

President U Thein Sein delivers speech at Global Women's Forum



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with participants at Global Women's Forum 2014.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec —President U Thein Sein delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of Global Women's Forum 2014 at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

In his speech, the president said he was proud of holding the forum for the

second consecutive time in Myanmar after organizing the first one from 6 to 7 December in 2013, pointing out that women represent 49 percent of the global population while 51 percent of Myanmar's population is women.

Then, the president added that the preamble of

the United Nations Charter calls for the faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of a human person and the equal rights of men and women and the third of the eight Millennium Development Goals to promote gender equality and empower women calls for the

achievement and full enjoyment of women's rights.

The president went on to say that one of the proposed priority areas to tackle during Myanmar's tenure as the 2014 ASEAN Chair included enhancement of efforts to empower women and children in the society and the Nay Pyi Taw Dec-

laration (2013) also calls for enhanced participation of women in the ASEAN Security, Economic and Socio-cultural Community building processes as well as prioritizing the efforts to the overall development of women and children in the region.

The president pointed

out that Myanmar history also testifies to the extent to which women have led and contributed to the society and it is filled with women leaders, artists and literary giants before saying the sacrifice, innovation and leadership of women in world history have been

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Yangon cheers art at ASEAN Festival of Disabled Artists

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 5 Dec — Altogether 168 disabled artists and performers from nine ASEAN member countries, except Brunei, gathered at Myoma Parade Ground in Yangon on Friday to showcase their

artistic creations at the Immense Spectrum ASEAN Festival of Disabled Artists 2014.

The festival is not only a truly significant event for Myanmar as a happy coincidence to host while Myanmar serves as ASEAN chair, it is the first festival

for people with disabilities across the ASEAN region.

The festival aims to make disabled artists' amazing performances publicly known and encourage their abilities in the arts, said Aung Ko Myint, operation director of the festival as he expressed

his happiness in successfully arranging the festival.

During the festival on three day up to Sunday, visually, physically or hearing impaired performers from nine ASEAN countries, plus Japan with a 10-member team, will present dance and musical performances, talent shows and a performance of Myanmar saing-waing (traditional orchestra) in combination with a western orchestra. Apart from nightly performance schedules—wheelchair dance, opera, street dance, mallet percussion, musical performance, traditional drum, art dance and Bagan dance, documentary screenings about disabled people and their rights are planned to be shown at the festival.

“With the aim of building up the image of the nation through the efforts of disabled people in Myanmar, we took two years to realize the festival”, said

(See page 2)

Authorities extend deadline for detailed business plans for vacant plots, garages in industrial zones

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 5 Dec —The Yangon Region Industrial Zones Management Committee has extended the deadline from 1 December to 15 December for submitting detailed business plans to be implemented on vacant plots and garages in industrial zones.

In the previous announcement, the committee asked the owners of the vacant plots and garages to submit detailed plans mentioning type of business, amount of investment and the estimated date the business can begin to the committee by 1 December and to implement their plans not later than 1 January after the detailed plans are approved by the committee.

During the meeting

with management committees from respective industrial zones in Yangon Region on 2 December, the Yangon Region IZMC has also ordered the Detail Business Plan Scrutinizing Committee and respective management committees in industrial zones to scrutinize the vacant plots and garages that have failed to submit detailed plans and which are impossible to implement their detailed business plans.

Authorities have given an ultimatum to owners of vacant plots and garages in industrial zones to establish businesses on them by 1 February next year or turn over them to the government.

There are 2,339 vacant plots and 1,299 garages in 29 industrial zones,

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Hearing impaired Singaporean performers rehearse before the start of ASEAN Festival of Disabled Artists 2014 at Myoma Parade Ground in Yangon on Friday. The festival, the first event for people with disabilities in the ASEAN region, is to continue through Sunday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Norwegian King Harald V and Queen visit Mandalay

MANDALAY, 5 Dec — Norwegian King Harald V and Queen Sonja on Friday arrived at Mandalay Gawwein jetty here to visit significant places including Buddha image on Mandalay Hill.

They were welcomed by Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, region ministers and students.

During the visit, the Norwegian King and his wife donated cash to the fund of the pagoda on Mandalay hill and looked round world record stone inscriptions and oldest living star-flower trees.



Mandalay's Kuthodaw Pagoda stone inscriptions included in World Heritage List of UNICEF in 2013. MDY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE

They then visited Mandalay Royal Palace (Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace) and cultural museum where Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda

Khin made a clarification on the objects in the museum.

The Norwegian King Harald V and Queen left Mandalay for Thailand

this evening and they were seen off at Mandalay International Airport by officials.

Mandalay Sub-Printing House

Myanmar, France sign agreements

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and AFD, a French financial development organization signed agreements on establishment and operations of an economic cooperation organization and a financial agreement at the ministry on Friday.

Union Minister for

NPED Dr Kan Zaw and Development and Cooperation Minister of France Mrs Annick Girardin and Director-General U Tun Naing and Country Director Mrs Ariane Ducreux of AFD signed the agreements.

France will provide 0.5 million euros to Myanmar as financial assistance under the agreements.

MNA

Journalist's death findings uploaded online

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has released an investigatory report on the death of Ko Aung Naing, alias Ko Aung Kyaw Naing, alias Ko Pa Gyi, dated 2 December, sources said.

The 15-page report considers findings of the investigative body alongside remarks by the MNHRC and has been made available for public observation at www.moi.gov.mm and www.mnhrc.org.mm.

MNA

Authorities extend deadline for detailed . . .

(from page 1)
equivalent to more than 4,418 acres, and they are causing hindrances to the creation of job opportunities and making land prices in industrial zones higher, the announcement said.

Those who own the plots and the garages signed agreements with the Housing and Human Settlement Department under

the Ministry Construction to construct facilities on the plots within three months when they were granted the certificates of land utilization by the ministry.

They have also agreed that if they fail to operate businesses on the plots in the industrial zones, the authorities are entitled to seize the plots.

GNLM

for those interested people from the four corners of the country in the future as the country needs more teachers to train the deaf, the principal added.

It is also scheduled to add make-up, hair dressing and floral services courses next academic year. As of this academic year, the school is offering a basic computer course.

Daw Nyunt Nyunt Thein said: "We also want to send some students to workshops if someone invites us because they have a strong desire to learn machinery repair."

The school was established in 1920 on Thantam-an Street in Alone Township in Yangon by Mary Chapman. It mainly relies on individual donations and faces an imbalance between the increased number of students and rooms

available. The principal is inviting donors to make contributions to extend the facilities.

There are about 400 students in this academic year, a majority of them from very poor families. Normally, the school for the deaf and hard-of-hearing children accepts the enrollment of students with an average age of 6 but sometimes the school receives late comers up to age 12. There is an average enrollment of 25 over-age students each year.

The school offers classes up to grade seven and students may pursue both a syllabus designed by the Education Ministry and vocational training. For those who wish to continue into higher education, it is managed at Basic Education High School No.3 in Dagon Township.—*GNLM*

Coordination meeting on investment of state sector held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — Coordination meeting on investment in the state sector in 2015-16 fiscal year was held at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic De-

velopment on Friday.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Hla Tun, U Win Shein and Dr Kan

Zaw, deputy ministers and officials.

The union ministers held discussions on ratios of invest and spending, budget policy, measures for meeting

the target of the fiscal year, budget procedures and overview of the first five-year plan at the meeting.

The meeting continues until 6 December.—*MNA*

Yangon cheers art at ASEAN . . .

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Nay Lin Soe, founder and program director of Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI).

One of the specific purposes of the festival is to empower youth with disabilities and inspire as role models, he went to say.

The United Nations

highlighted on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities that more than 1 billion people – about 15 per cent of the world's population – live with some form of disability and have generally poorer health, less education, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than

people without disabilities.

"We saw an audience of 2,000 at the festival in Nay Pyi Taw where International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed Wednesday. Here, it is expected to see more as nearly 10,000 had been delivered", the MILI founder added.

"I am very happy to be part of the festival as

a performer in a group wheelchair dance," said Pyae Phyoo Aung, one of a six-member Myanmar wheelchair dance troupe.

With main sponsorship from the Nippon Foundation, the festival was organized by the MILI in cooperation with three other organizations focusing on the rights of disabled people.—*GNLM*

Mary Chapman School for the Deaf ready to provide door-to-door sign language training



Students from Mary Chapman School for the Deaf entertain the audience with dance.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 5 Dec — "In order to raise sign language among people to communicate with deaf, we are planning to provide door-to-door sign language training for those enthusiasts from every organization if they invite us," Daw Nyunt Nyunt Thein, principal of the Mary Chapman School for the Deaf, said.

Currently, trainers, students' parents and a few numbers of locals know the sign language designed by the founder of the school who developed it in conformity with Myanmar traditions.

Plans are underway to accelerate its training for trainers programme

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein...

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instrumental in bring about beneficial and lasting changes to societies at large.

Then, the president explained that Myanmar is currently carrying out simultaneous political and economic reforms in order to stand as a democratic country and issues like gender equality play an important role and fundamental role in national reconciliation based on peace, saying that the government will have to enhance participation of women in the political sphere and to make sure that all the women have equal opportunity to shape their lives and enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights in a meaningful way.

The highlighted that the critical role of women in a transitional country like Myanmar and said that women are taking up leadership roles in Myanmar politics by serving as ministers, deputy ministers

and advisors who are at the forefront of the union level reforms while women in the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw are actively engaging in their law making responsibilities by leading the efforts to change laws so that they better reflect the conditions and the needs of today.

Whenever, the government forms advisory committees to provide policy input in the political, economic and social sectors, it takes into consideration the inclusion and participation of women in these committees in order to be able to carry out the reforms more effectively because of the wider and meaningful participation of women, according to the president.

The president continued that the government is on right path towards putting into practice the goal of this year's forum- for women to be a driving force in transitional societies and the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs

was formed on 3 July 1996 which is currently chaired by the Union Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Then, the president said that Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association were also formed to prevent violence against women, alleviate poverty, increase livelihoods for women and empower women by working cooperatively with local and international partners to implement programs that

will enhance socio-economic conditions for women.

To help improve the social security and raise the standard of living for women, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has also formed the Department of Social Welfare to provide welfare services in eight different areas of social need, the president added before saying that a gender department was recently established to tackle issues on gender equality and that the

role of civil society organizations is extremely important to prevent violence against women, enhance greater participation of women in the peace process and to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in the political, economic and social realms.

The government takes recommendations from and works cooperatively with the civil society organizations on women's affairs and gender equality issues, the president pointed out before saying that the gov-

ernment will safeguard and protect the rights of women specifically contained in sections 350,351 and 352 of the state constitution.

In conclusion, the president expressed his hope for constructive recommendations from the discussions at the forum. Afterwards, CEO of Socioeconomic Forum for Women Ms Jacqueline Franjou made a speech.

Also present on the occasion were president's wife Daw Khin Khin Win and others.—MNA

University of Sports to be opened



Vice President U Nyan Tun at stake-driving ceremony for construction of University of Sports in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Finland

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitation to His Excellency Mr Sauli Vainamo Ninisto, President of the Republic of Finland and His Excellency Mr Alexander Stubb, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Finland, which falls on 6 December 2014.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Vice President U Nyan Tun attended the ceremony to drive stakes for construction of University of Sports near the Wunna Theikdi

Sports Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Director-General U Myo Hlaing reported on construction project of the university.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan reported on accommodation of students, academic matters, arrangements for training at international level and

conducting of subjects.

The vice president and party drove stake for the university and sprinkled scented on the places.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services delivers speech at graduation ceremony of 56th Intake of DSA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Win Myint Aung.

MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged the cadets to try to be reliable officers for their superiors and admirable officers for their inferiors at whatever places they are assigned duty at the graduation ceremony of the 56th Intake of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on Friday.

Also present at the ceremony were wife of the commander-in-chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and wife, senior officers of the

Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wives, commanders and military attaches of foreign embassies in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the senior general received the salute of the graduating cadets and presented prizes to outstanding cadets including Cadet Win Myint Aung who won Best Cadet Award other outstanding cadets. Then, the senior general met with the four outstanding cadets and their parents.

In the evening, the senior general attended the graduation dinner of the cadets and warmly greeted the graduating officers before enjoying dinner with the graduating officers and their parents.—Myawady

Women's Forum Myanmar kicks on in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Women's Forum Myanmar-ASEAN 2014 took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here on Friday, with an address by President U Thein Sein, sources said.

Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, told the forum that women enjoy the same rights as men in Myanmar, adding that a ten-year strategy for developing women from 2013-2022 has enabled them to have access to vocational training and protection. Mrs Annick Girardin, France Minister for State for Development and Francophony briefed on violence against women and their greater participation in political, economic, social

and cultural sectors, with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee for Rule of Law, Peace and Tranquility, calling for promotion of women's participation in democratic reforms.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi and other speakers from international organizations spoke of engaging more women in business transactions, developing human resources, dealing with young dropouts, improving education standards and exchange of scientific and technological know-hows, granting scholarships, and promoting productivity in the ASEAN region. The Women's Forum Myanmar will continue at the Chatrium Hotel on 6 December.—MNA

PyinOoLwin National Kandawgyi Gardens to host flower festival



PyinOoLwin, 5 Dec—The PyinOoLwin Flower Festival will be held in conjunction with the music concert to mark its tenth anniversary at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin on 15 December. The festival will take place from 15 to 31

December.

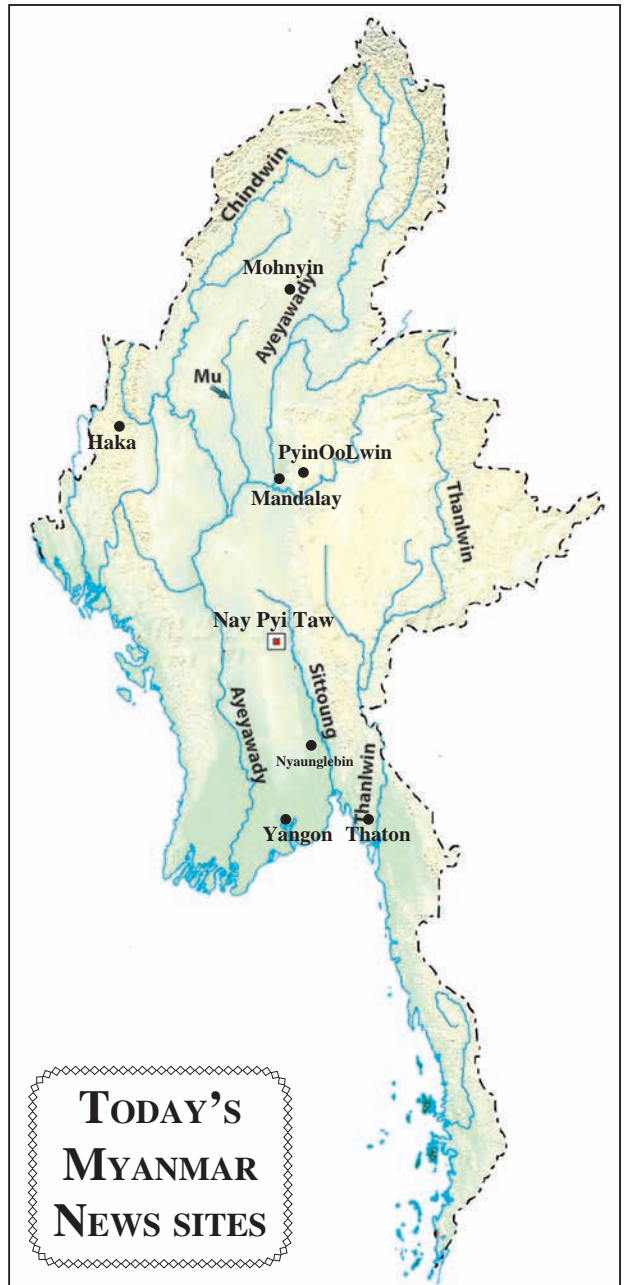
The festival will display foreign flower species, artificial flowers and local flower species totalling

about 130,000, General Manager U Wai Myo Aung of the gardens.

The entrance fee will not be changed during the festival period at K1,000 per adult, K500 per child and 5 dollars per foreigner.

A total of 116,420 local people and 2,879 foreigners visited the flower festival of the gardens in December 2013. In November 2014, 160,000 local people and 4,500 foreigners visited the gardens. So, it is expected to increase the number of visitors to the flower festival at the gardens this year.

The music concert will be held in the compound. A total of 160 vocalists will present songs to the accompaniment of the Myoma Band on 20 and 21 December.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Irrawaddy Dolphin course to admit only 50 trainees

Mandalay, 5 Dec—The Mandalay Region Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Mandalay Tour Guide Association (Mandalay) will conduct the Irrawaddy Dolphin Systematic Show

and Conservation Course 1/2014 at the hall of Mandalay Region Health Department at the corner of 27th and 70th streets in Mandalay from 9 to 11 December.

The course will comprise subjects on livelihoods of the people residing along the banks of

Ayeyawady River, water birds, fish species and significant places.

The course will admit 50 trainees only. Those wishing to attend the course may enlist at U Ye Myat Tun, Chairman of the association, 095138562 and Daw Chaw Mu Yar Win and Vice Chairperson, 09444016306.

There are about 160 tour guides in Mandalay Zone of 3,700 licenced tour

guides across the nation. In 2015 tourism season, the tour guides who had completed the Irrawaddy Dolphin course will have the adequate knowledge to explain the nature of dolphin to the globetrotters.

Mandalay Region Fisheries Department will issue certificates to the trainees.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Public Health Supervisor course wraps up



Haka, 5 Dec—The Public Health Supervisor Grade-II course, conducted by Chin State Health Department, concluded at Chin State General Hospital in Haka, Chin State, on Thursday.

Head of Chin State Health Department Dr Soe Oo made a speech.

The State Health officer reviewed the feedback of the trainees over the course and trainers, matters related to the training course.

The head of Chin State Health Department and officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Chin State IPRD

Mohnyin to enjoy communication service of Telenor

Mohnyin, 5 Dec—Price of MPT SIM cards decline a half at the sale centres in Mohnyin, Kachin

State, due to information of Telenor SIM cards to enter the communication market across the nation including

Mohnyin in the early 2015.

The mobile phone shops sell low-priced handsets together with MPT

SIM cards but these SIM cards are not accessible due to poor telecommunication facilities. Thus, the local mobile phone users hope for introduction of the Telenor SIM cards.

State Liaison officer Kayan national Maw Byar Myar Kay explained matters related to Telenor SIM cards. She said that the SIM cards will be available at the shops at K1500 per cards. It can give service at K25 per minute for local call. The SIM cards have been installed with Internet access. The cards can be inserted into any GSM handsets.

A tower of Telenor will be erected in Ywathitgon Ward in Mohnyin. On completion, Telenor SIM cards will be sold in Mohnyin in January 2015, said the ward administrator.—*GNLM-001*



LOCAL NEWS



Myanmar Apex Bank Ltd opens 5th branch in Thaton

THATON, 5 Dec — Myanmar Apex Bank Ltd opened its branch in Thaton on Friday and it is fifth private bank branch in the township, Mon State.

Thaton Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Ba Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw U Saw Thauang Pe and Chairman of Myanmar Apex Bank U Chit Khaing formally opened the bank branch on Hos-

pital road in Aukkyin Ward, Thaton.

“It is good news. These bank branches must give better services to the people,” said a local.

Myanmar Apex Bank Ltd has opened Thaton branch as the 12th of its kind in 2014-15 fiscal year and the 48th branch in the nation, according to the bank officer.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

UEC member explains compilation of voter list

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—A ceremony to clarify compilation of basic voter list was held at the hall of District General Administration Department in Pobbathiri Township on Friday.

Chairman of the District Election Sub-commission U Aung Lwin extended greetings and member of the Union Election Commission U Win Kyi discussed the

manual for basic voter list compilation and replied to queries.

It was also attended by Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Election Sub-commission U Aung Htet Kyaw and party, departmental officials and ward and village administrators from Tatkon, Pobbathiri, Zeyathiri and Ottarathiri townships, totalling 432.

Shwe Ye Yint



Mobile team checks ingredients at foodstuffs, cosmetics

MANDALAY, 5 Dec—Mandalay City Development Committee, Mandalay Region Health Department and Food, Drug Administration (Mandalay) and Consumer Affairs Department check expired foods and cosmetics and incinerate these products.

On 3 December, they

took samples of foodstuffs and cosmetics at Mya Nanda Market between 66th and 67th streets and Manawhari and Myayadana monastery streets in Chanmyathazi Township. They tested the products at the mobile lab whether the products contain inappropriate dyes and chemicals.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Chin state police explain policing procedure

HAKA, 5 Dec—Township police force met townselders and members of social organizations at the hall of Chin State Police Force in Haka, Chin State, on 3 December.

In meeting with locals, Acting Commander of Chin State Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyaw Soe Win explained policing procedures and urged administrators to inform the police of arresting the fugitives. Action is taken against the police who take bribes. Police members are ready to help the people.

The acting commander and officials replied to queries raised by those present.—*Aung Si*



Wellwishers donate cash to Nyaunglebin Home for the Aged

NYAUNGLEBIN, 5 Dec — The Cetana social welfare association donated cash to the fund for two days meals to the Home for the Aged in Myoma Ward 1, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on Friday.

Wellwishers donated cash to the fund of meals to Patron of the Home Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) who returned certificates of honour.

Those wishing to donate meals for 25 older persons at the Home may contact 052-



50772 of the home, U Myint Than (Patron), 09-5385689, Chairman U Than Aye, 09-

5385396, and head office U Cho Tu, 09-33488051.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Shenyang People's Congress Standing Committee general secretary goes sightseeing in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 5 Dec—Under the Myanmar-China bilateral relations programme, general secretary Mr Zhang Ning of Shenyang People's Congress Standing Committee of the People's Republic of China and party together with officials of Mandalay Region Hluttaw visited Myanan Sankyaw golden

palace and Culture Museum in Mandalay on 4 December.

They also visited Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill and Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda, Golden Temple, Yadanapura Myanmar Handicraft and Arts Show of Mandalay Region Cooperative Syndicate.

The Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker hosted a luncheon to the Chinese delegation at Myanmar Restaurant on the Strand Road in Chanayethazan Township.

The Chinese guests left Mandalay International Airport at 4 pm.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Sydney storm damages over 100 properties, warning issued



A large storm front crosses over the Sydney suburb of Wakehurst on 5 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 5 Dec — A severe thunderstorm hit parts of Sydney on Friday afternoon and damaged more than 100 properties, with the Bureau of Meteorology issuing a “severe

thunderstorm warning” for flash floods and damaging winds over the next several hours.

The storm left more than 7,000 people without electricity in parts of the

city, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported.

Storms in Australia are not uncommon, specially during its cyclone season that runs from 1 November to 30 April, as storms

form in the tropical waters off the northeast and north-west coasts before making landfall.

The New South Wales State Emergency Services (SES) has received 800 calls for help over the last three days, spokesman Phil Campbell said by phone.

That is far less than the 6,000 calls received in a 2007 storm and 20,000 calls in 1999, when Sydney faced its heaviest storm ever, Campbell said.

The SES is on standby for Saturday when a severe storm is likely to hit the city.

“We are looking at some very severe storms tomorrow. We are quite concerned there could be some particularly nasty storms,” Campbell said, citing the meteorology department’s forecasts.—*Reuters*

Thai king’s birthday ceremony cancelled



A boy holds up a picture of Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej as he and others gather to pray for the health and celebrate the birthday of the king at Siriraj hospital where he is staying, in Bangkok on 5 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 5 Dec — The Bureau of the Royal Household announced on Friday that a ceremony to mark the 87th birthday of Thailand’s revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej has

been called off.

King Bhumibol, the world’s longest-reigning monarch, is being treated in a Bangkok hospital for ongoing health issues.

Kyodo News

Xi Jinping urges development of military equipment systems



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), addresses a meeting of the armament work of the People’s Liberation Army, which is held in Beijing, China, from 3 to 4 Dec, 2014.

XINHUA

BEIJING, 5 Dec — Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged accelerating development of military equipment systems to help build a strong army.

Addressing a conference of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) on equipment, held from Wednesday to Thursday, Xi said advanced weaponry is the embodiment of a modern army and a crucial support for national security and rejuvenation.

The building of equipment systems should be information-led and pay great attention to weapon quality, said Xi.

Equipment systems are now in a period of strategic opportunities and at a key

point for rapid development, he noted.

The PLA must understand and make plans for system building in the context of the changes in both international strategic structure and Chinese national security.

A strong and modern army equipment system plays an irreplaceable role for the full realization of the Chinese Dream, Xi said, adding that the PLA must enhance political consciousness to seize the opportunity and ensure the rapid upgrading of equipment.

The equipment must be innovative, practical and forward-thinking to meet the demands of actual combat and fill in the weak spots

of China’s existing equipment.

Military officers at all levels should play a leading role and use actual combat to guide soldiers to improve their capacity to operate weapons, Xi said.

Xi, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, said the PLA should put a human resource strategy first by opening minds and not following a set model to establish a highly competitive talent reserve.

China’s ambition for a strong military works as a guideline for the country’s defence and military equipment modernization.

“We expect peace, but we shall never give up efforts to maintain our legitimate rights, nor shall we compromise our core interests, no matter when or in what circumstances,” Xi said earlier this year when joining a plenary meeting of the PLA.

In the meantime, national conditions have also dictated that a well-equipped PLA is needed for multiple purposes domestically, from disaster relief to maintaining stability and national unity.

Xi, who leads the country’s reform on national defence and the armed forces, stressed that military reform should be guided by the objective of building a strong army.—*Xinhua*

Thousands stranded as Filipinos brace for super typhoon Hagupit

MANILA, 5 Dec — Ports were shut across the Philippines, leaving thousands of travellers stranded, and some local governments ordered forced evacuations on Friday as super-typhoon Hagupit swept towards eastern coasts of the island nation. More than 2,000 passengers were stuck in ports in Manila, the central Philippines and Mindanao island in the south after the coastguard stopped sea travel ahead of the category 5 storm, which could hit areas devastated by typhoon Haiyan last year.

“We’ve warned them early to move away from shore, not just anchor their ships, because previously they just anchored their ships...The waves lifted them and washed them ashore,” Armand Balilo, a coastguard spokesman, said in a radio interview.

Hagupit was churning across the Pacific with the eye of the storm around 500 km (310 miles) southeast of the Philippines, the local weather bureau said, packing winds of up to 215 kph (130 mph) near the centre with gusts of up to 250 kph.

It was expected to slam into Eastern Samar province in the central Philippines on Saturday, bringing torrential rain and 3- to 4-metre high storm surges, the weather bureau said. The storm was moving to-

wards land at around 15 kph (10 mph).

On Thursday, the government said it was considering declaring a state of national calamity to freeze prices of basic goods, and President Benigno Aquino ordered the trade department to send more food supplies to provinces at risk amid reports of panic-buying of basic supplies.

The storm could take the same track as Haiyan, which left more than 7,000 dead or missing and more than 4 million homeless or with damaged houses when it battered the central Phil-

ippines in November 2013, the forecasting website Tropical Storm Risk and the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre of the US navy showed the storm veering north, closer to the capital Manila.

The Japan Meteorological Agency classified Hagupit as a “violent” storm while the US navy called it a super typhoon.

Tropical Storm Risks was predicting on Friday that the typhoon would have weakened to a category 4 — still a powerful storm — when it made landfall.

Eastern Samar and the island of Leyte were worst-



Residents with their belongings wait outside the convention centre, which is being used as an evacuation centre in Tacloban city, central Philippines on 4 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

ippines in November 2013, the weather bureau added.

While the local weather bureau and the Japan Meteorological Agency predicted Hagupit — Filipino for lash — making a direct hit on the central Philippines,

hit by 250 kph winds and storm surges brought by Haiyan, one of the strongest storms ever to make landfall. About 25,000 people still live in tents, shelters and bunkhouses more than a year after Haiyan.—*Reuters*

WORLD

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — People swarmed the streets of New York and other cities for a second night to protest a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer in the death of an unarmed black man.

The wave of protests began after no charges were brought against Officer Daniel Pantaleo for his role in a confrontation that killed Eric Garner. A bystander caught the incident on a video that has been shown repeatedly.

The reaction echoes the outrage after a grand jury also declined to indict a white policeman for killing an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri. US Attorney General Eric Holder has mounted a civil rights review of the Missouri shooting and promised a full investigation of the New York case.

The protests began during the evening rush hour, with demonstrators weaving between cars and trucks and bringing traffic on city streets to a near-standstill. The marches picked up recruits along the way, shifted directions, splintered and re-

grouped, but remained relatively peaceful for a second night.

Tensions came as at least 3,000 protesters converged in Times Square about an hour before midnight. Blocking the major intersection of 42nd Street and Seventh Avenue, they chanted at police, "Who do you protect?" Soon hundreds of officers shoved them on to sidewalks. Dozens were detained, although police declined to provide exact tallies.

Earlier, protesters in lower Manhattan staged sporadic sit-ins at intersections before police in riot gear warned them to move on or face arrest. Most complied.

Sharon Gordon, 52, of Matawan, New Jersey, said she hoped politicians would take heed. "There's been a confluence of social media and outrage," she said. "I do believe for the first time we're about to make a change."

Waves of marchers also blocked traffic on two bridges between Manhattan and Brooklyn, then converged on the Staten Island fer-

Marchers again swarm New York to protest death at hands of police



Protesters march in Manhattan as thousands of demonstrators take to the streets of New York demanding justice for the death of Eric Garner on 4 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

ry terminal at Manhattan's southern. The main group headed west and temporarily shut the West Side Highway, resulting in at least a handful of arrests, before turning north toward Times Square.

A smaller crowd con-

fronted police with taunts. Chesray Dolpha, 31, yelled at the officers: "We are not violent. We are not touching you. What are you doing with that baton, brother?" The police made eye contact but did not reply.

Elsewhere, hundreds also demonstrated in Washington DC, chanting, "No justice, no peace, no racist police," as they passed the Justice Department, neared the White House and headed to the Washington Mon-

ument. Protesters staged a "die-in" there, sprawling on the roadway to block traffic.

Protesters also blocked traffic on Interstate 35W in Minneapolis and on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Other demonstrations prompted officials to close two Bay Area Rapid Transit stops in Oakland, California, and re-route bus traffic around part of San Francisco's Market Street.

Unlike the 9 August shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Missouri, Garner's encounter with New York police was captured on video by a bystander's mobile phone. It showed Pantaleo wrapping his arm around Garner's throat and wrestling him to the sidewalk as three other officers help subdue him.

Garner repeatedly gasped, "I can't breathe" — a phrase protesters have taken up a rallying cry.

Reuters

US, Britain pledge to support Afghanistan as combat troops withdraw

LONDON, 5 Dec — The United States and Britain pledged on Thursday to support Afghanistan's new unity government as foreign combat troops withdraw from the country after a 13-year involvement.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said President Ashraf Ghani's new government had already made moves to combat money laundering and corruption since taking office in September in the first democratic transfer of power in Afghan history.

Ghani, who with former presidential rival Abdullah Abdullah formed a power-sharing government after months of wrangling over election results, sought to reassure allies that he would tackle corruption and stop the theft of aid money.

"We are confident that the policies outlined today by President Ghani and CEO Abdullah will result in a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan," Kerry said at a conference on Afghanistan in London.

"This is an extraordinary moment of transition and the possibilities are so enormous," he added.

A 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan over-

threw the Islamist Taliban who had given sanctuary to al-Qaeda. But as most foreign combat troops prepare to leave, local forces are battling a Taliban insurgency.

"Let our friends celebrate, let our detractors note that history will not be repeated, that we have overcome the past, we face the future with full unity and with confidence," Ghani said at the conference, which is not expected to generate new aid.

"We hope that we will never need direct combat support because the last thing we want is more war," he added.

British Prime Minister David Cameron stressed the importance of tackling corruption, saying businesses would only invest if Afghanistan could build strong, accountable institutions.

A statement at the end of the conference reaffirmed previous donor pledges of \$16 billion over four years made at a Tokyo meeting in 2012, but it also emphasized that Afghanistan would not be able to survive solely on domestic revenues.

Kerry said the London conference was never



President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan (R) and Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speak at a joint news conference at the London Conference on Afghanistan in central London on 4 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

meant to be a donor meeting for Afghanistan but to hear from Afghan's leaders their vision for the country going forward.

He said donors could be encouraged by the political progress and reforms to come forward later with new aid.

"There will be for sure some effort to increase contributions over time," Kerry said.

But the goal was to make Afghanistan a self-sustaining economy, he said.

Days after becoming president, Ghani signed a new security agreement with the United States, a

move his predecessor Hamid Karzai refused to do. The agreement lays out the terms under which US troops may stay in Afghanistan.

"We are committed to ensuring that Afghanistan can never again be used as a safe haven from which terrorists can threaten the international community," Kerry said.

He, however, said Afghanistan would still face security challenges. "Security will grow, it will get better, but no one should be surprised by attacks that will take place here and there," he said.

Reuters

Putin calls for Vladivostok to be granted free port status

MOSCOW, 5 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Thursday for Vladivostok to be granted free port status and the introduction of a scheme for preferential tariff treatment as part of efforts to develop the country's Far East region. In his annual address to the Federal Assembly, Putin also said Russia will work closely on economic integration with fast-growing Asian countries.

"Russia has a high (economic) potential as a major power in the Asia-Pacific region," Putin said, indicating his eagerness to prop up the country's economy by forging closer ties with Asian countries.

Putin's remarks came as his nation is reeling from economic sanctions imposed by the United States and Europe over the crisis in Ukraine, falling oil prices and depreciation of the Russian ruble.

Moscow's involvement in the Ukraine crisis, which has been widely criticized by Western powers, has pushed Russia to focus more on Asia.—Kyodo News

US lower house OKs defence bill including Marines' transfer budget

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec — The US House of Representatives passed a key defence bill on Thursday that includes funding for the transfer of some Marines from Okinawa to Guam. The bill for the National Defence Authorization Act, which includes an outline of defence budget plans, is expected to clear the Senate possibly next week and will be finally authorized with the signature of President Barack Obama. The US Congress had suspended the disbursement of most of the cost for the transfer of Marines from the southern Japan island to the US territory, questioning the feasibility of the project.

But members of the Armed Services committees in both chambers agreed earlier this week to lift a freeze on the budget to ensure enactment of the act for fiscal 2015, which began 1 October.

The Japanese government welcomed the recent agreement as a move that could help efforts to reduce the burden of Okinawa, which already hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.—Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 6 December, 2014

Breaking the impasse to move beyond common ground for common good

By Kyaw Thura

The notorious image of Myanmar beleaguered by ethnic rebellion from its earliest days of independence from British rule in 1948 is soon to fade away, with the international community hailing ongoing peace talks between the government and ethnic armed groups and calling it a significant move towards ending decades of civil war.

For some reason, peace talks remain elusive, thereby overshadowing the country's widely praised political reforms. If individual stakeholders engaged in peace talks fail, political reform will regress alongside national reform. It must be noted that a deeper phase of negotiation is needed. They should, however, keep in mind that no negotiation has ever proved productive in the absence of compromise. It is of paramount importance to all of them not to lose sight of the possibility of finding a path beyond common ground for common good.

We cannot let our country fall into 'a nation at risk'. Democratically, there is nothing wrong with people expressing their opinions on social and political issues. Just because they are not tied to any positions in government offices or any seats in parliament does not mean they do not have the right to voice views on politics, economy, education or any other issues in the country.

They know what going it alone can accomplish. It is time for them to start to discover what working together can accomplish. It is strongly believed that citizens win when individual stakeholders collaborate. There is nothing wrong with them to start working together to develop solutions that will make peace prevail across the country, if the restoration of peace is their end goal.

Write for us

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

FUTURE

Kyri Mun

- Make the present business effective;
- Find and realize the business potential; and
- Focus on building the future today.

- Peter F. Drucker

Future means: (1) The time that will come after the present, or the events that will happen then; (2) What will happen to somebody or something at a later time. (3) The possibility of being successful or surviving at a later time. (-Oxford Dictionary)

We can also understand FUTURE as follows:

F = Focus on Building the Future

U = Unique Vision & Strategy

T = The Test of Beliefs & Values

U = Unrivalled Capabilities

R = Resources

E = Excelling in Effectiveness & Efficiency

FOCUS ON BUILDING THE FUTURE

We all live and move and have our being in the present, but we have got to anticipate, expect and plan for the future, simply because the future exists for us and we have to live for the rest of our lives. Shakespeare said: "All ends well that ends well". So, ending or finishing is very important. Starting is important but not decisive for success on the whole. The journey is also very important, but the journey is only the means, but not the end. The end is your destination or your goal. So, while we live and move and have our being in the PRESENT tactically, we have got to FOCUS ON BUILDING THE FUTURE strategically. We should be:

- Future - oriented
- Future - focused
- Future - centered
- Future - driven
- Future - attentive
- Future - responsive
- Future - caring

UNIQUE VISION AND STRATEGY

Only the FUTURE exists before us. Today will be yesterday's tomorrow. So, we have to prepare for tomorrow which will certainly arrive. It is common sense that we should plan for the coming tomorrows. Seeing the coming of the future is vision. And that vision which is seeing the picture of the future must be expected, anticipated, forecast and planned. **Prior Planning Plus Preparations Prevent Poor Performance for the Future.** The vision should be our beacon along the ROAD to the GOLDEN CITY OF THE FUTURE. **The golden city is the vision and the way/road to the golden city is the strategy.** The undertaking to traverse the gap between the present and the future is the MISSION. The strategic MILEPOSTS are the GOALS and the tactical milestones are the OBJECTIVES.

THE TEST OF BELIEFS AND VALUES

The whole future must be taken into consideration in shaping the future. The shaping of the future must be firmly based on the solid beliefs and core values. We have got to be sure:

- ❖ What business are we in?
- ❖ Where are we now?
- ❖ Where do we want to be?
- ❖ How can we get there?
- ❖ Which is the best way?

In answering all these questions, your answers must be solidly based on what you all stand for. You must be very, very clear about the core values for which you live and move and have your being. In other words, you must have the THREE PILLAS OF SUCCESS:

- ✓ The Life/ Business Philosophy
- ✓ The Life/ Business Purpose
- ✓ The Life/ Business Policy

UNRIVALLED CAPABILITIES

Cut-throat competition, blood-thirsty rivalry and the rat-race are the clarion call that ruthless drives the:

- Political world
- Economic world
- Technological world
- Socio-Cultural world

So, you have got to have the cutting edge, which will set you apart from the rest. Without the winning edge, you won't be able to stand out from the crowd. That leading edge can only be possessed if you have the distinctive, excelling capabilities in ASK □ Abilities, Skills and Knowledge in your chosen field or fields.

RESOURCES

Individual, personal resources are:

- ❖ Physical health and fitness (Energy & Effort)
- ❖ Mental quality and strength (Vision & Strategy)
- ❖ Emotional quality and strength (Passion & Values)
- ❖ Spiritual quality and strength (Selflessness & Service)

❖ Achievement quality and strength (Character & Competency)

Organizational resources are

- ✓ Human resource
- ✓ Financial resource
- ✓ Technological resource
- ✓ Material & Machinery resource
- ✓ Information resource

Resources must be combined with resolute MORALE to get the requisite distinctive capabilities.

EXCELLING IN EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

There are two ways of doing things that deliver maximum impact:

- Effectiveness which is doing the RIGHT things
- Efficiency which is doing the things RIGHT

First of all, you must think of and find the right things to do. For example, you must find the RIGHT man to do the RIGHT JOB at the RIGHT time and place. This is called EFFECTIVENESS. And then, the man you have chosen have got:

- To do the job in the RIGHT way, with appropriate Abilities, Skills and Knowledge on the one hand, and with utter willingness to get the desired results, on the other. This is called EFFICIENCY.

CONCLUSION

The future is in front of us. We should follow the following advice from the Bible in shaping our future:

"This one thing I do; forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the MARK."

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Solar plane from Switzerland to visit Mandalay soon

By Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

After the Solar Impulse prototype's 8 world records, when it became the first solar air plane ever to fly through the night, between two continents and across the United States, it is time for Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg to move on to the ultimate phase of the adventure: the 2015 round-the-world flight. Solar Im-

pulse 2 was built to take up that challenge. It is a solar airplane with a gigantic wingspan. A real airborne technology lab with virtually endless endurance is capable of crossing oceans and continents by remaining in the air for several days and nights in a row.

Two pioneers and innovators, both pilots, came together to drive forward

Solar Impulses: Bertrand Piccard, a doctor, psychiatrist, aeronaut and explorer who made the first ever non-stop round-the-world balloon flight, is its initiator and chairman. Andre Borschberg, an engineer and graduate in management science, a trained fighter pilot and professional airplane and helicopter pilot, is co-founder and CEO. The former's avant-garde vision and

skills as a communicator and the latter's entrepreneurial and managerial experience complement each other ideally.

The first round-the-world solar-powered flight is scheduled to start in March 2015 from the Gulf area. Solar impulse will fly, in order, over the Arabian Sea, India, Myanmar, China, the Pacific Ocean, the United States, the

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Union Home Affairs Minister meets officials of Fire Services Department

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— Servicemen of Fire Services Department are to implement the four points vision of the Ministry of Home Affairs and tasks of FSD on fire safety, prevention of natural disaster, rescue and relief and public welfare tasks, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said at the ceremony to give guidance to the FSD at the ministry on Friday.

He stressed the need to uplift capacity of fire-fighters of the department and maintain fine traditions.

The ceremony was attended by departmental heads, senior officers and heads of region and state fire services departments, totalling 60.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Finland

NAY PYI TAW, 6 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. Erkki Sakari Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Finland, which falls on 6 December 2014.

MNA

Malaysian King confers honorary order on Vice-Senior General Soe Win



The King of Malaysia confers First Degree, Gallant Commander of Malaysian Armed Forces on Vice-Senior General Soe Win in Malaysia.

MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, also Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Soe Win has accepted an honorary decoration conferred by the King of Malaysia, sources said.

The ceremony took place at National Palace in Kuala Lumpur on 4 December and was attended by Malaysia's King Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and his queen, Malay-

sia's Commander-in-Chief General Tan Sri Dato Sri Zulkifeili Bin Mohd Zin and wife, and high-ranking military officers.

The decoration, called Honorary Malaysian Armed Forces Order For Valour (First Degree) Gallant Commander of Malaysian Armed Forces was conferred on Vice-Senior General Soe Win by the Malaysian King for his excellent performance of strengthening friendly ties between the two armies.

Myawady

MOGE, oil companies sign production sharing contracts



MIC Chairman Union Minister U Zeyar Aung attends signing ceremony of Deep Water Block AD-3.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy and Ophir Myanmar (Block AD-3) Limited registered at Channel Islands and Parami Energy Development Ltd of Myanmar signed the production sharing contracts at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December.

Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo of MPGE, Chief Operating Officer

Mr William Higgs of Ophir Myanmar (Block AD-3) and U Nay Win of Parami Energy Development Co Ltd signed the contracts for AD-3 offshore Rakhine coast.

MOGE got US\$ 6.5 million as signature bonus and US\$ 1.26 million as data fee. The companies will spend US\$ 258.3 million on one year observation period and six months exploration period for the

block.

MOGE also signed a production sharing contracts with Oil India Ltd, Mercator Petroleum Ltd, Oilmax Energy Pvt Ptd of India and Oil Star Management Service Co Ltd of Myanmar for Mottama offshore M-4 block and Taninthayi offshore YEB block at Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo of MPGE,

Group General Manager of Oil India Ltd of India Mr PK Sharma, Director Mr R Sattuluri of Oilmax Energy Pvt Ltd, Mr S Maheshwari of Mercator Petroleum Ltd and Managing Director U Kyaw Hlaing of Oil Star Management Service Co Ltd signed the contracts.

It is the signing ceremony for the first time of Mottama offshore M-4 block and Taninthayi offshore YEB block.

MOGE got US\$ 6million for signing bonus and US\$20,000 for data fee. They will spend US\$ 120.9 million on one year observation period and six months exploration period for the two blocks.

The foreign companies are to conduct environmental and social impact assessments for the blocks.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung and party.

MNA

Solar plane from Switzerland...

(from page 8)

Atlantic Ocean and southern Europe or North Africa, before closing the loop by returning to the point of departure. Landing will be made every few days to change pilots and organize public events for governments, schools and universities.

The solar-powered plane is projected to arrive in Myanmar in the first or second week of March 2015. During its stay in Myanmar it will fly over Bagan, international renowned archaeological site with the help of a helicopter of the Ministry of Transport. There will be photo shots during the fly-

ing in which the best photo will be chosen for handsome prize. There will also

be a press conference at the Tada-U International Airport (Mandalay) where the airplane is going to be staying overnight

so that local people including students of basic education schools and universities can observe and witness it.



NPE's dailies reduce half of advertisement fee for books

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Daily newspapers namely Myanma Alinn and Kyemon of the News and Periodicals Enterprise insert advertisements of aesthetic and general knowledge books, journals and magazines at the rate of social advertisement. With the aim of enabling the

people to read the aesthetic and general knowledge literature on a wider scale and developing the aesthetic and general knowledge literature, the newspapers reduce a half of advertisement rate for these genres (except journals and magazines) as of 1 December 2014.

MNA

Hillary Clinton backs federal probes of Ferguson, Staten Island cases

BOSTON, 5 Dec — Potential Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton said on Thursday she was pleased the US Department of Justice was investigating the recent deaths of unarmed black men in incidents with police. US Attorney General Eric Holder said on Wednesday the Department of Justice would launch a civil rights investigation into the chokehold death of Eric Garner in the New York City borough of Staten Island in July.

There is also a federal probe into the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by a white policeman in Ferguson, Missouri, in August.

Grand juries in both cases decided not to indict the officers involved, sparking protests. “Our hearts are breaking, and we are asking ourselves: ‘Aren’t these our sons, aren’t these our brothers?’” Clinton told the Massachusetts Conference for Women in Boston.

“I’m very pleased the Department of Justice will be investigating what happened in Ferguson, what happened in Staten Island. Those families, those communities, and the country, deserve a full and fair accounting as well as whatever substantive reforms are necessary to ensure equality, justice and respect for every citizen.” She said

the events in Ferguson and Staten Island highlighted “some hard truths about race and justice in America.” “Despite all the progress that we have made together, African-Americans, particularly African-American men, are still more likely to be stopped and searched by police, charged with a crime, and serve longer prison terms.”

“I personally hope these tragedies give us an opportunity to come together to find balance again,” she said.

Clinton, who lost the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008 to Barack Obama and served as his secretary of state from



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks on “Smart Power: Security Through Inclusive Leadership” at Georgetown University in Washington on 3 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

2009 to 2013, is considered her party’s front-runner if she runs again for the White House. She has said she will make up her mind early next year.—Reuters

France begins withdrawing Central Africa troops as UN deploys



A Seleka fighter fires a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) towards French soldiers in Bambari on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

PARIS, 5 Dec — France is withdrawing troops from Central African Republic as a United Nations peace-keeping force nears its full deployment, but will keep a presence to support the UN with a rapid reaction force, officials and diplomats said.

France has 2,000 troops in its former colony after intervening a year ago to stem violence between Christian militias and largely Muslim Seleka rebels, who took power.

Seleka’s rule was marked by abuses that prompted a backlash from the ‘anti-balaka’ Christian militia. Cycles of tit-for-tat violence continued despite Seleka leader Michel Djotodia’s resignation from the presidency in January.

France’s Sangaris troops and UN peacekeepers, who number about

7,500 now, have struggled to help a weak transitional government stamp its authority on the mineral-rich country.

General Eric Bellot des Minieres, head of the French force, said troops would be reduced in line with the UN increase, which is due to reach 10,000 by 30 April.

“Sangaris will not stay like it is,” he told reporters. “Once the MINUSCA is fully operational, we will reorganise into a smaller force, based most probably in (the capital) Bangui.”

Army officials said the reorganization would mean sending more military hardware such as Tiger attack helicopters and surveillance drones to enable troops to respond quickly to threats.

Thousands of people have died, been displaced or fled to neighbouring

countries since the ‘anti-balaka’ took up arms in response to months of killings, looting and rape by Seleka forces. That has left the country unofficially split into two.

Medical charity MSF said on Thursday the general situation remained “catastrophic.”

French officials say the intervention ended the spiral of violence, restored a minimum security and paved the way to begin reconciliation and restoration of the administrative and social infrastructure.

“We’re not crying victory. Look at Kosovo. That took 15 years,” said a military source. “It won’t be resolved by military means alone. It now needs a global approach that includes political, economic and judicial pillars.” French special forces are being deployed in the far-

east and east of the country, where more radical elements of the Seleka rebels are based, to pave the way for Pakistani, Zambian and Moroccan battalions, sources said. “We need a foothold there because the UN will need to deploy at some point to ensure the elections take place,” said a diplomatic source, referring to presidential and legislative elections due to be held from next July.

Reuters

UN Secretary-General’s message on International Volunteer Day 5 December 2014

An ambulance rushes a wounded child to a hospital. A hungry family receives a warm meal. A battered woman finds free shelter. In scenes of human suffering around the world, hope comes thanks to volunteers who give their time, skills and resources to others in need.

International Volunteer Day is a chance to thank the many individuals who act with this spirit of giving, and to encourage others to follow their example. When an earthquake destroys homes, volunteers prove that human solidarity is shatterproof. When looters aim for cultural property, volunteers safeguard community treasures. When development is lagging, volunteers help enable people to lift themselves out of poverty.

The humane impulse to assist and empower others that motivates volunteers rebounds back to them in the form of an enriched life. Volunteers offer life skills while expanding their own know-how; they empower communities while earning a sense of personal fulfilment at having made a difference in our world.

This year’s International Volunteer Day takes on special significance as the United Nations prepares to shape a new vision for sustainable development and a new universal climate agreement, both to be adopted next year. I thank the more than 6,300 UN Volunteers and 11,000 UN Online Volunteers who helped millions of people to make change happen by giving them a voice in sustainable development and peace efforts across the globe.

I also pay special tribute to the many volunteers responding to the Ebola crisis. UN volunteers and their counterparts are helping to address the outbreak through prevention, awareness-raising and treatment activities. Their assistance is particularly important as we battle misconceptions about the disease and strive to show compassion for all those who are affected.

On this International Volunteer Day, let us be inspired by the many individuals who selflessly serve others, and let us resolve to do our part to contribute, freely and proactively, to change conditions now towards a better future for all. —UNIC/ Yangon

Afghan soldier who killed US general acted independently

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec — An Afghan military policeman who fatally shot a US general and wounded more than a dozen other people at a training centre in Kabul apparently acted independently and had no links to the Taliban or other extremist groups, according to a report released on Thursday.

An investigation by the US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the insider attack was not premeditated and that the shooter, identified as Rafiqullah, may have been ill or a self-radicalized.

On 5 August, Rafiqullah opened fire with an M16 assault rifle through a bathroom window as about 60 people gathered outside

barracks on a routine visit to the Marshal Fahim National Defence University.

Among the 18 people hit by gunfire were US Major General Harold Greene, a senior officer with ISAF, who became the most senior US military official killed in overseas action since the Vietnam War, and a German general, who was wounded. Rafiqullah fired up to 30 rounds before he was killed by two coalition soldiers, the report said.

“The subsequent investigation did not identify any clear links between Rafiqullah and the Taliban or the other extremists groups,” the report said. “Although there have been many leads, nothing has yet materialized

that conclusively links the shooter to any plots, plans or person of interest.

“It may be that the shooter was self-radicalized or that he suffered from some sort of psychological condition.”

The investigation determined the shooting could not have been anticipated or prevented and that there was no negligence in planning the tour. Attacks by radicals who have infiltrated Afghan security forces have been a concern for the United States and other countries trying to bolster Afghanistan’s military. Tighter security reduced the number of such attacks to 15 in 2013 after 48 in 2012, according to a Pentagon report.

Reuters

WORLD

UN food aid halt pushing more Syrian refugee girls to early marriage

LONDON, 5 Dec — The halt in UN food supplies to 1.7 million Syrian refugees makes it more likely that refugee children will be forced to go to work or marry early to help their families survive, the UN children's agency UNICEF said on Thursday.

The World Food Programme (WFP) suspended food vouchers for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt on Monday due to a lack of funds and said it needed \$64 million (41 million pounds) to feed the refugees for the rest of December.

Stopping the vouchers would have a very serious impact on children, "because it is very likely that families will be under even more pressure to push their children into work or ... early marriage," Isabella Castragiovanni, senior child protection specialist at UNICEF, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

A growing number of refugee children were already dropping out of school to go to work or were being married early, and food shortages were contributing to this, she said.

The withdrawal of



Syrian Kurdish refugees wait after crossing into Turkey near the southeastern Turkish town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 30 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

food aid was a "looming disaster", as refugees had exhausted their resources and needed whatever help was available after years of displacement, Castragiovanni said.

Syrian refugees who fled the civil war in their homeland, now in its fourth year, resort to marrying their daughters off early to save money or to protect the girls from the sexual advances that single girls suffer.

In July UNICEF said that nearly one in three marriages among Syri-

an refugees in Jordan involved a child under 18.

The Aid organization CARE said that at least 50,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon were working, often in dire conditions, to pay for food and shelter for their families.

Castragiovanni said children find work as street vendors or shoe cleaners, but can also end up being sexually exploited, trafficked and recruited as child soldiers.

"Lack of access to even basic livelihood opportunities and diminished

access to food and other assistance will make these families even more vulnerable and destitute and children will certainly become even more at risk," she said.

"...we shouldn't leave millions of children not only without hope, but without basic means to survive."

UNICEF called on donor countries to provide funds for the WFP to resume its food supplies to refugees "and avert a looming disaster."

Reuters

37 killed in bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 Dec — A total of 37 people were killed and 92 others wounded in separate bomb attacks in Iraq on Thursday evening, police sources said.

A police source told Xinhua that 12 people were killed and 41 others wounded when a car bomb exploded on Thursday evening

near a popular market in Sadr City district, eastern Baghdad, adding that some shops destroyed by the huge blast.

Minutes later, another car bomb detonated near a group of restaurants in the same district, leaving nine people killed and 28 others wounded.—Xinhua

German man sentenced to three years nine months for activities in Syria

FRANKFURT, 5 Dec — A 20-year-old German man was sentenced to 3 years and 9 months in prison on Friday for his activities in Syria, in the first trial in Germany of a home-grown jihadi accused of joining Islamic State.

Prosecutors had asked for a jail term of four years and three months for the man, known as Kreshnik B, who was born in Ger-

many to Kosovan parents. He spent six months in Syria last year — where he is believed to have fought for and been trained by Islamic State insurgents.

His lawyer said he went to Syria to help support Syrians trying to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad and had asked judges for a maximum term of three years and three months.

Reuters



Defendant Kreshnik B, waits for the start of his trial in a courtroom in Frankfurt on 15 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Islamic State cedes little ground despite air attacks

BAGHDAD / BEIRUT, 5 Dec — They have made enemies across the globe and endured three months of US-led air strikes, but Islamic State fighters have surrendered little of their self-declared caliphate to the broad sweep of forces arrayed against them.

Across thousands of square miles in Syria and Iraq, the radical Islamists face an unlikely mix of Iraqi and Syrian soldiers, Shi'ite and Kurdish militias and rival Syrian Sunni Muslim rebels.

While they have lost towns on the edges of their Iraqi realm, especially in ethnically mixed areas where their hardline Sunni theology holds little appeal, they have consolidated power in parts of their Sunni Muslim heartland.

In August, Islamic State's attack on Iraqi Kurdish regions was repulsed and two months later its fighters were driven

from the town of Jurf al-Sakhar, south of Baghdad. It was also pushed out of two towns near the Iranian border last month.

But with a few exceptions, such as the army's breaking of an Islamic State siege of the country's largest oil refinery in Baiji, the militants' hold over predominantly Sunni provinces north and west of Baghdad has not been seriously challenged.

Islamic State's opponents say the recaptured towns show the tide has turned in Iraq and the group is on the defensive.

"The best they can do now is to cut a road or attack a patrol, but any advances and gains of territory have been completely stopped," said Hadi al-Amiri, head of the Badr Organization, a Shi'ite militia which along with Kurdish peshmerga spearheaded the recapture of Saadiya and Jalawla, near the Iranian border.

Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, rallying his fighters three weeks ago, said the US despatch of more military advisers to Iraq showed the opposite was true.

"The Crusaders' air strikes and constant bom-

bardment day and night of Islamic State positions have not prevented its advance," he said.

In fact, since Islamic State's June offensive, it has had little success breaking beyond the solidly Sunni Muslim provinces

of Anbar in the west and Salahuddin north of Baghdad, as well as the strongly Sunni province of Nineveh, home to the city of Mosul which the Islamists overran in June.

Iraqi security expert Hisham al-Hashemi said

the picture across Iraq overall was a stalemate, with government forces regaining some territory but Islamic State imposing itself more forcefully at its core.

He said Islamic State now controls 85 percent of Anbar Province, where it is attacking the provincial capital Ramadi and has killed hundreds of Sunni tribesmen who opposed it.

"The tipping point for defeating them in my view is when we win over the Sunni Arab tribes in Anbar, Salahuddin and Nineveh ... that will be the beginning of the end of ISIS," said Finance Minister HoshiyarZebari, using a former name for Islamic State.

While in Iraq there are clear areas where Islamic State is on the defensive, in Syria it is under less pressure because the US has few allies on the ground backing up its air offensive.

Reuters



An explosion following an air strike is seen in western Kobani neighbourhood, on 23 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Ukraine minister pleads for energy saving, gas stocks drop



A gas gauge and pipes are pictured at Wiener Netze (Viennese Energy Supply Company), Vienna's gas distribution node, in the Erdberg district of Vienna on 19 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

KIEV, 5 Dec — Ukraine's new energy minister pleaded with industrial and domestic consumers to use less electricity as hard frosts led to a sharp drop in gas stocks and low coal stockpiles, making more blackouts likely.

Volodymyr Demchyshyn on Thursday asked for a reduction in evening electricity consumption by 15 percent.

"Please, take it seriously. We expect reductions in electricity consumption even today. If we see consumption fall... I promise to appeal (to the regulatory body) to stop the outages," the minister told the government press service.

He also asked industrial companies to switch to working at night, promising attractive tariffs if they do. Shortages on the electricity grid have caused some outages across parts of eastern Ukraine and in the capital Kiev.

Ukraine consumed a record high volume of gas from its limited storage on 2 December due to hard frosts, gas transport monopoly Ukrtransgaz said.

Weather forecasters expect relatively mild weather in mid-December and this could reduce gas consumption.

Ukraine uses gas to produce electricity but has been forced to switch to coal or fuel oil after Russia suspended gas flows.

However the national electricity company, Ukrenergo, said on Tuesday coal reserves at thermal power plants stood at 1.3

million tonnes, around 65 percent lower than in December 2013. It said five plants only had enough coal to last up to another four days.

Mired in a power crisis caused by a separatist conflict in industrial eastern regions that has shut down mines and rail links for transporting coal, Ukraine has said it may now depend on Russia for both coal and electricity to make it through the winter. A spokesman for Ukrtransgaz said 132.7 million cubic metres of gas were drawn from underground storages on Tuesday versus an average of around 100 million per day last week.

Company data showed that the volume of stored gas has fallen more than 17 percent to 13.8 billion cubic metres since Kiev started pumping gas on 20 October for heating in cold season.

Ukraine has been left without flows from Russia since mid-June due to a pricing dispute and unpaid debts.

After months of talks, the two sides reached an agreement in October, and Kiev said on Wednesday it planned to make a pre-payment for 1 billion cubic metres of Russian gas by Thursday.—Reuters

Who can help reduce the high cost of violence against women?

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec — The huge negative impact of violence against women and girls on the global economy gives international financial institutions a unique role to play in ending it, a new guide on the issue said.

The cost of violence against women amounts to at least 5 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP), according to a recent study by the Copenhagen Consensus Centre. "Development organizations, financial institutions and increasingly the private sector are recognizing these costs..." said Caren Grown, senior director for gender at the World Bank Group.

"We have the global reach, we have the tools in terms of financing, part-

nerships to make greater change that could be transformational," she said at a conference earlier this week.

The resource guide, produced jointly by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University, provides guidance to development professionals on including efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in all of their projects. This type of violence directly affects the prosperity of all and impedes efforts to curb extreme poverty, Grown said, indicating another reason for international financial institutions to become involved.

One aspect of the eco-

nomic impact of violence against women is the greater cost it imposes on healthcare systems. Research shows that, for example, in the United States healthcare costs among women experiencing physical abuse are estimated to be 42 percent higher than among non-abused women. More investment and research need to go into existing approaches to curb the violence against women "epidemic", said Mary Ellsberg, founding director of the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University.

So it is important to bring gender-based violence programmes and prevention efforts to institutions that don't deal with it on a regular basis, experts said.

Evidence-based knowledge on what works and what doesn't in tackling violence against women and girls remains insufficient and skewed, experts said.

A World Bank study, which analysed and reviewed evidence on the effects of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls, found that over 70 percent of the so-called "impact evaluations" were conducted in just seven high-income countries accounting for only six percent of the world population.

Given the high economic costs of violence against women, the scarce and patchy evidence poses a significant challenge to developing economies in particular. Integrating pro-

jects that address violence against women into larger development programmes is essential not only to collect more evidence but to make programmes more effective, experts said. "Single-focused interventions are not going to be successful," said Heidi Lehman, director of women's protection and empowerment for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Lehman stressed the importance of assessing risks, whether due to conflict or cultural norms, when addressing violence against women and girls in varied geographic, cultural and political contexts.

"We are challenging the global system of patriarchy, and with it come risks," she said.—Reuters

Israel's David's Sling missile defence system set to begin advanced trials

JERUSALEM, 5 Dec — Israel's US-funded David's Sling missile defence system is about to be deployed for an intensive trial period before becoming operational, the military said.

The system, jointly developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd and US firm Raytheon Co, is also known as Magic Wand.

It is designed to intercept various aerial threats, including rockets, aircraft and cruise missiles, at distances ranging from 40 km to 300 km.

The interceptor, known as "Stunner," is a two-stage missile that can reach a top speed of Mach 7.5 and consists of a kill vehicle with advanced steering for super maneuverability during the kill phase.

Once in operational service, the system will comprise the middle tier of Israel's multi-layered missile shield and would dramatically enhance the air force's ability to confront the increasing threat of rockets and missiles in the inventories of Gaza's Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah, Syria and Iran.

Xinhua

Oil spill floods Israeli nature reserve, three people hurt

JERUSALEM, 5 Dec — Millions of litres of oil gushing out of a breached pipeline flooded a desert nature reserve in Israel overnight, causing one of the country's worst environmental disasters, officials and media said.

Three people were hospitalized after inhaling fumes released by an accidental rupture in the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline near the Evrona reserve, on the Jordanian border, police said. Israel Radio reported on Wednesday night's breach happened during maintenance work.

The main road leading to Eilat, a Red Sea resort, from central Israel was closed intermittently as emergency teams contained the leak. Evrona is known for its deer population and douma palms. "Crude oil flowed throughout the reserve, causing serious damage ... to flora and fauna," Environment Ministry official Guy Samet told Israel Radio on Thursday. He estimated the spillage at millions of litres.

"Rehabilitation will take months, if not years ... This is one of the State of Israel's gravest pollution events. We are still having trouble gauging the full extent of the contamination." There was no immediate word of any injuries or damage on the Jordanian side of the frontier.—Reuters



Handout aerial photograph provided by the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection shows a large oil spillage caused by an oil pipeline that breached during maintenance work in the Arava desert, southern Israel, on 4 Dec, 2014. An oil spill flooded overnight a desert nature reserve in southern Israel, causing "one of the worst" ecological disasters in Israel, officials and local media said on Thursday. —XINHUA

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

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

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

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

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

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A wild golden monkey is seen at the Qinling Mountains in Ningshan County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 4 Dec, 2014. The number of wild golden monkeys at the Qinling Mountains has increased to about 5,000, according to Shaanxi provincial forestry department.
XINHUA

Death toll rises to 25 in sunken S Korean fishing ship

SEOUL, 5 Dec — Death toll has risen to 25 in a South Korean fishing ship sinking accident in the Bering Sea as five more bodies were recovered, Seoul's foreign ministry said on Friday.

The bodies, including two Indonesians and unidentified three, were recovered in waters near the sunken South Korean fishing ship *Oryong 501*, which sank in the western part of the Bering Sea near Russia on Monday.

As of Friday, 25 people have been confirmed dead, including six South Koreans, 11 Indonesians, three Filipinos and five South East Asians unidentified. Seven was rescued on Monday, but 28 others remained missing.

The crew on board the 1,753-ton vessel, which was catching pollack, included 11 South Koreans, 35 Indonesians, 13 Filipinos and one Russian inspector.

The death toll is expected to increase further as the waters are famous for freezing sea water and stormy weather, which are hampering rescue operations.

The 36-year-old vessel has been believed to begin listing after bad weather caused seawater to flood the storage parts of it. The Ministry of People's Safety, the country's control tower of disasters, launched an investigation into the maritime accident.

The ship left the country's southern port city of Busan on 10 July for the Bering Sea to catch pollack.—Xinhua

End of the road for Delhi's old cars as India battles smog

NEW DELHI, 5 Dec — An Indian court has banned all vehicles older than 15 years from the streets of the capital, New Delhi, in a bid to clean up air that one prominent study this year found to be the world's dirtiest.

The ruling hits up to a third of the 8.4 million motorbikes, trucks, cars and auto-rickshaws that ply the traffic-choked roads of Delhi and its surrounding areas, transport officials estimate.

Cities across the world are ordering older vehicles off the road or restricting private car use to tackle growing air pollution. Mexico City introduced a ban on older vehicles driving on Saturdays this year, while in March, France briefly enforced the most drastic traffic curbs in 20 years.

"It is undisputed and

in fact unquestionable that the air pollution of ... Delhi is getting worse with each passing day," the National Green Tribunal ruled in a judgement last week banning older vehicles from city streets.

Vehicular emissions are the cause of close to three-quarters of Delhi's air pollution, the Delhi government estimates, and a World Health Organization study of 1,600 cities released in May found India's capital had the world's dirtiest air. India rejected the report.

The ban in Delhi lacks incentives to encourage drivers to trade in their older vehicles but eventually could boost sales for car-makers like Maruti Suzuki India and Tata Motors, as the capital accounts for 17 percent of India's new car sales, said IHS automotive analyst Puneet Gupta.

In Russia, sales of the Lada car have grown thanks in part to a state scheme that provides cash incentives to buy new cars if people sell their old ones for scrap.

Critics of the Delhi ruling say it is largely unenforceable, and will do little to tackle pollution in a city where 1,500 new vehicles roll onto the roads every day.

"Polluting vehicles occur in all different vintages, not just older cars," said Anumita Roychowdhury at the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment.

She said authorities should introduce testing of vehicles for pollution levels, and raise taxes on more polluting vehicles to discourage their use. "You really need to scale up public transport and you need to reduce the overall volume of vehicles on the road," she said.—Reuters

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th December, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Tanintharyi Region, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah 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.

Tunnel collapse traps workers in east China

FUZHOU, 5 Dec — An expressway tunnel under construction collapsed in east China's Fujian Province on Friday trapping more than 20 workers. Rescuers were told that 21 workers were trapped after a 30-meter long section of the expressway tunnel in Longyan City collapsed.

Debris estimated at 5,000 cubic metres has blocked the tunnel, which had been under expansion construction to accommodate the expressway linking Xiamen City of Fujian and Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province. The search is still under way. No information on the casualties has been reported.—Xinhua

24th James Bond movie titled 'Spectre'



'Sherlock' star Andrew Scott, Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz and Monica Bellucci are joining as new cast members along with other actors. 'Spectre' will release on 6 November next year.—PTI

LONDON, 5 Dec — James Bond's 24th adventure will be called 'Spectre' where 007 will be seen uncovering secrets of a sinister terror organization, director Sam Mendes announced at Pinewood Studios today.

Daniel Craig, 46, is returning as Ian Fleming's famous fictional spy for the fourth time while it is Mendes' second Bond film after 'Skyfall'.

'Sherlock' star Andrew Scott, Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz and Monica Bellucci are joining as new cast members along with other actors. 'Spectre' will release on 6 November 6 next year.

"We are very excited and I think I speak on behalf of all of us to say that

we cannot wait to bring this movie to you in just under a year's time. We hope you like it," Mendes said as he announced cast and crew details with producer Barbara Broccoli at Pinewood where the principal photography will begin from Monday.

The film will be shot in England, Mexico City, Rome, Tangier & Erfoud, Morocco, Solder, Oberilliach and Lake Altausee (Austria).

In the new movie, a cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization (Spectre). While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth be-

hind Spectre.

The title is named after the shadowy terrorist organization created by Fleming which first appeared in his novel 1961 'Thunderball'. Spectre stands for Special Executive for Counter-intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion.

"We've got an amazing cast and, I think, a better script than we had last time. We started something in Skyfall, it felt like a beginning of something. This feels like a continuation of that. We're going to put all of those elements in, and much more," Craig said.

'Django Unchained' star Waltz, whose name was rumoured in the cast as villain Blofeld, will play Oberhauser though not much was revealed about his character. David Bautista will play henchman Mr Hinx.

Scott, best known for his role in TV drama 'Sherlock' where he played Sherlock's nemesis James Moriarty, will play Whitehall newcomer Denbigh.

Bellucci, 50, is the new Bond girl Lucia Sciarra with 'Blue is the Warmest Color' star Lea Seydoux as Madeleine Swann.

PTI

Benedict Cumberbatch turns to Marvel magic as 'Doctor Strange'

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec — He has solved cases as Sherlock Holmes, been exiled as Julian Assange and saved Britain from the Nazis as Alan Turing, but British actor Benedict Cumberbatch is not done playing the hero as Marvel announced on Thursday he will star as Doctor Strange.

Marvel's "Doctor Strange" will follow the story of neurosurgeon Stephen Strange, who suffers a severe accident and loses the ability to perform surgery, thus turning to the mysterious world of magic and alternate dimensions.

"Stephen Strange's story requires an actor ca-

pable of great depth and sincerity," Marvel studio President Kevin Feige said in a statement.

"In 2016, Benedict will show audiences what makes Doctor Strange such a unique and compelling character."

The film is scheduled for release in November 2016 and will be directed by "Sinister" filmmaker Scott Derrickson with a screenplay by "Prometheus" writer Jon Spaihts.

The role is another notch in Cumberbatch's growing portfolio of films, and he is currently gaining Oscar buzz for his performance as Turing in biopic

"The Imitation Game."

The 38-year-old actor reprised the role of his breakout Emmy-winning character Sherlock Holmes for the fourth season of BBC's modern day adaptation "Sherlock" airing next year, alongside actor Martin Freeman.

Cumberbatch also starred alongside Freeman as the dragon Smaug and the Necromancer in Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" films. The final instalment is due in theatres this month.

Cumberbatch will enter the comic book superhero movies as Walt Disney Studios co-owned Marvel Studios plans to enter the next big stage of the Marvel universe, with more "Captain America," "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Avengers" films planned through 2018. Alongside "Doctor Strange," new Marvel franchises will include "Ant Man" starring Paul Rudd in 2015, "Black Panther" starring Chadwick Boseman in 2017 and "Captain Marvel," the first female superhero to anchor a standalone Marvel film, due in 2018.

Reuters



Cast member Benedict Cumberbatch arrives for the world film premiere of "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" at Leicester Square in central London on 1 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

HBO leads TV field with 16 Writers Guild Awards nominations

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec — HBO led all television networks with 16 Writers Guild Awards nominations on Thursday, as its series "Game of Thrones," "Silicon Valley" and "True Detective" each earned multiple nods for honours writers bestow on their peers.

Medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones," murder-mystery "True Detective," CBS's political drama "The Good Wife," Netflix's political thriller "House of Cards" and AMC's period portrait of the advertising world, "Mad Men," will each vie for the top award of best

drama series. Top comedy series nominees include tech world satire "Silicon Valley," comedian Louie CK's irreverent take on modern urban life, "Louie" on FX, political satire "Veep" as well as Netflix's jailhouse series "Orange Is the New Black" and Amazon's transgender family show "Transparent."

The Writers Guild of America will hand out its awards at ceremonies in New York and Los Angeles on 14 February. The WGA's film writing awards nominations will be announced on 7 January.

The next closest network to premium cable's

HBO was broadcaster Fox, with eight nominations. The network swept the animation category as "The Simpsons" earned four nods, the most of any show, and "Bob's Burgers" two.

Writers for "Mad Men," "Game of Thrones," "The Good Wife" and SundanceTV's Southern Gothic series "Rectify" each earned nominations for the scripts of individual episodes for a drama series. HBO's Prohibition drama "Boardwalk Empire" received two nods in the category despite missing out on the top drama prize.

The nominees for best comedy episode include



A dragon statue stands on a red carpet in preparation for the season four premiere of the HBO series "Game of Thrones" in New York on 18 March, 2014. REUTERS

two episodes of ABC's "Modern Family," Fox's "New Girl," "Orange Is the New Black," "Louie" and

"Transparent."

Online streaming services Netflix and Amazon each earned three total

nominations, while networks ABC and CBS each had six nominations. NBC earned four nods.—Reuters



Christopher Nolan to receive the Art Directors Guild's Cinematic Imagery Award.—REUTERS

Christopher Nolan to receive Cinematic Imagery award

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec — 'Interstellar' director Christopher Nolan will receive the Art Directors Guild's Cinematic Imagery Award at the 19th annual Excellence in Production Design Awards. The award is given to those whose body of work in the film industry has richly enhanced the visual aspects of the movie-going experience, according to

The Hollywood Reporter.

Past recipients include Martin Scorsese, Warren Beatty, Clint Eastwood, Norman Jewison, John Lasseter, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and Blake Edwards. Blass and James Pearce Connelly said in a joint statement, "Christopher Nolan's body of work reflects a clear appreciation for the contribution

Production Design brings to the stories he brings to life. His creative legacy is quite remarkable and it demonstrates a great love and respect for our visual medium. "The teams of designers and craftspeople that he continues to bring together as a vital part of his filmmaking family are always of the highest caliber, and their work is among the

most celebrated, unique and creative in our craft. Christopher Nolan's films remind us over and over again why we love to go to the movies."

Nolan most recently directed 'Interstellar'. Other credits include 'Batman Begins', 'The Dark Knight', 'The Dark Knight Rises', 'Inception', 'The Prestige' and 'Insomnia'.—PTI

Melting of glaciers at famed US park threatens rare water bug



View from atop the Grinnell Glacier Overlook trail in Glacier National Park, Montana on 24 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

HELENA, (Montana), 5 Dec — The expected disappearance of the famed glaciers at Montana's Glacier National Park by 2030 could spell doom for a rare aquatic insect confined to high mountain streams that are warming due to climate change, US scientists said on Thursday.

The western glacier stonefly lives only in a few streams at Glacier National

Park. First identified in 1963, the bug's population has declined sharply along with the park's glaciers, US Geological Survey researchers said in a study in the journal *Freshwater Science*.

The stonefly has disappeared from the bulk of its historical range, with sampling by scientists from 2011 to 2013 showing the insect in just one of the six streams it once occupied. It

was also found in two new locations at higher elevations with cooler water, according to the study.

Data collected from 1960 to 2012 shows glaciers at the park, which encompasses more than a million acres on Montana's border with Canada, are likely to disappear by 2030, according to the study.

The rapid melting associated with climate change

has, in turn, spurred warming of streams once directly fed by glaciers that have since receded.

The study, led by USGS aquatic entomologist Joe Giersch, is the first to document redistribution of an aquatic keystone species — one that plays a pivotal role in its ecosystem — in the Rockies because of higher temperatures and glacial recession. Giersch said the stonefly is representative of an entire, unique ecosystem expected to undergo a dramatic alteration linked to climate change.

The expected disappearance of the glaciers means fewer alpine streams even at higher elevations. "Soon there will be nowhere left for the stonefly to go," he said.

The western glacier stonefly is one of two such water bugs endemic to Glacier National Park undergoing review by US Fish and Wildlife Service for Endangered Species Act protections due to glacial loss from climate change.

Reuters

Three WR smashed, China empty-handed at Short-Course Swimming Worlds day 2

DOHA, 5 Dec — Three more world records were created on the second day of the FINA Short-Course Swimming World Championships in Doha while the Chinese swimming team got empty-handed on Thursday.

China finished sixth in the mixed 4X50m medley relay, while Asian champ Ning Zetao and Youth Olympic champ Shen Duo both failed to make finals in

their own event.

Brazil won the men's 4x50m medley relay in a new world record time of 1:30.51. Guilherme Guido, Felipe Franca, Nicholas Santos and Cesar Cielo took an early and decisive control of the race and improved the time of 1:32.78 (also a WR) established in the morning heats by the Russians, who could not make the podium and finished fourth, behind

second-placed France and bronze medallist USA.

Brazil also won the mixed 4X50m medley relay in 1:37.26.

Hungary's "Iron Lady" Katinka Hosszu bounced back from second place finishes at the hands of her rival Mireia Belmonte Garcia on Wednesday to prove her steel once again and post a new WR in the 100m backstroke in 55.03.

"It's super exciting. The most amazing thing you can do is break a world record and I'll never forget that feeling," Hosszu said.

"That was my sixth world record this season but it ranked high up there as the event is not really 'my' event. I honestly wasn't thinking of the record, I was just trying to do my best and I was shocked afterwards." — *Xinhua*

Turner's Rome masterpiece breaks records at London auction

LONDON, 5 Dec — One of the last privately owned masterpieces by JMW. Turner has sold for a record 30.3 million pounds (\$47.47 million) at a London auction, amid a surge of interest in the 19th Century British painter. Described by auction house Sotheby's as one of Turner's greatest achievements, the 1835 work "Rome, from Mount Aventine" set a new price high for the Romantic master as well as for any pre-20th Century British artist.

Four bidders pushed the price of the large-scale oil painting above pre-auc-

tion expectations of 15 million to 20 million pounds before it finally went to an anonymous buyer.

The painting has never been restored and had only changed hands once before, when it was bought in 1878 by Archibald Primrose, the Earl of Rosebery, who later became a British prime minister.

The landmark price was not only driven by the work's "exceptional" provenance and condition, but also by its rarity, said Alex Bell, co-chairman of Sotheby's Old Master Paintings department. "It is hard to

overstate the importance of Rome, from Mount Aventine," he said in a statement.

"There are no more than half a dozen major works by Turner left in private hands and this work must rank as one of the very finest."

The sale on Wednesday evening coincided with renewed public interest in one of Britain's greatest painters, sparked by director Mike Leigh's Turner biopic and an exhibition of the revolutionary artist's later works, currently on show at London's Tate gallery.

Reuters



Sotheby's employees pose with British artist JMW Turner's artwork "Rome, from Mount Aventine" at Sotheby's auction house in London on 28 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(6-12-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:35 am

* Nice & Sweet Song

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:40 am

* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:50 am

* Documentary

10:20 am

* Current Affairs

11:35 am

* Game for Children

12:00 noon

* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

* Round up of The Week's TV Local News

2:00 pm

* Musical Programme

3:15 pm

* Teleplay

3:40 pm

* Myanmar Traditional performing Arts Competitions

4:15 pm

* MRTV's Youth Programme

5:40 pm

* Game for Children

6:20 pm

* Documentary

7:20 pm

* Teleplay

8:00 pm

* News/ International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Business News

9:00 pm

* News

* Myanmar Series Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

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- * In the Studio: Nyi Voyy

Woods at a loss to explain first-round flop at Isleworth

WINDERMERE, 5 Dec — Tiger Woods was at a loss to explain his latest struggles after an error-strewn return to competitive golf on Thursday at the Isleworth course he knows like the back of his hand. The former world number one sputtered to a five-over 77 in the opening round of the Hero World Challenge that left the tournament host last in the 18-man field. “I shot 80 a bunch of times here actually,” said Woods, who estimates having played the course 500 times before. “Usually when it’s a cold north wind and it’s about 30 (Fahrenheit, -1 Celsius) out. But not like this. Today was weird.” Playing in warm sun and in front of a friendly gallery on his former home course, Woods struggled

with his tee shots and short game in a round that left him a staggering 11 strokes back of tournament leader Jordan Spieth. It was far from how Woods had planned his first competitive round since shutting things down in August due to back issues.

Woods, 38, foreshadowed his round on the first tee as he stood in front of a massive sculpture of a charging bull before sending his first shot through the fairway of a dogleg right and just short of a pool in a former neighbour’s yard.

Looking slimmer and less muscular than in recent years, and playing with zero pain, Woods had trouble controlling the ball. He did not hit his first fairway until the sixth. His worst hole came at the par-four eighth.

Again he came close to an unscripted visit in his old neighbourhood when his tee shot soared left, carried over trees and bounced off a metal fence fronting a home. With a limited backswing, Woods tried to punch out but his ball ricocheted off a tree. As he walked away he backhanded his club against the fence, sounding a clank of frustration on the way to a double-bogey. The pattern changed at the turn. After finding only two fairways in his five-over 41 on the front side, Woods hit all seven fairways on the back nine. Unfortunately, his short game deserted him. “It certainly is surprising that I could hit chips that poorly,” admitted the 14-times major winner, who flubbed three of them.—Reuters

MADRID, 5 Dec — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi’s yellow card for time-wasting after he was apparently hit on the head by an object thrown from the crowd in Sunday’s La Liga game at Valencia has been rescinded by the Spanish Football federation (RFEF). Barca’s initial appeal was rejected by the RFEF’s competition committee and the club lodged a second challenge with a higher appeals committee which ruled in their favour on Thursday.

The RFEF said on its website (www.rfef.es) the committee had been unable to detect “deliberate time-wasting” on Messi’s part but only “a normal reaction from someone who had suffered an aggression



Barcelona’s soccer player Lionel Messi takes part in a commercial event at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 27 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

by a spectator”.

Messi was celebrating his side’s 94th-minute winner with his team mates near the corner flag at the Mestalla stadium when a plastic bottle was thrown from the stands and appeared to

strike him on the head. He was examined by Barcelona’s medical staff after the final whistle and did not appear to be injured, giving the thumbs-up as he walked off the pitch. It was not clear if the bottle or another object, such as a coin, had struck the Argentina captain and he has made no public comment about the incident.

Barca’s 1-0 win kept them hard on the heels of leaders Real Madrid, who are two points clear of their arch-rivals after 13 matches thanks to Saturday’s 2-1 victory at Malaga. Real can extend their club-record winning streak in all competitions to 18 games when they host Celta Vigo on Saturday before Barca welcome city rivals Espanyol on Sunday.—Reuters

Van Gaal rekindles spirit as United dare to dream again

LONDON, 5 Dec — Four wins a row have lifted Manchester United into the Premier League’s top four and Louis van Gaal’s managerial reign is beginning to bear fruit after a difficult start.

Although home victories over Crystal Palace, Hull City and Stoke City would not normally set pulses racing at Old Trafford, the gutsy win at Arsenal showed signs of the fierce team spirit that un-

derpinned Alex Ferguson’s glittering reign at the club.

Van Gaal has overcome a spate of injuries that have forced him to field a patched-up defence in almost every match and United’s resurgence has been epitomised by the form of the much-maligned Marouane Fellaini and Ashley Young.

Fellaini, signed by former manager David Moyes and seen as a symbol of his unhappy spell at the

club, has been a stalwart in Van Gaal’s midfield, using his physical attributes to great effect at both ends of the pitch. He struck a spectacular goal at West Bromwich Albion, his first for United, and his far-post header opened the scoring against Stoke. “It’s good for the confidence to score the goal,” he told reporters.

“It was a great cross as well and it was a great combination, so it’s good. I feel a little bit tired as I

start to play every game so I feel the fatigue but I have to rest and work hard again.”

“We know each other a lot better and we know the manager and the staff,” Fellaini added.

“We know the philosophy of the manager. We are training hard as well so we have to continue like that. It is good to win four games in a row. We have to continue like that.”

Reuters



Manchester United’s manager Louis van Gaal waves to fans as he arrives for their English Premier League soccer match against Chelsea at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 26 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Brazil World Cup stadiums 50 percent over budget

SAO PAULO, 5 Dec — The 12 stadiums used in this year’s soccer World Cup cost 50 percent more than planned and only six of the 35 promised public transportation projects were finished on time, according to an as yet unpublished report from Brazil’s Federal Accounts Court.

Twelve arenas were remodeled or built from scratch at a cost of 8.44 billion reais (\$3.26 billion), the court said in its most thorough report on World Cup spending since the tournament ended in July. The original estimate in 2010 was 5.6 billion.

The most expensive was the redevelopment of the National Stadium in Brasilia, which cost 1.44 billion reais, nearly twice its original estimate and three times the cost of some of the arenas that were completely rebuilt.

“The venues cost much more than they

should have,” said Amir Somoggi, a finance and marketing consultant who works with some of Brazil’s biggest soccer clubs.

“They went for Pharaonic projects and we got left with white el-

ephants.”

With many stadiums delivered at the last minute and transportation projects incomplete or abandoned, there were fears the 2014 World Cup would be chaotic.

However, the tournament was widely considered to be a success, featuring some of the best soccer for years and causing no serious off-field problems. Germany beat Argentina 1-0 in the final in Rio de

Janeiro.

The 130-page report, however, made it clear there was still plenty of work to be done.

The government promised 26 new airport projects but just 14 were finished on time, said the report seen by Reuters and due to be published before Monday.

Only six of the promised 35 public transportation projects were finished by the time the tournament kicked off.

“We were hoodwinked,” Somoggi said. “They said the World Cup would help Brazil take a huge leap forwards in terms of public transportation but all they did was the stadiums. The economy is no longer in a great shape so there is no guarantee that they will be finished.”

Government officials have repeatedly stressed they will finish what they have started but none of

the 29 projects that were unfinished in June have been completed since.

Five of the 29 unfinished projects have not been touched and several others have seen almost no work.

The Court’s report, however, was largely positive.

“It is worth stressing that an expressive portion of the projects were at an advanced stage at the time of the sporting tournament, which means their completion is inevitable,” it said.

“There is absolutely no doubt that their conclusion will serve as an important legacy from the Cup.”

Brazil is also hosting the next Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The city has said preparations are on schedule, although there are concerns over the sailing and golf venues.

Reuters



Fireworks explode over the stadium after the German team won their 2014 World Cup final against Argentina at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS