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# RECONCILIATION TALKS

## President, C-in-C to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday

Aye Min Soe

FOLLOWING Myanmar's historic elections, President U Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy, which dominated the elections in a landslide, on Wednesday. The two incumbent leaders will meet Suu Kyi separately.

"In response to a request by the chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to meet with the President, arrangements have been made for the meeting at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 2 December 2015," announced the president's office Facebook page.

Meanwhile, the Tatmadaw's information team released a statement on Monday confirming the meeting between the Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The statement said arrangements have been made to hold a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the chairperson of the National League for Democracy, on the afternoon of 2 December at the command-



President U Thein Sein welcomes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as she arrives for 48-party talks on 12 January 2015. PHOTO: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

er-in-chief's office, as she requested on 10 November.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sent separate letters to President U Thein Sein, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on 10 November, requesting meetings with each of them within a week to address national recon-

ciliation. In her letters, she stressed the importance of the peaceful implementation of the desires of the people as expressed by the election results.

President U Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing replied that they would hold talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

when the electoral process of the Union Election Commission had concluded and would cooperate with the NLD to ensure the stability of the country in the post-election period. The president and the commander-in-chief also congratulated the National League for Democracy for its leading position in the 2015 election results. The NLD

enjoyed a projected landslide victory at the polls.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and parliamentary speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held talks on 19 November, focusing national reconciliation, peace and the smooth running of parliament during the country's political transition.—GNLM

## MPs to discuss jade mine landslide with aim to prevent future disasters

Aye Min Soe

FOLLOWING a recent deadly landslide at a jade mining site in Hpakant, Kachin State, a member of parliament has urged the Union government to carry out measures to prevent future landslides in the area.

In his proposal to discuss the issue at the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) on Monday, U Khet Htain Nan, an MP from Kachin State, stressed the need to add sections to the Myanmar Gems Law in order to guarantee the safety and

livelihoods local people and to create job opportunities for them.

He also pointed out the weakness of law enforcement for jade mining operations, which has failed to prevent the dumping of waste soil and regulate transportation, environmental conservation and marketing in the jade industry.

"The environment in Hpakant has been deteriorating for about 40 years. Environmental conservation is very weak, and companies have used lots of heavy machinery in their jade mining operations," said the MP

at the parliamentary meeting.

In Hpakant, there have been 37 landslides of dumped soil, including the 11 November landslide, which killed more than 114 migrant miners searching for jade in the piles of waste soil on the mountainside.

The parliament has invited MPs to discuss the issue in future meetings.

In an effort to prevent future landslides, local authorities have planned to inspect mountains of dump soil routinely, according to Hpakant Township Adminis-

tration Office.

"We have already formed 11 inspection teams at the ward-village level to inspect 11 mountains of dump soil in the township twice per week. Our township-level inspection team will conduct inspections there every Saturday," said U Tin Swe Myint, the Hpakant Township Administration Officer in an interview with *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

So far, 70 makeshift tents in the at-risk area have been removed, according to local authorities.

"If we find conditions that

show that landslides can happen in the mountains, we will stop companies from dumping waste soil there," said U Tin Swe Myint.

The deadly landslide was caused by the collapse of a 200-foot mountain of dump soil. It buried around 70 makeshift huts located in the ravine between two mountains of dump soil, killing 114 migrant miners.

The dump soil was deposited there by jade mining companies.

Only five huts in the ravine escaped the landslide, according to a local resident.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Roundup



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues discussions on amendments of bills. PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Monday accepted three bills to be presumed approved. The Hluttaw also discussed three international agreements to be signed by the Myanmar government, the report on the implementation of national planning in the second half of the 2014-15 fiscal year and the

additional budget bill for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The three bills presumed approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw include the bill amending the Expressway Law, the second amendment bill for the Use of Roads and Bridges Law and the bill amending the Highways Law.

The three international agreements to be signed by Myanmar include cooperation among Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar and military cooperation with Israel.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session will continue on Tuesday. —Myanmar News Agency

## 53 children released by Myanmar Army

UNICEF announced yesterday that the Government of Myanmar on Monday discharged 53 children and young people who had been recruited by the country's Defence Services.

With this latest release, the total number of children discharged in 2015 reached 146, according to the UNICEF press release.

Since June 2012, when the Myanmar government signed a Joint Action Plan with the United Nations, 699 children have been released by the army.

The UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CT-FMR) on Grave Violations against Children welcomed the mass discharge, while also stressing the need for the Government of Myanmar to continue making every effort to end the recruitment and use of children in its armed forces.

"Today's release is the result of continued efforts of the

Government of Myanmar and the Tatmadaw to put an end to the harmful practice of recruiting and using children. I am delighted to see these children and young people returning to their homes and families," said Renata Lok-Dessalien, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar and co-chair of the CT-FMR.

"We are hopeful that institutional checks that have been put in place and continued efforts will ensure that recruitment of children will exist no more."

The CT-FMR has called on the government to accelerate essential remaining steps, particularly by adopting legal measures in the re-drafted Child Law that are necessary to prohibit and criminalise the use and recruitment of children, whether committed by military personnel or civilians, by reinforcing age-assessment proce-

dures within the military recruitment process and by including the prevention of violations against children in the military curriculum.

Since the signature of the Joint Action Plan, important actions have been taken, namely the centralisation of the recruitment, and the signature in September of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

"The signature of the protocol is a crucial step toward a child-free army," said Bertrand Bainvel, the UNICEF Representative to Myanmar and co-chair of the CT-FMR. "Now it is urgent that Myanmar ratifies the protocol. Along with the review and the adoption of the revised Child Law, this would be one of the most important legacies the outgoing parliament has the opportunity to leave to new generations in Myanmar." —GNLM



Senior military officers and officials of UN agencies meet child soldiers. PHOTO: MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw Roundup

THE Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) continued its session Monday with the submission of one bill and the approval of one bill.

Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye said a marine police corps has been formed for the prevention of illegal fishing and overseas crime in Myanmar waters. The Fisheries Department will submit the Myanmar Marine Fishing Bill to the Security, Stability, Peace and Rule of Law Committee and to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said a 13-mile embankment will be built along the Bilin River from Muthin village to Shwehlay village in Bilin Township. However, the embankment

cannot be built at present due to the need for more feasibility studies.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee and the Investment and Industrial Development Committee submitted reports during the session.

During the Hluttaw session, MPs were informed that bills amending the Evidence Act, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, the Foreign Exchange Management Law and the Banks and the Monetary Organisations Bill have been accepted.

The Ministry of Transport submitted a bill amending the Comprehensive Transport Law. The Hluttaw approved a bill amending the Veterinary Education Council Law. —Myanmar News Agency



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye. PHOTO: MNA

## Yangon Stock Exchange to debut on 9 December

Aye Min Soe

THE Yangon Stock Exchange will launch its operations on 9 December with 10 underwriting companies, according to a statement released by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM).

At a meeting with the 10 tentatively selected underwriting companies on Monday in Yangon, U Maung Maung Thein, the chairman of the SECM and deputy minister for finance, urged the companies to pay their licencing fees by December in preparation for the launch date.

There will be about five companies listed in the YEX, he added.

A license for underwriting costs K15 billion (US\$11.5

million); a dealing licence costs K10 billion (\$7.7 million); a brokerage licence costs K7 billion (\$5.4 million) and a consultancy licence costs K30 million (\$23,000) in up-front capital, according to the deputy minister.

The Yangon Stock Exchange, Myanmar's first, will have the abbreviation YEX.

Japan's Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd signed an agreement with the Myanma Economic Bank to help establish and run the stock exchange in December 2014.

The market will be run by the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company, with a 51 percent stake owned by the Myanma Economic Bank under Myanmar's Finance Ministry and the remainder owned by the Japanese partners.

## President sends messages of felicitations to Romania

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis, President of Romania, and His Excellency Mr Sorin Mihai Cimpeanu, Prime Minister of Romania, on the occasion of the National Day of Romania, which falls on 1 December 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Trainees of Myanmar Egress visit UEC office



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets trainees of Myanmar Egress. PHOTO: MNA

THE party that won the election becomes the ruling party which will carry out development of the country under its principles, said Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye at a meeting with the 30 trainees from Myanmar Egress at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November.

Election was held for selection of public representatives, he added.

UEC members Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Myint Naing and U Win Ko explained functions of the commission, announcement of election results and law and rules related to the commission.

Dr Daw Myint Kyi and Chairman of UEC U Tin Aye replied to number of eligible voters, those who cast votes in the election and compilation of voter list.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Commander of Yunnan Provincial Military Area

VICE-Senior General Soe Win, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), received Major General Yang Guangyue, Commander of the Yunnan Provincial Military Area of the People's Liberation Army of China at the Bayintnaung Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed Myanmar's recent elections, international relations and the friendly ties be-

tween Myanmar's and China's armed forces in the post-election period. They also discussed the ongoing internal peace process since the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, cooperation between the two countries in promoting peace and stability, the development of border areas and the exchange of information for anti-drug operations and illegal trade prevention.—*Myawady*



Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Major General Yang Guangyue, Commander of the Yunnan Provincial Military Area. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Myanmar courts investments from Poland

ENTREPRENEURS from Poland will be urged to invest in Myanmar's vast market, said the charge d'affaires of Poland's representative office in Myanmar Mr Miroslaw Zasada.

"As Myanmar opens the doors to its markets to Poland, Poland's investment and resources will flow into Myanmar," he said. The government of the Republic of Poland plans to provide assistance to Myanmar from 2016 to 2020 through various NGOs.

"Poland has an embassy in Myanmar, but it cannot issue visas at the moment yet," said Mr Zasada.

In commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Poland, the "Myanmar-Poland: Economic Transformation and Development—The Past, The Present and The Future" will be held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon on 2 and 3 December.—*Min Thit*



Charge d'affaires of Poland's representative office in Myanmar Mr Miroslaw Zasada. PHOTO: MIN THIT

## UEC reminds candidates to submit campaign spending records

THE Union Election Committee issued a notice on Monday reminding candidates who ran in the 2015 general election to submit their campaign spending data within 30 days of the announcement of the election results by region or state sub-commissions.

The notice also said candidates who fail to submit their campaign spending records would be disqualified as candidates.

Only a few candidates have submitted their campaign spending records so far, the notice said.

The UEC also released sta-

tistics on the general election on Monday.

According to the data, the Pyithu Hluttaw elections were held in 97.88 percent of constituencies scheduled for elections, while the Amyotha Hluttaw elections were held in 100 percent of constituencies scheduled for elections. State and Region Hluttaw elections were held in 97.92 percent of all scheduled constituencies.

Voter turnout in each of the three Hluttaw elections was around 69 percent.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# MCEA to cooperate with Korean Overseas Construction Association



Skilled workers seen in manufacturing machinery products. PHOTO: TIN HLA MAUNG

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) and Korean Overseas Construction Association plan to cooperate and implement local construction and development projects starting in mid-December, according to an MCEA spokesman.

He said the initial works

will include the expansion of the current Yangon-Mandalay expressway and the construction of an express railroad along the highway.

“As more foreign investment comes in and the financial sector stabilises, apartments for low-income families will be built in regions and states with a half-

cash down and half-installment payment system. Low-priced apartments will also be built at industry zones for factory workers,” he added.

There will also be regional development works to be implemented together by MCEA and the Korean association, the spokesman said.

The Korean companies Hyundai, Samsung, KIA and other members of the Korean Overseas Construction Association have already established operations in Myanmar.

The spokesman said more foreign investment would benefit Myanmar and its people.—*Soe Win*

## Yangon General Hospital undergoes successful renovation

REMARKABLE progress has been achieved in the renovation of the Yangon General Hospital, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at a coordination meeting with the administration of the hospital on 27 November.

The chief minister stressed the need to implement the renovation projects in accordance with financial policies and regulations.

Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein explained the meeting's decisions and their financial implications.

Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint about the project's financial statement, the supply of electricity and maintenance works at the hospital.

The chief minister presented a certificate of honour to the medical superintendent for the successful performance of an electrophysiological study and radiofrequency ablation.

After the meeting, the chief minister and his party visited the construction site of a 12-storey building.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Domestic science and advanced tailoring courses conclude



WAO officials view works of vocational trainees. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG

DOMESTIC Science Course No. 55 and Advance Tailoring Course No. 41 concluded at the Women's Vocational Training School in Myawady on 27 November.

At the event, District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo said the schools were opened to benefit women living in border areas. He said the courses would help trainees receive vocational training and earn livelihoods. The courses educated local ethnic women on traditional domestic science

and the tailoring of traditional costumes, he said. School principle Daw Khin Thein Oo and other officials presented prizes to outstanding students and gave certificates of completion to the trainees. The trainees were also given labour registration cards by township labor officer Daw Mya Sanda Win.

One trainee spoke words of appreciation on behalf of her classmates at the event.

Myawady Township, Kayin State, borders Thailand.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

## Meiktila to take action against traffic law violations

THE administration of Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, says that it will take serious actions against cars that do not abide by rules and regulations of vehicle and road laws. The sentences for violations will range from one- to six-month jail terms or fines between K30,000 and K300,000, or both.

The Township Vehicle and Road Laws Supervision Committee held its meeting on 27 November, and members, including township administrator U Myo Hlaing, township police chief Police Major Maung Shwe, township Development Support-

ive Committee chairman U Khin Maung Lin, township Development Committee chairman U Thura and administrators from the town's 14 wards discussed the township's traffic issues. They agreed that all vehicles in the township must abide by the 2015 Motor Vehicle Law and that serious action will be taken against drivers and owners who break the law.

According to the law, if a driver drives without a license, he or she will be fined K30,000. If the driver is drives an unregistered car, if the registration card had previously been seized by

traffic police for an offense or if the registration has expired or been cancelled, both the driver and the owner of the car will be fined K50,000 or sentenced to a one-month jail term, or both.

If government emblems are displayed on a private vehicle or if a civilian uses government papers, the driver and owner will be fined K300,000 or sentenced to a six-month jail term, or both, according to the law. Taking action against unruly cars around the town's busy market and around the township have satisfied the townspeople, according to a local resident.—*Chantha*



Motorcyclists break traffic rules on the way. PHOTO: CHANTHA

## China deploys mass surveillance to secure streets around ancient Tibetan temple

LHASA — Once the site of violent clashes between Tibetans and Chinese security forces, the ancient area of Barkhor in the Tibetan capital has become one of the safest places in China, officials say, thanks in part to an on-the-ground surveillance network.

Guard posts erected among shops and in courtyards around the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa watch the comings and goings of residents. The posts are manned by locals who are selected by the residents' management committee, though some appeared to be unstaffed. At night, the doors to the courtyards are locked, residents say.

Managing the remote Himalayan region of Tibet remains a difficult issue for China, which has struggled with decades of often violent unrest in protest at Chinese rule, which started when Chinese troops marched into Tibet in 1950.

The government's strategy, which was formally rolled out across the region in November

2014, is a "grid management" surveillance system aimed at managing society "without gaps, without blind spots, without blanks," according to state media.

"This is a Chinese specialty, where the masses participate in managing and controlling society and they also enjoy the results of managing their society," said Qi Zhala, the top Communist Party official in Lhasa.

Earlier this month, Reuters reporters, along with a small group of journalists, were granted a rare visit to the region on a highly choreographed official tour. Chinese authorities restrict access for foreign journalists to Tibet, making independent assessments of the situation difficult.

For the Han Chinese, many of whom have moved to Lhasa in recent years, the scheme is popular. "If there's anyone suspicious entering the courtyard, then they know," said Shou Tianjiang, a Barkhor resident, referring to the ramshackle guard post erected in the centre of the courtyard where

he rents a room for his sock business. The changes that have transformed Lhasa are evident. Five years ago when Reuters was last allowed access to the Tibetan capital, squads of paramilitary officers patrolled the streets and armoured personnel carriers were stationed on most roads. But the paramilitary presence was not visible on the visit this November.

Activists say, however, that the real aim of the programme is to maintain absolute control over the Tibetan population. Beijing reviles exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist. "They want to detect and root out any sentiment that runs counter to the party state," said Kate Saunders, spokeswoman for the International Campaign for Tibet.

Rights groups say China has violently tried to stamp out religious freedom and culture in Tibet. China rejects the criticism, saying its rule has ended serfdom and brought development to a backward region.—Reuters

## Cambodia's parliament approves \$4.3 billion budget for 2016

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's National Assembly yesterday adopted the government's \$4.3 billion budget for 2016, despite the session being boycotted by all opposition lawmakers.

All 66 lawmakers from the ruling Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen who were present for the session voted unanimously in favour of the draft budget, which was passed without any critical debate in the absence of all 55 opposition lawmakers of the Cambodian National Rescue Party.

Finance Minister Aun Porn Moniroth said the government's spending in 2016 will be 16.1 percent higher than this year's figure of \$3.9 billion and is aimed at securing 7 percent economic growth.

Some \$387 million will be

allocated to defence, an increase of 17.3 percent compared with this year's budget, while education will receive \$507 million, an increase of 28 percent.

The approved budget allows the government to borrow \$961 million from foreign creditors as an additional reserve fund.

CNRP lawmakers boycotted the session to show their concern at the deteriorating climate for opposition politicians and activists, including an arrest warrant issued against CNRP leader Sam Rainsy over an old defamation conviction, the beating of two CNRP lawmakers by pro-CPP protesters outside the National Assembly and the ouster of the opposition party's co-leader Kem Shokha as the assembly's vice president.—Kyodo News

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

## Thai junta detains opposition leaders ahead of anti-graft inspection



Anti-government "red shirt" leader Jatuporn Prompan (2<sup>nd</sup> L) poses for photographers with his colleague Nattawut Saikua before entering the court room at Thailand's Criminal Court in Bangkok. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand's army detained two leaders of an opposition group yesterday who were planning to visit a public park dedicated to the monarchy that has been at the centre of a corruption scandal involving the military government.

The allegations relating to the financing of the Rachabhakti Park, built on army property in the seaside town of Hua Hin, are threatening to damage an an-

ti-graft drive by the junta, which seized power last year.

Nattawut Saikua and Jatuporn Prompan, leaders of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), also known as the "red shirt" group, were taken away by the army before they could set off for the park.

"They wanted to see how the park was operating and to see the place where the military alleged-

ly abused funds, but also to pay respects to past kings," Thanawut Wichaidit, a spokesman for the UDD, said.

"This is a violation of our right to pay respects."

Colonel Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the junta, or National Council for Peace and Order, confirmed the men's detention and said their actions were a "clear example of a political movement".

The junta has banned political gatherings of more than five people and has summoned hundreds of activists for questioning since taking power.

Many, including politicians and journalists, have been forced to attend attitude adjustment sessions at military facilities.

Winthai urged the public to follow news about the park graft investigation through official channels.

The accusations of kick-backs, leveled by some Thai media and opposition groups, have transfixed a country anxious over the declining health of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 87.

Nattawut and Jatuporn were taken to a military camp in Kanchanaburi, 111 km (69 miles) west of Bangkok.

Four military vehicles and plainclothes military officers went to his house on Sunday, Nattawut wrote on his Facebook page.

"Let it be known that seeking truth is dangerous," he said.

But the junta said it won't allow the opposition to play politics over the park which features giant statues of former Thai kings.

"If they hope to go there to start a political issue, the army is not going to play that game," Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan told reporters on Monday.

"Honestly, they should not go." —Reuters

# Smog chokes Delhi, Beijing as climate talks begin

BEIJING — The capitals of the world's two most populous nations, China and India, were blanketed in hazardous, choking smog on Monday as climate change talks began in Paris, where leaders of both countries are leading participants.

China's capital Beijing maintained an "orange" pollution alert, the second-highest level, on Monday, closing highways, halting or suspending construction and prompting a warning to residents to stay indoors.

The choking pollution was caused by the "unfavourable" weather, the Ministry of Environmental Protection said on Sunday. Emissions in northern China soar over winter as urban heating systems are switched on and low wind speeds have meant that polluted air has not been dispersed.

In New Delhi, the US Embassy's monitoring station recorded an air quality index of 372 — which put air pollution levels well into "hazardous" territory. A thick smog blanketed the city and visibility was down to about 200 metres.

Air quality in the city of 16 million is usually bad in winter, with thousands of coal fires lit by the poor to ward off the cold.

However, the government has not raised any alarm over the current air quality and no advisories were issued to the public. Thirty thousand runners took part in a half marathon at the weekend, when

pollution levels were just as high.

In Beijing, a city of 22.5 million, the air quality index in some parts of the city soared to 500, its highest possible level. At levels higher than 300, residents are encouraged to remain indoors, according to government guidelines.

The hazardous air underscores the challenge facing the government as it battles pollution caused by the coal-burning power industry and will raise questions about its ability to clean up its economy at the talks in Paris.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are both in Paris and both were scheduled to meet US Presi-

dent Barack Obama on Monday to give momentum to the two-week negotiations.

Modi wrote on Monday that: "The instinct of our culture is to take a sustainable path to development. When a child is born, we plant a tree."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

dent Barack Obama on Monday to give momentum to the two-week negotiations.

Modi wrote on Monday that: "The instinct of our culture is to take a sustainable path to development. When a child is born, we plant a tree."

"Since ancient times, we have seen humanity as part of nature, not superior to it," he wrote in an opinion piece for the *Financial Times*. "This idea, rooted in our ancient texts, endures in sacred groves and in community forests

across the land."

For Beijing's residents, the poor air makes breathing hard.

"This sort of weather, you can see that all of Beijing has been completely enveloped in smog... and for every breath, getting up every morning, your throat will feel particularly uncomfortable," said Zhang Heng, a 26-year-old architect.

The Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau said on Sunday that it had requested factories to limit or suspend output and had also stopped construction work throughout the city.

The ministry said the number of cities affected by heavy pol-

lution had reached 23, stretching across 530,000 square km, an area the size of Spain, but a cold front beginning on Wednesday would see the situation improve.

State-run Xinhua news agency said more than 200 expressway toll gates in east China's Shandong province were closed on Monday due to smog. The province issued a yellow alert.

China launched a "war on pollution" last year following a spate of smog outbreaks in Beijing and surrounding regions.—*Reuters*

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## Thai traffickers exposed by campaign group investigating fishing industry

LONDON — A three-year investigation into slavery on Thailand's fishing boats has uncovered a well-oiled system of trafficking, abuse and exploitation in the southern port of Kantang, leading to eight arrests this month, a campaign group said yesterday.

The owner of a fishing company, three enforcers and four boat captains were arrested on 7 November after the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) handed police evidence against them, including testimonies from fishermen who escaped their boats.

Thai police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen said they expected to lay charges early in 2016 with investigations ongoing into the money trail and more arrests likely.

EJF's report comes a week after Swiss food giant Nestle SA admitted that slave labour was used in its Thai seafood supply chain, adding to mounting calls to clean up a \$3 billion industry long dogged by allegations of abuse in recent years.

EJF's director Steve Trent said he hoped evidence the organisation had collected would be fully tested in court to protect fishermen, many of whom are migrant workers trafficked from Thailand's poorer neighbours, Cambodia and Myanmar.

"This cannot be an arbitrary kangaroo court just driven to please the international community at this key time for Thailand. It's got to bring people justice," Trent told the Thomson Reuters

Foundation in an interview.

EJF said Kantang's fishing industry, which netted 65,000 tonnes of seafood in 2013, is dominated by three companies who help make Thailand the world's third largest seafood exporter.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation tried to contact the three companies - Boonlarp Fishing Co. Ltd, Jor Monchai, and Wor Wattana Sohpon - seeking comment on their operations and crews.

"With respect to the fishermen, we do everything correctly now. We do not violate migrant fishermen's rights. We hire them correctly and treat them right," said a man at Boonlarp's office in Kantang who answered a phone call.

He declined further comment and would not give his name.

Jor Monchai owner Pramote Cholwisit insisted violence and labour violations were a problem of the past.

"On shore, there are no such violations. At sea, there may be some problems - before there were many. When the migrants fight at sea, it can become violent, and we try to solve this problem by putting them on separate boats," Pramote said by telephone from Trang.

"At my pier, I guarantee there are no such problems."

The Thomson Reuters Foundation could not immediately find a working telephone number or email address for Wor Wattana.—*Reuters*



A man walks in front of toll gate on a highway between Beijing and Hebei Province, China, which is closed due to smog on an extremely polluted day on 30 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Japan gives Australia final submarine proposal

SYDNEY — Japan has submitted to Australia a final proposal to become its partner for developing submarines for the Australian navy in a bid against Germany and France, a Japanese government source said yesterday.

Australia is expected to de-

cide next year on which country to team up with and produce the submarines. The project for building up to 12 submarines is estimated to cost A\$50 billion (US\$36 billion), with maintenance and management costs included.

If Japan wins the project un-

der Australia's competitive evaluation process, it would be Japan's first full-fledged export of weapons since the country eased its nearly half-century ban on defense equipment exports in April last year. The government-led Japanese team with Mitsubishi

Heavy Industries Ltd. and Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. has proposed the world's first lithium ion battery-powered submarines against Germany's plan to enlarge its export model and France's nuclear subs.

Japan sees the possible tie-up

with Australia as a benefit amid China's growing maritime assertiveness in the region and affirmed it can export submarine technology, which will entail the transfer of highly confidential information, in light of its new defense equipment export policy.—*Kyodo News*

## Obama visits Paris attack site, pays tribute to victims

PARIS — President Barack Obama laid a single rose at a memorial for the victims of the Paris attacks yesterday shortly after arriving in the city, visiting the Bataclan, the concert hall where the deadliest attacks took place during the onslaught some two weeks ago.

Obama, who is in town for international talks to curb climate change, was joined at the site by French President Francois Hollande not long after Air Force

One touched down around midnight local time.

After solemnly placing the rose among the flowers and candles at the makeshift memorial, Obama stood silently in tribute, his head bowed and his hands clasped in front of him.

Afterwards he walked away with his arms around Hollande and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, who was also present.

He did not make remarks.

Obama has made a concerted

effort to show US solidarity with France after the 13 November attacks, which killed 130 people. He and Hollande agreed during a meeting in Washington last week to ramp up military operations against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq and coordinate intelligence on domestic threats. By visiting the memorial so soon after his arrival in Paris, Obama signalled the importance he placed on continuing to show support to the people of France.—Reuters



## Declaring 'new beginning', EU and Turkey seal migrant deal



Migrants walks past Macedonian police after crossing the Macedonian-Greek border near Gevgelija, Macedonia on 30 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Turkey promised to help stem the flow of migrants to Europe in return for cash, visas and renewed talks on joining the EU in a deal struck on Sunday that the Turkish prime minister called a “new beginning” for the uneasy neighbours.

Leaders of the European Union met Turkish premier Ahmet Davutoglu in Brussels on Sunday to finalise an agreement hammered out by diplomats over the past month, as Europeans struggle to limit the strain on their 28-nation bloc from taking in hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees.

A key element is 3 billion euros (£2.1 billion) in EU aid for the 2.2 million Syrians now in Turkey. The money is intended to raise their living standards and so persuade more of them to stay put rather than attempt perilous crossings to the EU via the Greek islands.

The final offer of “an initial” 3 billion euros represents a compromise between the EU, which offered that sum over two

years, and Turkey, which wanted it every year. Now the money, as French President Francois Hollande said, will be paid out bit by bit as conditions are met, leaving the total payout unclear.

“As Turkey is making an effort to take in refugees — who will not come to Europe — it’s reasonable that Turkey receive help from Europe to accommodate those refugees,” Hollande told reporters. He added that the deal should also make it easier to check migrants arriving and keep out those who pose a threat, like Islamic State militants who struck Paris two weeks ago.

Also on offer to Ankara, which wants to revive relations with its European neighbours after years of coolness as it faces trouble in the Middle East and from Russia, is a “re-energised” negotiating process on Turkish membership of the EU, even if few expect it to join soon.

Many Turks could also benefit from visa-free travel to Europe’s Schengen zone within a

year if Turkey meets conditions on tightening its borders in the east to Asian migrants and moves other benchmarks on reducing departures to Europe.

“Today is a historic day in our accession process to the EU,” Davutoglu told reporters on arrival. “I am grateful to all European leaders for this new beginning.”

Aware of a sense of desperation in Europe for a solution to a crisis that has called into question its own cohesion and the future of its Schengen passport-free travel zone, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has driven a hard bargain.

The deal involves Turkish help, including through naval patrols and border checks, in handling the flow of migrants to the EU, expected to reach 1.5 million people this year alone.

“Results must be achieved in particular in stemming the influx of irregular migrants,” a joint statement read.

“Both sides will, as agreed and with immediate effect, step up their active cooperation on

migrants who are not in need of international protection, preventing travel to Turkey and the EU ... and swiftly returning migrants who are not in need of international protection to their countries of origin.”

Summit chairman Donald Tusk stressed that the meeting was primarily about migration rather than improving Turkish ties, which have been strained in recent years as Erdogan has used a powerful electoral mandate to consolidate his power. Critics say he has abused the rights of opponents, media and minority Kurds.

“Our main goal is to stem the flow of migrants,” Tusk said, while insisting “this is not a simple, trivial trade-off”.

The Europeans, none more so than German Chancellor Angela Merkel, are under pressure to manage the biggest influx of people since World War II, the bulk of them to Germany. The crisis has helped populist opponents and set nations against each other, straining the open internal borders of the EU.

Before the summit itself, Merkel met leaders of some other EU states which have taken in many refugees — Sweden, Finland, Austria and the Benelux countries — and said afterwards they had discussed how they might resettle more of them directly from Syria rather than wait for families to reach the EU via dangerous smuggling routes across the Mediterranean.

She said they had discussed no figures. German media reports had spoken earlier of up to 400,000 Syrians being resettled.

Measures the EU has taken have done little to control migrant movements. While winter weather may lower the numbers for a few months, it is also worsening the plight of tens of thousands stuck by closing borders in the Balkans.

Sunday’s summit, called just days ago as Brussels tried to clinch a deal offered over a month ago, has been complicated by Turkey’s downing of a Russian warplane on the Syrian border.

That has complicated European efforts to re-engage with Moscow, despite a continued frost over Ukraine, in order to try to advance a peace in Syria that could end the flight of refugees and contain Islamic State. Davutoglu will remain in Brussels for a meeting with fellow ministers from NATO.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny said tensions between Ankara and Moscow over the downing of the warplane were of “enormous concern”. The EU’s foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the incident should not affect the prospect of finding a political deal on Syria.

Islamic State’s attack on Paris on 13 November has heightened calls in the EU for more controls on people arriving from Syria.

Merkel has forced the pace in securing a deal with Turkey that has left critics of Erdogan’s human rights policies uneasy.

The German leader defended her stance: “If we are strategic partners, we must of course discuss openly with each other those issues on which we have questions, concerns or criticism.”—Reuters

## OPINION

## A two-way approach to sustainable peace

Myint Win Thein

**M**YANMAR'S peace process has been fraught since the outset. Some stakeholders wanted to begin with political dialogue and move onto a ceasefire, while others preferred to start with a ceasefire before initiating political dialogue.

Since the peace process ended up following the former approach, some stakeholders have not been willing to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. As a result, fighting continues in some parts of the country. The ceasefire is not truly nationwide.

The current fighting has its roots in political issues that have not been resolved through political dialogue, and as a result, doubts still linger among stakeholders. Nevertheless, peace is essential, not only for internally displaced persons in conflict zones, but also for national development.

Therefore, armed ethnic groups that have not yet signed the truce should be given a chance to participate in political dialogue when the schedule begins, even before they have signed the ceasefire agreement. Only then will the current peace

process be a two-way, inclusive process that can produce sustainable peace.

After adopting this approach to peace, all stakeholders should show gestures of peace toward each other.

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## Incurable Megalomaniac Persons and Poisonous Extreme Ideologists

Tommy Pauk

**M**EGALOMANIAC persons can be found in dictatorship, monarchy and higher rank officials in some governments in the world. When they are in absolute power, they are intoxicated with power and luxury. They usually forget the stepping stones of obtaining the power and their origin of their life. Literally, they are just above the vast majority of their own people and they lead their country as they wish. The luxury and power motivates or breeds selfishness and extreme ego in their minds. Obviously, their behaviors reflect their selfishness, ruthlessness and brutality when they govern their people. Megalomaniac persons lose their people's trust and love so they are mentally insecure whenever they face or talk to the mass. Psychologically, they are scared of mass power though they are the incumbent head of states or presidents or prime ministers etc. If a certain society is ruled by a handful of megalomaniac people, the all citizens feel unhappy and insecure for their life due to lack of justice and equality. Thus, the harmonious relations and cooperation do not exist between the people concerned and the ruler. As a consequence, the process for socio-economic development is impossible or far-fetched. This situation does affect or hinder the country's prosperity and progression. The unity, credibility and cooperation must be founded by the people and government so that a particular society will prosper constantly. Megalomania is identical to obsession of sexual pleasure or extreme lust in human minds. A person dominated by megalomania disregards for the feelings of the people concerned. He or she always protects his or her power, unjust wealth and luxury blatantly. His or her minions or companions are conferred with au-

thority, creature comforts and special privileges, but the vast majority of people are oppressed. The minions or sycophants always protect and safeguard the megalomaniac ruler for the sake of their personal gains and opportunities despite the majority of people dislike him or her bitterly. Ridiculously, the megalomaniac ruler tries to grab or abuse the power forever. However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, people in different societies around the world topple or overthrow the unscrupulous or undignified or selfish rulers with mass power in unison. Nowadays, the global people condemn or denounce the act of exploitations between the rulers and people concerned. These days, in the world, very few stubborn and cruel rulers remain isolated, but they are still exploiting and suppressing their own people unkindly and unpatriotically. The way they treat their people obviously reveal that they do not love their race and do not endeavor for building their society to be an advanced one in the world. As their extreme greed of power in their minds dominates them, the interests of the people deteriorate vividly. The mental illness of these persons is rather incurable. They will never get relieved of such extreme obsession of power. They do not even remorse for their unjust reign and illegitimate power as they are overwhelmed by megalomania.

There is a variety of ideologies in different societies. The ideological differences may be either beneficial or harmful to the societies concerned. Sometimes some ideologies can be even detrimental to mankind. The act of poisonous extreme ideologists is the latest issue or the greatest threat to all countries and people in the world. Global people are horrendously shocked to learn their bestial, callous and brutal acts. They recklessly commit homicide regardless of any race, religion and places in the world.

Most of the victims are innocent people such as international journalists, civilians, school students, artistes and unarmed ordinary-people. Their attacks, taking-hostages and kidnapping always end in tragedy and their attempts to gain something are in vain. How come they survive on this peaceful and amazing earth in the solar system? Who supports them to activate with arms and ammunitions to kill innocent humans on earth to achieve nonsense? Currently they are being wiped out by super powers constantly in order to save or protect the innocent people who are not their enemies across the world indeed. All civilized people bitterly and unanimously condemn their barbaric acts and decide to eliminate those who are poisonous extreme ideologists across the world. We disgust the cowardly attack of extreme ideologists on innocent and unarmed people while enjoying their daily life peacefully. The act of bestiality is totally unbelievable. The violence and acts of terrorism are their strategies to influence some countries but none of the Muslim countries do not support IS criminals. Some notorious terrorist groups have sworn allegiance to IS. Nevertheless, the peace loving global people never ever support these extreme terrorist groups. The threat of extreme ideologists is a global concern. Their cowardly attacks target on defenseless and innocent people callously and barbarically.

They persuade and organize the youngsters to join their organizations on line. The recruits are brainwashed to the extreme ideology. Then they are trained to act in violent ways with modern weapons recklessly. In fact, the poisonous extreme ideologists disturb, disrupt and attack the communities which oppose and disagree to their extreme ideology. Then they expand the targets to threaten global peace and tranquility by terrorizing in various targets around the world. Due to

their worldwide attacks in different big cities, the international tourists are insecure and cannot enjoy recreation and resort freely and pleasantly. As they planted the bomb on the commercial airplane and hijacked it, the worldwide air-travel was even alerted. At present, all the global communities are greatly cautious and aware of the activities of poisonous extreme ideologists and cooperate with super powers and international law enforcement to undercover the members of the organizations of the extreme ideologists. They are poisonous and harmful to those who are youngsters, insensible persons and thoughtless persons. The extreme ideologists persuade and intimidate the youngsters into acting or performing the schemes of terrorism. After being recruited, the members are indoctrinated with extreme ideology of a certain faith. Moreover, they kidnap people for money and when they do not get ransom they behead the kidnapped persons. Normally, they do not release the kidnapped persons even if they get ransom. This disaster is made by inhumane persons who extremely perceive the ideology in some faith and propagate it recklessly and violently. The destruction and violence with weapons are their tactics to propagate their extreme ideology which inflict humanity. The perpetrators are supported by unknown people or organizations secretly. Every country is alerted to wipe out or do dragnet the ones who carry out the underground movement of poisonous extreme ideologists. The global peace is shaken by the bestial cruelty of extreme ideologists very often. All the leaders of super powers have pledged to eliminate the threat and strength of the organization of the poisonous extreme ideologists for the sake of the security of the global people. Otherwise, many lives of the innocent people will be ruined or lost around the world. There is no country in the world that does not

concern about the great threat or danger of the poisonous extreme ideologists. All peace loving countries around the world are safeguarding their people with watchful eyes and sharp intelligence. Every society needs peace and stability so that the global peace will be prevalent or guaranteed and the global people could travel and communicate each other happily. The leaders of super powers have declared that the group of IS is a common enemy of all peace loving nations and these nations are responsible for annihilating the IS group by any means.

The inordinate greed, power and self-centeredness are the viruses which affect those persons to become incurable megalomaniac persons. There is no medication for them. When their power is expired, they are saddened and frightened for their unknown destiny in future. However, if they realize the natural law of impermanence, they will certainly relieve from pain and suffering of such illness. As for those poisonous extreme ideologists, they will be punished by global people unless they attain right view on humanity. When compassion, loving-kindness and contentment deteriorate in human minds, the unpleasant or chaotic events or behaviors arise in human society. Let's try to eliminate man-made disaster on this planet with wisdom!!!

### About the author

**Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' College in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.**



# Myanmar maintains debt sustainability

ACCORDING to debt sustainability analysis conducted by the World Bank and the IMF, Myanmar has maintained its debt sustainability, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein told the Pyidaungsu Hlut-taw session on Monday.

The minister pointed out

that every country has to borrow foreign loans for to pursue its national interests and development, and even developed countries sell government bonds in foreign markets, which are actually foreign debts.

The union minister cited the foreign debts of ASEAN

countries and other developing countries. According to him, Singapore had US\$1.3 trillion in foreign debts on 30 December 2014, while Myanmar had only \$9.1 billion in debt on 30 June 2015.

Myanmar has settled the foreign debts of successive gov-

ernments and was provided with more foreign loans, the minister said.

Myanmar has been cooperating with the ADB for its foreign debt management and has developed a medium-term debt management strategy and a borrowing plan, while the debt sus-

tainability analysis was carried out by the World Bank and the IMF.

A bill for public finance management has also been submitted to the parliament, according to the union minister. The success of projects implemented with foreign loans is important, and they should be implemented with special supervision, he said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pyin Oo Lwin's Dattawgyaing Waterfall gains popularity among tourists

MANY visitors, both foreigners and locals, have been visiting the Dattawgyaing Waterfall in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Region, recently.

To reach the waterfall, visitors must hike for about an hour, and the way back may take as much as two hours, according to a local resident. Families visiting the waterfall often have picnics and swim in the water, he added.

The waterfall is the highest among many in the township. Visitors who are unable to hike can take expensive hammock rides, which are carried using shoulder-poles by local villagers.

The waterfall receives most of its visitors during the summer months of April and May.—*Chantha*



Dattawgyaing Waterfall in Pyin Oo Lwin. PHOTO: CHANTHA

## Dawei Commercial Ltd holds AGM

DAWEI Commercial Ltd held its 72<sup>nd</sup> annual general meeting in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 29 November, featuring a speech by director U Soe Nang.

Assistant general manager U Pe Than sought the approval of the minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> annual general meeting, while director Daw Nyo Nyo Su read the BOD report.

Accountant U Kyaw Than read the financial statement of the company. After that, new BOD members were elected, and the meeting approved the audit team for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Managing director U Aung Myint Sein sought approval of the goal of delivering 6-percent profits to shareholders for the 2014-15 fiscal year.—*Po Shwe Thun*

## Monsoon peanuts harvested in Tatkon



Harvested peanuts on farmland in Tatkon. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN (IPRD)

MONSOON peanuts planted three months ago were harvested in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, recently.

Peanut farmer U Kyaw Win Sein of Gatchan village, who grew 1.3 acres of Magway-11 hybrid peanuts, said he had planted three baskets of peanut seeds on his field, mainly applying only cow dung as fertiliser. The yield was about 2,666 kilos per acre, which the farmer plans to sell for peanut oil production. One basket of the harvested peanuts can produce six viss (9.6 kilos) of peanut oil. The farmer makes K2,000 per viss of harvested peanuts, which he said is profitable.

Peanuts growers as well as field workers who harvested the peanuts celebrated the Tazaungmon Festival with the money they earned, the farmer said. The farmer also added that he can sell the leftover peanut stalks in his field as cattle feed. The bitter stalks are good for the digestive systems of cattle, according to the farmer. Monsoon peanuts can be grown twice during the six-month rainy season.—*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*

# Burkina Faso to announce provisional election results

OUAGADOUGOU — Burkina Faso should announce provisional results yesterday from an election to choose the West African country's first new leader in decades, the head of the electoral commission said.

Sunday's peaceful election comes after longtime leader Blaise Compaore was toppled in a popular uprising in October 2014 in which demonstrators faced down the security forces over his attempt to extend his tenure.

The vote could serve as an example for democratic transition in Africa, where veteran rulers in Burundi and Congo Republic have this year changed the constitution to pave the way for a fresh term in office.

It also represents a pivotal mo-

ment for a nation ruled by leaders who came to power in coups for most of its history since independence from France in 1960.

There was strong turnout in all 45 provinces and logistical problems at the start of the day were by-and-large resolved, Barthélemy Kere, president of the Independent National Electoral Commission, told a news conference late on Sunday.

Analysts say only two of the 14 candidates stand a real chance of winning and a second round is possible, though in the absence of reliable opinion polls it is difficult to tell.

One is Roch Marc Kabore, prime minister and president of the National Assembly under Compaore. The other is Zephi-

rin Diabre, who was minister of finance in the 1990s before stepping down to start an opposition party.

Kabore heads the Movement of People for Progress (MPP), made up of disaffected allies of Compaore who left the party months before he stood down. Diabre fronts the Union for Progress and Change (UPC), which was the formal opposition.

By 6:30am (0630 GMT) the electoral commission had announced results for 21 communes out of 368 communes total and those showed Kabore in the lead with Diabre second.

Compaore seized power in a coup, ruled for 27 years and won four elections, all of which were criticised as unfair.—Reuters



Electoral officials count ballots during the presidential and legislative election in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 29 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Nusra Front demands obstruct release of Lebanese soldiers: security chief

BEIRUT — Efforts to secure the release of Lebanese soldiers and policemen held captive by the Nusra Front have been obstructed by last minute demands from the Syrian al Qaeda-linked group, the head of a Lebanese security agency was quoted as saying yesterday.

Major General Abbas Ibrahim, head of General Security, told *al Joumhouria* newspaper the government had fulfilled all its commitments to secure their release. The men were expected to be released over the weekend in a deal that would include the release of a number of Islamist prisoners jailed in Lebanon.

The security personnel were taken captive in August 2014 during an incursion from by fighters from the Nusra Front and Islamic State into the border town of Aarsal. The authorities have been trying to negotiate the release with Qatari mediation.

"We showed our flexibility on many of the demands by Nusra Front, and completed all the commitments to implement the deal," Ibrahim said. "It got to a point where we could not comply with paralyzing demands that the kidnappers made at the last minute."

Four of those held have been killed. Nusra is still holding 16 security personnel, according to

a security source. Nine soldiers believed to be held by Islamic State are not included in the negotiations.

Local media began circulating reports on Friday that a deal was imminent, but by Monday morning none had been struck.

Prime Minister Tammam Salam cancelled a trip to Paris for a global climate change summit in order to follow up on the continuing negotiations. Violence from the Syrian war has repeatedly spilled over to Lebanon, with bombings in Beirut, fighting in the northern city of Tripoli, and rocket attacks on Bekaa Valley towns close to the frontier.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kazakhstan urges Russia, Turkey to probe jet downing, restore ties

ALMATY — Russia's close ally Kazakhstan yesterday urged Moscow and Istanbul to create a bilateral commission to jointly investigate the downing of the Russian bomber jet by Turkey which has strained relations between

the two countries.

"There is a need to form this commission in order to find and punish those responsible and restore the relations," Nazarbayev said, delivering his annual address to the nation.—Reuters

#### At NATO, Turkey defiant over downing of Russian jet

BRUSSELS — Turkey's premier dismissed yesterday any suggestion that Ankara should apologise for shooting down a Russian warplane in its airspace last week, after winning strong NATO support for the right to defend itself.

"No country should ask us to apologise," Prime Min-

ister Ahmet Davutoglu told reporters following a meeting with NATO's secretary general at the alliance headquarters in Brussels.

He also warned that such incidents continued to be a risk as long as Russia and the US-led coalition bombing Islamic State in Syria worked separately.—Reuters

#### Israel convicts two Jewish defendants in Palestinian teen's murder

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court yesterday found two Jewish defendants guilty of the 2014 murder of a Palestinian teenager in Jerusalem, but held off on formally convicting a third man pending a psychological review, Israeli broadcasters said.

Prosecutors said the three, two of whom were mi-

nors, had confessed to abducting, bludgeoning and burning Mohammed Abu Khudair in what they described as revenge for the killing days earlier of three Israeli youths by Hamas militants.

The incidents touched off Israeli-Palestinian violence culminating in the seven-week Gaza war.—Reuters

#### Fighting in Congo between army and rebels kills at least 30

KINSHASA — At least 30 people including one UN peacekeeper were killed in clashes pitting the army and UN troops against Ugandan Islamist rebels in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, local sources said yesterday.

The violence on Sunday underlines persistent instability in an area where local activists say at least 500 civilians have been killed since October 2014, most in overnight raids by rebels carried out with machetes and hatchets.—Reuters

#### Kenyan police say gunshots in Kenyan campus a mock exercise

NAIROBI — Police in Kenya conducted a mock security exercise at a campus in Kenya's capital yesterday that sparked panic over a feared attack.

"It was a mock exercise," Japheth Koome, the police commander in the capital told Reuters. "We wanted to check on alertness of emergency services."—Reuters

#### More than 20 missing after boat capsizes on Congo's Lake Kivu

KINSHASA — More than 20 people are missing after a government-operated speed boat capsized on Lake Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday, the provincial governor said.

"The boat capsized with about 44 people. We don't have the exact numbers ... About 20 have been rescued from the water," North Kivu governor Julien Paluku told Reuters.

Paluku said the boat left from Goma at the northern tip of Lake Kivu at about 7:30am for Bukavu at its southern edge. It was not immediately clear what caused the capsizing.

Maritime travel on the country's eastern lakes and the Congo River is central to commerce and transport in a country with few paved roads but accidents are common due to lax safety standards.—Reuters

## Beijing aims to refill medicine chest with 'Made in China' drugs

SHANGHAI — China, already a global powerhouse in high-tech areas from solar panels to bullet trains, is turning its industrial might to the challenge of making more of its own drugs for a vast and aging population.

Given the 10 years or more it typically takes to bring a new medicine to market, original "Made in China" treatments won't arrive overnight, but multinationals are already encountering more competition from local generic drugs that look set for a quantum leap in quality.

The stakes are high. China is the world's second biggest drugs market behind the United States, and fast food, smoking and pollution have fueled a rise in cancers and chronic heart and lung diseases.

The country also has more diabetics than any other in the world, with numbers expected to hit 151 million by 2040 from 110 million today, according to the International Diabetes Federation.

That has made China a sweet spot for Denmark's Novo Nord-

isk; the world's biggest insulin producer has mined a rich seam in the country since opening production facilities here in 1995.

By 2010, it dominated 63 percent of China's insulin market. But it has recently been losing ground to local competitors cheered on by Beijing.

"China is going to be tough for us for the next couple of years," said Chief Science Officer Mads Krogsgaard Thomsen. "Right now, the country is very focused on building domestic production."

Local rivals are selling both cut-price basic insulin and sophisticated modern versions, including a biosimilar copy of Sanofi's Lantus made by Chinese biotech specialist Gan & Lee Pharmaceuticals.

Greater local competition is also evident in other areas, helping the top 10 Chinese drugmakers grow sales 12 percent on average this year, according to IMS Consulting — twice the rate of multinationals, which suffered a setback from a bribery scandal at



Shelves displaying medicines are seen at a pharmacy in Shanghai, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

GlaxoSmithKline two years ago.

GSK itself has seen its drug sales slump.

Increasing local competition is part of a structural upheaval in China's hospital-dominated prescription drug market. Selling drugs to patients at a hefty markup — especially off-patent Western "branded generics" — often accounts for 40-50 percent of Chinese hospitals' revenues. But the authorities are now pushing a

policy of zero mark-ups, initially in smaller county hospitals.

"Branded generics are something that exist today, but the need for them in 10 years time is not going to be there," said Luke Miels, AstraZeneca's global portfolio head.

That means foreign firms will be more reliant on new, patented medicines, although the scale of demand for such expensive products is uncertain in a

country with only basic health insurance cover.

At the other end of the spectrum, multinationals aim to build up volume, often in partnership with local players, in the big markets outside China's top cities, where distribution costs are high and prices low.

"It's the right thing to do, even if profit margins shrink," said the head of one big multinational.—Reuters

## New test may improve diagnosis of pancreatic cancers

WASHINGTON — Scientists have developed a noninvasive, feasible and safe method to detect tumour cells in the pancreas and bile ducts, which could lead to early diagnosis for pancreatic cancer.

By collecting samples from the portal vein — which carries blood from the gastrointestinal tract, including from the pancreas, to the liver — physicians can learn far more about a patient's pancreatic cancer than by relying on peripheral blood from a more easily accessed vein in the arm, researchers from the University of Chicago in US have found.

Primary tumours shed cancerous cells, known as circulating tumour cells (CTCs), into the blood. These have been widely studied as prognostic biomarkers for various cancers.

Since these cells are often larger, irregularly shaped and tend to cluster together, they get trapped in smaller vessels.

The researchers hypothesised that most cells released from a gastrointestinal tumour would flow into the portal vein and then get sequestered by the narrow vessels in the liver. These cells would not reach the peripheral venous system.

CTCs from gastrointestinal

tumours are rarely identified in the peripheral blood until the cancer is widely metastatic.

To test this theory, researchers used an ultrasound-guided endoscope and a small needle to take blood from the portal vein during routine diagnostic endoscopies.

They found CTCs in 100 percent of 18 patients with suspected tumours in the pancreas and bile ducts. Tests using peripheral blood samples, the standard method, detected tumour cells in only 4 of the 18 patients.

"We demonstrated that this method is potentially quite valuable as well as noninvasive, feasible and safe," said study director

Irving Waxman, professor of medicine and surgery and director of the Centre for Endoscopic Research and Therapeutics at the university.

"We had no complications related to portal vein blood acquisition," said Waxman.

Only seven per cent of patients diagnosed with stage II disease are still alive five years after diagnosis, making it one of the most lethal forms of cancer, the researchers said. The portal vein samples contained far more tumour cells in all stages evaluated, including locally advanced as well as metastatic tumours, the researchers said.—PTI



PHOTO: PTI

## Scientists offer explanation of how snakes lost legs

WASHINGTON — Researchers analysing a 90-million-year-old fossil skull of an extinct reptile from Argentina said Friday they may have solved an evolutionary puzzle about how snakes lost their legs.

Their results, published in the US journal *Science Advances*, showed that snakes lost their limbs when their ancestors evolved to live and hunt in burrows, which many snakes still do today.

Some scientists have previously argued that limblessness in snakes was due to an adaptation for swimming in the ocean, although the prevailing hypothesis about snake evolution is that they were ancestrally terrestrial burrowers.

In the new study, scientists used CT scans to examine the bony inner ear of *Dinilysia patagonica*, a two-meter long reptile closely linked to modern snakes.

Then, they built 3D virtual models to compare the inner ears of the fossils with those of modern lizards and snakes and determined that the extinct

snake's ear appears to be that typical of terrestrial burrowing animals.

*Dinilysia patagonica* possesses a large, spherical vestibule in its inner ear which enhances sensitivity to low-frequency vibrations, they said.

This vestibule was similar in size to that found in modern snakes known to perceive low-frequency ground vibrations and similar to those found in burrowing species that use low-frequency ground vibrations to detect prey.

"How snakes lost their legs has long been a mystery to scientists, but it seems that this happened when their ancestors became adept at burrowing," study author Hongyu Yi of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences said in a statement.

The findings may help scientists fill gaps in the story of snake evolution, and confirm *Dinilysia patagonica* as the largest burrowing snake ever known, they added.—Xinhua

## PICTURE OF THE DAY



Delegates take a break during the opening day of the World Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21) at Le Bourget, near Paris, France, on 30 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

## US says supports Thailand's relationship with China

BANGKOK — The US Ambassador to Thailand said yesterday that the United States supports Thailand's relationship with China, countering suggestions that Thailand has turned to Beijing amid a chill in ties between Bangkok and Washington.

Ambassador Glyn Davies's comments follow those by the Thai junta last week that it was not distancing itself from the United States despite blossoming military and political ties between Bangkok and Beijing since a 2014 coup.

Last week, Thailand's air force joined military exercises with China's air

force at a military base northeast of Bangkok aimed at increasing "mutual trust and friendship".

China has said it is supportive of Thailand's military rulers and, since the coup, Thailand's military generals have sought to counterbalance the country's ties with Washington and launched a charm offensive towards China.

Recent deals between China and Thailand include an ambitious project to build rail links from southern China to Thailand and plans by the Thai navy to buy submarines worth \$1 billion from China. —Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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## China gives 14 officials jail terms over 2013 oil pipeline blast

BEIJING — China has sentenced 14 former officials at state energy firm Sinopec and the local government to jail for up to five years for their role in a massive oil pipeline explosion in 2013, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

The explosion in the eastern province of Shandong killed 63 people and injured 156, and caused losses worth 751.7 million yuan (78 million pounds), Xinhua said. It said the Sinopec officials were sentenced for violating safety regulations while the government officials had failed to fully perform their duties in dealing with the blast.

The explosion was one of the biggest to hit infrastructure developments in China, raising questions about safety standards in the world's second largest economy. In August, explosions at port warehouses killed more than 160 people in the northeastern city of Tianjin. —Reuters

## Stay-at-home mom, Iraq war veteran named among Colorado clinic fatalities

COLORADO SPRINGS — A stay-at-home mother of two young children and a man who had served in Iraq were named on Sunday as the two civilians killed along with a local police officer in last week's rampage at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado.

The Colorado Springs Police Department named the two civilians as Jennifer Markovsky, 35, and Ke'Arre Marcell Stewart, 29, though it said the identifications were preliminary pending completion of the autopsies.

Also killed in the shooting was Garrett Swasey, 44, a campus police officer for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Markovsky was at the clinic to be with a friend, according to Julia Miller, a sister-in-law who lives in

California.

"She was just there for support," Miller said in a phone interview. "It's just a very senseless act. She was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Markovsky was a native of Hawaii, where she met her husband, who was deployed there while serving in the military.

The couple had lived in Colorado for about 10 years. They have a 6-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son.

Miller remembered her sister-in-law as kind and creative.

"She could probably do anything from crafts from baking to anything you could imagine," Miller said.

On Facebook, a man named John Ah-King of Hawaii mourned the loss of his daughter.

"To my daughter Jennifer I'm going to miss so much, I lost you in a senseless shooting in Colorado Springs," the post read.

Stewart was an Iraq war veteran and Texas native who attended high school in Waco, according to relatives and friends.

"He was caring, giving, funny and just a damn good person," Amburh Butler, a friend, said on a fundraising page set up to help Stewart's family with funeral and transportation costs.

Swasey was a retired champion figure skater who moved from Massachusetts to Colorado Springs to train at the US Olympic Training Center, located a few miles from the clinic. He was a married father of two who served as an elder at a local church. —Reuters



A Colorado Springs Police car is seen sitting in the snow outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado on 28 November. PHOTO: REUTERS



### Myanmar Auto Corporation ( Tender Notice )

- 1) Myanmar Auto Corporation (MAC) will sell following Equipment as it is : **KOMATSU DOZER (D85ESS-2), 2012Year, 1 UNIT**  
Equipment location : Manoyong, Boakpyin Township, Tanintharyi Region
- 2) Selling Method : **Tender (Closing date : 17:00 Dec. 28. 2015)**
- 3) Remarks : Tender Documents shall be collected at Yangon Head Office  
**Contact (MAC Yangon Head Office) : 09-49317989, 09-421128015**

# EU official says close to data deal with US



European Union flags flutter outside the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on 28 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — The European Union and United States should reach agreement next month on a new framework to replace the Safe Harbour pact enabling data transfers from Europe to the United States, European Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova told a newspaper.

Brussels and Washington are locked in negotiations to forge a new agreement for the transfer of data, which would otherwise be subject to cumbersome and lengthy legal processes under EU data protection law.

Safe Harbour, which was used by more than 4,000 US and European companies, was declared invalid by the European Court of Justice in October because US national security needs trumped the privacy of Europeans' data.

"We have to build a bridge between our data protection authorities and those of the USA and put it into a legally binding text," Jourova told Austrian newspaper *Wirtschaftsblatt* in an interview published yesterday.

"We should manage that by the next meeting on

17 December."

To address the court's concerns, particularly that Europeans do not have legal channels to challenge misuse of their data, the Commission is looking for ways to involve European privacy watchdogs more deeply, Jourova said.

"The main problem is the responsibilities of the European data protection authorities and of the US counterpart, the Federal Trade Commission: they should implement the requirements and deal with the complaints of citizens," she said.

The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) was responsible for monitoring companies' compliance with the Safe Harbour privacy principles, although it does not deal with complaints from individuals.

A bigger role for European watchdogs would allow citizens to complain directly to their national authorities, people familiar with the matter said last week. A similar mechanism existed in the old Safe Harbour framework for human resources data which are often sensitive.—Reuters

## Somalia regional states urged to de-escalate tensions

MOGADISHU — The international community has condemned renewed outbreak of hostilities in the northern Somali city of Galkayo, and called on all parties to immediately cease fire and open dialogue to find a peaceful solution to the underlying issues.

The UN, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the EU, the US, Britain, Sweden and Italy expressed deep concern about the fighting in the two regional states following an outbreak of fighting on 22 November that has so far left at least 15 people dead and over 30 others injured.

"We call on the leadership of Puntland and Galmudug to resolve their differences through peaceful dialogue and work together to assist civilians who have been dis-

placed by the recent fighting," they said in a joint statement received in Mogadishu Monday. "We also urge these leaders to instruct their security forces to stand down and conduct an orderly withdrawal from the line of division separating the northern and southern districts of Galkayo city in order to prevent further bloodshed," said the statement.

Hundreds of civilian residents have fled Galkayo and environs over renewed hostilities between the security forces of Puntland and Galmudug, which remain in a dangerous standoff, despite a ceasefire that was brokered by elders last week.

"We welcome the initiative of Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke to de-escalate mounting tensions and find a peaceful solution, and we urge both sides to

cooperate with him," it said. "We also commend the efforts of elders from northern and southern Galkayo vowed to restore calm and avert another outbreak of fight."

Sharmarke and his delegation of ministers arrived in the autonomous region Sunday and vowed to ensure a lasting solution is found.

The PM said he will not leave the northern town of Galkayo without restoring calm, noting that he was disappointed by the clashes which had cost lives.

"I express my dismay at the occurrence of armed clashes in Galkayo over the last few days which has both directly and indirectly affected many," he told journalists late on Sunday.

"We will not depart until we see the public who fled town because of this returning

to their homes and the return of solid stability," Sharmarke added.

The border, which divides the regional capital city of Galkayo, is contested between Puntland and Galmudug, and has been rocked by inter-clan violence since 1993, although an official line of control was established in a peace agreement in 2011.

The clashes between rival forces began on 22 November when militiamen from the Barahley area of Galkayo, in the Galmudug-controlled southern part of the city, exchanged fire with Puntland's security forces, leaving 10 dead. The two warring sides clashed on Saturday in Galkayo town in Mudug region, which is controlled by the two administrations, Galmudug in southern parts and Puntland in northern parts.—Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's 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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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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## Box Office: 'Hunger Games' leads Thanksgiving pack, 'Creed' scores



Cast members Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson (L-R) pose at a red carpet event for the China premiere of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" in Beijing, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Moviegoers said goodbye to Katniss Everdeen and welcomed back Rocky Balboa, a series of farewells and reunions that powered Thanksgiving box office receipts above last year's holiday.

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" led a crowded field of contenders, topping charts with \$75.8 million and bringing its domestic total to \$198.3 million.

It marks the final film in the hugely popular series, although Lionsgate, the studio behind the franchise, has hinted it wants to figure out ways to create future spin-offs.

The previous two "Hunger Games" films have both debuted the week before Thanksgiving and gone on to rule multiplexes over the holiday. Its dominance is practically a holiday tradition.

If "Mockingjay - Part 2's" strong returns was a familiar Thanksgiving sight, the big surprise was how well "Creed" performed. The film successfully brought back Sylvester Stallone's iconic Rocky character and revived a boxing franchise that seemed like a Reagan-era relic after racking up \$42.6 million over the five-day holiday period.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and New Line co-produced and co-financed the film, which centers on Rocky rival Apollo Creed's illegitimate son (Michael B. Jordan) and his efforts to continue his father's boxing legacy. Stallone plays his coach and confidant. It should have no trouble making back the \$37 million that the studios spent putting the "Italian Stallion" back in the ring.

Pixar's "The Good Dinosaur" capitalized on school holidays, becoming the de facto

choice for families. The animated film earned \$56 million over the five-day holiday. That's a solid result and the fourth highest five-day Thanksgiving opening, but it is somewhat disappointing given Pixar's track record as the most successful provider of all-ages entertainment.

It ranks as the third lowest debut in company history. Pixar didn't provide a budget number, but judging from the cost of its previous films, this one likely carries a \$200 million price tag. "The Good Dinosaur" had a troubled production history. The film's debut was pushed back by two years and its original director Bob Peterson was pulled from the project over creative disagreements. He was replaced by Peter Sohn and the film underwent a massive overhaul.

The holiday period had some casualties. Fox's "Victor Frankenstein" was dead on the slab after earning a torpid \$3.4 million from 2,797 theaters over its first five days.

The attempt to revive Mary Shelley's monster story cost \$40 million to produce and starred James McAvoy and Daniel Radcliffe. It stands as one of the year's biggest flops.

In the holdover realm, "Spectre" took in \$18.2 million, driving its domestic earnings to \$176.1 million. The film has now grossed more than two of Daniel Craig's previous James Bond outings "Casino Royale" (\$167.4 million) and "Quantum of Solace" (\$168.4 million), but seems unlikely to match the high-water mark set by "Skyfall" (\$304.4 million).

"The Peanuts Movie" wasn't completely overshadowed by "The Good Dinosaur." The adaptation of the Charles Schulz

comic strip picked up \$13.6 million, pushing its total to \$116.6 million.

Among art house releases, Focus Features premiered "The Danish Girl," a drama about a transgender artist who undergoes one of the first sex change operations, in four theaters in New York and Los Angeles. It grossed an estimated \$185,000, for a solid per-theater average of \$46,250.

The Weinstein Company appears to be scoring with "Carol." The romance about two lesbians pushing against conformity in the 1950s made \$203,000 from four theaters over five days. After two weeks, the film has generated \$588,000.

Open Road's "Spotlight," the widely acclaimed drama about the Boston Globe's investigation of pedophile priests, continued to perform well in its expansion. The Oscar contender added \$5.7 million to its \$12 million haul after moving from 600 to 897 locations.

Fox Searchlight's "Brooklyn" also used the holiday period to broaden its footprint. The story of an Irish immigrant making her way in 1950s New York took in \$4.8 million after increasing from 598 to 897 locations. It has made \$7.3 million in its first three weeks.

Final results are still trickling in, but it appears that the holiday will outpace last year's ticket sales by more than 10%. The uptick follows several weekends of disappointing returns as flops like "The Last Witch Hunter," "The 33" and "Steve Jobs" pulled down box office results. Most analysts expect that despite the fall lassitude, the domestic box office will cross \$11 billion for the first time in history.—Reuters

## Fans forced me to make 'Tum Bin 2': Anubhav Sinha

PANAJI — The sequel to hit romantic drama "Tum Bin" is in the making after almost 14 years and director Anubhav Sinha says it is because of the relentless requests of the movie's fans that he has decided to make a second part.

The 2001 movie, starring Priyanshu Chatterjee, Himanshu Malik, Sandali Sinha and Raqesh Vashisth, was a sleeper hit at the box office.

Sinha said producer Bhushan Kumar had also been coaxing him into making the sequel.

"The movie's fans keep telling me to make one more 'Tum Bin'. I have never had a

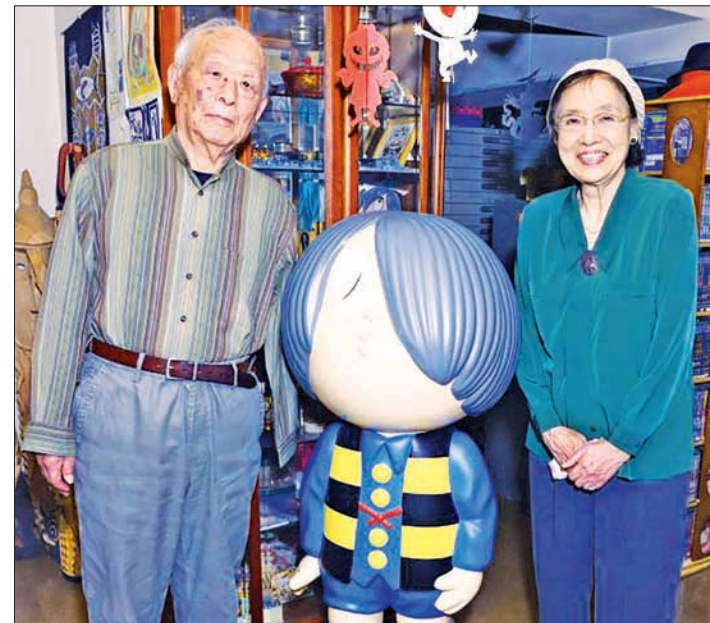
story to take the film forward. But in the past six or seven years, the demand from my partner Bhushan and the audience grew," Sinha told PTI on the sidelines of IFFI.

"I finally had a story that I liked and I decided to make it. I haven't done a love story for a while now. Looking forward to it."

The film will go on floors in February next year but no actor has been roped in yet.

The director said he also has a few films, which he wants to make as a producer, and work on them will also begin from next year. "Next year I will be making a lot of films.—PTI

## Beloved Japanese artist who depicted horrors of war dies at 93



Shigeru Mizuki, a giant among Japanese manga artists and his wife Nunoe Mura. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — An award-winning Japanese manga artist, whose retellings of traditional ghost stories and depictions of the horrors of World War Two helped propel anime to global popularity, died yesterday at the age of 93.

Shigeru Mizuki, a beloved household name in Japan, was an art student when he was drafted in 1942 and sent to fight in New Guinea, where he lost his left arm and witnessed scenes that haunted him for the rest of his life.

Debuting in 1957, Mizuki went on to write manga dealing with the US wartime bombing, the abuse he and other military recruits suffered under their emperor-worshipping commanders during World War Two, and a biography of Adolf Hitler.

In 1979, he illustrated "The Darkness of the Fukushima Nuclear Reactor" about the lives of workers at the Fukushima nuclear plant that was crippled by the 11 March 2011, earthquake and tsunami.

A 1991 piece in an educational magazine depicted wartime abuses committed by Japanese soldiers in China and Korea, including one scene where a soldier boasts of testing his new sword on "five or six" civilians.

But he was probably best known for "Ge-ge-ge no Kitaro," a manga series about a young ghost boy fighting off a series of monsters based on Japanese folklore that was subsequently made into an animated series that ran for several years.—Reuters

# India receives just 0.68pc of international tourists



PHOTO: PTI

NEW DELHI — India receives less than one per cent international tourists annually and their average stay in the country has come down by two days, Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma said yesterday.

Replying a question in Lok Sabha, Sharma said India received just 0.68 per cent of the world tourists every year and efforts have been made to attract more and more international tourists to the country.

“Various initiatives have been taken by the government to attract more foreign tourists that include e-tourist visa, providing financial assistance to state governments launching 12 theme based tourist circuits,” he said during question

hour. The Minister said in 2011-12, on an average foreign tourists in India used to stay 20-22 days at a stretch which has come down to 18-20 days now.

Sharma said Tourism Ministry has launched a new scheme ‘Swadesh Darshan’ for development of theme-based tourist circuits in a way that caters to both mass and niche tourism in a holistic manner.

The 12 circuits are North-East India circuit, Buddhist circuit, Himalayan circuit, Coastal circuit, Krishna circuit, Desert circuit, Tribal circuit, Eco circuit, Wildlife circuit, Rural circuit, Spiritual circuit and Ramayana circuit.

“A series of promotional ac-

tivities are being undertaken in tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India’s tourism potential and promoting tourism to the country,” he said.

These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions, organising road shows, Know India seminars and workshops, organising and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the hospitality programme of the Ministry, he said.—PTI

## mitv Myanmar International

(1-12-2015 07:00 am~ 2-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
07:56	Am	Scented Buddha Images
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Continuation in Rural Tradition
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)
09:47	Am	Today Myanmar: Fish Feed Production
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
10:41	Am	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
10:54	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat 07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Pm ~ 06:25 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:25 Am)

06:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-12) Tapas: Ham & Peach Nibbles, Smoked Salmon & Quail Egg, Crunchy Baked Mussels and Colourful Fruit Punch
06:50	Pm	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sons of the lake
08:49	Pm	Lady Pilot

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

## MRTV Entertainment Channel

(1-12-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am	7:50 am
• Nice And Sweet Song	• TV Drama Series
6:10 am	8:35 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	• Musical Programme
6:30 am	8:50 am
• Fashion Show (Chin)	• Radio Drama
6:40 am	9:30 am
• Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than	• Myanmar Video
7:00 am	10:20 am
• TV Drama Series	• My Dream
	10:30 am
	• Myanmar Video

## Modern Etiquette: Why not something personal for the holidays?

Mary Mitchell

NEW YORK — As I write this, I look up at a foot-high stack of holiday catalogs — clothing, travel gear, hiking gear, home accessories, pet accessories, art acquisition, cosmetics, natural foods, wine... They make me sad for all those trees.

Then I look at my inbox and see more holiday sales pitches. It makes me sad for my tired eyes and fingers as I hit the delete button, over and over.

Their message is uniformly clear: Buy (our) stuff.

Don't people realize the only true gifts are time and attention?

When I think about the most important gifts I've received, they seldom translate into purchased objects. They always translate into generous thoughts about what makes me happy. Everybody is different, so I put it out there on social media to get more ideas of the best gifts that did not require cash.

A friend shared how much it meant when someone went out of her way to make a disabled child

feel special. Another told me how much trapeze lessons can mean.

One of my students, a new mom, told me how precious it is when her own mom volunteers to come over a week every month and help out with the housework.

Another took a photo of her daughter and son-in-law's sneaker-shod feet in the sand, each flanking a pair of empty baby shoes representing the baby that was on his way. Charming.

Cooking can bring much joy. Cranberry-ginger chutney has become my signature holiday item, and I always anticipate my friend's annual Christmas Eve cookie delivery. So does my family!

What about writing out favourite recipes for friends and family? Ever thought about volunteering to care for someone's pets while they're away, or even for an afternoon or evening? What about framing some photos, especially if they bring happy memories?

Imagine how tickled I was when a friend gave me a hand-crafted carved box filled with homemade smoked salt. A joint

made from homegrown marijuana sat on top of the salt (marijuana is legal where I live). Delighted, I consumed one gift and regifted the other. Many of us would be immensely grateful for tech help with new apps and lessons on how to use them. What about putting together playlists of favourite music? Some of my fitness students do this, and I use their tunes in class. I flunked arts and crafts in school. So I cannot overstate how wonderful it was to have someone help me with holiday decorations. Or the time my pal helped me hang a set of Japanese prints. Or the time my sister, a noted art critic, took me to a museum and taught me how to look at paintings. The art of gift-giving doesn't come as naturally as most of us would like to think.

Thoughtfulness and generosity of spirit are the watchwords. For gifts that warm the heart and touch the soul, we need to be observant, creative, and somewhat organised. Perhaps some of these ideas will get you thinking. Happy Holidays, whatever you celebrate!—Reuters

## MRTV News Channel in Brief

(1-12-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am	10:35 am
• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	• Science and Technology Programme
6:25 am	11:35 am
• Physical Exercises	• Documentary
6:40 am	12:00 noon
• Documentary	• News / International News/ Weather Report
7:00 am	1:30 pm
• News	• TV Drama Series
7:30 am	2:50 pm
• Head Line News	• Teleplay
8:00 am	3:35 pm
• News/ International News	• Socio Economic Scenes
9:35 am	
• MRTV's Youth Programme	

4:35 pm  
• University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Myanmar)

5:35 pm  
• Money Talk Myanmar

6:35 pm  
• People's Talks

7:15 pm  
• TV Drama Series (Part-1)

7:35 pm  
• TV Drama Series (Part-2)

8:00 pm  
• News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm  
• News  
• Hluttaw Image  
• TV Drama Series  
• Documentary  
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

# Inspired Murray leads Britain to Davis Cup title

GHENT — The moment Andy Murray has pursued with such fanatical zeal finally arrived, unforgettably, on Sunday when an outrageous lob arced over Belgium's David Goffin to seal Britain's first Davis Cup title for 79 years.

Fittingly for a player who has almost single-handedly guided his country to the title this year, the indefatigable Murray ended Goffin's inspired resistance with a moment of sheer brilliance few could conjure to complete a 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

It gave Britain a winning 3-1 lead and started a party that hundreds of visiting fans decked out in union flags and Scottish saltires will keep going long into the night in medieval Ghent.

Murray, who put in a triple-shift over the weekend and looked exhausted at the end of a tense three-hour contest, collapsed on to the claycourt before being swamped by his team mates, including brother Jamie, and captain Leon Smith.

Sportingly he clambered to his feet to console Goffin who had gallantly clung on to the hope of keeping alive Belgium's chances of winning the title for the first time.

Murray then saluted the 'Barmy Army', who roared his every winner over a weekend that rubber-stamped his place in the chronicles of British sporting greatness, if any had doubted it after he ended a 77-year wait for



Great Britain's Andy Murray celebrates with the trophy after winning the Davis Cup. PHOTO: REUTERS

a men's champion at Wimbledon in 2013, a year after winning the Olympics and US Open.

"I probably haven't been as emotional as that after a match that I've won," Murray told reporters later as dance music still reverberated around the vast warehouse-like arena on the edge of the city.

"It's incredible that we managed to win this competition. I didn't know that would ever be possible. It's great."

World number two Murray,

whose return to the team in 2013 accelerated Britain's rapid rise from the depths that begun when Smith took charge in 2010, has won 11 live rubbers in this year's run, matching Ivan Ljubicic's total for Croatia in 2005.

He has won all eight singles he played while teaming up three times with brother Jamie for crucial doubles wins, one of which came on Saturday to put Britain 2-1 ahead.

"Really impressive from @andy\_murray. One of the best

Davis Cup years in history," former US Open champion and world number one Andy Roddick said on Twitter.

The small Scottish town of Dunblane, where the Murray brothers grew up, could justifiably claim its name should be inscribed on the trophy.

Fellow Scot Smith, who took over when Britain were on the verge of relegation to the Davis Cup's fourth division, paid tribute to the whole team but described Murray's mammoth con-

tribution to the country's first title since 1936 as "one of the best achievements of all time."

"It's incredible for all of us to watch how he's managed to win that many rubbers, that many wins," he said.

"Just now what's important is what's been achieved. It's monumental."

Murray is the first player since American Pete Sampras in 1995 to win three live rubbers in a final.

There was a sense of inevitability about the outcome on Sunday with Belgium trailing 2-1 and needing to win both reverse singles. But Goffin, roared on by a soccer-style crowd inside the claustrophobic arena, forced Murray to play his best tennis.

Goffin squandered a break point at 2-2 in the opening set and Murray then pounced, scorching a backhand winner off a weak second serve to take a lead he never relinquished.

There was no chance of Goffin fading though. He played some sensational tennis to stay with Murray in the second set but a tired forehand into the net in 11th game gave Murray a break and the Scot struck a stupendous forehand winner to seal the set.

Murray wobbled briefly when he dropped serve early in the third set but he responded to move 5-3 ahead before providing the most spectacular of climaxes to a memorable year.—Reuters

## Schwartzel wins opening event of new European Tour season

MALELANE — South Africa's Charl Schwartzel won the Alfred Dunhill Championship by four shots at Leopard Creek Country Club on Sunday to clinch the first tournament of the new European Tour season. The 31-year-old former US Masters champion led by three strokes overnight and carded a final-round 70 to end 15 under, ahead of France's Gregory Bourdy, who shot 68.

Two more Frenchmen, Benjamin Hebert and tour rookie Sebastien Gros, finished 10 under and nine under after rounds of 72 and 73 respectively. Schwartzel, who has slumped to 50 in the world rankings, opened with rounds of 66, 67, 70 and he mixed four birdies with two bogeys



Charl Schwartzel. PHOTO: REUTERS

on Sunday for a 10th European Tour win.

It was his first title since success at the same event on the southern boundary of the Kruger National Park in 2013.

Bourdy made a fast start on the final day with four consecutive birdies from the third but a triple bogey on the par-three seventh hole slowed his momentum.

Gros, playing in only his second European Tour event after finishing second on last season's Challenge Tour, hit a tournament-low 63 in the third round, but struggled with an erratic 73 to finish. The Leopard Creek event marked the start of the 2016 European Tour, which moves to Sun City next weekend for the Nedbank Golf Challenge.—Reuters

## Bale and Ronaldo on target as Real beat Eibar

BARCELONA — A Gareth Bale header and a Cristiano Ronaldo penalty gave Real Madrid a much-needed 2-0 victory over Eibar in La Liga on Sunday, following their hammering by leaders Barcelona last weekend, and put them six points off the top of the standings.

The Welshman notched up his first goal since the end of August when he nodded in a Luka Modric cross two minutes before halftime against the

small Basque club who have surprised this season and went into the game with one defeat from eight matches. Real were made to work hard against a battling Eibar but Ronaldo secured the win with a penalty after 82 minutes following a foul by Dani Garcia on Lucas Vazquez.

The win eases the pressure on coach Rafa Benitez following defeats in La Liga against Sevilla and in the 'Clasico' last Saturday where they lost 4-0.

Third-placed Real now have 27 points from 13 games, two behind Atletico Madrid, while Barca have 33 points.

"We have been through a difficult moment, it has been hard for all of us and we all have to improve," Real keeper Keylor Navas told reporters.

"These three points are important to help us fight for what we want which is titles and now we need to keep improving."—Reuters

## Liverpool's Coutinho set to return against Southampton

LONDON — Midfielder Philippe Coutinho is on course to return to Liverpool's squad for their Capital One (League) Cup quarter-final clash against Southampton on Wednesday, manager Juergen Klopp has said.

Club captain Jordan Henderson and striker Daniel Sturridge made their first appearances under Klopp in Sunday's 1-0 win over Swansea City.

Liverpool have been without Coutinho since the Brazilian picked up a hamstring injury dur-

ing their 4-1 win over Manchester City late last month.

"Philippe had a very intensive session (on Saturday) but we decided two or three days ago that we didn't want to risk (him) for this game," Klopp told reporters after the Swansea game.

"Now I think he's fit. I saw him in the dressing room and he looks good. I'll have to talk with him tomorrow - I think he's ready for Southampton," the German added. The win, which came thanks to James Milner's second

half penalty, moved Liverpool up to sixth on 23 points, two adrift of fifth-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

Klopp said the windy conditions had not helped his side at Anfield and added that the result was the most important thing.

"I was only on the pitch during the warm-up but it was really crazy because it changed all the time, he said. "We are an outdoor sport, no problem, we have to accept all rain, snow, wind, whatever. But it's the biggest enemy of football, wind."—Reuters