

China's Vice Foreign Minister holds high level talks in the capital

PAGE 3

Senior General gives speech at cadet graduation ceremony

PAGE 3

ANALYSIS

Time for business to take off

PAGE 8

COMBAT PEOPLE SMUGGLING

Delegation meets to discuss trafficking of migrant labourers

MYANMAR delegation discussed the issue of boat people at the 2nd Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean, stating that the issue of boat people is the result of the human trafficking and people smuggling.

"It is important to consider protecting migrants in the region under the laws of the recipient states in order to have comprehensive and sustainable solution and the cooperation with the respective countries will be made in this regard," said the Head of the Myanmar Delegation, Acting Director General U Htin Lynn, at the meeting held at the Anantara Hotel in Bangkok yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation also discussed matters related to pull factors for such occurrences: measures of Myanmar for rescued boat people on humanitarian ground and repatriated them to the country of origin.

Myanmar Delegation was composed of officials from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Population



Myanmar has repatriated a total of 777 verified Bangladeshi 'boat people' to Bangladesh in seven batches. PHOTO: MNA

and Ministry of Information. Myanmar Ambassador and officials from Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok also participated in the meeting together with the

Myanmar Delegation.

The meeting was opened by His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and

senior officials from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao,

Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by senior officials from ASEAN Secretariat, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC and UNDP.

At the meeting, the representatives from UNHCR, IOM, UNODC and EU discussed the matter pertaining to the migrant situations and challenges.

Under the agenda of "Follow-up of the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean in the Context of Regional Mechanisms", the representative from ASEAN Secretariat briefed the activities of ASEAN and the representatives from the countries taking co-chairmanship of Bali Process briefed the meetings of the Process.

The respective representatives briefed the matters relating to the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Combating People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons. The participants also discussed the matters on promoting safe migration and sustainable livelihood.—GNLM

Media and human rights commission must work together: chairman



U Win Mra, chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, highlights the importance of working together with the media to promote human rights in Myanmar during a press conference in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: YE MYINT

THE chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission called on the country's media to help achieve the realisation of human rights for all citizens at a press conference held yesterday.

"We need the might of the media to ensure that efforts towards human rights promotion and protection are effective," said U Win Mra, chairman of the commission.

The commission acts as an advisory body to the government and it is not vested with implementation of human rights, which is why the media can add strength to its campaigns and recommendations, added the chairman.

The chairman told The Glob-

al New Light of Myanmar that the commission is aiming for greater engagement with the media as this will boost its ability to fulfill its main tasks of protecting and promoting human rights in Myanmar.

He expressed his willingness to have regular contact with the media in the future.

MNHRC was formed in September 2011 by President U Thein Sein with the goal of heightening public awareness about human rights in Myanmar. It was reformed according to the Paris Principles on 24 September 2014, following parliamentary approval.

According to the commission, it has investigated 1,121

of 1,451 complaints lodged in Myanmar about alleged human rights abuses.

Another 1,268 of a total of 2,199 letters of complaints were submitted from abroad and investigated - the majority of which were submitted by Amnesty International.

International covenants and optional protocols signed by Myanmar include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC), Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of child, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC-OP-SC),

See page 2 >>

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss amendment bills for association registration and pearl culture

THE Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday had three reports submitted and two reports approved and regulations for association registration accepted.

The Rights Committee, the Education Promotion Committee and the Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee read out their reports at yesterday's session.

The parliament approved two reports by the Farmers, Workers and Youths Affairs Committee and the Scrutiny Committee for National Planning, Union Budget and Taxation.

The parliament will continue to deal with the amendment bills for regulations of association registration and pearl culture.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Khaing Maung Yee. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Roundup



Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday approved five bills submitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw with comments after MPs discussed them clause by clause.

The bills included the Myanmar Citizens Investment Amendment Bill, the Foreign Investment Amendment bill, the Road Transportation

Logistics bill, the Myanmar Excise Act Amendment Bill and the Rail Transportation bill.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President's message to be broadcast on radio

A RADIO message to the people to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast by Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamyia FM, FM Bagan, Thazin Radio and Yangon City FM at 8 am on 5 December.—*Myanmar News Agency*

ASEAN members to cement ties in technical and vocational education

THE Department of Technical and Vocational Education, in partnership with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), conducted a workshop on cooperation in technical and vocational training among the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations yesterday.

The workshop focused on

promoting cooperation between hotels and tourism, agriculture, construction, the enhancement of teacher quality and the exchange of students among ASEAN member countries.

The workshop attracted delegations from Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Zeyar Aung, Union Minister for Energy, is being welcomed by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi on his arrival at a reception to mark the Japan Emperor's Birthday in Yangon on 4 December, 2015. PHOTO: MNA

Yangon Region Parliament's special session continues



Yangon Region Parliament continues its special session. PHOTO: MNA

YANGON Region Parliament continued its special session yesterday, with region-level departmental officials responding to six questions raised by MPs.

The financial report of 2014-2015 as submitted by the Yangon Region auditor-general received parliamentary approval, following discussions among MPs.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win were also present at yesterday's session.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Media and human rights commission must . . .

>> From page 1

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The remaining five international covenants yet to be ratified

include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment

or Punishment, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Farmers to reclaim land from corporate interest

LOCAL farmers in Toungoo have teamed up with activists to reclaim their orchards which are included in an area officially allocated to a company.

"We will reclaim more than 1300 acres of orchards owned by 168 farmers from the company," said U Kyaw Soe Moe, who lead

the effort to get the land back to the farmers, at a press conference in Toungoon yesterday.

They are also negotiating with the remaining 23 farmers to include them in the reclamation, he added.

The patron of the company promised a return of 1,973 acres

to the owners.

Some farmers staged a demonstration in Toungoo recently to signal their support for the company to grow perennial trees on their land while 23 farmers are planning to stage a protest against the plans of the company.—*Ko Moe*

China's Vice Foreign Minister holds high level talks in the capital



President U Thein Sein meets with a Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein met with a Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides discussed the promotion of bilateral relations between Myanmar and China, bilateral economic cooperation

and increasing sector-wide collaboration.

Also present at the meeting were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Ye Htut.

In a separate meeting, the Chinese delegation met with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

Also present at the meeting

were Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members U Khin Maung Tin and U San Shwe Aung.

Mr Liu Zhenmin was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General gives speech at cadet graduation ceremony



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects parade of 57th Intake of Defence Services Academy. PHOTO: MYAWADY

AS a citizen who desires stability and development of the country, cadets should combine the lesson taught by the military academy with a sound sense of justice, moral principles, appropriate cooperation, good citizenship and a desire to protect the people, said the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the graduation ceremony of the 57th Intake of Defence Services Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin on Friday.

After inspecting the parade

of graduating cadets, the senior general said that the military is taking necessary measures to achieve the transition to a multiparty democracy process in accordance with the law.

"One of the basic principles of democracy is rule of law. Mutual respect and cooperation are also essential to democracy," he said.

The senior general explained the peace process being carried out by the government, saying that the military has opened the

door and will always welcome armed ethnic groups that have not yet signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement to become a signatory to it.

In conclusion, he urged the cadets to strive to become leaders who can promote the best image of the military academy.

After the graduation ceremony, the senior general and senior officers visited patients at the Military Hospital in Pyin Oo Lwin station and presented gifts to them.—*Myawady*

(၉၅)နှစ်မြောက် အမျိုးသားနေ့

၁၃၇၇ ခုနှစ်၊ တန်ဆောင်မုန်းလပြည့်ကျော် (၁၀)ရက်

(၆-၁၂-၂၀၁၅)

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Thailand

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand, which falls on 5 December 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Thailand

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand, which falls on 5 December 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Wunna Maung Lwin sends message of felicitations to Thailand

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand, which falls on 5 December 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Polio vaccination talks held in Yangon

EDUCATIONAL talks aimed at promoting polio vaccinations took place at the offices of Yangon Region government on Wednesday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe stressed the need to encourage public participation in the vaccination campaign, calling for health workers to speed up the campaign and spread the word about the benefits of vaccinations.

"Increasing the number of polio vaccines administered should be viewed as a national concern," the chief minister said.

Video presentations on polio awareness campaigns and regular vaccination activities

carried out in the region were shown during the event.

Participants shared their experience of ways to raise public awareness and thereby increase public engagement in the health issue.

Polio vaccines have been administered to four-month-old infants across Yangon Region since last Monday.

Present at the ceremony was Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and his wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Patron of the Supervisory Committee for the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win.—*Myanmar News Agency*

CRIME NEWS

Death sentence handed down for murder of two policemen

A FUGITIVE who stabbed two policemen to death in Thanlyin on 2 September, 2015 was sentenced to death while also being handed down a three-year jail term at Yangon's Southern District Court yesterday.

Tin Myint, who is also known as Aye Lwin, killed the unarmed policemen as they attempted to arrest him at a local guest house. In addition to double murder charges

he also faces charges of robbery, stealing and assault dating back to 2014.

In 2014 he received a five-year jail sentence from the Thanlyin Township Court for stabbing a man, but remained a fugitive until September.

He also killed a police officer who tried to arrest him in 1990. He was released in 2008 by presidential pardon.— GNLM



Tin Myint (a) Aye Lwin leaves court after getting death sentence.
PHOTO: MNA

Police arrests suspected pickpockets

A GANG of four pickpockets were arrested in Thingangyun Township on 30 November for stealing K10,000 and a hand bag from a female passenger on a crowded bus.

The four suspects are aged, 29, 24, 21 and 23.

A combined team searched for the four suspects who have now been put on a police record for pickpocketing at a bus stop. The stolen money was found in a backpack belonging to one of the suspects.— GNLM

Three men arrested under suspicion of killing taxi driver

POLICE have arrested three men who are believed to have been involved in the murder of a taxi driver and the robbery of another taxi driver on 22 November.

One suspect was arrested on 1 December, while the second was arrested on 2 December, according to a news release issued by police in Yangon yesterday.

Police said that at 2.45am on

22 November a male taxi driver was stabbed to death in his car on Maungmakan Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

While officers of the Myanmar Police Force were investigating the case, another taxi robbery occurred in the same township. In the second case, the driver was also stabbed but was taken to hospital and survived

the attack.

Acting on tips-off given by a culprit who was under investigation for possessing an 11-inch knife in Dago Myothit (North) Police Station, the three suspects were subsequently arrested.

The suspects will face charges of Robbery with Hurt under Section 302 and 394 of the criminal code.— GNLM



Four suspects believed to be involved in pickpocketing.
PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

Myanmar photographer to climb SE Asia's highest mountain

Mount Hkakabo Razi is located in northern Myanmar and few have successfully reached its summit



Photographer Kyaw Tha stands on Madwel mountain in Kachin State – one of four peaks he climbed this year.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY KYAW THAR

Khaing Thanda Lwin

A MYANMAR photographer called Kyaw Tha will climb Mount Hkakabo Razi (also known as Mount Khakaborazi), the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, without relying on any mountaineering technology in August next year, he told The Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

It will be the 38-year-old's first attempt to reach the summit of Mount Hkakabo Razi, which is located in outlying subrange of the Greater Himalayan mountain system in Myanmar's Kachin State. The best time of year to attempt the climb is in August, when the snow starts to melt.

Kyaw Tha and skilled locals will attempt to reach the peak by using old paths used by hunters. He estimates that the return journey between the base camp and the peak will last 40 days.

His goal is to capture the beauty of the mountain to share with the public and gain moun-

taineering experience.

He has already climbed four ice-capped mountains in Putao, Kachin State this year — including Phonganrazi (11,500 ft), Phonrinrazi (13,800 ft), Phongranrazi (15,000 ft) and Madwel (15,000 ft).

Snow-capped Mount Hkakabo Razi is estimated to be 5,900 metres high. In 1996, Japanese citizen Takeshi Ozaki and Namar Johnson of Myanmar were the first people to reach the mountain's summit. Last year, video footage of two Myanmar climbers circulated on the internet, however they disappeared during the descent and were never seen again. A Chinese and Italian rescue team spent weeks searching for the missing climbers, before ultimately calling off attempts to find them following extended periods of bad weather.

Kyaw Tha hails from Keng Tong in eastern Shan State and said he wants to prove that climbing Mt Khakaborazi is possible.

SSMNC holds 47-member plenary meeting

THE State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (SSMNC) entered their second day yesterday holding the ninth 47-member plenary meeting at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Hall on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hillock in Yangon Region.

SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, who chairs the meeting, delivered an opening address. Religious Affairs Union Minister U Soe Win briefed the meeting on religious activities designed to promote and propagate Theravada Buddhism. This was followed by rounds of discussions on religious and educational affairs.

Lay persons of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Marnita, Kyeikkasan Wai Lu Wun Monastery offered lunch to the members of the Sangha. —*Myanmar News Agency*



The 47-member plenary meeting of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee is held in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

BTMU unveils new Computer and Language Laboratory at Myanmar Institute of Banking



Mr Go Watanabe, CEO for Asia & Oceania, BTMU (second from right) officially opened the training facility together with MBA Vice Chairman, Dr. Sein Maung (second from left), Mr Mitsuhiro Kimura, General Manager of BTMU Yangon Branch (first from left) and MIB Principal, Daw Nwe Nwe Lin (first from right).

The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. (BTMU), a member of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG), officially opened the new Computer and Language Laboratory (Comp and Lang Lab) at Myanmar Institute of Banking (MIB) on 1 December 2015.

Officiating the opening are BTMU senior executives, Mr Go Watanabe, Chief Executive Officer for Asia and Oceania, and Mr Mitsuhiro Kimura, General Manager of Yangon Branch; and Myanmar Banks Association Vice Chairman, Dr. Sein Maung and MIB Principal, Daw Nwe Nwe Lin.

At the opening of the Comp and Lang Lab, Mr Watanabe in his address said: "Our partnership with Myanmar Banks Association is a good way for us to contribute in a meaningful manner towards the long term development of Myanmar's financial markets."

This new Comp and Lang Lab, donated by BTMU, is equipped with 50 computer laptops and language training resources. It will allow members of the banking association here raise their staff's proficiency in computer and language programmes through MIB.

BTMU first announced that it will fund the development of a brand new learning facility at the MIB, which is the training arm of the MBA, at the opening of its Yangon branch in April 2015. The donation is in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between BTMU and MBA in 2014, which aims to provide training programmes, and the transfer of banking technology and knowledge that will strengthen Myanmar's capabilities in banking and finance.

BTMU was the first foreign bank to officially open its branch operations in Myanmar.

UNSG's message on International Volunteer Day

5 December, 2015

ON this day we celebrate the power of volunteerism. Volunteering fosters creativity, draws strength from our passions and connects us to those who need us most.

Volunteerism is a global phenomenon that transcends boundaries, religions and cultural divides. Volunteers embody the fun-

damental values of commitment, inclusiveness, civic engagement and a sense of solidarity.

During the Ebola crisis in West Africa, community volunteers, international volunteers and United Nations Volunteers were crucial to the response. A similar spirit of volunteer-

ism and solidarity has been on display in addressing the current refugee crisis and this year's devastating earthquake in Nepal.

The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals offer another opportunity for individuals to show solidarity through volunteerism. All of us can

contribute to realizing the 2030 Agenda's vision of ending poverty.

Today, on International Volunteer Day, I thank the more than 6,300 United Nations Volunteers and 11,000 United Nations Online Volunteers who help millions of people to make sustainable change and peace happen.

I also commend and salute the one billion community volunteers worldwide.

As we mark International Volunteer Day, let us strive to make the most of the power of volunteerism to build a more sustainable world and a life of dignity for all.—*United Nations Information Centre, Yangon*

Tamil Nadu floods kill hospital patients while renewed rains strike fear

CHENNAI — Rescue helicopters were grounded yesterday by renewed rains that spread fear in the flood-struck city of Chennai, while the death of 14 patients at a private hospital added to the official toll of 280 confirmed killed in the disaster.

Waters that had started to recede rose again after a new cloud-burst that sent residents running for shelter under trees and in shop-fronts. Parts of the flat, coastal city remained under up to eight feet (2.5 metres) of water for a fourth day.

Many residents have spent days stranded on rooftops since more than 345 mm (14 inches) of rain fell over 24 hours on 1 December, the most since the British ruled the city then known as Madras 100 years ago.

India's fourth-largest city has boomed in the 21st century as a centre for vehicle factories and IT outsourcing, but trash filled drains and building on lake beds in the rush to industrialisation and prosperity has made it more flood prone.

Military helicopters dropped



An aerial view of a partially submerged airplane is pictured in a flood affected area in Chennai, India on 3 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

food to residents stranded on rooftops and the defence ministry doubled to 4,000 the number of soldiers deployed to help the rescue effort.

Rescue teams urged people to leave inundated regions and hundreds thronged the streets in the morning seeking higher ground, or trying to rescue relatives. Only roofs in some villages remained

visible. Where water had receded, masses of black mud and garbage piled up.

In one of the most shocking incidents, 14 patients in the intensive care unit of the MIOT International hospital died after floods took out generators running life-support systems, Prithvi Mohandas, a doctor at the hospital, told reporters.

Tamil Nadu's health secretary confirmed the deaths but said the cause needed to be investigated.

Despite combined rescue efforts by the military and civilian emergency services, help had yet to reach many areas and city-dwellers grew impatient as it emerged that authorities had released water from brimming lakes without much warning.—Reuters

Japan to launch anti-terrorism intelligence unit next week

TOKYO — Japan said yesterday it will launch next week a government unit to collect information on international terrorism as part of a push to strengthen the nation's antiterrorism capabilities.

The launch on Tuesday of the so-called International Counterterrorism Intelligence Collection Unit has been moved up from the initially-planned April in the wake of the deadly 13 November terrorist attacks in Paris.

The unit will be set up within the Foreign Ministry, but it will be led by the prime minister's office, according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

"Sharing information gathered by relevant government ministries and agencies as well as the unit, we would like to establish an 'all Japan' system to promote antiterrorism measures," Suga said after an interagency meeting on measures to fight international terrorism and organised crime.

Suga said that with the launch of the unit, the government will strengthen information gathering and analysis regarding terrorism, beef up security at ports, airports and other key facilities, and step up antiterrorism training, among other measures.

"We will take the best possible measures to prevent terrorism in advance in cooperation with the international community," the top government spokesman said.

The government is looking to strengthen its antiterrorism capabilities in the run-up to its hosting of a Group of Seven summit next year.

The Ise-Shima summit, slated for 26 to 27 May in Mie Prefecture, will bring together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Aside from the G-7 summit, Japan will host the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Olympics and Paralympics in 2020.

According to officials, the unit will involve experts from the foreign and defense ministries, the National Police Agency and others who will engage in collecting information regarding the Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

The government is also considering deploying experts to Japanese diplomatic postings abroad to get firsthand information and contact intelligence organs of other countries, they said.—Kyodo News

Pain but no gain: Indonesia's corruption crackdown

JAKARTA — Indonesian bureaucrats are holding off spending billions of dollars on everything from schools and clinics to garbage trucks and parking meters, fearful that any major expenditure could come under the scanner of fervent anti-corruption fighters.

The paralysis is so bad that President Joko Widodo, desperate to pull Southeast Asia's largest economy out of a slump, is considering a decree that would shield civil servants from graft busters until big-ticket projects are completed.

"There are concerns of criminalisation," Boediarso Teguh Widodo, the finance ministry's director general of regional budgetary spending, told Reuters. "In order to overcome this issue, the government has been asking relevant agencies 'to calm down' and not investigate until projects are finished."

The official is not related to the president.

Similar problems are playing out in China, Indonesia's top trading partner, where an unprecedented clampdown on graft has hamstrung investment and state spending. But in Indonesia, which consistently ranks among the world's most corrupt countries, it appears to be a lose-lose situation.

Economic growth, already under pressure because of weak commodity prices, is not getting the lift it needs from public expenditure because bureaucrats are afraid to take decisions. But the drive to root out corruption itself has had scant success since Widodo came to office just over a year ago.

In recent months, the police and the Attorney General's Office (AGO) have moved into the territory of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), which was weakened by attacks from rival law enforcement agencies, parliament and Widodo's own political party.

The police and the AGO are seen as quick to round up suspected offenders and usually cast a wide net. Although there have been few prosecutions, this has had a chilling effect on bureaucrats, who fear being caught up in investigations.

In a recent high-profile case brought by the AGO, two Jakarta transport officials were jailed after their boss was arrested for taking bribes in public bus tenders.

"We are afraid if the boss gets in trouble, all of the staff below will be sucked in," said Heru Budi Hartono, head of Jakarta's financial and asset management board, which handles spending for the city government.

"All of our staff are very careful and afraid," he added. "Even the police chief has told us to go ahead (and spend) but we are still going carefully."

To avoid "aggressive" investigators, some bureaucrats will block the paperwork needed to approve funding.

In Jakarta, a multi-million-dollar contract to build dozens of schools was postponed until next year because of "administrative issues", according to Hartono.

The AGO denies there is a turf war with other investigating agencies, but conceded that there were problems with its approach to quashing corruption.—Reuters

"All of our staff are very careful and afraid. Even the police chief has told us to go ahead (and spend) but we are still going carefully."

Heru Budi Hartono

Head of Jakarta's financial management board

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than
mmnthn2@gmail.com

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Chief Reporter

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

Senior Consultant Editor

Jessica Mudditt

jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg

jgold.news@gmail.com

Alec Wilmot

alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin

mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

Myint Win Thein

journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news

Tun Tun Naing

tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin

juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw

tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translators

Ma Than Htay,

Hay Mar Tin Win

haymarfat@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Layout designers

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung,

Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

adv.gnlm@gmail.com

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.

Thailand warned over terrorism by Syrians linked to Islamic State

BANGKOK — Russian intelligence warned Thai authorities last month that 10 Syrians “related to Islamic State” had entered Thailand aiming to attack Russian interests and allies in that country, according to a leaked Thai police document verified yesterday.

Dated 27 November and stamped “most urgent,” the police memo, which circulated via social media on Thursday, addressed a warning from Russia’s Federal Security Service to Thailand’s National Security Council that the Syrians had entered Thailand between 15 and 31 October.

“Four went to Pattaya, two went to Phuket, two went to Bangkok,” the document read, adding that the remaining two had travelled to an unidentified location.

The group aims to “attack Russia’s interests and its allied groups in Thailand,” it said.

The leaked document advised police to investigate and verify the information from Russian intelligence.

It urged officers to identify the 10 Syrians and intensify their investigation to prevent possible attacks in areas associated with Russia and other countries which have supported attacks on Islamic State militants in Syria, such as the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Sweden and Australia.

The deputy spokesman for the Thai police, Police Maj. Gen. Songpol Wattanachai, verified the leaked document’s authenticity during a press conference yesterday.

However, the spokesman added, “We are still verifying the information given from Russian intelligence.”

Thai immigration police commissioner, Police Maj. Gen. Nathathorn Prousoontorn, said a list of Syrians living in Thailand was sent to security authorities.

“We received the letter 2 weeks ago,” said the commissioner. “There are currently more than 200 Syrians in Thailand. Some came here on tourist visas. We have sent their information to National Security Council.”

Russia began carrying out air strikes against the militant group in Syria on 30 September, and has increased its attacks in recent weeks. A Russian passenger plane crashed over Egypt’s Sinai region in October, with widespread speculation that a bomb attack was responsible. Shortly after the crash, which killed more than 200 passengers on board the plane, the group’s Sinai branch claimed responsibility for the attack.—*Kyodo News*

Chinese president pledges \$60bn for development in Africa

JOHANNESBURG — China’s President Xi Jinping told African presidents yesterday at a summit that his country would provide \$60 billion over three years to fund development on the continent.

Xi, who is co-chairing the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation where several African heads of state were attending, outlined a broad ten-point development plan driven by the Asian economic giant, saying he wanted to build a relationship of equals.

“To ensure the successful implementation of these ten cooperation plans, China decides to provide a total of \$60 billion of funding support,” Xi told the summit.

Despite its own slowing economy, Xi said China would step up investment in factories manufacturing goods for export in Africa, in addition to building roads, ports and railways on a continent long seen as a major commodities source for China.

China would cancel existing debts with zero interest loans for least developed countries that mature by end 2015, he said.

China will strengthen its cooperation with Africa in the fight against violent extremism and would not interfere with the political choices of countries in the continent, Xi said.

“China will implement ten cooperation plans with Africa in the next three years,” Xi



Chinese President Xi Jinping walks with South African President Jacob Zuma upon his arrival at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, on 2 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

said. “These plans (are) aimed at addressing three issues holding back Africa’s development, namely inadequate infrastructure, lack of professional and skilled personnel and funding shortage.”

Africans broadly see Chi-

na as a healthy counterbalance to Western influence though Western governments charge China of turning a blind eye to conflicts and rights abuses on the continent as they pursue trade and aid policies there.—*Reuters*

Japanese lawmakers, China’s political adviser discuss bilateral ties



Yoshihisa Inoue (L), secretary general of Japan’s Komeito party, and Yu Zhengsheng, ranked fourth in China’s Communist Party leadership, shake hands before their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on 4 December. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

BEIJING — Senior lawmakers from Japan’s ruling coalition parties met yesterday with one of China’s seven most politically powerful men at a time when efforts of both countries to improve bilateral relations have gained momentum.

The lawmakers’ meeting in Beijing with Yu Zhengsheng, ranked fourth in the Communist Party leadership, was held a day after the ruling parties of the two countries resumed their consultative meeting for the first time in more than six years.

Yu, a member of the seven-man Politburo Standing Committee who serves as China’s top political adviser, hailed the resumption of exchanges between the Communist Party and the Japanese ruling coalition, formed by the Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner the Komeito party.

In his opening remarks at

the Great Hall of the People, Yu said, “I believe it has great significance in boosting political mutual trust, friendship and cooperation between China and Japan.”

The 10-member Japanese delegation is co-headed by the respective secretaries general of the LDP and the Komeito party, Sadakazu Tanigaki and Yoshihisa Inoue.

Since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping about a year ago, bilateral relations, which were chilled for several years over territorial issues and views on wartime history, have been on a track of reconciliation.

In the most recent conversation between Abe and Xi, which took place earlier this week on the sidelines of a UN climate summit in Paris, they again agreed to push ahead on improving relations.—*Kyodo News*

Critics say Malaysia’s new security law could lead to dictatorship

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia’s parliament passed a contentious security bill late Thursday that critics said gives the prime minister excessive power and could lead to a “dictatorship.”

The National Security Council bill allows the prime minister to declare certain parts of the country a “security area” for six months, an order that can be renewed indefinitely.

The legislation also gives the police, the armed forces and other enforcement authorities more muscle to control such

designated zones, including arresting people without a warrant and imposing a curfew.

While presenting the bill at the lower house on Thursday, Shahidan Kassim, minister in the Prime Minister’s Department, said the complexities of security and crime issues today require a paradigm shift to counter such threats.

“The country’s landscape is becoming more complex and dynamic in the form of threats from state actors and nonstate actors which can lead to disruption of the country’s peace,” he

was quoted saying by the *New Straits Times*.

The National Security Council will comprise the prime minister as chairman, his deputy and three ministers in charge of defense, internal affairs and communication. Others include the chief secretary to the government, the armed forces chief and the federal police chief.

The body was reportedly inspired by Britain’s National Security Council.

Opposition and rights groups have slammed the bill as a violation of human rights.

But with the ruling coalition dominating nearly two-thirds of the house, it was easily passed Thursday, the same day the bill was opened for debate.

Parliamentarian N. Surendran described the passage of the bill as “legislation by ambush” as Thursday was the last day of the house meeting for the year.

The bill was put to vote close to midnight. Surendran also said the bill gave “arbitrary, extensive and dangerous new powers” to the prime minister and the council members.—*Kyodo News*

OPINION

Time for business to take off

Kyaw Thura

THE adoption of the Competition Law this week has sparked interest among economic analysts and political activists, with speculation rife as to the ability of existing local businesses to compete against a flurry of foreign investors.

However the newly adopted law should be viewed as a much-needed effort to protect public interests and the country's untapped resources from

future monopolisation. Under no circumstance should our resource-rich country lag behind in its social, educational and economic development.

It is time to root out the practice of favouritism as it is utterly unhelpful to those at the grass-roots level: all it does is help the rich get richer. It is therefore necessary, particularly during this period of transition, to deter people in dominant positions from the extreme exercise of their prerogative powers.

As a nascent democracy, what the government must do is create a level playing field for market forces through fair competition. It is encouraging to see that the government has quickened the pace of economic growth by easing restrictions on imports and exports, thereby opening up more space for local and foreign businesses, especially in the extractive, communications and aviation sectors.

The commitment the government has made over the past five years has enabled the country to

overcome its low-income status. However it is important for the government to sustain this growth by managing public revenues and by ensuring that financing development remains a top priority in the fight against poverty. All things considered, the government needs to incentivise new space for the private sector investment.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email thantunaungnlm@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

Just imagine: Yangon Redesigned

Alec James Wilmot

"FIRST impressions are formed in a fraction of a second," said Ms Monika Traikov, Creative Director of NEX Labs Yangon, during her presentation on Yangon business design and advertising on Wednesday night.

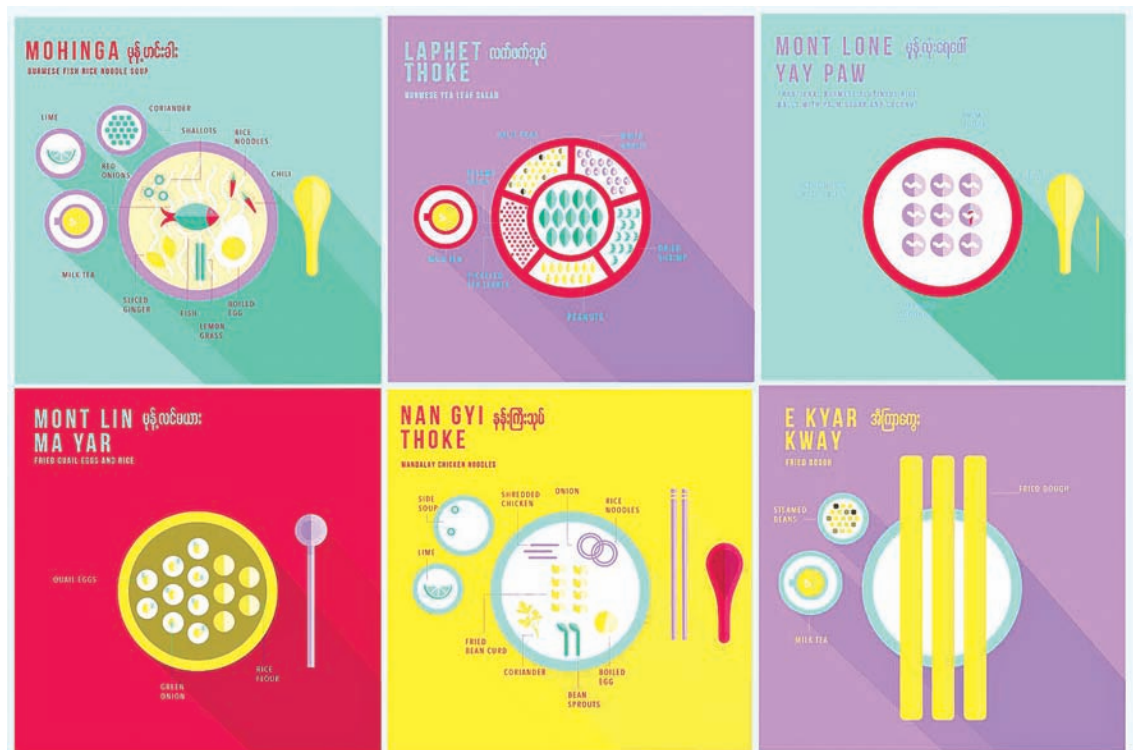
Ms Traikov was addressing a collection of journalists, design industry professionals and marketing team members present at the invitation of Yangon Redesigned, a project that falls under the umbrella of NEX Labs Yangon. Ms Traikov the start-up creative endeavour pushes itself as a way forward for Myanmar businesses wishing to bring a fresh and exciting new look to their businesses and promotional materials.

"Walking around the streets

of Yangon, you see beautiful examples of historic architecture, luscious textiles, incredibly intricate trinkets and toys: but graphic design has been left in the dark," Ms Traikov said.

Wednesday night's event was intended to highlight the benefits of bringing fresh eyes to a brand logo. The early work of rebranding local companies was successful, however more recent efforts have been complicated by local business owners who are afraid to embrace change – sometimes for the basic reason that aesthetic change is thought of as risky, almost alienating. There is a definite unwillingness to break away from the herd.

More complicated, though, is bridging the cultural gap between traditional aesthetics, which are rooted in strong local



Example poster from the event – a graphic illustration of traditional Myanmar dishes.

customs and ancient Myanmar lore, and modern design principals. Ms Traikov said that some of her team's design pitches have been rejected on the grounds that they did not appeal enough to traditional sensibilities.

Such considerations are to be expected in Myanmar, they admit, yet it seems to the creative team that the rejections speak more to local businesses ignoring the innate power of fresh and bold design and branding than it does to any encroaching threat of cultural dullness or loss of tradition.

"We now focus more on designs that highlight and celebrate Yangon and Myanmar culture, while still putting an emphasis on how to create good design," she explained.

The reaction of Yangon Redesigned is to approach the market with a more sensitive and inclusive mindset – they recently ran a social-media based design marketing campaign themed around thanaka, which invited Yangonites to offer their own

creative interpretations of the traditional face paint cum sunscreen. The team's new line is that embracing modern marketing design and aesthetics doesn't necessarily mean leaving the past behind – and this was the purpose of Ms Traikov's presentation.

The re-branders are re-branding themselves to be better suited to meet the needs of potential customers. The event proved not

only that Yangon Redesigned is dynamic, soaking up feedback and ideas to implement change within their own organisation but that they are willing to harness their own brand power and public presence to demonstrate exactly what it is they can do for their clients. First impressions may be formed within a fraction of a second, but a memorable design will stick in your memory for life.



Members of the Yangon Redesigned team with NEX's CEO, U Ye Myat Min (centre left)



A creative interpretation of the Myanmar alphabet.

Young Myanmar filmmakers win big at International Youth Film Festival 2015



Maung Kyaw Thiha.
PHOTO YI YI THANT

THE Ninth International Youth Film Festival 2015 kicked off on 28 November in Kitami, Hokaido Island in Japan. Forty-four short films – each no longer than three minutes in duration – were selected from among more than 300 short films produced in Taiwan and 16 countries across Asian.



Maung Than Naung Win.
PHOTO YI YI THANT

Sixteen prizes were awarded, which included films made by Myanmar citizens.

Maung Kyaw Thiha and Maung Than Naung Win, both students at Laurel Art Academy in Myanmar took home awards.

Each filmmaker was aged between 15 and 17 and the theme set



Ko Pauk.
PHOTO YI YI THANT

for 2015 was ‘My Happiest Time.’ Next year’s competitors will create films based around the opposite them of ‘What I dislike’.

“It is a trip that inspired new ideas for me as well for children,” said Director Ko Pauk, leader of the delegation to the film festival. —Yi Yi Myint/Ohnma Thant

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

The Man-animal conflict in South and SE Asia is a complex eco-environmental issue that is seriously impacting the eco-biodiversity of all the nations of this vast biogeographical region. The economic packages announced and increased security measures are certainly a big boost towards any major conservation effort; however, another significant yet neglected eco-sociological aspect for successful conservation will involve improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in and around premier wildlife habitats. Most remote rural communities, fringe dwellers and forest residents live their life under abject poverty being dependent on the scanty forest resources for their daily sustenance; and are vulnerable to be exploited by poaching and wildlife trafficking groups. Unless this anthropogenic issue is included in the wildlife mitigation and biodiversity conservation base equation; none of the efforts mentioned are ever going to be successful from a long term perspective. To protect endangered wildlife and minimize human-animal conflicts; the eco-sociological perspective or the human factor needs to be made an important stakeholder in the process of conservation. Through your esteemed newsletter, I humbly request the new Government of Myanmar to develop a comprehensive policy in conserving the rich wildlife resources of the nation in addition to protection of the dwindling forest resources.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu
Apt 6-409, 43 Street South,
Lethbridge AB Canada T1J 4B3

Govt pledges to promote rights of persons with disabilities

THE government has committed to promoting rights and capabilities of the persons with disabilities in the country by assisting them in their role in socio-economic affairs.

The Right of Persons with Disabilities Law was enacted by the parliament on 5 June, last year with the aim of assisting all the persons with disabilities in order to participate in politic, social, education,

health, economic, cultural and civil affairs, said Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at a celebration to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities for 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December.

According to the country’s 2014 census, the number of persons with disabilities reached more than 2.3 million, making up about 4.6 percent of the

country’s total population.

Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities-UNCRPD on 7 December, 2011.

The SWRR Ministry has upgraded eight schools for the persons with disabilities to model ones and funded K 57.723 million to 10 homes for the deaf and blind in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.— Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin visits booth opened to mark The International Day of Persons with Disabilities for 2015. PHOTO: MNA

Strand Cruise to launch luxurious Mandalay to Bagan journeys

Khaing Thanda Lwin

THE Yangon’s luxury Strand Cruise will launch its first Mandalay-Bagan voyage along the waterways of Ayeyawady River in December 22 this year.

The vessel can accommodate 54 passengers and has 27 cabin suites.

Mr Jerome Seban, the Strand Hotel and Cruise General Manager, said, “The Strand Cruise’s itineraries include an exclusive mooring overnight at Ava on the journey from Bagan to Mandalay, which allows the passengers exclusive access to the beautiful temple of Maha Aungmye Bonzan after the crowds have departed in the evening. We will remain moored there until the following morning.”

The Strand Cruise is a reinvention of the legendary style and unique personality of The Strand Hotel Yangon. The cruise officially launched its services on 3 December.

“Having operated the Strand Hotel in Yangon for the past decade, we see there is a steady growth in demand among luxury travelers to discover the ancient monuments of Myanmar by using the Ayeyawady’s waterways,” said

Olivier Trinquand, Vice President of the Strand Hotel and Strand Cruise.

During Myanmar’s low travel season, the strand cruise’s three-night itinerary between Mandalay and Bagan will cost US\$1,782 per head for a double room. For more information, visit www.thestrandcruise.com



The Strand Cruise.

US military opens all combat roles to women

WASHINGTON— The US military will let women serve in all combat roles, Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Thursday in a historic move striking down gender barriers in the armed forces.

“As long as they qualify and meet the standards, women will now be able to contribute to our mission in ways they could not before,” Carter told a Pentagon news conference.

“They’ll be allowed to drive tanks, fire mortars, and lead infantry soldiers into combat. They’ll be able to serve as Army Rangers and Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Marine Corps infantry, Air Force parajumpers and everything else that was previously open only to men,” he said.

President Barack Obama called the move a “historic step forward,” saying it would “make our military even stronger.”

“Our armed forces will draw on an even wider pool of talent. Women who can meet the high standards required will have new opportunities to serve,” Obama said in a statement.

Carter said the opening to women would take place following a 30-day review period, after which they would be integrated into the new roles in a “deliberate and methodical manner” as positions come open. The waiting pe-



Then US Army First Lieutenant Kirsten Griest (C) and fellow soldiers participate in combat training during the Ranger Course on Fort Benning, Georgia, on 20 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

riod enables Congress to review the decision and raise any objections.

He acknowledged the decision could lead to more debate over whether women would have to register for the draft, an issue he said was already under litigation. The US military is currently an all-volunteer force, but young men are still required to register

in case the draft is reactivated.

Asked whether the decision opened the door to women being required to serve in front-line combat positions, Carter said members of the military had some choices but not “absolute choice.”

“People are assigned to missions, tasks and functions according to need as well as their capa-

bilities,” he said. “And women will be subject to the same standard and rules that men will.”

The decision drew a rebuke from the Republican chairmen of the armed services committees in the Senate and House of Representatives. But some other lawmakers welcomed the move.

“Secretary Carter’s decision to open all combat positions to

women will have a consequential impact on our service members and our military’s warfighting capabilities,” Senator John McCain and Representative Mac Thornberry said in a statement.

They asked the Pentagon for details on a Marine Corps request for exceptions, which was overridden by Carter, and information on how draft registration might be affected.

Two Democratic members of the armed services panels welcomed Carter’s decision. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said it would “strengthen our armed forces” and Representative Niki Tsongas called it a “long overdue” move that would eliminate some of the barriers to advancement that women face in the military.

Carter’s decision comes nearly three years after the Pentagon first instructed the military to open all positions to qualified women, including front-line combat roles. A restriction on such roles was seen as increasingly out of place during a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan in which women were often in harm’s way.

Women represented about 2 percent of US casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, with some 300,000 deploying to the conflict zones.—Reuters

Israel trains against Russian-made air defence system

JERUSALEM/ATHENS — Israel has quietly tested ways of defeating an advanced air-defence system that Russia has deployed in the Middle East and that could limit Israel’s ability to strike in Syria or Iran, military and diplomatic sources said.

The sources said a Russian S-300 anti-aircraft system, sold to Cyprus 18 years ago but now located on the Greek island of Crete, had been activated during joint drills between the Greek and Israeli air forces in April-May this year.

The activation allowed Israel’s warplanes to test how the S-300’s lock-on system works, gathering data on its powerful tracking radar and how it might be blinded or bluffed.

One defence source in the region said Greece had done so at the request of the United States, Israel’s chief ally, on at least one occasion in the past year. It was unclear whether Israel had shared its findings with its allies.

“Part of the manoeuvres involved pitting Israeli jets against Greek anti-aircraft systems,” one source said. Two other sources said the Crete S-300 was among the systems turned on.

The sources spoke to Reuters on condition they not be identified by name or nationality. The Greek and Israeli militaries declined to

confirm or deny any use of the S-300 system during drills held in the Eastern Mediterranean last April-May or similar exercises in 2012 and 2010.

A senior Greek Defence Ministry official, asked whether the system was operating during Greek-Israeli military exercises, said: “At this moment the S-300 is not in operation.” He said Athens’ general policy was not to permit any other country to test the system’s abilities.

The S-300, first deployed at the height of the Cold War in 1979, can engage multiple aircraft and ballistic missiles up to 300 km (186 miles) away. Israel is concerned by

Russia’s plan to supply S-300s to Iran. Israel says Egypt, with which it has a cold peace, has bought a variant of the system. The Israelis also worry about Moscow’s announcement last month that it will deploy the S-300 or the kindred system S-400 from its own arsenal in Syria, in response to Turkey’s shooting down of a Russian jet there.

Israel has bombed Syrian targets on occasion and is loath to run up against the Russians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has met President Vladimir Putin at least twice in recent weeks to discuss coordination and try to avoid accidents.—Reuters



Russian S-300 anti-missile rocket system move along a central street during a rehearsal for a military parade in Moscow. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain’s Labour wins parliamentary seat in boost to leader Corbyn

OLDHAM — Britain’s opposition Labour Party won a parliamentary seat in northern England on Thursday with an increased share of the vote, a relief to the party’s new leader, Jeremy Corbyn, in his first

electoral test.

Left-winger Corbyn has split Labour since his election as leader less than three months ago, prompting infighting that threatens to tear the party apart.—Reuters

Man on video likely visited Yasukuni Shrine before suspected bombing

TOKYO — A South Korean man caught on surveillance camera footage around the time of a suspected bombing at a public restroom at war-linked Yasukuni Shrine on 23 November is likely to have gone to the Tokyo shrine on the preceding day, investigative sources said yesterday.

The Metropolitan Police Department suspect the man checked the site before placing on the following day what is believed to be an explosive device. An explosion was heard there on the morning of 23 November, but no one was injured.—Kyodo News

El Niño monthly indicator reaches level not seen since 1997

NEW YORK — A key monthly indicator for El Niño has reached a level not seen since 1997, according to the US weather agency, when the weather pattern caused heavy rains and flooding in parts of South America and severe drought hit crops in Indonesia.

El Niño, the “little boy,” is driven by warm surface water in the eastern Pacific Ocean and its strength is measured by how

much higher temperatures are over three-month averages.

In November, temperatures in the Niño 3.4 region, the central band of affected ocean running either side of the equator from 5S-5N and 170-120W, were 2.34 degrees Celsius above average, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on its website.—Reuters

Air strikes alone won't defeat Islamic State: Kerry warns



US Secretary of State John Kerry takes his seat to participate in the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, on 3 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

BELGRADE — Syrian and other Arab ground forces must be found to take on Islamic State, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday, saying the militant group would not be defeated by air strikes alone.

Kerry was speaking hours after Britain began bombing Islamic State targets in Syria, joining forces with France and the United States, nearly three weeks after the jihadist group killed 130 people in attacks across Paris.

British Prime Minister David Cameron says there are as many as 70,000 moderate opposition fighters in Syria ready to take on Islamic State with the help of foreign air strikes, an assertion opponents of the bombing cam-

paign have questioned.

Kerry suggested that if a political solution could end the fighting between the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and opposition groups and sufficient ground troops could be mustered, the militant group could be vanquished in months.

"I think we know that without the ability to find some ground forces that are prepared to take on Daesh, this will not be won completely from the air," Kerry said, using an Arabic term for the jihadist group.

Asked later if he meant Western ground forces, Kerry said after a meeting in Belgrade of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): "(I'm) talking about Syrian and Arab, as we have been consistently."

A US official said Kerry was speaking mainly of Syrian ground forces, but it

was conceivable troops of other Arab nations could be involved.

"They have to be troops from those countries (who) know the culture, know the groups, know the terrain," he told reporters on condition of anonymity. "It could possibly include Arab partners but we're not at that stage right now."

It is unclear if any Arab state would contribute significant ground forces to Syria anytime soon because of disagreements about the war and the fact that many militaries are already stretched tackling insurgencies, protecting borders or fighting conflicts closer to home.

In a policy reversal, the United States on 30 October said it would send up to 50 US special forces to Syria to coordinate on the ground with US-backed rebels.

Kerry met his Russian counterpart, Sergei

Lavrov, on the sidelines of the OSCE meeting, with Washington and Moscow at odds over the fate of Assad more than four years into a war that has killed over 250,000 people.

The West says Assad must go, but Russia launched its own air strikes on 30 September in support of his government, saying it was going after Islamic State. Western officials say Russian jets have hit mainly other anti-Assad rebels.

Kerry said a "political transition" in Syria could pave the way for a united front against Islamic State — "the Syrian army together with the opposition ... together with Russia, the United States and others to go and fight Daesh".

"Just imagine how quickly this scourge could be eliminated, in a matter of literally months, if we were able to secure that kind of political resolution."—Reuters

Britain joins Syria air war; Putin vows more sanctions on Turkey

LONDON — Britain joined US-led air strikes against Islamic State in Syria on Thursday, but Vladimir Putin issued bitter new denunciations of Turkey for shooting down a Russian plane, demonstrating the limits to international solidarity.

British Tornado jets took off from the Royal Air Force base at Akrotiri in Cyprus before dawn, hours after parliament in London voted 397-223 to support Prime Minister David Cameron's plan to extend air strikes from Iraq to Syria. Britain said they struck oil fields used to fund Islamic State.

"There are plenty more of these targets throughout eastern, northern Syria which we hope to be striking in the next few days and weeks," Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said. Britain would send eight more warplanes to Cyprus to join the missions.

The British contribution forms only a tiny part of US-led "Operation Inherent Resolve", which has been bombing Islamic State in Iraq and Syria for more than a year with hundreds of aircraft. Previously, the small British contingent participated in strikes

on Iraq but not Syria.

The strikes have so far failed to dislodge the militants from a swathe of territory where they have proclaimed a Caliphate to rule over all Muslims, although Washington and its allies say they have helped halt the fighters' advance.

Washington has announced it will deploy more special forces to conduct raids in both Iraq and Syria and help locate targets for air strikes. President Barack Obama said in an interview this did not mean a large scale ground assault like the 2003 US invasion of Iraq "with battalions that are moving across the desert".

"But what I've been very clear about is that we are going to systematically squeeze and ultimately destroy ISIL and that requires us having a military component to that," he told CBS, using an acronym for Islamic State, also known as ISIS or Daesh.

Although the British vote adds negligible new military capability to the coalition, it took on outsized political and diplomatic significance since gunmen and bombers killed 130 people last month in Paris.—Reuters

Paris bar reopens three weeks after attacks

PARIS — One of the Paris cafes where drinkers died in a hail of bullets on 13 November reopened yesterday, three weeks to the day after the Islamist militant attacks that killed 130 people.

"It's time to get together again, united, to move on and not forget," said a message on the menu-board at the cafe, A La Bonne Biere, where five people died.

Audrey Bily, manager of the first attacked cafe to reopen its doors, said the walls of the prem-

ises had been repainted and the "stigmata of this nightmare" removed.

Speaking in front of dozens of early-day clients and TV cameras, she said it was time to "bounce back".

The cafe is one of six where Friday night drinkers died when gunmen opened fire with AK-47 rifles as part of a multi-pronged attack involving gunmen and suicide bombers.

At the Bataclan rock concert venue where three gunmen killed 90 of the

130 total, the managers said earlier this week that they hoped to reopen the well-known venue by the end of next year. Several other eastern Paris cafes and restaurants hit in the attacks hope to reopen sooner as the most visited city in the world seeks to resume normal life.

Finance Minister Michel Sapin said earlier this week that the attackers probably spent in the range of 20,000 euros to 30,000 euros (14,555-21,833 pound) on organisation and equipment, il-

lustrating how cheap it is to inflict massive damage.

Beyond the human toll, the short-term impact on economic life in the French capital heading into the year-end festive period, has been significant, though the French central bank said in a report on Friday it was "likely to be transitory".

Hotel revenues in the Paris region fell by 50 percent in the week after the attacks, according to the Chamber of Commerce business association.—Reuters



Customers stand at the counter inside 'A La Bonne Biere' cafe in Paris, on 4 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

US authorities look for militant links in California mass slaying

SAN BERNARDINO — The couple suspected of killing 14 people at a holiday party in California amassed thousands of rounds of ammunition and a dozen pipe bombs, authorities said on Thursday as they sought clues to the pair's motives and whether they had links to Islamist militants.

Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 27, were killed in a shootout with police five hours after Wednesday's massacre at the Inland Regional Centre social services agency in the city of San Bernardino, about 60 miles (100 km) east of Los Angeles.

Twenty-one people were wounded in the attack, which ranks as the deadliest instance of US gun violence

since the December 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in which 27 people were killed.

The dead and wounded from Wednesday's bloodshed accounted for nearly half of the estimated 75 to 80 people who were in the room where the armed couple opened fire.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan told a news conference the search of a townhouse leased by the two shooting suspects in the nearby community of Redlands turned up flash drives, computers and cell phones.

Officials in Washington familiar with the investigation said there was no hard evidence of a direct connection between the couple and any militant group abroad,

but the electronics would be checked to see if the suspects had been browsing on jihadist websites or social media.

One US government source told Reuters the FBI was examining information indicating that Farook was in contact with individuals who had themselves been under FBI investigation, some from cases already closed. The source also said it was possible that one or more of the Farook contacts under scrutiny were overseas.

But no information has emerged suggesting any ties or contacts between Farook and the Islamic State or other specific militant groups, the source said.

Officials from President Barack Obama to



Attendees reflect on the tragedy of Wednesday's attack during a candlelight vigil in San Bernardino, California on 3 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

Police Chief Burguan said the attack may have been motivated by extremist ideology but that questions of motive remained unanswered.

"It is possible that

this was terrorist-related. But we don't know," Obama told reporters. "It is also possible that this was workplace-related."

Farook, a US citizen born in Illinois, was the son

of Pakistani immigrants, according to Hussam Ayloush, who heads the Los Angeles area chapter of the Muslim advocacy group Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).—Reuters

Long mighty, 'Chavismo' at risk in Venezuela's election

CARACAS — Polarized Venezuela heads to the polls this weekend with a punishing recession forecast to rock the ruling Socialists and propel an optimistic opposition to its first legislative majority in 16 years.

Founded by the late Hugo Chavez, the Socialists' long mighty "Chavismo" movement is facing public ire over shortages of goods from medicines to milk and the world's worst inflation under his successor, President Nicolas Maduro.

Defeat for "Chavismo" at Sunday's vote would give the opposition a major platform to combat Maduro and deal a further blow to Latin America's left after Argentina swung to the right in last month's presidential election won by Mauricio Macri.

If the opposition coalition wins a majority in Venezuela's 167-seat National Assembly, it hopes to reduce the Socialists' hegemony and tackle what it deems mismanagement,

corruption and authoritarianism during their nearly 17-year rule.

That could bring confrontation given the combative president's strong executive powers and institutions from the Supreme Court and the central bank that are pro-government.

After a heated election run-up marked by insults and gunshots, Maduro was winding up his campaign on Thursday with a street rally of red-shirted supporters while the opposi-

tion was holding a concert in affluent east Caracas.

Maduro has warned Venezuelans against betraying Chavez by voting for what he paints as a US-backed elitist clique that would abolish welfare programs.

"Imagine if they dominated the National Assembly. I wouldn't allow it, I swear, I wouldn't let my hands be tied by anyone. I'd take to the street with the people," he roared this week.—Reuters



THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE POSITIONS OF:

1. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ASEAN INTEGRATION MONITORING OFFICE
2. SENIOR OFFICER ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
3. SENIOR OFFICER TRANSPORT

More information on the terms of reference for the above positions can be accessed via www.asean.org/opportunities/vacancies.

If interested, please send your application to asean.hr@asean.org highlighting your suitability and potential contribution to the position together with a detailed CV, including a recent passport-sized photograph, certified true copies of educational certificates obtained and completed Employment Application Form which can be downloaded at www.asean.org.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Ministry of Energy Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise Invitation for Opened Tender (8/2015)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of Multi Grade Diesel Engine Oil 15W 40 CF4/SG (40)Drums (Open Tender No. MPPE/POL/T/1(2015-2016)) in Myanmar Kyats.

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-12-2015, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 3-12-2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Radiation from Japan nuclear disaster spreads off US shores

PORTLAND — Radiation from Japan's 2011 nuclear disaster has spread off North American shores and contamination is increasing at previously identified sites, although levels are still too low to threaten human or ocean life, scientists said on Thursday.

Tests of hundreds of samples of Pacific Ocean water confirmed that Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant continues to leak radioactive isotopes more than four years after its meltdown, said Ken Buesseler, marine radiochemist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Trace amounts of cesium-134 have been detected within several hundred miles (km) of the Oregon, Washington and California coasts in recent months, as well as offshore from Cana-

da's Vancouver Island.

Another isotope, cesium-137, a radioactive legacy of nuclear weapons tests conducted from the 1950s through the 1970s, was found at low levels in nearly every seawater sample tested by Woods Hole, a nonprofit research institution.

"Despite the fact that the levels of contamination off our shores remain well below government-established safety limits for human health or to marine life, the changing values underscore the need to more closely monitor contamination levels across the Pacific," Buesseler said in an email.

In March 2011, a massive earthquake triggered a tsunami that struck the Fukushima nuclear plant, 130 miles (209 km) north-east of Tokyo, causing tri-



79-year-old Shouhei Nomura checks radiation levels close to the protesters' campsite near Kyushu Electric Power's Sendai nuclear power station in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture, Japan on 8 August. PHOTO: REUTERS

ple nuclear meltdowns and forcing more than 160,000 residents to flee from nearby towns. It was the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

Last year, Woods Hole reported detectable radiation from about 100 miles (160 km) off the coast of northern California, and in April radiation was found off Canada's shores.

The latest readings

measured the highest radiation levels outside Japanese waters to date some 1,600 miles (2,574 km) west of San Francisco.

The figures also confirm that the spread of radiation to North American waters is not isolated to a handful of locations, but can be detected along a stretch of more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) offshore.—Reuters

US gun control activists newly optimistic, but change may be elusive

WASHINGTON — After years of thwarted efforts to tighten restrictions on firearms, gun control activists are heralding the 2016 elections as a watershed moment.

They have more money than ever before to finance their fight. They have Hillary Clinton, the Democratic front runner for president, solidly in their camp, calling for stricter gun controls at campaign stops — a turnaround from her 2008 presidential bid when she kept the subject at arm's length.

And two virtually back-to-back mass shootings — with 14 people shot dead on Wednesday in San Bernardino, California, just five days after a gunman killed three people in Colorado — could be expected to help create a perfect storm for gun control advocates to help elect like-minded candidates at the national, state and local level.

But that seemingly perfect storm may end up being little more than the rumbling of clouds. Even some gun control advocates concede any real change in gun laws is unlikely.

“As much as I would like to say that the current madness that we see in public policy about gun safety will turn around in the next election cycle, I don't think it's likely,” said Charles Phillips, a retired professor at Texas A&M University whose research focused on gun laws and has been involved in the movement for decades.

Everytown for Gun Safety said its membership spiked by 20,000, to 3.5 million, in the hours after the California shooting — in which a young married couple armed with assault-style rifles left their infant daughter in the care of a grandmother before opening fire at a workplace holiday party.

But on Thursday, just one day after the shooting, Senate Democrats who tried to force a vote on an effort to increase background checks on gun buyers met with such intense Republican opposition that the measure never made it to the floor.

America has had a long romance with guns, part of the country's celebration of individual rights, with the right to gun ownership enshrined in the US Constitution's 2nd Amendment.

Efforts to pass gun laws have been met with passionate opposition from gun owners, who are quickly mobilized by the National Rifle Association, even after previous tragedies like the 1999 Columbine High School shooting that killed 13 people.

Gun control advocates say this time is different. Galvanized by the failure of Congress to pass new gun restrictions in 2013 follow-

ing the Sandy Hook school shooting in which 20 children were killed, they prepared for the 2016 elections with a new strategy and far more money.

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg pledged \$50 million, and 75,000 independent donors are also chipping in, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.

“For the first time in history, they are actually outspending the NRA in selected contests, and they are working to build a stronger grassroots base, which has long been the NRA's ace in the hole,” said Robert Spitzer, a political science professor at SUNY Cortland in upstate New York who has authored several books on gun control.

There is public sentiment to support the effort. A Reuters/Ipsos poll from the final days of November found that 66 percent of Americans think gun control needs to be addressed.

Grassroots organizations numbering 3.5 million have been formed in all 50 states with an overarching group organizing their responses. Women voters — often more sympathetic to gun control arguments according to polls — are being targeted. In Maine and Nevada, activists are pushing ballot measures to expand background checks.

“We're really taking a page out of the NRA's playbook,” said Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action on Gun Sense, which is part of Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety group. “It's the first time gun violence prevention has had the money.”—Reuters



An audience member holds a hand lettered sign calling for further gun control at a campaign stop with US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Nashua, New Hampshire on 16 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey row leaves Russia stuck with abandoned gas pipes worth billions

MOSCOW — Gas pipes worth 1.8 billion euros (1.29 billion pound) are to be left stranded on the shores of the Black Sea after Russia's decision to suspend work on the Turkish Stream pipeline, a potent symbol of Moscow's falling out with Ankara.

Russia has set out to punish Turkey after it shot down a Russian warplane in Syria last week, imposing trade sanctions and releasing data it claims proves Turkish President

Tayyip Erdogan is involved in illegal oil deals with Islamic State.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak told reporters on Thursday work on Turkish Stream, a pipeline intended to pump Russian gas into south-eastern Europe via Turkey while bypassing Ukraine, had been suspended.

Shortly afterwards, the head of Italian oil major Eni (ENI.MI), slated as one of the main buyers for the pipeline's gas, said the pro-

ject was dead in the water.

The decision leaves Russian energy giant Gazprom (GAZP.MM) with miles of pipes only useable in the Black Sea.

It ordered pipes from as far afield as Japan and Germany for the 2,400-kilometre (1,491-mile) South Stream pipeline, originally slated to open in 2018, which were then reassigned to Turkish Stream after the project was axed.

Industry sources said

the pipes can only be used for projects in the Black Sea because of their specialised construction. Gazprom will now be forced to put the pipes in storage until tensions between Moscow and Turkey subside.

“These pipes were calibrated for a specific environment, pressure and capacity,” said one source in the pipe-making industry. “Accordingly, they are only suitable for underwater pipelines in the Black Sea.”—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (148N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (148N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (098N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (098N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (098)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (098) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

ADVERTISE WITH US!

- We are Myanmar's highest-circulating English language daily newspaper
- We offer competitive ad rates
- Your ad will be seen by a wide and influential readership

Email: adv.gnlm@gmail.com,
Phone: 09 250107962, 09 251022355

Girls' Generation — TTS launched new Christmas album 'Dear Santa'



South Korean trio TaeTiSeo. PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — South Korean group TTS launched a new Christmas album at midnight local time.

The popular kpop group released the holiday song "Dear Santa" both in Korean and English, and also released the music video of "Dear Santa" with a special Christmas performance.

The video mirrors the song's

production, as the visual opens with the girls looking melancholy (but gorgeous) in red gowns before being transported to a winter wonderland. They window-shop with puppies, ride in sleighs and dance around in their pajamas.

The video was released through TTS's official homepage and YouTube channel.

The album will feature six tracks that sing the joy of the holiday season. The tracks are "Dear Santa" in two versions, "I Like The Way," "Winter Story," "Merry Christmas" and "First Snow." There will be a variety of genres in the new album, including electronic, acoustic and pop.—Xinhua

Ex-frontman for Stone Temple Pilots dies at 48

LOS ANGELES — Rock singer Scott Weiland, the troubled ex-frontman for the band Stone Temple Pilots, died during a tour stop with his new band the Wildabouts in Minnesota, according to a statement posted to his Facebook page late on Thursday.

Weiland, 48, died in his sleep while on tour in Bloomington, in southeastern Minnesota, according to the statement. His death also was reported by TMZ.com and Billboard.

The California-born singer, who had acknowledged a long history of substance abuse, was kicked out of Stone Temple Pilots in 2013 for what his bandmates' attorney called "destructive behavior." He also performed with the group Velvet Revolver for a number of years.

Weiland, known for his growling vocals and shock of dyed red hair, came to symbolise the early 1990s grunge era as lead singer and lyricist for the Stone Temple Pilots. Adept at altering his vocal style, he sometimes sang through a megaphone at concerts.

Weiland's Facebook page gave no details about the circumstances of his death. But celebrity website TMZ, citing

an unnamed source connected to the Wildabouts, reported Weiland was found unconscious on the band's tour bus on Thursday night. Scott Weiland and the Wildabouts were scheduled to perform on Thursday at the Medina Inn, about 20 miles (32 km) northwest of Bloomington, but the show was canceled, the venue said on its website.

Stone Temple Pilots, also known as STP, was co-founded by Weiland in the late 1980s and went on to score such guitar-heavy hits as "Plush" in 1993 and "Interstate Love Song" the following year.

The band broke up in 2003 but reunited five years later only to collapse in acrimony again in February 2013 when his bandmates - Dean DeLeo, Robert DeLeo and Eric Kretz -- forced him out.

Weiland is survived by two children with his ex-wife, Mary Forsberg, who wrote in her 2009 memoir "Fall to Pieces" that there was a time when the couple, while beset by drug addiction, took a limousine together to rehab.

The debut album of Weiland and the Wildabouts, "Blaster," was released earlier this year.—Reuters

Dolly Parton upbringing brought to screen in 'Coat of Many Colours'

LOS ANGELES — "Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors" brings the story of the country star's upbringing to television screens next week in a film that takes its name from one of her songs.

The film, set in 1955 in the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains, is not a musical nor a Parton biopic but "a family-oriented faith-based story", NBC said.

"It's very emotional, very personal to us and I think it's time that we put it out because I think on TV we are missing a few things about family and

faith, so it just seemed to be the right time," Parton said on Wednesday.

"I ain't getting no younger and I wanted to live to see this movie on screen, so I was very proud the way that it turned out."

Alyvia Alyn Lind plays the young Parton in the movie.

"It was so much fun playing her and she was so nice and sweet," she said. "The first time I saw her, I felt like I've known her my whole life."

"Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colours" airs on NBC on 10 December.—Reuters

Coldplay to play 2016 Super Bowl halftime show

NEW YORK — British rock band Coldplay will play the halftime show at the 2016 Super Bowl, according to media reports on Thursday.

The band, lead by frontman Chris Martin, will take the stage at halftime in the game on 7 February in Santa Clara, California, the Wall Street Journal, Us Weekly and Sports Illustrated reported, citing sources.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said on Thursday the halftime show was still being planned. "There will be multiple acts. One will be announced tonight," McCarthy said.

The annual NFL Super Bowl is the most-watched event on US television drawing more than 100 million viewers. Last year's performer was Katy Perry.—Reuters

Madonna brings 'Rebel Heart' tour to London



Madonna performs during a concert in Herring, on 16 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Pop star Madonna performed to thousands of fans in London on Tuesday night on the first of two nights of her "Rebel Heart" tour in the British capital.

The 57-year old sang a mix of chart-toppers from her 30-year

long career as well as new songs from her "Rebel Heart" album. She also played the electric guitar on a rock-inspired remix of her 1983 hit "Burning Up".

Madonna performed alongside a troupe of dancers, dressed

in a range of provocative and traditional outfits.

"Rebel Heart" is the pop star's first album since 2012's "MDNA". She kicked off her international tour in Montreal in September.—Reuters

Selfies under scrutiny at London show



Military cadets take pictures of themselves during a ceremony celebrating the birthday of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej outside the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 December 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — People in London smile the least in their selfies while Moscow's selfie takers are predominantly women dressed to the nines, says a researcher involved in setting up a London

show about selfies.

For its new exhibition "Big Bang Data", Somerset House has commissioned "Selfiecity London," a spotlight on 640 selfies selected out of a total of 152,462

public Instagram images taken in a single week in September in a 5-sq-km (2-sq-mile) radius around the museum. The show opens to the public on Thursday.

The Selfiecity project is led

globally by Lev Manovich, a professor of computer science at City University of New York's Graduate Centre. Selfiecity's eight-person lab compiles and analyses selfies from around the world, the five other cities so far being Bangkok, Berlin, Moscow, New York and Sao Paulo.

Manovich said the project was designed "to see if we can learn new things about cultural differences and cultural behaviour" from selfies, and to make such analysis more democratic for people who lack deep knowledge of computing.

In that respect, he said the most important part of the "Selfiecity London" display was its interactivity function. On a touch screen, visitors can introduce filters and criteria — 'people from London over 35,' or 'very small children' — and observe patterns and trends within that chosen subgroup.

Globally, the findings showed that "every city is unique" in its own peculiar way, Manovich said.

People taking selfies in Lon-

don smiled the least and closed their eyes the most, he said. By contrast, the highest percentages of "strong smiles" were to be found in Bangkok and Sao Paulo, whereas the ratios in Moscow and New York were "significantly" lower.

London selfie takers included more older men than elsewhere: the average male was 28 years old, versus 26.3 for other cities. The youngest selfie takers of all were to be found in Bangkok, where the average age for females was 20.3 and males 22.7.

Moscow had by far the highest proportion of female selfie takers — 82 percent of them were women — and they treated selfies "like a fashion magazine: they're always totally made up, and looking straight at the camera", Manovich said.

The CUNY academic said his team had wanted to include Japan in the study, but couldn't because "when people pose for selfies, they're more elusive: they often don't show their full face, so the software couldn't deal with it".—Reuters

Cambodia to promote 'code of conduct' for visitors to Angkor Wat

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia Yesterday released a TV spot to promote the "code of conduct" for tourists visiting the famed Angkor Wat Temple in northwestern Siem Reap Province.

Produced by the Apsara National Authority, which manages the ancient site, the 4-minute spot advised tourists not to wear revealing clothes, to smoke, to give money and candy to children, and to take a selfie with monks at the temple. The bilingual film, Khmer and English, also tells tourists to avoid littering, touching carvings or sitting on fragile structures and entering restricted areas.

"For the preservation and sustainable development of Angkor, our sacred world heritage site, it's our duty to respect the Angkor Code of Conduct," Apsara National Authority's deputy director general Sok Sangvar said in the film.

"These rules are made in order to prevent negative impacts on our temple, our environment and our culture," he said. Angkor Wat Temple, inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1992, is the kingdom's most popular tourist destination. The site attracted 1.67 million foreign visitors in the first 10 months of 2015, generating a gross revenue of nearly 48 million US dollars from ticket sales, according to the Apsara National Authority.—Xinhua



News Channel in Brief

(5-12-2015, Saturday)

- 6:25 am • Physical Exercise
- 6:40 am • Documentary
- 7:00 am • News/ Weather Report
- 7:30 am • Head Line News
- 7:35 am • Hyper Sports
- 8:00 am • News/ International News
- 9:35 am • MRTV's Youth Programme
- 10:00 am • News/ International News

- 10:35 am • Science and Technology Programme
- 11:00 am • News/ Weather Report
- 11:35 am • Game for Children
- 12:00 noon • News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:30 pm • Head Line News
- 12:35 pm • Round Up of The Week's Local TV News
- 1:25 pm • Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw
- 2:30 pm • Head Line News

- 2:35 pm • Documentary
- 3:35 pm • Hyper Sports
- 4:00 pm • News/ Weather Report
- 4:35 pm • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Zoology)
- 5:00 pm • News
- 5:20 pm • Documentary
- 5:35 pm • Kabayar Yake Myoung
- 6:35 pm • Business News
- 7:00 pm • News/ Weather Report
- 7:15 pm • Radio Drama (Part-1)
- 7:35 pm • Radio Drama (Part-2)
- 8:00 pm • News/ International News/ Weather Report



Entertainment Channel

(5-12-2015, Saturday)

- 6:00 am • Classical Songs
- 6:15 am • Real Story, Real Movie
- 6:30 am • Fashion Music
- 6:45 am • Myanmar Series
- 7:00 am • Cassette Drama
- 8:30 am • Musical Programme
- 8:45 am • Dramatic Arts
- 10:00 am • Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon • Close Down



Myanmar International

(5-12-2015 07:00 am~ 6-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- The Exhibition Hall of The Great Chronicle of Buddha
- 07:53 Am Tea
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:26 Am A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
- 08:53 Am Temple Stalls
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting
- 09:44 Am Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"

- 10:03 Am News
- 10:26 Am Aesthetic Chinlone
- 10:52 Am My Life & My Art

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

Prime Time

- 07:03 Pm News
- 07:26 Pm Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
- 07:45 Pm [Doctor] [Painter]
- 07:50 Pm Today Myanmar: Fish Feed Production
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques

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

Ferguson tips Neville to succeed at Valencia



Former Manchester United player Gary Neville. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has said his old skipper Gary Neville has the leadership skills to be a success as manager of Spanish side Valencia.

Neville replaced former boss Nuno Espirito Santo, who quit on Monday, and the 40-year-old's first match in charge will be Wednesday's must-win Champions League tie against Olympique Lyonnais.

"His leadership skills are strong, he's honest and he's hard working," Ferguson told Sky Sports on Wednesday.

"He is the type of character who is not afraid of making big decisions, which is a vital skill when leading. I think he'll do well and I wish him, and his brother Phil (Neville), good luck."

Neville's assistant will be his younger brother Phil, another former United player who joined Valencia as a coach in the close season.

Gary Neville is the 29th player who featured under Ferguson at Old Trafford to take the top job at a professional club, either on a permanent or temporary basis, United said.—Reuters

Renault said to make full F1 return in 2016

PARIS — Renault will return to Formula One as a constructor next year after signing key contracts on Thursday to acquire the struggling Lotus team.

Announcing the move, a big boost for the sport after months of uncertainty, the French carmaker's chief executive Carlos Ghosn said he wanted the team to be competitive by 2019.

"Renault had two options: come back 100 percent or leave completely," he said in a statement. "After detailed analysis, I made my decision: Renault will be present in Formula One from 2016."

Renault signed a letter of intent in September to take a controlling stake in British-based Lotus, the team it previously owned but sold in late 2009 after a race fixing scandal involving the 2008 Singapore Grand Prix.

Lotus, who employ some 480 staff at their factory in Prime Minister David Cameron's constituency near Oxford, have struggled financially and were facing legal action and possible administration over unpaid taxes.

They had been due back in the London High Court next Monday.

Ghosn said work was under way to implement as quickly as

possible the agreement concerning the acquisition, and key contracts had been signed on Thursday.

"Lotus appeared the best team to partner. We've known each other for 15 years and we were world champions together in 2005 and 2006," the statement said.

The team, which also won world championships with Michael Schumacher under the Benetton guise in 1994 and 1995 before becoming Renault, were renamed Lotus in 2011.

Sponsored mainly by Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, with Venezuelan driver Pastor Maldonado confirmed for next season alongside British rookie Jolyon Palmer, Lotus finished fourth overall in 2013 but slumped to eighth in 2014 with just 10 points.

They ended the 2015 season that finished last weekend a respectable sixth, despite minimal investment and frequent financial obstacles in their way. Bailiffs impounded their cars after the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa and

they were locked out of their paddock hospitality in Japan due to unpaid bills. — Reuters



E.dams-Renault driver Nicolas Prost of France competes in the Formula E Championship race in Beijing. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wenger unsure on extent of Sanchez, Cazorla injuries

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger does not know when Alexis Sanchez and Santi Cazorla will return to action after both players sustained injuries during Sunday's 1-1 Premier League draw with Norwich City.

Sanchez has scored nine goals in 20 appearances in all competitions so far, while Cazorla has made the deep-lying playmaker role his own this season.

Wenger was also unsure when captain Mikel Arteta will return from injury.

"At the moment on Alexis, Santi and Mikel, we don't know how long they will be out for," Wenger told the club's website (www.arsenal.com).

The manager said striker Theo Walcott and defender Laurent Koscielny, who sustained a hip injury in Sunday's game,

could return for Saturday's clash against Sunderland.

Walcott was in fine form before he picked up a muscular injury in the loss to Sheffield Wednesday in late October.

"We will make a decision on Saturday on Koscielny and Walcott, they could both make the squad. (Kieran) Gibbs is available again for the weekend," Wenger said.

Arsenal, who will look to end a three-game winless run in the league against Sunderland at home on Saturday, are eyeing maximum points from what will be a "massive" festive period, winger Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain has said.

The North London side, who are fourth in the table, kick-off their festive fixtures with a clash against leaders Manchester City on 21 December, then travel to the south coast to face South-

ampton, followed by games against relegation candidates Bournemouth and Newcastle United.

"I think it's going to be massive. It is always really important because the games come thick and fast and if you have a good Christmas it can really start your new year off well," Oxlade-Chamberlain said.

"The table can really shuffle around because there are so many games in a short space of time, so it's very important. We are only two points off top spot, so it's vital to capitalise on this period because I do think it's never easy for any side.

"There are always some teams that do slip up or have a few bad results in this period, so it is obviously much better to be one of the sides that comes out of Christmas in a positive way."—Reuters



Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS