

Norway King and Queen to pay official State Visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—At the invitation of U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway will pay an official State visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Mauritania

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2014.—MNA

Myanmar formulating National Transport Master Plan, with assistance of Government of Japan

MANDALAY, 27 Nov—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 20th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in Mandalay on Thursday. He said: In accordance with the ASEAN Vision 2020, the ASEAN Community, is based on three pillars, namely, Political and Security, Economic, and Socio-Cultural pillars. Each of these pillars needs Connectivity. Hence, Connectivity is important for ASEAN, which will play a central role in realising ASEAN's post 2015 vision.

The November 2014 Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, commits to the ASEAN, that is forward-looking, politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and people-centred, that will effectively respond to current and future opportunities and challenges.

Clearly, to achieve such a bold vision, ASEAN must have enhanced connectivity in every sense: not only greater infrastructure connectivity, but also stronger institutional connectivity and greater

people-to-people linkages. We need such connectivity between countries as well as within countries. ASEAN has recognised that importance by adopting and implementing the Master Plan. The continuing work of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee, (ACCC) in facilitating and implementing the Master Plan, is highly appreciated. In this regard, the transport sector included in the development of transport modes, transport systems, and transport related institutions in the region, will undoubtedly, contribute to intra-regional trade and economic growth. It surely will reduce the regional development gaps and strengthen the ASEAN integration.

We would like to welcome the progress, made in the implementation of the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community. The roadmap provides blueprints for ASEAN's three pillars as mentioned. The Political-Security blueprint emphasizes—sharing re-



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with ASEAN Transport Ministers at the opening ceremony of 20th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in Mandalay.—MNA

sponsibility for the comprehensive security, combating transnational crimes, and managing disasters and other regional challenges.

Cooperation in all of these areas requires good connectivity across borders. Furthermore, roads in poor areas, contribute to reducing poverty, narrow-

ing development gaps and improving the well being of communities. Often, the groups who have been left behind in the development process, are those living in remote or mountainous areas, in villages without any road or rail access.

These communities have high rates of poverty,

maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, and low rates of school enrolment and literacy. With regards to connectivity, I would like to highlight some of the opportunities and challenges for Myanmar. Myanmar has unique opportunities regarding its geographic location. It forms a natural

bridge, between the transport and trade networks of China and South East Asia on one hand, and those of South Asia on other hand. This makes us believe that, Myanmar could become a transportation and logistics hub for the region, in the years to come. Currently, (See page 3)

World Bank partner looks at projects in Myanmar's energy, telecommunications, banking sectors

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 Nov—The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, a

member of the World Bank Group, is looking at projects in the energy, telecommunications, and banking sectors in Myanmar, Keiko Honda,

executive vice president and CEO of the agency, told the Global New Light of Myanmar via e-mail.

Ms. Honda said in her

reply to questions the GNLM submitted that the agency is also poised to insure investment that supports small and medium-sized enterprises that provide financing to women.

"The expected number

MIGA head Keiko Honda seen together with Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein during her three-day visit to Myanmar to underscore MIGA's commitment to helping the agency's newest member achieve its growth potential. —PHOTO PROVIDED

of jobs created for women is one of the indicators that the MIGA tracks in all of the projects it insures," said the MIGA chief, who visited Myanmar last month for the first time.

"Myanmar moves carefully forwards in its historic transformation," Ms. Honda said, recounting discussions she had with the government and parliamentarians about the country's development priorities during her visit.

Myanmar became the 180th member of MIGA, the political risk insurance and credit enhancement arm of the World Bank Group, in December last year.

Ms. Honda and government officials agreed that the active participation of the international private sector is crucial to achieving many of the country's de-

velopment goals, especially as they relate to building up infrastructure, according to MIGA.

It added that the MIGA chief held talks with Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein during her visit to the World Bank partner's newest member. During the talks, she noted that MIGA is already in conversations with banks and investors that are considering important projects in the country, and underlined that MIGA's support for Myanmar can help the country achieve better lending terms.

MIGA is a member of the World Bank Group, promoting foreign direct investment into developing countries to help support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives.—GNLM



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw refutes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's claim about bylaw for FIL

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — On Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Thursday, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo rebutted the important motion of Representative Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Mawhmu Constituency urging the Union Government to issue the bylaws, rules and regulations for laws which had been approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in a timely manner so that the laws can be enforced as required for the State.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in her important motion that some foreign companies that were thinking about investing in Myanmar had to

return because of the lack of the bylaw for the Foreign Investment Law and a number of bylaws rules and regulations for other laws that had been approved by the Hluttaw including the Law for Protection of the Rights and Promotion of the Interests of Farmers, the Securities Exchange and Trading Law, the Minimum Salaries and Wages Law and the Media Law were delayed.

The union minister explained that The Foreign Investment Law was enacted on 2 November 2012 and its bylaw were issued with his signature on 31 January 2013, saying that both the law and the bylaw had been published in English and

Myanmar languages and the rules and regulations of the laws had also been published. In conclusion, the union minister added that he would submit the books and documents to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Then, the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that the bylaw of the Foreign Investment Law and the notification dated 31-1-2013 were distributed at the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw on 1-2-2013 and the representatives of the two chambers submitted the amendments of the bylaw and the notification which was approved with amendments on 25-3-2013, adding it is stated in

the Hluttaw record that they were issued by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo also refuted the claim concerning the bylaws for other laws, saying that consultation for the bylaw for the Minimum Salaries and Wages Law and the social security bylaw were held with the ministry concerned on 20-6-2013 and on 20-6-2013 respectively and they were issued by the ministry. The Office of the Attorney-General of the Union held consultations with the ministry concerned for Law for Protection of the Rights and Promotion of the Interests of Farmers on 4-4-2014 and 25-7-2014 and the ministry concerned is trying to issue the bylaw as soon as possible. The

deputy attorney-general said that his office had held consultations for the bylaw for the Securities Exchange and Trading Law with the ministry concerned on 14-8-2014 and the bylaw for the Media Law and the telecommunication number bylaw were received by his office on 21-10-2014 and on 17-10-2014 respectively and measures are being taken to hold consultations with ministries concerned.

He also pointed out that although ministries are trying to issue the required bylaws in a timely manner, they have difficulties due to the needs to draft them in details so that they can be enforced smoothly in accordance with the law, to add tables as required, to coordinate with ministries and departments involved in the bylaws and international organizations of the related international conventions and the inexpe-

rience of the ministries to draft bylaws.

In conclusion, U Tun Tun Oo said that a capacity enhancement workshop for drafting laws is being jointly organized by the Union Attorney-General's Office and the UNDP for 44 staff from 22 ministries from 24 to 28 November and the Union Attorney-General Office and the UNDP conducted a workshop for drafting and interpretation of law from 23-10-2013 to 1-11 2013.

MNA



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Hluttaw Representative of Kawhmu Constituency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Union government allots funds for upgrading livestock breeding sector in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — At Thursday's session of the Pyithu Hluttaw (lower house), U Thein Swe of An Constituency asked whether there is a plan to upgrade livestock breeding tasks in Rakhine State. Deputy Minister for President Office U Aung Thein replied that the Rakhine State government allotted K233.82 million for construction of a sea water prawn hatching camp in the 2014-15 fiscal year in Pauktaw Township and one fresh water prawn hatching camp in Kyauktaw Township. Moreover, the union government funded K20 million for construction of the fish hatching camps in Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and An townships on a manageable scale.

He continued that pedigrees of pig and cow are distributed to local breeders and regiments and units.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department CP Company selected three CP model villages for the setting up of a livestock breeding revolving fund. The state government allotted K128.46 million for upgrading the hatching camps of the Fisheries Department and construction of a new sea water prawn hatching camp in Pauktaw Township in the 2014-15 fiscal year. A fresh water fish hatching camp is under construction in Kakyabet Village, Buthidaung Township, and another one near Thittapon Dam in Kyauktaw Township to be able to export products to neighbouring countries.

U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency asked a question regarding how to submit a report on harm to livelihoods and the environment caused by construction of buildings. Deputy Minis-

ter for Construction U Soe Tint replied that the Ministry of Construction and development affairs committees supervise quality and standards of high-rise housings so as not to harm the environs and prevent pollution under the prescribed rules and regulations.

The construction entrepreneurs need to submit applications attached to environmental impact assessment, social impact assessment and recommendations of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry to the Myanmar Investment Commission. The construction entrepreneurs are to abide by existing orders and directives not to disturb the environment and prevent blockage of roads.

The Hluttaw approved the bill amending the 1954 State Emblem Act in line with the report of the bill committee.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses three bills

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — The 35th day session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

U Soe Rei of Dimawhso Constituency read the report of the Joint Bill Committee on the emergency patient

care and treatment bill sent back by the president with remarks.

Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe read the report of the committee on the Myanmar National Aviation Bill sent back by the president with remarks.

Joint Bill Committee member U Thein Tun submitted the report of the committee on the Inland Water Transport Board Bill sent back by the president with remarks. Afterward the MPs discussed the reports and the Hluttaw approved them.—MNA

Union government considers rising prices for pay raise

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — The Union Government has to consider the impacts of rising commodity prices on the public, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Thursday, saying that the union government has to uphold the interests of about 50 million people instead of that of about 1.4 million

government employees.

The union minister said that his ministry is still in the process estimating the amount that can be paid by the government, rates of increase for various ranks of employees, other benefits and travel allowances, circulation of money, inflation, foreign exchange rate, collection of revenues, budget defi-

cit, sustainable budget and so on.

In conclusion, the union minister said that the government will pay indirect benefits to government employees that can also be enjoyed by the 50 million of the public while the salaries of them will be increased as much as the balanced budget allows.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 36th day

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — The Amyotha Hluttaw (upper house) approved a report submitted by Bill Committee member U Myint Tun for a bill amending the Law on Salary and Allowance for representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region or State Hluttaw, as well as members of Leading Bodies of the Self-Administered Zones and Division, at its session on Thursday.

Controversial points of the bill between the two Hluttaw will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to seek a decision.

The Hluttaw approved the amendment of the Pyithu Hluttaw to the referendum bill to approve the amended constitution 2008 (draft) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Soe Myint submitted a report

on the Myanmar Port Authority bill sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Bill Committee member U Sai Htin Aung submitted a report on the Myanmar Nurses and Midwifery Council bill, and Defence Services Personnel Representative Major Aung Thet Myint discussed it. The speaker decided to review the discussions of Major Aung Thet Myint.—MNA

NATIONAL

Myanmar formulating...

(from page 1)

the quality and quantity aspect of our transport networks and infrastructure need much improvement. Nonetheless, we are committed to upgrading the existing transport infrastructure, and constructing new infrastructure for multimodal transport.

To this end, Myanmar is formulating the National Transport Master Plan, with the assistance of the Government of Japan. This Master Plan includes all transport modes: road, rail, waterways, aviation and maritime transport. With the implementation of our National Transport Master Plan, we intend to improve the life of the people, with a safe, efficient and affordable transport system. Nevertheless, building transport infrastructure, requires not only huge financial resources, but also modern technology to meet health, safety, social and environmental concerns. Here, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) plays an important role in meeting the infrastructure gap. Taking this into consideration, we are facilitating private sector

participation, and developing the ASEAN principles for the PPP Framework.

In order to strengthen ASEAN's competitiveness, and enhance connectivity in the region, the ASEAN leaders reaffirmed their strong commitments, to developing an efficient, secure, sustainable, and integrated transport network, including the completion of:

- the ASEAN Highway Network,
- the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link,
- the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, and
- the ASEAN Single Shipping Market initiatives.

In this regard, I am pleased to learn that, the 38th Senior Transport Official Meeting, also known as STOM, has been successfully concluded. Based on the recommendations of STOM, the ASEAN Transport Ministers will deliberate on three main issues: - adoption of the ASEAN Transport Cooperation Vision from 2016 to 2025, - adoption of the Implementation Framework of ASEAN Single Shipping Market, and - adopting and

signing of the MOU, on the ASEAN Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response.

The theme Myanmar has set for 2014, as the ASEAN Chair is, "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community".

The Ultimate goal of the ASEAN, is to reach a peaceful and prosperous community, and I hope that this 20th ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting, will produce a fruitful outcome that will benefit nationally, and regionally as well.

After the ceremony, the Vice President met ASEAN Transport Ministers at Shwe Pyi Tha Hotel.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also attended the ceremony to donate cash to the fund of Mandalay General Hospital on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint accepted cash donation from wellwishers.

The Vice President viewed digital X-ray machine, CT scan 64 slide and MRI machines. He comforted patients at Ward 3 and met specialists, doctors and nurses.

MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann receives secretary of Russian Security Council



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr Nikolay P Patrushev.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov—The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the delegation led by Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr Nikolay P Patrushev at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Also present at the call were Chairman U Thein Zaw of Pyithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs, Chairman Thura

U Aung Ko of the Judicial, Legal Affairs, Complaints and Appeals Committee, Chairman U Maung Oo of Public Administration Committee, Chairman U Hla Myint Oo of the International Relations Committee, Chairman U T Khun Myat of the Bill Committee, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vasily Pospelov and officials. The discussions focused on cooperation in parliament affairs.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun, Russian Secretary of Security Council discuss prevention of unconventional threats

Vice President U Nyan Tun accepts a book entitled *The Wealth of Russia* from Mr. Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation. MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov—Vice President U Nyan Tun on Thursday met Mr. Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation at the Presidential Palace here to discuss promoting relations between the two nations.

They also discussed

preventing and combating both conventional and unconventional threats to national security.

Also present at the call were deputy ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Commodore Aung Thaw and U Thant Kyaw. Mr. Nikolay Patrushev was accompanied by the

Russian Ambassador to Myanmar.

In the evening, U Nyan Tun enjoyed cultural entertainment program to mark Myanmar's Chairmanship of ASEAN-2014 at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Nikolay P Patrushev, Secretary of Security

Council of the Russian Federation, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They exchanged views on security measures of both countries and

regional issues.

It was also attended by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and officials.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Nikolay P Patrushev, Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation.—MYAWADY



Myeik Township to get 25-bed traditional medicine hospital

MYEIK, 27 Nov — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of a 25-bed traditional medicine hospital was held at the designated plot in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 26 November.

Head of Taninthayi Region Traditional Medicine Department U Soe Myint, Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District U Aung Kyaw Tun and officials drove stakes for construction of the building.

The hospital will be a one-storey building measuring 124 feet long and 64 feet wide. Moreover, a



four-storey staff quarters will also be built. Myeik Public Corporation Ltd is carrying out construction of the buildings, spending K547.664 million funded

by the government.

Khaing Htoo (Myeik District)

Farmers observe thriving paddy plantations on model plot



GANGAW, 27 Nov — Farmland reclamation was carried out on vacant land in Gangaw Township, Magway Region, with the use of heavy machinery. In the 2014 monsoon, Hsinthukha and Yadana Toe paddy strains were grown on 150 acres of land.

The Vietnamese Palethwe paddy strain, and Hsinthukha and Namathale paddy strains are being

cultivated as quality paddy plantations on field No 32 in Taungkhayan Village under the arrangement of the Township Agriculture Department. The Vietnamese Palethwe paddy strain was harvested recently and yielded 208.38 baskets of paddy per acre.

The township agricultural coordination committee and local farmers held a meeting in Taungkhayan

Village for focusing on cultivation of high-yield paddy strains and use of quality paddy species.

District Deputy Commissioner U Maung Maung Zin, Township Administrator U Hla Win Aung and officials viewed thriving Hsinthukha and Yadanator paddy plantations on 30 acres of farmlands of U San Shar of the village.

District IPRD

Children's Hospital gives special care to children with DHF



MANDALAY, 27 Nov — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay comforted child patients at the 550-bed Children's

Hospital in Mandalay.

The deputy minister instructed officials to provide health treatment to children suffering from dengue hem-

orrhagic fever. The hospital admits child patients from various regions and performs surgical operations on the children, said medical superintendent Dr Kyaw Soe. The hospital treated 127 child patients with DHF in July 2013, 147 in August, 354 in September and 521 in October.

The Children's Hospital admitted 2,871 child patients with DHF in 2013 and 1,235 from January to October 2014.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

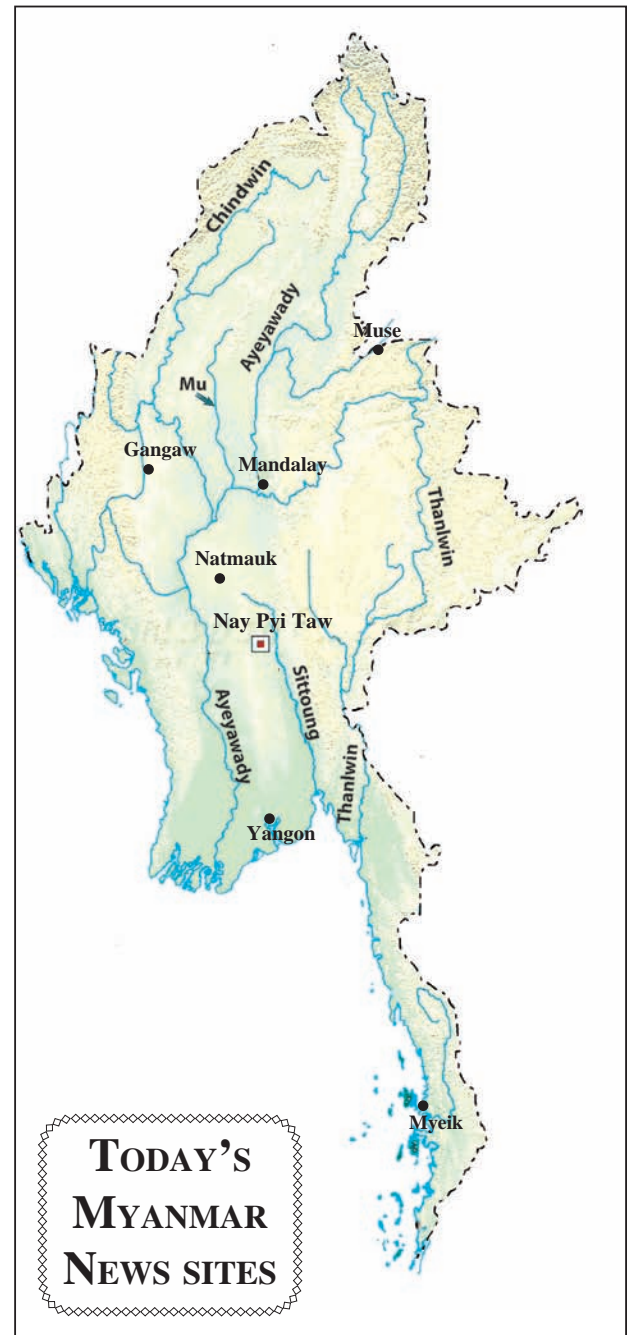
Myanmar Buddhist Culture Propagation Nay Pyi Taw Branch to hold annual meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — The Culture Centre of Myanmar Buddhist Culture Propagation, Nay Pyi Taw, organized a Buddhist culture instructors course in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council.

The Nay Pyi Taw branch turns out instructors of Buddhist culture and opens Dhamma Schools.

On 30 November, the Nay Pyi Taw Branch will hold its annual meeting at Mingala Byuha Sasana Beikman in Pyinmana so as to review its tasks and adopt future tasks.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)



Myanmar journalists visit section of Shanghai-Ruili Expressway

RUILI, 27 Nov — The Upper Myanmar journalists delegation on a visit to China visited the construction site of a tunnel of the Lonlin-Ruili expressway in Ruili, Yunnan Province, on 18 November. They viewed the 134.92 km Paukchan-Ruili road section of the Shanghai-Ruili expressway. They also visited a 2,365-meter-long

tunnel and a 2,310-meter-long tunnel by car.

The Shanghai-Ruili expressway has been under construction since 1984. The 4,000-km expressway will have 10 special bridges, 174 large bridges, 106 medium bridges and 18 small bridges. The construction will be completed in 2015, said an engineer.—Htay Myint Aung



LOCAL NEWS



Defence Ministry prevails in Japan Cup Judo Championship

YANGON, 27 Nov — The final matches of the 10th Japan Cup Judo Championship 2014 took place at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon.

An official of the Japanese Embassy presented the championship trophy to the Ministry of Defence, which secured six gold, eight silver and nine bronze medals.

Hein Yazar Aung won the best sportsman award in the 55-kilo class, and Phyo Shwesin Kyaw, the best sportswoman award in

the 70-kilo class. Chit Min Ko (SPED) won the most progressive sportsman award in the 81-kilo class, and Nweni Pwint Hlaing (SPEI-Yangon), the most progressive sportswoman award in the 57-kilo class.

Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Aung Naing Swe, Vice President of Myanmar Judo Federation U Aye Kyi and officials of the Japanese Embassy presented prizes to the winners.

Saw Thein Win

Cultivation of summer paddy demands supply of irrigated water



acres of summer paddy, according to the Township Agricultural Coordination Committee.

In a meeting between Deputy Township Administrator U Tint Zaw and party and local farmers, Staff Officer of Township Irrigation Department U Moe Hlaing explained the supply of water for cultivation of summer paddy and

its per-acre water demand, and Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Lin, plans to distribute a quality paddy strain for summer. They discussed extended cultivation of cow pea, green gram, sunflower and summer sesame in the farmlands.—*Hla Win (Township IPRD)*

Monsoon paddy harvested on model plot

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — A model plot of Palethwe hybrid paddy was harvested in Mwayyoe-yaungsu field in Mwayyoe-yaungsu Village, Lewe Township, on 26 November.

It yielded 138.47 bas-

kets of paddy per acre. It was attended by Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Lwin, Head of the Township Settlement and Land Record Department U Nyi Nyi Latt, officials and local farmers.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)



NATMAUK, 27 Nov— Natmauk Township of Magway Region could not meet the target acres of monsoon paddy in 2014.

Likewise, local farmers were able to grow 150 acres of summer paddy in the irrigated area of Kyaukdaga Dam due to the storage capacity of water at the dam in the summer although the township has set a plan to grow 2,801

Plan underway to extend Muse Trade Zone three-fold

MUSE, 27 Nov—The Dehong Unity daily in China, citing the Voice Daily from Myanmar, reported that the Muse Trade Zone will be extended three-fold.

The Dehong Unity said that due to work demand, the trade zone area will be expanded by 99 acres, quoting information from the Illegal Trade Control Committee of the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade zone admits over 1,200 cargo trucks and over 400 private cars daily for export and import tasks. These vehicles are checked outside the zone, thus the traffic congestion occurs on the road to the zone.

With the aim of ensur-

ing a smooth flow of commodities, the Muse Trade Zone will be extended under the plan and tenders will be invited to carry out construction tasks, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Htay Myint Maung



Artificial legs, stipends donated to needy persons

MANDALAY, 27 Nov —The Shwe Minn Thar Foundation (Myanmar) and Latter Day Saint Charities held a ceremony to donate artificial legs and stipends at City Hall in Chanayethazan Township on 26 November.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan explained the purpose of the donation at the ceremony.

Country Director of LDSC Mr Larry Sippel explained the donation, and Chairman of Shwe Minn

Thar Foundation (Myanmar) U Myat Thu Win, endeavours of the foundation and future tasks. The region minister and officials donated 94 artificial legs to the disabled and stipends to 28 students.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Thai election pushed back to 2016: deputy PM

BANGKOK, 27 Nov — A Thai general election planned for next year will be delayed until 2016, a deputy prime minister said on Thursday, pushing back the promised return to democracy. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who led a military coup in May, had previously hinted at a delay to polls promised for late 2015.

Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, who is also defence minister, said elections will take place in 2016, citing groups opposed to the junta, or National Council for Peace and Order, as it is formally known, as one reason for the delay.

“We will be able to organize elections around the start of 2016 once the constitution is drafted,” Prawit told reporters.

“Right now there are elements opposed to the National Council for Peace and Order.”

Prayuth has outlined a year of reforms that are partly aimed at ending the political influence of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The army has said the May coup was necessary to avoid further bloodshed after months of sometimes violent protests that helped oust Thaksin’s sister, former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The military scrapped the constitution shortly after it took power and has appointed a committee to draft a new one. Last week, the government said martial law, which the army imposed days before it took power, will not be lifted for the foreseeable future, despite an earlier pledge to lift the law in some provinces to help the tourism sector which has struggled since the coup.

Thailand plunged into political crisis almost a decade ago following the ouster of Thaksin, a former telecoms tycoon who upset the establishment with populist policies that won him

votes in Thailand’s agrarian heartland.

Thailand has been broadly split ever since between his supporters and detractors. Prawit appealed for understanding over the delayed polls.

“We are not asking for much. Just a year to resolve past problems.” The New York-based Human Rights Watch said this week that Thailand had “fallen into an apparently bottomless pit”.

“Six months after the coup, criticism is systematically prosecuted, political activity is banned, media is censored, and dissidents are tried in military courts,” it said.—Reuters



Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha (R) reads out his government’s policy, as Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan listens, at the Parliament in Bangkok on 12 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS



China and India hold anti-terror military drill in India on 24 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

Laos seeks Ebola preparedness boost

VIENTIANE, 27 Nov—Lao authorities are working to boost preparedness measures to detect and prevent the spread of the Ebola virus in the country, state-run media *Vientiane Times* reported on Thursday.

No cases of the contagion, which emerged in West Africa, have been identified in Laos or the wider region as yet.

The measures came following a notice issued by the Government Office in response to guidance of Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong and Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for social and cultural affairs and

Minister of Education, Dr Phankham Viphavanh.

The notice called authorities in the capital and provinces to be alert and educate themselves about the virus and its potential to spread and to keep abreast of reports from relevant agencies and via trusted local and foreign news media organizations.

The authorities were aiming to circulate up-to-date information so that the public could respond to any threats in a clear and rational manner, reports said. Minister of Health Professor Dr Eksavang Vongvichit said suspected cases of Ebola infection would be tested at hospi-

tals in conjunction with the surveillance team at the Vientiane-based Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology.

The centre will work with the city’s Pasteur Institute to test samples at a secure laboratory with test results to be known five to seven hours after arriving for analysis.

Some 15,935 cases Ebola cases have been reported in eight countries since the outbreak began, resulting in 5,689 reported deaths mostly in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, according to figures issued by the World Health Organization on Thursday.

Xinhua

Vietnam to welcome over 7.2 mln foreign arrivals in 11 months

HANOI, 27 Nov — Vietnam is expected to welcome some 7.217 million person-times of foreign tourists in the first 11 months of 2014, said Vietnam’s General Statistics Office (GSO) on Thursday.

According to a monthly statistical information report posted on the GSO’s website on Thursday, some 4.363 million foreign visitors are expected to travel to Vietnam for resort, holiday, up 3.9 percent year-on-year.

The numbers of those who come to Vietnam for business and visiting relatives are 1.21 million person-times and 1.237

million person-times, up 5.7 percent and 8.6 percent year-on-year, respectively.

Among international arrivals during 11-month period, around 5.7 million travel to Vietnam by air, up 5.3 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, the figures of visitors who travel by sea and by road stay at 46,300 person-times and 1.47 million person-times, respectively.

During January-November period, Vietnamese tourism witnesses growth in major markets including China (with 1.813 million person-times, up 5.1 percent year-on-year), South Korea (764,800

person-times and up 12 percent), Japan (591,700 person-times and up 6.9 percent), the United States (406,800 person-times and up 2.6 percent), Cambodia (366,700 person-times and up 18.2 percent), respectively, according to GSO.

At the same time, the country sees decrease in numbers of foreign visitors from several markets including China’s Taiwan (358,900 person-times, down 2.1 percent year-on-year), Malaysia (293,100 person-times and down 1.2 percent) and Thailand (226,100 person-times and down 6.5 percent) among others.—Xinhua

Snow-capped Mt Fuji in back of Tokyo skyscrapers



Photo taken from Bunkyo Ward in central Tokyo shows Mt Fuji, Japan’s tallest mountain, covered with a layer of snow, seen in the back of skyscrapers towering over Tokyo’s Shinjuku district in the morning on 27 Nov, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Russia supports practice of local truces in Syria — Lavrov

SOCI, 27 Nov — Russia supports the efforts of UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura to spread the practice of local truces, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday after talks with his Syrian counterpart Walid Muallem.

“Success in this sphere would make it possible to avoid new casualties and return thousands of civilians to normal life,” Lavrov said. “We are working on creating conditions to resume the political process. We need to draw lessons from the previous attempts’ failures, including the conference in Montreux. We have confirmed our readiness to provide the

Moscow site for contacts between the Syrian government and a wide range of [Syria’s] public and political forces,” he said.

According to UN statistics, fighting between Syrian government troops and militants has killed more than 100,000 people and displaced millions since its start in 2011.

An international peace conference on Syria, dubbed Geneva-2, organized by Russia and the United States and designed to negotiate a solution to the Syrian crisis, kicked off on 22 January in Montreux, Switzerland. Its first two rounds in January and February 2014 brought no particular progress. The



Sergey Lavrov (right) and Walid Muallem.—ITAR-TASS

parties to the Syrian conflict agreed to continue

their discussions.

“During the talks, we

have voiced support of the activity carried out by

the UN secretary general’s special envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura. The efforts include mobilization of international assistance to the political settlement in Syria, the last word in which should belong to Syrians themselves on the basis of their mutual consent,” Lavrov said.

“Russia and Syria positively assess de Mistura’s actions to move toward the settlement via the so-called ‘local freezings,’” he said.

“We actively support that initiative. He intends to begin his activities in Aleppo and then move forward,” Lavrov said, adding that he hopes the efforts will help avoid new deaths.

Itar-Tass

Venezuela to charge opposition leader over alleged plot to kill Maduro



Venezuela’s opposition leader Maria Corina Machado (C) gestures next to Lilian Tintori (L), wife of jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, as Machado arrives under a subpoena at a court in Caracas on 16 June, 2014.—REUTERS

CARACAS, 27 Nov — Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado will be charged next

week with involvement in an alleged plot to kill President Nicolas Maduro, the state prosecutor’s office said

on Wednesday.

Ruling Socialist Party leaders in May accused a group of opposition activists including Machado of planning Maduro’s assassination to pave the way for a coup. Opposition critics dismissed the accusation as a charade based on forged documents.

Machado, a former legislator and high-profile adversary of the government, helped spearhead three months of protests earlier this year. She will be formally charged on 3 December, the prosecutor’s office said in a statement. Via her Twitter account, Machado suggested the announcement was in retribution for demanding new leadership at the state elections council.

A representative for Machado said she was not immediately available for further comment. In May, prosecutors called her in to testify as a witness in the case. At the time, she dismissed the Socialist Party’s accusations as “infamy.”

The Socialist Party has frequently made high-profile accusations about opponents without providing strong evidence. Adversaries dismiss such campaigns as political stunts.

Government supporters point out that the opposition in 2002 staged a brief coup against late President Hugo Chavez and launched several national strikes as part of failed efforts to force him from office.—Reuters

Military cooperation important for region’s prosperity



Serbia’s Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic.

BELGRADE, 27 Nov — Serbia’s Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic and Chief of the Hungarian Armed Forces General Staff General Tibor Benko underscored in Belgrade on Wednesday that the regional military cooperation is a significant factor of stability and prosperity in this part of Europe.

Gasic and Benko underlined that the participation in the peacekeeping mission in Cyprus, and practice of holding joint exercises best illustrate how developed the military cooperation between Serbia and Hungary is, and its effect on the good neighbourly relations.

The officials noted that the Serbian and Hungarian soldiers have excellent collaboration on the ground, the Serbian defence ministry published on its website.

Gasic stressed that Serbia highly appreciates Hungary’s support in the EU integration process, and the stand that Serbia is the

central country in the EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and an important factor in that respect.

The high-level meetings between officials of the two countries contribute to even better mutual understanding in the region, Gasic said, thanking for the assistance that Hungary offered to Serbia during and after the May floods.

The chief of the Hungarian Armed Forces General Staff underlined that the strong cooperation is in the interest of both countries.

Benko also said that Hungary will reduce the number of its troops in Afghanistan, and strengthen its presence in Kosovo-Metohija as part of KFOR. Apart from the military exercises and participation in multinational operations, Serbia and Hungary also have intensive cooperation in the field of military aviation and joint training of military observers.—Tanjug

Sweden Democrats say to decide on crucial budget vote on Tuesday

STOCKHOLM, 27 Nov — Unaligned anti-immigration party the Sweden Democrats said it will announce on Tuesday whether it will vote in favour of the centre-right opposition’s budget, a move which would effectively bring down Prime Minister Stefan Lofven’s centre-left minority government.

The Sweden Democrats, an opposition party shunned by other parties in parliament, still holds the balance of power and would if it sided with the centre-right over the budget leave the Nordic country facing a govern-

Sweden’s Prime Minister Stefan Lofven (L), Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist (C) and Sweden’s Supreme Armed Forces Commander Sverker Goranson arrive for a news conference in Stockholm on 14 Nov, 2014. REUTERS



mental crisis and possibly even new elections.

“We will make our decision at our regular parliament group meeting on Tuesday and announce

it immediately afterward,” Sweden Democrats economic spokesperson Oscar Sjostedt told journalists after a meeting in the Riksdag.

Asked if the party remained prepared to bring down the government, Sjostedt said: “We are absolutely ready to do that.”

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 November, 2014

Injustice of society

By Myint Win Thein

In Myanmar, prices are always rising due to various reasons including the inflow of foreign investment, development projects, higher incomes, speculations, export and import business and so on.

For instance, property prices have risen dramatically due to the inflow of foreign investment, development project and speculation on land while prices of some crops rose due to the

export demand and the poor local cannot afford to enjoy the crops, meat, fish, prawn and so on.

These ever-rising prices have always had an impact on the lives of the poor including the unemployed and government and private sector employees at low levels.

They are no longer afford to lead a decent lives. Let alone buying a house of their own, which should be one of their birth right, they have difficulty paying rent for their tiny apartments due to rising property rental prices. Buses become more crowded and taxi fares have risen due to traffic congestions resulting from imported vehicles and poor management of road transport. It is evident that rising prices in every sector hit them hardest.

It is the injustice of the society that the pay raise and the minimum wage for government and

private sector employees at lower levels shoots up commodity prices and causes economic problems in other sectors. In fact, the pay raise and minimum wage for them may be just enough to cover their cost of living. They have not earned enough to cover the cost of living and have been trying to meet both ends for years.

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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.

Now is the time to stop the disease of corruption

By Win Sein

Corruption is defined in the Collins Student Dictionary as "dishonesty and illegal behaviour," whereas Transparency International, the global coalition against corruption, says it is "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It hurts everyone who depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority."

Corruption is universal, affecting all regions of the world and all levels of society. But the impact is

greatest in developing countries. Most of the people of those areas are poor and uneducated, and personal greed is high among their countrymen, leading to the temptation to commit crimes involving easy money. This occurrence is mostly found in young and old people across Asia, Africa and South America. In those countries, bribe money passes hands in various ways involving government officials. This bribe money is called tea-money in Myanmar.

Bribery is sometimes

even carried out in broad daylight in front of all people. It is being carried out knowingly by higher-rank officials sensing that their secret acts will not be found out and busted wide open before everybody's eyes later on, whereby junior officials in the meantime enjoy that commom attitude taken by the top-level officials who later treated this malpractice of secret passing of bribes as a trifle matter of no significance at all. All top-level and lower-level officials fully understand it is wrong

to stir up the still water for fear of starting a round of finger-pointing at each other by all the corrupt officials.

Corruption, if left unchecked, will undermine political, social and economic stability, finally threatening the safety and security of society as a whole. It is like a breeding ground for organized criminal activities, turning lesser criminal groups into larger terrorist groups, aided by the complexity of corrupt officials.

Economic globaliza-

tion and the information technology have brought about and made corruption a borderless crime. The competitive world of international businesses is bound to leave many companies exposed to bribes and fraudulent financial practices, making police investigations difficult and incapable of successfully wiping out corruption.

In order to stop the disease of global corruption, it is necessary to utilize the combined efforts of Transparency International, Interpol and the member countries of the UN, working in unity, drawing on various resources from all participants, to coordinate working meetings between member countries in order to facilitate investigations that cover more jurisdictions, with Corruption Response Teams rapidly deployed to targeted areas. Interpol should offer regional training workshops to investigators and prosecutors, through the Interpol Global Programme and Anti-corruption

tion, Financial Crimes and Asset Recovery.

The complexities of corruption require a multi-sector and cross-border response to work closely with a number of partners to fight corruption globally. Activities include promoting the exchange of information, establishing best practices and providing training to officers around the globe. To set up the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), a framework is invaluable in the fight against corruption and serves as a guide to many initiatives.

Our international partners include, among others

- The World Bank
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
- The US Department of State
- The United Nations Development Programme
- The Basel Institute on Governance

U Win Sein
Former Companies Registrar
The Ministry of Trade

Free surgery performed on patients at Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov—Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt together with Nay Pyi Taw Council members viewed

surgical operations of specialists from Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital and Mount Elizebath Hospital of Singapore at Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw on

Thursday.

The union minister and party observed an operation performed by specialist Dr Goh Yau Hong of Mount Elizebath Hospital and specialist

Dr Myo Htet Kyaw on a thyroid disease patient at the main operation theatre.

He donated cash assistance to patients from the President Office, he Ministry of Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and local people.

Three specialists from Mt Elizebath Hospital and specialists from Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital performed operations on 113 patients on 26 and 27 November free of charge.

The Zabuthiri Foundation covered the treatment and associated costs. The foundation plans to provide free medical treatment to cleft lip and palate patients as well as cardiac, oral and eye patients.

MNA



Union Minister U Thein Nyunt views medical treatment being given by specialists to patient at Zabuthiri Special Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (27-11-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K659,400 per tical: Selling K660,400

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K659,100 per tical: Selling K660,100

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1032: Selling K----

SGD Buying K 790: Selling K805

Euro Buying K1,265: Selling K1,295

Myanmar, China discuss future cooperation in judiciary sector



Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo poses for photo with Chinese delegation from Supreme People's Court.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — A Chinese delegation from the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China on Thursday met Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo at the latter's office here to discuss future plans for cooperation in judiciary sector.

Golf tour kicks off at Zeyathiri Golf Club

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Inwa Bank Ltd Maj-Gen Nyo Saw opened the last leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2014 at Zeyathiri Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. Altogether 142 golfers participate in the golf tour up to 30 November. The golf tour was sponsored by Inwa Bank. *Myawady*

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Mauritania

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2014.—MNA

Danish Embassy opened in Yangon



YANGON, 27 Nov — The Embassy of Denmark in Myanmar was opened on Thursday in Yangon. The opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Mr Mogens Jensen, Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation of Denmark. The embassy is located at No.7, Pyithu Lane, Pyay Road, 7th mile, Mayangon Township, Yangon. The Union Minister and Mr Mogens Jensen formally opened the embassy.

At the meeting, U Tun Tun Oo discussed the role of the Nanning Statement which declared at China-ASEAN Justice Forum 2014 in order to ensure implementation of judicial

master plans between China and ASEAN, clarifying the progress of regional strategic plan for 2015-2017. The main objective of the plan is to promote rules of law in the country.

He also discussed creating a network between Myanmar and Chinese legislative bodies to promote capacity building of judges and share judicial-related issues between them.

The Chinese delegation then met with judges of the Supreme Court of the Union and discussed judiciary system of both countries. After that, they observed a court hearing for cases at there.

In the evening, the delegation attended a dinner hosted by the judges at a Myat Taw Win Hotel here.—MNA



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye speaking at workshop with discussions about data collection on possible risks.—MNA

Workshop on development of Myanmar's legislative sector held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — The Attorney-General of the Union Office and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized a capacity enhancement workshop on development of Myanmar's legislative sector on Thursday here.

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin

clarified the functions and duties of the office including legal vetting service that is difficult to people who have theory training only. Therefore, law officers were provided work-based legislative training opportunities in India and Singapore.

The two-day workshop is expected that participants will gain knowledge on legislative skills, U Tun Tun Oo said.

Mr Toily Kurbauao, Country Director from UNDP, elaborated on the purpose of managing the workshop and the role of legislation that plays an important role in developing and stabilizing of a nation. *MNA*

After the officials report, Chairman of MMCWA and the wife of chief of naval staff of Bangladesh exchanged their gifts and they then visited a clinic at the office.—MNA

Wife of Chief of naval staff of Bangladesh visits MMCWA office

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Mrs Begum Hafiza Akhter Habib, wife of the chief of naval staff of Bangladesh, on Monday visited the office of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) here, where she looked round the documentary photos of the association.

An official from the association made clarification on the objectives, functions and duties of the association and its programmes for development

of maternal and children in the country.

After the officials report, Chairman of MMCWA and the wife of chief of naval staff of Bangladesh exchanged their gifts and they then visited a clinic at the office.—MNA

Four Objectives of the 67th Anniversary Independence Day 2015

- All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- All the national people to live together in the Union forever through weal and woe
- All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine and lasting peace
- All the national people to make great strides in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Workshop on Electoral Risk Management Tool concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — The second day of a workshop, jointly organized by Union Election Commission and International IDEA, on Electoral Risk Management Tool continued at the training hall of the commission on Thursday. UEC Chairman U Tin Aye and members observed the

workshop with discussions about data collection on possible risks in respective regions, identification and classification of problems, developing risk maps with the help of ERM Tool and seeking solution process.

After presenting certificates to 34 trainees, the UEC chairman delivered a closing speech, stressing the need of effective preventive measures against possible electoral risks and cooperation among parties concerned—the commission, sub-commissions, political parties, civil society organizations and security authorities. In meeting with region/state sub-commission chairmen and returning officers who took part in the workshop, the UEC chairman left necessary instructions for holding the upcoming 2015 elections successfully.—MNA

Streets of Ferguson quiet after two nights of racial unrest



Demonstrators take part in a protest to show solidarity with the family of black teenager Michael Brown, outside the American Embassy in London on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

FERGUSON, 27 Nov — The streets of Ferguson, Missouri, were mostly quiet on Wednesday after two nights of racially charged unrest following a US grand jury decision to clear a white policeman over the killing of an unarmed black teenager.

A couple of dozen protesters huddled in the falling snow outside police headquarters in the St Louis suburb, in sharp contrast to the hundreds who took the streets on Monday in a night of arson, looting, sporadic gunfire and clashes with police that ended in more than 60 arrests.

Another 45 protesters were taken into custody in smaller, more isolated bursts of lawlessness that erupted after dark on Tuesday.

The decision of the St. Louis County grand jury to clear officer Darren Wilson of criminal charges in the 9 August slaying of 18-year-old Michael Brown has sparked a wave of demonstrations across the country, culminating in more than 400 arrests.

The case has exposed long-running strains in Ferguson between its predominantly black residents and a white-dominated political and law enforcement establish-

ment while renewing a debate about race relations in the United States as a whole.

Still, with freezing weather hitting much of the nation on the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday, demonstrations around the country dwindled on Wednesday in size and intensity.

Nowhere were waning passions in the street more pronounced than in and around Ferguson itself, where some 2,200 National Guard troops called out by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon were backing up local police.

"The ramped-up presence and action of the Missouri National Guard has been helpful," Nixon said on Wednesday after facing criticism for not deploying enough troops in the immediate hours after the grand jury's decision was announced on Monday evening.

About a half-dozen members of the clergy, wearing orange vests, also milled about on Wednesday night among the protesters, most of whom stood quietly in the snow, as passing motorists occasionally honked their horns in support.

Tensions between police and black Americans have



A protester is dragged across the street as he is arrested in front of the Ferguson Police Department on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS



Protestors damage and flip a police vehicle parked outside of City Hall in Ferguson on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

simmered for decades, with many blacks feeling the US legal system and law enforcement authorities do not treat them fairly.

In Washington, President Barack Obama has tried to keep a lid on the anger. He remained cautious in his comments in the immediate aftermath of the Ferguson shooting, but has been more expansive in recent days including remarks at the White House after the grand jury's decision. On Monday he said deep distrust exists between police and minorities and that "communities of color aren't just making these problems up."

St Louis police said three people were arrested at a protest near City Hall on Wednesday in which activists staged a mock trial of Wilson, who in grand jury testimony and in a subsequent ABC News interview said that he shot Brown because he feared for his life.

A northern suburb of St Louis, Ferguson's 21,000 population is mixed, with 63 percent of the residents African-American and 34 percent white, according to 2010 US Census data. Ferguson's mayor, James Knowles, is white, as are most of its city council members.—Reuters

Russian FM urges active UN investigation into oil purchases from terrorists

SOCHI, 27 Nov — The United Nations Secretariat is not too active in investigating facts of oil purchases from terrorist organizations, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after talks with his Syrian counterpart Walid Muallem on Wednesday.

"We receive information, first of all from Western and regional media, on oil being shipped from terrorists-controlled regions of Syria and Iraq. Unlike some of our partners, we will keep fighting terrorism on the firm basis of international law," Lavrov said.

"That's why we submitted, back in July, a pro-

posal to the UN Security Council to take the problem under control, establish facts and outline solutions on that basis," he said.

"Unfortunately, for the time being, the UN Secretariat is not too active in establishing facts, so a few days ago, in a regular document adopted by the UN Security Council, we raised the issue again and formulated it in a wording, supported by Security Council members, which calls to put an end to purchases of oil from those territories," Lavrov said.

"We will be waiting for a report by the UN secretary general with facts

and proposals of specific measures that might be taken to stop that trade," he continued. "I hope this opinion laid down in the UN Security Council document will be heard in the European Union, because not long ago the EU suspended its embargo on oil purchases from Libya. Libya also has an oil producing area controlled by terrorist groups," Russia's top diplomat concluded.

Russian President Vladimir Putin in a recent interview with TASS said illegal purchases of cheap oil from terrorists in Iraq and Syria are one of the factors that affect the

global oil price.

Fighting between Syrian government troops and militants has left over 100,000 people dead and displaced millions since its start in 2011, according to UN statistics.

The first two rounds of an international peace conference on Syria, dubbed Geneva-2, organized by Russia and the United States and designed to negotiate a solution to the Syrian crisis, brought no particular progress in January and February 2014. The parties to the Syrian conflict agreed to continue their discussions.

Itar-Tass

Ministers from coalition against Islamic State to meet 3 December

BRUSSELS, 27 Nov — Foreign ministers from up to 60 countries forming the US-led coalition against Islamic State militants will hold their first meeting next week in Brussels, US officials said on Wednesday.

The 3 December meeting, chaired by US Secretary of State John Kerry, is expected to review progress in the fight against Islamic State and to discuss how coalition members will coordinate politically in future. The meeting will be held at NATO headquarters but diplomats said NATO was only providing the building and the United States was

organizing and chairing the meeting.

President Barack Obama announced in September he had authorized US air strikes for the first time in Syria and more attacks in Iraq in a broad escalation of a campaign against Islamic State. Australia, Britain, Canada and France have also launched air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have participated in or supported air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria, according to US Central Command.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Toyota recalls more cars for dangerous Takata air bags

TOKYO, 27 Nov — Toyota Motor Corp said on Thursday it would recall 57,000 vehicles globally to replace potentially deadly air bags made by Takata

Corp, in a sign that a safety crisis around the Japanese auto parts maker is far from contained.

Toyota's action follows a recall by rival Hon-

da Motor Co for the same problem two weeks ago after revelations of a fifth death, in Malaysia, linked to Takata's air bag inflator. More than 16 million

vehicles have been recalled worldwide since 2008 over Takata's air bag inflators, which can explode with too much force and spray metal fragments into the car.

Subject to Toyota's recall are some Vitz subcompacts, called Yaris in some markets, and RAV4 crossover models made between December 2002 and March 2004. About 40,000 are in Japan, 6,000 in Europe and the rest in other markets outside North America. Toyota said it was not aware of any injury or death related to the latest recall. Separately, Toyota's small-car subsidiary Daihatsu Motor Co also issued a recall, in Japan, of 27,571 Mira minivehicles produced between December 2002 and May 2003 for the same reason — its first recall involving Takata air bag inflators.

Takata-related recalls are almost certain to balloon after US safety

regulators on Wednesday ordered the company to expand a regional recall of driver-side air bags to cover the entire United States, not just hot and humid areas where the air bag inflators are thought to become more volatile.

Takata has so far resisted expanding the recall, saying that could divert replacement parts away from the high-humidity regions that need them most.

The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has given Takata until Tuesday to issue a nationwide recall, and could fine it up to \$7,000 (4,432 pounds) per vehicle if it doesn't comply. It remains unclear how many more vehicles that would add, but it could be in the millions, affecting five automakers: Ford Motor Co, Honda, Chrysler Group LLC, Mazda Motor Corp and BMW AG.—Reuters



A security guard walks under the logo of Toyota Motor Corp at the company's showroom in Tokyo on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Bangladesh's mobile phone users reach 119 mln in October

DHAKA, 27 Nov — Bangladesh's mobile phone subscribers reach nearly 119 million at the end of October, with about 5 million new users in the first 10 months of this year, official data showed on Thursday.

According to Bangladesh's Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, the total number of cell phone users in the South Asian country of more than 153 million people reached 118.932 million at the end of October.

The total number of Bangladesh's mobile phone subscribers stood at nearly 113.78 million at the end of 2013.—Xinhua

Lung cancer catastrophic problem

VIENNA, 27 Nov — Experts have warned of the great dangers of lung cancer at a Press conference in Vienna on Wednesday, citing the huge global death toll the most fatal form of cancer brings, and urging preventative measures.

Speaking ahead of the Central European Lung Cancer Conference to begin in Vienna on Saturday, the experts said a preventative push-back for smoking, including a general ban in restaurants and pubs, therapy to break addictions, and CT screening examinations for early detection are the most effective means of dealing with the problem.

Lung cancer specialist Robert Pirker from the Vienna General Hospital said the problem is huge worldwide, with 5,000 people dying from it every day, 1.5 million per year, and 500 million expected to die from it this century.

He said smoking is mostly to blame, with 85 percent of sufferers being either smokers or former smokers. The habit kills as many people as if 40 jumbo jets were to crash each day, something he said no government would allow to happen. Alone in Austria, 4,000 people become sick with lung cancer each year, with a small decline in the amount of men developing the cancer, but a strong increase in women. At present 15 percent of patients can be healed, Pirker added.

Fellow specialist Andrea Mohn-Staudner said Austria has made poor efforts toward smoking prevention, in that 40 percent of the population smokes, ranking toward the bottom compared to the rest of Europe. She called the situation "shameful," and joined the other experts present in backing a total ban in restaurants and pubs.—Xinhua



Breast cancer recurrence risk down since 1980s

VANCOUVER, 27 Nov — Rates of breast cancer recurrence fell by half or more between the 1980s and the early 2000s - likely due to improved treatments and increased screenings, according to a new study from Canada.

The analysis of data on Canadian breast cancer patients offers reassurance that breast cancer survival is improving and also provides updated data to researchers, said the study's lead author, Dr Karen Gelmon from the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"It gives some contemporary numbers to people designing trials testing adjuvant treatments," she said.

An earlier study, published in the 1990s and based on data from 1978 to 1988, found that women whose breast cancers fed off the hormone estrogen (so-called estrogen-receptor positive breast cancers) had a consistent risk of the cancer recurring over time. For breast cancers not driven by estrogen, recurrence risk was high for five years after successful treatment, but then dropped below the risk of those with estrogen-receptor (ER)-positive cancers.

In the new study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Gelmon's team compared data



The world's largest awareness ribbon made of flowers is seen from above during the UAE leg of the Avon Walk around the world for Breast Cancer Awareness walkathon in Zaabeel park in Dubai on 16 Nov, 2007.—REUTERS

on 7,178 women treated for early to moderately-advanced breast cancer during two different periods: 1986 to 1992, and 2004 to 2008. The researchers matched the cancer characteristics of each patient from the first period to a patient from the second period, including estrogen-receptor status as well as the presence of another protein on cancer cells, HER2.

The HER2 molecule helps drive cancer-cell growth. Tumours with HER2 tend to be more aggressive than HER2-negative ones, the researchers note.

Starting in the 1990s, drugs targeting molecules

on cancer cells like HER2 became available. Together with improved early detection of less-advanced cancers, which gives such drugs a better chance of working, the targeted therapies have been credited with improving overall cancer survival.

In the new study, the overall risk of breast cancer recurrence for women in the later group was about 50 percent lower than for women in the earlier group, for each year after being cancer-free.

Like the 1990s study, the new analysis found a high risk of recurrence within the first five years among women with can-

cers that were not driven by estrogen. Among women treated in the 2000s, that early increased risk was less dramatic, however.

Specifically, the risk of recurrence after one year was about 11 percent among women from the earlier period with cancers not driven by estrogen, compared to about a 6 percent risk among women with the same type of cancer in the later period.

"It showed we were doing better, but the peaks are still there," Gelmon said. The researchers also found that HER2-positive cancers saw some of the greatest reductions in recurrence risk.—Reuters

Russian Marine troops being rearmed — commander

MOSCOW, 27 Nov — Marines of the Russian Black Sea Fleet will receive modern equipment and weaponry to ensure stability in the southern region, the commander of the Russian Navy's coastal troops said.

Gen Alexander Kolpachenko told reporters that Russia's Marines are being rearmed and receive more new equipment and vehicles.

"New BTR-82A armoured personnel carriers are provided for the troops, and the Baltic Fleet has received them. The Black Sea Fleet has replaced BMP-2s with BTR-80s," he said.

Recently it was difficult to re-equip and re-arm the Black Sea Marines, but now it is possible, and it will be carried out to ensure stability in the southern areas. There will be no unbalance, Kolpachenko said, adding that the marines and coastal troops of the Black Sea receive modernized

missile artillery weapons, including modern howitzers.

New Kamaz and Ural vehicles are also provided for the troops. Seventy to ninety percent of all their vehicles have already been replaced with new ones, the general said.

The troops also receive new models of firearms and equipment, including unique Korsar bullet-proof vests, he added.

New amphibious combat vehicle to be created for Russian marines by 2050.

A new amphibious combat vehicle for Russia's Marine Infantry will be created by 2050, commander of the Coastal Defence Forces, Major-General Alexander Kolpachenko said on Thursday.

"The Russian Marine Infantry develops with other components of the Navy. The long-term development allows us to build our forces thoughtfully. For example, we're planning

to create a high mobility amphibious combat vehicle for operating in any regions and in any weather conditions, including in the

Arctic area," he said. "The Marine Infantry is mobile, well-equipped and trained for operations in amphibious assaults. The Marine

demonstrates its skills in exercises and marches to ensure Russia's national interests in all oceanic theaters of military operations,"

Kolpachenko said.

The Russian Marines mark the 309th anniversary on 27 November.

Itar-Tass



The Russian Marines mark the 309th anniversary on 27 Nov, 2014.—ITAR-TASS

Japanese reporter pleads not guilty of defaming S Korean president



Tatsuya Kato, former chief of the Seoul bureau of the Japanese mass-circulation daily Sankei Shimbun, appears at the Seoul Central District Court in the South Korean capital on 27 Nov, 2014, for the first preliminary hearing on charges of defaming South Korean President Park Geun Hye in an article about her whereabouts during the deadly ferry disaster in April. Kato pleaded not guilty at the hearing.—KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 27 Nov — A Japanese reporter indicted on charges of defaming South Korean President Park Geun-hye in an article about her whereabouts during April's deadly ferry disaster pleaded not guilty at a preliminary hearing on Thursday at the Seoul Central District Court.

Prosecutors indicted Tatsuya Kato, the former Seoul bureau chief of Japan's Sankei Shimbun, last month over the ar-

ticle published online 3 August, in which he suggested she was not at her office for seven hours on 16 April, the day the *Sewol* ferry sank with the loss of 300 lives, possibly because she was engaged in a secret rendezvous with a recently divorced former aide.

"The article (I wrote) was to let the Japanese people know about South Koreans' view on President Park," Kato said at the hearing. "It was not intended at all to personally vilify President Park," he said.

Kato has been transferred to the main office in Tokyo as of 1 October, but a travel ban South Korean prosecutors imposed on him in August has prevented him from leaving.

A defence lawyer for Kato said, "It is questionable whether a report on a relationship between a single man and a single woman constitutes defamation."

"The report has been filed to let the Japanese people better understand in a concrete way President Park's approval rating was falling," lawyer Ahn Seung Min said.

Park and her government have come under a storm of public criticism for the initial bungling of rescue and search operations into the sunken ship.

The next hearing will be held 15 December.

In his article, Kato cited hearsay among stockbrokers and quoted from the Chosun Ilbo, a major South Korean newspaper that first reported the rumor but has not similarly been charged with defamation. A conservative South Korean civic group filed a defamation suit against the Sankei bureau 9 August over the article, prompting the prosecutors to open an investigation.—*Kyodo News*

Japanese handmade paper added to UNESCO intangible heritage list

TOKYO, 27 Nov — Japanese traditional handmade paper called "washi" was added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list on Wednesday, a move expected to help Japan publicize its culture overseas and encourage such crafts to be inherited in the country.

The registered products are Hosokawashi, Honminoshi and Sekishubanshi from Saitama, Gifu and Shimane prefectures, respectively, where craftspeople are preserving the traditional techniques to make paper by hand, using only mulberry fiber as the material to make washi.

The Japanese government decided in March last year to seek registration of the three products all together, after Honminoshi was rejected as an intangible cultural heritage because it was similar to Sekishubanshi, which had already been put on the UNESCO list earlier.

The government's proposal was formally approved by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Committee during a meeting in Paris, according to information received early Thursday by Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs.

The move came after a preliminary review panel recommended 28 October that UNESCO should add washi to the list, saying traditional knowledge, skills and work processes are being transmitted from generation to generation in the three areas.

Japan has so far won 22 Intangible Cultural Heritage registrations, including on "washoku" traditional Japanese cuisine. The overall number will not change despite the latest development because the heritage status for Sekishubanshi, given in 2009, will be taken over by washi.

Kyodo News

Thai court sentences five to death in war-torn south

BANGKOK, 27 Nov — A Thai court sentenced to death five suspected Muslim separatists convicted of killing four soldiers, prompting Human Rights Watch to accuse the government of applying "double standards" in the turbulent south.

Thailand is predominantly Buddhist but parts of the south, in particular the three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, are majority Muslim.

A low-level insurgency in the region has claimed more than 6,000 lives since 2004 following the resurgence of a dormant Muslim separatist movement.

The Pattani Provincial Court sen-

tenced the five men to death after finding them guilty of killing four soldiers who were on patrol and seriously wounding two others in a roadside shooting in Pattani in 2012. Sunai Phasuk, a senior researcher on Thailand at Human Rights Watch, said the sentence drew attention to double standards in the state's law enforcement.

"Ten years on and there has been no successful prosecution of Thai security forces who may be guilty of rights violations," said Sunai. "Violence does not come from the separatists alone. The security forces have their own share of responsibility."—*Reuters*

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M6.8 quake strikes
off Indonesia's
Maluku Islands

JAKARTA, 27 Nov — A magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck off the coast of the Maluku Islands in eastern Indonesia on Wednesday night, the US Geological Survey said.

There are no reports of injuries, according to Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency. No tsunami alert has

been issued.

The 10:33 pm quake was traced to 160 kilometers northwest of Ternate in North Maluku Province at a depth of 41.1 kilometres. A magnitude-7.1 quake hit the same area on 15 November, triggering minor tidal waves that reached nearby islands.

Kyodo News

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	2014-2015		
	Closing Date & Time	-8.1.2015 (Thursday) (12:30)Hour.	

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 24.11.2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon, Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994.

Beijing subway, bus fares
to go up

Passengers, seen through glass, line up and wait for a security check during morning rush hour at Tiantongyuan North Station in Beijing on 27 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 27 Nov — Beijing will raise subway and bus fares in December as part of a drive to reduce price subsidies and curb congestion on the public transport system in the Chinese capital, state media said on Thursday, sparking anger among the public.

The *China Daily* newspaper said last month that subway travel would account for 5.4 percent of the average per-capita disposable monthly income of Beijing residents, up from the current 2.6 percent if the anticipated fare hike was adopted.

The price of a sub-

way ticket will be raised to a starting fare of 3 yuan (\$0.49) from 2 yuan for trips within 6 km (4 miles), state news agency *Xinhua* said. Bus fares will be raised to 2 yuan within 10 km (6 miles). Both the subway and bus systems will also adopt distance-based pricing. Many Beijing residents expressed their anger on Weibo, China's version of Twitter. "There are always traffic jams when taking the bus and the subways are so crowded. You still have the nerve to increase prices?" said a Chinese Internet user. The new fares, which had been flagged by

the government since last year, mark the first time in seven years that Beijing will raise subway fares. The changes go into effect on 28 December.

Despite the fare increase, the Beijing government will still finance 50 percent of subway operation costs and 62 percent of bus operation costs, *Xinhua* had said previously.

The Beijing government has provided a total of 95.8 billion yuan for the public transportation system from 2007 to 2013. The subsidy has increased by 19 percent annually for the past seven years, according to the state-run *Global Times* newspaper.

Reuters

Cleveland video shows police
shot boy within seconds

Tamir E Rice, 12, is seen allegedly pointing a pellet gun at the Cudell Recreation Centre in Cleveland, Ohio, in this still image from video released by the Cleveland Police Department on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

CLEVELAND, 27 Nov — Cleveland officials on Wednesday released a video of the fatal police shooting of a 12-year-old boy that shows him pointing a pellet gun around a park before police arrive and shoot him within two seconds. Tamir E Rice was shot by a patrol officer on Saturday after a 911 call reported someone pointing a gun at people at the Cudell Recreation Centre.

The caller said the gun could be a fake.

The video shows the boy walking and pointing the gun in different directions before entering a gazebo. A patrol car with two officers pulls up to the gazebo. The first to get out, identified by a city official as Timothy Loehmann, 26, shoots almost immediately.

In a news conference broadcast by NBC, Cleveland Police Deputy Chief

Ed Tomba said the time between the car pulling up and Rice being shot was 1.5 to 2 seconds.

There is no audio on the video, but the officers said they told Rice to raise his hands three times before he was shot, police said. He died on Sunday.

Asked why the car pulled up so close, Tomba said "That's a legitimate question," which is part of the investigation.—*Reuters*

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28th November, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Tanintharyi Regions, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini doesn't want to sign child stars for her record label



Singer Cheryl

LONDON, 27 Nov — Singer Cheryl says she will not sign child stars to her record label because there is too much pressure on them to succeed. The 31-year-old 'Only Human' hitmaker plans to only tie up deals for singers, who are 'over 18' so she can nurture their talent and make sure they are ready for the competitive nature of the music industry, reported the *Daily Mirror*.

Cheryl added fears acts any younger than 18 may crumble under the demands of showbusiness. "It's too much pressure. They would have to be over 18. But I would develop them while they're in school. Look around at the child stars — the record's not exactly promising."

The singer cannot wait to get started on her record label because she loves nurturing talent in her role as a judge on 'The X Factor'. "I would nurture the artist before they put anything out there. I would ensure my girls do a preparation course. I love the aspect of 'X Factor' where I'm nurturing talent. Watching the sparkle in someone else's eye and remembering you having that dream, it's such a buzz," she added.—PTI

James Bond swaps Aston Martin for Fiat in new film

LONDON, 27 Nov — Aston Martin-loving spy James Bond has swapped his beloved luxury car for a Fiat 500 in the new 007 movie. The unnamed film will feature Daniel Craig as the British secret agent for a fourth time after his exploits in 'Casino Royale', 'Quantum of Solace' and 'Skyfall', reported *Daily Express*.

Bond will reportedly drive the Fiat during a high-speed car chase through the street of Rome, with scenes due to be shot in February and March next year. But the Italian vehicle will apparently end up being crushed near the Vatican. His Aston Martin DB5 came to an unfortunate end in 'Skyfall', where it was blown up in the climax to the film.

Cars have played a prominent part in the Bond movies, with the DB5 making a number of appearances. It featured for the first time in the third 007 film, 'Goldfinger' (1964) when Sean Connery was Bond — and a DB5 was also in Craig's first outing in 'Casino Royale'.

Rome will host three key action scenes for the new movie, including night-time chases, with one car ending up in the Tibur River. Bond will parachute from a helicopter onto Ponte Sisto, a 15th-century pedestrian bridge. There will also be scenes shot outside of Rome — in the



Daniel Craig

Royal Palace of Caserta, known as the Versailles of Italy, in Campania.

The 24th installment of the Bond franchise is reportedly set to start shooting at Pinewood Shepperton studios in the next few weeks and there will also be filming in Morocco. The new movie, directed by Sam Mendes who was also at the helm for 'Skyfall', is expected to hit cinemas late next year.

PTI

Liam Hemsworth is toughening me up: Jennifer Lawrence



Jennifer Lawrence on Liam Hemsworth: He's the most wonderful, lovable, family-oriented, sweet, hilarious, amazing guy.—PTI

LONDON, 27 Nov — friend as he encourages her to stand up for herself. The Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence says she is glad to have actor Liam Hemsworth as her best

friend as he encourages her to stand up for herself. The 24-year-old actress said she was surprised to find a lasting friendship with her

'The Hunger Games' co-star, reported Contactmusic. "I guess the thing that surprised me is that I would never expect to ever have a man this good looking ever be my best friend. I just would never assume those things could happen, but he is. He's (Hemsworth) the most wonderful, lovable, family-oriented, sweet, hilarious, amazing guy."

"He actually taught me how to be fair and to stand up for myself. It's my biggest weakness: negotiating. I'm a wimp about standing up for myself and Liam is always fair. He's always on

time, he's always doing his job, and he's good about making sure that things stay fair. He's teaching me to toughen up a little bit. That was important, I need that."

Lawrence said the job changed her life because she has walked away with two very good friends in Hemsworth and their co-star Josh Hutcherson. "If all I had was this friendship with Josh and Liam — if that's all I ever got from this — I would consider it a blessing. Our lives changed together and we had each other."—PTI

One Direction makes Billboard history, knocks Swift from No 1

LOS ANGELES, 27 Nov — British boy band One Direction became the only group to score four consecutive No 1 debuts on the US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, ousting Taylor Swift from her chart-topping reign.

One Direction's latest album, "Four", sold 387,000 copies in its first week, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan. It follows the band's three previous albums, 2011's "Up All Night," 2012's "Take Me Home" and 2013's "Midnight Memories," all of which opened at No 1 on the Billboard chart.

Sales of "Four" may have been boosted after One Direction won three times at Sunday's televised American Music Awards, including the

night's top place for artist of the year. The group also performed new song "Night Changes" at the ceremony.

The band also made history on music streaming platform Spotify by scoring the most first-week streams after "Four" was streamed 11.6 million times in the United States and 30 million times worldwide. The news comes after Swift made a highly publicized move to take her music catalogue off the popular service.

Swift's "1989" dropped to No 2 this week with 214,000 sales. The album became the biggest debut of the year after opening with 1.3 million copies, and held the top spot on the Billboard 200 chart for three consecutive weeks.

"1989" has sold more



One Direction accepts the award for favourite pop/rock band duo or group during the 42nd American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California on 23 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

than 2.2 million copies, the second-biggest selling album of 2014, behind

only Disney's "Frozen" soundtrack with 3.6 million copies.

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week include

Canadian rockers Nickelback at No 4 with "No Fixed Address" and metal group In This Moment at No 8 with "Black Widow."

For the week ended 23 November, Billboard said a total of 5.5 million albums were sold, up 4 percent from the comparable week in 2013. Year-to-date sales rounded out at 215 million, down 12 percent from the same period last year.

This is the last week Nielsen SoundScan will compile the Billboard 200 album chart from sales figures alone. From next week, the album chart will reflect online streaming and digital track sales to accurately reflect which records were most in demand.

Reuters

Fifty years later, American skating team claims Olympics bronze

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov — Fifty years after Vivian Joseph and Ronald Joseph skated at the Innsbruck Olympics, the American pair on Tuesday officially claimed the bronze medal.

Two years after the 1964 Games, the International Olympic Committee had awarded the Joseph siblings the bronze medal

after disclosing that the West German pairs team had violated their amateur status by signing a professional contract.

Canadians Debbi Wilkes and Guy Revell moved up one spot to the silver medal, while the Josephs, who had finished fourth in the competition, claimed bronze. But in 1987, the

IOC said Germans Marika Kilius and Hans-Jürgen Bäumler were “rehabilitated” and quietly re-awarded their silver medals.

The IOC never explained the medal consequences of its decision.

On Tuesday, the IOC announced that the Germans and Canadians are each silver-medal winners,

while the Americans are the bronze medalists in the pairs event. “An Olympic medal is the ultimate sports symbol of hard work, sacrifice and the perseverance of athletes, parents and coaches,” Vivian and Ronald Joseph said in a statement.

“We are happy the issue of our medal has finally been resolved.”—Reuters

Rare white lion cub born at Omaha zoo

OMAHA, (Nebraska), 27 Nov — A rare white lion cub has been born at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, zoo officials said on Wednesday.

The male cub was one of two males and one female born on 21 November. All three cubs are on display at the zoo with their mother, Ahadi, and aunt, Mfisha.

Zoo director Dennis Pate said the cub is not an albino — instead, a rare recessive gene causes the white coat. White lions originate from Timbavati, an area in Kruger National Park in South Africa.

“These weren’t intentionally bred to produce a white lion - it’s just that



A rare white lion cub (C) is seen in a handout picture released by the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha, Nebraska, on 26 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

this male and female each had this rare gene,” Pate told Reuters. “It’s a circumstance that came together to produce this little guy.”

Pate said a couple of tribes from the Timbavati region believe white lions are the spirits of their ancestors.

The first-time mother is six years old and weighs 335 pounds (152 kg), the zoo said. The father, Mr Big, is 15 years old, weighs 560 pounds (250 kg) and is currently separated from the females and cubs.

Pate said it is doubtful that the cubs’ mother and her sister would allow the male to be with them.

“They’re so protective of those cubs right now,” Pate said. “If one gets up, the other goes to sit with the cubs.”

Pate said four other US zoos have white lions — Toledo, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and the Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro, Massachusetts. — Reuters

Latin American art auctions set record-high sales for 31 artists

NEW YORK, 27 Nov — Blistering sales this week of Latin American art set auction records for 31 artists spanning three centuries, ranging from creators in the Spanish colonial period to living artists like Colombia’s Fernando Botero.

In New York on Monday and Tuesday, Sotheby’s sold \$33.9 million worth of art, a record high for works from the region at auction, and Christie’s

sold \$24.3 million. “Our November sale series has been a glorious celebration of Latin American art,” said Alex Stein, Sotheby’s Latin American art chief.

“We have seen the international collecting community flock to own works by the giants of our category such as (Rufino) Tamayo, (Remedios) Varo, (Leonora) Carrington, and Botero, as well as emerging artists.”

Varo’s 1960 “Hacia la Torre” (Toward the Tower) fetched \$4.3 million, topping the Sotheby’s sale and establishing a record for the artist. Close behind was Tamayo’s 1987 “Ofrenda de Frutas” (Fruit Offering), which went for \$4.2 million.

Painted in the final years of the late Mexican artists’ lives, each work evokes childhood themes.

“Hacia La Torre” recalls Varo’s education in a

Roman Catholic convent, depicting robed schoolgirls following a nun out of a forbidding 12-towered building.

Tamayo’s work focuses on a beaming boy who displays a smile-shaped sheet holding an abundance of fruit in golden hues, an echo of Tamayo’s experience as a child helping his aunt sell tropical fruit in a Mexico City market.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(28-11-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:40 am

* Song & Dance of National Races

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* Hyper Sport

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:35 am

* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

* News / International News

9:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:45 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

11:40 pm

* Myanmar Series

12:00 noon

* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

* Hluttaw Image

12:45 pm

* Myanmar Movie

3:00 pm

* News

3:15 pm

* Myanmar Movie

4:00 pm

* News/ Weather Report

4:30 pm

* Hyper Sports

5:15 pm

* TV Drama Series

6:20 pm

* Documentary

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* Hluttaw Image Socio Economic Scenes

* Hyper Sports

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(28-11-14 07:00 am~ 29-11-14 07:00 am) MST

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Mystery of Alexander the Great-era tomb holds Greeks in thrall



A girl takes a picture of a marble lion statue located near the site of an archaeological excavation, at the town of Amphipolis, in northern Greece on 22 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

ATHENS, 27 Nov — Greek archaeologist Katerina Peristeri dug in obscurity for years before unearthing a marble tomb from the time of Alexander the Great — a find that has brought her instant fame.

In a land with one of the world’s richest cultural heritages, archaeologists rarely receive much public notice. Yet Peristeri has become the face of the Amphipolis crypt, a 2,300-year-old sepulcher beneath the sandy hills of northern Greece. She has received three Greek awards in the past month alone. “I’m just a simple

archaeologist, doing my duty,” she beamed at one prize ceremony. At another, she joined a choir in a rousing ode to Alexander’s homeland.

The tomb may be the last resting place of Alexander’s wife Roxane, his mother Olympias, or one of his generals, according to competing theories. But the speculation is not the only thing fuelling Peristeri’s popularity. After six years of economic crisis, political turmoil and a humiliating international bailout, Greeks are desperate for heroes and Prime Minister Antonis Sa-

maras’s government is eager for some good news.

“It revives Greeks’ hopes that despite their big struggle to survive there is a ‘holy grail’ that will reconnect them to a period of glory and power,” said Christos Kechagias, a sociologist who teaches at the University of Athens. “In times of crisis, people have the chance to redefine their identity.” The popular television programme “Anatropi”, normally a political talk-show, has twice devoted its entire two-hour segment to the excavation. In a front-page spread, the

Espresso tabloid suggested the identity of the tomb’s mysterious resident could be divined with methods taken from the novels of Dan Brown. The answer, it said, lay in a painting by Renaissance master Giovanni Antonio Bazzi depicting Alexander’s wedding.

Greek broadcasters have been transfixed by discoveries from the tomb — a pebble mosaic showing the abduction of Persephone; two sculpted “Caryatid” figures; skeletal remains in a limestone grave that are now being analyzed for identification.—Reuters



Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez celebrates with his team mate Kieran Gibbs (L) after scoring a goal against Borussia Dortmund during their Champions League group D soccer match in London on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 27 Nov — Arsenal held their nerve, their lead and their record of reaching the Champions League knockout stages when they beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 on Wednesday to

reach the last 16 for the 15th season in a row.

Three weeks after collapsing to a 3-3 draw with Anderlecht at the Emirates Stadium after holding a 3-0 lead, Arsenal

went ahead in the second minute through Yaya Sanogo and made it 2-0 after 57 minutes through Alexis Sanchez. This time, though, a similar self-inflicted implosion never looked likely.

No collapse this time as Arsenal reach last 16

Arsenal looked far more assured than they have done recently following two successive Premier League defeats and they inflicted a first Champions League defeat on Dortmund, who stay top of the group with a game to play.

Arsenal can still finish top if they win their last match at Galatasaray and Dortmund lose to Anderlecht, who, like Galatasaray are eliminated. Their main objective, though, was to seal a place in the last 16.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, unsurprisingly, was a much happier man than after the Anderlecht collapse.

"Maybe we were defensively better tonight. We are a team that likes to go forward, sometimes we feel we dominate the game and we maybe forget to take precautions to defend. We did that better tonight."

The hosts needed only 73 seconds to take the lead with 21-year-old French striker Sanogo scoring his first goal for the club and the Gunners sealed victory when Sanchez curled in a

wonderful strike from 20 metres.

It was Sanchez's third goal in five Champions League appearances in the competition proper for Arsenal, the same total he managed in 24 games for Barcelona and he has now scored 13 goals in his first 20 matches for the Londoners.

The result completed a treble of victories by English teams over German opposition this week with Chelsea beating Schalke 04 5-0 and Manchester City beating Bayern Munich 3-2 in their group games on Tuesday.

Sanogo, who limped off with a suspected hamstring injury just before the end, scored with a fine goal, converting after a neat one-two with Santi Cazorla, back-heeling the ball to the Spanish midfielder and then running on for the return.

Both teams went for goal throughout an entertaining game with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain going particularly close after 55 minutes when his brilliant lob crashed back off the crossbar.

Reuters

Mandzukic treble sends Atletico into last 16

MADRID, 27 Nov — A fired-up Atletico Madrid swept into the Champions League last 16 with a game to spare when Mario Mandzukic netted a hat-trick in a crushing 4-0 win at home to Olympiakos Piraeus in Group A on Wednesday.

Last season's beaten finalists secured a fourth straight victory since falling 3-2 to the Greek side in their opening game in September and have 12 points from five matches, three ahead of second-placed Juventus, who won 2-0 at Malmo.

After a typically intense start from the Spanish champions, Raul Garcia struck in the ninth minute following a howler from Olympiakos goalkeeper Roberto and another defensive error, this time from Roberto's Spanish compatriot Alberto Botia, let in Mandzukic to tap home seven minutes before the break.

The Croatia forward made it 3-0 in the 62nd minute when he nodded in an Arda Turan cross and he completed his treble with another header from Gabi's free kick three minutes later as Atletico progressed from the group stage of Europe's elite competition in two consecutive seasons for the first time.

Reuters

Ronaldo strike sinks gallant Basel

BASEL, 27 Nov — Cristiano Ronaldo renewed his personal battle with Lionel Messi by scoring his 71st Champions League goal, putting him three behind the Argentine's newly-set re-

cord, in Real Madrid's 1-0 win at FC Basel on Wednesday.

Real, already qualified for the last-16, chalked up their 15th successive win in all competitions although they had to survive

a difficult second half against the Swiss champions who refused to go quietly.

Despite their defeat, Basel, who have six points from five games, can still qualify for the last 16 if they avoid defeat at Liverpool in their final match.

Messi set a Champions League scoring record of 74 goals when he netted a hat-trick in Barcelona's 4-0 win at APOEL Nicosia on Tuesday to surpass the record of 71 he jointly held with former Real Madrid and Schalke 04 striker Raul.

Ronaldo pulled level with Raul's total when he scored from close range after Karim Benzema got to the byline and pulled the ball back in the 35th minute, Real's first genuine chance of the match.

It was the 12th consecutive Champions League away game, including last season's final, in which the Portuguese has scored.

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti said he believed Basel had the

edge over the English Premier League side for the match at Anfield. "They're in better shape than Liverpool at the moment, they are in very good physical condition," he told reporters. "At this moment Basel have a slight advantage."

"They caused us some problems in the second part. We fought hard and that's why we won." Basel lost 5-1 at the Bernabeu but seemed uninhibited as they created a series of chances during the second half.

Shkelzen Gashi fired over from a good position after Fabian Frei threaded the ball through to him and the Albania forward was guilty of a poor finish again when he shot weakly at Kelyor Navas from the edge of the area.

Gashi then sent a looping header over the bar from the edge of the area while Navas did well to save from Breel Embolo as the teenager tried to go around him.

Real were always dangerous though and Gareth Bale fired against the underside of the crossbar before a Ronaldo shot grazed the post.—Reuters



FC Basel's Behrang Safari (L) fights for the ball with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo during their Champions League Group B soccer match at St Jakob-Park stadium in Basel on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Misfiring Liverpool stumble as Ludogorets earn draw

SOFIA, 27 Nov — A late header from defender Georgi Terziev earned Ludogorets a 2-2 Champions League draw with an unimpressive Liverpool on Wednesday that left the English side facing a winner-takes-all final match with FC Basel.

Ludogorets went ahead in the third minute when Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet failed to deal with an awkward bounce following Marcelinho's long-range effort and Dani Abalo was on hand to tap in from close range.

Liverpool levelled five minutes later when Rickie Lambert netted a header from close range following farcical defending by Romania centre back Cosmin Moti.

Jordan Henderson made it 2-1 eight minutes before the break, making no mistake at the back post from Raheem Sterling's precise

left-wing cross. Yet the home side refused to surrender and Terziev headed home with four minutes remaining.

Liverpool, who were beaten and failed to score in their previous three games in Group B, kept alive their hopes of advancing to the Champions League knockout stage.

The Reds are third in the standings on four points, two behind Basel, and need to beat the Swiss side at Anfield in the final round of Group B matches to secure a last-16 spot.

Ludogorets visit runaway leaders Real Madrid in their final match. Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, under pressure after a poor start to the Premier League season, said the late equaliser did not really change much.

Reuters