japan, the Nation Multimedia Group of Thailand, Fairfax Media of New Zealand, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the People's Daily of China also exchanged views on the future of the media industry.

At the end of the talks, the ASEAN secretary-general answered questions by journalists.

Senior Communication Advisor Kavi Chongkittavorn of ERIA then made a closing speech of the event.—MNA





## Inter-primary school sports meet held in Thaton District

THATON, 25 Nov — The Thaton District Inter-Primary School Sports Meet was held at the sports ground in Theinseik Basic Education High School in Thuwunnawady, Thaton Township, Mon State, on Tuesday.

District Education Officer Daw Kyi Kyi Mar gave words of encouragement to the students to become selected for state-level competitions.

Primary students from four townships of Thaton District participated in the 50-m, 100-m and 200-m races, high jump, long jump and football events.

Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing, the district education officer



and officials presented prizes to the winners in respective events.

The sports meet will

be held up to 27 November.

Outstanding students will be selected to take part in the Mon State level

el sports competitions, according to the district education office.

*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

## Myanmar journalists visit Ruili checkpoint



RUILI, 25 Nov — Myanmar Journalists Association U Htay Aung and party together with Chairman of the Upper

Myanmar Journalists Association U Htay Aung

Mr Zhang Jian (a) U Htay

Myint of the Dehong Prefecture Chamber of Commerce visited the tax free zone at the Ruili border gate in China on 19 November.

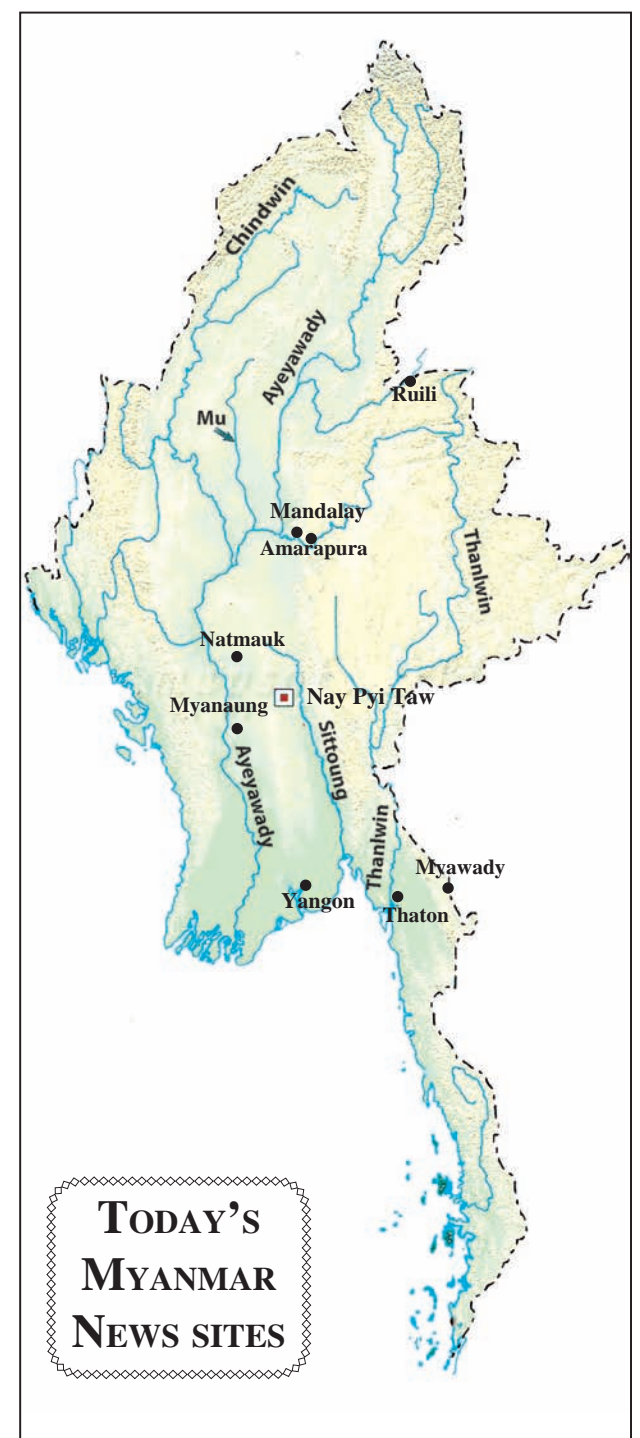
At the border checkpoint, they viewed goods with the use of modern machinery. Dehong Prefecture has six border checkpoints. Of them, Shweli checkpoint is one of the tax free gates.—*Htay Myint Maung*

## Hole-in-one sunk at the Royal Mingalardon Golf Club

YANGON, 25 Nov — U Khin Maung Aung scored an ace at the 16<sup>th</sup> hole of the Royal Mingalardon Golf Club in Yangon on 22 November, striking a Volvik 1 ball with a Marumalexim Roof #7.

At that time, he was playing together with U Aung Moe Kyaw, U Hla Maw Oo, U Zaw Min and Mr. Peter.

*GNLM*



## Health knowledge shared with villagers in Natmauk Tsp



NATMAUK, 25 Nov — An health education talk was held at a monastery in Kyaukse and Kyunbok villages, Natmauk Township, Magway Region, on 22 November. Deputy Township Administrator U Tint Zaw and Dr Nyunt Shwe Aung of Shwepandaw Station Hospital explained the construction of a latrine at

each house and the timely treatment of dysentery.

Officials presented 110 commodes to local people.

The deputy township administrator and departmental officials visited the village and viewed construction of a latrine at each house.

*Hla Win (Township IPRD)*

## Inter-Basic Education School Sports Meet begins in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 25 Nov— The Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-Basic Education Sports Meet kicked off at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 24 November.

On behalf of the chief minister, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Af-

fairs Dr Win Hlaing made a speech and opened the sports meet.

PyinOoLwin District won over Kyaukse District in the opening match of the football tournament.

The boys' and girls' football tournaments are being held at Shwe Mann

Taung Sports Ground, the sepak Takraw event at No 9 Basic Education High School, the table tennis event at Basic Education High School No 1 and the track and field event at Kyauktaing track and field in the old royal palace.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*





## LOCAL NEWS

## Copy books donated to basic education schools in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 25 Nov — With the assistance of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Mandalay Region Women's Affairs Organization and Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee donated copy books to basic education schools in Mandalay Region.

The donation cere-

mony for the copy books took place at the office of the Mandalay Region WAO on Theikpan Street in Mandalay on 24 November.

Chairwoman of the organization Daw Su Su Lwin presented 2,325 copy books to the chairwomen of township WAOs.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



## Ruili Vice Mayor hosts lunch for Myanmar journalists

RUILI, 25 Nov — Vice Mayor of Ruili Mrs Cai Ying Chum (a) Daw Khin Nwe Oo hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting Myanmar journalists delegation at Tai Mei Hao Restaurant on 19 November.

It was also attended by Mr Zhang Jian (a) U Htay Myint of Dehong Prefecture Chamber of Commerce and officials.

The vice mayor urged the Myanmar journalists to cooperate in strengthening China-Myanmar friendly ties.—*Htay Myint Maung*

## Myawady Tsp police commander holds press conference

MYAWADY, 25 Nov — Myawady Township Police Force Commander Major Aung Ngwe held a press conference at the district police force in Kayin State on Tuesday.

Police Major Aung Ngwe explained the duties and functions of the police, the pay scale of police servicemen, the outbreak of crimes in the township, and the cooperation of people

in providing information to the police.

The commander and officials replied to queries raised by departmental officials and media.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*



## Tube-well sunk to supply potable water to locals

NATMAUK, 25 Nov — The Natmauk Township Rural Development Department sank a tube-well in Kywahtoogan Village in the township as part of rural development works.

The tube-well is being supervised by officers of the Township Rural Development Department.

Upon completion, the tube-well will benefit over 500 local people of the village, said an official.

*Hla Win (Township IPRD)*



## Malaria control course given to volunteers in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 25 Nov — The opening ceremony of a malaria control course for volunteers was held at the hall of Township Health Department in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on Monday.

Dr Tin Nilar Win of the Township People's Hospital explained the

outbreak of malaria in the world and Myanmar. She said the disease kills 1 million people across the world and 1,200 in Myanmar per year.

Township malaria inspector U Tin Aung said that volunteer health workers are to provide health care services to malaria pa-

tients within 24 houses to reduce the outbreak of severe malaria and the death rate from malaria.

Volunteers from 25 village-tracts in the township are attending the course, which will last up to 28 November.

*Win Bo-Township IPRD*



*An official explains control of malaria disease for volunteers of villages in Myanaung Township.*

## Illegally extracted logs seized at Amarapura

AMARAPURA, 25 Nov — A mobile team (Mandalay) seized timber logs concealed under a bamboo raft at Shwekyetyet jetty in Amarapura, Mandalay Region, on 21 November.

The mobile team led by Director U Thein Win of the Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department

checked the bamboo raft on 21 November and found 51 ironwood and hardwood logs weighing 6.4714 tons worth K1.632 million.

The mobile team handed over the logs to the Forest Department. Action is being taken against 11 persons from the raft under the Forestry Law at Amara-

pura Myoma police station.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## Two Myanmar journalists' groups meet in China's Ruili

RUILI, 25 Nov — A delegation of the Upper Myanmar Journalists' Association led by Chairman U Htay Aung on a visit to China met a 15-member delegation led by U Khin Maung Aye of the Trade Times Journal from Yangon at Shukhin Zone in Ruili, China on 19 November. The delegation from Yangon arrived in China to visit Yunnan, Shanghai and Kunming and is slated to leave for Beijing, the capital city of China, for further observation.

*Htay Myint Maung*





## Korean opposition lawmaker raps indictment of Japanese reporter

SEOUL, 25 Nov — A veteran South Korean opposition lawmaker slammed South Korea's prosecution on Tuesday for indicting a Japanese journalist for defaming President Park Geun-hye in an article about her whereabouts on the day of the deadly *Sewol* ferry disaster last April.

"It's seriously wrong for the prosecution to launch a probe and indict (a journalist) on charges of defamation just because what has been published was not true," Moon Jae In of the main opposition New Politics Alliance for Democracy said at a meeting with a group of foreign correspondents.

A South Korean district court will hold pre-

liminary hearings on defamation charges against Tatsuya Kato, the former Seoul bureau chief of Japan's *Sankei Shimbun*, on Thursday.

The Seoul Central District Court is expected to seek a plea from Kato on the first day of hearing.

"(The indictment) is not in line with legal principles and precedents, and global standards concerning freedom of the press," said Moon, who was defeated by Park in the presidential election in 2012. "(The indictment) has become somewhat a shameful thing in the international community," he said.

In an article published online on 3 August, Kato

suggested Park was not at her office for seven hours on 16 April, the day the *Sewol* ferry sank with the loss of 300 lives, possibly because she was engaged in a secret rendezvous with a recently divorced former aide.

Kato cited hearsay among stockbrokers and quoted from the *Chosun Ilbo*, a major South Korean newspaper that first reported the rumour but has not similarly been charged with defamation.

A conservative South Korean civic group filed a defamation suit against the *Sankei* bureau on 9 August over the article, prompting the prosecutors to open an investigation.

*Kyodo News*



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C), flanked by his cabinet colleagues Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (1st L), Venkaiah Naidu (2nd L), Rajiv Pratap Rudy (R) and India Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh, talks to the press as they arrive on the opening day of winter session of Indian parliament in New Delhi, India on 24 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

## Thai rubber farmers protest draft measure, defy martial law

BANGKOK, 25 Nov — Around fifty Thai rubber farmers gathered outside Bangkok's Government House on Tuesday, in defiance of martial law, to protest a draft rubber law and to demand the government buy their produce at higher prices.

Farmers in the world's top rubber producer have threatened to step up street action if the National Legislative Assembly does not scrap the draft law, which, they say, will not help shore up prices that are mired near five-year lows.

The draft aims to set up a Rubber Authority of Thailand, including farmers and representatives from the public and private sec-

tor, to oversee policy and prices, but protesters were concerned small-time farmers would be left out.

"We want the national assembly to scrap the draft because small-time rubber farmers will have very little say in it and it is not a genuine support measure," said Soontorn Rakrong, a spokesman for 14 farmer groups based in the south.

"If the national assembly does not scrap it then rubber farmers all over the country will rise up and protest."

Under martial law all protests and political gatherings of more than five people are banned. The junta that took power after a coup has cracked down on

any form of dissent and last week dozens were detained for public displays of defiance.

"We will take this matter into consideration and take it up with the prime minister," said Amnuay Patise, an adviser to the Thai agriculture minister. He declined to give further details.

Several rubber farmers, based mostly in the south, supported anti-government protests earlier this year that culminated in the coup, but some say they feel betrayed because the junta had failed to soften the blow of plunging rubber prices.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the army chief

who led the coup, has warned farmers not to stage any demonstrations.

The government has ruled out the sort of intervention schemes that led to the ousting of the previous Yingluck Shinawatra-led government as they are costly and cause a build-up in stockpiles that then become difficult to sell.

Thai unsmoked rubber sheet was quoted at 48 baht per kg, which farmers say is far below the production cost of 65 baht.

"The global price is no more than 50 baht a kilo but our cost is around 65 baht. We are losing money and will fight until the end," said Soontorn.

*Reuters*

## Philippines lifts ban on Hong Kong journalists

MANILA, 25 Nov — The Philippine immigration bureau has lifted a ban imposed on Hong Kong journalists last June after considering that "no untoward incident transpired" when President Benigno Aquino visited China recently for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the agency's spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Elaine Tan said the recommendation of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency on Monday to lift the blacklist order against nine journalists from Hong Kong was approved as the bureau presumes NICA "to be in a better position to know the facts surrounding the initial finding of unde-

sirability and subsequent reversal of such finding."

Six journalists and engineers from Now TV, two reporters from Commercial Radio, and one from Radio Television Hong Kong were included in an "unwelcome" list, barring them from entering the Philippines and also from covering the APEC forum summit next year in the Philippines, for asking questions of Aquino during the APEC summit in Indonesia last year.

The journalists yelled questions at Aquino over the Philippine government's handling of a botched hostage-rescue incident in Manila in 2010 that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

*Kyodo News*

### Abe surveys damage from earthquake in northern Nagano



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe talks with people who have evacuated to a shelter in the village of Hakuba, central Japan on 24 Nov, 2014. The village and its surrounding area were hit by a magnitude-6.7 earthquake on 22 Nov that left 41 people injured and heavily damaged or destroyed 54 houses.

*KYODO NEWS*

## Asian leaders begin arriving in Nepal for SAARC summit

KATHMANDU, 25 Nov — Leaders from seven South Asian nations began arriving in Kathmandu on Tuesday to attend the 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit on Wednesday and Thursday.

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, Pakistani Prime Min-

ister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa are convening for the summit to chart out the future of the region.

Security has been upped in Kathmandu and road traffic has been significantly restricted to allow unhindered movement of motorcades. Most of the regular international and domestic flights to Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport have been rescheduled for later Tuesday.

Key agreements likely to be signed at the end of the summit themed Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity include coopera-

tion in establishing regional railways, energy grids and unhindered vehicular movement among SAARC nations. Rooting out terrorism, bringing down telecommunication tariffs in the region, establishing a SAARC Environment and Disaster Management Centre for minimizing the impact of climate change and natural disasters, improving wage and safety for migrant labour, ending violence against women, and controlling trafficking in persons are among issues being discussed in the regional gathering that started Saturday when officials from the eight countries

presented their positions on these and other issues. During the summit, the eight leaders will also participate in a retreat at a resort near Kathmandu.

"The retreat is expected to encourage bilateral talks in an informal setting," Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, Nepal's foreign minister, said.

But it remains unclear whether the Indian and Pakistani leaders will have bilateral talks.

This is the third time for Nepal to host the summit that was first held in Bangladeshi capital Dhaka in 1985.

*Kyodo News*



## Serbia's military, defence capabilities to be boosted

BELGRADE, 25 Nov — The cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA) will boost Serbia's military and defence capabilities, Serbian Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic said on Monday during a meeting with EDA Chief Executive Claude-France Arnould.

Gasic and Arnould, who is on her first visit to Belgrade, discussed further development of the cooperation, the Serbian Ministry of Defence said on its website.

Gasic and Arnould agreed that it is important to intensify cooperation in the fight against improvised explosive devices, as well as in the area of precision-guided

munition.

Potential areas of military cooperation are also cyber defence and unmanned (land) platforms, the Serbian ministry said.

"The cooperation with the EDA will boost Serbia's military and defence capabilities, and, at the same time, our interoperability with EU member states," Gasic noted.

He particularly thanked the agency for granting access to its data bases — the Collaborative Data Base, the Defence Test and Evaluation Base and the European Defence Research Centres Portal. "The engagement of the Ministry of Defence as part

of the EU Joint Security and Defence Policy is significant due to Serbia's European integration process," the two officials said at the meeting.

The significance of joint projects is "heightened by the current economic crisis and defence budget cuts in European countries," they also said.

Active involvement in the concept of the Joint Security and Defence Policy is reflected by the aspiration towards boosted engagement in crisis management operations, development of joint projects and improved administrative capabilities for more active cooperation with the EU. The EDA chief executive said that Serbia, as a relatively new partner of the agency, is yet to set the cooperation parameters — the main reason of her visit to Belgrade.

Development of joint projects with the EDA and EU member states was made possible in December 2013 through the signing of an administrative agreement with the Defence Ministry.

Tanjug



## At least 12 buildings go up in flames in violence-torn Ferguson area

FERGUSON, 25 Nov — At least a dozen buildings were set on fire in Ferguson, Missouri, most of them destroyed, in a wave of civil unrest following a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer for fatally shooting an unarmed black teenager in August, police said on

Tuesday.

St Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar also said he personally had heard about 150 gunshots fired during a night of looting, arson and clashes between demonstrators and police that resulted in at least 29 people arrested.

Although no serious

injuries have been reported, he said the disturbances Monday night and early Tuesday morning were "much worse" than the unrest that erupted in the immediate aftermath of the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson on 9 August.—Reuters

## US defence chief Hagel to step down



US President Barack Obama (R) greets Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel after announcing Hagel's resignation at the White House in Washington, on 24 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 Nov — US President Barack Obama said on Monday that Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel will be stepping down, a development that apparently came as a surprise to defence officials in Japan who see the United States as Tokyo's closest security ally.

Hagel, a former senator who took office in February 2013, is resigning as Obama's administration struggles to deal with mounting tasks such as containment of Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria and US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Hagel, the only Republican in Obama's national security team, is expected to serve as head of the Defence Department until Obama nominates his successor.

Names of people floated in US media as a potential next Pentagon chief include Michelle Flournoy, a former undersecretary of defence.

Obama decided to replace Hagel after Democrats suffered a crushing defeat in the midterm elections in the face of dissatisfaction among many voters about the administration including concern about US

security policy such as how to deal with the group of Islamic State extremists who murdered American civilians in the Middle East.

The announcement of Hagel's resignation comes at the beginning of the two years of Obama's remaining tenure as a lame-duck president.

Obama's White House and the head of the Pentagon had open disagreements over the Islamic State and other key security issues prompting some in Congress to criticize Hagel.

Obama effectively sacked Hagel, according to CNN.—Kyodo News

## Putin, Medvedev to discuss oil and gas projects with Vietnam's ruling party chief

MOSCOW, 25 Nov — President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Tuesday are expected to meet in Sochi with the Secretary General of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, the Kremlin press service said.

Putin's talks with Nguen will concentrate on large joint projects in the oil and gas sector, in the nuclear power industry and industrial cooperation, as well as on a buildup of cultural and humanitarian con-

tacts. "The sides will take a close look at the prospects for further comprehensive partnership in the light of agreements that Russia and Vietnam reached during Putin's official visit to Hanoi in November 2013," a spokesman for the Kremlin press service said. "The two leaders will also examine pressing regional issues."

The government's press service said at the same time that Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev hopes to discuss bilateral

economic relations and a free trade zone agreement between the countries of the Eurasian Customs Union (Armenia, Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan) and Vietnam.

"One more item to come under consideration is a buildup of interparty contacts between the United Russia party and the Communist Party of Vietnam," the press service said.

On the eve of the visit, Nguen Phu Trong said in an interview with TASS

that his exchanges of opinion with Russian leaders would target well-specified measures and steps that are necessary for the consolidation and further growth of partnership between Vietnam and Russia in all the existing areas of cooperation.

"My visit to Russia will take place on the background of progress of Vietnamese-Russian relations and all-embracing strategic partnership," he said. "President Putin, other Russian leaders and

I will assess development of this relationship in recent months and will look, among other things, at the implementation of bilateral agreements at top level and the pace of implementation of large-scale projects."

Specifically, the talks will focus on investment, energy, production of oil and gas, atomic energy, defence, and security.

At the same time, Nguen said he hopes to discuss cooperation at the level of regions, the situation with the populous

Vietnamese community in Russia and the expansion of people's diplomacy.

Apart from a purely bilateral agenda, Putin and Nguen also hope to consider a possible coordination of steps in the international arena.

"Vietnam is conducting an independent multi-vector foreign policy based on self-determination, aspirations for peace, cooperation, development, and international integration," Nguen said.

Itar-Tass



## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 26 November, 2014

## The basic grammar of national reconciliation

By Kyaw Thura

**A**t the outset, it is necessary to bear in mind that there is no simple, short-cut treatment for the wounds and divisions of a society in persistent conflict. Naturally, it takes time to rebuild trust and understanding among groups with ideological differences.

Nevertheless, national reconciliation should be recognized as a necessary dynamic of political reconstruction though it is a difficult challenge. However, it is an essential tool for the

peaceful prevention and management of conflict and above all the establishment of a lasting peace.

Nobody in their right mind would ever want conflict. It is a universal truth that having a better life in peace of mind and body is everyone's dream. It should however be noted that peace is not something that can be bought or borrowed or lent. It has to be forged through mutual trust and understanding, two vital factors that provide a solid foundation for adapting and adopting practical grounds to design a reconciliation process appropriate to a particular context, history and culture in question.

Since a lasting peace is a shared dream, a political dialogue among all stakeholders concerned could be a good start. In building an appropriate reconciliation process, all stakeholders are still required to give a second thought to the plight of the victims residing in areas of conflict rather than to their self-esteem. In urgent need is

the establishment of a support mechanism for healing their pain and suffering.

All in all, a shared future can be built from a divided past. What matters most is to develop working relationships in the present and build a shared vision of the future. Only then will nascent democratic structures of our country be sustained. In fact, democracy is a system for managing differences without recourse to conflict or violence.

## Write for us

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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.*

## Why improve communication skills

By Myo Myint

**C**ommunication skills are the abilities to convey our ideas, feelings, attitudes, perceptions, wants, needs, knowledge, etc. in a precise and lucid manner in accordance with the intention of the person communicating the message, either in the spoken, or written form, face-to-face or via communication devices, such as phone, e-mail, and video conferencing. Since communication is usually a two-way interaction between two or more persons, one must also include listening and reading skills among the communication skills.

Communication is not just merely using words. Spoken communication also involves the use of a variety of features to express different nuances of meaning such as, body language which include facial expressions, posture, gestures; tone of voice; eye contact; proximity between speaker and listener, etc. On the other hand, written communication exploits choice of word, order of words, sentence patterns, the sound system of the language concerned, the organization of texts, size and design of letters of the alphabet, etc. to gain specific communicative effects. In addition, interpretation of human communication is made more complex due to the fact that more than one meaning can be conveyed by a single utterance, and indirectness is frequently used to commu-

nicate different shades of meaning including the opposite what is said. Moreover, such non-verbal features as the style and colour of one's clothes and hair, and for women and some men, the use of certain kinds of jewellery, makeup, lipstick, perfume, etc. may be employed to subtly convey information about the personality of a person.

There are many reasons for communication skills to have come to be regarded as a vital life skill in the 21st century. Firstly, it would be extremely difficult to fulfil even our most basic needs and wants, as anyone who has had the experience of travelling in a foreign country whose language he/she does not know will attest to. Secondly, just as our appearance creates the first impression, so does the way we speak and write. Thirdly, communications skills are important in our social dealings both within the family as well as with friends, acquaintances, and strangers as they can improve relationship or worsen it. Fourthly, good communication skills are required by many jobs, especially those that relate to dealing with the public, whether it is the position of a salesperson, or that of a CEO, as seen from the many job advertisements in newspapers. Fifthly, the higher the position of a person, the more expertise he/she will need in communication, as he/she has to interact with a wide spectrum of people, including those from other countries and cultures, in

different situations.

In Myanmar, with the advent of market economy, expansion of small and medium enterprises, growth in employment opportunities, increase in young people pursuing higher education both at home and abroad, and greater interaction with foreigners and foreign countries for business, tourism and other purposes, effective communication, including the ability to use a foreign language, especially the English language, and the ability to translate and interpret, has risen to the forefront of the skills much in demand these days. On the other hand, with more parents going out to work and reduction in the number of extended families, there seems to be less opportunity for young people to communicate with people of different generations or to receive their guidance on how to converse appropriately. This situation is compounded by the fact that a lot of young people in cities spend more time with their cell phones playing games, and surfing the net, than talking with other people. It is my impression that young people need to be trained to overcome their shyness and reticence to talk with persons of different generations and to make appropriate use of the polite forms traditionally used in conversing with older persons and more formal contexts.

Some people have the gift of effective communication, but some people do not. However, this does not mean that it cannot be de-

veloped. The place to begin training young people to develop communication skills is the home. It is important that parents talk with their children as often as possible, not only to stay connected with them but also to develop their language skills. Through parental talk, children can enrich their stock of vocabulary and sentence patterns and at the same time, develop critical thinking, satisfy their curiosity about their surroundings and expand their knowledge about the world around them. When children are old enough, parents should begin teaching them to use more polite language.

The goals of schools and universities should include the promotion of effective communication, as it is not just a vital life skill as pointed earlier, but because it is also a skill that will bring academic success. Communication skills can be taught as part of the Myanmar and English language courses, or it could be integrated in all the subjects that students have to study. The latter has the advantage of giving more opportunity to use communication skills by students across the curriculum and also strengthening linkage among knowledge, cultural norms, thinking and communication which are vital not only for students but also for those in employment. Below are some of the prerequisites to develop communication skills:

1. overcoming shyness, brevity and reluctance to talk, so that one can

interact with both people one is familiar with as well as strangers

- being aware of the audience - age, job, status, interest, education background, knowledge, etc., to adjust the style of one's language and topics
- being aware of the setting, the place and occasion where the interaction is taking place, to make one's communication appropriate to it
- having relevant knowledge, vocabulary and structure to interact on a wide range of topics
- making one's communication informative, so that it will be worth paying attention to
- being aware of how much time is available, in order to adjust the length of one's interaction
- making one's communication relevant to what the topic being discussed to maintain the attention of one's audience
- making one's communication well-organized to make it comprehensible to the audience
- giving turns to talk to one's listener(s), so

that one will not be regarded as dominating the interaction too much

- giving examples, relevant to the topic and participants, and injecting a bit of humour, when and where appropriate, to make the interaction interesting
- using polite language to show one's regard for one's audience and to create rapport
- using appropriate tone of voice, body language, gestures, and posture to enhance the interest of audience

In order to promote the above mentioned qualities in students to enhance their communicative skills, schools and universities will need to give sustained attention to their development. Schools will need to create a culture of interaction from the very first day students enter school. Teachers should begin their training on communication at the lower primary level by asking students questions and by answering their questions patiently and maintaining young children's eagerness to talk. When students get to the upper primary level and are old

(See page 9)

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (25-11-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K658,000 per tical: Selling K659,000

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K658,000 per tical: Selling K659,000

## FE RATE

USD Buying K 1030: Selling K1038

SGD Buying K 790: Selling K805

Euro Buying K1,270: Selling K1,300



## Vietnamese delegation visits Gems Museum, Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov—A delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Committee of Vietnam Deputy Minister Mr Ha Hung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam called on Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-

Gen Thet Naing Win at the ministry on Tuesday morning.

During the call, they focused on further promoting ties between ethnic groups of the two nations and development tasks.

The Vietnamese delegation visited the Gems Museum, paid homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw and attended a dinner hosted by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Tin Aung Chit.

MNA

## The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin Presenting Ceremony at the Embassy of Japan

YANGON, 25 Nov—According to the press release of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin Presenting Ceremony was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan presented a commemorative silver coin (which featuring Bagan Archaeological site at the obverse and the logo of 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar

and Japan with the representation of Padauk and Cherry flowers representation at the reverse side) to Mr. Ko Ko who designed the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo mark.

The Embassy of Japan requested the Ministry of Culture in Myanmar to design the official logo. Receiving the request, the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) held the intramural competition and there were 48 entries from 14 students. A logo designed

by Mr. Ko Ko, has been chosen as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary official logo. The official logo was used for all 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events conducted both in Myanmar and Japan through 2014.

The Ministry of Finance, Japan and Japan Mint are working on accepting of orders for production of other countries' coins with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Now, the Japan Mint has received the order for production of silver coins commemorating the "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Japan", from the Central Bank of Myanmar. Some coins will be delivered to the Central Bank of Myanmar, and in Japan, the Japan Mint sells the coins.

GNLM



## Why improve communication...

(from page 8)

enough to participate in group work, they should be assigned to talk on simple topics such as one's family, or pet or friends. The aim at this stage is to promote fluency rather than skillfulness, so students should be freely allowed to express themselves, without teachers correcting their mistakes. Reading begets knowledge, and knowledge facilitates interaction and development of thinking skills. When students are in the lower secondary level and are able to do independent reading, they should be assigned short extensive reading tasks, so that they will acquire a wide range of vocabulary and a variety of sentence patterns. To get use to speaking in front of an audience and overcome

shyness, students should be asked to perform short role plays, tell short stories, or do brief presentations on what they have read, in front of the whole class. To instill communication skills, all teachers, whatever subject they teach, should have a few minutes of discussion with students at the beginning of class on the previous lesson and end the class with a few minutes discussion or question answer session, giving students opportunity to express their views and to satisfy their desire for more information. As students get to the high school level, more challenging activities that require preparations, such as impromptu talk, poem and essay competitions, and poster drawing and newsletter production and presentation contests should be conducted,

as they are interesting ways to promote effective communication.

At the university level, communication skills of students should be promoted in a more formal and systematic way. As many opportunities as possible should be given to students to discuss among themselves as well as with their teachers, and group activities should be utilized as much as possible to provide all students in the class the chance to communicate. At this level, communication skills and academic studies should be well integrated. Students should be trained to integrate the knowledge they have gained from prescribed courses with what they have learnt from their independent studies and be able to communicate the information to others effectively. Regarding this matter, in addition to written

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrives in Hanoi



Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party with Vietnamese senior military officers.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov—A delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrived at Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Monday to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of

Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15) and the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (24<sup>th</sup> AARM).

The vice-senior general and party were welcomed by General Director Lieutenant General Nguyen Duc Than of the People's Armed Forces

Training Department of Vietnam and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Win Hlaing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Nyunt Hlaing and officials. The Myanmar delegation proceeded to the Melia Hotel.

Myawady

## Union minister meets with staff of No 36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse)

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Nov—No 36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) needs to better utilize marketing to let the public and construction entrepreneurs known about its production of quality glass, Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint said at a meeting with personnel of the industry in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, on Sunday.

He said that although

the quality of glass produced by the industry is on par with imported glass, the industry's marketing is weak, adding that if necessary, a glass showroom will be opened for sales in Yangon.

He urged the workers to try their best for the long-term production of glass and take responsibility and accountability in their tasks.

The industry produces over 4,000 tons of coloured glass, clear glass, laminated glass, tempered glass, and mirror glass per year.

The union minister also visited No 33 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse Cement Plant) that can produce 400 tons of cement per day. At present, a 5,000-ton cement plant is under construction at the No 33 Heavy Industry.—MNA

ing with patients for those studying medicine, etc. Teachers need to also train students to use the right tone, the right speed of delivery, body language, gestures, postures, visual and audio aids, and wear clothes appropriate to the occasion. They should also be made aware of the need to complete their interaction within the set time. Moreover, they should be trained to given careful attention to their audience and adjust their interaction in response to the reaction their listeners. Finally, students should be led through the different stages of preparation for their talks and written communications to make them as interesting and effective as possible.

There is no doubt that communication skills are the fundamental skills necessary for daily life. They are also skills that can

achieve personal as well as organizational success. In addition, they are related to other important skills such as thinking, social and academic skills. Communication skills are also double edged as they have the power to create harmony as well as discord, generate better understanding as well as misunderstanding, and convey truth as well as create deception. It is therefore the responsibility of parents and education institutions to create the right conditions to develop the communication skills of our young people, so that they can become effective communicators not only for their own success, but also for the benefit of their society and the organizations they work for, and to encourage young people to make proper and effective use of their communication skills.

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# Six powers, Iran to extend nuclear talks until 1 July

VIENNA, 25 Nov — Six major powers and Iran agreed on Monday to extend their talks on Iran's nuclear ambitions until 1 July, a source close to the negotiations told *Kyodo News*.

And *Reuters* quoted British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond as saying the parties to the talks — Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States, Germany and Iran — will extend their negotiations until the end of June next year.

The seven had hoped to forge a framework agreement for Iran's nuclear programme by a Monday deadline, but so far a final pact has not been reached.

The talks, designed to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, are apparently deadlocked over when Western powers



*Delegations of US Secretary of State John Kerry, Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi sit around the negotiations table during their meeting in Vienna on 24 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS*

might lift sanctions on Iran, be able to pursue peaceful use of nuclear energy and what limits would be placed on Iran's uranium

enrichment activities.

The foreign ministers of the seven countries held a plenary meeting after the decision to continue negotiations to work out details such as how long the sides will continue to work toward an agreement and where the next round of talks will be held.

*Reuters* has reported the meetings will be in December, likely in Vienna or in Oman.

*The Associated Press* quoted a US diplomat as saying as saying the ministers hope to see broad political progress by 1 March and details determined by 1 July.

In July this year, Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany had agreed to extend talks until Monday.

But after last week's

meetings, including between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, it appears the talks, while not yet at the "framework" stage, have progressed enough for the sides to continue negotiations into next month, and possibly beyond.

Under an interim deal struck in November last year, Iran committed itself to rolling back some of its nuclear activities in return for limited relief from international sanctions while talks for a lasting solution continued.

The Western powers continue to allege Iran is seeking nuclear weapons capability, but Teheran rejects that claim, insisting its nuclear development is for peaceful purposes only.

*Kyodo News*

## France says Iran nuclear talks progressed on key issues including enrichment

VIENNA, 25 Nov — France's foreign minister said on Tuesday talks between Iran and the major powers over its nuclear programme had been "pretty positive" and there was progress on key issues in-

cluding Iran's capacity to enrich uranium.

"On limiting (Iran's capacity to enrich), I found that there had been a certain movement," Laurent Fabius told France Inter radio.—*Reuters*



*French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius arrives for a meeting in Vienna on 21 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS*

## Saudi Arabia says Islamic State ordered attack on Shi'ites in al-Ahsa

DUBAI, 25 Nov — Saudi Arabia has arrested the four main suspects in an attack on Shi'ite Muslims this month and believes it was ordered by Islamic State militants from abroad, the state news agency cited an Interior Ministry security spokesman as saying on Monday.

Seven members of the Sunni-ruled kingdom's Shi'ite minority were shot dead in the Eastern Province district of al-Ahsa on 3 November as they marked their holy day of Ashoura.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, put down an upsurge of Islamist militancy a decade ago, but fears that jihadist groups such as Islamic State or the al-Qaeda affiliate Nusra Front now operating in Syria or Iraq will radicalise Saudis to mount a new wave of strikes inside the kingdom.

Last week, the ministry said militants were trying to attack Saudi Arabia,

but that it was not aware of any evidence that the al-Ahsa attack had been coordinated with Islamic State.

On Monday, the ministry spokesman said 77 suspects had been arrested so far, and that they were believed to include the four main perpetrators.

He said the leader of the al-Ahsa attack had received orders from abroad, and that "the target, as well as those to be targeted and the timing were all specified for him, as well as the provision that the (attack) be carried out in al-Ahsa".

The leader had picked three followers, and these had scouted out the target, seized a car, killed its owner, and used it in the attack.

nanciers, or those who provide cover".

Two Saudis and a Qatari were killed as they resisted arrest, along with two security officers, the ministry said.

Authorities had already said that among the detainees were people believed to have fought for Sunni jihadists in Syria or who had previously been jailed for fighting for al-Qaeda.

As the birthplace of Islam and a champion of conservative Sunni doctrine, Saudi Arabia is an important ally for Western countries battling Islamic State, and its monarchy a symbolic target for the militant group itself.

Although it has backed rebel groups fighting alongside jihadis against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Saudi Arabia has also taken steps to stop its citizens joining militants in Syria or Iraq, or giving them money.—*Reuters*

## UK faces biggest terrorism threat in its history — minister



*Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May*

LONDON, 25 Nov — Britain is facing the biggest terrorism threat in its history and has foiled around 40 major plots since suicide bombers attacked London in 2005, Home Secretary Theresa May said on Monday. The government would on Wednesday set out new laws to take on the militants, May added, including legislation making it easier for security services to track attackers online, and check if radicalised fighters were flying into Britain.

"When the security and intelligence agencies tell us that the threat we face is now more dangerous than at any time before or since 9/11 we should take notice," the home secretary (interior minister) said in a speech.

Insurance companies would be barred from providing cover for ransom payments under the new

legislation and airlines would be banned if they failed to provide information on passengers flying to Britain, she added.

The government has said Britons returning from fighting in Syria and Iraq provide one of the most serious threats.

May said around 40 terrorist plots had been disrupted since four young Britons carried out suicide bomb attacks in London in 2005, killing 52 people.

These included attempts to conduct Mumbai-style gun attacks on British streets, blow up the London Stock Exchange, bring down airliners and murder a British ambassador and military servicemen, she added.

"Almost all of these attacks have been prevented," said May. "But ... the terrorists only have to be lucky

once."

Planned new measures include giving police the power to seize for up to 30 days the passports of British and foreign nationals suspected of travelling to take part in terrorist-related activities, said May.

The new laws will also make it easier for police to identify who is using an Internet service at any given time.

London's top police officer on Sunday said authorities are increasingly worried about a "lone wolf"-style attack and have foiled four or five plots this year. On Monday, Mark Rowley, Britain's top counter-terrorism officer, said police were "stretched" but had stepped up their efforts, making 271 arrests this year. Warning the threat would remain high for several years, he said the public's help was needed in spotting potential attackers.

Around half of Britons travelling to Syria are newly radicalised and not previously known to police, Rowley said.

"I would never use the word inevitable but of course ... terrorists do sometimes succeed," he added. "We are going to do everything we possibly can do to stop that happening."

Britain raised its terrorism alert to the second-highest level in August, saying an attack was now "highly likely".—*Reuters*



## Turkey, US ease strains on Islamic State but differences remain

ISTANBUL, 25 Nov — Turkey and the United States smoothed over some differences in the fight against Islamic State during a weekend visit by US Vice President Joe Biden, but the talks heralded little in the way of deeper military cooperation between the NATO allies.

Turkey has been a reluctant partner in the US-led coalition against Islamic State, refusing to take a frontline military role despite its 1,200 km (750-mile) border with Iraq and Syria and thereby intensifying Western concern that it is a weak link in the struggle against the insurgents.

Biden ended two days of meetings in Istanbul with no guarantee that Turkey would step up its military cooperation by, for example, allowing the use of Turkish air space or a US base in its

southern town of Incirlik for coalition air strikes.

Turkish leaders, in turn, received no signal that their demands for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's removal from power or that Washington establish a no-fly zone in Syria would be met.

But officials on both sides said the differences were more about strategy than objectives, and the meetings — including a four-hour discussion between Biden and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan — had been an opportunity to clear the air and set a sometimes acrimonious relationship on a surer footing.

"They didn't sit there and sign their names on the bottom line on a whole host of agreements. But actually, I think we came to a much greater clarity about where

we need to go from here," a senior US official said following the talks.

Ankara and Washington were in "complete agreement" on the threat from Islamic State, the official said, as well as the need for an effective ground force in Syria to work in coordination with the air strikes and push the insurgents back, building on progress made in Iraq.

Turkish and US forces will train 2,000 moderate Syrian rebels at a base in the central city of Kirsehir as part of the plan, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Turkish soldiers have also already trained some 230 Kurdish peshmerga fighters in northern Iraq and will give similar assistance to a new national army unit in Baghdad in support of the government's struggle



US Vice President Joe Biden (R) shakes hands with Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan during their meeting at Beylerbeyi Palace in Istanbul on 22 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

against Islamic State.

"In Iraq, Ankara and Washington's viewpoints are very much closely aligned. The problem re-

mains Syria, where strategically they want the same thing — a new order without Assad — but technically, divergences remain," said

Sinan Ulgen, head of the Centre for Economic and Foreign Policy Studies in Istanbul.

Reuters

## Yemeni forces free eight hostages, kill seven kidnappers

SANAA, 25 Nov — Yemeni security forces freed seven Yemeni hostages and one foreigner in a special operation in which seven al-Qaeda kidnappers were also killed, the country's supreme security committee said.

The committee, in a statement published by state news agency *Saba*, did not disclose the nationality of the foreign hostage nor say where in Yemen the operation took place.

It was not immediately clear when or where the kidnappings had occurred.

One member of the

Yemeni security forces was lightly wounded in the raid.

Kidnapping is common in US-allied Yemen, where the country is battling with an insurgency from Islamists linked to al-Qaeda, a southern separatist movement and sporadic conflicts with armed tribes.

Ansar al-Sharia, the local al-Qaeda affiliate, have also come under more pressure recently after Shi'ite Houthi fighters captured the capital Sanaa in September and then pushed into al-Qaeda strongholds in central Yemen.

Hostage-taking is sometimes carried out by militants specifically targeting Westerners, but is also used as a tactic by tribesmen to resolve disputes with the government, and by opportunists hoping to sell hostages on to other groups.

Earlier this month, the United Nations said a Sierra Leonean water engineer working in the Arabian Peninsula country on a sanitation project had been freed more than a year after being kidnapped by unidentified armed men.

Reuters

## Baghdad car bomb kills eight people, fighting west of capital

BAGHDAD, 25 Nov — A car bomb exploded in a market in northern Baghdad's Shaab neighbourhood on Monday, killing eight people and wounding 22, police and medics said.

Another bomb in the capital's southeast killed two people, sources said.

They were the latest explosions to shake the mainly Shi'ite city. Many of the bombings have been claimed by radical Sunni Islamic State fighters who have seized control of large parts of north and west Iraq, as well as a belt of land around Baghdad.

In Ramadi, capital of the western province of Anbar, a local official reported heavy clashes between armed forces and Islamic State militants who have been fighting for four days to take full control of the city.

Athal al-Fahdawi said the heaviest fighting took place in the al-Hooz neighbourhood, just south of a government complex in the center of Ramadi which houses the police headquarters and the offices of the Anbar governorate.

Four Islamic State fighters were killed as well as three men from local tribes

opposed to the group. The tribesmen were killed when they sought refuge in a booby-trapped house, Fahdawi said.

Islamic State's lightning capture of territory in June plunged Iraq into its worst security crisis since the 2003 US invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi forces including Shi'ite militia, Kurdish peshmerga and the army, supported since August by US-led air strikes, have retaken parts of some provinces but the group has continued to seize towns in Anbar Province.—Reuters

## Explosion shakes Afghan capital, no casualties

KABUL, 25 Nov — A powerful explosion shook houses in the diplomatic quarter of Kabul on Tuesday, but there were no casualties in the second such incident in the Afghan capital in a single day, officials said. Kabul has suffered a growing number of bombings by the Taliban and other jihadist militants as foreign combat troops withdraw from a 13-year-long war, leaving behind a smaller support mission.

Police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzai said it was unclear what caused the blast in the Wazir Akbar Khan area of the city,

which is home to embassies, international media offices and aid organizations, but there were no casualties. In an earlier incident on Tuesday, seven Afghan soldiers were wounded when the bus they were riding in was targeted by a remote-controlled bomb on the outskirts of the capital, said Zahir Azimi, a spokesman for the Afghan defence ministry.

In an email to journalists, the Taliban insurgency claimed responsibility for that attack. A day earlier, a magnetic bomb killed two US troops in the city.

Reuters

## Second air strike hits airport in Libya's capital

TRIPOLI, 25 Nov — An air strike hit the last functioning commercial airport in Libya's capital Tripoli for a second day running on Tuesday, residents said, as a power struggle in the oil-rich nation intensified.

Three years after the downfall of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is being lacerated by rival factions, one of which has set up an alternative administration in Tripoli after seizing the city in fighting during the summer.

An armed group loyal to Libya's internationally-recognized government, which has transferred to the east of the country, claimed responsibility for the air strikes.

"We bombed the airport a second time," said Saqer al-Joroushi, head of the air force for the group, which is controlled by former general Khalifa Haftar.

Haftar has been using his war planes to attack targets mainly in the eastern city of Benghazi,

but recently also in western Libya. His forces say Tripoli's Mitiga airport has been used for military purposes by their opponents.

An airport spokesman said commercial flights to the airport had been halted because of the violence.

The new government in Tripoli said several houses were hit in Monday's strike, but said no damage was reported from the second attack on Tuesday morning.

Prime Minister Ab-

dullah al-Thinni lost control of the Libyan capital in August when an armed group linked to the western city of Misrata seized the city and set up an alternative government and parliament.

Tripoli's main airport was damaged by the summer fighting and has been closed since July, meaning commercial flights have had to use the secondary airport, Mitiga, which lies to the east of the city centre.

Reuters



## Grand jury decides against charges in Ferguson shooting, unrest erupts

FERGUSON, 25 Nov — Violence flared again in the St Louis suburb of Ferguson on Monday, with gunshots heard and tear gas fired, after a Missouri grand jury decided not to indict a white police officer over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in August.

Angry crowds took to the streets around the Ferguson police department after the grand jury determined there was no probable cause to charge officer Darren Wilson with any crime for the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

St Louis police reported heavy automatic gunfire late on Monday in the area near where Brown was shot and killed on 9 August. The Federal Aviation Administration issued temporary flight restrictions for the city.

Protests were also staged in New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Seattle and Oakland over a case that has highlighted long-standing racial tensions not just in predominantly black Ferguson but across the United States.

“They determined that



*Protesters demonstrate after the decision by a Missouri grand jury not to indict a Ferguson white police officer in the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown, in front of the White House in Washington on 24 Nov, 2014.*

REUTERS

no probable cause exists to file any charge against officer Wilson,” St Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch told reporters in Clayton, Missouri, the St Louis suburb where the grand jury met.

Wilson could have faced charges ranging from involuntary manslaughter to first-degree murder, McCulloch said.

Storefront windows were smashed near the

Ferguson Police Department, and at least one police cruiser and another vehicle on the street were set on fire. Gunshots were heard and police responded with volleys of tear gas and flash-bang canisters.

Brown’s family said through their attorneys they were “profoundly disappointed” by the grand jury’s finding.

“While we understand that many others share our pain, we ask that you channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change,” the family said in a statement.

Attorneys for Wilson, who has avoided the spot-

light since the shooting, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

President Barack Obama called for protesters to remain peaceful and for police to show restraint.

“We are a nation built on the rule of law and so we need to accept that this decision was the grand jury’s to make,” Obama said in a televised news conference.

“We need to recognize that the situation in Ferguson speaks to broader challenges that we still face as a nation. The fact remains that in too many parts of this country a deep distrust exists between police and communities of colour.”

Ahead of the news, a crowd of several hundred people gathered outside the Ferguson Police Department, and many began to scream angrily as word of the grand jury’s decision spread.

“Murderers, you’re nothing but murderers,” one woman shouted through a megaphone at officers clad in riot gear. “Stinking murderers.”

A group of protesters briefly mobbed a police car, throwing rocks and knocking out its windows, prompting a group of officers clad in riot gear to advance. Sounds of gunshots briefly caused police to take cover behind their vehicles. A Walgreens drugstore was set alight.

“They need to understand that when you put your son in the ground, that’s a pain that you can never overcome,” said Paulette Wilkes, a 40-year-old teacher’s assistant. “People are trying to process it. I think once they process it they will continue to burn and loot because they’re angry.”

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon called up the National Guard ahead of the announcement to protect against the kind of rioting that flared in the weeks after Brown was shot and killed. Some activists described the decision to preemptively activate the

guard as unnecessarily heavy-handed, particularly following complaints that police inflamed crowds in August by responding in a heavily militarized posture with tear gas and rubber bullets.

The grand jury, with nine white and three black members, began meeting in late August and heard evidence that included witnesses called by the prosecution as well as a private pathologist hired by the Brown family to review the shooting. Nine jurors needed to agree to bring charges. McCulloch declined to say if the jury’s decision was unanimous, noting that grand jury proceedings are completely secret and that only the jury members themselves know the details of the proceedings.

A federal probe into the shooting is continuing, and US Attorney General Eric Holder emphasized in a statement that the Justice Department investigators had not yet reached any conclusions. “Though we have shared information with local prosecutors during the course of our investigation, the federal inquiry has been independent of the local one from the start, and remains so now. Even at this mature stage of the investigation, we have avoided prejudging any of the evidence,” he said.

Reuters

## Bulava missile to be launched from Alexander Nevsky submarine in late November

MOSCOW, 25 Nov — Russia’s Borei class strategic submarine, the *Alexander Nevsky*, is due to launch the Bulava missile later this month, a source in the headquarters of the Russian Navy told TASS on Tuesday.

“It is planned that in late November the *Alexander Nevsky* will fire the Bulava from the Barents Sea at the Kura test range on the Kamchatka Peninsula,” the source said. The launch is due on 28-30 November. “Like previously, the launch will be made from the submerged position of the submarine,” he added.

The latest launch of the Bulava missile was conducted on 29 October. The *Yuri Dolgoruky* Borei-class strategic nuclear-powered submarine test-launched the missile at the firing range Kura on the Kamchatka Peninsula from the Barents Sea. The Borei-class submarine cruiser had the full set of 16 missiles on board for the first time.

Borei-class submarines armed with ICBMs Bulava are expected to make backbones of Russian marine strategic nuclear forces before 2025 to 2030.

After an abortive test-firing in September 2013, Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu ordered to make at least five additional test launches of Bulava.—*Itar-Tass*



*The Alexander Nevsky submarine*

## Miscevic: We know obligations in EU integration process well

BELGRADE, 25 Nov — Serbia understands its obligations in the EU integration process well and will continue to align its positions to those of the EU, says Serbia’s chief EU negotiator Tanja Miscevic.

“The gradual alignment to the joint positions of the EU foreign and security policy will continue because we have undertaken that responsibility with the signing and the coming into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. I have no doubt that we will become closer to those positions every day because EU membership is our strategic orientation, and we understand our obligations in the EU integration process well,” Miscevic told Monday’s issue of Vecernje novosti.

Serbia is completely ready for the opening of Chapter 32 on financial



*Serbia’s chief EU negotiator Tanja Miscevic.—TANJUG*

control, for which it has the support of all EU member states except Germany, which wants Chapter 35 — on the normalization of ties between Belgrade and Pristina — to be one of the first chapters opened, she said.

Asked if the opening of the chapter is conditional on consenting to Kosovo being given a seat in the UN and signing a peace

agreement with Pristina, Miscevic responded that the condition is the implementation of the Brussels Agreement and that there is no mention whatsoever of Kosovo’s membership in the UN, and added that it would not be possible to request that from Serbia.

“The obligation from the entire process, under the Negotiation frame-

work, is an agreement on comprehensive normalisation, not a peace agreement,” she noted.

Miscevic said that, immediately after the formation of the government, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic expressed readiness for dialogue with Pristina at the highest political level, but that the negotiations came to a standstill due to a government crisis in the province, and that not a single round of negotiations has been held since March.

Serbia’s chief EU negotiator said that she hopes that the first stage of the negotiation process will be complete in half a year.

“The fact that, with most chapters, we know where we stand and what we need to do next is very important for us, and we have clear negotiation strategies,” Miscevic said.

Tanjug



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Hlaing Tha Yar Tsp, Yangon

Tel/Fax: 01687416

Email: [noonkhamygn@gmail.com](mailto:noonkhamygn@gmail.com)

**Obama meets with four US Nobel  
Prize laureates**

WASHINGTON, 25 Nov — US President Barack Obama met with four US winners of this year's Nobel prizes on Monday, and pledged to boost government aid in the field of scientific research. The event at the White House was not open to the press but Japan-born scientist Shuji Nakamura, who won the Nobel Prize in Physics, told reporters Obama had said he understood the significance of Nakamura's development of energy-efficient blue light-emitting diodes.

The other participants were Eric Betzig of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and William Moerner of Stanford University, who both won the Nobel

Prize for Chemistry, and John O'Keefe of University College London who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Both Nakamura and O'Keefe have US nationality. During the meeting Obama underscored his administration's "commitment to science" and highlighted the "strength of the American scientific community," according to the White House.

The four laureates delivered lectures at an event at the Swedish Embassy in Washington the same day. Organizations in Sweden award Nobel prizes, except for the peace prize which is awarded by a Norwegian committee.

*Kyodo News*



**Shuji Nakamura, professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, delivers a lecture at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington on 24 Nov, 2014.**  
KYODO NEWS

**At least 10 killed in Cairo building collapse**

CAIRO, 25 Nov — An eight-floor residential building collapsed overnight in Cairo, killing at least 10 people and injuring seven others, security sources said on Tuesday.

The sources said the casualty figure was expected to rise as emergency response crews worked to remove trapped residents from the rubble in a northeast district of the capital. It was not immediately clear what caused the structure to buckle, but such incidents are not uncommon in Egyptian cities where many new apartment buildings are put up in violation of safety standards and old ones are routinely neglected. A civil protection official told the state news agency four nearby buildings had been evacuated.—Reuters

**Colombia rebel chief says peace talks  
suspension destroyed confidence**

BOGOTA, 25 Nov — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos "destroyed" confidence in the peace process by suspending talks and violated the terms of an agreement that brought the rebels to the negotiating table, FARC guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londono said.

Londono, known by his nom de guerre Timochenko, said in a statement published on Monday that Santos had "overturned the board game" when he halted talks last week and breached terms that allowed the negotiations to start in 2012.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) captured army General Ruben Darío Alzate and two others on 16 November, a move that outraged Santos and prompted him to call off talks until the three are released. The group had taken two soldiers captive the previous week.

While the rebels have agreed to free the hostages, talks may be difficult to restart without "diverse considerations," Londono said in a statement dated Saturday and signed from the mountains of Colombia, without giving details. "The president, with his suspension, overturned the board game we were



*Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos*

playing and destroyed confidence," said Londono, who has made secret trips to Cuba to meet his negotiating team. "Ordering the suspension of the process violates in flagrant form, not only his own rhetoric, but also the terms of the general agreement."

Government and Marxist FARC representatives in Havana are following a general agreement that sets out negotiation rules to end the war that has killed over 200,000 people since it began in 1964.

The five-point agenda was meant to be negotiated without interruptions, said Londono.

The FARC said it will release Alzate along with a lawyer and soldier taken as hostages as they left a boat in the poor, crime-ridden coastal region of Choco.

Two soldiers seized in eastern Arauca province are expected to be freed on Tuesday.

Alzate is the highest-ranking military hostage ever taken by the FARC.

The suspension of talks is the most serious setback to peace efforts after months of complex discussions resulted in partial accords on three out of the five agenda items. While the rebels' decision to free the captives may sideswipe critics of the peace process who say they are not serious about ending the war, the FARC has not yet said when Alzate will be freed. The group has in the past drawn out the release of high-profile captives as media attention keeps it in headlines at home and abroad.—Reuters

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2014:** Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Tanintharyi Region and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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



## ‘Horrible Bosses 2’ reunites goofball trio for kidnapping comedy



**Cast members Jason Bateman (L), Charlie Day (C) and Jason Sudeikis of the film “Horrible Bosses 2” pose for a portrait during a photo call in Beverly Hills, California on 10 Nov, 2014.**  
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — After an unsuccessful attempt to murder their “Horrible Bosses” in the 2011 hit comedy, goofball buddies Nick, Kurt and Dale reunite in a sequel deciding to go into business for themselves and elimi-

nate the need for managers. Or so they think.

“Horrible Bosses 2,” out in US theatres on Wednesday, sees Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as three hapless best friends who start a business buoyed by a large

order placed by billionaire entrepreneur Bert Hanson, played by Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz.

“In this movie, it’s about the 1 percent versus 99 percent,” Sudeikis said in an interview.

When Bert manipu-

lates the guys to bankrupt their new business, Nick, Kurt and Dale decide to kidnap Bert’s charming-yet-crazy son Rex, played by Chris Pine. Naturally, things go awry quickly for the trio.

Cue an elaborate ransom plan, car chases with Jamie Foxx and raunchy scenes with a sex-addicted dentist, played by Jennifer Aniston, as the guys attempt to get their lives back and indulge their darkest desires.

Aniston, who swaps her usual girl-next-door characters to strip down and play the saucy Dr Julia Harris once again in her first-ever sequel, said she enjoyed reprising the role of the unapologetic, overconfident dentist.

“I think it’s a known fact that sequels can be

tricky, they can go pretty downhill, and we really didn’t want that to happen because we love this so much,” Aniston said.

“I love this is ... being as outrageous as possible,” she said, adding that the film plays into the raunchy “hard R-rated” comedies that are proving successful with current audiences.

The Time Warner Inc.-owned Warner Bros’ film opens ahead of the US Thanksgiving holiday weekend and is projected by BoxOffice.com to gross \$28 million in US theatres in its opening weekend.

The earlier “Horrible Bosses” grossed \$209 million at the worldwide box office, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com, as theatre-goers embraced its tongue-in-cheek take on workplace revenge.—Reuters

## I like playing vamp: Nicole Kidman



**Nicole Kidman: I was the kid that loved the wicked witch in The Wizard Of Oz.—PTI**

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman, who stars as a villain in the new Paddington Bear film, says she is happy to play “the bad girl”. The 47-year-old Australian actress said she loved the witch in 1993 American musical fantasy film “The Wizard Of Oz”, reported Sky News.

“Well obviously, I was the kid that loved the wicked witch in The Wizard Of Oz, so of course I grew up to be the girl who wants to play the villain in a movie. I’m always happy to play the bad girl. I just get to have fun, and it’s obviously all done with a smile,” Kidman said.

‘Paddington’, directed by Paul King, sees Kidman as Millicent, a sinister taxidermist with her eye on the beloved animal. The film opens in cinemas on Friday, 28 November.—PTI

## Actress Rachel McAdams added to HBO’s ‘True Detective’ cast

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — Rachel McAdams, Taylor Kitsch and Kelly Reilly have joined the cast for the second season of HBO crime thriller “True Detective,” the premium cable network said on Monday.

The three will join two previously announced stars, Irish actor Colin Farrell and US actor Vince Vaughn, in the eight-part miniseries, which was a big hit for HBO earlier this year and received five Primetime Emmy awards.

The second season is

in production in California and revolves around three police officers, a career criminal and a murder, HBO said.

Farrell, 38, will play compromised detective Ray Velcoro, and Vaughn, 44, will star as criminal mastermind Frank Semyon in the series from writer Nic Pizzolatto.

HBO said McAdams, the 36-year-old “Midnight in Paris” actress, would play an uncompromising and ethical sheriff, while “Lone Survivor” actor



**Actress Rachel McAdams arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala Benefit celebrating the opening of “Charles James: Beyond Fashion” in Upper Manhattan, New York, on 5 May, 2014.—REUTERS**

Kitsch, 33, will play a California Highway Patrol motorcycle officer.

Reilly, a 37-year-old

English actress, will play Semyon’s wife, Jordan, a former D-list actress.

“Fast & Furious” di-

rector Justin Lin will direct the first two episodes. A premiere date for the second season has not been announced.

The first season of “True Detective” was set in Louisiana and centred on a series of satanic murders, pairing seasoned film stars Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson.

The show’s January premiere helped establish buzz around McConaughey before he won his first best actor Oscar for “Dallas Buyers Club.”—Reuters

## Selena Gomez gets emotional during AMA’s performance



**Selena Gomez delivered the lyrics of her song before a star-studded audience.—PTI**

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — Pop star Selena Gomez got teary-eyed while performing her new single ‘The Heart Wants What It Wants’ at the 2014 American Music Awards.

The 22-year-old ‘Come and Get It’ hitmaker emotionally delivered the lyrics of her song before a star-studded audience consisting of her best friend Taylor Swift, host Pitbull, Jennifer Lopez, among others, reported *Us* magazine.

The audio of Gomez’s teary, pre-recorded phone conversation, as previously heard in the music video of the single, played as Gomez closed her eyes in preparation for her solo. “When I was on stage and

I was thinking of... I know him though, and I know that I know his heart, and I know what he wouldn’t do to hurt me,” she was heard saying in the audio.

Gomez’s performance was complete with raw hand emotions as she softly crooned lyrics like: “Hand over heart, I’m praying, that I’m gonna make it out alive.” The singer’s dramatic live performance also included equally emotional visuals thanks to a state-of-the-art screen behind her projecting a giant moon, lightning storm, a weeping woman, and wings.

As the performance ended, Gomez’s eyes welled up with tears and she began crying.—PTI

## Idris Elba to play villain in ‘X-Men: Apocalypse’?

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — Actor Idris Elba’s name is doing the round as the main villain in ‘X-Men: Apocalypse’, whose production is set to begin early next year. Elba is said to be one of the three actors being considered for the negative role in the Bryan Singer movie, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

Tom Hardy’s name



**If Elba’s name is finalised, he will step in the role of Apocalypse.—PTI**

had earlier cropped up but the actor is apparently no longer in the race. If Elba’s name is finalised, he will step in the role of Apocalypse, an ancient and immortal mutant. ‘X-Men: Apocalypse’ will be released in summer 2016.

Actors are sought for the roles of young Cyclops and Jean Grey.

PTI

## Taylor Swift strips at American Music Awards



**Towards the end of the performance Taylor Swift ripped the frock off to show a mini dress.—PTI**

LONDON, 25 Nov — Singer Taylor Swift pulled her dress up while performing her new single at the 2014 American Music Awards.

Swift, 24, dressed in an ankle length rose golden frock began singing ‘Black Space’, by sitting at a long dining room table with a man, reported the *Daily Mirror*.

Towards the end of the performance she ripped the frock off to show a mini dress.

PTI



# Swiss museum to accept part of Nazi loot art trove

BERLIN, 25 Nov — A Swiss museum has reluctantly agreed to accept part of a billion-euro art bequest from the late Cornelius Gurlitt, a German recluse whose secret collection included masterpieces looted from their Jewish owners by the Nazis.

Christoph Schaublin of the Bern Art Museum (KMB) announced in Berlin it would accept all artworks bequeathed by Gurlitt which experts had ascertained had not been stolen by the Nazis. Others would remain with German authorities while their provenance is checked.

"This wasn't an easy decision for us and there were no shouts of joy," Schaublin said, admitting that the museum had to be persuaded by German Culture Minister Monika Gruetters.

"Any works of art deemed to be looted art or even considered likely to have been looted art will never darken the doorstep of the KMB," said Schaublin, president of the museum's

board of trustees. He said they would "not even touch Swiss territory".

When Gurlitt died in May aged 81, the museum discovered it had been named sole heir to his collection of over 1,200 works. They had been hidden for decades until tax inspectors stumbled upon them in a raid on his Munich flat in 2012 after he was caught with a large amount of cash on a train from Zurich.

The improbable treasure trove of Modernist and Renaissance masterpieces, which includes works by Chagall and Picasso, was assembled by his father Hildebrand Gurlitt, a dealer charged with selling what Adolf Hitler dismissed as "degenerate" art.

"We will do everything in our powers to return art looted by the Nazis to the descendants of the Nazi regime's victims as quickly as possible," said Gruetters.

A government task force has identified three pieces indisputably taken by the Nazis which would



The facade of the Bern Art Museum is seen in the Swiss capital of Bern on 24 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

be returned — by Max Liebermann, Henri Matisse and Carl Spitzweg.

The World Jewish Congress welcomed the agreement. "In my view, it is the right decision by Bern to refuse the toxic part of this collection," WJC President Ronald Lauder said.

"I thank Germany for living up to its responsibility and by ensuring that all issues relating to the looted art of the Gurlitt collection will be settled in Germany, and in Germany only," he said in

a statement.

Chris Marinello of the firm Art Recovery, representing the Rosenberg family which claims ownership of "Sitting Woman" by Matisse, said the return of looted art would now be sped up.

"We're looking forward to the expeditious return of the Matisse and all the looted works to their rightful owners in the coming weeks," Marinello told *Reuters* by phone from London.—*Reuters*

## Pele hospitalised for urinary infection



Brazilian soccer legend Pele waves next to a public telephone booth with an image of his face painted by Brazilian artist Sipros after he autographed it, during the Call Parade art exhibition in Sao Paulo on 8 May, 2014.—REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 25 Nov — Three-times World Cup winner Pele was taken to hospital on Monday with an urinary infection, local media have reported, the second time this month he has been admitted for medical treatment.

The 74-year old former Brazil player was admitted to the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo but officials there released only a brief statement with no details about

his condition.

Widely regarded as the finest player to play the game, he had an operation to remove kidney stones earlier this month.

He won three World Cups as a player and was named "Football Player of the Century" by world soccer body FIFA, "Athlete of the Century" by the International Olympic Committee, and a "national treasure" by Brazil's government.—*Reuters*

## Digital tsar urges Europe not to weaken net neutrality rules

BRUSSELS, 25 Nov — The European Union's new digital tsar voiced alarm on Monday at the efforts of some EU governments to water down equal Internet access, just as EU plans for "net neutrality" were being echoed in the United States by Barack Obama.

Andrus Ansip, the former Estonian prime minister who this month became Vice President for the Digital Single Market in the European Commission, told *Reuters* he was "really worried" by new proposals from states to let Internet

service providers offer, to some degree, different data speeds to different customers.

"All the traffic has to be treated equally," Ansip said in an interview. "The Internet has to stay open for everybody."

"The president of the United States is using our wording — the wording of the European Parliament in the United States of America," he said. Draft legislation in the United States seeks to prevent content providers — big video streaming services, for

example — from buying faster delivery than smaller competitors can afford.

Obama made a rare intervention on the issue two weeks ago when he said that no company should be stuck in the "slow lane" because it could not pay for faster access. That sentiment is central to proposals from the EU Commission that were strengthened by EU lawmakers in April.

Ansip's warning was directed at a proposal from Italy, which holds the rotating chair of EU inter-government meetings, to give

network providers some leeway to offer different speeds.

The growth of data-hungry services such as Netflix, Skype and Spotify has strained the capacity of Internet service providers. They now say they should be allowed to give priority to some traffic over others.

"It is allowed to have higher speeds — but not at the expense of others," said Ansip, who championed high-tech development during his nine years as prime minister, turning ex-Soviet Estonia into a model for a

**European Union Digital Single Market Commissioner-designate Andrus Ansip of Estonia speaks during his hearing before the European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection at the EU Parliament in Brussels on 6 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS**



connected economy. "Access to the Internet has to be one of those basic rights."

Ansip also said big digital service providers — such as Google, which

is facing a Commission anti-trust inquiry — needed to be supervised to ensure they did not abuse dominant market positions.

*Reuters*

### MYANMAR TV

(26-11-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am

\* Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

\* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

\* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

\* Myanmar Language

8:00 am

\* News / International News

8:30 am

\* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

\* News / International News

9:45 am

\* Documentary

10:50 am

\* TV Drama Series

11:45 am

\* Approaching Science Discovery World

12:00 noon

\* News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

\* Hluttaw Image

2:45 pm

\* Gita Mahar (Mono Classical Songs)

3:15 pm

\* TV Drama Series

4:45 pm

\* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm

\* News

6:15 pm

\* 2014 Suzuki Cup (Live) (Myanmar & Singapore)

8:30 pm

\* News / International News / Weather Report

\* Hluttaw Image

\* People Talks

\* Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance

### MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-11-14 07:00 am~ 27-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Traditional Wicker Ball (Chinlone)
- \* World News
- \* Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
- \* Local News
- \* Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
- \* World News
- \* Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art-(Part-1)
- \* Local News
- \* Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin
- \* World News
- \* Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- \* Local News
- \* Image of The Monks
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio "Ying"
- \* 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"



## Clyne rocket earns lofty Saints a point at Villa

LONDON, 25 Nov — Nathaniel Clyne's late equalizer earned high-flying Southampton a 1-1 draw at Aston Villa on Monday, denying Paul Lambert a much-needed victory in his 100th match in charge of the Premier League strugglers.

England international Clyne's rasping strike for second-placed Saints after 81 minutes left 16th-placed Villa still searching for their first win since 13 September.

Gabriel Agbonlahor benefited from Southampton goalkeeper Fraser Forster's rush of blood to the head to fire Villa ahead after 29 minutes, the stopper racing out of his box to clear, only for Agbonlahor

to beat him to the ball.

The striker kept his composure to slot home Villa's sixth league goal of the season, the lowest in England's top four divisions.

"It's a good point gained against a team who had swept everything in front of them aside and if you look at the money spent by these sides it's a big difference from us," Lambert told the BBC.

"We've got six first team players out at the minute so I can't criticise the team." Southampton appeared out of sorts despite a confident opening, their best moment coming when Brad Guzan was forced to make a sprawling save to deny Sadio Mane,

tipping his low shot around the post.

But the visitors plugged away after the break and took home a point when Ryan Bertrand pulled the ball back for fellow full back Clyne, who made his England debut earlier this month, to smash past Guzan from 12 metres. Ronald Koeman's Southampton side, who had risen to second on the back of eight wins from nine games, are six points behind leaders Chelsea after 12 matches.

"I didn't come for one point tonight. I thought we had a team good enough to win but after conceding it was very difficult," the Dutchman said.

"We didn't create as



Southampton's Nathaniel Clyne (C) celebrates after scoring during their English Premier League soccer match against Aston Villa at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 24 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

many chances as we should have and we missed some fitness and some quality, it was a misunderstanding defensively that made it

more difficult for us."

Southampton now face a tough test of their credentials to mount a sustained challenge for a top

four place with their next three games against Manchester City, on Sunday, then Arsenal and Manchester United.—Reuters

## Argentina face holders Uruguay in Copa America

SANTIAGO, 25 Nov — World Cup runners-up Argentina face holders Uruguay, who knocked them out of their home tournament four years ago, and Brazil will meet Colombia in a World Cup rematch in the group phase at the 2015 Copa America.

Hosts Chile, looking to win the world's oldest active international tournament for the first time, were handed an easier draw in the Chilean Pacific coast resort of Vina del Mar on Monday. Lionel Messi's Argentina, top seeds in Group B in which they will also meet Paraguay and Jamaica, will be looking to avenge their upset defeat by Uruguay on penalties in the quarter-finals at the 2011 event they staged.

Brazil, with the gifted Neymar as captain, will



Sergio Jadue (C), president of Chile's Football Federation, addresses the audience while standing underneath a screen showing the participating countries during the official draw for the 2015 edition of the Copa America soccer tournament in Vina del Mar on 24 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

be looking to recover from their disappointing World Cup as hosts this year under returned 2010 World Cup coach Dunga. They also face Peru and Venezuela in Group C.

The talented Chile side spearheaded by Alexis Sanchez, who also face Ec-

uador and Bolivia in Group A, will fancy their chances of ending their wait for a first crown. "It's hard to see a (title) candidate today... Let's hope that in this Copa America recent history, which has turned out to be complicated for the host team, is reversed," Chile

coach Jorge Sampaoli told reporters.

Uruguay, with a record 15 titles, will miss striker Luis Suarez at the 11 June - 4 July tournament while he continues to serve his nine-match FIFA ban from competitive internationals for biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup.

Suarez contributed four goals including one in the 3-0 win over Paraguay in the 2011 final in Buenos Aires as Uruguay won the tournament that also saw 2004 and 2007 champions Brazil knocked out in the quarter-finals.

Chile and Colombia hope to continue their run of good form, which was evident at the World Cup finals in Brazil, with the hosts narrowly beating both in successive knockout rounds.—Reuters

## Federer throws weight behind Aussie 'fast' tennis

SYDNEY, 25 Nov — Roger Federer will help launch an Australian-developed fast format of tennis when he plays an exhibition match against Lleyton Hewitt in Sydney in January, Tennis Australia said on Tuesday.

The format features four rule variations from the traditional game, with no advantage scoring, no lets, a tiebreaker at three games-all, and the winner of a set being the first to reach four games.

"The new format is a game changer and is set to revolutionise the game of tennis, particularly at club and social levels," Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley said.

"Time today is precious and this new fast for-

mat is perfect for any player who wants to fit their tennis matches into a busy lifestyle."

The exhibition, which will help launch the format around clubs in Australia, will follow Federer's warmup for the Australian Open at the Brisbane International earlier in January.

"I can't wait to come to the beautiful city of Sydney for this very special match against my old friend and rival, Lleyton Hewitt," Federer said in a statement on Tennis Australia's website (tennis.com.au) about the 12 January exhibition. "We've had some amazing battles over the years and I think we still bring out the best in each other every time we play."—Reuters



Photo taken on 24 Nov, 2014 shows the mascot of Rio 2016 Olympic Games (L) and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The unveiling ceremony of the mascots was held here on Monday. XINHUA

## Rio 2016 mascots combine Brazilian fauna, flora

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Nov — The official mascots for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games are hybrids of Brazil's native fauna and flora, the local organizing committee has announced.

The Olympic mascot is a combination of a cat, monkey and bird while its Paralympic counterpart is a mix of plants found in Brazilian forests, according to rio2016.com.

"The mascots repre-

sent the diversity of our culture, of our people," Rio 2016 brand director Beth Lula said on the organizing committee's official website. "They represent our joy, our way of being. Both of them are magical creatures with super powers and relate naturally with the young audience, who we want to engage with our event so much." The general public will have until 14 December to vote on three sets of names for the

emblematic figures. The options are Oba and Eba; Tiba Tuque and Esquindim; and Vinicius and Tom. Oba and Eba are Brazilian slang words to express surprise, with connotations of happiness and celebration. Tiba Tuque and Esquindim are indigenous words expressing a desire to dance while Vinicius and Tom are a reference to legendary Bossa Nova musicians Vinicius de Moraes and Tom Jobim.

Xinhua