

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Romania

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Traian Basescu, President of Ro-

mania and His Excellency Mr. Victor-Viorel Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania, on the occasion of the National Day of Romania, which falls on 1 December 2014.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan exchange commemorative message for 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sent a commemorative message to His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar

and Japan which falls on 1st December 2014.

His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, also sent a commemorative message to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion.

MNA

President U Thein Sein's radio message to be broadcast on 2-3 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — A radio message by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast on radio on 2 and 3 December. Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamyia FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.

The full text of the message will be published in the dailies to be published on 2 December.—MNA

Norwegian King and Queen arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 30 Dec — At the invitation of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and Her Majesty Queen Sonja and party arrived in Yangon by air on Sunday afternoon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ann Ollestad and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Embassy.—MNA

His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and Her Majesty Queen Sonja being welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at the airport.—MNA



BAGO, 30 Nov — Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Borge Brende, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, ministers of Bago Region Government, armed ethnic organizations and civil society organizations met at Hantha Garden Hotel in Bago on Sunday morning and held discussions on assistance of Norway for the peace process.

Also present at the meeting were responsible people from Myanmar Peace Centre, Kayin National Union, Kayin Na-

tional Progressive Party, New Mon State Party and Mon Women Organization.

The meeting focused on assistance for IDPs, success of the pilot project to issue registration cards for IDPs in Bago Region and assistance for the peace process.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Aung Min said Norway helps Myanmar implement democratization process and peace-making process. The international community is worried that the peace process could not

Norwegian FM meets armed ethnic organizations, CSOs in Bago

be finalized during the handover of power between governments and it is important to maintain (See page 2)

Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Borge Brende, Union Minister U Aung Min and Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po of KNU at a meeting.—MNA



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Union Minister visits eastern Shan State



Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun poses for documentary phot in Kengtung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun and the chief minister of Shan state government made an official tour to eastern Shan state on Thursday to inspect the development programmes in the region.

The entourage to the Kengtung township includ-

ed border affairs minister U Sao Aung Myat, as well as deputy ministers and ministers of Shan state government.

The minister and party met departmental officials and local dignities, explaining the efforts of union government in narrowing down the social gap among states and regions.

U Hla Tun said that the democratization process of government include the three steps, mentioning the first step is reform in political system and national reconciliation and the second step is reform processes in politics, economy and social affairs, while the present third step is the implementation of

tasks to fulfill social economic needs of people in accordance with the plan of the national comprehensive development programmes.

Border affairs minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win explained the activities of his ministry in the region.

On Friday, U Hla Tun visited Mongla of Wa special region to support the development programmes of the region.

The Union minister pledged the union government will provide helps in education and health care sectors of the region, pointing out the importance of rule of law and the consequences of armed conflicts.

Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, deputy minister for health, explained the ministry's short and long-term plan of her ministry.

Vice Chairman Xiao Mingliang presented the needs in development of the region.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Romania

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, on the occasion of the National Day of Romania, which falls on 1 December 2014.—MNA

Union minister meets locals in Bago regions

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — U Ohn Myint, union minister for livestock, fisheries and rural development, met the locals in Bago region Sunday, explaining the ministry's rural development programmes of livestock, fish farming, drinking water supply and job creations.

Parliamentarians and regional department officials discussed with the union minister about infrastructural development works.

Representatives from 16 village-tracts and mem-

bers of rural development supporting groups discussed the needs for education, drinking water and construction of roads.—MNA

Norwegian FM ...

(from page 1)

peace on the ground while negotiations are held on the table, reiterating that the government is taking various measures to restore peace in Myanmar.

The Norwegian foreign minister expressed his view that it will take a long time for Myanmar to restore inclusive peace and Norwegian assistance will contribute to the peace building process, promising that Norway will stand as a friend of Myanmar in the long run.

After the first agenda of the meeting, the union minister and the Norwegian foreign minister responded to queries raised by the local and foreign media. The Norwegian foreign minister held discussions with leaders of ethnic armed organizations and civil society organizations separately.—MNA

Myanmar delegation back from 18th SAARC Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — The Myanmar Delegation led by U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs arrived back to Yangon on 29 November after attending the 18th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in Kath-

mandu, Nepal from 26 November to 27 November 2014.

The 18th SAARC Summit was attended by the Heads of State / Government, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors, Senior Officials from SAARC member countries, representatives from

observers to SAARC and invitees.

As Myanmar is an observer to SAARC, its representative, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin attended the inaugural session of the 18th SAARC Summit and delivered a statement.

MNA

Union Minister opens Magway job fair

MAGWAY, 30 Nov — U Aye Myint, union minister for labour, employment and social security, opened a job fair in Magway City Hall Saturday.

The two-day event organized by the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation displayed 22 exhibition booths from 22 local and foreign

companies. Union minister delivered opening speech, saying that the government is implementing creation of job opportunities to develop socio-economic lives of the people and to reduce poverty.

He also said that the job fair is aimed to give one-stop-service for both job seekers and business firms at home and abroad, saying that his ministry will facilitate easy link between the two sides.—MNA

Girl scouts of Myanmar, Japan will open international camp in Nay Pyi Taw

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 30 Nov— The second international camp will jointly be conducted by Myanmar Girl Guides (MMGG) and Girl Scouts of Japan/Osaka Girl Scouts (GSJ/OGS) from 28 to 31 December in Nay Pyi Taw, with the aim of promoting relations between the two countries, sources said on Sunday.

Parents believe that the training will help their children build more confidence in themselves, take responsibility and have a wide circle of friends.

More than 40 scouts from five schools in Nay Pyi Taw will take this training opportunity together with 30 Japanese scouts, according to the Myanmar

Girl Guides.

The first international camp between Myanmar and Japan was held previous year in Yangon.

Deputy Chief Commissioner Prof Daw Khin Saw Ohnma of MMGG said, "With the help of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), her organization will organize a "training of trainers" programme in February in Yangon to provide scouting qualifications to university teachers."

She went on to say that the international community is eager to participate in the improvement of the country's girl guides. Currently, the association is

implementing its plans in partnership with Japan and Australia.

Currently, there are over 30,000 boy and girl scouts in Myanmar. The MMGG is planning to increase the number of its members in the future through scout trainings and other activities, according

to the official.

In July, Myanmar Girl Guides has joined the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the world largest voluntary organization for girls and young women, with Myanmar Boy Scouts still trying to receive a global membership certificate.—GNLM



Media registration for 67th Anniversary Independence Day, Grand Military Review ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec — A ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary Independence Day and the Grand Military Review ceremony will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 January 2015.

Media persons wishing to cover the news on occasions are to register from 1 to 28 December and submit CV form and

three passport sized photos.

Local based foreign news agencies are to contact 067-412125 and 067-412126, fax: 067-412124, email-ad-news2014@gmail.com and local media persons, 067-412002 and 067-412187, email-myintk-yaw103@gmail.com.

MNA

Scout Aye Phone Pyaw Cho, who is a Grade-7 student from Basic Education High School No.2 in Kamayut, seen with documentary photos of Myanmar Girl Guides at the background.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Golf Tour 2014



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing took part in the final leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2014, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar

PGA at the Zeyathiri Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday, and attended the prize presentation ceremony.

Prize presentation ceremony was held in the afternoon and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Inwa Bank Ltd Maj-Gen Nyo Saw, officials and players.

and Air) Gen Hla Htay Win and Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented prizes to the winners in the tournament.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented the Order of Merit Award to winner Ko Zaw Zaw Latt.

A total of 52 golf players participated in the Myanmar Golf Tour 2014, the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and final legs of which took place at the Royal Myanmar Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw, the Yangon Golf Club in Yangon, the Shwe Mantaung Golf Club in Mandalay, PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin, Bagan Golf Club in Bagan and Zeyathiri Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw respectively.

The golf tour was organized with the aim of nurturing new-blood golf players and development of golf.—Myawady

Senior
General Min
Aung Hlaing
presents
Order of Merit
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Zaw Zaw Latt
in Myanmar
Golf Tour
2014.
MYAWADY

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits fine art center, Ha Long Bay in Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), and army chiefs of ASEAN countries visited the Fine Art Center in Hong Ngoc town and Ha Long Bay on 27 November.

The delegations of

army chiefs were welcomed by the officials of Fine Art Center from Hoang Tan Hong Ngoc at 9:30 am local time.

At 10:35 am, the military delegations arrived at Ha Long jetty and proceeded to Ha Long Bay and Thien Cung Cave which is included in the list of UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Lt. Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh, vice commander-in-chief of Vietnamese People's Army, served dinner for ASEAN senior military personnel at the Saigon Ha Long Hotel at 6:30 pm.—Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Thien Cung Cave.—MYAWADY



FT awards Kanbawza 'Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2014'



Awards of Kanbawza Bank Ltd.—MNA

YANGON, 30 Nov — The London-based Financial Times Newspaper Thursday gave Kanbawza Bank the award of 'Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2014' at the ceremony of 'The Banker Awards 2014' held at the Intercontinental Hotel Ballroom in London.

Kanbawza Bank was selected for this award for its banking services.

A total of 149 monetary institutions were awarded at the ceremony, including the Wells Fargo Bank of the United States, Lloyds Banking Group of the England, ING Banks of

the Netherlands, Westpac Bank of Australia, ICBC Bank of China, HANA Bank of South Korea, DBS Bank of Singapore, CIMB Bank of Malaysia, Krung Thai Bank of Thailand, and AXIS Banks of India.

The award giving ceremony was attended by governors, CEOs and management of the banks.

The Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2014 was accepted by U Aung Ko Win, chairman of Kanbawza Bank Co., Ltd.

Selection of the award-winning banks is based on the media infor-

mation collected by a special group of the bankers.

Kanbawza Bank is chosen for this award as it could extend many branches, installation of ATM machines, developing market shares, highest loans, high profits, human resource development and giving the highest volume of taxes for state-revenue, connection with foreign banks and supporting social welfare programmes.

This is the second-time award for the bank after receiving the Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2013 last year.—MNA

Norwegian Minister visits Telenor sales centre

YANGON, 30 Nov — Minister of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ms Monica Maeland and party of Norway visited Telenor Sales Centre at the corner of Anawrahta and 10th streets

in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, on Sunday.

Officials briefed the minister on Telenor communication services and daily sales of Telenor SIM cards and handsets.

The Norwegian minister viewed round the brands of Telenor handsets and SIM cards at the sales centres shops near the sales centre.

MNA



Minister of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ms Monica Maeland visits Telenor Sales Centre in Lanmadaw Township.—MNA

Mann Myo Market members practise fire prevention drill



MANDALAY, 30 Nov— Firefighters and members of market fire brigade participated in the fire drill with the use of 13 fire trucks at Mann Myo Market of Mandalay City Development Committee between 84th and 85th streets and 38th and 39th streets in Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay, on 30 November.

Township Administrator U Myint Oo, Staff Officer of Township Fire Services Department U Htet Aung and officials supervised the fire drill.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Farmers in Launglon Tsp harvest monsoon paddy

DAWEI, 30 Nov — A model plot of monsoon paddy Pawhsanyin plantation was harvested in Narkhandaw Village, Launglon Township of Taninthayi Region on 27 November.

Staff Officer U Win Aung from Taninthayi Region Agriculture Department and staff participated in the measurement for the model plot.

The paddy field yielded 59.03 baskets of paddy per acre.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



Township police officers meet local people in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — Commander of Zabuthiri Township Police Force Police Major Nyi Win met local people at the administrator office in Thabyegon Ward, Zabuthiri Township,

on 28 November.

The commander gave talks on crime reduction from 2011 to 2013, root cause of thefts, participation of people in policing works and arrest of crime offenders.

He explained assistance provided by the ministry for officers and servicemen of Township Police Force, cost for medical treatment and travel allowance.

Media raised questions

on plans to expose crime offenders and future plans, and the commander and the head of No 1 Myoma police station replied to their queries.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Sanitation carried out in Mahaaungmye Township

MANDALAY, 30 Nov — Mandalay Region Health Department and Mandalay City Development Committee cooperated in carrying out of sanitation and prevention of DHF in

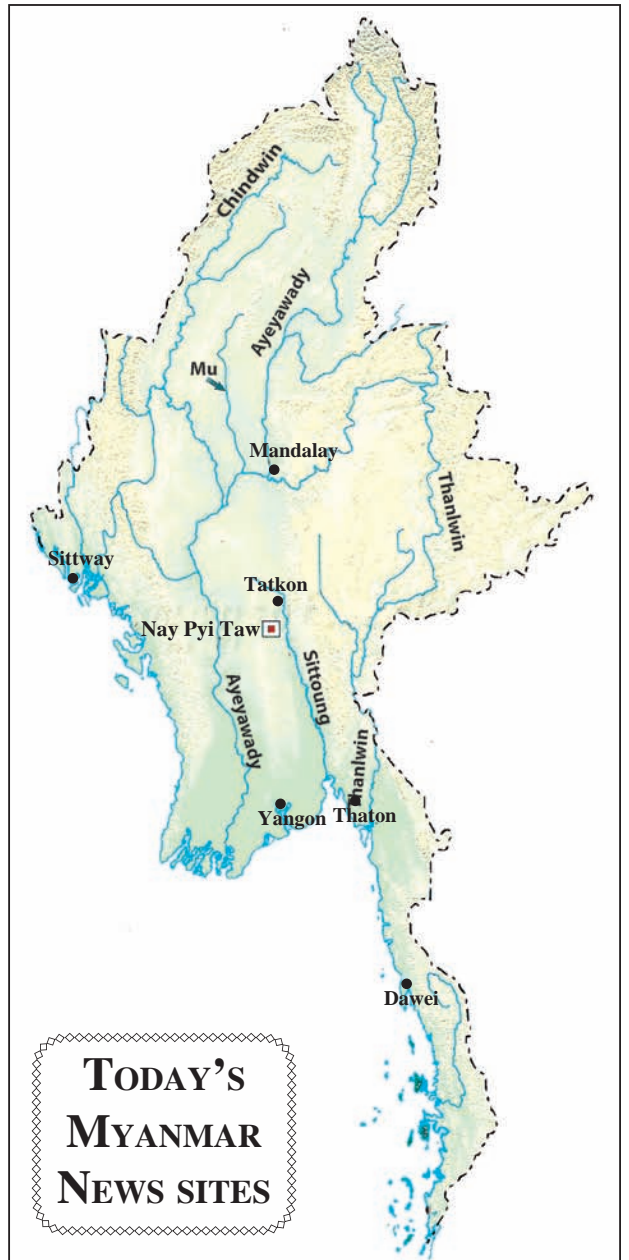
wards of respective townships every Friday.

Local people and departmental staff participated in sanitation along both sides of Mandalay-Yangon Highway and 78th street in

Channayathazi North Ward in Mahaaungmye Township. They cleaned drains along the roads for proper flow of water and preventive activities of dengue hemorrhagic fever.

They also gave talks on disadvantages of DHF, techniques of making treated mosquito nets and spraying works.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Thingangyun Tsp dwellers get new transformer



YANGON, 30 Nov — The head of Thingangyun Township electrical engineer office of Yangon Electricity Supply Board and electricians installed a 315 transformer at the corner of Laydaunkan Road and shortcut road No 1 in Laydaunkan Ward in Thingangyun Township in 2014-15 fiscal year.

The township has installed six 315 KVA transformers and two 200 KVA transformers in 2014-15 fiscal year to supply electricity to the local people at full capacity.

A plan is underway to build six more transformers in necessary places in the township.—*Hmwe Hmwe (Thingangyun)*

REGIONAL

China's Xi strikes conciliatory note, broadens diplomatic focus

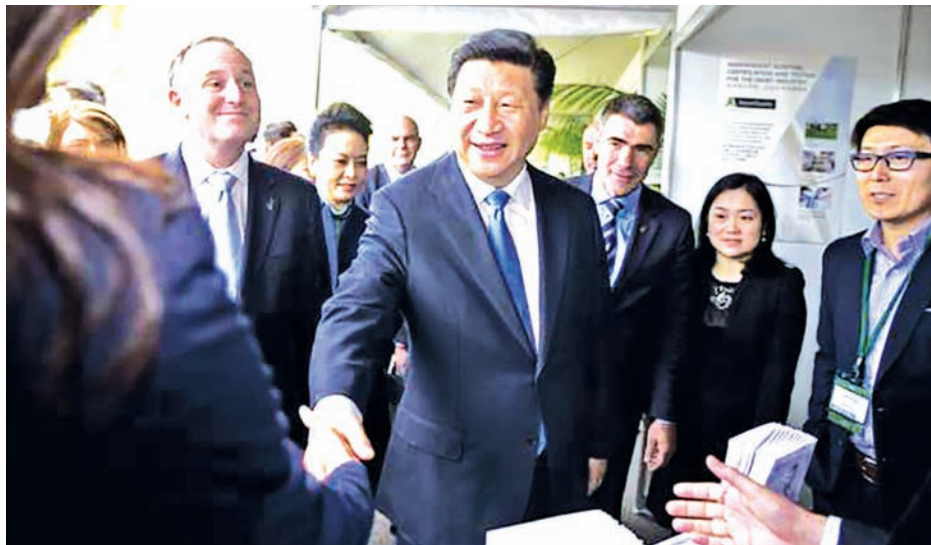
BEIJING, 30 Nov — China's President Xi Jinping ratcheted down Beijing's heated rhetoric and called on the government to expand its foreign policy agenda through cooperation and diplomacy.

China should "promote peaceful resolution of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation, and oppose the wilful use of threat of force," Xi said in a major policy address this weekend, according to a report by the official *Xinhua* News Agency late on Saturday.

"We have advocated the building of a new type of international relations underpinned by win-win cooperation," Xi told a meeting of top leaders convened by the Communist Party to discuss foreign policy. China championed "a new vision featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security."

Xi's remarks are the latest indication that China is adopting more conciliatory foreign policy tactics and addressing fears its economic growth will inevitably spawn a more muscular diplomatic and military approach.

Earlier this month,



China's President Xi Jinping shakes hands alongside New Zealand's Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy (3rd R) and Prime Minister John Key (L), at a display in Karaka's Bloodstock Centre in Auckland, on 21 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

China attempted to mollify relations with Vietnam, the Philippines and the US during the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which was hosted in Beijing. China also has promised more than \$120 billion since May to Africa, Southeast Asia and Central Asia, including a \$40-billion New Silk Road fund and a \$50-billion Beijing-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. "We should increase China's soft power, give a good Chinese narrative, and better communicate China's message to the

world," Xi said. China also should "firmly uphold" its "territorial sovereignty, maritime rights and interest and national unity," Xi said. Beijing in recent months has adopted an activist approach to securing its claims to areas of the South China Sea.

Last week, China's foreign ministry hit back at "irresponsible remarks" from the United States, which has called on Beijing to stop a land reclamation project in the disputed Spratly Islands, after a leading defence publication said satellite images

showed China was building an island on a reef that could be large enough to accommodate an airstrip. China lays claim to almost all of the South China Sea, believed to be rich with minerals and oil-and-gas deposits and one of Asia's most likely flashpoints. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Chinese Taipei also have claims.

"Our biggest opportunity lies in China's steady development and the growth in its strength," Xi said.

Reuters

Indonesia joins China-led development bank

JAKARTA, 30 Nov — Indonesia has formally agreed to join a new multilateral investment bank led by China that will be launched by the end of 2015 to help fund infrastructure development projects in Asia, a press statement of the Indonesian Finance Ministry said on Saturday. According to the press statement, Finance Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, witnessed by Chinese Ambassador Xie Feng, in the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday.

"For Indonesia, the establishment of the AIIB is important to accelerate development in the domestic infrastructure sector, which covers energy, transportation, telecommunication, agricultural development and rural infrastructure, sanitation and clean water, environmental protection, logistics and other productive sectors," the statement said. By signing the memorandum, Indonesia will join 21 other countries, including China, to establish the bank, which will be based in Beijing. China's initiative to set up the AIIB is seen by developed countries as part of its attempt to expand its regional influence and challenge the post-World War II, US-led

global financial system.

The idea of creating the bank was put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping last year. China is prepared to be its biggest shareholder, with a stake of up to 50 percent. Major developed countries keeping a distance from the new multilateral lender, including Japan and the United States, are concerned whether the AIIB can meet international standards of governance and transparency practiced by existing institutions such as the World Bank. Japan and the United States have also been skeptical about the AIIB's necessity given that the Asian Development Bank, in which the two countries are the top investors, already exists.

The ADB, founded in 1966, has 67 members and its capital base was \$175 billion as of 31 December, 2013, while the AIIB is expected to start with capital of around \$50 billion.

China has sought the participation of Australia and South Korea, but the two US allies have so far not expressed interest in joining. The other 21 founding members of the AIIB include Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.—*Kyodo News*

Japan, China, S Korea decide on 3 cities to host 2015 culture events

TOKYO, 30 Nov — Japan, China and South Korea on Sunday designated Japan's Niigata, China's Qingdao and South Korea's Cheongju as the next cities to host a series of cultural exchange events in 2015 to deepen mutual understanding. The decision was reached at the three countries' cultural ministerial meeting in Yokohama, one of the host cities for this year's "Culture City of East Asia" programme events.

"I want to step up efforts to resolve various problems among the three countries with the power of culture," Japanese cultural affairs minister Hakubun Shimomura told a Press conference after the meeting, while signaling his intention to expand cultural exchanges in the run-up to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games



(From L) South Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Kim Jong Deok, Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Hakubun Shimomura and Chinese Vice Minister of Culture Yang Zhijin pose for photos as they meet in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 30 Nov, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

in South Korea's Pyeongchang and the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. On the political front, Tokyo has been at odds with Seoul and Beijing over territorial and historical issues. Under the "Culture City of East

Asia" programme that started this year, arts, music and dance performance events have been held in Yokohama as well as Quanzhou in China and Gwangju in South Korea.

Kyodo News



A woman buys Chinese knots at the 21st International Charity Bazaar in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 29 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

Cold front sweeps China with gales, snow

BEIJING, 30 Nov — Cold front started affecting most part of China with gales before dawn, the meteorological authorities said on Sunday. China's northern areas including Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Hebei and Beijing were the first to experience gales and temperature drops, which will hit most part of China later as

cold front moves eastwards, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said.

Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong and Anhui issued cold wave or gale alerts this morning. The centre suggested better cold-proof protection and fire prevention in these areas. Smog still lingers in some regions of north China despite that the

NMC has canceled the yellow alerts, the third serious in a four-tier warning system, for heavy fog and haze at 6 o'clock this morning.

The NMC forecast that in the next three days, northeast China's Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning will be hit by heavy snow with blizzards in some areas.

Xinhua

Israel's defence minister names new military chief of staff

JERUSALEM, 30 Nov — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon on Saturday evening appointed Major General Gadi Eizenkot as the 21st chief of staff of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

A statement by Ya'alon's office said the appointment received the approval of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Major General Yair Golan, who until recently headed the IDF's Northern Command, which oversees forces po-

sitioned along the Syrian and Lebanese frontiers, has been appointed as the next deputy chief of staff, according to the statement.

It said the decision to appoint General Eizenkot to the military's top post was preceded by a series of meetings between Ya'alon and Netanyahu in recent weeks, and that the latter had personally interviewed the leading contenders. Ya'alon also held consultations with the incumbent chief of staff, Lieutenant General Benny Gantz, and for-

mer top military officials before making his final decision.

"The choice was between excellent, suitable and experienced candidates. I believe that Gen Eizenkot is the right man at this time to lead the IDF in the coming years," said the defence minister in the statement.

Noting that Israel in the coming years will face "the most complex" security challenges, Ya'alon said Eizenkot is the most suitable officer to lead the military in facing these challenges. —Xinhua

Vucic, Dodik: EP resolution not contributing to cooperation

BELGRADE, 30 Nov — The latest resolution adopted by the European Parliament (EP) does not contribute to improvement of cooperation among countries and nations of the Western Balkans in any way, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Republika Srpska (RS) President Milorad Dodik stated on Saturday.

According to a release issued by the Serbian government's press service, Vucic and Dodik exchanged views on the political and economic situation in the region during their meeting in Belgrade, and agreed that peace, political tolerance and full stability are the con-

ditions for progress of the Republic of Serbia and RS.

During the talks, Vucic and Dodik agreed that the Republic of Serbia and RS need to additionally improve their economic cooperation in keeping with the Law on special and parallel relations, states the release.

On Thursday, EP adopted a resolution on leader of the Serbian Radical Party Vojislav Seselj in which it called on the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to re-examine the decision on his release. The resolution also calls on Serbian authorities to distance themselves from Seselj's statements. —Tanjug



Republika Srpska (RS) President Milorad Dodik and Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic. — TANJUG

Abe vows to lift consumption with stimulus steps

TOKYO, 30 Nov — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday vowed to redouble efforts to lift personal consumption in Japan through additional stimulus measures.

In a televised policy debate with leaders of other political parties ahead of the 14 December House of Representatives election, Abe, who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, admitted that the effects of his "Abenomics" policy mix of massive monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and growth-oriented reform have yet to reach non-urban areas in the country.

"Abenomics is still only halfway" to achieving its goals, he said, with further stimulus steps needed to spur consumption.

Japan's economy shrank by an annualized real 1.6 percent in the three months through September, down for the second straight quarter, following a 7.3 percent plunge in the April-June quarter in the fallout of a consumption tax hike from 5 percent to 8 percent on 1 April.

Natsuo Yamaguchi, head of the LDP's junior coalition partner Komeito party, said it is important to ensure wage increases in



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe makes a stump speech in Matsudo, Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, on 29 Nov, 2014, ahead of the 14 December lower house election.

KYODO NEWS

line with inflation, and that Komeito will seek a lower tax rate on daily necessities in April 2017 when the consumption tax is to be raised to 10 percent.

Abe earlier this month announced his decision to postpone the tax hike to 10 percent, originally scheduled for October 2015, to April 2017 in view of recent signs of stalling economy. The LDP and Komeito, in a joint policy platform for the upcoming election, said they will speed up discussions about which items should be subject to the lower rate and

how to make up for the lost tax revenue.

Banri Kaieda, head of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, criticized the government's economic performance, arguing that wages would not increase unless regular employment, rather than temporary jobs, is expanded.

Takeo Hiranuma, chairman of the minor opposition Party for Future Generations, called for fundamental deregulation. Referring to the growth strategy of Abe's economic policy, Hiranuma argued "the Third Arrow of Abenomics have major problems."

Japanese Communist Party chief Kazuo Shii blamed the tax hike in April for the economic slump. He said the LDP, Komeito and the DPJ are "heavily responsible" for the current economic situation, referring to a 2012 accord reached between the three parties while the DPJ was in power to raise the consumption tax in two stages.

Ichiro Ozawa, a former DPJ chief who leads the People's Life Party, said the economy would not recover without boosting personal consumption.

Social Democratic Party chief Tadamoto Yoshida denounced Abenomics, claiming the policy only favors the rich and big companies.

On the issue of the vote-value gap, or the disparity in the weight of votes between the least and most populous electoral districts, Abe said he would respect a Diet decision earlier this year to set up an experts panel under the lower house speaker to discuss measures to correct the situation.

The DPJ's Kaieda and Toru Hashimoto, a co-leader of the Japan Innovation Party and also Osaka mayor, also agreed to respect the decision, but urged drastic reform to cut the number of parliament seats.

Kaieda criticized Abe for having done "nothing" in the two years following the November 2012 agreement between Abe and then Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda of the DPJ to take measures for the reduction of seats.

Hashimoto argued that salaries of government employees and Diet members should be cut amid worsening fiscal conditions.

Kyodo News

Sarkozy wins French UMP party leadership but rivals defiant

lande in 2012, Sarkozy made a storming comeback in September, although recent polls showed his popularity among members of the crisis-torn UMP wavering.

Sarkozy won 64.5 percent of the vote. Analysts had said before the vote that he needed at least 70 percent to see off rivals and become the party's undisputed champion for the presidential battle in 2017.

He scored 85 percent when he last won the leadership, in 2004.

Alain Juppe, a UMP heavyweight who has said he wants to be its presidential candidate in 2017, was not backing down.

"I am ready to help him of course if we take the course I have set out, rallying the right and the centre," he told reporters after the result.

"We will see for the (presidential) primaries. That's not the subject. The opposite of vigilance is what? It's going to sleep? I am not going to go to sleep."

Francois Fillon, Sarkozy's other main potential rival for the UMP presidential ticket, took a similar line.

"Unity does not mean submission," he said in a statement. "For my part I will defend my convictions."

Sarkozy said the campaign had been "dignified" and took comfort in what he said was a record turnout, calling it in comments on his Facebook page "the best response to two years of internal quarrels and divisions".

The 24-hour online vote was slowed on Friday evening by a cyber attack on the election website, but in the end more than 58 percent of its members had cast a vote, a bigger turnout than in past elections, and party officials declared it fully valid.

With Hollande's ratings sent to record lows by tax rises and a failure to tackle unemployment, the opposition conservatives should be flying high. Economic data last week showed the jobless rate at the latest record high and consumer spending in the doldrums.

But the UMP has long been riven by leadership squabbles, and both it and its new leader are mired in a legal inquiry into alleged funding irregularities.

Reuters



Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy attends the French Ligue 1 soccer match between Paris St Germain and Nice at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on 29 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

PARIS, 30 Nov — Nicolas Sarkozy won the leadership of the conservative UMP on Saturday, a potential step towards a bid to be French president for a second time, but his victory was not decisive enough to cow his rivals in the party.

After losing the presidency to Socialist Francois Hol-

WORLD

Ferguson demonstrators begin 120-mile march to Missouri state capital



Demonstrators chant against the police during a demonstration against the grand jury decision in the Ferguson, Missouri shooting of Michael Brown in San Francisco, California on 28 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

FERGUSON, (Missouri) 30 Nov — Activists in Ferguson, Missouri, on Saturday began a 120-mile march to the state capital to protest the killing of an unarmed black teen by a white police officer, a case that has rekindled a national debate over US race relations.

The seven-day march to Jefferson City, organized by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, began with more than 150 people setting out from the Canfield Green Apartments, where 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot and killed on 9 August by

Officer Darren Wilson.

The NAACP is calling for a reform of police practices, a new police chief in Ferguson and a national law to prevent racial profiling by police.

The “Journey for Justice,” which is reminiscent of the civil rights marches of the 1960s, began with some people singing the decades-old protest song “We Shall Overcome.”

Participants carried signs proclaiming “Black Lives Matter” and “Equality Now!” A grand jury’s decision on Mon-

day not to charge Wilson ignited protests in Ferguson and a riot that left buildings torched and stores looted. Wilson has said he acted in self-defence. Since the announcement on Monday, demonstrations have spread to major cities across the United States, resulting in hundreds of arrests during the week, including at least 16 arrests overnight in Ferguson, police said.

Sandra Henry, 53, a registered nurse from St Louis, came to the Canfield Green Apartments to join the march and said she would like to see a change

in how police operate.

“This isn’t just about St Louis. We are speaking for other cities, other countries too,” Henry said.

All told, about 100 marchers were expected to make the entire journey, with more joining segments of the long walk, said NAACP staff member Jamiah Adams.

The NAACP expects about 1,000 people to be part of the final leg of the march, said Adams, who will participate along with other NAACP staff members and the organization’s president, Cornell William Brooks. Marchers will be able to shuttle back and forth between the walk and their residences in the St Louis area by taking a bus back to a staging area, Adams said.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon has called for the state assembly to convene for a special session in the state capital to approve more funds for the Missouri Highway Patrol and the National Guard, after months of protests over Brown’s death.

In New York, activists planned to rally in Harlem on Saturday to draw parallels between Brown’s death and what they see as other cases of unjustified police violence.

Reuters

UNSG’s Message on World AIDS Day

1 December, 2014

On this World AIDS Day, I welcome the tremendous progress the world is making in responding to the AIDS epidemic. This year, world leaders made a commitment to end AIDS by 2030. The Fast Track approach launched last week will enable us to reach this goal.

Almost 14 million people worldwide are now accessing HIV treatment. We have reduced new HIV infections by 38 per cent since 2001. We have prevented 1.16 million infections among newborn babies by providing essential antiretroviral medicines. We are on track to provide antiretroviral therapy to 15 million people by 2015 and to eliminate mother-to-child transmissions within the next few years. Thanks to the dedication and energy of many partners including those in civil society, we continue to tackle and remove laws that stigmatize and discriminate. Progress is accelerating.

But the gains remain fragile. There are 35 million people living with HIV today, and some 19 million of them do not know they have the virus. There are important gaps in our response to key groups of people. Two out of three children who need treatment do not get it. Young women are particularly vulnerable in many countries with high HIV prevalence. The AIDS epidemic is increasing in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East, fuelled by stigma, discrimination and punitive laws. And the essential work of community systems and support organizations often lacks support. We must leave no one behind.

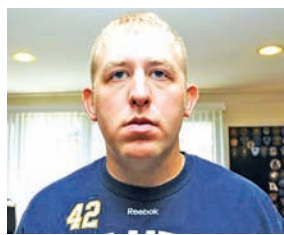
I am pleased and proud to see that we are moving forwards. The legacy of the AIDS response is already apparent as we confront Ebola in West Africa. We know that medical systems alone are not enough to provide robust healthcare. Social justice, the democratization of science, shared responsibility for financing, human rights and gender equity, and a people-centred approach to health are all lessons we have learned in the AIDS response that are being applied across the board, including in our discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

On this World AIDS Day, I call on world leaders to unite in our common cause. We have started to turn the tide. We have set a bold target. Let us end AIDS together by 2030.

UNIC/ Yangon

Ferguson police officer who killed black teen resigns from force

FERGUSON, 30 Nov — The white police officer who fatally shot an unarmed black teenager in a St Louis suburb has resigned, his lawyer said on Saturday, as activists set out on a 120-mile (193-km) march to protest the killing and a grand jury’s



Officer Darren Wilson

decision not to indict him.

The resignation of Darren Wilson from the Ferguson, Missouri, police force comes nearly four months after he killed 18-year-old Michael Brown and days after the announcement that he would not face criminal

charges.

The incident, which has led to months of sometimes violent protests in Ferguson, has reignited a debate over race relations and the use of police force in the United States.

Neil Bruntrager, an

attorney for Wilson, confirmed that the officer had submitted his resignation, a move that was long anticipated, no matter the outcome of the grand jury’s deliberations.

“In terms of his safety, it is probably the best thing

for him,” said Cynthia Burnes, 26, a nurse’s assistant from St Louis who was among about 50 people gathered in front of the Ferguson police headquarters on Saturday evening. “He is black-listed from this moment on.”—*Reuters*

Egyptian court drops case against Mubarak over 2011 protest deaths

CAIRO, 30 Nov — An Egyptian court has dropped its case against former President Hosni Mubarak over the killing of protesters in the 2011 uprising that ended his 30-year rule and symbolised hopes for a new era of political openness and accountability.

Mubarak, 86, was sentenced to life in prison in 2012 for conspiring to murder 239 demonstrators, sowing chaos and creating a security vacuum during the 18-day revolt, but an appeals court ordered a retrial.

His supporters erupted in celebration when the verdicts of that retrial — which also cleared Mubarak’s former interior minister, Habib al-Adly, and six aides — were read out. The defendants had denied the charges.

Supporters outside court, carrying pictures of the ex-air force officer who dominated the most populous Arab nation for three decades, far outnumbered families of protesters who died in the Tahrir Square revolt that

had embodied the hopes of Arab Spring uprisings that spread through the region.

The judge said criminal charges should never have been brought against Mubarak. The decision can be appealed, however, and the former leader was not freed as he is serving a three-year jail term in a separate embezzlement case.

Many Egyptians who lived through Mubarak’s rule view it as a period of autocracy and crony capitalism.— *Reuters*



Fishermen are seen in the River Nile as a helicopter ambulance carrying former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flies towards Maadi Military Hospital at the southern suburb of Maadi, on the outskirts of Cairo on 29 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 1 December, 2014

Teaching children just to pass exams is a corrupt practice

By Kyaw Thura

It is necessary to make it clear right from the outset that character building and capacity building have become an increasingly important issue for schools, especially at a time when our country is at the crossroads of adopting a new education policy with the new education law in place.

When it comes to schooling, examinations are an unavoidable part of student life. In this respect, teachers are required to take notice of what examinations are for. From the start,

schools should not concentrate their popularity on securing higher pass rates. In other words, the primary focus of schools should not be on teaching students just to pass exams. It is therefore imperative to bring the issue of educating children in schools into sharp focus, alongside complete attention to the overall development of students.

Ironically, students are found to have made progress in basic skills in reading and math, but surveys show that their improvements cannot cope with in middle school and beyond, where tests get tougher and demand critical thinking skills. An educationist once noted that it is necessary to ensure that students make adequate yearly progress toward achieving academic proficiency.

In order to measure the skills students are expected to be acquiring, teachers are responsible for providing students with those skills necessary through tests. It is one thing to teach to the test, but it is another to teach the test.

Test-taking strategies are what students need to know as they progress through school. This means that teachers need to integrate test-taking skills into their lessons.

Although teaching to the test is a good thing, teaching the test is a different story. Above all, the way students are taught is more important than tests and exams. Teaching to the test is in fact good teaching because it can no doubt help students advance their academic excellence.

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Building global climate ambition

By Federica Mogherini
and Miguel Arias Cañete

At no time has a global deal on climate change looked more likely than it does today. In October, EU leaders agreed ambitious climate and energy targets for 2030, including a binding domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 40%.

Our announcement injected a new momentum into the global climate negotiations. And very recently, the US and China announced their future targets. This was encouraging news. And yet if we are going to secure a binding, meaningful global deal on climate change, the next month will be just as crucial.

On 1 December, representatives from every country in the world will gather in Lima for a crucial conference to try and lay the ground work for a global deal on climate change that world leaders have committed to agreeing in Paris this time next year.

There is no doubt that action is urgently needed to push toward the decarbonisation of the global economy and to make lasting progress on an unprecedented global challenge. The impacts of climate change are being felt on every continent, from the melting of the great glaciers of South America to the retreating sea ice of the Arctic.

Human influence on the climate is clear. In its Fifth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) showed that concentrations of car-

bon dioxide in the atmosphere have increased to their highest levels ever. And the longer we carry on disturbing the climate, the greater the risks we will face and the more costly it will become to adapt to the changes.

But what is also clear from the IPCC report is that our internationally agreed target of keeping global warming below 2°C remains within our grasp. And we must ensure this is reflected in bold contributions to the global climate change agreement.

The new deal must mirror the evolving national responsibilities in the world economy, as well as today's geopolitical realities and the capacity of countries to contribute. What is critical is a commitment from all countries to play their part.

This is why the summit in Lima is crucial. It will be an opportunity to put pressure on other countries, particularly the other members of the G20, to come forward with their own targets soon. The sooner they do this the more time we all have to assess if the commitments add up to what scientists tell us is required to keep global warming to below 2°C.

Countries will also discuss the methodology for evaluating the different contributions, to make sure they are fair and add up to the effort we need. Last but not least, they will discuss the important topic of climate finance to the most vulnerable countries.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to turn climate change from "the greatest

collective challenge facing humankind today into the greatest opportunity for common progress towards a sustainable future." If we are to succeed in this, we must have the political courage to act decisively now, with ambition and collectively.

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission
Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy

SCG in support of construction of the world's largest Reclining Buddha Image in Mon State

By Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 30 Nov — SCG, ASEAN's leading business conglomerate, has launched a project to support the construction of the world's largest Reclining Buddha Image in Win Sein Taw Ya Monastery, located at Myaing Kone village, Mudon Township, Mon State. SCG will donate an initial 2 million baht (approximately US\$62,600) and will supply building materials such as cement and ceramic tiles in stages across the project duration. The project is targeted to be completed in October 2015 and will be supported by SCG's staff as well as its business partners who have also donated funds for the construction.

SCG is contributing in this initiative in line with its value to be a good corporate citizen and to improve the quality of life for all communities where it operates. Through this project, SCG aims to further establish the world's larg-

est Reclining Image of Buddha as a landmark in Mon state and one that would attract tourism arrivals, job creation and economic benefits for the people of Mon state.

Most recently, SCG staff and people living in the villages around the Win Sein Taw Ya religious area volunteered their time to commence preparation and cleaning work for the construction project.

Established in March 1993, the 600-foot long Reclining Image of Buddha is part of the Win Sein Taw Ya religious area which covers 499.62 acres of land. There are more than 600 pagodas, 30 religious buildings, 500 Arhat standing statues and a 70-foot high Arhat Shin-Oo-Pa-Gote Statue in the area. There are numerous rooms inside the Reclining Buddha image, some of which currently include paintings and sculptures depicting the story of Buddha.

Union finance minister meets taxpayers in Myeik

MYEIK, 30 Nov — Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein met local authorities, departmental officials, taxpayers, entrepreneurs and members of social organizations at Pearl Yadana Hall on Strand Road in Myeik, Tanintharyi Region, on 29 November.

The union minister explained reform process in economic sector of the nation, duties and functions of the Ministry of Finance and its reform process, taxation reform, commercial tax and income tax.

Departmental heads briefed the attendees on levying income tax and commercial tax and replied



to queries raised by local people.

Khaing Htoo (Myeik)

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein cordially meets departmental officials and social organization members in Myeik.

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Daily marks 17th anniversary celebration

MANDALAY, 30 Nov— With the aim of presenting policies and directives adopted by the State and region government to the people and reflecting the daily activities of Mandalay City Development Committee and Mandalay Region government, Public Relations and Information Department of MCDC has been running the Mandalay Daily since 17 years.

On 30 November 2014, the Mandalay Daily celebrated its 17th anniversary at its building near Maha Nwesin sports ground at the corner of 35th and 71st

streets in Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay.

Officials of the daily donated meals to members of the Sangha in the morning. Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun and officials attended the anniversary celebration of the daily.

The minister presented gifts to outstanding workers and the writers and journalists for their largest number of news and articles.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

MCDC staff get basic computer knowledge



MANDALAY, 30 Nov— Staff of Mandalay City Development Committee are to give the best services to the city dwellers through communication networks, the Secretary of Mandalay City Development Committee said at the concluding ceremony of the basic computer course No 2 of the committee at its hall in Mandalay on 28 November.

The secretary presented prizes to outstanding trainees and Joint Secretary U Thet Naing Tun, certificates to the trainee leader.

The training course was conducted from 15 September to 28 November. The staff were trained Microsoft word, Excel, PowerPoint and other basic computer courses.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Wellwishers donate cash to fund for construction of pagoda in Manipur, India

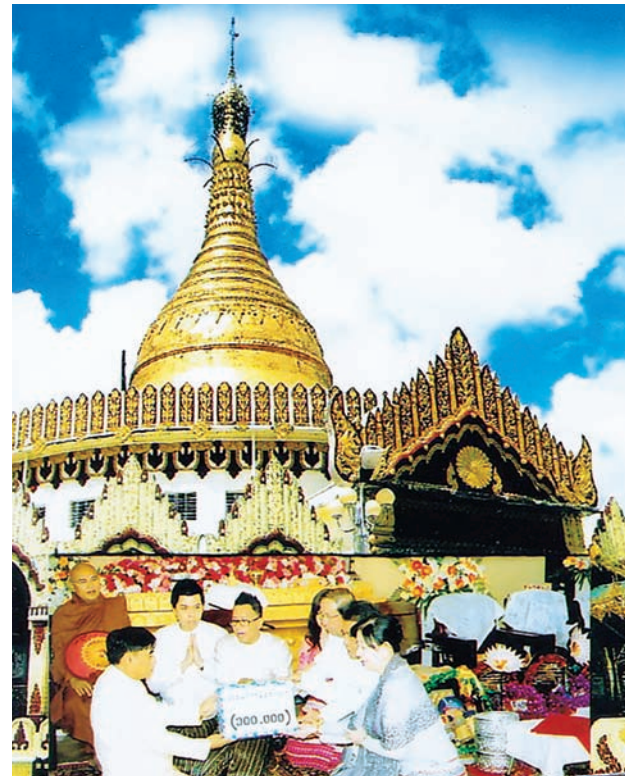
MANDALAY, 30 Nov — A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for construction of Thakymuni World Chanthagyi Pagoda in Manipur State of India was held at Moehtiaungsi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, on 28 November.

Tawwin Diamond house owner family donated alms to members of the Sangha.

Lung specialist Dr Mya Maung, Mandalay Region Minister for Social

Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and wife, Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Kyaw Swa Win (Tawwin Diamond House) and family donated US\$ 100,000 to the fund for construction of the pagoda, US\$ 1,800 for the meals of Bodh Gaya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Candamuni and members of the Sangha and US\$ 500 for the Myanmar Buddhists Day to Mandalay Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Than Soe Myint.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Chinese eye specialists perform surgical operations on Myanmar patients



MANDALAY, 30 Nov— Eye specialists from Mandalay Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital under the Ministry of Health and eye surgeons of No 1 People's Hospital

of Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China performed surgical operations on 200 eye patients at Mandalay EENT Specialist Hospital from 29 November to 9 December.

In his greetings, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing said that surgical operation on cataract patients conducted by Myanmar and Yunnan eye

specialists will strengthen friendly relations between Myanmar and China.

Deputy Director-General Ms Huxian of Yunnan Province International Relations Association expressed her thanks for chances of friendly relations with Myanmar specialists and exchange of eye treatment techniques.

Deputy Medical Superintendent Ms Meiyan of Yunnan Province Hospital said this is the second time of trip to provide surgical treatment to the eye specialist. In 2013, they had performed successful eye surgical treatments on 250 patients.

The Chinese specialists donated eye surgical equipment worth 200,000 yuan in Myitkyina.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Athletes with disabilities arrive in Kume, Myittha Township

MANDALAY, 30 Nov—Jointly organized by Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar) and Yangon School for the Blinds marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which falls on 3rd December 2014.

In commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the wheel chair skill contest for the disabled took place along Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

The contestants arrived in Kume, Myittha of Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region on 30 November and they were welcomed by local people.

The disabled team will spent a night in Kyaukse on 1 December and arrive in Mandalay on 2 November.

In the evening on 2 December, the Youth Band of Blinds and Disabled will perform entertainment at Shwe Min Thar Foundation on 68th street in Chanayethazan Township.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Iraq's divisions will delay counter-offensive on Islamic State

BAGHDAD, 30 Nov — US air support and pledges of weapons and training for Iraq's army have raised expectations of a counter-offensive soon against Islamic State, but sectarian rifts will hamper efforts to forge a military strategy and may delay a full-scale assault.

The Sunni Islamists stormed through northern Iraq in a 48-hour offensive in June, charging virtually unopposed toward the outskirts of Baghdad, humiliating a US-trained Iraqi army which surrendered both land and weapons as it retreated.

By contrast, even a successful effort by the Shi'ite-led government to dislodge Islamic State, also known as ISIS, from Sunni territory where it rules over millions of Iraqis would be fiercely fought and could stretch well beyond next year.

The Baghdad government relies on Shi'ite militias and Kurdish peshmerga

to contain Islamic State — a dependence which underlines and may even exacerbate the sectarian rivalry which opened the door for the summer offensive.

US newspapers have cited officials in Washington saying the Americans' training mission aims to prepare Iraqi troops for a spring offensive to retake territory, including Mosul, northern Iraq's largest city and Islamic State's powerbase.

Hemin Hawrami, an official close to Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani, told *Reuters* that Iraqi forces would not be ready to take the fight to Mosul, in Iraq, until late 2015.

"There will be no spring or summer (offensive)," he said, adding that progress depended on government willingness "to reorganize the army, how quickly they can solve political issues with us and the Sunnis, (and) how quick the coalition will



Members of the Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite fighters take part during an intensive security deployment in the town of Qara Tappa in Iraq's Diyala Province on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

be in providing heavy arms to peshmerga and the Iraqi army."

The army, Shi'ite militias and Kurdish fighters have made some gains against Islamic State, pushing back an advance toward

Kurdish territory in August and last week recapturing towns in Diyala Province, on the road from Baghdad to Iran.

The leader of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Badr Organization, whose fighters

battled alongside peshmerga and soldiers in Diyala, said they would turn next to the Sunni provinces of Salahuddin and Anbar — north and west of Baghdad — before moving further north to Nineveh Province, where

Mosul lies.

"We are counting on the support of the Sunni tribal fighters. With them joining the fight, our victory is certain," Hadi al-Amiri told *Reuters* by telephone from Diyala province.

Amiri said he expected to get weapons not just from the Iraqi government, which may allocate a quarter of next year's \$100 billion budget to the military, but also from the \$1.6 billion of arms and training which Washington plans to deliver.

Both Amiri's assumptions look optimistic, as Washington and the Sunni tribes are deeply wary of Shi'ite militia forces.

Iraqi authorities aim to overcome the deep rifts between Shi'ites, Sunni Arabs, Kurds and other groups by absorbing local fighters into a state-funded National Guard, but the role of that force remains undecided.

Reuters

Arab-Jewish school, symbol of Jerusalem co-existence, torched

JERUSALEM, 30 Nov — Suspected Jewish extremists set fire to a classroom in an Arab-Jewish school in Jerusalem, police said on Sunday, targeting a symbol of co-existence in a city on edge over a recent surge in violence.

The premises were empty late on Saturday when assailants torched a classroom used by first-graders at the Hand in Hand school, where Palestinian and Israeli children study together in Hebrew and Arabic.

"Death to Arabs" had been scrawled on a schoolyard wall. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said

the slogan pointed to "nationalist motives", a reference to suspected far-right Jewish attackers.

More than 600 pupils attend Hand in Hand. From pre-school to high school, its student population is divided equally between Jews and Arabs. There are four other such schools in the Hand to Hand network in Israel.

The smell of smoke still lingered in the air when children came to school on Sunday, the first day of the working week in Israel. A police forensic team worked in the burnt classroom where charred books were scattered on the floor.

Tearful mothers dropped off their children and about 150 people held a protest outside against the violence. "We're supporting each other, this just makes us stronger," said Mimi Fkia, an Arab kindergarten teacher, as Vida, her Israeli counterpart, embraced her.

Violence in Jerusalem and other areas of Israel and the Palestinian Territories has surged in the past few months.

In July, a Palestinian youth was burned to death by Jewish attackers, allegedly in revenge for the killing of three Israeli teens by Palestinian militants in

the occupied West Bank in June. A 50-day war that began in July between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip resulted in the deaths of more than 2,100 Palestinians, many of them civilians, as well as 67 Israeli soldiers and six civilians on the Israeli side.

Tensions have also risen in past weeks over access to a Jerusalem holy site where al-Aqsa mosque now stands and Biblical Jewish Temples once stood. Attacks carried out by Palestinians have killed 11 Israelis, and 12 Palestinians have also been killed, including several of the assailants.

Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu condemned the arson at the school. "We are making great efforts to restore peace and quiet to Jerusalem," he said at a cabinet meeting.

At the school, Brian Callan, a father of one of the children whose class was burnt, accused the government of "encouraging, inciting and legitimizing this behavior through populist, racist legislation".

Netanyahu has been criticized for promoting a new bill that would decree Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people only, a step critics say will further alienate the country's Arab minority.—*Reuters*

Kabul police chief quits after attack that group says killed three staff

KABUL, 30 Nov — The police chief of Afghanistan's capital quit on Sunday, his spokesman said, following a third deadly Taliban attack in 10 days on foreign guest houses in Kabul.

Also on Sunday, the charity whose guest house was targeted in the latest attack said three of its aid workers were killed by insurgents who used guns and explosives. Earlier, Kabul police said one foreigner and other Afghan died.

The statement on the website of the US-based Partnership in Academics and Development (PAD) did not give the nationalities of the three. A Western security official said they were

South Africans. Meanwhile, Kabul's police spokesman declined to comment on the reason for the chief's resignation. "We can only confirm... he will not continue his job as police chief anymore," Hashmat Stanekzai said. The Taliban and its militant allies have increased pressure on Kabul, which has seen a spike in deadly attacks on military and civilian targets. Over the past 10 days, three compounds used by foreign organizations have been hit by armed attackers. In separate attacks in Kabul, two American soldiers, two British embassy workers and dozens of Afghan civilians have died.

The Taliban said on

Saturday it had attacked the foreign guesthouse because it was a center of Christian faith. This was the second time this year the Taliban

targeted a group that it said had links to Christianity.

PAD, which supports education in Afghanistan, said it would continue its ac-

tivities despite the attack.

The group could not be reached immediately for comment.

Two killed in Taliban raid in Kabul, Camp Bastion under fire

Afghan security forces overcame Taliban insurgents attacking a guest house for international aid workers in Afghanistan's capital on Saturday and were still fighting gunmen inside former US and British base Camp Bastion. Foreign troops left the camp in the south of Afghanistan just a few weeks ago. Taliban attacks are intensifying as the US-led coalition prepares to withdraw most of its soldiers by the end of 2014.—*Reuters*



Afghan security forces keep watch while smoke and fire rise from a foreign aid guest house after a Taliban attack in the Afghan capital of Kabul on 29 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

30 US-led strikes hit Islamic State in Syria's Raqqa

BEIRUT, 30 Nov — A US-led coalition carried out at least 30 air strikes in Syria against Islamic State militants in the northern province of Raqqa on Saturday, a monitoring group said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the air strikes hit Islamic State positions in the northern outskirts of Raqqa city, a major stronghold of the hardline Islamist militants. The areas hit by the strikes included the 17th Division, a Syrian army base that Islamic State seized in July, the Observatory said.

Reuters

Jailed Indonesian cleric Bashir voices support for Islamic State

JAKARTA, 30 Nov — Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, the jailed spiritual leader of a radical Islamic group linked to al-Qaeda, said in a written interview with *Kyodo News* that he supports the extremist Islamic State movement and acknowledged the possibility of Japan being among "infidel nations" to be attacked for rejecting the self-declared caliphate.

Kyodo News

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Death toll from Ebola outbreak nears 7,000 in West Africa: WHO

DAKAR, 30 Nov — The death toll from the worst Ebola outbreak on record has reached nearly 7,000 in West Africa, the World Health Organization said on Saturday.

The toll of 6,928 dead showed a leap of just over 1,200 since the WHO released its previous report on Wednesday.

The UN health agency did not provide any explanation for the abrupt increase, but the figures, published on its website, appeared to include previously unreported deaths.

A WHO spokesper-

son was not immediately available for comment.

Just over 16,000 people have been diagnosed with Ebola since the outbreak was confirmed in the forests of remote south-eastern Guinea in March, according to the WHO data that covered the three hardest-hit countries.

Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia have accounted for all but 15 of the deaths in the outbreak, which has touched five other countries, according to the previous WHO figures.

Reuters



A newly-built Ebola treatment centre is pictured in Beyla, Guinea on 25 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Vodafone examining UK options, including a move for Liberty — sources

LONDON, 30 Nov — Vodafone (VOD.L) is reviewing potential acquisitions, including of Europe's leading cable operator Liberty Global (LBTYA.O), to counter the pending consolidation among rivals in Britain, five people close to the matter said.

The internal deliberations at the world's second-biggest mobile operator, have picked up pace in recent days after broadband leader BT Group (BT.L) revealed it was in parallel talks to buy either EE or Telefonica's 02 (TEF.MC).

If concluded, BT's foray into mobile is expected to tilt the market towards selling more all-included bundles of fixed and mobile services. That makes it more important for historically mobile-only companies such as Vodafone, EE, 02 and Hutchison's 3 to have their own fixed networks or be condemned to being simple resellers of BT's fibre.

The attraction of Liberty, which is backed by US billionaire John Malone, is its ownership of cable networks capable of carrying very high-speed broadband traffic to homes and busi-

ness in nearly a dozen European countries.

In Britain, Vodafone would get its hands on the broadband network of Liberty's Virgin Media, which covers around half of the country. That would bolster the broadband network Vodafone got in 2012 when it bought Cable & Wireless.

One person familiar with the situation said Vodafone had approached Liberty Global about a combination earlier this year but found a gulf on price expectations.

A deal would come after Vodafone undertook similar moves by buying the Ono cable company in Spain and Kabel Deutschland in Germany as it seeks to either buy or build fixed-line infrastructure across Europe.

In addition to Liberty, Vodafone is also considering all its options in Britain to bolster its broadband operation including a deal for low-cost player TalkTalk (TALK.L), although this is seen as a weaker option since the company does not have many fibre lines going into consumers homes.

"Liberty is the obvious



A customer walks past the Vodafone logo in a shopping mall in Prague on 7 Feb, 2012. British telecommunication firm Vodafone is expected to post fourth-quarter results on 9 February.—REUTERS

one that makes sense," said a third person close to the situation. "Vodafone need fibre and that is what Liberty has."

A fourth person said Vodafone's strategy team had been meeting for over a week to consider the different options.

The combination would create a communications powerhouse with annual sales of more than \$80 billion, but is likely to face regulatory scrutiny in countries where the two overlap, such as Germany, Britain, and the Netherlands.

In Germany where Vodafone and Liberty

compete in cable, competition regulators have taken a tough stance on combinations among cable companies.

It remains to be seen whether Vodafone will move ahead with making a bid for Liberty, or if it will seek another way to bolster its UK fixed operation, such as renting lines or building more itself.

"Absolutely, they are watching developments but that doesn't mean they are going to pounce," said a fifth person.

Both Vodafone and Liberty Global declined to comment on Friday.

Reuters

Black Friday taps into Chinese consumers

BEIJING, 30 Nov — Alibaba and Amazon tried to lure Chinese customers into buying more American goods during the Black Friday shopping frenzy.

Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving in the US, is a traditionally big retail event.

Amazon China announced Black Friday discounts that equaled those enjoyed by American buyers on its website. Alibaba teamed up with American retailing giants Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, among others, to promote cross-border online sales.

Both firms launched special webpages for Black Friday. Alipay, Alibaba's online payment system, also launched a service that allowed Chinese buyers to use Renminbi (RMB) more easily.

However, the response from Chinese shoppers was

underwhelming.

Some shoppers found the offers "too narrow" and were put off by the product descriptions only being in



English.

Miss Huang who works in Beijing told Xinhua that she had spent two months salary on Singles' Day (11 November), so she had no money — or time — for Black Friday.

In fact, many buyers are still waiting for their Singles' Day purchases due to the high demand for Singles' Day express delivery.

Platforms like JD and

Taobao have already begun preparations for another manufactured spending day on 12 December.

A report from tech.

qq.com said Metao.com, a website dedicated to foreign goods, registered more than 20 million yuan (3.25 million US dollars) of sales on Friday, with several others notching up more sales than normal days.

But Black Friday is no match for Singles Day, as Alibaba alone rang up sales of 57 billion yuan on the day.

Xinhua

No more Ebola cases in Mali after patient cured: President

DAKAR, 30 Nov — Mali has no more confirmed cases of Ebola after the last patient known to be suffering from the virus was cured, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita said on Saturday.

Mali has registered eight cases of Ebola — seven of them confirmed and one probable — after the virus spread from neighbouring Guinea, the World Health Organization (WHO) said this week.

Six of these people infected have died, the WHO said. A further 285 people who came into contact with them are being monitored but have shown no sign of the disease.

"At this moment, there are no cases of infection (in Mali)," Keita told a summit of francophone nations in Senegal.

"The suspected case turned out to be negative and the day before yester-

day we had the good news of the first cured case of Ebola so I can now say zero cases in Mali," he said.

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, according to the WHO.

All but 15 deaths have been in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia — and the three countries have reported 600 new cases in the past week, the WHO's latest update says.

Reuters



Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (front) checks on measures preventing the spread of Ebola in Kouremale, at Mali's border with Guinea on 17 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Over 60 trucks of Russia's convoy with humanitarian aid for Donbass cross border

MATVEYEV KURGAN, 30 Nov — A convoy of Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry heading for Donetsk has crossed the border of the Russian Federation, the ministry's representative Oleg Vorontsov told TASS on Sunday.

The trucks are carrying over 800 tonnes of humanitarian cargo.

Another convoy of over 40 trucks for the Lugansk region is passing customs clearance at the Donetsk border crossing station in Russia's Rostov region. The trucks are carrying over 1.2 tonnes of humanitarian aid cargo, mostly construction materials for repairing of ruined buildings, and food products. At the two border crossing stations, where the customs procedures have begun, there are Ukrainian border control and customs officers, who are also



Food products and construction materials make most of the cargo.—ITAR-TASS

inspecting the trucks and doing the necessary paperwork. OSCE observers are there, too. Prior to sending out the convoy Russia, like it did previously, notified Ukraine's state border ser-

vice about the convoy due on 30 November.

The convoy moved in bad weather conditions. Due to blizzard, ice on the road and poor visibility in Russia's Rostov region, the

drivers had to move at the lowest possible speed with all necessary precautions. Thus, the delivery of the humanitarian cargo would take more time than previously.—*Itar-Tass*

S Korea to wait for prosecutors' decision on stolen Buddhist statutes

YOKOHAMA, 30 Nov — South Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Kim Jong Deok said on Sunday he will wait for a decision by his country's prosecutors on whether to return two Buddhist statues stolen in 2012 from Japan. Kim made the remark at a press conference after a meeting of Japanese, South Korean and Chinese culture ministers earlier in the day in Yokohama.

Japanese culture minister Hakubun Shimomura on Saturday asked Kim for the return of the statues stolen from the Japanese island of Tsushima situated about half-way between the two countries.

South Korean prosecutors will decide whether to return the statues after those who stole and smuggled them into South Korea were convicted. One of the statues is designated as an important Japanese cultural property.

But South Korean Buddhist circles claim one of them had been plundered by Japan, and a South Korean court has granted an injunction to suspend the return until it can be confirmed that the statues were legitimately brought to Japan. Shimomura said after the meeting that the statues should be returned as soon as possible.

At the press conference, Kim also said he has proposed to Shimomura that the two countries set up a consultative body to discuss the return of Korean cultural assets brought to Japan during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Kyodo News

Obama and daughters hit bookstore for Small Business Saturday

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov — US President Barack Obama and his teenaged daughters, Sasha and Malia, went to an independent book store in Washington to buy books as a way to promote Small Business Saturday, an event aimed at boosting small businesses.

"Do I get a discount for that?" the president asked jokingly while unloading a bunch of books from his shopping basket at the Politics and Prose book store on Saturday.

"Maybe a neighbour's discount," the clerk joked back.

It is not clear whether Obama would have taken the discount, if offered.

The first family shopped at the same bookstore last year.

On Saturday, Obama was met by a mostly cheery crowd of shoppers and got a round of applause when a baby earned a presidential selfie.

Over the clicking of cameras and flashes of smart-phones, one shopper yelled: "When are you going to close Guantanamo?"

"We're working on it," the president replied. "Any other issues?"

Started in 2010 by credit card company American Express, Small Business Saturday comes on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day, to encourage



US President Barack Obama and his daughters Sasha (center L) and Malia (center R) shop at Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington on 29 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

people to spend their holiday shopping dollars at small businesses.

It is the Black Friday for mom-and-pop shops that has become an annual tradition and has gained momentum, spawning "shop local" movements in communities across the country.

Last year, shoppers spent about \$5.7 billion at small companies on Small Business Saturday, according to a joint survey by National Federation of Independent Business and American Express. The White House did not immediately provide a list of the books purchased by the first family.—*Reuters*

Berlin to back chapter opening upon fulfilment of conditions



BERLIN, 30 Nov — The German government welcomed the progress Serbia made and noted that Berlin will back the opening

of negotiating chapters as soon as the conditions set by the EU are fulfilled, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin stated in a release

submitted to *Tanjug*.

"As soon as the conditions required by the EU are met, Germany will back the opening of negotiating chapters 23, 24 and 35 (on judiciary, justice and Kosovo)," a spokesman of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs told *Tanjug* on Saturday, replying to the question about Germany's requests and whether Berlin will give a green light for opening of the first negotiating chapter in December.

He underscored that the German government

shares the stand of the European Commission's latest report on progress and welcomes Serbia's progress. From the standpoint of the Berlin government, priorities are now embodied in Serbia's economy, finance and administration.

Germany and the EU believe that progress in the areas of legal state and normalisation of ties with Kosovo bear essential importance for success of the overall process of Serbia's accession, *Tanjug* learnt in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin.—*Tanjug*

March against job cuts in public health to be held downtown Moscow

MOSCOW, 30 Nov — Over a thousand people will take part in a trade union march against job cuts in public health in Moscow on Sunday.

The demonstrators will march through Samotechnaya and Delegatskaya streets until an intersection of Durov Street and the Olympic Prospect where a rally will be held in an action called "For Affordable Medicine."

The march has been organized by Independent Trade Union of Medical Workers "Action", a member of the Russian Confederation of Labour, and the Together for Decent Medicine public movement.

The action will take place from 13:00 to 15:00 Moscow Time. During that time, the traffic on some central streets will be restricted.

The State Traffic Inspectorate has asked drivers to be maximum attentive and choose alternative routes in advance.—*Itar-Tass*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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For Oris Holding AG
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#1505-1508-1509, 15th floor
Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union
of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 1st December 2014

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(20 /2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

| <u>Sr.No</u> | <u>Tender No</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Remark</u> |
|--------------|------------------|--|---------------|
| (1) | IFB-100(14-15) | Spares for Nissan PE-6 Diesel Engine (13)Items | US\$ |
| (2) | IFB-101(14-15) | Mechanical Spares for ZJ 70L,ZJ 50D & EMSCO Drilling Rigs (14) Items | US\$ |
| (3) | IFB-102(14-15) | Annular Blow Out Preventers and Hydrill Blow Out Preventers (5) Items | US\$ |
| (4) | DMP/L-029(14-15) | Spares for Driller Console of ZJ 50D & ZJ 70L Drilling Rigs (1) Lot | Ks |

Tender Closing Date & Time - 30-12-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph .+ 95 67 - 411097 / 411206

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st December, 2014:

Isolated light rain is likely in Tanintharyi Region, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:
Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 1st December 2014



A 85-metre-high floating Christmas tress, world's largest one of Guinness World Records, was lit up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 29 Nov, 2014, with firework display shining the sky. — REUTERS

Teen missing four years found alive, hidden behind wall near Atlanta

JONESBORO, 30 Nov — A 13-year-old boy who had been reported missing four years ago was discovered alive, hidden behind a fake wall of a home near Atlanta, Georgia, and reunited with his mother early on Saturday, police said. Five people living in the home in Jonesboro, 17 miles (28 km) south of Atlanta, were taken into custody, among them the boy's father, Gregory Jean, 37, and an adult female, said

Sergeant Kevin Hughes of the Clayton County police.

Jean and Samantha Joy Davis face charges of false imprisonment, cruelty to children and obstructing an officer, he said, adding that three juveniles also in the home were facing obstruction charges.

The boy's mother apparently had reported him missing to child welfare but not police, and no missing person's report was filed

in Clayton County, Hughes said. The teen was apparently able to get to a phone recently and contacted his mother with his whereabouts, authorities said.

Clayton County police went to the home on Friday to look for the 13-year-old but Jean and Davis said they had no information about the boy, Hughes said.

Several hours later, police came back and again searched the residence.

While the police were in the home, the boy called his mother, who relayed to officers where her son was hidden in the house, Hughes said. "They discovered him hidden behind a false wall in the interior portion of the home," he said.

The boy appeared to be in good physical health and was reunited with his mother, who had come to Georgia from out of state, Hughes said. Neighbours in

their quiet, well-kept Jonesboro neighbourhood said the family moved in about six months ago and kept to themselves.

The 13-year-old boy always seemed to be home and did not appear to be enrolled in school, they said.

"We just thought that they liked to keep to themselves," said neighbour Julie Pizarro, 37, adding that the boy was often seen tending the yard. "You can see the

yard is immaculate," she said. "The boy kept it that way." The teen went missing in 2010 while visiting his father in Florida, WSBTV reported. Jean was being held in Clayton County jail and no bail has been set, online records show. Authorities said Jean and Davis could face more criminal charges as the investigation unfolds.

It was unclear if they had obtained attorneys.

Reuters

Meryl Streep owes me: Emily Blunt



The 31-year-old actress, who was pregnant during the film's shoot, revealed she caught Streep as the veteran star was about to fall after her foot got caught in the cape.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov — Actress Emily Blunt says her Oscar-winning co-star Meryl Streep 'owes her big time' for saving her life on the sets of their upcoming film 'Into The Woods'.

The 31-year-old actress, who was pregnant during the film's shoot, revealed she caught Streep as

the veteran star was about to fall after her foot got caught in the cape, reported *Us* magazine.

"I did save her life. We were rehearsing a scene where she's playing the witch and she's supposed to jump onto the table with a cape and everything. Meryl Streep's foot got caught in

her cape and we just started to watch her slowly topple head-first toward the concrete floor.

"(Director) Rob Marshall and James Corden froze, didn't move, and the pregnant woman caught her. I caught her!" she said.

Blunt said as a pay-

back, Streep, 65, should be lowly dressmaker, where she would play Queen of Versailles.

"She owes me. She should play my lowly dressmaker. She owes me bigtime. She was tormenting me in ('The Devil Wears Prada'), and now she's tormenting me in this movie. She's this witch that has cast this horrible spell on our house. I just said, 'This is it.' We couldn't have any other dynamic now. 'You just have to hate me in films.'"

"She owes me, that's why I think at some point I should play the Queen of Versailles and she can be my lowly dressmaker. I did mention it to her. I think it's a great idea and I mentioned it to her, and her response was, 'Dream on.'"

That's Meryl Streep. She's so amazing, it's annoying at this point. It's annoying." Blunt added.

PTI

New Miss Model crowned in S China's Shenzhen



Crowned US model Shellynne Hoyt performs during the contest in Shenzhen, China, on 29 Nov, 2014.

US model Shellynne Hoyt was crowned at the 26th Miss Model of the World International Grand Final Contest in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Saturday. Ukrainian model, Anastasiya Sukh, was the runner-up and Russian model model, Natalia Tcytko, finished third.—XINHUA



Adele seeks help from Damon Albarn

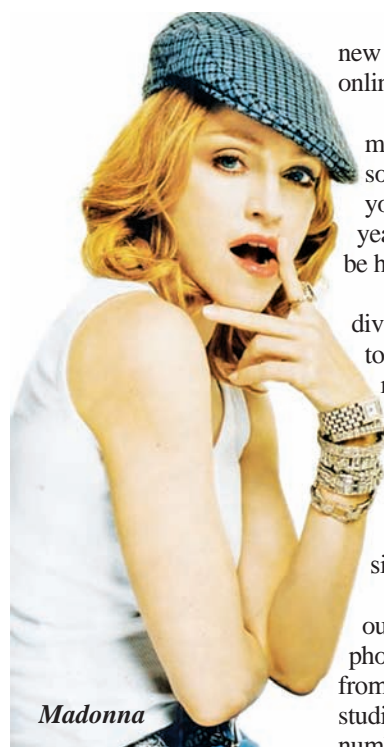
LONDON, 30 Nov — Oscar-winning singer Adele has reportedly turned to Blur frontman Damon Albarn for help with her new album, which is now expected to be released next spring.

The 'Skyfall' hitmaker met Albarn at his west London recording studio earlier this week in the hope he will collaborate with her on her much-anticipated comeback record as

she isn't happy with the material she has so far, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"Damon and Adele had a chat about her new album and they could work together in future. He has produced and written brilliant pop songs for Gorillaz and slower material for acts such as Bobby Womack. He has advice to give from 25 years in the business," a source said.—PTI

Snippet of Madonna's new song leaked online



LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov — A clip of pop diva Madonna's new track, reportedly titled 'Rebel Heart', has been leaked online.

About 40 seconds of the dance-meets-acoustic track materialised with Madonna, 56, singing, "I've spent some time as a narcissist, hearing the others say 'look at you, look at you.' Trying to be so provocative, I said, 'Oh yeah, that was me. All the things I did just to be seen,'" can be heard in the leaked snippet, reported Billboard.

Her publicist had no comment about the leak, but the diva's manager, Guy Oseary, tweeted, "I would be grateful to any Madonna fans that can assist us in finding those responsible for the leak. We appreciate your help."

It is assumed the song is titled 'Rebel Heart', as Madonna is heard singing the phrase at one point in the snippet, and because she used the #RebelHeart hashtag on her Instagram for months.

It is unknown if the song clip is from a demo version of the song or a recording of a finished track.

Madonna has been working on new music throughout 2014, frequently updating her Instagram feed with photos and messages regarding her progress. A new album from the entertainer is expected in 2015. It will be her first studio effort since 2012's album 'MDNA', which debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart.—PTI

Prestige' author slams Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov — Christopher Priest, whose novel was adapted to the big screen for 2006 film 'Prestige' by Christopher Nolan, has called the director's much-celebrated 'The Dark Knight' trilogy as "boring and pretentious".

In fact, Priest feels Nolan's best film were only 'Memento' and 'Prestige' while the Batman trilogy was "shallow and badly written."

In a video interview with French movie site Skript, Priest talked at length about his best-sell-

ing novel and revealed he initially wanted 'American Beauty' helmer Sam Mendes to make a film on Prestige but took a chance on talented Nolan later.

"I've only ever had one meeting with him, when the film was finished. Because I wasn't very interested in him. We all have different points of view on the world. To the world he's this great, innovative filmmaker; to me, he was a kid who wanted to get into Hollywood," Priest said in the interview.

The author said he had a gut feeling that No-

lan would do good job in translating the book to the screen about two warring magicians.

"I think its probably his best film, with Memento. Of the films he's made, those two are supreme," he said.

But Priest is vocal about his dislike for Nolan's other work, especially his decision to give psychological depth to his superhero character.

"I don't like his other work; I think its shallow and badly written. I mean, I've got kids who like su-



perheroes, and they think the Batman films are boring and pretentious. They like things like The Avengers and Iron Man because they're fun," he said.

"It's a wrong move to take a superhero and give it psychological realism. There is no psychological realism. He's a bodybuilder who jumps off build-

ings. I'm sorry I feel really strongly about this... To me, that's a real major lack of judgment in Nolan, to go for superhero films. I feel this very strongly."—PTI

The author said he had a gut feeling that Nolan would do good job in translating the book to the screen about two warring magicians.

PTI

GENERAL

Spectacular Spieth walks away with Australian Open

SYDNEY, 30 Nov — Rising American talent Jordan Spieth shot the round of his life for an eight-under-par 63 as his rivals laboured in the Sydney wind to claim his second professional title by six strokes at the Australian Open on Sunday.

The Texan, who shared second place on his US Masters debut in April, fired eight birdies in a flawless final round to secure the Stonehaven Cup at 13-under 271 for the tournament at The Australian Golf Club.

The A\$1.25 million (\$1.06 million) tournament had been billed as a duel between world number one Rory McIlroy and number three Adam Scott but 21-year-old Spieth stole the show with his stunning final



Jordan Spieth of the US holds the trophy after winning the Australian Open golf tournament at The Australian Golf Club in Sydney on 30 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

round. The world number 14 was the youngest Australian Open champion since Aaron Baddeley won his second title as a teenager in 2000 and the first American since Brad Faxon in 1993, when Spieth

was just a few months old.

"I didn't think the round was out there but the putts just kept going in," Spieth said in the greenside presentation. "It's the best round I've ever played, the best win I've ever had, it's pretty awesome."

Spieth's final round score was a record on the newly-reconfigured course but a better indication of its quality was that only seven other players finished under par for the tournament.

Australian Rod Pampling hit a 68 for second place, a shot better than compatriot Brad Rumford (70) in third with another local Greg Chalmers (71) in fourth on five-under. All three secured berths at next year's British Open at St Andrews.

Scott (71) was fifth on

four under, while defending champion McIlroy, whose victory at the Royal Sydney last year provided a springboard for his stellar 2014, finished 15 shots off the pace in a share of 15th after a 72.

Starting the day in a three-way tie for the lead at five-under, Spieth quickly eased ahead of his rivals with his first birdie at the third. After paring the fourth, he really put his foot on the gas and drained birdie putts of 10, five and 15 feet on the next three holes to open up a gap of four shots over the field.

There were no more birdies — but crucially in the difficult conditions no bogeys — until the 14th but that started another strong run and he picked up three more shots on the run-in.—Reuters

Okazaki scores 7th goal but Mainz fall to Schalke

Japan striker Shinji Okazaki

GELSENKIRCHEN, (Germany), 30 Nov — Japan striker Shinji Okazaki scored his seventh goal of the season for Mainz but his side took a 4-1 thumping at Schalke thanks to a hat-trick

by Klass-Jan Huntelaar on Saturday.

The Dutchman put the hosts up 2-0 before Okazaki's effort put Mainz back in the match at the stroke of halftime.

When Schalke keeper Ralph Fahrman stopped a shot only to lose control of the ball, Okazaki pounced and made the most of his first shot of the game.

"Even when the ball doesn't come your way, you have to enjoy yourself or you can't do the job of a striker," said Okazaki, whose club is winless in their last four games.

Atsuto Uchida played the full 90 minutes for Schalke.

Kyodo News

Ibrahimovic cuts Marseille's lead to a point

PARIS, 30 Nov — Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic converted a first-half penalty for a 1-0 home win against Nice that took his side back within a point of Ligue 1 leaders Olympique de Marseille.

Ibrahimovic, who also scored in Tuesday's 3-1 Champions League win against Ajax Amsterdam, netted from the spot in the 15th minute to put PSG on 33 points from 15 games.

It was their ninth competitive victory in a row and followed Marseille's 2-0 win over Nantes on Friday.

Laurent Blanc's PSG side were far from convincing as they lost control in the second half at the Parc des Princes.

Nice, who are 11th on 18 points, had played too



Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic reacts during their Ligue 1 soccer match against Nice at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on 29 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

conservatively in the first half but they came close to equalizing in the closing stages.

Reuters

Ageless Kasai ties for gold with Amman for 17th career win

Japan's Noriaki Kasai

RUKA, (Finland), 30 Nov — Japan's Noriaki Kasai won his 17th individual career World Cup ski jump competition on Saturday, when he tied for the gold

medal with Switzerland's Simon Amman.

Kasai, already the oldest man to win a World Cup event, extended his championship longevity mark at the

age of 42 years, five months, with his first victory since January.

The 33-year-old Amman, who has four Olympic Gold medals on his resume, tied Kasai with 272.2 points for his 23rd Cup win. Germany's Severin Freund was third with 268.7.

Kasai, who was third in Friday's event, started with the day's longest jump, 145 metres. He wasn't certain his 131.5-metre second effort would even get him on the podium, but it was enough to equal Amman, who won for the second straight day on Kuusamo's HS 142-me-

tre hill. "My first jump was satisfactory, everything fit together perfectly," Kasai said. "I was unable to get more in the bad wind conditions on the second jump, and thought I would finish third or fourth."

"It's a shocker to finish in a tie for the victory. That doesn't happen very often."

Japan's Daiki Ito finished in 18th after being runner-up to Amman the day before, while Junshiro Kobayashi was 36th, Taku Takeuchi 37th, and Reruhi Shimizu 46th after failing to qualify for the second round.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(1-12-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:40 am**
* Nice & Sweet Songs
- 7:00 am**
* News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
* People Talks
- 8:00 am**
* News / International News
- 8:35 am**
* Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:30 am**
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 10:50 am**
* Songs of honour International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 11:20 am**
* Tasty Trip (Shan State)
- 12:00 noon**
* News/ International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm**
* Myanmar Movie
- 3:30 pm**
* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 4:30 pm**
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Home Economic)
- 5:15 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 6:20 pm**
* Traditional Boxing
- 7:20 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
* People Talks
- 9:00 pm**
* News International News/ Weather Report Socio Economic Scenes

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-12-14 07:00 am~ 2-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode- 2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
- * World News
- * Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
- * Local News
- * Leading Ladies: Lady Pilot
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Gold Leaf
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad)
- * World News
- * The Iron Rider
- * Local News
- * Youth of the Future: (Puppet)
- * World News
- * Simple Living With High Spirit
- * Local News
- * The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-1)
- * World News
- * "Today Myanmar" Myanmar Timber Exports
- * Local News
- * Continuation In Rural Tradition
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Dawei -Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Odd Job..Crocodile Keeper
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Ja Som (The Myth)

Football legend Pelé's health improving, still in intensive care

SAO PAULO, 30 Nov — Brazilian football legend Pelé's health continued to improve on Saturday although he remained in an intensive care unit to allow doctors to monitor a urinary tract infection, the hospital said.

The 74-year-old three-time World Cup champion is receiving renal support treatment to help his kidneys filter waste products from the blood. He underwent surgery earlier this month to remove kidney stones.

According to a statement released by São Paulo's Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Pelé — often called the greatest football player in history — is "lucid, talking, and his respiratory and blood readings are stable." A treatment with antibiotics remained unaltered, the statement said.

The renal treatment could be stopped early on Sunday, the hospital said in a separate statement.

Pelé, who was born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, has struggled with many health problems over the past decade. He has had emergency eye surgery for a detached retina and a hip replacement. Known in Brazil as the "King of football," he played in four World Cups and scored over 1,000 goals during his career.— Reuters

Chelsea held at Sunderland, United and Arsenal win

LONDON, 30 Nov — Chelsea's seemingly irresistible march towards the title hit an unlikely roadblock at Sunderland on Saturday as they were held to a 0-0 draw having failed to score for the first time in their unbeaten Premier League season.

Jose Mourinho's side stretched their lead at the top to seven points but Sunderland's splendid resistance at the Stadium of Light at least scattered a few crumbs of hope for nearest pursuers Southampton and Manchester City, who meet on Sunday.

Chelsea's other floundering heavyweight rivals — Manchester United, who beat Hull City 3-0, Arsenal, who won at West Bromwich Albion with a Danny Welbeck goal, and Liverpool, who beat Stoke City 1-0 despite dropping captain Steven Gerrard — were also grateful for Sunderland's dogged effort.

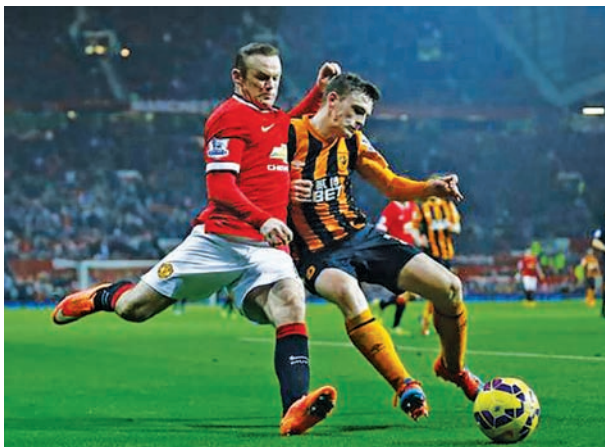
Gus Poyet's Sunderland team, who have become rare pests for Mourinho as Chelsea's conquerors in last season's League Cup and the side which ended his 78-match unbeaten league record at Stamford Bridge, could even have pinched another win if Adam Johnson had not spurned two late chances.

Chelsea, nowhere near as sharp as in their mid-week Champions League dismantling of Schalke 04, dominated proceedings but were held for the third time this term as they moved clear of second-placed Southampton and nine points ahead of champions City.

Mourinho, far from disappointed, felt it was a "a good point" against a Sunderland side which Poyet, a former Stamford



Sunderland's John O'Shea (2nd L) is challenged by Chelsea's Gary Cahill during their English Premier League soccer match at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England on 29 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS



Hull City's Andrew Robertson challenges Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (L) during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 29 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

Bridge favourite, reckoned had "defended for their lives". "Only one team tried to win from the beginning, the other team didn't. They defended a lot and they defended well," said Mourinho. "Defending a lot and well is not a crime. They were successful in their approach."

Gerrard axed

At Anfield, the inspirational Gerrard was axed on the 16th anniversary of his Liverpool debut but Brendan Rodgers' surprise decision was vindicated as they arrested their slump.

There have been plenty of questions over the form and effectiveness of



Arsenal's Danny Welbeck (R) scores a goal during their English Premier League soccer match against West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England on 29 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Gerrard, 34, during 11th-placed Liverpool's recent travails but even dropping him to the bench did not seem to alter their sluggish form as they laboured for 75 minutes.

The captain came on with a quarter of an hour left, amid deafening cheers, and Liverpool fi-

nally broke through with Glen Johnson's 85th-minute header.

Arsenal also gained welcome relief amid their worst start to a season for 32 years thanks to Welbeck's header.

The victory, reflecting Arsenal's domination, did not stop manager Arsene

Wenger having to field questions about a fan banner which said, "Thanks for the memories but it's time to say goodbye".

"I don't want to comment on that. I try to do my best for this club that I love," responded Wenger.

The win moved Arsenal up to sixth on 20 points as Manchester United consolidated fourth with 22 after first-half goals by Chris Smalling and Wayne Rooney and a brilliant strike from Robin van Persie after the break sealed their win over Hull.

Goal line technology

Smalling's 16th-minute opener was only awarded after goal line technology showed his shot had sneaked over the line.

"It was our best match when you see the full 90 minutes. We have dominated. I think now we are on the right way," added the Dutch manager, who felt Van Persie had scored a "beautiful" goal after recent criticism of his performances.

Once again an injury clouded United's joy with record signing Angel Di Maria limping off in the first half with a suspected hamstring problem.

At the other end of the table, Queens Park Rangers came through an entertaining clash at Loftus Road, beating Leicester City 3-2 to move above both their opponents and Burnley, Charlie Austin finally snatching the points with a 73rd-minute winner.

Former England forward Joe Cole, 33, flitted back into the limelight with the opener for Aston Villa in a 1-1 draw at Turf Moor, while Newcastle United's charge up the table was halted at West Ham United where Aaron Cresswell got the winner.—Reuters

Real set club record with 16th consecutive win

MADRID, 30 Nov — Real Madrid secured a club record 16th straight victory when Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale struck in a laboured 2-1 win at Malaga on Saturday that put them five points clear of second-placed Barcelona in La Liga.

Benzema diverted a Cristiano Ronaldo centre past goalkeeper Carlos Kameni in the 18th minute at the Rosaleda and Bale finished off a swift break, in which Ronaldo was also involved, seven minutes from time.

Former Malaga midfielder Isco was dismissed in the 86th minute and the hosts pulled a goal back in stoppage time when Roque Santa Cruz nodded past Iker Casillas. Real have 33 points from 13 matches and the victory helped them surpass their previous best of 15 successive wins in all competitions set in 1960-61 and 2011-12. Carlo Ancelotti's men have won all their

games since a 2-1 league defeat at home to champions Atletico Madrid in September.

"It's always a very tough match here," Real full back Marcelo told Spanish television.

"We managed to beat the record but with a lot of work and commitment from the team," added the Brazil international. "Our main objective is to carry on winning each game."

Barca can trim the deficit to two points at fourth-placed Valencia on Sunday when Atletico, third on 26 points, host promoted Deportivo La Coruna.

Qatar-owned Malaga, who are sixth, put up a fight against the European champions and after Benzema's opener they came close to an equaliser two minutes before halftime when a long-range free kick by captain Duda clipped the top of the crossbar.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (C) fails to kick the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Malaga at La Rosaleda stadium in Malaga, southern Spain on 29 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS