

## President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Albanian President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bujar Nishani, President of the Republic of Albania, and His Excellency Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania, which falls on 29 November 2014.

MNA

## Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw holds talks with Danish delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw,

received a Danish delegation led by Mr. Mogens Jensen, Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation of Denmark, at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex, Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Together with the Speaker, U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Economic and Trade Development Committee, U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of International Relations

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ic potential of Myanmar for investment, thereby contributing towards greater trade volume and better understanding of the market demands in Myanmar and Shandong, said Forrest Yang, section chief of Asian Affairs of the China Council for Promotion of International Trade Shandong Sub-Council.

The delegation comprising 27 companies operating plastic and rubber businesses, tire, mining equipment and electrical appliance and electronics

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## Shandong businessmen explore market opportunities in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 Nov—At least 40 businessmen from 27 companies in Shandong

Province in China are exploring market opportunities in Myanmar on a business mission.

The Shandong business delegation took part

in Myanmar-Shandong Investment Promotion Forum and Networking Meeting hosted by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers

of Commerce and Industry (RUMFCCI) in Yangon on Thursday.

The purpose of the mission is to study business opportunities and econom-

## Participants of SSEAYP scheduled to enjoy homestay in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin



Guests from Cruise Nippon Maru under Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme being welcomed by band troupe at Bo Aung Kyaw Port in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

YANGON, 28 Nov—The Nippon Maru, one of Japan's cruise ships, carrying more than 300 students from Japan and ASEAN countries who have been participating in the 41<sup>st</sup> Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP), made

its third port of call to Myanmar on Friday here, with an official saying that the ship is leaving Yangon for Indonesia after three days' stay here.

"The programme is aimed to promote friendship, share knowledge and exchange of culture be-

tween youths from ASEAN countries and Japan," said a member of the programme.

It is believed that the 51-day trip may help them to broaden their perspectives as well as to strengthen their motivation by participating in discussions,

solidarity group activities and various exchange activities both on board and in the countries visited, the official added.

During the visit to Myanmar, those participating students (PYs) are visiting six universities in Yangon (See page 3)

## Japan grants US\$241,710 for two high schools in Ayeyawady Region

YANGON, 28 Nov—On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Col. Takeshi HARA, First Secretary and Defense Attaché of the Embassy of Japan, U Saw Mya Thein, Minister for Electric Power and Industry of Ayeyawady Region, Deputy Director of Region Education Department, District and Township Education Officers, District and Township Administrators, teachers and students, committee chairman and committee members of the projects and local residents at-

tended the hand-over and opening ceremonies of Ah Htet Paykone Village Basic Education Branch High School and Nyaung-gu Village Basic Education High School were held in Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region.

The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totaling US\$241,710 for two humanitarian assistance (See page 2)



Japanese official and local authorities formally at handover ceremony of basic education school building.—GGP



## 11<sup>th</sup> regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—The 11<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw successfully concluded in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday afternoon.

Today's session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record the bills that are to be assumed as approved by the Hluttaw including amendment bills for the laws on emoluments, allowances and insignias of chairmen and executive committee members of self-administered divisions and zones, the chairman and members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and region/state level officials and for budget allocation proposal for the union.

Then, representatives approved the report on findings of the joint bill

committee on amendment bills divided between the two chambers for the laws on emoluments, allowances and insignias of representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and members of leading bodies of self-administered division and zones. Afterwards, the proposal and discussions on the report of the joint bill committee on the bill amending the Myanmar Mining Law were adjourned. Then, the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw explained the selection of a representative for national race group and parliament affairs. The 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw successfully concluded in the afternoon.

MNA

## SWRR Ministry emphasizes care of children, women, the disabled and the aged

### Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—At the 37<sup>th</sup>-day session of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on Friday, Daw Khin Hmwe Lwin of Mingin Constituency asked she would like to know the plan of the ministries concerned to take care of women, older persons, the disabled and treated drug addicts.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe replied that the ministry emphasizes care of children, women, the disabled and the aged. The ministry opens the vocational school for the women, community-based care for the aged, improvement of the life of disabled persons and rehabilitation of the treated drug

addicts in cooperation with local authorities and people across the nation.

U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon Constituency asked a question on farmland registration, permission for procurement of registered farmlands and registration of cultivable lands. In his response, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than said that the ministry gives priority to the registration of farmlands and the issuance of permission certificates to the farmers. The ministry has issued permissions for 8.80 million plots to farmers, accounting for 96.76 percent. Issuance of permissions for remaining farmlands depends on the transport difficulty and

farmland disputes.

Farmland owners are allowed to pawn their farmlands for investment, and officials still discuss designation of banks concerned for pawning farmlands. The cultivable lands on pasture land and on the road will not be allowed for registration. After necessary arrangements for farmlands have been completed, farming rights certificates will be issued to farmers.

The Speaker of the Hluttaw said that a total of 117 asterisk questions and non-asterisk questions were replied in the regular session. Six proposals and four emergency proposals were submitted to the Hluttaw. Twenty bills were sent to Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw session came to an end in the morning.

MNA

## Heavy machinery for road construction in Kayin State handed over

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—A handover of heavy machinery donated by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction took place in Hpa-an on Thursday.

First, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and Japanese Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi extended greetings.

Next, the Japanese ambassador handed over documents related to heavy machinery to Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works.

A total of 63 heavy machinery handed over to the Public Works were donated by JICA for road construction in Kayin State.—MNA

## Japan grants US\$241,710 for...

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programs for construction of Ah Htet Paykone Village Basic Education Branch High School in Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region, US\$120,955 and the project for construction of Nyaunggu Village Basic Education High School in Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region, US\$120,755.

Altogether 1,467 students at Ah Htet Paykone

Village Basic Education Branch High School and 850 students at Nyaunggu Village Basic Education High School in Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region will directly benefit from the improved learning environment including new school buildings with necessary furniture provided by the Japanese Government's GGP scheme.

GNLM

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw attends 11<sup>th</sup> session on Friday.

MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## Amyotha Hluttaw regular session to resume in January 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) approved the Fire Brigade Bill at its 37<sup>th</sup>-day session on Friday.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw said that in the 11<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Hluttaw, union level organization members replied to 153 asterisk questions and 239 non-asterisk questions. The Hluttaw approved six of nine proposals and put two proposals on records.

## Enhancement of administrative structure discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—Mr. Toily Kurbanov, UNDP resident director, on Friday made a call on Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein to explain key findings on administrative structure of regions and states.

The study was conducted by the UNDP in cooperation with the government in region and states.

According to the findings, three committees formed for ensuring development in respective town-

ships have shown more progress in delivering public services that before and it is required to keep conducting capacity building programs including administrative enhancement forum.

He added that the Amyotha Hluttaw approved 10 bills sent by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and three bills submitted by the MPs, sending nine bills to Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House). Twelve bills sent by Pyithu Hluttaw were discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw. Amyotha Hluttaw committees held meetings

There remains one proposal to be decided in coming session. 118 times and commission, 20 times. In the regular session, 14 information papers were compiled for the Hluttaw representatives, and a debate on Public Policy Making and Capacity Building was held at the Hluttaw. The library of the Hluttaw stores 10,530 books.

The 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw will take place in January 2015.—MNA

government will continue its commitment to the works including public consultation process for development projects, establishment of the office for permanent secretary, setting up of office complex in townships, e-government process and enhancement of administrative machinery.—MNA

## Announcement of the Ministry of Information on measures taken to issue rules for the Media Law

Myanmar Press Council (Interim) submitted the Media Bill to the Amyotha Hluttaw through Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw from Yangon Region Constituency-3 U Phone Myint Aung on 19-8-2013 and the bill was approved as law No.12 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 14-3-2013.

After the law was approved, the Ministry of Information consulted with Myanmar Press Council (Interim) to draft rules for the law and the press council submitted the rules for the law (first draft) to the ministry on 28-6-2014. The ministry and the press council negotiated several times for the rules and the union minister for information consulted with members of the press council for the rules for the last time on 20-9-2014. Then, both sides renegotiated and approved the necessary points and the rules were submitted to the Office of Attorney General of the Union for its legal advice and recommendations on 16-10-2014. After advice and recommendations of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union have been received, the rules will be amended as required in accordance with the rules and regulations and will be issued.

The Ministry of Information



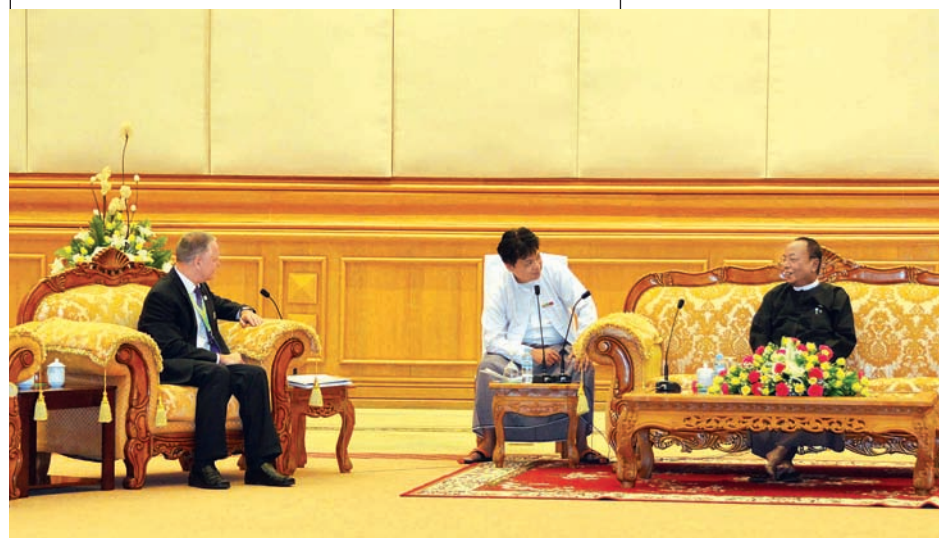
## NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw speaker receives Director of Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network)

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Director David Allan of Myanmar-based Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network) at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The guests donated 2,205 copies of nine genres including the book entitled Parliamentary Ethics and Etiquettes translated by the Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network) into Myanmar language for Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and for the library of the Hluttaw.—MNA

*Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Director David Allan of Myanmar-based Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network).—MNA*



## Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and ...

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Committee, U Htay Myint, Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee, U Win Than, Secretary of Economic and Trade Development Committee, and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Office also attended the meeting.

The delegation was accompanied by Danish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Peter Lysholt Hasen.

Both sides discussed matters related to mutual cooperation and trade relations between the two countries.—MNA



*Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greets Mr Mogens Jensen, Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation of Denmark.—MNA*

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15)

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15) at Melia Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 26 November.

It was also attended by chief of armies of ASEAN countries. They exchanged views on the topic “Enhance the interoperability of ASEAN armies in response to non-traditional challenges.”

Next, they held the information discussion.

Leader of the Vietnamese delegation Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People’s Army Lt-Gen Nguyen

Quoc Khanh handed over the duty to Commander-in-Chief (Army) Gen Udomdej Sitabutr of the Royal Thai Army to host the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-16), the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (25<sup>th</sup> AARM) and the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Sergeant Major Annual Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> AS-MAM) in Thailand.

On 25 November evening, the Vice-Senior General met Commander-in-Chief (Army) Gen Udomdej Sitabutr of the Royal Thai Army, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnamese People’s Army Lt-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Chief of Army Staff of the Philippines Lt-Gen Hernado DCA Iriberri AFP, Chief of Royal Land Forces

of Brunei Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Yusoff Bin Haji Abd Rahman, Vice Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Meas Sophea of Cambodia, Chief of Army Staff of Laos Brigadier General Khamlieng Outhakasone and Chief of Staff (General Staff) Maj-Gen Perry Lim Cheng Yeow of Singapore at Melia Hotel in Hanoi.

They discussed strengthening friendly relations, participation in training and exchange of visits.

The Vice-Senior General and wife attended the dinner hosted by Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People’s Army Lt-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh and wife at the hotel.

Myawady

## Participants of SSEAYP scheduled...

(from page 1)

on Saturday and other significant places including the Shwedagon Pagoda and Bogyoke Market on Sunday.

More than 100 Myanmar families will have an opportunity to take part in the homestay programme, which is a popular form of studying abroad in other countries. A host family can allow three students to stay at its home where the participating youths-PYs will observe the tradition and culture of people in Myanmar.

At the press conference aboard the ship, May Oo Khin, a youth leader of Myanmar team, elaborated on their knowledge about the education systems of countries including Brunei, where the government of Brunei is implementing its peer education programme.

She highlighted that Japan’s education system allows students to attend any university course they choose on a trial basis before they are admitted to university where they can

study their interested majors, urging Myanmar students to study their interested majors that play a vital role in developing the country.

This year’s SSEAYP ports of calls are in Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia. One of the officials of the programme said that the programme will conclude on 17 December.

The government of Japan has carried out the programme since 1974 and Myanmar has joined it since 1998.—GNLM

## Shandong businessmen explore...

(from page 1)

firms are interested to do business with Myanmar partners in the areas of rubber, heavy machinery for mining, logistics and construction, he added.

Chen Guang, vice chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committee of Shandong, pointed out Myanmar would benefit from exporting rubber to Shandong, which imported 170,000

tons of natural rubber for its tire manufacturers. Shandong businessmen see opportunities in investing overseas, he added.

He also suggested a plan to establish an industrial zone of international standards in Yangon in cooperation with Shandong businessmen.

Shandong is one of the richer provinces of China, producing a variety of products and its GDP growth

ranked third in the country in 2011. But, the trade volume between Myanmar and Shandong Province is low, reaching only \$2 million last year, Yang said.

China is Myanmar’s top trading partner, ranking first in border trade and second in normal trade. It is also the largest investor in Myanmar with \$14.25 billion in 65 major projects, accounting for 30.62 per cent of the total foreign investment in Myanmar.

GNLM



*Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photo with chiefs of armies of ASEAN countries at 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting.—MYAWADY*



## Myanmar journalists visit China-Myanmar cultural museum

WANTING, 28 Nov—The Myanmar journalists delegation led by U Htay Aung, Chairman of Upper Myanmar Journalists Association, visited China-Myanmar Cultural Museum in Wanting of the Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China.

The museum with 13 booths showcases combat equipment of the Chinese Army and military equipment used in fighting against fascists Japanese troops at China-Myanmar border and attended the talks about displays of museum given by the curator.

The museum also displays equipment of Myanmar nationals in



independence struggles of leaders of two countries and documentary photos on friendly relations

between Myanmar and China.—Htay Myint Maung

## Thaton Township Health Department to vaccinate locals to be free from elephantiasis



THATON, 28 Nov—Training will be given to community health staff and health knowledge to local people to be free from elephantiasis disease in Thaton Township, Mon State,

said Head of District Health Department Dr Daw Khin Win at the meeting on vaccination at the Thuwunna Hall in Thaton, Mon State, on Friday. "Taking lessons from the last year's problems,

we will try hard to achieve success in implementation of the project. Uniforms and expense will be delivered to the vaccination team members," she said.

Township Administra-

tor U Tun Tun Naing delivered a speech at the meeting. The head of District Health Department replied to queries on vaccination process raised by officials.

A plan is underway to give vaccination to locals in Thaton Township, Mon State, through door to door system from 15 to 21 December this year.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

## Health staff give medical treatment to locals free of charge

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — A medical team of the Pobbathiri Township Health Department made a trip to villages of the township for giving health care services to the local people.

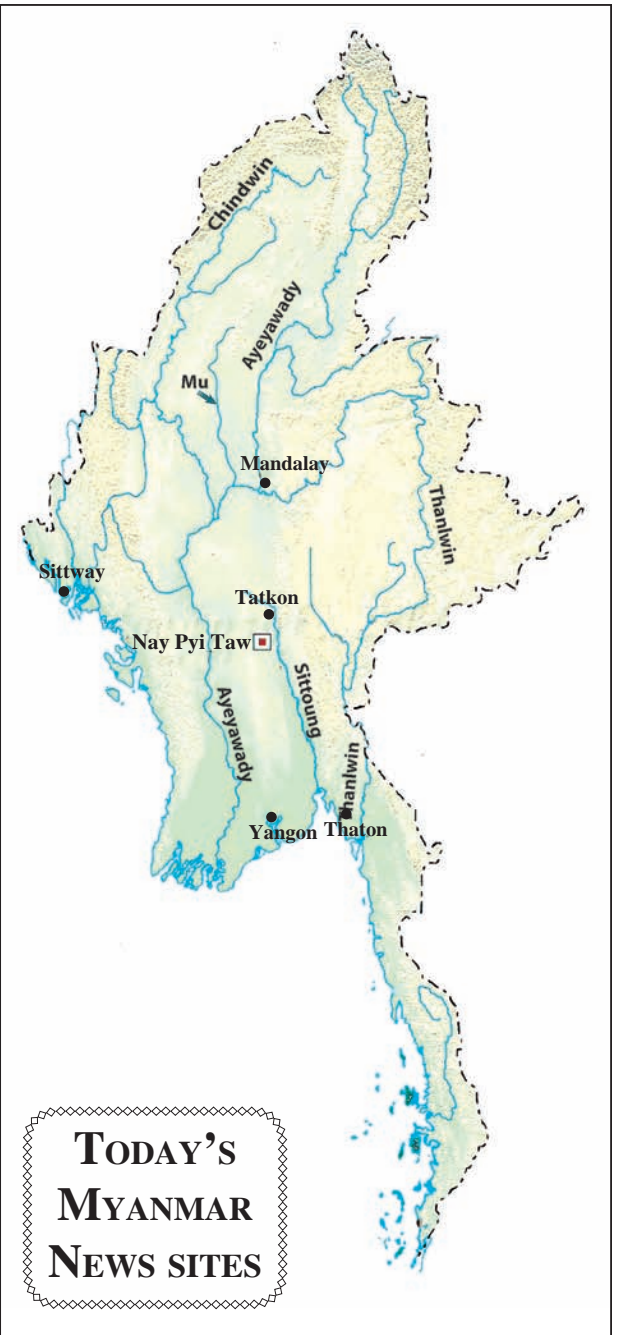
On 27 November, the medical team of the department provided health care services to the local people in Aungthiri village and Thabyesan village.

Head of Township Health Department Dr

Nang Kyawt Khaing, Health Officer Dr Thiha Than, dentist Dr Thit Thit performed medical check-up at the local people and gave health care to them free of charge.

On 24 November, they gave talks on youth health and birth-spacing health to the locals in Yanaung village and presented pamphlets to them.

Ko Ko Yupa  
(Nay Pyi Taw)



## Chief Minister inspects regional development tasks in Sittway

SITTWAY, 28 Nov—Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn, State Minister for Forestry and Mining, State Minister for Development Affairs, State Minister for Chin National Races and departmental officials visited Nandawun Park in

Sittway on 22 November.

The Chief Minister gave instructions on keeping the park lush and green and inspected construction of the environmental conservation department office and officers housing.

The Chief Minister

and party met victims at the Setyonsu-3 camp in Sittway and presented cash assistance to them.

After visiting Khaing Thazin Park in Sittway, they gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Rakhine State IPRD



## LOCAL NEWS

## Specialists give health care to locals in Thaton Township



THATON, 28 Nov— Specialists and health staff from Thaton District Health Department gave health care services to the locals at the Dhammayon of Peinnedaw Monastery in Thaton Township, Mon State, on Thursday.

“While providing health care to the locals on the field trips, we give training to the doctors and

nurses in practical works. If necessary, we will perform surgical operations on about 500 patients at the District General Hospital,” said Head of District Health Department Dr Daw Khin Win.

The medical team comprising over specialists, traditional medicine practitioners and health staff provided health care

to the local people from 7 am to 5 pm.

The medical health care service given by specialists was provided assistance by District Deputy Commissioner U Tun Tun Naing, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye Nwe and members.

*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

## New school building under construction in rural area of Thaton Tsp



THATON, 28 Nov—A one-storey RC building is under construction in Kawkalo-Payitkho village in Thaton Township, Mon State with the donations of UNHCR and Myanmar Red Cross Society.

“The exiting building of Basic Education Primary School cannot give adequate accommodation to the increasing number of students. I thank the well-wishers for their donations in building new school building,” said a local.

Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing

and officials inspected the progress of construction on 27 November.

The 60 feet long and 30 feet wide building was constructed as of 20 October, and a plan is underway to complete it in coming December, engineer in-charge Ko Kyaw Myint Htoo of MRCS said.

*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

**Farming workers at crop plantations in alluvial lands of Hsinthe village, Tatkon Township.**



## Electric safety carried out in Aungmyethazan Township

MANDALAY, 28 Nov — Electricians from Aungmyethazan Township Electrical Engineer Office carried out electric safety for the people and minimizing loss of electricity in the township, Mandalay, on 22 November.

Under the supervision

of the Mandalay Region electrical engineer, electricians of the township substituted the insulators at the power lines, cutting of branches from trees and installation of link connection at 400 volt power line after supply of power has been shut down

at Myaukpyin-Nyaungkwe-Mayanchan power line.

The Ministry of Electric Power arranges tasks of carrying out electric safety across the nation.

*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



## Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to locals in Mongyai Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Mongyai Township Immigration and National Registration Department, Shan State (North) issued

citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens in the grassroots areas.

On 22 November, Head of Township Immi-

gration and National Registration Department U Khin Maung Phyu and staff delivered the cards to 108 students at the office of Monghamonmu village-tract through a one-stop service.

*Township IPRD*

## Daily wage workers earn income at farming works

TATKON, 28 Nov—As now is cold season, beans and pulses, various species of edible oil crops, potato, onion, cabbage, cauliflower and ester flowers plants are being nurtured in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The villages in the township grow cold sea-

son crops plantations in the croplands and along the banks of Hsinthe Creek. Now is busy time for farming works. So, we invite farming workers with payment at K1,500 per day each for the morning session and afternoon session,” said an ester flower plantation owner.

“Men workers can earn K1,500 per morning and women, K1,000. We can fetch K3,000 per day. Farming works are very hard. But, we have to work it to earn family income,” a farming worker said.

*Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)*



# South Asia leaders agree to cooperate on energy

KATHMANDU, 28 Nov — A two-day summit of eight South Asian nations concluded on Thursday with an agreement on regional energy cooperation, but without signing expected agreements on two key proposals for enhancing regional connectivity.

Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala declared the summit closed and announced a Kathmandu declaration that includes a pledge to set up an Environment and Disaster Management Centre to minimize the impacts of climate change.

The energy cooperation agreement seeks to liberalize the energy sector at the regional level through identification of regional and sub-regional projects for generation, transmission and trade of hydropower, natural gas, solar, wind and bio-fuel.

"Authorized entities of member states can now buy and sell electricity. Governments will build transmission links for this," Nepal's Foreign Ministry spokesman Kha-

ganath Adhikari said.

But the South Asian leaders failed to agree on deepening regional connectivity through the building of regional railways and roads.

The member states left responsibility for taking up the proposals to transport ministers who will meet within three months to discuss them.

The proposed agreements for upgrading roads, railways, waterways and air links to ensure the smooth cross-border flow of goods and people were viewed as important for their potential to boost trade and tourism in one of the world's least integrated regions.

Hailed by seven member states as key for strengthening regional integration, the agreements were rejected by Pakistan on grounds that its internal processes were not ready.

Adhikari said incomplete internal procedures of "some member states" resulted in the failure to sign the agreements that, according to sources, were



(Front L-R) Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maldives' President Abdulla Yameen, Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa attend the opening session of 18<sup>th</sup> South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Kathmandu on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

pushed mainly by India.

The Asian leaders met informally at a retreat on Thursday in a last-ditch effort to break the impasse but came up short.

The Kathmandu Post daily described the deadlock as a "spillover effect" of strained India-Pakistan relations.

Tensions between the two nations were visible during the summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif avoiding each other on Wednesday.

On Thursday, they exchanged pleasantries during the retreat and then

shook hands at the conclusion of the 18<sup>th</sup> South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit.

Leaders decided to hold the next SAARC summit in Pakistan.

"We look forward to welcome you in Islamabad for the 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC summit in 2016," Sharif said at

the concluding session of the summit.

SAARC, founded in 1985, has achieved little mainly because of bitter relations between India and Pakistan, the biggest and most powerful members of the bloc.

Modi acknowledged this during the summit saying, "As SAARC, we have failed to move with the speed that our people expect and want."

Evidently referring to Pakistan, Modi warned that cooperation in the region will grow with or without a consensus.

"The bonds will grow. Through SAARC or outside it, among us all or some of us," he said.

SAARC groups Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from Japan, Australia, China, Iran, South Korea, Mauritius, Myanmar, the United States and the European Union attended the summit as observers.

Kyodo News

## Can man-of-the-people Widodo micromanage 240 million Indonesians?



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (C) greets sago farmers during his visit to Sungai Tohor in Meranti Island, Riau Province, Sumatra, on 27 Nov, 2014 in this photo taken by Antara Foto.—REUTERS

JAKARTA, 28 Nov — From flying economy class to making surprise visits to street markets and poor neighbourhoods, the leadership style of new Indonesian President Joko Widodo is proving very different to his predecessors, who were often seen as stiff and aloof.

On a recent visit to cocoa plantations in eastern Sulawesi, Widodo

squatted on the ground to chat with farmers about boosting their output. Excited onlookers scrambled up trees to get a better look at the president in his casual clothes and sneakers.

Widodo's down-to-earth manner, cultivated as a small-city mayor and then as governor of Jakarta, has won him many admirers in Indonesia, even

if his bodyguards appear flustered when he breaks away and starts talking to ordinary people.

His mantra of "getting down to work" could also be what is needed to tackle bureaucratic inertia and endemic corruption in Southeast Asia's biggest economy, although some experts believe the 53-year-old former furniture businessman is still enjoying a honeymoon after only five weeks in office.

"He received so much positive feedback, but this will not last forever," said Shinta Widjaja Kamdani of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce.

"People will look for results."

Widodo has already tackled some sensitive policies.

Last week he raised subsidised fuel prices by more than 30 percent, a move expected to save the government more than \$8 billion next year.

He also plans to tighten control over a potentially unruly cabinet stacked

with political appointees, there to appease the parties in his coalition, with the creation of a "kitchen cabinet" of trusted aides to help him push through reforms.

Widodo's initial decisions have impressed investors at a time when Indonesia's economy is growing at its slowest pace in five years.

"The early signs are that he is bringing a new philosophy into the government of Indonesia," Richard Adkerson, chief executive of miner and oil producer Freeport-McMoran Inc, a major investor in Indonesia, told a conference in New York last week.

As he did when Jakarta governor, Widodo has made clear he is not afraid to ruffle feathers.

"I told my ministers that if they fail to reach their targets, then sorry, but there are thousands queuing up to replace them," Widodo said this month at a business forum, according to local media.—Reuters

## Cambodian police burn 5.1 tons of fake medicines

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov — About 5.1 tons of counterfeit medicines were burned down on Friday at a dumpsite on the outskirts of capital Phnom Penh by Cambodian economic police.

The drugs with foreign language labels had been seized at border checkpoints, pharmacies and drug stores since 2012 by joint operations of economic police and health officials, said Brigadier General Long Sreng, deputy

chief of the anti-economic crimes department of the interior ministry.

"Some 62 types of fake medicines were burned down," he told reporters. "Those medicines had been imported from Vietnam and packed in Cambodia."

He said the destruction of the medicines aimed to prevent the trafficking of fake medicines and to improve the well-being of the Cambodian people.

Xinhua



Brigadier General Long Sreng (R, front), deputy chief of the anti-economic crimes department of the Cambodian interior ministry, shows fake medicines to the media in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 28 Nov, 2014. About 5.1 tonnes of counterfeit medicines were burned down on Friday at a dumpsite on the outskirts of capital Phnom Penh by the economic police.—XINHUA



## WORLD

# Obama plan to 'Power Africa' gets off to a dim start

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Nov — Barack Obama last year told a cheering crowd in Cape Town that a \$7 billion (4.4 billion pounds) plan to "Power Africa" would double electricity output on the world's poorest continent and bring "light where currently there is darkness".

A year later, the US president's flagship project for Africa has already achieved 25 percent of its goal to deliver 10,000 megawatts of electricity and bring light to 20 million households and businesses, according to its annual report.

But the five-year plan

has not yet delivered the power.

Power Africa has not measured its progress by counting actual megawatts added to the grid but promises of additional power made in deals it says it helped negotiate, according to sources inside the project and documents seen by *Reuters*.

Some projects facilitated by Power Africa — a programme operated by the US aid agency USAID — were under way years before the scheme's inception, others are still in the planning stage.

It is unclear how much

of the \$7 billion Obama pledged has actually been spent or if a further \$20 billion in private sector investment commitments will materialize.

"Saying you've met targets on projects that might never happen or taking the credit for projects that have been worked on for years makes me uncomfortable," a source working on Power Africa told *Reuters*. "It's misleading."

Obama's pledge to double power generation in Africa within five years looked highly ambitious from the start. Per capita electricity output in



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

Sub-Saharan Africa has been flat for three decades because most prom-

ised power plants never get built. "We're dealing with megawatts on paper,

rather than on the grid," a second source working on the project said. "Is that really what Obama promised?"

The first African-American US president, the son of a Kenyan father, Obama has often been criticized for a lukewarm engagement in Africa, consisting more of words than deeds.

The 48 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, with a combined population of 800 million, produce roughly the same amount of power as Spain, a country of just 46 million. This constrains Africa's growth and keeps hundreds of millions in poverty.

*Reuters*

## France, Italy, Belgium may break budget rules, EU to revisit in March

BRUSSELS, 28 Nov — The European Commission will tell France, Italy and Belgium on Friday their 2015 budgets risk breaking EU rules, but it will defer decisions on any action until early March.

At that point, France could face a multi-billion euro fine and Italy and Belgium be put on a disciplinary programme.

Draft documents seen

by *Reuters* show the three countries are part of a group also comprising Spain, Portugal, Austria, and Malta at risk of busting budget limits.

The Commission urges all of the countries not to break their budget limits, but picks out Rome, Paris and Brussels for a second review of compliance in March. In comments later reported in the Friday editions of several newspapers, Commis-

sion President Jean-Claude Juncker said no final decisions on sanctions would be taken until then in order for governments to come up with concrete measures and clear timetables, not mere promises, to address their budget problems.

The delay gives them more time to adjust policy before the EU executive must decide whether to fine France for missing targets or

put Italy and Belgium under a disciplinary procedure because of their debt levels.

"Overall, the Commission is of the opinion that the Draft Budgetary Plan of France, which is currently under the corrective arm, is at risk of non-compliance with the provisions of the Stability and Growth Pact," said a draft document.

"The Commission will examine in early March

2015 its position vis-a-vis France's obligations under the Stability and Growth Pact in the light of the finalisation of the budget law and of the expected specification of the structural reform programme announced by the authorities," it said.

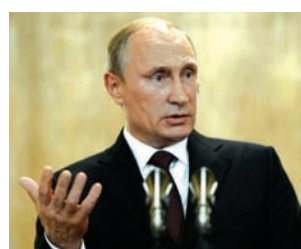
The wording for Italy and Belgium is the same.

Reacting to the news, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin told *Reu-*

*ters* that Paris understood the Commission wanted to know more about "the exact reality of the budget in 2014 and the forecasts for 2015."

"I can clearly say that for 2014 France will respect the conditions that allow us to be in line with the application of the rules. The advantage of March is that we won't be working with hypothesis but with real data," he said. —*Reuters*

## Putin, Poroshenko speak on phone about southeast Ukraine



Russia's President Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW, 28 Nov — Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed bilateral relations and the situation in southeast Ukraine with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on the telephone on Wednesday evening, the Kremlin said on Thursday.

The Kremlin said in a statement that the call was on the initiative of Ukraine. It gave no further details.

Violence in east Ukraine is continuing despite a September ceasefire agreement between Kiev and separatists. Ukraine and Western countries accuse Russia of backing the rebels with troops and equipment. Moscow denies this. —*Reuters*

## Thankful to arrive on snowy US holiday with power out, travel delays

NEW YORK, 28 Nov — Millions of Americans were thankful just to arrive at their Thanksgiving feasts on Thursday after a snowstorm dumped up to 20 inches of snow on Eastern states, causing flight delays and power outages.

Snow flurries drifted over Thomas the Tank Engine, Snoopy and other giant helium balloons in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, where police reported the disorderly conduct arrests of at least seven protesters who had vowed over social media to throw the event into disarray to show outrage over the racially charged Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Missouri.

The demonstrators were arrested on Sixth Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> Street. They had been allowed to cross the parade route but then tried to disrupt the procession, knocking over police barricades and breaking windows, said a spokeswoman for the New York Police Department.

Skies were expected to clear throughout the East Coast, which was slammed overnight

by a wet snowstorm that wrought havoc with holiday travellers and cooks. "Paw Paw, West Virginia — that's where the jackpot was for snowfall amounts," said meteorologist Andrew Orrison of the National Weather Service, noting the tiny town was buried under 20 inches (51 cm) of snow.

Oatmeal-like wet snow piled as high as 15 inches (38 cm) in the town

of Savoy in the Berkshire Mountains in western Massachusetts and 14.6 inches (37.1 cm) in Warrensburg in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York.

Heavy snow snapped tree limbs which damaged lines, causing hundreds of thousands of power outages from Maine to Virginia, utilities said, and the damage could take days to repair. Public Service

of New Hampshire said 140,000 customers were without power and Central Maine Power Company said on Thursday it was working to restore power to 86,213 households.

US flight schedules were upended for a second day during the year's busiest travel period, with 56 flights cancelled and 403 delayed on Thursday, according to FlightAware.com. On Wednesday,

more than 700 US flights were cancelled and about 4,400 were delayed, it said.

More than 46 million Americans are expected to make trips between Wednesday and Sunday, travel group AAA said, with more than 89 percent travelling by car.

Cooks able to fire up their ovens prepared traditional pumpkin pies, stuffings and roasted turkeys, with a small but growing number preparing heritage turkeys linked to the country's early settlers.

Plumbers from coast to coast, meanwhile, girded for one of their busiest days of the year, when some harried cooks dump the grease from their roasted birds down the drain, inadvertently clogging household pipes and having to call for help. It is a Thanksgiving tradition that for years has resulted in a 50 percent increase in calls on the Friday after the holiday to Roto-Rooter, the biggest US plumbing and drain cleaning service, compared to a normal Friday, said company spokesman Paul Abrams. —*Reuters*



Holiday travellers wait for trains to be called at Penn Station in New York on 26 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS



## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 29 November, 2014

## To reduce risks of earthquakes

By Myint Win Thein

About 47 moderate earthquakes have hit Myanmar this year. This reminded Myanmar citizens again that they live in an earthquake prone area where high intensity earthquakes can rattle at any time, according to seismologists. They point out that Myanmar is situated on one of the world's

two main earthquake belt. Destructive earthquakes are not strangers in the history of Myanmar although some of us have forgotten them.

Earthquakes cannot be predicted but losses of life and property can be reduced if disaster preparedness programs are implemented properly. Disaster preparedness includes risk reduction and improving responses to earthquakes.

To reduce the earthquake risk, it is important to identify earthquake zones in Myanmar and special measures should be taken in those areas, especially cities, where a large number of people live in substandard apartment buildings and old apartment buildings. As earthquakes are known as urban disasters, building standards should be enforced in cities at a time of construction boom in Myanmar. Moreover, the strength of old apartment buildings should also be inspected regularly.

For disaster response measures, each city in Myanmar should have disaster response plan for earthquakes in place. Emergency services such as health workers, fire services, the police and so on should be trained how to respond during and after an earthquake. People in cities, especially children, women and senior citizens, should also be educated on how to respond during an earthquake.

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

# The Garbage Disposal Problem

Khin Maung Myint

Mountains of rotting, smelling garbage, the presence of which were once not only visible by eyes, but also sensed by the nose, everywhere in the city were gone. In their places, expensive looking blue fiber glass garbage bins had taken up positions, heralding the new era of garbage collection in Yangon since about a year ago. Recently, the colours of the garbage bins had changed to bright orange, which are visible from quite a distance. Whether they are blue or orange do not matter as long as they serve their purposes, and the garbage regularly and systematically collected. Anyhow, it is a vast leap forward to keep Yangon, the gateway city to Myanmar, clean and tidy to enhance the image of our country and impress the foreign visitors.

The garbage disposal problem is not only confined to our country alone. It is a nightmare for every country in the world including the developed ones. In some countries, especially in developing countries, garbage pits or rather garbage piles, can be seen in the outlying areas of the cities. As the growing populations in big cities, mainly due to urban migrations, necessitates the expansion of the city limits, the garbage piles are now side by side with the residential areas in some neighbouring countries. The stench of the rotting garbage and the gases expelled from the incinerators are causing problems. In fact, the garbage pits that are causing controversy between the residents and the concerned authorities, are located well outside the city limits in the beginning, until encroached by the residential areas.

I'm not really sure where our garbage are dumped or how they are disposed off. However, I would like to make some general suggestions in regards to that process. The authorities should promulgate their instructions to reach the public, how to dispose their household garbages in different colored garbage bags, separating the kitchen wastes and leftover foods in one and the recyclable garbages in another. They should follow up by educating the public and also make random checks, not to take action but to see whether they understand the purpose, and to instill the procedure of garbage disposal into their minds. It may take some times as most households are reluctant to spend money on garbage bags and are accustomed to random garbage disposal. The authorities on the other hand should provide more garbage bins for the convenience of the public. At present, I had noticed garbage bins only on the main roads and none in the side roads on our block, the Kyaukmyaung Quarters. I must admit I don't know about other places. Also, the garbage collectors should be strictly warned not to scavenge the garbage bags for recyclable items, by tearing them and leaving the smelly fluids spilled around the bins. I know this for sure as I had to take the garbage bag when I went for my morning walks, to be disposed at the garbage bin at the entrance to our side street. The stench was so strong, I had to cover my nose while approaching the bin. The soil around the bins are always sodden with those rotting fluids, mak-

ing it difficult to tread on to reach them without getting the walking shoes swamped with the disgusting fluids. By placing different bins for different types of garbage, with clear markings or signs to distinguish them, and insisting the public to use the relevant bins for different types of garbage should solve the problem of scavenging for recyclable items.

The bins will also need ventilation holes near the top to release the foul odours that are trapped inside, waiting to ambush anyone who dares to open the lid to throw the garbage bag in. By having vents near the top would not affect the bins in any way, I hope. One would not be able to imagine how awful the surprise attack of the foul odour is, until one had experienced it. The presence of multitudes of germs and bacterias incubating and multiplying in and around the bins are quite inevitable. Recently, on some mornings, I noticed a very fine layer of quick lime powder sprinkled here and there around the garbage bins in some locations. I wonder whether those actions would be effective enough to rid the germs and bacterias. As far as I know the quick lime powder is used to rid the maggots in open laterine holes, where they usually infest.

Another point, which I would like to get the attention of those concerned is the placing of the bins. In many locations they are placed at the old garbage dumps, at road junctions where small mounds were formed, thanks to the ever present hordes of rodents who burrowed the ground in the vicinity of the garbage dumps. As the grounds beneath are not level, the bins wobble whenever someone tried to open the lids. The bins are fitted with swiveled wheels, so they need to be placed on level surfaces for

steadiness. The ground should be leveled and paved with concrete to provide clean and firm bases for the bins.

Garbage collection is not my field of expertise, but through observations during travels abroad, as I always had my eyes and ears open to everything new to me, I have some ideas to suggest for consideration by the departments concerned. It would be more effective by placing more garbage bins, within easy reach, instead of sending garbage collectors to collect garbage "door to door". Such methods are rarely seen in other countries. One drawback of the "door to door" system, if I can call that, is the garbage collectors getting corrupted, due to the good will of some who want to make merits by giving tips. In the long run they would become used to getting tips and expect from every households. I do not say it will actually happen, but there is no guarantee it would not happen either. There is a saying in Myanmar, which can be literally translated as "The skies won't fall, what if?"

Today, in many countries they are installing incinerators to burn the garbage and at the same time producing electricity. So, why not consider installing more of those in our country to get rid of the ever increasing amount of garbage, though it would be necessary to choose incinerators that are environment friendly.

Lastly, I would like to request the public too. If we want to live in a clean and healthy environment, let's try to be dutiful and responsible citizens by observing our civics duties. Let's support the authorities by not littering, by not disposing garbage randomly, by not spitting and urinating recklessly in the streets.

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

## Participants to register for YOMA Yangon International Marathon 2015 (YYIM 2015) sooner

Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 28 Nov — It is now less than two months away from the YOMA Yangon International Marathon 2015 (YYIM 2015). On 11 January 2015, 4,000 runners will take to the streets of Yangon as part of the nation's largest marathon event. With the 12 December registration deadline looming, public interest in the event is building and race slots are quickly being filled. To avoid disappointment,

event organisers YOMA Strategic (YOMA) First Myanmar Investment (FMI) and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) urge persons interested in participating to register for the event as soon as possible.

Registrations can be made in person at the FMI Centre, No 308, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Panbedan Township, Yangon. International participants are able to register by logging onto <https://1xcess.com/registration/event/Yangon2015>

The YYIM 2015 race categories and registration fees are as captured in the table below.

Category	Local (Kyats)	International (USD)	Age
Full Marathon 42km	5,000	55	16+
Half Marathon 21km	5,000	45	16+
10km Challenge	5,000	35	12+
3km Fun Run/Walk	5,000	25	No Limit

Participants must be aged 16 years and older as

of 31 December 2015 to participate in the Full Marathon (42.195km) and Half Marathon categories. Participants must be 12 years and older as of 31 December 2015 to participate in the 10km Challenge category. There are no age restrictions for the 3km Fun Run/ Walk category.

Further details regarding race kit collection and event day proceedings will

be announced in the coming weeks. To stay up to date with the latest YYIM 2015 announcements and to find out more about fundraising around the event to support underprivileged children in Myanmar, please visit the event website [www.yoma-yangonmarathon.com/index.php?page=charity-landing#content](http://www.yoma-yangonmarathon.com/index.php?page=charity-landing#content) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/YomaYangonInternationalMarathon](http://www.facebook.com/YomaYangonInternationalMarathon).



## UEC Chairman meets Indonesian Election Commission member, head of mission of International IDEA



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye holds talks with Indonesian and IDEA delegations.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received Mr. Hadar S Gumay, member of the Election Commission of Indonesia, and Mr. Thomas Cormier, head of

mission (Myanmar) of International IDEA, at a hall of the commission office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The UEC Chairman briefed about the commission and its roles and responsibilities including the

task of holding a constitutional referendum which is vested in the commission.

The Indonesian Election Commission member explained the formation of the commission and its functions and duties. He

also answered the questions requested by the UEC Chairman on advance voting, a system of appointing sub-commission members and their terms and privileges and electoral management.

Also present at the meeting were UEC members and secretary and officials of the UEC office.

In the afternoon, the UEC Chairman and foreign guests had a discussion with responsible persons of some civil society organizations on greater participation of CSOs in election monitoring, compilation for the lists of voters and campaigns to educate voters.—MNA

## ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting continues for final day

MANDALAY, 28 Nov— The 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting continued for the second day at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Friday.

The meeting included the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting, the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting and the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers Meeting.

The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting discussed the ASEAN-China aviation agreement, the ASE-

AN-China maritime agreement, the ASEAN-China maritime coordination procedure and the future cooperation in 2015.

The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting focused on ASEAN-Japan cooperation in transport sector and ministerial level statement.

The 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers Meeting reviewed the minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Senior Transport Officials Meeting and approved the ministerial statement.—MNA

## Myanmar, Japan discuss transport sector

MANDALAY, 28 Nov— The Myanmar-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting took place at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Thursday evening.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and party held a

talk with Deputy Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Mr Kazuhiko Aoki of Japan and officials, focusing on cooperation in transport sector between the two countries and more cooperation of Japan.—MNA

## Union Ministers on inspection tour of Kengtung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat met township level officials from Kengtung

and Tachilek districts at the hall in Kengtung on Thursday.

Union Minister U Hla Tun stressed the need to fulfill the requirements of the people in practising the

people centre administration.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win explained mission and vision of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The Chief Minister reported on progress of tasks in regional development.

The Union Ministers and party viewed land reclamation in Kengtung Township.—MNA

## Attorney-General of the Union receives Chinese Judge

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Judge of Supreme People's Court Mr Zhang Jiannan of the People's Republic of China called on Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Attorney-General of the Union explained the organizational setup of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and duty and functions of the region and state advocate-general offices, district and township law offices.

They discussed ways for cooperation in legal affairs between Myanmar and China.—MNA



Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin exchanges gifts with Judge of Supreme People's Court Mr Zhang Jiannan of China.—MNA

## Myanmar's trade deficit from April to Oct hits US\$2,716.49 million

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Myanmar's trade deficit from April to October in 2014-2015 reached US\$2,716.49 million with exports worth US\$6,872.34 million and imports worth US\$9,588.83 million, the Central Statistical Organization said Wednesday.

General exports in the fiscal year were worth US\$4,499.67 million, while simple cross-border exports totaled US\$2,372.67 million. Imports from simple

cross-border trade topped US\$1,282.35 million and general imports reached US\$8,306.48 million.

In October 2014 alone, Myanmar's general export volume was US\$699.23 million and cross-border exports were US\$327.22 million. General imports were worth US\$1,134.35 million and cross-border imports topped US\$208.91 million for an overall trade deficit in October of US\$316.81 million.—MNA

## 16-day campaigns for elimination of violence against women being held nationwide



A member of women group shares her knowledge on prevention violence against girls.—WON

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 Nov— More than 20 women's organizations and NGOs have organized 16-day campaigns for eliminating violence against women across the nation from 25 November to 10 December with the aim of promoting public awareness as well as creating more channels linked to the government, sources said.

"Men's involvement plays a vital role in pre-

venting and reducing violence against women," said May Sabei Phyu, a director from the Gender Equality Network. An official added that nowadays, the country sees a lot of men's participation in such public awareness campaigns. The campaign has been held in Myanmar since 2011.

As part of their activities, a series of educative programmes have been broadcast on television and

radio. Also, a photo contest has been launched on Facebook in which people may send their photos related to the prevention of violence against women to [www.facebook.com/16daysactivism2014](http://www.facebook.com/16daysactivism2014). Other movements are scheduled to be held in 20 townships in 11 regions and states.

Currently, the Gender Equality Network, one of the women's groups, is conducting research on women's experience of abuse, aiming to develop

evidence-based policies and programmes in the country. The report is estimated to be published in early 2015.

Women say that they need more effective laws to take action against thugs as the country sees an increasing number of incidents of violence against women, especially in suburban townships in Yangon as well as rural areas. The majority of such women are hesitant to complain about the difficulties they face.—GNLM



# Two civilians killed in shelling in east Ukraine rebel city

DONETSK, 28 Nov — A 12-year-old boy and a 55-year-old woman were killed by shelling in the eastern Ukrainian separatist stronghold of Donetsk on Thursday, the city administration reported, despite a 5 September ceasefire deal.

According to UN data an average of 13 soldiers, rebels, and civilians have died every day since a formal ceasefire was agreed by Ukraine, Russia and the rebels, with Ukrainian government forces and the separatists accusing each other of violating the terms of the truce.

Donetsk city admin-



*A man fixes windows at a building after it was damaged by recent shelling in the western part of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on 27 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS*

istration, which is aligned with Kiev, said the child was killed in the street and the woman when a shell hit her flat in an area pumelled by artillery fire in recent days.

“A shell hit her directly,” her son Aleksander said, standing outside the building. “I don’t know why I was not hit. I was standing right next to her. Only my neck is slightly burnt.”

A Reuters witness saw a puddle of blood and a crater at the scene where the 12-year-old was struck down in Kuybyshevsky district. Residents said he had been running to a

bomb shelter when he was hit.

Many buildings in the district bear witness to the intensity of the recent shelling, including a paediatric hospital, where a shell crashed through the roof and others left craters in the road outside.

More than 4,300 combatants and civilians have been killed in eastern Ukraine since rebels seized border regions in April. Nearly a million people have fled the area, with a surge in the past two months, the UN said on 20 November.

Reuters

## In Syria, desperate residents see little hope in UN Aleppo truce plan

BEIRUT/GAZIANTEP, 28 Nov — As winter sets in along the front lines of Aleppo, residents are desperate for the sort of relief United Nations officials hope a new ceasefire push will soon bring to the war-battered Syrian city.

The plan, led by the UN peace envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, would set up local truces in so-called “freeze zones” to stop fighting and allow aid into rebel districts.

Residents could certainly use the help. But after nearly four years of conflict and countless failed peace plans, civilians and fighters alike are sceptical.

The initiative is risky for the disparate opposition groups and while the government has stated its interest, diplomats and analysts doubt its sincerity and say Aleppo could face the same fate as the central city of Homs, where govern-

ment forces have largely regained control.

“We cannot trust any initiative,” said Safi al-Masri, a 25-year-old Aleppo resident. “We consider this initiative far from humanitarian after all the Syrian blood that’s been spilled.”

While other residents and fighters interviewed by Reuters were less categorical in their doubt, saying they would welcome any plan that relieved the city’s suffering, most questioned whether it would come to anything.

One reason is that too much rides on the battle for Aleppo for both sides. While rebels once believed taking the city — formerly Syria’s commercial hub — would strike a death blow to President Bashar al-Assad’s government, many now fear the opposite: If Assad’s forces push rebels from the city it could dev-

astate the rebellion in the north.

Rebels, including some from al-Qaeda’s Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front, have clung to territory north of Aleppo, keeping lines open between the city’s rebel-held eastern districts and maintaining links to the Turkish border.

They have been able to do so, rebels say, partly because of deals that have prevented the infighting that hobbled them elsewhere, as well as incremental increases in military aid from states opposed to Assad.

“The situation ... has been stable since the fighting factions started coordinating to face the regime on this front and support was directed from the factions specifically to this front,” said a 20-year-old rebel who gave his name as Abu Abbas.

In much of Aleppo,

however, there is little left to save. Rebel districts have been devastated by months of government bombardment with “barrel bombs,” explosives packed with shrapnel and nails.

Residents say those attacks have eased in recent weeks, but it is unclear why, and hardly anyone expects the lull to last.

“Now it’s winter and there are no barrel bombs, so we’ve started to work, but tomorrow when summer comes and the barrel bombs return, we’ll go back to being displaced,” said Mohammad Helwani, member of a local council in Aleppo.

De Mistura has taken a different approach to easing this type of suffering than his two predecessors, who quit in frustration after failing to bring the warring sides anywhere close to a deal. The envoy has said the proposed “freeze zones” are intended to deliver something tangible to Syrians.

The Syrian government has voiced guarded support for the plan. Assad said it was “worth studying” and Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin this week that they agreed on the need to support the initiative. Yet many question whether either side will accept a deal. Before de Mistura’s visit to Damascus this month, diplomats said government forces could use ceasefires to force surrenders and round up local men as they have in the past. —Reuters

## Army splits that let Yemen’s capital fall augur new risks

SANAA, 28 Nov — As fighting raged at the First Armoured Division’s base in central Sanaa, General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar arrived in a motorcade at the general staff headquarters and entered the building shouting “Treason! Treason!”

He grabbed some documents from a desk and left in a hurry, a defence ministry official said. Half an hour later, the commander of the Fourth Brigade Presidential Security turned up, collected his car and sped away.

“I knew then that Sanaa had fallen and that it was over,” the officer, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. “General al-Ahmar was angry and felt utterly betrayed.”

While many details of the surrender of Yemen’s capital by 100,000 Republican Guards to some 5,000 Houthi fighters on 21 September remain murky, the nature of the capitulation bodes ill for President AbdRabbu Mansour Hadi’s fragile grip on power. Home to an al-Qaeda branch held responsible by Washington for three attempted bombings of aircraft in the United States, Yemen is close to becoming a failed state, thanks in part to covert manoeuvring from its own ousted ruler and Iran. Corruption, internal splits and competing loyalties in the army began before former President Ali Abdullah Saleh was ousted by protests in 2011 and are now reaching a critical stage.

Those ailments are partly based on the country’s patchwork tribal, sectarian and regional splits, but also on a history of wrangling between powerful political players that came to a head during the Arab spring.

“What happened was not the result of Hadi’s mismanagement, but as a result of undermining the essence of the Yemeni state during Saleh’s rule over the past 20 years,” Yemeni analyst Abdelghani al-Iryani said, referring to the fall of Sanaa.

“The Yemeni state is now at risk of unravelling and falling.” Saleh created a rival power base when he put General Ahmar, a close ally of the Sunni Islamist Islah party, Yemen’s Muslim Brotherhood branch, in charge of his 2004-10 crackdown on the Shi’ite Muslim militias Houthi militias who now dominate Yemen. When mass protests broke out in 2011, Ahmar’s forces sided with the protesters, including Islah supporters, and clashed with army units loyal to Saleh, who was forced to step down in favour of his deputy Hadi, who had no power base of his own. Hadi tried to reunite the army in 2012, removing Ahmar from the First Armoured Brigade’s command and appointing him as a military adviser. But at the rank-and-file level, the Brigade stayed loyal to its old leader, while many other divisions retained ties to former president Saleh, insiders said. —Reuters



*Boys play with a soccer ball in the al-Klaseh neighbourhood of Aleppo in this 8 Nov, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS*



## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Flu vaccine lots blocked in Italy after suspicious deaths

ROME, 28 Nov — The Italian competent authority for drugs (AIFA) on Thursday blocked the use of two lots of a flu vaccine after three people died for reasons potentially linked to the drugs.

AIFA prohibited the use of lots of FLUAD vaccine numbered 142701 and 143301 after four “serious and deadly cases”, including three deaths, were reported which might have been caused by the drugs.

“The three fatalities occurred within 48 hours of the administration of doses from two lots,” AIFA said

in a statement published on its website.

The statement said that the move was carried out only “for precaution” while waiting for results of the tests carried out on the suspicious lots, which were produced at a plant of Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis in the city of Siena.

Two of the three deaths occurred in Sicily, while the other was in Molise, two regions in southern Italy, according to sources from ANSA news agency.

Xinhua



## Japan may expand air bag recalls; worried about impact on industry

TOKYO, 28 Nov — Honda Motor and Mazda Motor may have to recall another 200,000 cars in Japan to replace Takata Corp air bags if Takata complies with a US order to recall cars across the United States rather than just in humid regions.

Several automakers in the US have issued regional recalls of certain models to investigate what is causing some Takata air bags to explode with excessive force. US safety regulators have ordered Takata to have those recalls expanded nationwide.

Takata has so far resisted a wider US recall, saying that could divert replacement parts away from the high-humidity regions thought to need them most — due to moisture possibly breaking down the air bag inflator’s chemical mix. Takata has until Tuesday to respond to the US regulator’s order.

Takata and regulators still don’t know exactly

why some air bags have proved lethal, with the inflators exploding and shooting metal shards at car occupants. At least five deaths have been linked to such incidents — all in Honda cars.

As US investigations progress, an expanded recall can have a knock-on impact in other markets where cars use air bag inflators from the same potentially problematic batches.

An official at Japan’s transport ministry said a US-wide recall could add 200,000 Honda and Mazda cars to the 2.6 million cars fitted with Takata air bags already under recall in Japan.

Transport Minister Akihiro Ohta said the repeated recalls involving Takata air bags could undermine trust in Japan’s entire auto industry.

“This is an extremely important issue for automobile safety,” Ohta told reporters on Friday. “Japa-



A woman using her mobile phone walks past a logo of Honda Motor Co outside the company’s dealership in Tokyo on 28 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

nese manufacturing enjoys a high level of trust so I am worried this situation will shake that confidence.”

He said he instructed Takata to move towards a recall in Japan if piecemeal recalls in hot and humid regions in the United States are expanded nationwide. Ohta has asked Takata to report on how it plans to respond to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s

order for a nationwide recall.

Japan may yet see more recalls for a separate problem reported this month of an “unusual deployment” of a Takata-made air bag in a scrapped car. The inflator was manufactured in January 2003 at Takata’s Monclova factory in Mexico, and had not been subject to previous recalls.

Reuters

## Ebola cases near 16,000, Sierra Leone to overtake Liberia soon with most cases: WHO

GENEVA, 28 Nov — The death toll in the world’s worst Ebola epidemic has risen to 5,689 out of 15,935 cases reported in eight countries by 23 November, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday.

Almost all cases and all but 15 deaths have been in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia — the three hardest-hit countries, which reported 600 new cases in the past week, the WHO said in its latest update.

“The total number of cases reported in Sierra Leone since the outbreak began will soon eclipse the number reported from Liberia,” it said. The former British colony has reported 6,599 cases against 7,168 in Liberia.

Transmission of the virus remains intense in Sierra Leone, especially in the west and north, with the capital Freetown still the worst affected area, it said.

Sierra Leone appealed to the United States

on Wednesday to send military aid to help it battle Ebola as it falls behind its West African neighbours Guinea and Liberia in the fight against the virus.

“Liberia and Sierra Leone report that fewer than 70 percent of patients are isolated, though there is wide variation among districts,” the WHO said, referring to an international target set for 1 December. However, some data is out of date, it said.

Isolation is required to halt further spread of the viral hemorrhagic disease, and the aim is to isolate 100 percent of patients by 1 January, it added.

Contacts of people known to be infected should be monitored for symptoms including fever, but relatively low numbers being reported “suggest that in districts with high case incidence fewer contacts are currently registered in connection with each new case than is necessary to accurately monitor chains of



A car drives past a public health advertisement against the Ebola virus in Monrovia on 8 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

transmission”, the WHO warned.

Mali has reported 8 Ebola cases, six of them fatal, and 285 contacts exposed to the virus there are being checked, it said.

WHO teams are evaluating the preparedness of neighbouring countries to combat Ebola, and visits are planned to the Central

African Republic, Niger, and Ethiopia next week, it said.

Peter Piot, a leading specialist on the disease, said on Wednesday that West Africa’s Ebola epidemic could worsen further before abating, but that but new infections should start to decline in all affected countries by

the end of the year.

The first Cuban doctor infected with Ebola, evacuated from Sierra Leone to Geneva last week, is improving and responding to treatment, the University Hospital of Geneva said in a statement late on Tuesday. His medical team is “reasonably optimistic”.—Reuters

Xinhua

## OPEC to maintain oil production at 30 mln barrels per day

VIENNA, 28 Nov — The ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided here on Thursday to maintain its output level despite crude oil price fell to a four-year low level, a statement released after the OPEC conference said.

The decision to maintain oil production at the level of 30 million barrels a day agreed upon in December 2011 was made in the interests of restoring market equilibrium on the back of the recent rapid decline in oil prices, the statement said.

The organization has “no target price,” OPEC’s Secretary-General Abudulla al-Badri told a Press conference, referring to his previous aspirations of 100 dollars per barrel.

Crude oil prices fell to below 74 dollars per barrel after OPEC’s decision on Thursday, the lowest level since September 2010.





A Russian woman (R) tries a Japanese cosmetic product on 27 Nov, 2014, at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow. Pola Inc and Kanebo Cosmetics Inc, Japanese cosmetics makers already operating in Russia, jointly held an event at the embassy to introduce their products under the Japanese government's "Cool Japan Initiative" to boost popularity of Japanese products and culture overseas.—KYODO NEWS

## Japan to use SDF aircraft for 1<sup>st</sup> time in fight against Ebola

TOKYO, 28 Nov — Japan will fly Air Self-Defence Force transport aircraft to Ghana to supply Ebola-hit West Africa with 20,000 sets of personal protective equipment, the government said on Friday.

It is the first time that Self-Defence Force aircraft will go abroad as part of Japan's contribution to the international fight against the deadly virus.

"We will newly provide 700,000 sets of personal protective equipment, and the first 20,000 will be transported to the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response headquarters in Accra, Ghana," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference.

The timing of the dispatch is "still under discussion, but it won't take long," the top government spokesman said. The plan is part of the \$40 million in aid Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged in his address to the UN General Assembly in September. The disease has hit West African countries such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.—Kyodo News

## Tropical depression leaves two dead, one hurt in Philippines

MANILA, 28 Nov — At least two people were killed and another was injured after tropical depression Chebi (local name Queenie) barreled through central and southern Philippines, the local disaster management agency said on Friday. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said nine other people were reported missing. NDRRMC said the two fatalities from the central Philippine province of Cebu drowned. The agency said most of those who were reported missing were swept by big waves and strong winds while at sea. The tropical depression also displaced 1,617 families or 7,528 individuals and damaged 500 houses in five provinces. As of 10:00 am local time, the state weather forecasting agency said Queenie has intensified into a tropical storm, packing maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometres per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph.—Xinhua

# Prince William to make first UK royal visit to China in 30 years

Britain's Prince William arrives for the Royal Variety Performance in London on 13 Nov, 2014. REUTERS



LONDON, 28 Nov — Prince William will go to China early next year in the first visit to the mainland by a member of the British royal family in almost three decades, Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday. William, Queen Elizabeth's grandson and second-in-line to the throne, will leave for a three-day trip to Japan in late February before heading to Chi-

na. However, he will not be accompanied by his pregnant wife Kate who is due to give birth to the couple's second child in April. William's trip to China is the first since the queen and her husband Prince Philip paid a visit in 1986, and comes amid continuing protests by pro-democracy activists in the former British colony of Hong Kong.

His father Prince

Charles was among dignitaries at the handover of the colony to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that gave it some autonomy from the mainland and an undated promise of universal suffrage. Buckingham Palace said William would officially open the GREAT Festival of Creativity in Shanghai, an event which aims to give more than 500

British businesses a chance to reach potential Chinese partners.

"The Duke will also undertake engagements in Beijing and elsewhere to promote UK-China relations, people-to-people links, and in support of his work to combat the illegal wildlife trade and support wildlife conservation," the palace said in a statement.

Reuters

## Weather, incorrect procedure, probable causes of Lao Airlines QV 301 crash

VIENTIANE, 28 Nov — A sudden change in weather conditions and the flight crew's failure to properly execute procedure have been identified as the probable causes of the crash of Lao Airlines flight QV 301, according to a final report on the accident released on Friday.

The report, released by the Lao Ministry of Public Works and Transport, was the product of an investigation by officials from Laos, France's civil aviation authority BEA (appointed by aircraft manufacturer ATR) and AAIB (Air Accidents Investigation Branch) Singapore. The report states that QV 301 crashed in bad weather while attempting a go-around after a failed landing attempt.

The flight data recorders recovered from the crash revealed that the flight crew set an altitude of 600 feet as the aircraft's minima, or altitude at which visual references with the ground are analyzed as sufficient or insufficient for landing.

The flight crew's minima of 600 feet was lower than the published minima of 990 feet and the incorrect height of 645 feet as published in the JEPPESEN Chart at that time. After aborting the aircraft's approach at an altitude of around 595 feet, the flight crew executed a right turn instead of a nominal climb as dictated by the airport's VOR/DME missed approach procedure.

When the flight crew realized that the aircraft's altitude was too low, the Pilot Flying overreacted, leading to a high pitch attitude of 33. When the plane's altitude reached the minimum value of 60 feet, the aircraft's roll had reached approximately 37 to the right. During the plane's flight, there was a local thunderstorm approaching the airport from the Southwest. According to the report, the sound of heavy rain striking the plane was audible on the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR).—Xinhua

## Fukushima workers still in murky labour contracts

TOKYO, 28 Nov — The number of workers at Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant on false contracts has increased in the last year, the station operator said, highlighting murky labour conditions at the site despite a pledge to improve the work environment.

The survey results released by Tokyo Electric Power Co (Tepco) late on Thursday showed that around 30 percent of plant workers polled said that they were paid by a dif-

ferent company from the contractor that normally directs them at the work-site, which is illegal under Japan's labour laws.

A Reuters report in October found widespread confusion among plant workers at the Fukushima facility over their employment contracts and their promised hazard pay increase.

Many workers asked Tepco in the survey forms whether they were supposed to receive an equiv-

alent of about \$180 a day in hazard pay, the company said, adding that it did not mean each worker would necessarily see a pay increase of that amount.

Tepco said last November it would double the allocation for hazard pay to workers at Fukushima.

The company's latest survey showed that more than 70 percent of workers did receive some explanation about a pay rise in the past year, while some 1,400 workers out of 2,400

that responded to the question said they did receive an increase in pay. Workers were not asked to detail their pay rise or when they received it.

The Japanese government and Tepco vowed last year to improve working conditions at the plant, where sub-contractors supply the bulk of workers conducting a cleanup after the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

Tokyo Electric, known as Tepco, said a questionnaire sent to thousands of workers at the plant indicated 30 percent of them were on false contracts, an increase of 10 percentage points since it carried out a similar survey in 2013.

The utility survey covered 6,567 contract workers at the station north of Tokyo and about 70 percent of them responded.

It did not question its own employees, who form a small part of the huge workforce on the clean up that is expected to take decades and cost tens of billions of dollars.—Reuters



Workers wearing radiation protective gear stand outside of the No 4 reactor building at TEPCO's tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture, on 12 Nov, 2014. REUTERS



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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO ( 041W )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO ( 041W ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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## Police raid home of former BES chief executive

LISBON, 28 Nov — Portuguese police on Thursday raided the home of Ricardo Salgado, former chief executive of the bank Banco Espirito Santo (BES), amid an ongoing investigation into a scandal. The police also searched another 34 homes which are related to the investigation, according to a statement by the prosecutor's office.

Portugal's central bank is investigating the former management of BES for alleged fraud, money laundering and falsification of documents.

Salgado stepped down in July after the 150-year-old banking dynasty reported a loss of 3.6 billion euros (4.49 billion US dollars) and was rescued by the Portuguese government. He was detained in July but freed after paying 3 million euros. He will be questioned at parliament on 3 December, according to Portuguese media reports.

The BES crisis has been referred to by analysts as one of the country's biggest financial scandals, ruining the country's reputation in less than four months after it exited a 78-billion-euro bailout programme without a credit line. The bank was split into a "bad bank" with toxic assets and liabilities, and a "good bank" housing viable assets like branches, employees and senior debtors. The good bank is now called "Novo Banco" (New Bank). The Portuguese government has maintained an optimistic stance throughout the turmoil, saying that bailing out BES was the "best solution" amid backlash by the opposition parties.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 28 Nov, 2014 shows that the Spanish band AUPA performs with local citizens in Beijing hutong, capital of China.—XINHUA

## WHO limits staff, contractors' exposure in Pakistan over security concerns

ISLAMABAD, 28 Nov — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that it has restricted its staff and contractors' exposure in Pakistan over security situation.

Michel Thieren, WHO Representative in Pakistan, however denied local media reports that the organization has suspended operations in the country.

Pakistani TV channels earlier reported that the WHO suspended operations in Balochistan Province a day after unidentified gunmen shot dead four polio workers including three women.

The gunmen sprayed bullets at a van, which carried a team of nine women polio workers near Quetta, the provincial capital, on Wednesday.

The WHO representative in Pakistan said the organization has not stopped its operation in Pakistan.

"WHO would like to categorically dispel the notion of closing down or withdrawing its operations in Balochistan nor anywhere else in Pakistan," he said.

He said in a statement that WHO has applied a standard and routine measure to limit its staff and contractor's exposure to any unsettled security situation.

Thieren said such measure intends to take the needed time to analyze in depth the event and its aftermath, and to explore working environment ahead of a prompt reversal of the measure taken.

He said WHO extends its grievance and sympathy to the families of the victims and wishes to reiterate its continued support towards polio eradication in Pakistan.—Xinhua

## ATR, Indonesia's Lion Air sign deal for 40 aircraft

ROME, 28 Nov — A 1-billion-US dollar contract by aircraft manufacturer ATR, a French-Italian joint-venture between Finmeccanica and the Airbus Group, and Indonesia's Lion Air airline was signed in Rome on Thursday. The contract, which was signed by ATR's CEO Patrick de Castelbajac and President of Lion group Rusdi Kirana, was for the provision of 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft, to meet the growing demand for short and medium haul air transport in the Indonesian and Southeastern Asia region. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and

Finmeccanica's CEO and General Manager, Mauro Moretti, attended the signing, which was the largest order of ATR aircraft in the last 20 years, a statement by Finmeccanica said.

According to the agreement, deliveries will start from January 2016 and will continue until December 2018. The new aircraft will be added to the 60 ATR 72 already ordered by Lion Air from 2008.

"The ATR joint-venture is a clear example of how synergy between the European aerospace industry leads to the development of leading-edge

products and technological systems, ready to successfully meet the challenges posed at international level by increasingly fierce competitors," Moretti said.

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading manufacturer in the high technology sector and ranks among the top 10 global players in aerospace, defence and security.

In 2013 Finmeccanica, which is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, generated revenues of 16 billion euros (20 billion US dollars), with about 64,000 employees operating in 22 countries worldwide.

Xinhua

## India says its 39 nationals missing in Iraq not killed

NEW DELHI, 28 Nov — India on Friday said that its 39 nationals missing in Iraq since June this year were not killed by Islamic State militants.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said that "there is no evidence to support media reports that the missing Indians have been killed." "We are not trusting these reports, we continue to make every effort to locate the Indians and bring them back safely," the minister told the Indian Parliament. Some 40 Indians, who worked with a construction company, were kidnapped in Iraq's second largest city of Mosul after it fell to the Islamic State in June. However, later one of them managed to escape.—Xinhua

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## WEATHER REPORT

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Aye-yawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of isolated light rain or thundershower are likely in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.



## 88th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade held in New York



People attend the 88<sup>th</sup> Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, the United States on 27 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

## Kanye West ditching music for fashion?



Kanye West feels that there are bigger bucks in fashion than in music.—PTI

NEW YORK, 28 Nov — Rapper Kanye West is reportedly planning to quit his music career in order to pursue the fashion world. The 37-year-old singer feels that there are bigger bucks in fashion than in music, reported *New York Post*.

"After his next collaboration with Paul McCartney comes out, he is going to step away from music and concentrate on clothing," a source said. The sneakers West designed for Nike have become collectibles, selling for thousands of dollars, but the rapper left Nike because he wasn't making enough money.

"He got a USD 15 million signing bonus from Adidas, but his line has been pushed back four times because he hasn't had enough time to work on it," the source added. West is married to reality TV star Kim Kardashian and has a daughter named North.—PTI

## Natalie Portman to join Steve Jobs biopic



Natalie Portman is likely to join Michael Fassbender, who is playing Jobs in the Danny Boyle-directed film.

PTI

## Karan Johar requested Imtiaz Ali to cast Alia Bhatt in 'Highway'

MUMBAI, 28 Nov — Karan Johar says he requested Imtiaz Ali to cast Alia Bhatt in 'Highway', which required a mature performance in the lead role.

Karan Johar, who launched Alia in his 2012 college drama 'Student of Year' along with Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra, says he did not work much to sharpen the acting skills of these newcomers as he wanted them to be raw.

"I am glad that Imtiaz took Alia for 'Highway', which is considered one of the best performances of her. But I had to vouch for her to Imtiaz. When I had told him about Alia and requested him to take her in his film, he was not at all sure about her acting prowess after 'Student of the Year'. But I had assured him that she has the capacity to be the lead for his film,"

Karan said at an event on the sidelines of the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here.

The 'Koffee With Karan' host recalled how excitedly Alia had called him after getting the script of 'Highway', which also starred Randeep Hooda opposite her.

"Alia had called me to tell that she got a script from Imtiaz for his next project. She told me she is there in every page of the script and she is playing the main lead. I told her to do it," he said.

Post 'Highway', Alia scaled new career heights with back-to-back hits '2 States' and 'Humpty Sharma ki Dulhania', both produced by Karan and helmed by two new filmmakers.

Karan said collaboration is the way forward in Bollywood to have a good business at the box-office.

"Collaboration is the



Johnny Depp: I don't like to be in social situations — it's fine for me in a weird way, having to run and hide. PTI

## I'm living like a fugitive: Johnny Depp

LOS ANGELES, 28 Nov — Actor Johnny Depp, who loved transforming himself to portray out-of-the-box characters on-screen, says the intense focus on his life makes him feel like a fugitive. The actor, 51, is game to try anything when it comes to his acting but Depp does not like being observed, reported *Detail* magazine.

"I'm living, in a sense, like a fugitive. I don't like to be in social situations — it's fine for me in a weird way, having to run and hide. Less and less, I have the opportunity to observe, because I'm the one being

observed," he said.

Depp's last two outings 'Transcendence' and 'The Lone Ranger' did not do well at the box office but the actor does not want to think much about the outcomes. The actor said Marlon Brando once told him

'Life is a birdsong'. "That's stuck with me. For everybody, the clock's ticking. The main thing is whether you sit there and stare at the clock in fear of your ultimate demise — which is pointless — or you just live," the actor said.—PTI



The 'Koffee With Karan' host recalled how excitedly Alia had called him after getting the script of 'Highway', which also starred Randeep Hooda opposite her.—PTI

way forward. I collaborated with new filmmakers in 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania' and 'Hasee toh Phasee', because we found the scripts engaging and having the potential to do well at the box-office.

"Sometimes you have the resource and they have the screenplay. It's as simple as that. I always say when in doubt collaborate. That's what happens in

west, but we shy away from it. We hold our brand values in such a way that we feel we are the statue of liberty. As long as you have given a great film it does not matter how many names are there in the credit stream," he said.

Karan is collaborating next with Karan Malhotra and Rohit Shetty for 'Brothers' and 'Ram Lakhan' remake, respectively.—PTI

## Jennifer Hudson to appear on 'A Home for the Holidays'

LOS ANGELES, 28 Nov — Jennifer Hudson and Katharine McPhee are among the stars who will appear on the CBS special 'A Home for the Holidays'. The annual telecast highlights heart-warming tales about childhood adoption by presenting stories of kids who have found happy homes, reported *The Wrap*. Rixton, Earth Wind & Fire, Train, Dan + Shay and country music sensation Ashley Monroe will be performing during 'A Home for the Holidays'. 'Scorpion' actress McPhee will be among the presenters for the show. CBS is producing 'A Home for the Holidays' in association with the Children's Action Network and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.—PTI





## GENERAL

## China down to 99 in the latest FIFA rankings

BEIJING, 28 Nov — China dropped to 99<sup>th</sup> position on the November edition of the overall FIFA world rankings, 11 places lower than last month, according to the FIFA website.

Despite the sudden

slide, China maintains its ninth position in the continental table, with Japan as the top one in Asia followed by Iran and South Korea.

China played two warm-up games in November and both ended in a tie.

China drew with New Zealand 1-1 a fortnight ago as captain Zheng Zhi scored a sensational goal at the first half. Four days later, China and Honduras played to goalless draw in Xi'an, and the North American team

not only made into the 2014 Brazil World Cup, but also was China's highest ranking opponent this year.

Germany is still No 1 with Argentina second and Columbia third on the world ranking table.—Xinhua

## Australia to launch safety review after Hughes' death



**Cricket Australia Chief Executive James Sutherland pauses at a news conference, about the death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes, at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, on 27 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS**

MELBOURNE, 28 Nov — Cricket Australia will “immediately” launch a review into safety protocols and protection for players

after the death of batsman Phillip Hughes, the organization's chief executive James Sutherland said on Friday.

Hughes died in a Sydney hospital on Thursday, two days after being struck by a rising delivery during a domestic match that burst an artery and caused a rush of blood to his brain that ultimately proved fatal.

“Well, it is clearly — statistics say it is clearly a freak incident, but one freak incident is one freak incident too many, so that of course puts us in a position of looking into that,” Sutherland told reporters outside the Sydney Cricket Ground where Hughes was struck.

“We will immediately, in consultation with the manufacturers and the other safety providers or regulators, look into it to make sure that these things are addressed and improved, and it's a matter of interest not just for us here in Australia, but for cricketers all over the world.”

Hughes was wearing an older model Masuri helmet, and the manufacturer's managing director said this week the newer model afforded better protection that may have helped in cushioning the blow. Manufacturers told Reuters this week that no helmet was completely safe, while advances in technology were being stymied

by a lack of enforcement of international safety standards and the reluctance of elite players who preferred the game's traditional aesthetics to adopt new styles.

Sutherland declined to say whether the review would look specifically at short-pitched bowling, which has been an accepted part of the game for over 100 years and regularly leaves players with broken bones and other injuries. “I think all of those things around safety need to be looked at and will be considered, but one of the things about the game of cricket is that it is a finely tuned balance between bat and ball,” he said. —Reuters

## United defender Evans close to return

LONDON, 28 Nov — Manchester United defender Jonny Evans has played 60 minutes in a reserve match and could return to manager Louis van Gaal's injury-hit back line against Hull City on Saturday.

The Northern Ireland international has struggled with a succession of niggling injuries this season, giving Van Gaal a major headache with Phil Jones, Rafael, Chris Smalling, Luke Shaw and Marcos Rojo also sidelined for long spells.

“It's nice to get 60-odd minutes under my belt,” the 26-year-old Evans told MUTV.

“It's been a long time coming. I didn't expect to be out this long so I'm pleased to get some minutes. I thought the lads played well and it was an enjoyable game to be part of.

“I've been training for a week or two now but it's taking me time to get my fitness up as I've been out for so long.” Evans is United's longest-serving defender following the departures of Rio Ferdinand, Nemanja Vidic and Patrice Evra at the end of last season.

Argentine Rojo has also started training again after recovering from a dislocated shoulder but will not be ready to face Hull. Van Gaal played 19-year-old Paddy McNair and Tyler Blackett, 20, in the 2-1 win at Arsenal on Saturday which lifted United to fourth in the table.—Reuters



**Manchester United's Jonny Evans (L) celebrates after scoring against Sunderland during their English League Cup semi-final second leg soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 22 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS**

## Lava from Cape Verde volcano threatens to engulf town

PRAIA, 28 Nov — Molten lava from a volcano in the Cape Verde archipelago slid towards the town of Cha das Caldeiras on Thursday, threatening to destroy it and a nearby village four days after an initial eruption.

Television images showed a huge lake of steaming black lava just meters away from houses in the village of Portela. The village is close to Cha das Caldeiras, whose 1,200-strong population has been evacuated to emergen-

cy shelters.

The eruption on the island of Fogo — whose name means fire — is the first since 1995 and the largest since 1951.

“In the last few hours, there was an increase in volcanic activity and the lava is flowing towards Portela and this community may be completely engulfed by lava,” Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves said on Thursday during a visit to Fogo.

“The potential is for the total destruction of Cha

das Caldeiras, one of the most fertile regions of Cape Verde,” he added, calling on international aid for the country.

Experts from Portugal and the Canary Islands have already arrived to evaluate the seismic activity.

The arid, former Portuguese colony is located about 600 km (400 miles) off the coast of Senegal. Fogo's volcanic peak, surrounded by vineyards, is a favorite hiking destination.—Reuters

### MYANMAR TV

(29-11-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

\* Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

\* Nice & Sweet song

7:00 am

\* News / Weather Report

7:40 am

\* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

\* News / International News

8:30 am

\* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

\* News / International News

9:30 am

\* TV Drama Series

9:45 am

\* Documentary

10:50 am

\* Current Affairs

12:00 noon

\* News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

\* Hluttaw Image

12:45 pm

\* Round up of The Week's TV Local News

3:00 pm

\* News

3:40 pm

\* Hyper Sports

4:45 pm

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

5:15 pm

\* Golden Music of Old Stars

5:30 pm

\* MRTV's Youth Programme

6:15 pm

\* 2014 AFF Suzuki Cup (Myanmar Vs Thailand) (Live Broadcast)

8:30 pm

\* News / International News / Weather Report

\* Business News

\* Myanmar Series

\* Gitadagale

\* Phwintbarohn

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\* Guiding Star of Song

Birds

\* Local News

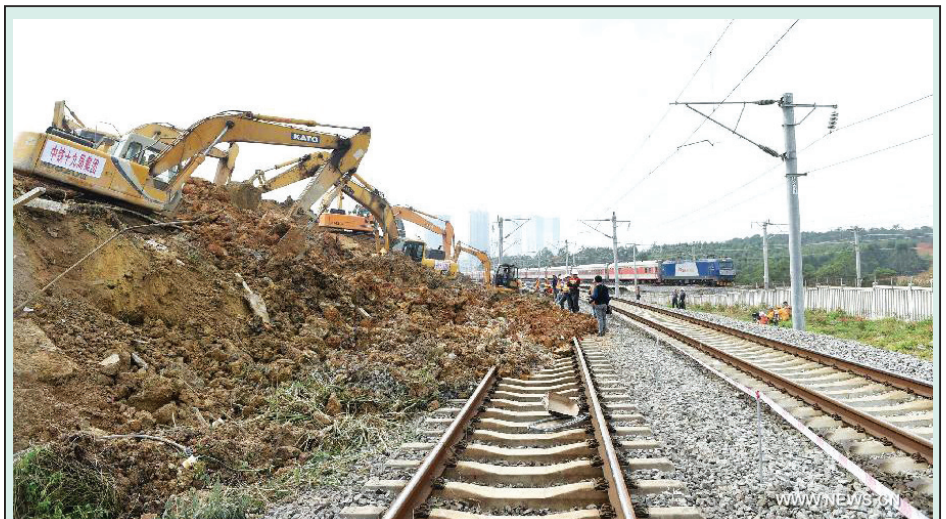
\* Myanma Harp

(Episode-1)

\* World News

\* In The Studio:

Shin Min Eain



**Workers are busy with clearing off fallen clay on the Nanning segment of Nanning-Guangzhou Railway in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 28 Nov, 2014. The 110-metre-long railroad of the Nanning segment of Nanning-Guangzhou Railway was blocked by a landslide on 28 November early morning, causing late arrivals of several trains. —XINHUA**



## Chambers leads with McIlroy lurking, Scott revived in Sydney

SYDNEY, 28 Nov — Australian Greg Chalmers held a one-shot lead at the halfway stage of the Australian Open on Friday but defending champion Rory McIlroy was well-positioned for the weekend in a share of second place.

Chalmers, twice a former winner of his national open, snared his seventh birdie on the last green for a five-under-par 66 to edge ahead of a congested leading pack at five-under for the tournament.

The 41-year-old was not getting too carried away with his early lead, however, with the world number one on his heels after a second 69 and Adam Scott having revived his tournament with a sparkling 66.

"I think it's very early to be talking about winning given who's right behind me and who's playing very well," he told reporters.

"Very early to be thinking about what's going to happen on Sunday night."

Northern Irishman McIlroy had an up and

down round with an eagle, six birdies and six bogies for a share of second with American Conrad Schindler as well as Australians Adam Crawford and Todd Sinnott on four-under.

"I felt like I had an opportunity today to shoot a good one and put a little bit of space between myself and the rest of the field but it didn't

really turn out that way," McIlroy said.

"A few too many mistakes and it was pretty tricky out there to be honest. Swirling quite a bit, which made it hard for club selection. Misjudged a few wedged shots and got bogies from those."

"I was happy with how I finished, picked up shots in four of the last five holes and I'm still in

a good position heading into tomorrow."

Overnight leader Jordan Spieth had a day to forget, bogeying two of his first four holes and finishing with a 72 to drop to a share of sixth on three-under with three others.

"It was a struggle, big time struggle," he said. "I wasn't hitting it well. If I wasn't putting well I may have shot 45 on the back nine."

Scott was in a group of six players sharing ninth on two-under having soared back into contention with a blemish-free 66 that was also fired by an eagle at the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The 34-year-old former US Masters champion, an early starter, held the course record on the newly-reconfigured layout at The Australian Golf Club for half an hour until Jamie Lovemark completed a round of 65.

"We had a good morning for it, so I had to take advantage just for the sake of getting back in the tournament," Scott said.

Reuters



Greg Chalmers of Australia tees off on the second hole during the third round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles on 16 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

## Tottenham's clash with Partizan halted by pitch invaders



Players and officials leave the pitch due to several pitch invasions by spectators during the Europa League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Partizan Belgrade at White Hart Lane in London on 27 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 28 Nov — Tottenham Hotspur could be facing a UEFA punishment after their Europa League game against Partizan Belgrade on Thursday was suspended for several minutes after three separate pitch invasions.

The referee took the players off the field after 38 minutes of the Group C game with the teams drawing 0-0. The players returned to the field about 10 minutes later and Tottenham won the match 1-0.

The pitch invaders ap-

peared to be wearing identical branded t-shirts and British media reported that it could have been part of a marketing stunt.

"Three pitch invaders at tonight's match have been arrested and are assisting police with their enquiries," Tottenham said in a statement. "We shall provide an update as soon as we have established the full facts."

"We apologize to fans for the disruptions caused by this totally unacceptable behaviour." —Reuters

## Soccer great Pele in intensive care, condition improving — hospital



Brazilian soccer legend Pele laughs during the inauguration of a refurbished soccer field at the Mineira slum in Rio de Janeiro on 10 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 28 Nov — Retired Brazilian soccer great Pele is in the intensive care unit in a Sao Paulo hospital where he is being treated for a urinary tract infection, but his condition is improving, the hospital said on Thursday.

The Albert Einstein Hospital said Pele, 74, was receiving renal support treatment, which helps kidneys to filter waste prod-

ucts from the blood, after he had an operation to remove kidney stones earlier this month.

A series of tweets in English from the former player's account aimed to calm concerns over his health. One read: "Want to let you know I am doing fine."

Pele's manager, Paul Kemsley, said in a statement: "He is expected to

make a quick and full recovery from a minor infection caused by his recent successful surgery."

Earlier on Thursday, Pele was moved to a special care unit at the hospital, suffering what the hospital called "clinical instability." It did not provide details.

After that move, Jose Fornos Rodrigues, the former player's personal aide, told Reuters that Pele had been moved primarily to protect his privacy.

"He was uncomfortable with so many people coming. It'll be quieter now," Rodrigues said.

Pele was discharged from the same hospital on 13 November after the kidney stones surgery.

Often called the greatest soccer player in history, Pele has suffered a long list of health problems in the past decade, including emergency eye surgery for a detached retina and a hip replacement.—Reuters

## Arsenal's Wilshere ruled out for three months

LONDON, 28 Nov — Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere will be out of action for three months after undergoing ankle surgery, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The 22-year-old England international damaged ligaments during the league match against Manchester United on Sat-

urday. "Everyone at the club wishes Jack a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on the pitch as soon as possible," Arsenal said on their website.

Wilshere's career has been plagued by injuries, mainly to his ankles, and he has played fewer than 100 league games since

making his debut in 2008.

He missed the entire 2011-12 campaign after suffering a stress fracture to his ankle which ruled him out for 17 months.

"Ankle needed surgery in the end, went well thanks to the main man James Calder! Work hard for what you want because it won't come to you without a fight," Wilshere said on Instagram.

"You have to be strong and courageous and know that you can do anything you put your mind to. If somebody puts you down or criticises you, just keep on believing in yourself and turn it into something positive."

It was another blow for Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger who has been badly hampered by injuries during a poor start to the season in which Arsenal have slipped to eighth in the table.

Reuters



Manchester United's Luke Shaw (R) is challenged Arsenal's Jack Wilshere during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 22 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS