

Agreement has been struck to discuss everything except seceding and matters undermining sovereignty

YANGON, 26 Nov—President U Thein Sein met leaders of political parties at the hall of the Yangon Region government here on Wednesday and said: Since taking office, the union government has been making efforts for a successful democratic transition covering political, economic and social reforms. During the first wave, a number of measures for political reform were carried out for a smooth transition. The administrative system was reformed so that it matches the democratic system. Reform measures have been taken as the first wave, the second wave and now the third wave is being implemented pragmatically.

The remarkable outcome of our efforts for political reform, national reconciliation and peace is the birth of a new political culture. As the new political culture that places emphasis on finding solutions through negotiation instead of confrontation and mutual exclusion of political forces prospers, democratic transition has been on the right track so far. It is necessary for all to cooperate to accelerate the momentum.

I have always believed that the vitality of the current reform and the political



President U Thein Sein cordially greets leaders of political parties at the talks held at Yangon Region government office.—MNA

process, which has reached a certain stage, resulted not just from the efforts of the union government, but also from the participation of all political forces such as the Hluttaws, political parties, the Tatmadaw and the en-

tire people.

There are achievements as well as challenges, which are to be overcome, during the reform process currently being carried out. In overcoming these challenges, success can be

achieved only through the cooperation of the political forces of Myanmar.

Concerning the amendment of the State Constitution, I have always expressed my stance that it is necessary to amend

the Constitution so that it matches our country, our society, and changing political landscape. Amendment of the State Constitution that reflects the political agreements of all national races' political

forces will also be included in political dialogues that will result from the current peace-making process.

It is true that everyone is responsible for amendment of the State Constitution. In this regard, the role of Hluttaw representatives, who are the major driving force of the legislative branch, are especially important. I would like to urge Hluttaw representatives to exert efforts with farsightedness and political goodwill as it is very important for the future of the nation and the people.

Concerning the peace process and skirmishes that are breaking out at present, as I have always said, I have been making efforts for peace with the view that we lose a citizen when a member of the armed forces of an ethnic national race or one from the Tatmadaw or from the general public is killed or injured in conflicts. With regard to the recent skirmishes, solutions will be sought through negotiation and by forming monitoring teams.

An important foundation of the current peace process has been laid. Major agreements have been reached to

- (1) Sign a nationwide ceasefire agreement
 - (2) Found ceasefire monitor teams
- (See page 3)



A Toyota Corolla driving instructor car is test driven at a ceremony at which Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd donated 10 of the vehicles as well as driver safety materials and equipment to the government.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Toyota donates driving instructor cars, driver training equipment to gov't-run driving schools

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (TMAP) donated 10 driving instructor cars as well as educational materials and equipment for driver training to four government-run driving schools on Wednesday.

During the ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr Hisayuki Inoue, president of TMAP and senior managing officer of Toyota Motor Corporation, presented a golden key to U Chan Maung, deputy minister for rail transportation, marking the handing over of the 10 new Corolla sedans to the government.

The cars, which are specially equipped with sub-brakes and sub-mirrors for instructors, are the first-ever driving instructor vehicles in Myanmar. Of the 10, four will be go to a driving school operated by the Road Transport Department, four to a driving school operated by the Traffic Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Thanks to the vehicles, which are specially designed for safe driver training, and the teaching

aid equipment on driving the ministry received, driver training provided by government-run schools would be improved, said Deputy Minister U Chan Maung.

However, since the number of specially-designed driving instructor cars is still not proportional to the number of training schools in the country, the training schools seem to face a situation that they should fulfill their needs by themselves, he added.

A car swap program that was launched in Myanmar in 2012 has led to a surge in the number of people who are behind the wheel.

(See page 2)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes 34th day meeting

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened its 34th day meeting Wednesday, in which there was an explanation of taxes levied at the ministries of the union government in the first six months of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, which started on 1 April 2014.

A proposal was also submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by U Win Than, representative of Thabaung Township constituency,

urging the union government to explain its preparations on the proposal of salary increments for civil servants including police officers, which was accepted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 11 November.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, representative of Kawhmu Township constituency, also submitted a proposal, urging the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the timely release of bylaws and regulations which have

been approved by Hluttaw.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo discussed her proposal, which was then accepted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues 34th day meeting on salary increments for civil servants.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw

Initial phases of Dawei SEZ to be implemented as soon as possible

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein told the Pyithu Hluttaw Session on Wednesday that the governments of Myanmar and Thailand signed an MoU to take leading roles in the development of the Dawei Special Economic Zone in July 2012 as the project had been delayed by a lack of financing.

The deputy minister was responding to a question on the latest development of the project.

The framework agreement between the Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee and the Dawei Special Economic Zone Development Company Ltd, and the trilateral MoU among the Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Com-

mittee, the Dawei Special Economic Zone Development Company Ltd and the Italian-Thai Development Public Company were signed in November 2013, the deputy minister added.

Three research works on Myanmar Industrial Development and the Mekong-India Southern Economic Corridor, a technical review and financial cooperation between the government and the private sector are also scheduled to be completed in March 2015, according to the deputy minister.

Measures have also been taken for the participation of private entrepreneurs in the initial phases of the project and legal issues and the initial phases will be implemented as soon as possible, the deputy

minister said.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Kyaw Myat responded to a question on conducting courses of government technical institutes at technological universities, saying that the ministry has been exerting efforts to enhance the skills of teachers at technological universities and provide modern teaching aids for six-year degree courses and that conducting courses of government technical institutes at technological universities would hinder the efforts.

The GTI courses would be conducted at government technical institutes and more institutes would be built if required, the deputy minister said.

MNA

ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting continues for third day

MANDALAY, 27 Nov — The 38th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting continued for the third day in Mandalay on Wednesday, featuring meetings with three dialogue partners.

At the 13th ASEAN-China Senior Transport Officials Meeting, the participants put the process of the 10th ASEAN-China maritime consultation on record and discussed cooperation projects between ASEAN and China to be implemented in 2015 and the agenda for the 13th ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting.

The 13th ASEAN-Japan Senior Transport Of-

ficials Meeting focused on implementation of cooperation in the transport sector between ASEAN and Japan in the 2013-14 fiscal year and adopted plans for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The meeting also discussed the strategic plan for raising the ASEAN-Ja-

pan cruise tourism industry and implementation of the port EDI system and port works.

The 6th ASEAN-Korean Senior Transport Officials Meeting reviewed the transport cooperation roadmap between ASEAN and Korea.—MNA

Toyota donates driving instructor . . .

(from page 1)

Meanwhile, the number of private driving schools has also nearly doubled from 28 in 2012 to around 50 in 2014.

The government is currently operating 15 driving schools and two motorcycle training schools.

Though the Road

Transport is not responsible for opening driving schools, it has to operate three driving schools currently as “extra duty” to cope with the increasing number of vehicles and to reduce the number of traffic accidents, the deputy minister said.

“We hope our donation presented today will

Amyotha Hluttaw

Rakhine State extends cultivable and livestock breeding lands

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — The 35th-day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) continued on Wednesday.

U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State Constituency No 6 raised a question, asking whether there is a plan to boost agricultural produce besides paddy in Rakhine State. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint replied that Rakhine State has adopted a plan to boost production of cultivation of paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, vegetables and fruits.

This year, the state will cultivate 300 baskets

of quality Hsinpadetha-11 groundnut strain with over 100 baskets per acre in Kyauktaw Township. With regard to perennial crops, the local authorities advised private entrepreneurs to extend mango, areca nut and djenkol bean crops and distribute quality crops to earn increased income. The state extended 4,684.75 acres of paddy, 6,345.57 acres of prawn breeding and 9,447.98 acres of perennial crops on vacant and virgin lands.

Moreover, the authorities invited companies and entrepreneurs to participate in drawing up the agricultural development

comprehensive strategic long-term plan from the 2014-15 to 2018-19 fiscal years.

Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe submitted a report on the referendum bill for approval of the bill (draft) on the 2008 Constitution sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Government Pledges, Guarantees and Undertaking Vetting Committee U Hmat Gyi submitted a report on asterisk questions and proposals from the first to ninth regular session of the Hluttaw.

MNA

Workshop on ERM Tool held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — A two-day workshop on implementation of the Electoral Risk Management Tool jointly organized by the Union Election Commission and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) began here on Wednesday.

The workshop is aimed at compiling information for potential violence, con-

tribute to enriching this country’s automotive society,” said Mr Inoue.

Each driving instructor vehicle costs around US\$18,000, said U Myo Myint Thein, general manager of TTAS Co Ltd, which has been providing services to Toyota vehicles in Myanmar since 1996.

GNLM

flicts and risks related to elections for the implementation of the ERM Tool.

The ERM Tool involves analysis of information for prevention and reduction of electoral risks that may lead to violence, and is essential for free and fair elections, Member of the Union Election Commission U Myint Naing said at the workshop.

Stability is vital for free and fair elections and an election might be cancelled or put off if it cannot be held in a free and fair manner due to security reasons or deterioration of stability or disturbances, he added.

Elections without stability may undermine the trust of the public or the international community in the election results and may also hurt the image and

pride of the nation, he continued.

It is necessary to find out the situations that can undermine stability in advance for holding the 2015 elections in a free and fair manner, he pointed out.

Afterwards, Mr Adhy Aman of International IDEA discussed the principles, activities, international experience of the ERM Tool. Member of Union Election Commission U Win Kyi took part in the discussions by pointing out the potentials problems for elections in Myanmar.

Members of the UEC, chairmen of election sub-commissions, election officers and officials from International IDEA participated in the discussions. The workshop will continue until 27 November. —MNA

Agreement has been struck to discuss everything except seceding and matters...

(from page 1)

- (3) Establish a union based on federalism
- (4) Hold political dialogues with the participation of all those who should do so.

Negotiations between the Union Peace Making Work Committee and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team are still ongoing.

After the nationwide ceasefire agreement has been signed, the required deployment of armed forces, discipline of armed forces, prevention of conflicts and monitoring will be carried out more effectively and unnecessary conflicts can be avoided forever.

A sound political agreement has been reached to build a federal union which is essential for internal peace. With these sound foundations, an agreement has been struck to discuss everything necessary in political dialogues except seceding and matters that undermine the sovereignty of the nation.

It is also found that political parties are drafting a framework for political dialogues. I am very pleased about this. I would like to urge them to exert efforts for constructive and popular outcomes in drafting the framework.

With regard to the National Education Law, we have found that there have been disputes and disagreements on the law, which

has been approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. I suggest that this matter be discussed in line with existing laws.

Opportunities on independent learning and the formation of student unions are important for universities. We understand this concept. We will support the formation of student unions. So I would like to suggest the setting up of a communication mechanism among students, academics and the administrative sector.

As the National Education Law was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, amendments or additions must be carried out in line with legislative procedures of parliament. The reform process for the whole education system will take time, and this process will be developed gradually. With regard to this matter, the present National Education Law can be regarded as a starting point, and a cooperative mechanism will be needed among the government, the Ministry of Education, universities, students and academics and educational organizations for the amendment and development of this law.

On the four-party talks, we discussed with the leaders of political groups of the country on 31 October 2013. We had some difficulties in that meeting. However, it has motivated the leaders of the respective institutions to work for political agreements and

implementation processes, and it has served as a fundamental step to ensure political stability. It also helped acquire a diversity of views and opinions of political parties, which are fundamental for future attempts. It is also believed that a good channel of communication could be established after that meeting.

Political agreements from that meeting are very important for national reconciliation efforts. The aforementioned four points of agreement and the results which will come out from this meeting resulted from political dialogue. This proves that we are heading down the path of political dialogue in which all suitable persons are included.

Whenever I met with the participants of today's meeting in the past, I listened to and discussed the suggestions of political parties. We need to hold dialogues of political forces, and we will convene these dialogues like the summits held in Nay Pyi Taw. We have probably missed some points when we invited relevant parties. Therefore, we will try our best at the next meeting. We promise it.

I want to emphasize one thing here. We all must understand different political views in the nature

of the democratic system. However, as our country is still on the democratization process, political parties are advised to consider more about the national interest, rather than their political interests in the transitional process.

The 2015 general election will be a major turning point for the democratization process of the country. In this circumstance, political parties are advised to have a wider view and pragmatism for political stability during this transition period to be able to successfully elect a government. Therefore, I call on your open suggestions and opinions.

Leaders of 41 political parties and officials discussed a greater number of national race participants in political, economic, peace and political talks and regional development.

After replying to the questions and discussions of political parties, the president thanked everyone for their suggestions with a positive attitude in the third talk. The government is implementing peace and stability and development of the social economy, which are two desires of the people, while the political parties represent public desires. Thus, a mechanism will be set up to coordinate between the government

and political parties for their cooperation. He urged all to be tolerant of a peace process with the participation of political parties. He expressed thanks for emphasis of the political parties on the peace process and pledged to tackle the issue of land management.

After the meeting, the president cordially greeted leaders of political parties.

The president met the leaders of five political parties at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 October 2014. The meeting was attended by vice presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the

Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of UEC U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, 14 people from the Union Solidarity and Development Party, the National League for Democracy, the National Unity Party, the Union Nationalities Alliance (UNA), the Nationalities Brotherhood Federation-NBF and FBA.

The meeting was attended by leaders of 67 political parties.

MNA

I have always believed that the vitality of the current reform and the political process, which has reached a certain stage, resulted not just from the efforts of the union government, but also from the participation of all political forces such as the Hluttaws, political parties, the Tatmadaw and the entire people.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Bangladeshi ambassador



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, ambassador of Bangladesh.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at Credentials

Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

They discussed the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and

Bangladesh.

Also present at the call were deputy ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Aung Htoo and departmental heads.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker attends coordination meeting of committees, commission

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann delivered an address at a coordination meeting of committees and commission of the Pyithu Hluttaw at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Officials of the committees and commission reported on decisions in the previous meeting and the

progress of works. The attendees participated in the discussions. The meeting came to a close with remarks by the speaker.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen and secretaries of committees, members of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

YCDC, JICA sign Yangon City water supply project

YANGON, 26 Nov — The Yangon City Development Committee and the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed an agreement on a Yangon City water supply project at City Hall in Yangon on Tuesday.

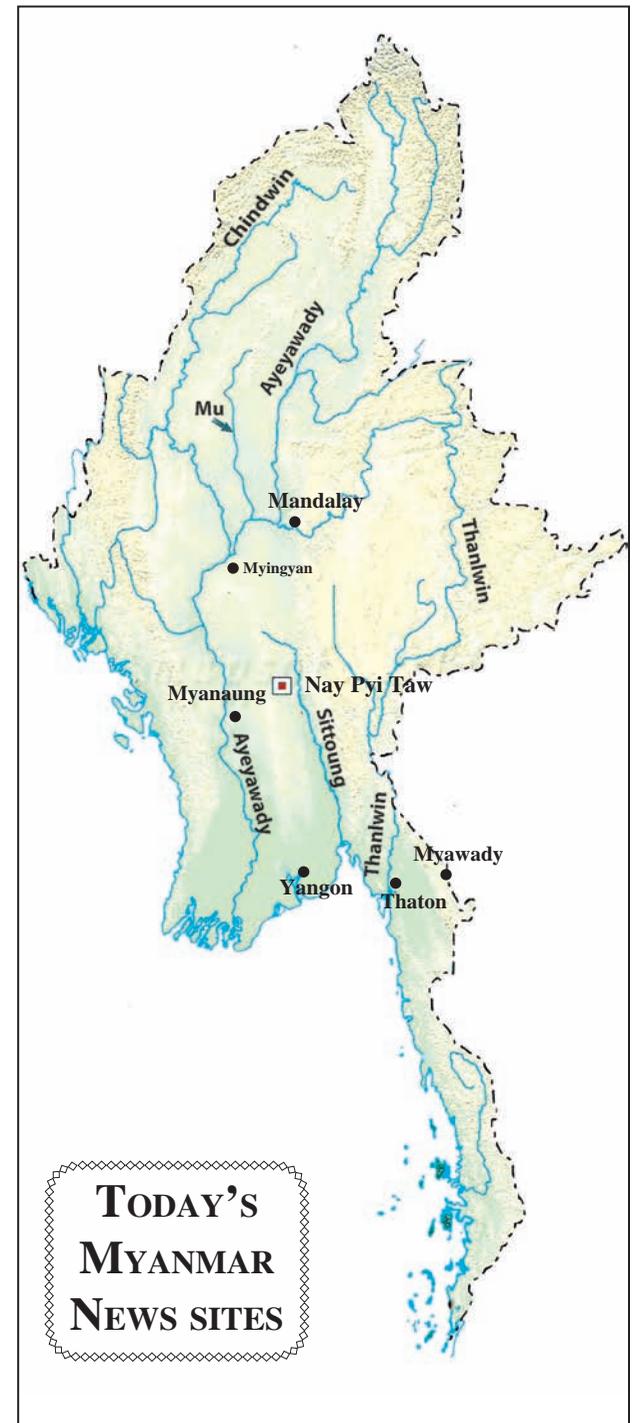
YCDC and JICA will carry out technical transfer and management for better water supply to the city dwellers through water treatment plants and the laying of water pipelines.

YCDC member U Kyaw Soe thanked JICA for its assistance in the implementation of the Lagunbyin water supply project.

Head of JICA Myanmar Mr Masahiko Tana-



ka extended greetings member U Soe Si. by YCDC Secretary U Nyi Nyi. and signed the agreement The ceremony came together with YCDC to a close with remarks Soe Thein Win



Local fire brigade makes preparations for fire prevention



MYANAUNG, 26 Nov — The local fire brigade in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, held a meeting to make preparations for fire prevention measures in the open sea-

son at its office on Tuesday. The Township Fire Prevention Committee formed the local fire brigade four years ago, which consists of one TE bowser fire truck and over 20 mem-

bers. They cooperate with the Township Fire Services Department and carry out social welfare tasks, said a responsible person of the local fire brigade.

“We perform a fire

drill once a week,” said an official.

In the open season, the fire brigade fills water in water tanks in the urban area and assists in holding social ceremonies.

Nay Win Zaw
(Myanaung)

Mandalarian printing entrepreneurs meet German printing experts

MANDALAY, 26 Nov — Executives of the Mandalay Region Printers and Publishers Association and German printing experts led by printing experts U Kyaw Thu and U Myint Swe of Yangon held a meeting at the association’s office in Mandalay

on Tuesday.

German printing experts Mrs Karoline Gastner and Mr Thomas Speth discussed machinery related to printing and technology and exchanged views with the executives of the association.

Chairman of the asso-

ciation U Tin Maung Oo said that the association arranged the meeting with the purpose of exchanging technology between members of the association and the foreign experts.

Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Talk held on agricultural technical transfer for boosting production

MYINGYAN, 26 Nov — Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan held a talk with merchants and mill owners at the office of merchants, brokers and mill owners in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, on 25 November.

The region minister spoke about raising the quality of products and boosting production.

The merchants, brokers and mill owners stressed requirements of quality crops seeds and sharing of agricultural technology, supply

of inputs and disbursement of loans at soft interest rates.

The region minister and Assistant Director U Kyaw Naing of the Trade Promotion Department reviewed the discussions.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)

LOCAL NEWS

Anti-human trafficking, drug elimination ceremony held in Myawady

MYAWADY, 26 Nov — A ceremony on activities to prevent the trafficking in persons and to achieve the elimination of narcotics was held at Tawya Monastery in Ward 4 of Myawady, Kayin State, on 23 November.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Aung Ngwe explained the purpose of the ceremony and endeavours of the Myanmar police force to com-

bat human trafficking and narcotics.

Director Miss Siraporn Kaewsombat of Help Without Frontiers Foundation explained the cooperation of Thailand in Myawady-Mae Sot anti-human trafficking and drug elimination efforts.

Rays of Youth presented gifts to the police commander and local authorities.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Plan for vaccination against measles, German measles explained



MANDALAY, 26 Nov — A training course on vaccination against measles and German measles was opened at the Mandalay Region Health Department in Mandalay on Monday.

Head of Region Health Department Dr Than Win

made a speech, and Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein explained tactics for vaccination against measles and German measles in January and February 2015, technical assistance and requirements at the training course.

The two-day course was attended by medical superintendents, heads of districts and township Health Departments and officials of extended vaccination projects in the Mandalay Region.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Myanmar journalists visit fruit market in China's Yunnan Province

WANTING, 26 Nov — A 16-member delegation of the Upper Myanmar Journalists Association led by the association's chairman, U Htay Aung, visited the Wanting fruit market in China's Yunnan Province on 19 November.

Mr. Zhang Jian (a) U Htay Myint, the head of the Dehong Prefecture Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the delegation about

the transport of fruits in the market, the export of 600,000 tons of fruits per year, and the employment of 2,000 Myanmar workers at the market for loading and uploading of fruits from the vehicles.

Wanting fruit market is the largest of eight fruit markets in the prefecture. It sends various sorts of fruits to the all regions of China.—*Htay Myint Maung*



Talk given to trainees on ways to promote reading

MYAWADY, 26 Nov — An educative talk on promoting reading among youths was held at the Women's Vocational Training School in Myawady, Kayin State, on 25 November.

Deputy Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Tin Than gave a talk on the topic "Ways to Read", stressing that youths should read books on various subjects as a matter of good practice.

It was attended by female trainees from No 52

domestic science course and No 38 advanced tailoring course, trainers and

principal Daw Khin Thein Oo.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*



Advanced tailoring course opens in Tatkon

TATKON, 26 Nov — Organized by the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Tatkon Township MCWA opened an advanced tailoring course 2/2014 at

the hall of the Township General Administration Department in Tatkon on Tuesday.

Secretary of the MMCWA Dr Gyo Gyo San and members, Secretary of

the Nay Pyi Taw MCWSC Daw Mie Mie Soe and party and 20 trainees attended the opening ceremony of the 45-day course.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Cambodian FM presents ASEAN's latest development to foreign diplomats

PHNOM PENH, 26 Nov — Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Wednesday presented the result of the 25th ASEAN Summit in Myanmar to foreign diplomats to Cambodia, aiming at disseminating the ASEAN's latest news to Cambodia's friendly countries, a spokesman said.

"His presentation aimed to inform both intra- and extra-ASEAN diplomats to understand the latest decisions made by the ASEAN leaders during the recent summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar," spokesman Koy Kuong told reporters after the meeting, which was attended by diplomats from 27 countries.

He said the presentation is part of Cambodia's efforts to promote ASEAN to the globe as the bloc will be transformed into a community from 31 Dec, 2015.

"We share information about ASEAN's latest news to our friendly countries for mutual benefits," he said.

During the summit, ASEAN leaders reviewed the process of ASEAN community building and committed to redoubling efforts towards the realization of the ASEAN community by 2015.

On the political side, ASEAN leaders stressed the importance to maintain and enhance peace and stability as the foundation



Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong

for economic development and prosperity in the region. On the economic front, the leaders stressed the importance to maintain ASEAN's resilient macroeconomic fundamentals and financial stability.

Malaysia will chair ASEAN in 2015 under the

theme "Our People, Our vision."

Founded in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—Xinhua

Singapore bans US-based pickup artist from entering the country

SINGAPORE, 26 Nov — The Singapore government said on Wednesday it will ban US-based dating coach Julien Blanc from entering the country amid public concern over his dating techniques, which appear to promote violence against women.

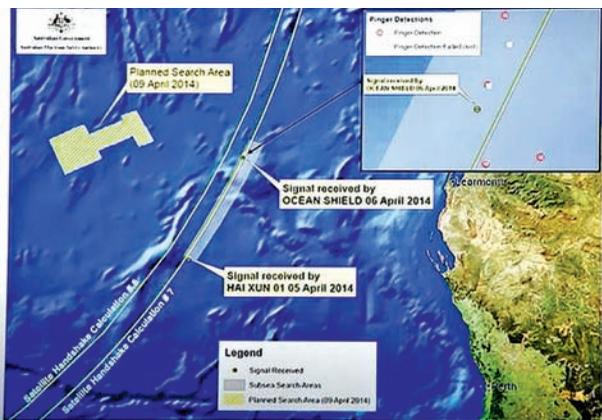
"The government will not allow Mr Blanc into Singapore, especially if he is here to hold seminars or events that propagate violence against women or to participate in other objectionable activities in Singapore," the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said in a joint statement with

the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

"Blanc has been involved in seminars in various countries that advised men to use highly abusive techniques when dating women. Violence against women or any persons is against Singapore law," the statement said.

An online petition for the government to block Blanc from entering Singapore has drawn more than 8,000 supporters in less than a month. Blanc has also been banned from entering Australia, Brazil, Britain and other countries.—Kyodo News

Australia working on new drift modeling for MH370 wreckage



Graphics on a TV screen shows the current search area for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, during a media briefing at Dumas House in Perth on 9 April, 2014.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 26 Nov — Australia is working on new drift modeling to expand the geographical area in which wreckage from missing Malaysian Airlines flight

MH370 may come ashore, the Australian search coordinator said on Wednesday.

Initial analysis had suggested that the first debris from the plane could

come ashore on Indonesia's Western Sumatra after about 123 days.

"We are currently working ... to see if we can get an updated drift model for a much wider area where there might be possibilities of debris washing ashore," search coordinator Peter Foley told reporters in Canberra.

Foley said the research centre was receiving reports at least once a week of debris washed up on the Australian coastline, but none has so far been identified as coming from the missing aircraft. The drift modeling supplements an ongoing surface and underwater search for the plane, which disappeared over the remote Indian Ocean on 8 March,

with 239 people on board.

Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) Chief Commissioner Martin Dolan on Tuesday dismissed suggestions there was disagreement among the five groups that make up the international team — America's Boeing Co, France's Thales, US investigator the National Transportation Safety Board and the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organization — on where to search. The teams initially agreed an area about 600 kilometres long by 90 km wide west of Perth was most likely. A new report released last month specified two high-priority areas further to the south.

Reuters

Cambodia's celebrated elephant Sambo to retire soon



Photo taken on 25 Nov, 2014, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, shows the 54-year-old female elephant Sambo. Sambo, celebrated for having entertained children and tourists for over four decades in the capital, will be retired to a protected forest soon and allowed to live out the remainder of her life with other elephants.—KYODO NEWS

India's Modi makes multiple pledges to SAARC, calls for unity

KATHMANDU, 26 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday made a slew of promises on crucial development at the opening of a regional leaders' summit, insisting his vision for India and the region were identical.

Encouraging the eight members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to move beyond the "shadows of the past," he admitted the three decade old regional bloc had not achieved the integration its founders' envisioned.

"Nowhere are collective efforts more important than in South Asia and nowhere else it is more moderate," he told leaders at the opening ceremony of

the 18th SAARC Summit held in Nepal's capital city Kathmandu.

"We face a long climb to the summit of development but I have confidence in our boundless potential. There is much to learn from each other and even more to do together," he emphasized.

In an attempt to fast-track much needed integration, Modi pledged to assist funding for infrastructure in the region, streamline customs duties at borders, provide 3-5 year business visas to investors and implement a travellers' card for the bloc.

Immediate medical visa was also assured along with funds to set up a laboratory to combat tuberculo-

sis in the region. India will also release vaccines to rid SAARC of polio.

"When we speak of SAARC we hear two reactions, I'm sorry to say. Today less than 5 percent global trade take place between members and less than 1 percent of India's companies invest in SAARC. Still harder and expensive to travel within the region. How much have we done to put our resources into shared prosperity?" he questioned.

Insisting India's trade surplus with many of its neighbours is "neither right nor sustainable," the premier noted he will "address concerns and create a level playing field."

Xinhua



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) waves to the media upon his arrival for the 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Kathmandu on 25 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

WORLD

FERGUSON, 26 Nov — Protests spread across the United States late on Tuesday and more than 2,000 National Guard troops were deployed in the St Louis area to prevent a second night of rioting and looting after a grand jury declined to indict a white policeman in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager.

President Barack Obama appealed for dialogue, and his attorney general promised that a federal probe into the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in August would be timely and rigorous, even as officer Darren Wilson, the policeman who shot him, said his conscience was clear.

Despite the beefed up military presence in Ferguson, a police car was torched near City Hall as darkness fell, and police fired smoke bombs and tear gas to scatter protesters. Elsewhere in the city, protests were smaller and more controlled than on Monday.

The killing in Ferguson, a predominantly black city with a white-dominated power structure, underscored the occasionally tense nature of US race relations and sometimes strained ties between African-American communities and the police.

Monday's racially charged protests were more intense than the unrest that followed the shooting itself, though were much smaller than the widespread rioting and looting that came after the acquittal of police officers in the

beating of black motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles two decades ago.

In Ferguson, about a dozen buildings, including a pizza shop and a beauty parlour, were burned down late on Monday as protesters took to the streets in anger at the grand jury's decision. Police said protesters fired guns at them, set patrol cars on fire and hurled bricks into their lines. Police made 61 arrests.

On Tuesday, dozens of protesters chanted "No justice, no peace!" after dark outside the Ferguson police station, guarded by at least two armoured vehicles, and police made a handful of arrests in several locations.

About a mile away, National Guardsmen surrounded businesses damaged in Monday's violence. Groups of men also gathered on the roofs of some boarded-up stores to protect the buildings from further damage. Armed with fire extinguishers and, one said, guns, they plan to stay all night.

Protests swelled from Los Angeles to Washington on Tuesday. In New York, police used pepper spray to control the crowd after protesters tried to block the Lincoln Tunnel and Triborough Bridge and marched to Times Square. In Oakland, California, and in Atlanta, protesters blocked traffic, while in Boston others marched past a correctional facility where inmates taped Brown's name on a window in solidarity with the marchers outside.

Reuters

Flournoy withdraws from consideration as US defence secretary



WASHINGTON, 26 Nov — Michele Flournoy, a former top US Department of Defence official widely tipped as a possible replacement for Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel, has taken herself out of consideration for the job, according to multiple sources familiar with the circumstances.

Flournoy, co-founder and chief executive of the Centre for a New American Security, wrote to the think tank's board of directors saying she would remain in her post and had asked President Barack Obama to remove her from consideration to head the Pentagon, the sources told Reuters on

Tuesday. One of the sources said Flournoy, whose youngest child is 13, had cited family reasons for her decision. In an interview with Reuters earlier this year, Flournoy, who left the Pentagon in 2012, expressed some concern about the way the Obama administration centralized decision-making. "There's a real choke point," Flournoy said. "There's only so much bandwidth and there's only so much they can handle at one time. So, things start to slow down."

Flournoy would have been the first woman to head the Defence Department if she had been nominated and confirmed in the post. Her decision to drop out of the running was first reported earlier on Tuesday by *Foreign Policy* magazine.—Reuters

Protests spread across US, more troops deployed in Ferguson



Protesters face off against a line of police during a demonstration outside LAPD headquarters, following the Monday grand jury decision in the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in Los Angeles, California on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS



Police officers look over the site of a building that was burned in riots the previous night in Ferguson, Missouri on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS



A man stops to take a photograph of a car lot where several cars had been burned and damaged, following a night of rioting in Ferguson, Missouri on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Violence against women a "global pandemic," UN chief says

NEW YORK, 26 Nov — United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday said violence against women is a worldwide problem, urging the international community to take a stand to help eradicate it.

"Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic that destroys lives, fractures communities and holds back development," Ban said at a special session to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

He pointed to the horrific events that women and girls faced over the last year, from the 200 kidnapped girls in Nigeria to schoolgirls raped and brutally

killed in India, as well as the Iraqi women who faced untold suffering inflicted on them during the war.

"This is outrageous and it must stop," he added.

Ban was joined by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the first lady of New York, Chirlane McCray, and actress Teri Hatcher, who appeared in the long-running US TV drama series "Desperate Housewives."

According to statistics cited by UN Women, one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence, with it mostly carried out by close partners, while about 120 million girls have been forced to perform sexual acts at some point in their lives.

"It is up to everyone to play their part; women's rights are not only women's business," Ban said. "Men and boys are finally taking their place as partners in the battle."

Mlambo-Ngcuka explained that the day was an opportunity "to shine an orange light" on the violence and stressed that "there is no time for complacency or excuses."

She and McCray signed the first-ever agreement to work together to improve the safety and empowerment of women and girls in the city.

On Monday, Ban, Mlambo-Ngcuka and Hatcher, kicked off an event at the Empire State Building in New York, where they

flipped a switch to light the iconic building in orange — the designated colour representing the fight against violence. The United Nations headquarters was also bathed in orange light.

Hatcher revealed her own abuse at the hands of an uncle as a young girl and said it took her decades to speak out, eventually helping put her abuser in jail after another young victim committed suicide.

"Until every woman who has faced abuse feels less alone and safe enough to find the courage to have her own voice, until violence against women is no longer a part of any woman's story, silence will not be a part of mine," she said.

Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 November, 2014

Money is like honeyBy *Aung Khin*

While bees are collecting nectar for their hives, they sometimes have to fly long distances. Nectar is usually secreted from floral glands which are found in various places in a flower depending on various species. Most of the nectar exists at the base of many flowers. Sometimes, the bees have to climb deep inside the flower to be able to suck the nectar.

Likewise, we have to try to earn money. While some people can earn money without fac-

ing many difficulties, it is very difficult for others to get money for their daily needs.

Bees collect honey for their hives and survival based on their collective efforts and unity. However, their beehives are under threat from some creatures, including man. Although bees collect nectar amid many challenges such as adverse weather or other dangers, their honey might be lost or grabbed by others.

Similarly, man has to work for money in various circumstances in which some environments are hostile for us, while some situations are friendly to us. On some occasions, we face the difficult choice between pursuing a profession or money, or between earnings and belief. Nevertheless, our property and possession are under the phenomena of impermanence.

In fact, flowering plants co-evolved with bees. The bees are more attracted to the plants with the

sweetest and most attractive nectar. Biologists call this a plant-pollinator mutualism, which means that the plant benefits from the bee and the bee from the plant and that they both evolve to work ever-more-closely together.

Although we are trying to get money while facing many challenges or various threats, money is like honey that the bees cannot keep forever.

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.

The Skytrain SystemBy *Khin Maung Myint*

After contributing two articles on the subject of easing traffic jams in Yangon, I thought I had said enough on that matter as that was not my area of expertise. However, the latest news in the Bangkok Post daily about the plans to expand the airport rail links prompted me to write this article. In my opinion, it is a good practice to learn from the experiences of other countries or in other words copy from others' achievements. To my knowledge, gained from observations during my frequent visits over the last twenty years, I had noticed the rapid growth of the public transport facilities in Thailand, especially in Bangkok Metropolitan area. Of all the developments, the Skytrain or the Bangkok Transit System (BTS), an elevated rapid train service is the most enviable achievement.

Which Model Should We Choose ?

Most countries relied on the Mass Rapid Transit System (MTRS) to ease the traffic congestions and at the same time provide efficient and descent transportation for the general public. The MRTS could include the elevated railway or the Skytrain, subways or underground railway, motor coach services and boat services. In this article I would discuss the Skytrain System. If we were to copy from others, in trying to solve the traffic congestion problems in

Yangon, we should choose a city, which is similar to ours' in many respects. I agree that Singapore is the most advanced and developed in the region, with all the modern, sophisticated and efficient infrastructures. However, I do not think that their model will work for us. There are many factors that are different between Singapore and Yangon. Of course there are a few good ideas we can borrow from Singapore, such as restricting the ownership of cars, restricting the entry of cars to the downtown areas during rush hours and levying heavy tolls on cars entering those areas. Though, where the development of transport infrastructure is concerned, we have far larger space and population to cater to. That made us different from Singapore. So we cannot copy everything ditto to Singapore. My point of view is, we should take Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur or Jakarta as our model. I think choosing Bangkok will be more appropriate as we share many similarities, which I think, won't need expounding.

The BTS provides the most efficient and convenient mode of travel for commuters in Bangkok. They are fast and run on regular schedules and above all punctual, which is the most important factor that the commuters look for, in a MRTS. For the working classes, either

public or private sector employees and employers alike, to be on time for work is of paramount importance. Most have to rely on the public transportations, thus they need to be efficient. In Bangkok an average of about 600,000 passengers commuted each day by BTS during weekdays and it can increase on Sundays by over 100,000 when there are special occasions. That's quite a large volume.

As far as I can recall, the BTS came into existence in December 1999, while I was visiting Bangkok. In the days before the BTS came, I remember falling asleep in a taxi, while caught up in one of the notorious Bangkok traffic jams, which seemed to last for ages. However, today it would take me only a few minutes by BTS, to travel a distance that took nearly an hour before. The BTS have been continuously expanding and gaining popularity among locals and tourists alike. The fares are quite reasonable in comparison to the taxi fares that can clock up extra charges when caught in traffic jams. The idling or waiting time fares during such situations are sometimes more than the fares for the actual distance traveled. Those Myanmar, who had been to Bangkok and had traveled around Bangkok by BTS would not deny, if I say it provides the most convenient, efficient and the cheapest mode of travel.

The sky walks that are incorporated into the BTS, running one level below the train tracks, between adjacent train stations in busy areas provide elevated and covered pedestrian walkways, clear of any road traffics.

Skytrain System for Yangon Metropolis

When they started the BTS, the contract was granted to a consortium of foreign and local investors on a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. We too should consider the same procedure if we were to introduce a Skytrain system. It would not be necessary to dip into the government coffers for funds. I'm sure there would be many foreign firms with experience in that field, who would be interested to invest in such a business venture. An al-

ternative would be to obtain aid or grant or loan from abroad to finance it, if the government choose to undertake the constructions. That will still need foreign supervision as we do not have experience in that field. So, the best would be to use the BOT system.

The project should be carried out in several phases, giving priority to the main artery roads that lead to the downtown areas, such as the Bayinnaung, Kyeemyindine, Insein, Pyay, Kabaraye and Pazundaung roads. The Skytrain tracks do not need separate track alignments, as they can follow the existing main motorways, utilizing only little

space to construct pylons to support the rail track spans. I believe the departments concerned have better ideas than me as to which sections they should give priority, so I think I have said enough and hope my suggestions would not be in vain. There could be projects already under considerations, if so please speed up the implementations. This will definitely ease the traffic congestions in the long term. In the meantime the existing circular train services should be upgraded and run on strict and punctual schedules, taking into considerations the convenience of the working classes. It would surely to attract more commuters.

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

Myanmar Climate Date Portal Dissemination Workshop heldBy *Kyaw The-ein (MNA)*

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov —The Myanmar Climate Date Portal Dissemination Workshop took place at the Man Myanmar Hotel here this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein.

The workshop was jointly organized by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and financially supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was followed by discussions on key achieve-

ments of MOFA-Norway projects, the importance of the Myanmar Climate Date Portal, how to utilize the Myanmar Climate Date Portal and future developments by the ADPC, the DMH and participants.

The Myanmar Climate Data Portal has been designed to facilitate the analysis of climate/meteorological, geographical and future climate change scenarios using a publicly accessible web-based interface. The intended audience is climate research scientists, meteorologists, hydrologists and

anyone who needs to better understand past and future (projected) weather and climate patterns. It would also allow the purchase of data that has been collected by the DMH in Myanmar.

The ADPC has now taken up a comprehensive initiative and developed a programme titled "Technical support to Myanmar for strengthening of human resources and institutional capacity to deal with the threat from natural disasters". The workshop was participated in by over 30 relevant stakeholders, scientists, researchers and scholars from the government and non-government organizations.

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Bangladeshi chief of naval staff

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — The bilateral relationship between Myanmar and Bangladesh must be cemented in mutual trust through transparency, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, commander-in-chief of Defence Services, said in a meeting with Vice Admiral Muhammad Farid Habib, chief of naval staff of Bangladesh, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The senior general highlighted that there is a need to solve border issues with a constructive attitude as Myanmar and Bangladesh are good-neighbour countries, adding that the two countries should carry out coordination not to harm the interests of both sides for ensuring the perpetuation of their sovereignty and

safety of citizens. He noted that the two countries are to join hands in effectively combating terrorist groups.

The Bangladeshi chief of naval staff said that being a populous country, Bangladesh depends on the sea. He added that Bangladesh will cooperate with Myanmar for ensuring a brighter life of future generations so as to contribute to the regional stability and development of both countries.

They discussed the promotion of coordination for raising interest of the seas based on meetings between two navies and exchange of information between navies of two nations for prevention against unconventional threats of sea security.

Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with chief of naval staff of Bangladesh Vice Admiral Muhammad Farid Habib.—MYAWADY

Union FM receives WHO resident representative, Russian Security Council secretary

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — Dr JM Luna, new resident representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Myanmar, called on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at the ministry on Wednesday and presented his letter of appointment to the union minister.

At the meeting, they discussed matters of further cooperation between Myanmar and the WHO.

The union minister also received Mr Nikolay P Patrushev, secretary of



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin meets Mr Nikolay P Patrushev, secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation.—MNA

the Security Council of the Russian Federation and party at the ministry the

same day.

They discussed the further strengthening of bilat-

eral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Russia.—MNA

215 microfinance organizations allowed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — The microfinance development committee has approved 215 microfinance organizations up to October 2014, Deputy Minister for

Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein said at the committee's 6/2014 meeting at the Ministry of Finance in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The committee mem-

bers chose 12 local and foreign microfinance organizations for issuance of licences through a criteria and points system, the deputy minister said.

He noted that the committee has to issue the law, rules and disciplines in time for development of

the microfinance industry and also supervise their tasks. Secretary of the committee Director-General of Monetary Affairs Supervisory Department U Win Aung reported on approvals for submissions related to microfinance organizations.—MNA



Daw Yin Kay Khine of MWEA seen at Yangon International Airport on 23 November before departure for Korea to attend the 5th ASEAN-KOREA Frontier Forum.—MWEA

Workshop held on confirming guidelines, work plans for ending child labour

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 26 Nov — The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in cooperation with the International Labour Organization recently organized a workshop on the confirmation of guidelines and work plans for the elimination of child labour in the country.

The two-day meeting at Golden Myanmar Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw was focused on the implementation of the Myanmar Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (My-PEC). Under the national programme, the Child Labour Technical Working Group has drafted its operational

guidelines for child labour, said U Aung Naing, a staff officer from the ministry.

The project is aimed at reducing child labour through the establishment of a comprehensive, inclusive and efficient multi-stakeholder response. The specific objectives of the programme are to increase public awareness of child labour elimination across the nation and improve legislation to address child labour in line with international norms.

The Ministry is also planning to reduce child labour in target communities by removing children from the worst forms of child la-

bour through education and livelihood intervention, the official said, adding that the body plans to accelerate its education programme on children's rights in suburban townships in Yangon next year.

Up to now, the ministry managed to provide child-related knowledge to target audiences in industrial zones including Hlaingthaya, the most populous township in Yangon.

At the meeting, officials from the ministries, the ILO and local NGOs also discussed future cooperation among the stakeholders, workplace safety and health as well as children's rights.

GNLM



Workshop on the confirmation of guidelines and work plans for the elimination of child labour in progress.—LABOUR

US to leave more troops in Afghanistan than first planned



US troops inspect at the site of a suicide attack on the outskirts of Jalalabad, on 13 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

KABUL, 26 Nov — The United States is preparing to increase the number of troops it keeps in Afghanistan in 2015 to fill a gap left in the NATO mission by other contributing nations,

according to three sources with direct knowledge of the situation.

The final numbers are still being agreed, but there will be at least several hundred more than initially

planned, one of the sources said.

“If they hadn’t done that, the mission would have lost bases,” the source said. Under the US commitment, described as a

“bridging solution” until other nations fulfil their pledges later in the year or the troops are no longer needed, Washington may provide up to 1,000 extra soldiers.

That figure was confirmed by all three sources, who said the final number was still under discussion and depended on when other countries stepped forward with their commitments.

The additional US troops will be assigned to a 12,000-strong NATO force staying in Afghanistan to train, advise and assist Afghan forces through a new mission called Resolute Support, said the sources, who declined to be identified.

The coalition force in Afghanistan did not comment on the figures but said it welcomed all commitments of troops to the new NATO-led mission.

“We are confident that

we will have the necessary resources to launch the Resolute Support mission on 1 Jan, 2015. The process to generate the forces required for the mission is ongoing,” the International Security Assistance Force said.

The Pentagon acknowledged discussions with NATO partners. But spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby said, “As we stand here today, there is no change in the 9,800 force level.”

The bulk of Western combat troops, who once numbered up to 130,000, are to leave the country at the end of this year when the mission officially winds up after 13 years of war against a stubborn Taleban and its al-Qaeda allies.

President Barack Obama had announced in May that US troop levels would be cut to 9,800 by the end of the year, by half again in 2015 and to a normal

embassy presence with a security assistance office in Kabul by the end of 2016.

“There will be 9,800 troops, plus at least a few hundred above and beyond that,” the same source said.

Of the 9,800, some 8,000 had been earmarked for the NATO force and the remainder for a separate anti-terrorism operation.

The move to increase the US presence left in Afghanistan comes shortly after Obama approved plans to give the US military a wider role to fight the hardline Islamist Taliban movement alongside Afghan forces after the current mission expires.

While Afghanistan’s military and police remain in control of all 34 provincial capitals, violence has risen in the last year and the rate of casualties suffered by local security forces has been described by the US military as unsustainable.

Reuters

Australian minister apologizes for submarine firm canoe remark



Australian Defence Minister David Johnston

SYDNEY, 26 Nov — Australia’s defence minister on Wednesday apologized after saying he would not trust the government-owned submarine firm “to build a canoe”, comments that fuelled expectations that most work in a A\$40 billion (\$34 billion) programme will go offshore.

Reuters reported in September that Australia was leaning towards buying as many as 12 off-the-shelf stealth submarines from Japan. Prime Minister Tony Abbott had previously pledged the submarines would be built in South Australia, where unemployment exceeds the national average, but his government began backpedaling in July, signaling cost and schedule were paramount. Responding to questions in the Australian Senate on Tuesday, Defence Minister David Johnston highlighted a A\$350 million-plus cost over-run on building three

air warfare destroyer ships and a lack of submarine design experience at Australian Submarine Corp (ASC).

“You wonder why I am worried about ASC and what they are delivering to the Australian taxpayer. Do you wonder why I wouldn’t trust them to build a canoe?” Johnston told lawmakers. “Let’s get real here ... This is a professional program methat is about national security, and we will take the advice of the service chiefs, not somebody who is looking for a job.”

Johnston on Wednesday told the Senate his comments were a regrettable “rhetorical flourish”.

“I was directing my remarks at a legacy of issues and certainly not the workers in ASC who may have in my regret taken offence at those remarks. I consider them to be world class,” he said, adding no decision had been made on the submarine programme.—Reuters

VIENNA, 26 Nov — A seven-month extension in talks between world powers and Iran on a deal to curb its nuclear programme emboldened critics in Washington and Teheran, threatening to undermine further talks.

After failing to clinch an agreement that would limit Iran’s nuclear programme in return for lifting stifling US-led economic sanctions, the sides agreed on Monday to push back, yet again, a deadline for reaching a deal, until next July. Iran is negotiating with so-called P5+1 group of the United Nations Security Council permanent members, plus Germany, but that could be called the P5+1+2, given the role played by hard-liners in Congress and in Iran’s ruling establishment. Even before the ink dried on the extension agreement in Vienna, sceptics in Washington were demanding new sanctions to pressure Iran’s rulers.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, long regarded as one of the most effective lobbying groups in Washington, called on Congress to take up sanctions legislation.

“Congress must now act to send a clear message that US patience is not limitless and that Iran must

Domestic pressures in US, Iran threaten slow-moving nuclear talks



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 envoy Catherine Ashton and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (LtoR) pose for photographers before a meeting in Vienna on 24 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

not be allowed to achieve a nuclear weapons capability,” it said in a statement. Sen Robert Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from Obama’s Democratic Party, stopped short of calling for new sanctions immediately, but said: “The cycle of negotiations, followed by an extension, coupled with sanctions relief for Iran has not succeeded.”

New sanctions pose a challenge to President Barack Obama, who has suggested he might veto them.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, elected last year on a promise to improve Iranians’ lives, faces pressures too. Reflecting disappointment that sanctions against Iran’s oil and banking sectors will remain, newspapers in Teheran used headlines like “Hich,” the Farsi word for “nothing,” to describe the outcome in Vienna. At a news briefing on Monday, US Secretary of State John Kerry said the Vienna talks “made real and substantial progress,” but refused to be more specific.

Looking ahead, he said: “These talks aren’t going to suddenly get easier just because we extend them. They’re tough and they’ve been tough and they’re going to stay tough.”

The West wants strict limits on Iran’s uranium-enriching centrifuges and other nuclear work, in return for a gradual lifting of sanctions. Iran wants immediate termination of all sanctions, an agreement with a relatively short lifespan, and substantial enrichment capability.—Reuters

WORLD

Syrian government air strikes kill 63 in Raqqa

BEIRUT, 26 Nov — At least 63 people, half of them civilians, were killed when Syrian war planes struck the northeastern city of Raqqa on Tuesday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria. Syrian government officials were not immediately available for comment.

Rami Abdulrahman, who runs the Britain-based Observatory, said 10 war planes struck at least 10 times in Raqqa, a stronghold of the ultra-hardline group Islamic State.

"The majority of the strikes were in the eastern part of the city," Abdulrah-

man said, quoting residents and activists in the city. "At least 36 of those killed are civilians. As for the rest, we are not sure yet if they were fighters."

Islamic State, which has seized wide expanses of territory in Iraq and Syria, drove the last Syrian government forces out of Raqqa Province in late August. Its fighters seized an air base then, capturing and later executing scores of Syrian soldiers.

Raqqa has been the target of several air strikes by a US-led coalition aimed at weakening and destroying the ultra-hardline group in Iraq and Syria. A US

official said the coalition did not carry out any air strikes on Raqqa in the last 24 hours. An Islamic State fighter in the province confirmed that the government carried out the air strikes, which he said killed at least 70 people.

The Syrian air force has increased its strikes across Syria since the US-led coalition started attacking Islamic State positions inside Syria in September.

Analysts say the increase could be because the Syrian military wants to weaken rebel groups before they get training and equipment promised by the United States.—Reuters



Smoke rises after what activists said were airstrikes by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Raqqa, eastern Syria, which is controlled by the Islamic State on 25 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

Malaysia gov't seeks new law to deal with IS threats

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Nov — Malaysia's government plans to introduce a new law to rein in the influence and capabilities of the Islamic State terror group in the country, after uncovering plots to attack various places, according to report tabled in Parliament by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on Wednesday.

The 19-page white paper on "Tackling the IS Threats" says that in the course of interrogating 11 suspects detained in April, the police discovered plots to bomb entertainment centres in Kuala Lumpur and a beer factory on the city's outskirts, as well as government buildings in

administrative capital Putrajaya.

"In fact, a suspect caught had already purchased aluminum powder to be used to make explosives," it says.

Malaysia is one of many countries in the world that is grappling with the rise of the IS that is fighting to control Syria and Iraq as part of a grand plan to establish a pan-Islamic state in the Middle East.

The report says at least 39 Malaysians have gone to fight in Iraq and Syria. Five have been killed including Ahmad Termini Malik, a 26-year-old factory worker who became the first known Malaysian sui-

cide bomber. He died in an attack in Iraq.

At home, the police have arrested 40 for links with IS since February last year, among whom 21 have been charged in court. The others were freed for lack of evidence, but were prevented from leaving the country and placed under police surveillance.

Authorities also worry about those returning home after their bloody mission abroad.

Five militants are known to have made their way home, the government report says. Three were arrested soon after while two more are under investigation.—Kyodo News

Female suicide bombers kill at least 44 in Nigeria's northeast

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria) 26 Nov — Two female suicide bombers killed at least 44 people on Tuesday in Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri, at the heart of a militant Islamist insurgency, medical officials said.

Four witnesses told Reuters near the scene a woman had entered the roadside trading area behind the city's main market before blowing herself up.

"While the people were trying to help the injured, the second bomb blasted," witness Sani Adamu told Reuters. "I saw lots of bodies."

A nurse at Maiduguri General Hospital said 42

bodies had been received from the twin blasts. In the Maiduguri University teaching hospital in a different part of town, a staff member said two of a dozen wounded brought there for treatment had so far died.

Nigerian authorities did not respond to requests for comment. There was no claim of responsibility, but suspicion is likely to fall on violent Islamist group Boko Haram, whose five-year-old campaign for an Islamic state has killed thousands.

The group has increasingly used female suicide bombers.

In June, there were four attacks by female bombers in the largely Muslim

north, including one targeting a school in Kano, the region's biggest city.

A woman blew herself up at a teacher training college in Nigeria's central Niger state on 12 November, killing at least one other person.

Boko Haram has stepped up assaults in the northeast of Nigeria, showing it remains the biggest security threat to Africa's biggest economy and top oil producer.

It has been trying to seize and hold on to territory with the apparent aim of carving a de facto Islamic state out of religiously-mixed Nigeria.

Reuters

Islamic State fighters battle Iraqi forces near Baiji refinery



Members of the Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite fighters take part in an intensive security deployment after taking control of Saadiya in Diyala Province from Islamist State militants, on 24 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 26 Nov — Islamic State insurgents battled Iraqi forces in the centre of Baiji on Tuesday, a week after the army broke their prolonged siege

of the country's largest oil refinery just outside the town, an army officer and residents said.

The renewed fighting in Baiji by the Islamist

militants, who control thousands of square miles of territory in Iraq and Syria, appeared aimed at reimposing that stranglehold around the sprawling

oil facility 2 miles (4 km) to the north.

Islamic State (IS) fighters were present in four of Baiji's 12 neighbourhoods, as well as areas on the perimeter of the sprawling refinery complex. But the army controlled its southern approaches, preventing insurgents from surrounding it, according to a Baiji resident who toured the area.

On Monday an Islamic State video circulated on the Internet showing its fighters denying that they had been driven out of Baiji, and what purported to be two suicide truck bombings targeting the refinery defences.

"Yes, they infiltrated some areas," one of the speakers said, referring to

the Iraqi security forces. "But, God willing, either they will withdraw or they will be exterminated."

One resident of the town some 200 km (125 miles) north of Baghdad said IS gunmen launched an attack on Monday night in the centre of Baiji, advancing into the town's Asri District.

There had also been fighting in the Naft and Kahraba neighbourhoods.

Around the refinery, IS insurgents still held a housing complex on its western edge and were digging trenches in the Makhmour hills overlooking the installation from the north, despite coming under fire from helicopters, the resident said.

To the east, he said,

insurgents could be seen crossing the nearby Tigris river by boat.

Islamic State seized Baiji and surrounded the refinery during a June offensive when it swept south towards the capital Baghdad, capturing cities, farmlands and oilfields and meeting virtually no resistance from Iraq government forces.

Shi'ite militias and Kurdish peshmerga, backed by US-led air strikes since August, have helped contain the radical Sunni insurgents and pushed them back in some provinces.

But they have continued to make gains in the western Sunni province of Anbar.

Reuters

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (377N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNIASSURE VOY NO (377N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN
SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV STAR MICHELE VOY NO (C048)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV STAR MICHELE VOY NO (C048) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CAM SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA
SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-25A)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-25A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**Moscow not planning to
nationalize foreign companies'
assets in Russia**

STUTTGART, 26 Nov — Russia has no plans to nationalize the assets of foreign companies in the country, Economic Development Minister Alexey Ulyukayev said on Wednesday after meeting with German businessmen. "Of course, we have no such plans," Ulyukayev said, in comments to media reports that Russia could introduce "blacklists" and nationalize the assets of German companies.

Speaking after the

meeting, organized by the Stuttgart chamber of commerce and industry, Ulyukayev said such issues are the "echo of the notorious law on compensations from Western sanctions."

VTB CEO Andrey Kostin said at the meeting, the German companies expressed concerns that Russia could nationalize the assets of foreign companies, including those from Germany, in response to Western sanctions.

Itar-Tass

**Obama heckled over immigration
policies in Chicago appearance**

US President Barack Obama talks about immigration reform while at the Copernicus Community Centre in Chicago on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

CHICAGO, 26 Nov — President Barack Obama was interrupted several times by hecklers during a speech on his immigration policy on Tuesday, and their complaint was that his plan did not go far enough in protecting illegal immigrants from deportation.

At least four hecklers, all of them women, yelled at the president at the Copernicus Centre where he had gone to promote his

go-it-alone immigration plan that will remove the threat of deportation for up to 4.7 million illegal immigrants.

Obama had gone to a Polish neighborhood to stress that the immigration problem in the United States is not restricted to Latinos and that there are people from around the world who are in the country illegally, such as Poles and Irish.

Obama was in mid-

speech when a woman shouted about his deportation policies. Under the Obama administration, thousands of people in the country illegally have been deported, an issue frequently raised with the president by pro-immigrant advocates.

"OK, it's good to be back in Chicago," Obama said in reply to the hecklers. The president is from Chicago.

"But I'm not going to be able to have a conversation with each of you separately. There are other ways of engaging. Just sit down.... I know people are passionate about this. But be respectful of people who are here."

He said there have been times when families have been broken apart by deportation, and that it bothers him. He said the ultimate answer is for Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Reuters

**UNICEF logistics officer fears
humanitarian disaster in S Sudan**

TOKYO, 26 Nov — The worsening security situation in the fledgling northeast-



Yuji Taketomo, engaged in humanitarian support in war-torn South Sudan as a UNICEF international staff member, said in Japan in September 2014 that the establishment of a route to deliver relief aid and food to some 1.4 million internally-displaced people, particularly malnourished children, is essential but deteriorating security is an obstacle.—KYODO NEWS

ern African nation of South Sudan has severely hampered the transportation of vital aid supplies, creating the risk of a humanitarian disaster, according to a UNICEF logistics expert based in the region.

"If nothing is done, it will turn into a disaster," Yuji Taketomo, 48, said in an interview during a brief visit to Japan in September.

His task in South Sudan, which became independent in 2011 and struggles with poverty and food shortages, is to secure routes to deliver relief aid and food to 1.4 million internally displaced citizens, especially malnourished children.

But Taketomo said that the UN Children's Fund has failed to bring sufficient goods to the country as its security situation has deteriorated.

During the 1990s, Taketomo was dispatched to Somalia by a civic aid organization. He joined UNICEF in 1999 and has worked in conflict-torn countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although he has extensive experience operating in dangerous regions, he described the situation in Bentiu, a northern South Sudanese town he visited this year, as the worst he had ever seen.

Having witnessed more than 100 bodies abandoned throughout the town, Taketomo said, "I have never seen such a horrible scene."

Kyodo News

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Dated 27 November 2014
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India gets 6th maritime patrol plane from Boeing

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov — India has received from US aircraft maker Boeing its sixth P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, sources said on Wednesday.

The aircraft arrived at Naval Air Station Rajali from the United States, the sources said, adding that the remaining two planes will be delivered by Boeing next year, thus bolstering the country's maritime defense. "The P-8I's arrival in India is another key milestone for the programme and marks our final delivery of the year," Dennis Swanson, the vice president of Boeing Defence, Space & Security in India, said.

He added: "The Indian Navy is currently conducting missions with the first five aircraft, and this newest P-8I will begin flight trials in the coming months." The P-8I features open systems architecture, advanced sensor and display technologies, and a worldwide base of suppliers, parts, and support equipment, a company release said. India had in 2009 awarded a contract to Boeing to deliver eight such planes.—Xinhua

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Dated 27 November 2014
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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 27th November,

2014: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Upper Sagaing, Tanintharyi Regions and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of night temperature in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

26 killed in coal mine fire in NE China

SHENYANG, 26 Nov — A coal mine fire killed 26 workers and injured 52 others in northeast China's Liaoning Province early Wednesday, the state-owned Liaoning Fuxin Coal Corporation told Xinhua.

The fire occurred at 2:35 am in a coal mine under Hengda Coal, a subsidiary of Fuxin Coal, a major producer in the province.

Fuxin Coal said the rescue is over and all the injured workers have been hospitalized.

"Some of the injured are still in critical conditions and might need to be transferred to bigger hospitals in the provincial capital of Shenyang," a medical worker with the general hospital run by the mine company told Xinhua. She declined to give her name.

The victims mostly suffered burns and respiratory damage, she said.

Fuxin is some 200 kilometers northwest from Shenyang. It will take around three hours to transfer the victims.

Before the fire broke out, a 1.6-magnitude quake was monitored at 1:31 am at a city near the coal mine. Local government is investigating connections between tremor and the fire.

Hengda Coal has halted operations in all of its mines for safety checks. The company employs more than 4,600 people.

Built in 1978, the Fuxin mine is one of the largest coal producers in northeast China with an annual production of 1.5 million tons. The Fuxin Coal has some 4,660 employees.

It's not the first time such an accident has happened in the mine. Last year, eight workers were killed during a gas leak in a Fuxin Coal mine.—Xinhua

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Meryl Streep, Stevie Wonder receive Presidential honour

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov — Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep and musician Stevie Wonder were honoured with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The 'Into the Woods' actress and the 'Higher Ground' hitmaker were among 18 recipients of the US' highest civilian honour at a ceremony yesterday at the White House, where they were given the medals by President Barack Obama, reported ABC Online.

The President gushed about how much of a fan he is of Streep, as he gave the 65-year-old actress her medal.

"I love her. Her husband knows I love her. Michelle knows I love her. There's nothing that either of them can do about it. Meryl is truly one of America's leading ladies. She's done it all for her



craft. She's sung ABBA (in 'Mamma Mia!'). That's something," he said.

Wonder, 64, was introduced by his legal name Stevland Morris and the President recalled how his 1972 album 'Talking Book' was the first album

(he) ever bought with (his) own money.

"I was 10 years old, maybe 11 — with my own cash. I didn't have a lot of it. And that thing got so worn out ... Young people, you won't remember this, but they had albums," he

added.

Though 19 people were supposed to take the honour, Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim was unable to make the ceremony so will collect his at next year's reception.

Reuters

'Birdman' soars ahead in Independent Spirit Award nominations

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov — Existential black comedy "Birdman" led the Independent Spirit Awards nominees on Tuesday, as thriller "Nightcrawler," coming-of-age chronicle "Boyhood" and civil rights drama "Selma" followed with five nods each.

"Birdman," which follows the journey of a washed-up actor as he embarks on a theatre comeback, scored a Best Actor nod for Michael Keaton, Best Supporting Actor and Actress for Edward Norton and Emma Stone and Best Director for Alejandro G Iñárritu.

Fox Searchlight's "Birdman" joined four



US actress Emma Stone poses during the red carpet for the movie "Birdman or (The unexpected virtue of ignorance)" at the 71st Venice Film Festival on 27 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

other contenders, IFC Films' "Boyhood," Paramount Pictures' "Selma" and Sony Pictures Clas-

sics films "Whiplash" and "Love Is Strange," for the coveted top prize for Best Feature.

Jazz drumming drama "Whiplash," which won the top honour at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and has garnered awards buzz, landed four nominations, including Best Director for Damien Chazelle and Best Supporting Actor for J.K. Simmons.

The Independent Spirit Awards, held at a casual luncheon on California's Santa Monica beach the day before Hollywood's glitzy Oscars ceremony on 21 February, bestows

Christian Bale was jealous of Ben Affleck playing Batman

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov — Christian Bale, who played Batman in Christopher Nolan's famous trilogy, has revealed that he was "jealous" when Ben Affleck was cast as the Caped Crusader in upcoming film 'Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice'.

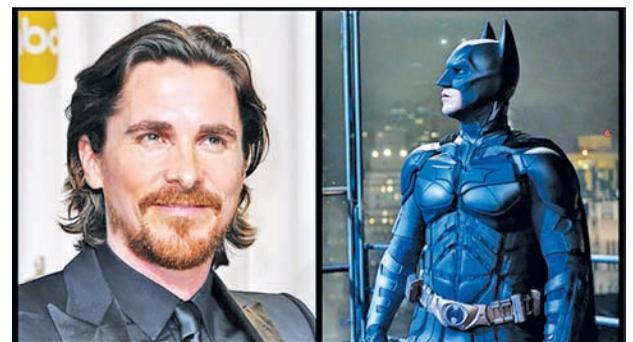
Bale ended his reign as Batman after 2012 movie 'The Dark Knight Rises' but the actor says it came as a surprise when Affleck's name was announced for the Zack Snyder's film, reported Empire magazine.

"I've got to admit initially, even though I felt that it was the right time to stop, there was always a bit

of me going, 'Oh go on... Let's do another.'" Bale, 40, said. "So when I heard there was someone else doing it, there was a moment where I just stopped and stared into nothing for half an hour."

Bale first played Bruce Wayne/Batman in 2005 movie 'Batman Begins' and reprised it in 'The Dark Knight' and 'The Dark Knight Rises' subsequently. Bale is finally at peace with other actors taking the Batman legacy forward.

"But I'm 40. The fact that I'm jealous of someone else playing Batman... I think I should have gotten over it by now."—PTI



Bale first played Bruce Wayne/Batman in 2005 movie 'Batman Begins' and reprised it in 'The Dark Knight' and 'The Dark Knight Rises' subsequently.—PTI

Music streamer Spotify says sales and losses grew in 2013

STOCKHOLM, 26 Nov — Online music streaming service Spotify's revenues rose 74 percent but operating loss widened last year due to expansion costs, its holding company reported.

Stockholm-based Spotify, which provides free on-demand music or ad-free tunes for paying customers, posted an operating loss of 93 million euros (\$116 million) (73.83 million pounds) from 2013, compared with a loss of 80 million euros in 2012.

The company said the increased losses were due to investments in product development and international

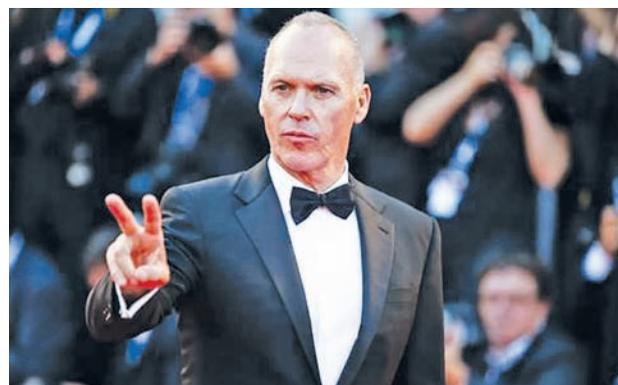
expansion.

Its sales grew to 747 million euros (\$932 million) in 2013 from 430 million euros a year earlier.

About 91 percent of Spotify's revenue came from subscriptions, with the rest coming from advertising. The company earlier this month said its paying subscriber base has risen to 12.5 million from 10 million in May. Spotify was founded in 2006 by Daniel Ek and Martin Lorentzon. Its 2013 figures were published on Tuesday by its holding company Spotify Technology in Luxembourg's business registry.—Reuters



Headsets hang in front of a screen displaying a Spotify logo on it, in Zenica on 20 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS



US actor Michael Keaton poses during the red carpet for the movie "Birdman or (The unexpected virtue of ignorance)" at the 71st Venice Film Festival on 27 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

China's Tencent partners with HBO for TV show streaming

BEIJING, 26 Nov — Chinese Internet firm Tencent Holdings Ltd is partnering with Time Warner Inc's HBO network to stream its TV shows, which are known for their provocative content and may draw scrutiny from the country's authorities.

Tencent will be the exclusive online provider of HBO series such as "Game of Thrones" — which features gore, nudity, and incest — "True Detective" and "Boardwalk Empire", China's top social network and gaming firm, said on Tuesday.

"This partnership enables us to distribute some of the most ground-breaking programming in the world through our robust technology platform, to the benefit of Chinese Internet users," Martin Lau, president of Tencent, said in a statement.

But even as China's

Internet TV firms have pumped more than \$1 billion (637.63 million pounds) into foreign content in less than two years in a bid to attract more viewers, government regulators have stepped up their oversight of the previously freewheeling industry.

This includes ordering TV shows to be taken down, scouring media of "obscene" or "pornographic" material and imposing limits on how much foreign content can be shown on any online video site. This is partly seen as a move to protect the domestic TV and film industry from outside competition as it develops.

Tencent declined to say how much it spent on HBO's content, nor did it give a date for release.

The TV series and films are set to be broadcast in the very near future, said Ten-



Tencent headquarters is seen at Nanshan Hi-Tech Industrial Park in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on 9 June, 2011. — REUTERS

cent, as they are still subject to approval from China's regulators and may need to be censored.

Earlier this year, China's state broadcaster CCTV aired a chopped version of Game of Thrones which one viewer said resembled a "medieval castle documentary".

In May, China's authorities ordered streaming services to take down popu-

lar US shows The Big Bang Theory, The Good Wife, NCIS and The Practice.

Tencent's competitors include Sohu.com Inc, Youku Tudou Inc, which is backed by e-commerce titan Alibaba Group Holdings Ltd and smartphone maker Xiaomi Technology Co Ltd, and search giant Baidu Inc's iQiyi, which is also part-owned by Xiaomi.

Reuters

'Wizard of Oz' Cowardly Lion suit, Casablanca piano go for millions

NEW YORK, 26 Nov — The Cowardly Lion costume worn in the film "The Wizard of Oz," including the sculpted likeness of actor Bert Lahr's face, was auctioned for nearly \$3.1 million (1.97 million pounds).

Hollywood memorabilia sold by Bonham's auction house on Monday night also included a piano featured in the 1942 classic "Casablanca," which fetched more than \$3.4 million, Bonham's spokeswoman Vyoma Venkataraman said on Tuesday.

The winning bid for the lion costume - worn by Lahr in the 1939 film - was \$3,077,000, Venkataraman

said.

"It was created from real lion hide," she said.

She said the model for the face mask sold with the costume was actually the late actor's son.

The lion costume sold on Monday was worn more frequently than a second lion suit used during the filming of the adventures of a young girl named Dorothy Gale, played by Judy Garland, and her three friends, played by Lahr, Jack Haley as the Tin Man and Ray Bolger as the Scarecrow, in their search for home, courage, love and knowledge.

The upright piano featured in Rick's Cafe Amer-



icain is one of two from the film in which actor and singer Dooley Wilson sang "As Time Goes By," the signature song for lovers played by Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

The piano, which Bogart's character Rick used as a hiding place for illegal transit papers, sold for \$3,413,000, Venkataraman said.—Reuters

The "Cowardly Lion" costume worn by actor Bert Lahr and used in the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz" is shown in this handout photo provided by Bonhams Auction House in New York, on 25 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS



Shannon Farar-Griefer, 52, of Hidden Hills, California (R) runs away from her team after stopping to drink water as she competes in the Badwater Ultramarathon in Death Valley National Park, California in this 15 July, 2013 file photo. —REUTERS

Blood, sweat and tears yield ultramarathon joy

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov — Running 135 miles through the searing summer heat of Death Valley in California before ending the route with a cumulative gain of 17,000 feet to reach the slopes of Mount Whitney?

Slogging across four desert courses, each 150 miles long, in Chile, China, Egypt and Antarctica in what is known as the Four Deserts Grand Slam?

Racing against the clock through 75 control points in the footsteps of ancient Athenian messenger Pheidippidis, with a cut-off of 36 hours to complete the

153-mile Spartathlon? Risking dehydration, exhaustion, broken ankles, kidney failure or the need to throw in the towel and give up — all possible reasons for an athlete to abort the gruelling challenge of an ultramarathon?

For the uninitiated, all of the above scenarios suggest a twinning of sadism with sheer lunacy.

For the ultramarathoner, however, it is all about running for joy, setting personal goals and trying to overcome every obstacle faced.

"People are intrigued by the thought of someone

wanting to run 100 miles, or more," experienced ultramarathoner Shannon Farar-Griefer, who has five times raced the gruelling Badwater 135 across Death Valley, told Reuters.

"They might say, 'What's wrong with you that you want to run 100 miles? Were you abused or were you a drug addict?' We just love to run. It's all about passion in this sport.

"You know you're going to hurt, you know you're going to have a long day. That's why people think that we are a little different from the rest because we keep pushing our bodies.

Ultras are all about learning how to be able to accept pain."

An ultramarathon involves a combination of running and walking further than the traditional marathon of 26.2 miles (42.2 kilometres). Though most ultras cover distances of either 50 or 100 miles, many are much longer.

For Connecticut-based running coach Tom Holland, an exercise physiologist and certified sports nutritionist who has competed in over 60 marathons and 21 ironman triathlons, ultras are all about achieving objectives.— Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(27-11-2014, Thursday)

- 6:00 am
 - * Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:35 am
 - * Song of Yester Years
- 7:00 am
 - * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
 - * People Talks
- 8:00 am
 - * News / International News
- 8:35 am
 - * TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am
 - * News / International News
- 9:30 am
 - * TV Drama Series
- 10:50 am
 - * Documentary
- 12:00 noon
 - * News/ International News / Weather Report
- 12:30 pm
 - * Hluttaw Image
- 1:45 pm
 - * Musical Programme
- 2:15 pm
 - * Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance
- 3:45 pm
 - * Musical Programme
- 4:40 pm
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (History)
- 5:00 pm
 - * News
- 6:50 pm
 - * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
 - * News/ International News / Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
 - * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm
 - * News
 - * Hluttaw Image
 - * CLEVER
 - * Teleplay

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- * Short Cut: Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary
- * Local News
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- * World News
- * Myanmar Master Class "Still Life (Fruit)"
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- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
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- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Image of The Monks
- * World News
- * In The Studio "Ying"

Record-breaker Messi nets treble as Barca down APOEL

NICOSIA, 26 Nov — Lionel Messi set a new Champions League scoring record with a hat-trick and Luis Suarez netted his first in Barcelona colours as the Spaniards comprehensively beat APOEL Nicosia 4-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Suarez opened the scoring and his Barca account in the 27th minute, before Messi surpassed the record of 71 goals he jointly held with former Real Madrid and Schalke 04 striker Raul when he put Barcelona 2-0 ahead.

The Argentine doubled his account to make it 3-0 in the 58th minute and netted his 74th Champions League goal to complete the rout with three minutes left after Rafinha was sent off for Barcelona and APOEL's Joao Guilherme also saw red.

Barcelona stay second in Group F with 12 points, a point behind leaders Paris St Germain who they face in their final match.

APOEL are bottom of the group with one point, a point behind Ajax Amsterdam.

Barcelona went close in the 17th minute when Messi broke into the area despite the presence of three APOEL defenders. He cut the ball back, but Suarez



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a goal against APOEL Nicosia during their Champions League Group F soccer match in Nicosia on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

was only able to shoot tamely at the hosts' keeper Pardo.

The Uruguayan, who joined Barcelona from Liverpool in the close season having been hit with a lengthy ban for biting at the World Cup, found the target 10 min-

utes later with a neat finish after a clever turn.

After Dani Alves was ruled out of Barcelona's final, decisive group game against PSG on 10 December after picking up a silly booking, Messi made it two in the 38th minute, redirecting a Rafinha shot into the APOEL goal.

The Argentine increased his tally following a superb throughball from Alves, that left the diminutive playmaker with the relatively simple task of dinking it over the APOEL keeper.

Barcelona's German keeper, Marc-Andre ter Stegen, a spectator for most of the night, was called on to make his first meaningful contribution in the 66th minute, pulling off an acrobatic save to his right to deny substitute Tomas De Vincenti.

Barcelona were reduced to 10 men, 20 minutes from the end when Rafinha received his marching orders after a second booking.

Guilherme was also dismissed five minutes before fulltime, moments before Messi rounded off the scoring with his 74th Champions League goal when he slotted home easily from Pedro's cutback after the Spaniard had evaded the offside trap.—Reuters

Nani's solo effort helps Sporting rise to second



Sporting's Nani (C) celebrates his goal against Maribor during their Champions League Group G soccer match at Alvalade stadium in Lisbon on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

LISBON, 26 Nov — Winger Nani scored a superb solo goal to help Sporting beat Maribor 3-1 on Tuesday as the Portuguese side gave a big boost to their chances of qualifying for the Champions League last 16.

Carlos Mane and Islam Slimani were also on target for Sporting, who won their second game in a row after taking only one point from their opening three matches, while an

own goal by Jefferson kept the Slovenians in the hunt until the last 20 minutes.

Sporting are second in Group G with seven points from five matches, two ahead of Schalke who were thrashed 5-0 at home by Chelsea.

The Portuguese visit Chelsea in their last game where a point will be enough to finish second thanks to their better head-to-head record with Schalke who travel to Maribor.

Maribor, bottom with three points, have been eliminated while Chelsea (11 points) top the group.

Mane stroked home Jefferson's low cross at the far post in the 10th minute to give Sporting a flying start.

Nani doubled the lead 25 minutes later when he collected a pass inside the penalty area, side-stepped his marker, saw his first shot blocked, pounced on the rebound, jinked to the right, put his foot on the ball, side-stepped two markers and fired the ball in.

Jefferson deflected an Ales Mejac cross into his own net just before half-time to bring Maribor back into the match.

Sporting then struggled to regain their rhythm after the game was held up for 45 minutes at half-time by a floodlight failure.

However, they restored their two-goal advantage in the 65th minute when Joao Mario's cross from the right was headed back into the goalmouth by Nani at the far post and Algeria forward Slimani hooked the ball in from close range.—Reuters

Aguero treble keeps Manchester City in contention



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero (L) scores the winning goal past Bayern Munich's Rafinha and Jerome Boateng (R) during their Champions League Group E soccer match in Manchester, on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

MANCHESTER, 26 Nov — Manchester City's Sergio Aguero struck a hat-trick, including two late goals, in a 3-2 victory against 10-man Bayern Munich on Tuesday to keep alive their hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout phase.

Aguero raced through to slot past Manuel Neuer in the 85th and 91st minutes to snatch a stunning win, the Argentine having given City a 21st minute lead with a penalty after Bayern's Mehdi Benatia was shown a red card for bringing him down.

Xabi Alonso and Robert Lewandowski had struck within five minutes of each other shortly be-

fore half-time to put the visitors in front at the break.

City are level on five points with CSKA Moscow and AS Roma, who earlier drew 1-1, and know if they win in Rome and the Russians fail to beat Bayern in the final round of Group E matches they will qualify for the last 16.

"I am very happy it is very important for us. The (group) draw was difficult but we're happy now because this is a very important result and the next game we have to win," Aguero told ITV ahead of their final group match at AS Roma.

City manager Manuel Pellegrini had said any pressure his side were un-

der was self-inflicted but they could do little to prevent Bayern dominating the early possession. Goalkeeper Joe Hart had to be alert in the early stages to deny Sebastian Rode, who raced onto Arjen Robben's clipped pass before the Dutch winger dragged a shot wide.

Moments after Eliquim Mangala produced a crucial block to deny Rafinha, Aguero latched onto a hopeful ball upfield and was felled by last man Benatia as he raced into the box. The Argentine striker steadied himself before coolly dispatching the penalty past Manuel Neuer to put City ahead.

Reuters

Chelsea qualify in style with five-goal romp

GELSENKIRCHEN, (Germany), 26 Nov — Chelsea produced a footballing masterclass to romp to a 5-0 win at Schalke 04 on Tuesday to power into the last 16 of the Champions League and make it a miserable night for former coach Roberto Di Matteo.

Captain John Terry headed in a corner after 78 seconds and Brazil midfielder Willian doubled the lead with a fierce low shot on the half hour. A Jan Kirchhoff own goal in the 44th minute made it 3-0 and second-half goals from substitutes Didier Drogba and Ramires allowed Chelsea

to extend their unbeaten start to the season to 19 games in all competitions.

"It was a fantastic performance from the first to the last minute...5-0 in Germany is not normal," coach Jose Mourinho told reporters. "Any team would have struggled against us tonight with the quality we showed."

Schalke, who hit the woodwork in the first half, had little to offer against a rampant Chelsea as coach Di Matteo lost his first meeting against the team he led to Champions League glory in 2012.

Reuters