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VOTES FROM AFAR

Almost 18,000 votes cast abroad in less than a week

Aye Min Soe

NEARLY 6,600 overseas voters cast advance votes on Sunday for the upcoming general election of 8 November. Since advance voting began on 13 October, the total number of overseas voters rose to 17,498.

The advance voting period will end on 23 October.

About 18 overseas polling stations have been established at Myanmar embassies and consulates abroad.

Some overseas voters expressed criticisms about the inconveniences they encountered while attempting to cast a vote for the historic election, which is the first open general election in 25 years.

"I did not get a ballot paper for the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House)," Thae Thae, who cast an advance vote at the Myanmar embassy in Japan for Yangon's South Okkalappa constituency, told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* over the phone.

"I will phone the embassy before 23 October to confirm whether I will be provided with the missing ballot paper," said the 23-year-old.

Kyaw Naing, 49, a Myanmar national in Singapore, said he was not included on the voter list for the Mayangone constituency when the Myanmar embassy released it publicly on 13 October.



Officials check voters' lists before issuing ballot papers to voters at Myanmar's embassy in Cairo, Egypt. PHOTO: MNA

"Embassy officials asked me to formally lodge a complaint at the embassy. I was asked to return to the embassy to cast my vote on 16 October—which I did and it was fine," he added. Following the

beginning of the advance voting period for overseas Myanmar nationals this week, the Union Election Commission requested on Friday that voters be patient, as such processes are new to Myanmar.

A ballot with a signature of an official of a Myanmar embassy is considered a valid vote, according to UEC. The statement issued by UEC also urged overseas Myanmar nationals who cannot cast advance

votes during the slated period to obtain recommendations from embassy officials to qualify them to cast their votes again on election day. However such voters must be in Myanmar on November 8 to do so.

Print media reminded not to advertise alcohol by ministry

THE Ministry of Information on Monday reprimanded 22 weekly and daily newspapers for publishing advertisements featuring alcohol.

In 2010 the Ministry of Information's Press Scrutiny and Registration Board (PSRB) issued a ban on advertising beer, whisky, wine and tobacco products in print media, due to concerns about eroding morals and encouraging unhealthy habits among Myanmar's youth.

Some local companies,

such as the well-known whisky producer Grand Royal, subsequently launched bottled water brands as a means of averting the prohibition.

However of late, alcohol has begun to reappear in advertising space, prompting the need for a reminder, which was conveyed to editors and publishers by the director of the Ministry of Information's Copyright and Registration Branch in Yangon.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Indonesia to host human trafficking meeting

Delegates will discuss ways to tackle human traffickers in Thailand's fishing industry and the deaths of Myanmar fishermen in Indonesia.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

A MEETING aimed at stepping up regional law enforcement efforts against human trafficking and illegal detention will be held on 21 and 22 October in Bali, Indonesia.

Delegates from Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand will attend the two-day meeting, which is being sponsored by the Australia-Asia Programme to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AATPP).

Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun will lead Myanmar's delegation, which includes officials from the Myanmar Police Force, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, the Department of Transnational Crime, the Myanmar Financial Intelligence Unit and the Union Attorney-General's Office.

Myanmar will discuss the sharing of information about human traffickers in Thailand, as well as the latest anti-human trafficking measures for the Thai

fishing industry, said a spokesperson from Myanmar's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division.

Discussions with Indonesian and Myanmar delegates will likely focus on the selection of witnesses from among those who have been rescued from human traffickers in Indonesia and the number of legal cases opened. Delegates will also discuss issues relating to suspects, detainees, the narcotics trade and ways to tackle the high death toll among Myanmar fishermen in Indonesia.

Yangon Buddhist University holds graduation ceremony



Course completion certificate presented to a P.A.B.E diploma trainee. PHOTO: PHO SHWE THUN (DAWEI)

MONKS and students who passed the entrance examination to attend Yangon Buddhist University were presented with certificates in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

This is the second time the course has been offered — the first time was in 2013. A total

of 11 trainees in Taninthayi Region passed the exam.

The 3rd P.A.B.E diploma course is being conducted every evening in Kyone-mangay, Dawei, with 35 trainees attending the course, which runs until November.

—Pho Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Zeegon centenarian celebrates birthday with donations to Sangha

SENIOR citizen Daw Htwe of Zeegon village in west Bago Region celebrated her 100th birthday by offering donations to the Sang-

ha on 18 October. She gave the donations at Pantitayama Monastery. Zaykyauing Abbot Sayataw U Patita and 14 other monks

gave sermons. Daw Htwe and her family donated monk's robes, cash and other items to the monastery.—Shwe Win



Centenarian Daw Htwe offered robes to monks at monastery in west Bago Region. PHOTO: SHWE WIN

Food security coordination meeting held in Mandalay

THE Food and Drug Administration Department under the Ministry of Health held a food security coordination meeting in Mandalay on 16 October. The meeting was attended by Mandalay Region Food and Medicine Supervision Committee chairman Region Public Health officer Dr Win Naing and other senior officials.

At the meeting, Deputy Director General Dr Sein Thauing of the Food and Drug Administration Department gave an address.

The attendees discussed food

products coming in from bordering countries, plans to make laboratory tests on food products sold in the open market, and a proposal to announce in newspapers whether food products are found to be produced with unhealthy chemicals and dyes, with the coordination of

the city's Development Affairs Committee.

The products and food stuffs sold at schools are to be tested at laboratories from November, according to a meeting attendee.

—Thiha Ko Ko



Deputy Director-General Dr Sein Thauing makes speech at food security coordination meeting in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Automobile Law seminar held in Dawei



Tarffic police officer explains new automobile law in Dawei.

PHOTO: PHO SHWE THUN

THE No. 1 traffic police force in Taninthayi Region conducted a seminar on the Automobile Law, which was passed on 7 September, as it involves the introduction of new road rules. Traffic police

clarified the details of the recently enacted law and its bylaws and shared their experiences with traffic incidents with vehicle owners, car drivers and bus drivers from Dawei District.—Pho Shwe Thun

Mandalay Region FCCI meets Australian guests

THE visiting East Asia director Mr David Landers from Australia's External Trade Department and economic attaché Mr Ross Bray of the Australian embassy

met with members of the Mandalay Region Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, including chairman U Aung Than, at the federation's office in

Chanayethasan Township on 17 October. The attendees discussed economic cooperation and investment opportunities between the two parties.—Thiha Ko Ko



Mr David Landers of Australia's External Trade Department, Economic Attache Mr Ross Bray pose for documentary photo with Mandalay FCCI officials. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Head of EU's election observer mission holds high-level talks in the capital

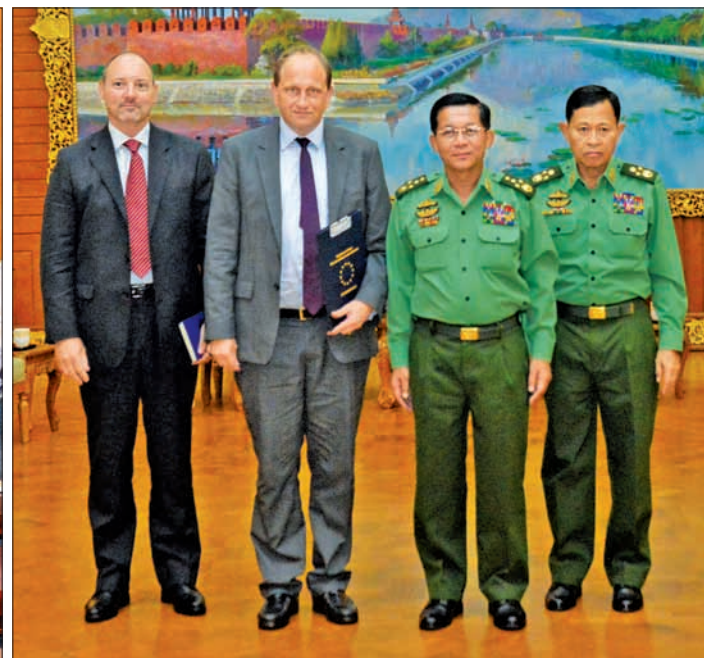
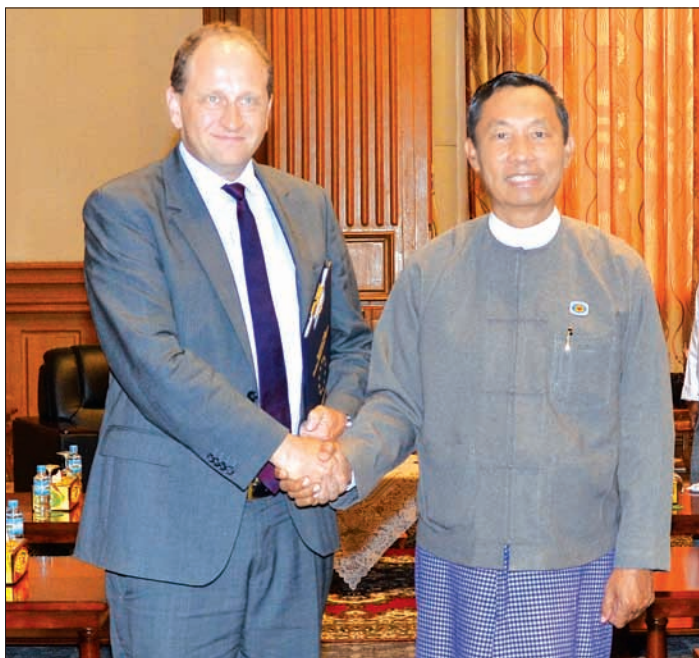
THE deputy speaker of the European Parliament and head of the EU's election observer mission in Myanmar was in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to hold a number of high-level meetings concerning the upcoming election.

Mr Alexander Graf Lambsdorff met with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The senior general spoke of the Tamadaw's [army's] role in ensuring a free and fair general election. Myanmar's constitution grants the military 25 percent of parliamentary seats, which is known in Myanmar as 'disciplined democracy.'

Mr Alexander Graf Lambsdorff later discussed the general election of 8 November with Union Election Commission chairman U Tin Aye, who also met with an American delegation led by Mr Benjamin Rhodes, Deputy National Security Adviser to President Obama.

Topics discussed included advance voting, observation arrangements, implementing a strategic plan for to ensure a free and fair election, the settlement of disputes between political parties during the campaign period, increasing voter participation and the recent signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

The EU's deputy speaker also met with his Myanmar counterpart, union parliament speaker Thura U Shwe Mann. The pair, who were joined by EU ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia, focused on strategies for ensuring a free and fair election, which is being watched keenly by the international community and represents a huge milestone in Myanmar's five-year reform period following a half century of military rule.—*Myanmar News Agency*



EU's election observer mission calls on Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye. PHOTO: MNA

KOICA launching Myanmar Statistical Information Service

KOREA International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will officially launch Myanmar Statistical Information Service (MMSIS) Website in the ceremony of World Statistics Day and Seminar on Development of Statistics at Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw on October 20.

KOICA has carried out the project of the strengthening capacity of the statistics with IT databases in Myanmar with 2 million budgets on 2013-2015. The project includes developing 10-year DB manage-

ment and services system with statistic package and hardware drive such as SAS and SPSS, dispatching Korean experts, and providing statistical training and training equipment.

Myanmar Government announced the national statistics system as one of the key reform areas with top priority. KOICA made a promise to support the Myanmar Government in areas of improving the national statistical database system, by emulating Korea's experience in enhancing statistical system with a help of strong

information technology.

The MMSIS is planned for to access and use statistical data in virtue of database easily and more conveniently and allow Central Statistical Organization (CSO) to enhance credibility internationally.

The ceremony will cover several sections: introducing recent statistical development in Myanmar and MMSIS, importance of quality and accuracy of statistics, and developing statistics issues in various sectors such as macroeconomics, agriculture, trade and investment.—*GNLM*

Lt-Gen Ko Ko talks security with EU delegation

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received a delegation of EU officials yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The delegation was led by EU ambassador Mr Roland Kobia.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun. The attendees discussed the security measures that will be in place on the general election of 8 November, procedures for election monitoring groups and cooperation between the ministry and the EU delegation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Shan State Army and Tatmadaw clash 37 times in October

FIGHTING broke out between the Myanmar Defence Services and the Wanhai faction of the Shan State Army earlier this month. Clashes began when government troops combed an area six miles west of Mongsan village in Mongshu Township, Shan State.

Although the SSA group in Wanhai received permission to establish headquarters in Wanhai following Union-level negotiations on 28 January 2013, some members of the group have built camps in an area 10 miles west of the headquarters. Despite repeated warnings from the Tatmadaw to withdraw to their headquarters in order to preserve peace and stability,

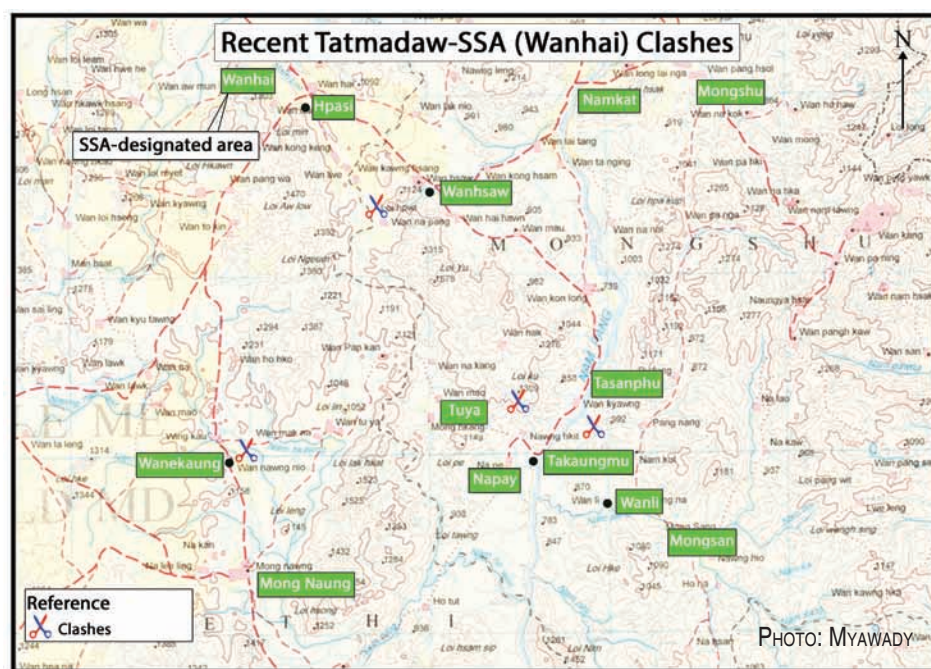
SSA troops refused and launched attacks on the Tatmadaw.

Fighting broke out 37 times between 6 and 19 October. Tatmadaw troops maintained footholds on Point 858, Point 1286 and Point 1309 in the Lwekhula Mountains.

Meanwhile, SSA troops attacked a Tatmadaw camp in Wainkong village on 16 and 18 October but withdrew when members of Tatmadaw and their families defended the camp.

Seven SSA troops were killed, with the Tatmadaw suffering an unspecified number of casualties.

Tatmadaw columns are continuing to patrol the area.—*Myawady*



Mandalay Hill Art Gallery celebrates 14th anniversary



Visitors viewing round 14th anniversary exhibition of Mandalay Hill Art Gallery. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

THE Mandalay Hill Art Gallery will celebrate its 14th anniversary with a series of events from 18 to 31 October. The events will include art exhibitions and impromptu painting demonstrations,

the latter of which will include self-portraits and caricatures.

The gallery is located at the base of Mandalay Hill, near the prominent lion statues of Aungmyathazan Township.

An art exhibition displaying two-metre by 1.5-metre paintings by 38 famous artists has already attracted many local and foreign art enthusiasts to Mandalay Hill.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Ceasefire agreement explained in Mandalay



Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State Army-South U Yawd Serk explains ceasefire agreement to Shan nationals in Mandalay. PHOTO: MAUNG PYITHU

U YAWD SERK, the chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State Army-South (RCSS/SSA-S) spoke to a group of Shan nationals in Mandalay on 18 October. He explained various aspects of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which he signed on 15 October in Nay Pyi Taw, as well as the next steps for

Myanmar's peace process.

The event was held at the Shan Nationals' Association headquarters in Chanayethazan Township. It was also attended by regional minister and Shan national U Saing Maung Hla, members of the University of Shan Literature and Culture Association and local media.

U Yawd Serk said that the NCA is a vital first step towards a democratic, federal nation. He added that through all-inclusive dialogue, the signatories will work together to achieve lasting peace and national reconciliation. He said that establishing a federal union is at the heart of the overall process.—*Maung Pyithu*



Myanmar women entrepreneurs seen at airport before going to Vietnam to attend course titled Productivity Consultancy Trainers Training in Mekong with Social-Economic Focus. PHOTO: TIN TUN AUNG

Mandalay University honours former faculty members

PROMINENT retired faculty members of the Department of Mathematics at Mandalay University were honoured at the department's 17th Respect Paying Ceremony on 18 October.

A total of 84 retired faculty members attended the event at the university's Dhamma Hall, where the department's current

head Professor Dr Ohnma gave the opening speech. The retired faculty members received cash and gifts. They will also be provided with assistance from the Healthcare Fund, which was set up by former students. Retired and current faculty members had lunch with students after the ceremony.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Professor Dr Ohnma present gift to a retired faculty member.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

University of Forestry alumni pay respect to retired professors

THANKS were given for the contributions made by former faculty members at the University of Forestry in Yaysin Zayathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, by students from the class of 2005 on 18 October.

Former rector U Aung Kyin and other faculty members gave speeches and the 40 former fac-

ulty members were presented with cash and gifts from the alumni. They received a total of K36.2 million (US\$28,209), some of which was donated by students living abroad.

A total of 150 guests, including retired and current faculty members and students, attended the event.—*Shwe Ye Yint /U Aung Ko Ko (IPRD)*



A faculty member gives speech at respect-paying ceremony.

PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT /U AUNG KO KO (IPRD)

Nantlan ballot officials begin training course

A TRAINING course for township-level ballot booth officials began in Nantlan in Thibaw Township, Shan State, on 18 October.

Nantlan administrator U Saing Thein Win and township election

commission member U Saing Tin Shwe opened the training session by explaining the duties of chief ballot officers, their deputies and staff. The two-day course was attended by 130 ballot officials

from 16 nearby village tracts and four military battalions. The officers will be deployed to their respective ballot booths on the day of the general election on 8 November.—*U Myint Aung*



Opening of training course for township-level ballot booth officials in progress. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

Malaysia's opposition plans no-confidence motion against PM this week

KUALA LUMPUR — The chief of Malaysia's newly-formed opposition alliance will submit a no-confidence motion in parliament this week against Prime Minister Najib Razak, the head of the grouping said on Monday.

Najib's tight grip on his United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party has kept him in power despite public anger over alleged graft and financial mismanagement at strategic investment fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), whose advisory board the prime minister chairs.

But Najib's grip appears to be loosening, and his position could become precarious if he loses some crucial upcoming votes in parliament. "We will have a motion of no confidence against the Prime Minister, to be tabled by myself as opposition leader," said Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the wife of jailed opposition politician Anwar Ibrahim, and the head of the new Pakatan Harapan alliance. "The rationale is that we have to save this country."

The move will be the opposition's first such coordinated ef-



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak. PHOTO: REUTERS

fort against Najib, Wan Azizah said, after party leaders decided to file a collective motion, retracting and taking over an individual motion submitted last week by one MP.

However, the opposition, which is about 25 seats short of a

majority, is unlikely to win such a vote - provided the speaker does not reject the motion first. Wan Azizah did not say how the opposition would respond to such a rejection. But the action adds to pressure on Najib after a report in July said investigators were looking into 1MDB and had found close to \$700 million deposited in his personal bank account. Reuters has not been able to verify the report.

Najib has denied taking any money for personal gain while the Southeast Asia nation's anti-corruption commission said the funds were a political donation from the Middle East. Najib also faces pressure within UMNO, as the party's old guard, led by former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, calls for his resignation over his alleged involvement in the 1MDB scandal. 1MDB, with debts of more than \$11 billion, is under investigation by authorities in several countries.

A Parliament inquiry into 1MDB was halted midway when Najib reshuffled his cabinet in July, moving several party leaders into government positions.— Reuters

"The rationale is that we have to save this country."

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail
Opposition Leader

Hun Sen warns of possible war if opposition party rules Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen warned Monday that a "new war" would erupt if an opposition party gets a chance to rule the country.

During his speech at a students' graduation ceremony in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said it is not a threat but a "new war will erupt," noting that the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party led by Sam Rainsy would bring about hatred against rich people.

Hun Sen's warning was made in response to a political message delivered recently by Sam Rainsy, who suggested that legal lawsuits would be filed and trials would be held by an independent court against some rogue business people after the opposition party wins the next election.

The premier said the opposition leader's political message was not different from that of Pol Pot, who made a similar

statement against key individuals before he came to power in 1975 and led to mass genocide in the country until the regime collapsed in 1979.

But Sam Rainsy made a counterargument, saying his party will never create hatred against rich business people but rather respects them and needs them to be good models.

He said, however, that he is against terribly rogue businesspeople who have created problems for innocent Cambodians through actions such as land grabbing and deforestation.

Hun Sen has been in power for 30 years, and many now expect his ruling Cambodian People's Party to face a great challenge from the opposition CNRP in the next general election scheduled in 2018. In the last election in 2013, the CPP won 68 seats against the CNRP's 55 in the 123-seat National Assembly.—Kyodo News

Philippine storm weakens after killing at least nine, leaving thousands stranded



Residents use a plastic pipe and an electric wire to cross a flooded road amidst a strong current in Sta Rosa, Nueva Ecija in northern Philippines on 19 October 2015, after it was hit by Typhoon Koppu. PHOTO: REUTERS

STA. ROSA — A typhoon swept across the northern Philippines killing at least nine people as trees, power lines and walls were toppled and flood waters spread far from riverbeds, but tens of thousands of people were evacuated in time.

Officials fear the death toll may rise after Typhoon Koppu tore through the main island of Luzon on Sunday leaving several remote towns and villages isolated due to flash floods and toppled trees and boulders blocking roads. Power was down in many areas.

The storm, downgraded to a category 1 typhoon from category 4, was moving slowly north on Monday and was forecast to weaken to a tropical storm within hours.

"We haven't reached many areas. About 60 to 70 percent of our town is flooded, some as deep as 10 feet (3 metres). There are about 20,000 residents in isolated areas that need food and water," said Henry Velarde, vice mayor of Jaen town in Nueva Ecija Province, north of Manila.

The national disaster agency

said two people died from falling trees and a toppled concrete wall. The coast guard said seven people died at sea. Villages far from rivers in Nueva Ecija were flooded as water from the mountains came rushing down plains and valleys.

"We were not expecting this. Flood waters suddenly swelled around us so we evacuated to higher ground," said Reynato Simbulan, 44, a village councillor who was among hundreds who fled to schools and village halls in Sta. Rosa town in Nueva Ecija.

"We're seven kilometres away from the river but we were still inundated," Simbulan said adding five-foot floods swept away farm animals and some houses made of light materials. Close to 183,000 people had been evacuated from low-lying and landslide-prone areas and brought to shelters, the disaster agency said. About 6,000 people were stranded in various ports across the main Luzon island. An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year.—Reuters

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

Japan says PM sent war shrine offering as individual, China still unhappy

TOKYO — Japan said on Monday that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was acting in a private capacity when he sent a ritual offering to a shrine for war dead, seen as a symbol of Japan's past militarism by many in Asia, but China said he was wrong to do so.

Abe on Saturday sent a "masakaki" ceremonial tree to mark the annual autumn festival at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are enshrined along with the war dead.

"I am aware of media reports that Prime Minister Abe sent masakaki, but the action was done as an private individual, so I don't think it's something the government should comment on," Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said. "I think it's a globally common act to give

prayers to those who gave their lives for their country." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying noted the shrine also honours war criminals. Fourteen Japanese leaders convicted as war criminals by an Allied tribunal after World War Two are also enshrined at Yasukuni.

"China has consistently resolutely opposed these mistaken acts by important Japanese politicians. We urge Japan to face up to and deeply reflect on the history of militarism," Hua told a daily news briefing.

Abe's offering came as China and South Korea, where memories of Japanese occupation and colonialism before and during World War Two persist, are arranging a trilateral summit with Japan, the first leaders' meeting since May 2012.

Japanese media said the talks would be on 1st November in Seoul.

A December 2013 visit by Abe to Yasukuni angered China and South Korea. Recently both Beijing and Seoul have signalled a desire for improved relations with their neighbour.

Last week, Japanese media said Abe invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Japan around spring next year, via a letter delivered by the head of the junior party in Japan's ruling coalition.

Sino-Japanese ties, plagued by their wartime past, concerns over Tokyo's bolder security stance, a maritime territorial dispute and Beijing's increasing military assertiveness, have thawed a little in the last year. —Reuters

Hazy new year: Southeast Asia set to suffer for months as Indonesia fails to douse fires

JAKARTA — Indonesian forest fires that have caused choking smoke to drift across Southeast Asia are spreading to new areas and are unlikely to be put out until next year, experts said on Monday.

Indonesia has come under increased pressure from its neighbours to contain the annual "haze" crisis, which is caused by slash-and-burn agriculture practices, largely on Sumatra and Kalimantan.

But it has failed to put out the fires, with "hot spots" growing in eastern parts of the country and industry officials and analysts es-

timating the smoke will last until early 2016.

"Maybe it will last until December and January," said Herry Purnomo, a scientist at the Centre for International Forestry Research, adding that hot spots had reached Papua, a region that usually avoids widespread fires.

"It is because people are opening new agriculture areas, like palm oil," he said.

A senior official at a company active in Indonesia's forested areas said the haze could continue until March.

Indonesia usually enters its wet season in October and No-

vember, but this year the country is expected to face moderate El Nino dry conditions which could strengthen until December and may hinder efforts to control the fires.

Indonesia's national disaster management agency has made several forecasts for when the forest fires will be brought under control, many of which have now passed, but their latest target date is early November. On the ground, NASA satellites detected 1,729 fire alerts across Indonesia on Wednesday, a national holiday, more than any single day in the last two years. —Reuters

UNSG's Message on World Statistics Day

20 October 2015

Good data and statistics are indispensable for informed decision-making by all actors in society. This was explicitly acknowledged in 2014, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to promote citizen's entitlement to public information.

As countries and organizations embark on implementing the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reliable and timely statistics and indicators are more important than ever. For that reason, World Statistics Day this year is being observed under the theme "Better data, better lives."

We need to ensure that everyone is counted, especially the most poor and vulnerable. No child's birth shall remain unregistered. No incidence of disease, no matter how remote the location, shall remain unrecorded. We need local statistics to ensure that every child has access to education and we need global statistics to monitor the overall effects of climate change.

Over the past 15 years, many countries have made considerable efforts to strengthen their national statistical capacity under the leadership of their national statistical offices. The 2010 Population and Housing Census Round, numerous national survey programmes, as well as administrative data, have contributed around the world to improving the information base for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and have contributed significantly to their success.

At the United Nations, the Statistical Commission has for almost 70 years led the global statistical system. Through its standards and guidelines, the Commission has created a language which enables us to communicate data and to share practical experiences globally. Today, the Commission stands ready to play a key role in developing and implementing a solid global measurement process for the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the monitoring requirements for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals pose a significant challenge to even the most developed countries. We need a data revolution. We need to strengthen statistical capacity and tap into the potential of new technology. We need the contributions and expertise of data producers and users, academia, the private sector and civil society.

On this World Statistics Day, I urge all partners and stakeholders to work together to ensure that the necessary investments are made, adequate technical capacity is built, new data sources are explored and innovative processes are applied to give all countries the comprehensive information systems they need to achieve sustainable development.—UNIC/Yangon

Roadside bomb kills two rangers in Thai south



Military personnel inspect the site where soldiers were attacked by suspected Muslim militants at Sai Buri District in the troubled southern province of Pattani, Thailand, on 19 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — A roadside bomb killed two paramilitary soldiers and wounded five others in violence-plagued southern Thailand, where the military is fighting Malay Muslim insurgents rebelling against rule by the country's Buddhist majority.

The blast hit their vehicle during a routine patrol in the Sai Buri district of Pattani Province, Colonel Pramote Prom-in, a regional security spokesman, told Reuters on Monday.

He estimated that the bomb was as large as 100 kilograms (220 pounds). A Reuters journalist at the site of the attack said it had left a crater large enough for an elephant.

As with most attacks in Thailand's so-called deep south, there was no claim of responsibility.

More than 6,500 people have been killed in unrest since 2004 in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat bordering Malaysia.

Talks aimed at brokering peace between insurgent groups and the Thai government facilitated by Malaysia have largely stalled due to internal discord within rebel ranks and the Thai military, as well as scepticism on both sides.

Members of the insurgent group Barisan Revolusi Nasional (National Revolutionary Front, or BRN), have largely rejected negotiations with Thailand. The latest attack was unlikely to be related to the stalled talks, said Pramote. "The rebels want to use violence and their target was soldiers and civilians as it has been for the past decade," he said. "Their strategy has not changed. It is probably not to do with the talks aimed at peace."

A second, roadside bomb placed around 3 kilometres (1.85 miles) away from the first bomb also exploded but there were no casualties, he said.—Reuters

Merkel's embrace of Turkey draws criticism from Bavarian allies



German Chancellor Angela Merkel meets with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul, Turkey on 18 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy towards refugees and embrace of Turkey drew criticism on Monday from conservative allies, with one senior Bavarian politician warning against any consideration of European Union membership for Ankara.

Merkel's offer to support a faster bid by Turkey to join the EU is a reversal of her view that it should not become a member and underscores how keen she is to secure Turkey's support in stemming the flow of migrants to Europe.

Germany is a favoured destination for refugees fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa and expects 800,000 to a million new arrivals this year. Many Germans feel the country cannot cope with the record influx.

Under pressure within her own party to take a harder line on refugees, Merkel sees Tur-

key's role as key in helping to manage the influx, which has chipped away at popular support for her conservatives.

But her offer to help push forward Ankara's protracted EU membership talks was met with misgivings by some conservative lawmakers on Monday.

"We shouldn't make too many concessions to Turkey: joining the EU is not on the agenda," Gerda Hasselfeldt, a senior member of the Christian Social Union (CSU), sister party to Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), told *Die Welt* newspaper.

"An accession of Turkey to the EU is out of the question for me," Stephan Mayer, a fellow CSU lawmaker told the same paper. Last week, Merkel faced calls from some of her own conservatives to tighten Germany's border controls and turn away refugees arriving from Austria — pressure she has resisted.

But opposition to her handling of the crisis continues to grow, with a group of conservative politicians working on proposals to close the borders and put up fences, daily *Bild* reported on Monday.

"We need to stop the wave of refugees. Examining whether to fortify the borders should not be taboo," CDU lawmaker Christian von Stetten told the paper.

Von Stetten said he was convinced the government had an "effective plan" to deal with the influx of refugees, but added the CDU/CSU parliamentary group would have to react if it turned out in the next few weeks that this assumption was false.

Last week, German lawmakers approved measures to tackle the crisis, including speeding up asylum and deportation procedures and reducing incentives for economic migrants to come to Germany.—*Reuters*

New monument in Serbia for fallen fighters

MALO CRNICE — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic revealed a monument to fallen fighters in the battle for Serbia's liberation during the Balkan War and World War I from 1912 to 1918 on the hill of Vranjevac, municipality of Malo Crnice, on Sunday.

The monument was erected in honour of more than 23,000 officers, soldiers and civilians of the Branicevo District, central Serbia, on the occasion of 100 years of the Battle of Vranjevac in World War I.

The monument was consecrated by Bishop Ignatije of Pozarevac and Branicevo. The head of state and representatives of the government, army and associations of war veterans laid wreaths



Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic revealed a monument to fallen fighters in the battle for Serbia's liberation during the Balkan War and World War I from 1912 to 1918 on the hill of Vranjevac. PHOTO: TANJUG

and paid tribute to the victims.

President Nikolic underlined that this was an epic fight for freedom, peace and independ-

ence, and added that future generations should cherish their history, love and respect for their heroic ancestors.—*Tanjug*

NEWS IN BRIEF

French defence minister must resign if elected in Brittany

PARIS — Jean-Yves Le Drian will have to resign as French defence minister if he wins the presidency of Brittany in December's regional elections, French President Francois Hollande said on Monday.

"He is a candidate, and I have authorised him to be a

candidate and minister of defence," Hollande said on RTL radio. "If he is elected, he knows the rule. The rule I have imposed is one of non-accumulation (of political offices)." Some commentators had speculated that Le Drian might be allowed to hold both posts.—*Reuters*

Kerry: important to agree on steps to calm Israeli-Palestinian unrest

MADRID — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday it was vital that Israeli and Palestinian leaders clarify the status around the al-Aqsa compound and agree on steps that can be taken to calm unrest during talks this week.

Kerry said Israel had a right to protect itself against random acts of violence, and in his conversations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the Israeli leader said

he was committed to maintaining the status quo at the holy site.

"I don't have specific expectations except to try to move things forward, and that will depend on the conversations themselves," Kerry told reporters.

Kerry also said he would meet with leaders from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Russia in Europe later this week to discuss the Syrian conflict.—*Reuters*

Russia studies US proposal for multi-lateral Syria meeting

MOSCOW — Russia is considering a proposal from US Secretary of State John Kerry for a meeting on Syria involving representatives from Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and

Jordan, Interfax news agency said on Monday, citing a source in Russia's foreign ministry.

"We are studying it (the proposal)," the source said.—*Reuters*

Vucic: Serbia ready for regional dialogue on migrants

BELGRADE — Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said Monday at the meeting with Director of the UNHCR Office in Serbia Hans Friedrich Schodder that Serbia is ready for an open dialogue on possible solutions for migrant crisis with all regional, European and international partners.

Vucic thanked the UNHCR for its assistance so far,

and voiced hope that the cooperation will continue to be good, the Serbian government's media relations office issued in statement.

Schodder said that the UNHCR supports the Serbian government's efforts in resolving the crisis, adding that additional facilities for temporary accommodation should be provided.—*Tanjug*

Turkey confirms identity of one of Ankara suicide bombers

ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities have confirmed the identity of one of two suicide bombers who blew themselves up outside Ankara's main train station on Oct. 10, killing 102 people, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Monday.

In an interview on Tur-

key's A Haber TV, Davutoglu said investigations into the second attacker were continuing.

He said 15 people had been detained in connection with the bombing, four of whom had been remanded in custody.—*Reuters*

OPINION

Why bureaucracy stifles innovation

Myint Win Thein

WHEN a sector is liberalised, the new competition from private enterprises often results in state-owned enterprises to suffer losses or even shut down. Several state-run enterprises in Myanmar have been privatised in recent years in order to become more competitive. When the new owners succeed in making a formerly state-run company profitable, the em-

ployees that worked there before it was privatised are often blamed for past inefficiencies. However the real culprit behind the fall of many state-owned enterprises is the strict regulations governing or restraining its operations.

Firstly, tight regulations restrict the ability of employees to perform tasks in a timely manner. Their output is diminished by things like having to wait for permission to launch a new program. Innovation in the work place is possible only with prior approval from management.

A second issue is that regulations decrease the potential competitiveness of a firm. This is because the heads of state-owned firms cannot raise the quality of their products or lower prices on their own volition. Again, they must obtain approval to do so from their superiors, whereas private sectors businesses have a much shorter chain

of command, which allows decisions to be made more quickly.

The level of bureaucracy at state-owned enterprises must be loosened, as doing so will vastly increase their chances of survival in Myanmar's liberalised economy. State-run enterprises will simply be unable to compete if their employees' hands remain tied.

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

Potable Water

U Win Sein

THE origin of water on Earth was said to have covered about 70 percent of the Earth's surface, more or less this is a compatible hypothesis as to how the Earth's surface may have accumulated liquid water over the past 4.6 billion years. It was estimated that the Earth's surface was covered with more water than that of the rocky planets of the whole solar system. Other sources have described that water-materials from the main asteroid belt colliding with the Earth may have brought water to the world to form oceans. Huge quantity of water would have been in the materials which was in the course of formation of the Earth. Water molecules would have escaped Earth's gravity more easily when they were less massive during the formation period of the Earth. However a fair fraction of the materials should have been vaporized by the powerful impact creating a rock-vapor atmosphere around the young planet which would have condensed with a two thousand years period leaving behind hot volatile components which probably resulted into a heavy carbon-dioxide atmosphere with hydrogen and water vapors, and liquid watered oceans in existence, despite the Earth's surface temperature of 230 ° C due to the atmospheric pressure of the heavy CO₂ condition. Water is the most studied materials on Earth, but it is remarkable to find that the science behind its behaviors was poorly understood [or ignored] not only by the people in general but also by scientists working with it every day.

In the fall of 2008, it was found by the Australian Hadean Rock holding materials that pointed to the existence of plate tectonics as early as 4 billion years ago. This was rather a hot molten surface and an atmosphere with full of carbon-dioxide, the then Earth's surface would be very much like as it is today. The actions of the

plate tectonics had trapped the vast amount of carbon-dioxide thereby eliminating the greenhouse effects and leading to much cooler surface temperature for the formation of a solid rock [Earth] possibly even living microcosm in it.

There is a complexity of many scientists' sources that giving their findings in different ways for the origin of the Earth. But we can assure ourselves that the formation of the Earth has been started very far away in the past, so that whatever findings that came from reliable sources are said to be as nearly true as possible. During the late heavy bombardment of massive objects probably from the outer solar system hit the Earth was possible that these objects were filled with water and could have delivered some gigantic reservoirs of water to fill the Earth, so that astronomers began to wonder that from these clues to our planet Earth's water was lying in the asteroid belt. How has water arrived on our planet, the likely possibilities are:

[a] When planet Earth has been formed 4.5 billion years ago, mostly accumulated from cloud of dusts

[b] It has arrived soon afterward from an accumulation of water containing rocky asteroids 4.5 billion years ago.

[c] It has arrived somewhat later from icy comets 4.00 billion years ago.

Water security is the capacity of the population to ensure that they continue to have access to potable water. It is an increasing concern arising from population growth, drought, climate change, oscillation between El. Nino and La Nina effects, urbanization, up-stream pollution, over allocation of water licenses by Government agencies and over-utilization of ground water from artesian wells thus making water security rapidly declining in many parts of the world.

The concept of water stress

and water security are relatively new. Fifty years ago, there were fewer than half the current number of people on this planet, the common perception was that water was an infinite resource. Today the competition for water resources is much more intensive. This is because there are now nearly seven billion people on this planet, their consumption of water; thirsty meat and vegetables etc is rising and so resulted into an increasing competition for water from industry, urbanization and biofuel crops. The total amount of availability of fresh water supply is also decreasing because of climate change, which has caused receding glaciers, reduced streams and rivers flow and shrinking lakes, many aquifers have been over-pumped, with no remedy to replenish them. The world's total supply is yet not being used up, though very much of which has been polluted, salted and unsuitable for drinking, for industry and agriculture uses.

To measure the water crisis of a country, a popular approach has been found to rank countries according to the amount of annual water resources available per person. According to Falkenmark water stress indicator, a country or region is said to experience "water crisis" when annual water supply has dropped below 1,700 cubic meters per person per year. At level between 1,700 and 1,000 cubic meters per person per year, the periodic or limited water shortage can be expected. When water supply has dropped below 1,000 cubic meters per person per year, the country is facing a "Water scarcity".

The United Nations FAO has described that by 2025, 1.9 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity and two-thirds of the world of the world population could be under stress condition. It is recognized that the water crisis is set to become a permanent feature

The Peace Process POEM:

The peace process has commenced with the signing on October fifteen of the year Two Thousand and Fifteen; of the much awaited Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement most of the provisions of which are based on the proposals of the ethnic armed organizations although some of them were not yet ready to sign. However, the door has been left open for them to sign the NCA at their own option. To the layman, the event will in history be recorded as the end of armed conflicts which with independence started. A resounding vote of thanks to the Union President for the success of the NCA, his unreserved commitment and his Government's efforts for bringing to fruition it's unswerving avowed political vision and thanks to the Leaders of the Armed Groups as well who spared no effort for the negotiations to prevail. Next thanks to the Chairmen of the two Hluttaws And the Chief of the Defense Forces for their stand which contributed to the success of the negotiations and, thanks also to the various Groups and Political Parties for their support vis-a-vis the peace process. Thanks also to the representatives of EU, UN and the diplomats who with the President and others, the signing witnessed. Finally, thanks to the Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons and the Committees for their relentless efforts in negotiating the NCA with success and paving the way for Myanmar to peace and progress.

Layman

of British life, so that water scarcity has become a way of life for Britain. Added by the World Bank that climate change could profoundly alter future pattern of both water availability and usage, thereby increasing level of water scarcity, as the old saying goes 'water' 'water' everywhere—for we have not a drop to drink "

As geologists say that the first potable water on Earth is an irreplaceable products and up to now most of them are embedded in the inner parts of our planet EARTH, we, the people of the world, must find ways and means to use them efficiently so as to avoid the global water crisis in future.

The United Nations has made initiatives to raise the issues of stress and scarcity of water to all people of the world in the following methods:

—World Water Day 2007 was dedicated to the slogan 'Coping with water scarcity' The increasing significance of water

scarcity and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both of international and local levels.

—World Water Day to combat desertification 2013. The slogan of 2013 World Water Day to combat desertification and droughts and water scarcity so goes the slogan "Don't let our future dry up" calls for everyone to take action to promote preparedness and resilience to water scarcity, desertification and droughts.

The slogan embodies the message that we are all responsible for water and land conservation and sustainable use and that there are solutions to these serious national resources challenges.

About the author

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From Convocation and Graduation to Nation Building

Dr. Nyan Tun

TODAY (15-10-2015) is an auspicious day for our Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College called NRDC (Yangon) that the college has produced human resources for the 12th time. The college confers her 12th time convocation to 176 nationalities youths to whom we must say as trained and educated valuable human resources for border areas as well as for the nation building and convocation was conducted under the banner of the University of Yangon for the college is affiliated with the University of Yangon. The graduate students took oaths of allegiance at the present of the rector and then, the rector confers Arts and Science degree certificates to the students at the convocation hall of NRDC. This emotional feeling makes me to write this article to congratulate those qualified human resources on having done excellent steps for their future as ambassadors to their respective regions in the country.

I would like to share my experience while studying at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), in Varanasi, India. All foreign students who came to study at BHU shared boarding together at International Students Hostel on the campus and we celebrated International Hostel Day annually. Whenever celebrating that event, we always invited our Vice Chancellor (VC) as our special guest. Even though busy scheduled, Vice Chancellor never failed to attend the event if he would not be out of station. At that event, Vice Chancellor used to urge the international students by saying "You are the ambassadors of your countries so please convey the good message of BHU to your countries that you enjoyed while studying here." Vice Chancellor emphasized the important roles that youths play in society for the future.

As I mentioned earlier, the products of NRDC are the ambassadors of their respective regions because all of students, who were selected to study at NRDC, are young ethnic students especially those who are living in remote and border areas. Most of the people who live in those places are underdeveloped in education, social, economic, health, communication as well as transport due to several reasons. What we can say is that ethnic conflict or civil war is one of the reasons that created the regions poverty, underprivileged and underdeveloped.

It is a remarkable coincidence on this day (15-10-2015) that the government of the Union of Myanmar and eight ethnic armed groups signed a nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) which was witnessed by representatives from the European Union, the United Nations and diplomats. This peace deal signed is a great benefit for the entire people especially to those who live in the conflict areas.

Most of the nationalities youths who are studying at NRDC live in the above mentioned places. Before the signing peace deal, U Thein Sein, the president of the Union of Myanmar, delivered an opening speech and the present said, "Today is a historic and significant day for Myanmar. The road to future peace in Myanmar is now open. Due to internal armed conflicts, hundreds of thousands of civilians living in conflict zones suffered under the ravages of war. Those affected are none other than our fellow ethnic nationals and citizens." The international communities either East or West welcomed the signing of a ceasefire agreement. The United States commends all sides for their ongoing efforts to bring an end to the longest-running civil conflict in the world.

I am proud of being one of the teaching staff at NRDC which produces qualified human resources yearly. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Min Thant, the principal of NRDC, to whom I owned a great debt of gratitude. As a Karen nationality, I am really proud of serving at the Department of Nationalities Affairs. After learning the historical background of NRDC, it makes me a wonderful surprise how the successive governments have been carrying out to uplift the life and welfare of remote nationalities.

NRDC, which is under the Department of Education and Training, Ministry of Border Affairs, is creating higher educational opportunity to the minority youths from border and remote areas to gain human resources and implement the development tasks in those areas by upbringing those youths. The ministry laid down six objectives for NRDC which is based on Union Spirits and the sixth one is "To assign the graduates to the appropriate tasks associated with the development work in their respective regions after attaining higher education." To carry out its objectives, NRDC has been producing qualified youths to perform the development task of their respective regions with might and main. According to records, NRDC has been producing over 2442 qualified human resources within one and half decades.

The ministry gives opportunity to national race students who passed matriculation exam, living in remote and border areas, able to speak their mother languages, single and healthy and finally they must pass the writing and oral test for admission to NRDC held by the Administration Selection Committee. Even though the above mentioned are eligible to those students, as adopted policy those who are orphan, motherless, fatherless or the poor must be given priority.

There are over 135 types of national races both majority and minority enjoying and sharing feeling through thick and thin in motherland. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights signed by United Nations in 1948, "Everybody has the rights

to an education." Every Myanmar citizen has equal rights in education. Minority races in Myanmar have more rights in education and life carrier. By checking the list of students of NRDC, most of students who were selected at NRDC are minority. After getting admission, all selected students must make a bond with the authorities that they surely will carry out the assigned tasks especially in border and remote areas as soon as obtaining their respective diploma and degrees. It means the ministry has entrusted long-life carrier for all students as reliable human resources and their life have been secured in society so the government has been giving more privilege to minority youths in the country. By looking at the list of students it makes me surprise that I have never heard even the name of some minority groups. The national races who are studying at NRDC are Kachin, Kadu, Kanan, Kayar, Karen, Khami, Khumee, Chin, Dynet, Dhanu, Naga, Palaung, PaOh, Mon, Myo, Yintalee, Rakhing, Shan, Rawan, Lesu, Larhu, Wa/Lwela, Inthar, Arkha, Bamar and Taungyoe. Most of them are minority.

The students have to learn Arts, Science subjects a degree and Engineering subjects as a diploma. The curriculums and syllabus are the same as those affiliated Universities. In addition to those subjects, they have to learn three additional subjects: Union Spirit subject to consolidate the union spirits and amity among the nationalities and to foster and believe three main National Causes; Cultural subject for understanding and cherishing the culture, tradition and customs; and *Abhidhamma* subject to know and apply the art of living in their daily life. As I mentioned earlier, they have more privileges compared to any other students for they are provided everything free not only education and training but also food, accommodation and so on. They have been trained and educated systematically as scheduled academic years. In final year, students have to write term papers in partial fulfillment of requirement for the degree which covered every field as assigned to them. After final exam, all final students have to read their papers at the convocation hall. At paper reading ceremony so called college seminar, Dr. Min Thant, the principal, delivered a welcome speech. He said, "This is a special chance for you. No any other Universities in Myanmar have this paper reading opportunity for undergraduate. Paper reading is the academic and essence works of our college for you so present your papers actively as your best." I participated at the paper reading ceremony and some students read their papers not only data collection but also giving their comments on it so some papers prove that the efforts of students are really helpful for respective field and the nation.

The 13th time of graduation ceremony was held at the same

venue in the morning of the next day (16.10.2015). H.E Union Minister for Border Affairs, Let-Gen Kyaw Swe, and invited guests, responsible persons, graduate students and their parents and relatives wearing their colorful traditional costumes attended the ceremony. H.E Union Minister delivered a speech and in his speech, he focused on the tasks implemented and carried out in every sector by the government, the development tasks of the ministry, the ongoing carrying out of the two objectives of the Department of Education and Training, providing development schools, vocational schools for girls which are really in need in remote and border areas, valuable human resources that have been produced by the ministry, the addressed made by the president at the meeting with the leaders of ethnic armed groups at MICC-2, the natural disaster affected areas and so on that covered the present situation of the country. He said, "Today is the honorable day for the future of the country that we can produce the valuable human resources of all nationalities races for the 13th time. You have been educated and trained as qualified human resources and you are entrusted to perform your jobs in different ministries to serve and shoulder the welfare and benefit of the people so you should carry out our duties with might and main by keeping Union Spirits and brotherhood in the places where you are assigned. Especially, to join hand together at people center development projects and working peace process."

Then, the minister gave prizes to two outstanding Arts and Science students and presented a certificate to Saya Han (*Mahasadhammajotikadhaja*) on behalf of the *Abhidhamma* teachers who taught and guided to the student to pass *Abhidhamma* examination the whole Myanmar first organized by Ministry of Religious Affairs.

As scheduled program, the ceremony will be concluded and no one would think that the Union Minister will deliver a speech for the second time. Actually, H.E the minister did not make a speech but expressed his life and experience to the assembly especially to the graduate students frankly how he had to try hard and encounter in his life from childhood to the present position. I believe that the minister wanted every student to keep on learning in life that will benefit one's life. This is his genuine volition and intention by sharing personal experience.

He said, "What all of you must keep in mind is that I am Myanmar and Myanmar citizen by avoiding narrow minded such as I'm Karen. I'm Shan and so on. We all live in our motherland through thick and thin. We founded this college to produce valuable human resources and don't keep books on the shelves after graduation but keep on learning either you are qualified or not. When-

ever you have your time, try to read that will enrich your knowledge and life that can assist the development projects of the nation. I served as a rector/ principal of Defense Services Academy and I emphasized this reading habit to officers and students. We have to associate with international communities so you should always pursue knowledge. Only if you have sufficient knowledge, you can earn your life easily so don't be contented with formal education taught and trained by the college. Knowledge bank is nothing but reading but you must consider which books are useful and which are poisonous for you.

Let me tell you my life, Let-Gen Kyaw Swe, the one who is standing in front of you, a native of Kyaukpadaung, was a student of monastic education boarded at monastery and had to face hardship in life. I had to try my life from monastic student up to Let-General without having any privilege. What I wanted to tell you here is that even a monastic student like me had achieved the highest position. You have much privilege here so you should try hard better than us. I was weak in English because we had to learn English when we were in standard five in our times. I have to face so much difficulty being weak in English throughout my life. Now, due to my past meritorious actions as well as making great effort in life I have reached this position. We have to associate with International communities and we have to communicate with any foreigners so we have to face many difficulties whenever keeping in touch with them. Therefore, I try to read it daily at least per page in a day. This is the present situation that I have to face so I shared my experience to you so I don't want you to be like me. I want to suggest you that I am getting old and you are new generations and you have more chances to learn so I want you to try hard in life."

I was being flown the lecture of our H.E Union minister and I learned his pure and genuine volition to the new generation human resources not to face any difficulty in their life by giving his personal lessons whatever situation comes to them. He encouraged graduate students two important points in life; one is to do long life learning and the other is to be perfect in English.

I firmly believe that all graduate students would keep in their mind the forceful message which is invaluable experience admonished and encouraged by the Union Minister. As I stated earlier, graduate NRDC students who are qualified human resources have been systematically trained as well as ambassadors to their respective regions. Therefore, from convocation and graduation, they will spread the scent of their Alma Mata, NRDC and carry out the nation building and development tasks in places where they are assigned to by keeping Union Spirit and brotherhood spirits.

Yemen's abundant guns fuel its messy civil war

MARIB — Celebratory tracer fire from a wedding lights up the night sky over Marib, a city that is heavily armed even by the standards of Yemen, where the ready availability of weapons helped start civil war and is now preventing anyone coming out on top.

Yemenis often say there are three guns for every person, a boast that has become an urgent concern in a country where the United Nations says the humanitarian situation is "critical".

The precise number of weapons is impossible to verify, but the profusion of arms on display in Marib makes the three-to-one claim look not far off.

Almost all of the men walking in the city centre, their cheeks full of the mild narcotic qat leaf, had an assault rifle slung across a shoulder; many of them also sported pistols in garish holsters or had hand grenades in jacket pockets.

More than 5,400 people have been killed since March in a conflict perpetuated by shifting alliances based on region, religion, tribe and drawn into a Saudi-Iranian Cold War.

Easy access to weapons has enabled widely ranging groups to enter the fighting, including Islamist militants who have seized control of the port city of Mukalla, several hundred kilometres (miles) east of Marib in the Hadramawt region.

United Nations experts cited the abundance of arms in Yemen as a regional worry in 2013, when al Qaeda linked militants already had a major base in the south, but the war has given such worries even greater urgency.

Houthi militia, allied to Iran, and troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, were closing in on Marib a month ago, but were forced back by local fighters, some trained by Gulf countries, which assisted them with air strikes.

The Houthis and Saleh's forces have now been pushed into the hills 30 km away, but the periodic sound of distant explosions is constant evidence in Marib that the war remains only a short drive away.

A slight 18-year old in a brown robe and turquoise headscarf, rifle dangling casually over his arm, said the first thing he did when his village of Arhab near the capital Sanaa was overrun by the Houthis was to go to a famous arms market.—Reuters

Balkans struggles with growing backlog of migrants



Migrants protect themselves from the rain as they wait to cross the Croatian border near the village of Berkasovo, Serbia, on 19 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERKASOVO — The Balkans faced a growing backlog of migrants on Monday, thousands building up on cold, wet borders after the closure of Hungary's southern frontier diverted them to Slovenia.

In desperate scenes, several thousand people, many of them Syrians fleeing war, spent the night on the muddy ground of no-man's land between Serbia and European Union-member Croatia. "Open the gate, open the gate!" they chanted, held back by lines of Croatian police. In Croatia, about 1,800 people were halted on a train short of the Slovenian border, where Slovenian police barred access with an improvised fence. They disembarked

and walked along the tracks, wrapped in raincoats or plastic sheeting against the rain. Around 150, mainly families with children, were allowed to cross the frontier, the rest spent the night in the open, warming themselves around open fires.

"People were fighting last night for a tent; we were sitting under blankets and we are now wet and cold."

Idris
Iraqi migrant

After Hungary closed its border with Croatia to migrants on Friday, the unrelenting flow — en route to Austria and Germany, the favoured destination — has been diverted to Slovenia.

But Slovenia, a country of two million people, has imposed a daily limit of around 2,500, saying it will only take in as many as can exit into Austria, forcing Croatia too to ration entry from Serbia with its own refugee camps full to capacity. Upwards of 5,000 people are flowing across Balkan borders daily, from Greece into Macedonia and Serbia, both poor former Yugoslav republics with barely the capacity to cope.

"We don't have any more

raincoats," said Dr Ramiz Momeni, director of the UK-based Humanitas Charity, helping out on the Serbia-Croatia border.

"There's a bottleneck of people that can't get anywhere so they have to stay here in the rain. Some of these people have been here under sheets for 12 hours. Of course, they're going to get sick."

Slovenia said Austria was accepting a maximum of 1,500, far fewer than were previously entering from Hungary, but a spokesman for the Austrian Interior Ministry denied Vienna had set any limit. "People were fighting last night for a tent; we were sitting under blankets and we are now wet and cold," said an Iraqi man called Idris, waiting in the rain to enter Croatia from Serbia.

The arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees this year to Europe's shores, fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia by boat across the Mediterranean and Aegean, has exposed deep divisions in the EU.

Hungary's right-wing government says the mainly Muslim migrants pose a threat to Europe's prosperity, security and "Christian values", and has sealed its borders with Serbia and Croatia with a steel fence and new laws that rights groups say deny refugees their right to seek protection.

The EU has agreed a plan, resisted by Hungary and several other ex-Communist members of the bloc, to share out 120,000 refugees among its members. It is also courting Turkey with the promise of money, easier EU travel for Turks and "re-energised" accession talks if Ankara tries to stem the flow of migrants across its territory.—Reuters

Eritrean mistaken for gunman killed in Israeli bus station attack

JERUSALEM — An Eritrean migrant, shot by a security guard and kicked by an angry Israeli crowd that mistook him for a gunman, was identified on Monday as one of the dead from an attack on a bus station in the southern city of Beersheba.

The Eritrean agricultural worker was named by his employer as Mila Abtum. In what some Israeli media described as a lynching, captured on amateur video on Sunday, the attack on Abtum underscored a mounting sense of panic and anger over a wave of Palestinian attacks that shows no sign of abating.

The violence over the past two weeks has killed 41 Palestinians, including assailants and demonstrators at anti-Israeli protests, eight Israelis and now one Eritrean. It was set off in part by Palestinians' anger over what they see as increased Jewish encroachment on Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque complex.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, due to hold separate meetings this week with Israeli and

Palestinian leaders, said on Monday it was vital they clarify the status around the compound, also revered by Jews as the location of two destroyed biblical temples.

"I don't have specific expectations except to try to move things forward, and that will depend on the conversations themselves," Kerry told reporters in Madrid.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he seeks no change to the decades-old status quo in which Israel bans Jewish prayer at the al-Aqsa site in the walled Old City of East Jerusalem, captured along with the West Bank in a 1967 war.

In a bid to stem the most serious Palestinian attacks on its streets since an uprising a decade ago, Israel has poured hundreds of troops into its cities and set up roadblocks in Palestinian neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem.

But in Beersheba, an attacker who police said was a Bedouin citizen of Israel entered the heavily guarded station armed with a pistol on Sunday and shot dead a

soldier before snatching his rifle and opening fire on the crowd, wounding nine people.

Police shot the assailant dead, and initially reported there had been a second gunman. On Monday, they said there had been no other attacker and an investigation had been opened into the migrant's death.

Amateur video showed a security guard shooting the Eritrean. Lying on the ground bleeding, and with armed paramilitary police surrounding him in an apparent effort to protect him, he was kicked in the head several times by people who slipped through the loose cordon.

Nitza Neuman-Heiman, Deputy Director General of Soroka Medical Centre, told Army Radio the Eritrean died of gunshot wounds and the injuries he sustained from the kicks.

Sagi Malachi, his employer, described Abtum as a quiet, modest man who had traveled to Beersheba to renew his visa.

"The country is in a state of chaos. Civilians are confused,

people are taking the law into their own hands," Malachi said on the radio.

Israeli police erected a 10-metre (33-ft)-long concrete barrier on Sunday on a street that borders the East Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhood of Jabel Mukabar, and an adjacent Jewish neighbourhood.

Police called it a temporary precaution to prevent rocks and petrol bombs from being thrown at the Jewish dwellings. But it caused outrage at a meeting of Netanyahu's security cabinet on Sunday, political officials said, because it was seen as essentially dividing Jerusalem. Netanyahu, one official said, ordered police not to extend the barrier.

Israel considers all of Jerusalem, including the eastern part that it annexed after the 1967 conflict, as its "indivisible and eternal capital", a status that has not won international recognition. Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of a state they seek to establish in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.—Reuters

FDA eye drug rebuff adds to Shire's woes in Baxalta pursuit

WASHINGTON — Shire Plc suffered a setback for its most important pipeline medicine late on Friday, adding to the group's problems as it pursues Baxalta Inc to forge the leading global specialist in rare diseases.

The Irish company said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had declined to approve its new eye drug lifitegrast and had requested an additional clinical study.

The news comes just over a week before the FDA was supposed to make a decision on the treatment for dry eye disease, which analysts have penciled in as a potential \$1 billion-a-year-plus seller.

Shire said it received a so-called complete response letter from the FDA. Such letters are sent out to let a drug developer know a marketing application will not be approved in its present form.

The setback is likely to hit shares in Irish-based Shire, which have already lost more than a fifth of their value since it announced an all-share offer to buy US rival Baxalta in early August,

which was worth \$30 billion at the time. Shire's stock has been hit both by uncertainty over the Baxalta bid and a wider rout in pharmaceutical stocks, triggered by mounting investor concerns about political pressures on US drug prices.

Shire, as a major producer of treatments for rare diseases, makes some of the most expensive drugs in the world.

There has recently been speculation that Shire might turn its attention from Baxalta to a more manageable target like Radius Health Inc, which has a market value of just under \$3 billion.

Shire said the FDA had requested more information related to product quality, as well as data from a further clinical trial.

The company recently completed a Phase III study of lifitegrast that is expected to be the basis of its response to the FDA's letter. Initial results from this study are expected before the end of 2015 and, and if positive, Shire said it would submit them to the FDA during the first quarter of 2016.

"We will work quickly to

address the FDA's requests related to lifitegrast, as we are committed to delivering a new prescription treatment option for the 29 million adults in the US living

with the symptoms of this chronic and progressive disease," Shire's research head Philip Vickers said in a statement.

Chronic dry eye syndrome

affects the eye's tear-producing glands, causing patients to suffer from blurred vision and an itching or a burning sensation in the eyes.—Reuters



A sign sits in front of Shire's manufacturing facility in Lexington, Massachusetts. PHOTO: REUTERS

Scientists create artificial 'skin' that could feel sensation

WASHINGTON — US researchers said Thursday they have created a plastic "skin" that is capable of distinguishing the pressure difference between a limp handshake and a firm grip and then transferring these sensory signals to the brain cells.

For the many people around the world living with prosthetics, such a system could one day allow them to feel sensation in their artificial limbs, they reported in the US journal Science.

"This is the first time a flexible, skin-like material has been able to detect pressure and also transmit a signal to a component of the nervous system," said Zhenan Bao, a professor of chemical engineering at the Stanford University, who led the 17-person research team responsible for the achievement.

The heart of the technique is a two-ply plastic construct: the top layer creates a sensing mechanism and the bottom layer acts as the circuit to transport electrical signals and translate them into biochemical stimuli compatible with nerve cells.

For the top layer, Bao's team combined plastics and rubbers with billions of carbon nanotubes to create the plastic sensor to mimic human skin, which transmits pressure information as short pulses of electricity, similar to Morse code, to the brain.

The team then hooked this pressure-sensing mechanism to the second ply of their artificial skin, a flexible electronic circuit

that could carry pulses of electricity to nerve cells.

One challenge is that the team had to prove the electronic signal could be recognized by a biological neuron.

Thanks to a technique called optogenetics, the team engineered a line of mouse brain cells to simulate a portion of the human nervous system.

In the experiment, they translated the electronic pressure signals from the artificial skin into light pulses, which activated the brain cells, proving that the artificial skin could generate a sensory output compatible with nerve cells.

Optogenetics was only used as an experimental proof of concept, Bao said, and other methods of stimulating nerves are likely to be used in real prosthetic devices.

There are six types of biological sensing mechanisms in the human hand, including touch, temperature and pain, but the new work only allowed the plastic "skin" to detect how hard it is being pressed.

Ultimately, Bao wants to develop different sensors to replicate, for instance, the ability to distinguish corduroy versus silk, or a cold glass of water from a hot cup of coffee.

"We have a lot of work to take this from experimental to practical applications," Bao said. "But after spending many years in this work, I now see a clear path where we can take our artificial skin." —Xinhua

Australia to allow marijuana to be grown locally for medical trials

PERTH — Australia is altering its drug laws to allow for the cultivation of marijuana for medicinal and scientific purposes, removing a major hurdle to the establishment of clinical trials of the drug, the government said on Saturday.

Draft amendments to the Narcotics Drugs Act are being finalised to allow for the controlled cultivation of marijuana, giving patients access to "a safe, legal and sustainable supply of locally produced products for the first time," Health Minister Sussan Ley said in a statement.

Australian manufacturers, researchers and patients currently have to access international supplies of legal medicinal marijuana, with cost, limited supply and export barriers making this challenging.

Allowing for the controlled

cultivation of marijuana in Australia will provide the critical "missing piece" where laws already exist to license the manufacture and supply of medicinal cannabis-based products, but local production of the crop remains forbidden, Ley said.

"This government is incredibly sympathetic to the suffering of those Australians with debilitating illnesses and we want to enable access to the most effective medical treatments available," Ley said.

The government plans to create a licensing scheme to ensure that the cultivation of marijuana meets Australia's international obligations and to manage the supply of the drug from farm to pharmacy.

"Allowing the cultivation of legal medicinal cannabis crops in Australia under strict controls

strikes the right balance between patient access, community protection and our international obligations."

Several Australian states have already announced clinical trials for medicinal cannabis. Under Australian law, decriminalization and medical trials come under state government jurisdiction. The Federal government is responsible for the regulation of the growing and importation of the drug.

The proposed changes to the legislation could pave the way for a new medicinal cannabis industry with export potential.

Last year, Australia's first initial public offering in a medicinal marijuana company, MMJ PhytoTech Ltd <MMJ.AX>, was three times oversubscribed.—Reuters

Efforts needed to increase TCM global presence

NANCHANG — Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has gained global attention once again after Tu Youyou, a Chinese researcher who was inspired by TCM when discovering anti-malaria compound Artemisinin, won the 2015 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

But Fang Shuting, president of the China Association of TCM, pointed out that although Tu's achievement will promote TCM globally, more efforts are needed to improve the manage-

ment of pharmaceutical firms and quality of medicinal herbs in China.

The statement was made during a medicine trade fair which concluded Sunday in Zhangshu City of Jiangxi Province. According to Fang, nearly 1,600 out of more than 4,000 pharmaceutical companies in China are traditional medicine firms, most of which are low-tech and poorly managed.

"The government should support the mergers and reorganizations of traditional medicine

firms since standardized and well-managed enterprises can gain more opportunities in the industry," Fang said.

So far, China has established more than 600 bases for planting traditional Chinese herbs, covering an area of over six million mu (400,000 hectares). However, the quality of medicinal herbs in the market varies. Fang advocated strengthened supervision on quality and increased use of advanced technologies in planting and processing.—Xinhua

Rich nations lag in 'fair share' of climate action

BONN — The United States and other rich nations are doing less than their fair share to fight climate change under a UN accord due in December while China is outperforming, a report by 18 civil society groups said on Monday.

Overall, governments' pledges for curbs on greenhouse gas emissions are not enough to limit a rise in temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), seen as a threshold for damaging heat waves, downpours and rising sea levels, it said.

"The ambition of all major developed countries falls well short of their fair shares," according to the report by groups including Christian Aid, Oxfam, the International Trade Union Confederation and WWF International.

The study coincides with the start of 19-23 October talks among almost 200 nations in Bonn, Germany, the final UN session to prepare a deal due at a summit in December in Paris to limit climate change beyond 2020.

About 150 nations have so far submitted national plans for fighting climate change, as building blocks of a Paris accord. But there is no agreed system to compare each nation's level of ambition.

Monday's report said the rich could afford to shift from fossil fuels to cleaner energies, while helping others, and have more responsibility because they have benefited from burning coal,



A helicopter takes off after delivering supplies to the Konkordia Hut near the Aletsch Glacier, Switzerland. PHOTO: REUTERS

oil and natural gas since the Industrial Revolution.

By those yardsticks, it estimated that the United States and the European Union had promised about a fifth of their "fair shares" and Japan about a tenth.

By contrast, it found that emerging economies' plans "exceed or broadly meet" their fair

share. China was doing more than its fair share, for instance, counting its emissions since 1950, while Brazil was contributing two-thirds.

"Across the board, rich countries are failing to bring the two most important ingredients to the negotiating table — emission cuts and money," said Brandon

Wu of ActionAid. Tasneem Esop, of WWF International, said Paris should set up "mechanisms to allow actions to get stronger and stronger through regular science and equity reviews".

Top emitters Beijing and Washington both say their plans are ambitious. China plans to peak greenhouse gas emissions

around 2030 while the United States aims to cut greenhouse emission by 26-28 percent by 2025, from 2005 levels.

On current trends, Monday's report said temperatures were on track to rise by 3 degrees C (5.4F) or more above pre-industrial levels by 2100, well above the agreed maximum of 2C.—Reuters

Australian casino mogul re-submits plan to build Melbourne's biggest tower

MELBOURNE — Australia's fourth richest person, casino mogul James Packer, has resurrected a plan to build the tallest skyscraper in Melbourne.

Packer, who owns the majority stake in Crown Casino, has resubmitted a plan to build an apartment complex said to be 317.3 metres tall that would cost in excess of 1.10 billion US dollars to construct.

The 90-storey complex includes a 41-metre-long "sky bridge" linking the new building with its two six-star hotels, allowing guests to cross between the structures without returning to ground level.

The tower's original plan, which was submitted two weeks before the Victorian election last year, was six storeys shorter.

But with the election of Andrews' government, Packer — a rumoured backer of the party — has had the plans redesigned by British architects Wilkinson Eyre. Packer, who Forbes esti-

mated is worth 3.41 billion US dollars earlier this year, said the proposed tower was "a beautiful and elegant building that is destined to be an important addition to the Melbourne skyline".

Victoria's Planning Minister Richard Wynne said on Monday the plan was a "vote of confidence" for investment in Melbourne. The Victorian government last month introduced interim restrictions on the height of future skyscrapers as a means of reducing aerial density in the city's skyline.

Developers are now restricted to building structures with less than 24 storeys, unless they can provide sufficient density offsets to build higher. But Packer's "super-tower" proposal has already met with strong opposition.

RMIT planning expert Michael Buxton told Melbourne radio on Monday that Melbourne didn't need another "tower of power" detracting from the city's charm.—Xinhua

Egypt election boycott continues

CAIRO — Egyptians appeared to be shunning the ballot box for a second day on Monday in what one newspaper called "an election without voters", highlighting growing disillusionment since the army seized power in 2013 and promised to restore democracy.

Voting got off to a slow start, a day after polling stations visited by Reuters correspondents pointed to a turnout of around 10 percent in sharp contrast to the long lines and enthusiasm in the 2012 election.

Younger Egyptians who make up the majority of the population were virtually absent, with many people dismissing it as a sham or expressing doubt that new lawmakers would change anything.

Coming a day after President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi urged Egyptians to cast their ballots, the low turnout suggested the former general, who once enjoyed cult-like adulation, was losing some of his appeal.

In 2013, then-army chief Sisi overthrew Egypt's first freely-elected president, the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi, and promised a "roadmap to democracy".

He then launched the fiercest crackdown on dissent in Egypt's modern history, jailing thousands of Mursi's supporters as well as activists at the forefront of the 2011 revolt.

Last year's presidential election was extended for a third day in order to boost turnout, with pro-government media pushing Egyptians to show up. Sisi won 97 percent of votes.

This time, even Egypt's largely loyalist press focused on the lack of interest in the polls. Analysts say Sisi may try to spin the apathy to his favour by arguing that Egyptians place far more faith in the presidency.

"An election without voters," said a front page headline in the business daily Al-Mal. "Elections without queues," read a headline in Al-Shorouk.

Even the pro-government Al-Ahram zeroed in on the absence of young people at the ballot box.

In an apparent attempt to encourage voting, public sector workers will receive a half day holiday on Monday.

"We don't know anything about these candidates so I'm not

going to give my vote to someone who doesn't deserve it," Michael Bassili, 19, from Alexandria.

"As youth we're trying to fix the country and we'll work to do this...but these guys are just interested in money and themselves."

Egypt has had no parliament since June 2012 when a court dissolved the democratically elected main chamber, then dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood, reversing a key accomplishment of the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak.

Repeatedly postponed, Egypt's elections are now taking place over two rounds on 18-19 October and 22-23 November. This week, voters cast their ballots in 14 regions including Egypt's second city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast.

Of the 568 elected seats overall, 120 will be contested by closed winner-takes-all lists. But even these are expected to be dominated by loyalists. Critics say an electoral system that puts the emphasis on individuals is a throwback to Mubarak-era politics, which favoured candidates with wealth and connections.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Participants try to fly a giant loop-shaped kite during a seaside kite festival in Daishan County in China's Zhejiang Province, on 17 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

Back to the future: A last look at NYC's 1960's-era TWA Flight Centre

NEW YORK — Thousands of visitors are expected at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on Sunday to get a last look at the iconic architecture of the Trans World Airlines Flight Center before the futuristic 1960's building is converted into a hotel.

The terminal, built in 1962 as an uplifting symbol of the Jet Age, was designed by renowned Finnish-born architect Eero Saarinen, who also created St. Louis' Gateway Arch. The terminal's cavernous arched white ceilings will

be renovated to include guest rooms, conference space and an observation deck.

The "Mad Men"-era edifice, now a national historic landmark, was used by TWA until the airline went bankrupt in 2001.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced in September the approval of the \$265 million hotel project, funded mostly by a partnership between Jet-Blue Airways Corp and MCR Development, the seventh-largest hotel owner-operator in the United States, according to its

website. The 500-room hotel is expected to open in 2018.

"It is one of the most incredible pieces of architecture that you could walk into," said Jim Steven, manager of redevelopment for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the owner of JFK Airport in the New York City borough of Queens.

Steven said he expected up to 5,000 people to visit the terminal on Sunday, part of the annual Open House New York event aimed at inviting visitors to tour buildings that

are typically closed to the public.

Each year, former TWA employees wearing their old uniforms are among those who return to the beloved mid-century modern-style building, which first opened during John F. Kennedy's presidency.

"We know that there are people flying into New York City to see that building," said Gregory Wessner, executive director of Open House New York. "This year, I think there's a special attraction to it."—Reuters

Two injured in separate shark, eel attacks off Hawaii

KAILUA — Two men have been injured in separate shark and eel attacks off Hawaii within the space of a few hours, local media reported on Sunday.

A 44-year-old man

was swimming towards a beach in Kailua on the island of Oahu when he was attacked by a shark shortly before noon on Saturday, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported. He sus-

tained injuries to his lower legs.

Later in the day, a 32-year-old was bitten in his left foot as he swam off a beach in Honolulu, the television station

KITV reported.

Emergency responders initially believed a shark bit the man, but later said the injuries were more consistent with an eel bite, KITV reported.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HONG KAI VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HONG KAI VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1040W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1040W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.2015 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 by-laws 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (421N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (421N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.2015 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 by-laws 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 20th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th October, 2015: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th October, 2015: Partly cloudy.

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'Goosebumps' trumps box office

LOS ANGELES — "Goosebumps" rode a wave of Clinton era nostalgia to the top of the box office charts, as the adaptation of the popular children's book series earned \$23.5 million in its opening weekend.

That just edged out Fox's "The Martian," the science-fiction smash that was trying to be the number one picture for a third week in a row. The film added \$21.5 million to its \$143.8 million haul.

It was a crowded time at the multiplexes, as four new releases jockeyed for audiences' attention. Aside from "Goosebumps," the weekend's best performer was "Bridge of Spies," the Steven Spielberg Cold War drama that capitalized on good reviews and Oscar buzz by nabbing \$15.4 million.

Disney is distributing the true story of an attorney (Tom Hanks) who defends a Russian spy (Mark Rylance). DreamWorks produced the \$40 million production.

Its look at prisoner rights resonates in the post-Guantanamo age and positions "Bridge of Spies" to remain part of the conversation in coming weeks, Disney executives argued.

"It's overwhelmingly applicable to today," said Dave Hollis, Walt Disney Studios' executive vice president of theatrical distribution. "But that's Steven Spielberg. He's able to do that with

almost every single story."

"Crimson Peak" fared less well. The Gothic Romance from Guillermo del Toro proved too niche for mainstream crowds, falling flat with a \$12.6 million debut.

The story about a virginal bride (Mia Wasikowska) who moves into a haunted mansion cost \$55 million to bring to the screen. Legendary Pictures fully financed the picture and Universal is distributing the film. The studio believes that "Crimson Peak" struggled to break out from other fare aimed at older crowds such as "Bridge of Spies" and "Sicario".

It also had more romance than straight scares, which may have disappointed ticket buyers looking for a more traditional horror film.

"This is a challenging play time for adult-oriented films," said Nick Carpou, Universal's domestic distribution chief. "The film is definitely a throwback to an old fashioned way of creating atmosphere and layering tension. It's visually stunning and genuinely creepy."

"Goosebumps" takes its names from the spooky children's books by R.L. Stine, but provided a meta-twist by having the author play a role in the movie. Jack Black, who played Stine, injected some humor into the proceedings, and a PG-rating made the film family friendly. Sony



A person dressed as a pumpkin monster poses at the premiere of the film 'Goosebumps,' in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pictures backed the \$58 million production.

"Our marketing was able to convey just how fun this movie is," said Rory Bruer, Sony's distribution chief. "This is an all audience movie. It works for teens, as well as adults and younger kids."

That left faith-based drama "Woodlawn," the story of a high school football team that makes a playoff run after finding religion, debuted across 1,553 to a stronger than expected \$4.1 million. Pure Flix, the film's distributor, declined to provide a budget.

In limited release, abduction drama "Room" leveraged awards chatter into a very strong

start, earning \$120,000 from four screens for a per-screen average of \$30,000. "Truth," another Oscar hopeful, was less successful. Sony Pictures Classics bowed the story of "60 Minutes" controversial report on George W. Bush's National Guard service across six screens where it brought in \$76,646, for a per screen average of \$12,774.

And "Beasts of No Nation," Cary Fukunaga's drama about child soldiers in Africa, made headlines when Netflix bested all bidders by offering \$12 million for rights to the movie.

It debuted simultaneously on the company's streaming service and in 31 theaters, but barely reg-

istered at the box office, eking out \$50,699 for a per-screen average of \$1,635.

It's difficult to call the picture a failure, however, given that Netflix is more interested in offering up something exclusive to its subscribers that differentiates itself from other subscription video services. A theatrical release is being launched primarily to qualify "Beasts" for awards.

"Steve Jobs," a biopic about the Apple co-founder, impressed in its expansion after scoring the year's highest per-screen average last weekend. It moved from four theaters to 60 locations, where it earned \$1.5 million for a per-screen average of \$25,831.—Reuters

Fifty years after Zhivago, Spain hopes movies will work magic on the economy

MADRID — Half a century ago, Hollywood came to Spain, turning Madrid into revolutionary Russia and the arid south into the Wild West. Now the government is trying to lure the movie industry back with a fistful of dollars.

Tinseltown and television never gave up on Spain; its dry climate, rugged landscape and historical architecture have attracted HBO's hit medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones" for a second year in a row. In one Danish series, southern Spain doubled as Afghanistan, complete with Taliban fighters. But the heyday

of the mid 1960s, when British director David Lean filmed "Doctor Zhivago" in the capital and Italian Sergio Leone shot a series of spaghetti Westerns including "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" around the country, are long gone.

Now Spain is trying to catch up with locations such as the United States and Canada. Since earlier this year, the government has offered tax breaks for cinema and animation producers, hoping this will play a modest role in stimulating an economy that is recovering from crisis but still

relies excessively on tourism for jobs. Rosa Jaen remembers the winter of 1965 when, nearly 50 years after the Russian revolution, hundreds of Bolshevik protesters spilled onto the streets of Canillas, a Madrid suburb. Prevented by Cold War politics from filming in Moscow, Lean had brought "Doctor Zhivago" to her doorstep.

As a teenager, Jaen came to gawp at the shoot and its replica Kremlin. At a time when Spain was still poor, some of her neighbours earned enough as extras to head for one of the resorts then springing up on the Mediterranean coast.

"Many families here couldn't afford even the smallest luxuries," said Jaen, 65. "Thanks to Moscow, many were able to go to the beach in Benidorm, or buy a fridge."

By 2007, tourism and construction contributed more than 30 percent of Spanish gross do-

mestic product. A property crash then wiped out many construction jobs and tourism is not enough to complete the recovery from a double-dip recession.

The incentives to create jobs in film production are only a small push after a wave of spending cuts by the centre-right government, which despite being credited with important economic reforms has done little to foster new industries desperately needed to bring down unemployment from over 22 percent.

With a general election due on 20 December, Spain is offering a 15 percent tax rebate on foreign filmmakers' production costs, though that is less generous than many schemes elsewhere. The ceiling of 2.5 million euros (\$2.8 million) per film is also a stringent limit for blockbuster budgets in the tens of millions.

"For a studio working on a large scale production, it does not allow you to really benefit," said

Ignacio Perez Dolset, founder of Ilion Animation Studios, whose 350 employees are working on a secret project commissioned by Paramount.

According to the Spain Film Commission, the country was by last year losing out on about 80 percent of possible movies to other locations. It believes the tide is turning, but says the government needs to raise the rebate to support the industry.

Many point to the Canary Islands. The autonomous Spanish region brought in its own film breaks several years ago, immediately attracting several US productions. It followed this up by increasing the tax rebate to 35 percent of costs, up to a 4.5-million-euro limit.

"It's an unstoppable opportunity for jobs and business," said Jose Manuel Bermudez, mayor of Santa Cruz on the island of Tenerife, best known for its white- and black-sand beaches.—Reuters

"Many families here couldn't afford even the smallest luxuries. Thanks to Moscow, many were able to go to the beach in Benidorm, or buy a fridge."

Rosa Jaen
65-year-old Russian

Minimalist lifestyle attracting young people in Japan



A section for books on minimalism in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — After adopting a lifestyle that rejects material goods in favor of enriching experiences, a Tokyo-based author is spreading his mantra of minimalism to an increasingly receptive audience of young Japanese.

"I was shocked to recognize that I can live with the bare minimum of things I need," said Fumio Sasaki, an employee of a publishing company in Tokyo.

Sasaki, 36, has only a few items of clothing and a small sofa-bed in a roughly 20-square-meter apartment.

The bed can be put into the closet, leaving the room virtually empty. He buys books and then gives them away when he finishes them. In the past, Sasaki's apartment contained many books, musical instruments and CDs, as well as a big-screen television set and fashionable clothes.

"I bought books but

didn't read them, I left musical instruments lying around without playing them and I didn't wear clothes I bought," he said. "Still, I wanted to buy things I didn't have."

Learning about minimalism, Sasaki felt he was "controlled by things."

He has thoroughly changed his lifestyle to practice minimalism. "When I read a book now, I can concentrate on it more than before. I also can work more efficiently," he said.

He spends money he saves on travelling and socializing.

In June, Sasaki published his book on life as a minimalist, attracting readers mainly in their 20s and 30s. Sanseido Bookstore Ltd.'s Yurakucho branch in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward has opened a section for books on minimalism. Many company workers buy them on the way home from work, according to a

sales clerk at the store.

Kota Ito, a 26-year-old freelance music producer, is more thoroughly devoted to minimalism. He has only a personal computer, digital camera and smartphone, as well as a few daily necessities in his backpack. With only one set of clothes he wears every day, he said, "I even don't need a house to live in."

Ito travels frequently around Japan and abroad, staying in inexpensive hotels and working via the Internet. Minimalism "gives me more time to think deeply and enriches my ideas," he said.

A 29-year-old employee of a securities company in Osaka, who asked not to be identified, has become a minimalist because "I was tired of being swayed by the brand value of cars, consumer electronics and other goods." He spends his private time attending concerts by his favorite idol

group Momoiro Clover Z.

Minimalism is drawing attention from businesses as well, said Satoru Imamura, a former banker heading an association that advises more than 100 companies across Japan about how to get rid of unnecessary items and demonstrates cleanup techniques.

A printing company in Kyoto has thoroughly adhered to a rule, introduced two years ago under the association's guidance, to do away with things unused for two weeks. The elimination of waste has helped the firm keep logging year-on-year gains of 30 percent in both sales and profit, Imamura said.

Like humans, companies can also improve the power of concentration by cutting down what they have, Imamura said. "There is no longer value to have a large number of things."—*Kyodo News*

Reinventing New Jersey as 'Garden State' with ethnic crops, tourism

VINELAND — Craving a taste of his native Liberia 4,500 miles (7,200 km) away, maintenance worker Alfred Jones drove just 20 miles from his New Jersey home and waded knee deep into rows of pick-your-own African vegetables at Morris Gbolo's World Crops Farm.

The Garden State's newest crops were ready for harvest and Jones plucked baseball-sized eggplants known in Liberia as bitter balls and a tiny yet tangy plant called kittely to make the traditional stews he loved as a boy.

"It tastes and smells very much like home," said Jones, 75, who emigrated in 1979 and lives in nearby Glassboro. New Jersey, officially nicknamed "The Garden State" since 1954, is striving to revitalize its farming sector. It is seizing on trends such as the "Eat Local" movement, agritour-

ism and ethnic crops that appeal to a growing population of Asian, Hispanic and African residents, including those flocking to Gbolo's fields in Vineland. The slogan has long confounded travelers whose only glimpse of the state is from its New Jersey Turnpike, with views of refineries and gargantuan fuel tanks. But the state has found new ways to pump up its Garden State credibility, boosted by proximity to neighbouring New York City and Philadelphia, whose citizens often consider New Jersey their own backyard. With roughly one-tenth of the US population living within 100 miles of central New Jersey — much of it affluent — the state is in a geographic sweet spot for agritourism, said Brian Schilling, a specialist with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, linked to the state university.—*Reuters*

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(20-9-2015, Tuesday)

| | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|---|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 1:50 pm | • Sing & Enjoy(Part-1) |
| 6:20 am | • The Biography of Kyaungban Tawya Sayadaw (Budalin) | 2:35 pm | • Sing & Enjoy(Part-2) |
| 6:40 am | • Physical Exercise | 3:35 pm | • Socio Economic Scenes |
| 7:35 am | • Socio Economic Scenes | 4:35 pm | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Physics) |
| 8:00 am | • News/ International News | 5:35 pm | • Money Talk Myanmar |
| 8:35 am | • Documentary | 6:35 pm | • People's Talks |
| 9:00 am | • News/ International News | 7:15 pm | • Channel '0'(Part-6) |
| 9:35 am | • MRTV's Youth Programme | 7:30 pm | • Head Line News |
| 1:20 pm | • Channel '0'(Part-5) | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |

mitv Myanmar International

(20-10-2015 07:00 am~ 21-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

| | |
|--|---|
| 07:03 Am | News |
| 07:26 Am | Tigers, Lions and The Guardians |
| 07:36 Am | Climate Context: Storm (Part-1) |
| 08:03 Am | News |
| 08:26 Am | Myanmar's Export: Mango |
| 08:36 Am | Climate Context: Storm (Part-2) |
| 09:03 Am | News |
| 09:26 Am | Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw |
| 09:43 Am | Today Myanmar "ASEAN Economic Community" |
| 09:54 Am | Creations of a Designer |
| 10:03 Am | News |
| 10:26 Am | The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting |
| 10:44 Am | Natural Mineral Water |
| (11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Monday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) | |

(03:00 Pm ~ 06:26 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:26 Am)

06:26 Pm Let's Cook (EP-6) Cheesy Burger & Crunchy Munchy Beary Cookies

Prime Time

| | |
|----------|--|
| 07:03 Pm | News |
| 07:26 Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5) |
| 07:52 Pm | Coin Collectors |
| 08:03 Pm | News |
| 08:26 Pm | Discovering Tribes "Lisu: Their Life and Customs" (Part-1) |
| 08:48 Pm | Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision" |

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

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

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

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(20-10-2015, Tuesday)

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | • Mono Classical Songs | 8:00 am | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:25 am | • Myanmar Series | 10:00 am | • China In Myanmar Cultural Show |
| 6:50 am | • Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than | 10:15 am | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:10 am | • TV Drama Series | 12:00 noon | • Close down |

Hotel staff in Mandalay take part in football tournament

WITH the aim of developing networks among Mandalay's hospitality industry, an inter-hotel friendly football tournament was held on 18 October in Maha Aungmye Township.

The tournament was organised by the Myanmar Hospitality Professionals Association (MHPA) and partner organisations.

Hotel Shwepyitha team beat the M3 Hotel team with a score of 8-0 on the opening day of the tournament, which will run until November and involve 22 teams. —*Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



A goalkeeper defends a attack by the opposing team at the soccer match for hotel staff in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

Volleyball referees complete course in Mandalay

A CEREMONY to mark the conclusion of a volleyball referee refresher course was held on 18 October in Mandalay Region.

The course was organised by the Myanmar Volleyball Federation in cooperation with the Mandalay region Sports and Physical Education Department.

Altogether, 43 referees from Mandalay, Mataya and Pyin Oo Lwin townships attended the refresher training programme from 16 to 18 October. —*Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



Referees pose for documentary photo after the completion of a volleyball referee refreshers course, in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

Herrera eyes benefit of midfield competition at Man Utd

LONDON— United's Ander Herrera welcomes the stiff competition for places in the side's midfield and is keen to learn from the more experienced players in the squad, such as vice-captain Michael Carrick and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

The Spaniard enjoyed a fine game in the 3-0 victory at Everton on Saturday, scoring the second and providing an assist as Manchester United returned to form in the Premier League after a limp defeat to Arsenal before the international break.

The former Athletic Bilbao midfielder also believes the competition for first team places can only benefit the club.

"You take advantage of that (the competition in the middle of the park).

When you play with the best players you take advantage of that like we did," Herrera told the club's website (www.manutd.com).

"This is good for me, good for the club. When the club signs top players you are going to take advantage of that and that is what I'm doing.

"You have (Schweinsteiger) and also Michael Carrick and they are very experienced guys. I think Morgan (Schneiderlin) and me can learn a lot from them," he added.

Herrera is desperate to become one of the first names on coach Louis van Gaal's team sheet but acknowledges he will have to improve to make that happen.

"I think people value me because I always try to give everything for the team.

I will try to do my best to establish

myself in the first team. I am a team player and when I play I will do my best," the 26-year-old said.

"I want to be a top player. You want to always be in the team but this is Manchester United.

You have to play really good if you want to be in the team every day, so that's what I want to do," he added.

Herrera will be hoping for more first team action when the Red Devils travel to Russia to face CSKA Moscow in the Champions League on Wednesday and then host local rivals Manchester City in the league on Sunday. —*Reuters*



Manchester United's Ander Herrera celebrates scoring their second goal against Everton. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celta joint top, Griezmann lifts Atletico

MADRID — Celta Vigo joined Real Madrid and Barcelona at the top of La Liga when Noli's late strike snatched a 2-1 victory at 10-man Villarreal, while Atletico Madrid stayed firmly in the hunt thanks to a 2-0 success at Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Surprise package Celta, who hammered champions Barca 4-1 at the end of September, again impressed with some sparkling play at the Madrigal to prevent Villarreal climbing back into first place above Spain's big two. —*Reuters*

Wijnaldum scores four as Newcastle finally win

LONDON — Newcastle United's Dutchman Georginio Wijnaldum scored four times as they won their first Premier League match this season at the ninth attempt by thrashing Norwich City 6-2 to climb off the bottom of the table on Sunday.

Newcastle scored more goals in 90 minutes at St James' Park than they had managed in their previous four league matches with Ayoze Perez and Aleksandar Mitrovic also finding the net and the victory could not have come at a better time. —*Reuters*

Kuyt hat trick puts Feyenoord level at top

AMSTERDAM — A hat trick from veteran Dirk Kuyt ensured a handsome 5-2 away win for Feyenoord at Heerenveen on Sunday and a three-point haul to keep pace with Dutch league leaders Ajax Amsterdam.

Michiel Kramer and Simon Gustafson scored the other goals in a first-half rout which saw Feyenoord 5-0 ahead at the break before Henk Veerman pulled two goals back for the hosts.

Feyenoord joined Ajax on 22 points as they recorded a seventh victory in nine games but they remain second on goal difference. The 35-year-old Kuyt, who returned to his first club from Turkey at the start of the season, now has seven league goals. —*Reuters*