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A POPULAR PUSH FOR PEACE

Public participation in ceasefire monitoring imperative

Ye Myint

THE public will be encouraged to take part in ceasefire monitoring activities, according to a press conference after a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The joint ceasefire monitoring process is not only for signatories—the government and eight ethnic armed organisations—but also for the people, said U Khun Sai, the managing director of the Pyidaungsu Institute for Peace and Dialogue.

The managing director, who was also one of attendees of the meeting, highlighted the importance of mass participation in the process. He said possible recurrences of conflict between the parties could be prevented thanks to the participation of the public in the monitoring activities.

Trust-building through successful implementation of monitoring activities will act as a good example for putting an end to recent fighting, he added.

Salai Yaw Aung of the All Burma Student's Democratic Front, who also attended the meeting, said Union, state and regional joint monitoring committees will be formed with representatives from the signatories as well as other groups.

The ethnic armed groups proposed that a Union-level committee should be formed



Attendees shake hands at a Joint Monitoring Committee meeting between the government and eight ethnic signatories to the ceasefire agreement at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

with members of the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society and other prominent figures from ethnic minority regions.

The joint monitoring committee was formed with the membership of 10 representatives from each of the two sides about two weeks ago. The NCA stipulated that the JMC must

be formed within 14 days of its signing.

During the first day of the meeting, which will run until 31 October, the two sides wrote a draft of the code of conduct for the NCA signatories, said Dr Min Zaw Oo, a programme director at the Myanmar Peace Centre.

The code of conduct instructs troops from both sides on how to abide by the truce, so it will be written in Myanmar and ethnic languages, using words and illustrations that are understandable to ordinary people, he added.

The code of conduct draft is set to be approved during

the first round of meetings. Moreover, functions and responsibilities of the committee and monitoring guidelines for working committees were also discussed.

According to the agreement signed on 15 October, these tasks are to be completed within the first 30 days of the signing.

Election postponement in some townships is not unilateral decision

THE postponement of the general elections in some townships did not arise from a unilateral decision made by the Union Election Commission, its chairman told a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. U Tin Aye said that the decision was made at the request of electoral candidates in Hsipaw township as well as from the Shan State government and election commissions. They requested the Union Election Commission

postpone the upcoming election in some zones of the region citing unstable conditions there.

"The ballot papers are kept in secure places like local police stations and banks," the chairman said, adding that political parties should organize and manage their supporters in line with the code of conduct for political parties and candidates.

Political parties including the National Unity Party, the Union Solidarity and Develop-

ment Party, the National League for Democracy, the Myanmar Farmers Development Party and the National Development Party raised queries about the upcoming elections scheduled to be held on 8 November.

On election day, any gathering of people holding or wearing party emblems is prohibited within 500 yards of all polling stations. In his concluding remarks Chairman U Tin Aye stressed the responsibility

of the winning party to strive for national development and the need for other parties to render cooperation when the government is announced.

The Union Election Commission released an announcement yesterday in regards to advanced voting. Arrangements are under way to ensure that students, trainees, military personnel and their families who will be out of their constituencies, prisoners and patients in hospital re-

serve and retain their right to vote and are given the opportunity to do so. These groups are entitled to vote in advance through contact with Myanmar civil and military diplomats on specific dates and at designated embassies and via military attachés. The polling stations of these townships will accept early votes until 4pm on polling day. The late arrival of early votes will cause them to be regarded as invalid. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister attends meeting for NSDI systems and Satellite System

IN NAY PYI TAW, Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Ko Ko Oo on Thursday attended the first meeting of National Spatial Data Infrastructure's (NSDI) Project Implementation Committee conducted by the ministry and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in cooperation with Center of the International Cooperation for Computerization (CICC).

The Union Minister and Assistant Director for international affairs in the Information and Communication Electronics Division under Japan's ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr. Yutaka Endow delivered opening speeches while deputy minister Dr. Aung Kyaw Myat and responsible persons of both sides cordially discussed further plans and setting policies presenting their papers.

In the same day, the union minister separately met with CEO of Japan Space Imaging Corporation (JSI) Mr. Makoto Higashi and party at the ministry office and mutually discussed project proposal for Satellite system for Earth Observation by Axel Space, Hitachi and Japan Space Imaging Companies, and Japanese Government's official assistance for development.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fourth India trade fair opens in Yangon

The opening ceremony of the 4th India Trade Fair was held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon on Thursday.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and Indian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhaya opened the trade fair. The ambassa-

dor made a speech to open the event.

The trade fair, which is open from 10am to 6pm until 1 November, includes 60 booths representing 47 companies and displaying vehicles and parts, trailers and farm machinery, foodstuffs and services for oil, natural gas and other energy resources.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Festival highlights talents of the disabled

Disabled artists, hoping to affect change, share their artwork to achieve recognition and respect.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

DISABLED artists are currently making preparations to showcase their talents at a festival in December, according to event organiser U Nay Lin Soe.

The event, entitled "Immense Spectrum: the 2nd Myanmar National Festival of Disabled Artists", will take place on 1 December at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon.

Around 15 (able) artists including celebrities Zaw Win Htut and Chit Thu Wai and 50 disabled artists will participate in the event which will include dance performances, particularly wheelchair dances, talent shows and music recitals.

The Myanmar Independent Living Initiative, a local non-profit organisation working to empower persons with disabilities is organising the event with the aim of exploring the artistic skills of the disabled and creating greater future opportunities for the handicapped community and to raise funds for their care.

"We hope to begin changing people's views and attitudes towards the disabled through these activities," said U Nay Lin Soe, programme director of the MILI.

The arts festival will screen documentaries on the subject of disability rights and include the sale of handicrafts and ed-

ucational programs by disability-related training schools, organisations and individuals.

Ticket price is K3,000 (US\$2.32). They are available at Parami Seingayhar, City Marts, Junction Square and the MILI office in Mayangon Township. At least 5,000 people are expected to attend.

The first-ever event was held in 2013 in Yangon and was open to the public free of charge. It attracted over 5,000 people that year.

According to the country's latest census Myanmar has a population of more than 2.3 million people with disabilities, half of which are blind.



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw being welcomed by Turkey's Ambassador Mr. Murat Yavuza Ates at the reception to mark the 92nd Anniversary of Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 29 October. PHOTO: MNA

Tourism swells in Taninthayi archipelagos

KAWTHAUNG District, the southernmost part of Myanmar in Taninthayi Region, has received an increasing number of tourists after the end of the wet season.

In October, more than 1,000 foreigners from various countries visited islands in Kawthaung District to observe traditional customs of local people, archaeological sites and small-scale handicraft workshops.

Among the islands, Myaukni, Thaye, Ngaman, Taya, Lanpi, Hlaigne, Nyaungwee, Migyaung and Myauktawwin islands, as well as islands No. 60, 115, 254 and 256, attract significant numbers of tourists.

Most visitors came from Thailand, and the rest are largely from the US, the UK, Australia, Romania, Canada and China.

In October alone, many Thai nationals went on day trips to the region to snorkel and scuba dive near Sayton Island, 30 nautical miles away from Kawthaung.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Visitors enjoying scenic beauty of islands in Kawthaung District. PHOTO: MoTH

President U Thein Sein inspects developments in Ayeyawady region

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein together with Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Ohn Myint, and Dr Than Aung along with deputy ministers arrived in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region on Thursday.

Chief Minister of the region U Thein Aung, officials and local people greeted the president and his party before the trip to Ngaputaw by road.

Officials reported on current and future regional development tasks directly to the president at the township administration office. The president then went to the Shwe Myintin Pagoda and offered flowers, water and lights before donating cash to its upkeep.

The president and party proceeded to Oakshitkwin Village by boat and inspected construction of the Oakshitkwin-Thazinkwin-Pathein-Mawtin gravel road.

The president briefly conversed with locals before lecturing them on regional development tasks. He told the crowd that the government is carrying out the development of the region with specific focus on education, health, roads, bridges, communication, and electricity. The president and party arrived back in Pathein in the afternoon and inspected the Myak-yuntha Housing Project of the Ayeyawady Regional government.

—Myanmar News Agency



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by local people at Shwe Myintin Pagoda in Ngaputaw. PHOTO: MNA

Government to offer Kathina robes to 63 Buddhist monks

THE government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar plans to hold a Kathina robe-offering ceremony on 16 November and has formed a leading committee and working committee to organise the event. Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham spoke at the told the coordination meeting of the leading committee at the Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday.

He instructed officials to make preparations for the ceremony, including meal-offerings to senior monks, security and healthcare services.

The union minister for Religious Affairs, who chairs the leading committee for the ceremony, as well as officials from subcommittees, reported on accommodations for the Buddhist monks and arrangements for Kathina robe offerings and other donations.

The government will offer Kathina robes to 63 senior monks, including members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at the Sasana Maha Beikman building on the platform of Nay Pyi Taw's Uppatasanti Pagoda on 16 November.—Myanmar News Agency



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers speech at coordination meeting on offering of Kathina robes to members of the Sangha. PHOTO: MNA

MIC inspects investment projects

MYANMAR Investment Commission chairman Union Minister Zeyar Aung, vice chairman Union Minister U Htay Aung and other members of the commission inspected several investment projects yesterday.

The chairman and party first inspected the upgrading project of the Yangon International Airport being carried out by Yangon

Aerodrome Co., Ltd.

Company chairman U Tun Myint Naing explained the implementation of the project.

Then, the chairman and party inspected the construction of the Daewoo Amara Hotel. Officials working on the project reported on the progress of construction to the commission.—Myanmar News Agency



MIC Chairman Union Minister U Zeyar Aung inspects investment projects. PHOTO: MNA



Well-wishers donate offertories to members of the Sangha. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

Myanmar and Thai well-wishers offer rice, provisions to Buddhist monks

A CEREMONY for the donation of rice and provisions to members of the Sangha was held at Shweyminwun Pagoda in Myawady, Kayin State on Wednesday.

Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials offered meals to members of the Sangha in the morning. The Buddhist monks from various religious Ganas par-

ticipated in a Pavarana ceremony at the ordination hall of Phayagyi monastery in the afternoon.

Departmental officials, local people and guests from Tak Province in Thailand donated rice and provisions to more than 1,800 members of the Sangha and runs from 196 monasteries and nunneries across the district.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

Earthen road to improve transport for locals



Officials inspect progress of earthen road. PHOTO: THAN HTAY AUNG

AN earthen road is under construction in Kyaukhlaykha-Kontha-Ohnma village, Yin village-tract, Kani Township,

Sagaing Region.

The two-mile road will link up with the Ohnma-Ngokchaung-Winmana road to the

benefit of travellers needing to get to Monywa Township.

Local people from the village-tract rely on water transport along the Chindwin river to Monywa. They face difficulties in the transport of passengers and commodities.

Naga Cave Sayadaw and local people funded the construction of the earthen road with heavy machinery and the assistance of officials, according to a local. Township Administrator U Phyo Aung Tun and officials of the Township Rural Development Department inspected construction on Monday.—*Than Htay Aung (Kani)*

Hsinthay bridge to benefit two villages of Pobbathiri, Zeyathiri Tsps

HSINTHAY bridge, which now links Wegyi village in Pobbathiri Township and Winpyan village in Zeyathiri Township, is 80-percent complete.

The bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek is being built by

Bridge Construction Special Group-6 using funding from the Rural Development Department.

The completed structure will be 350 feet long and 14 feet wide.

The original bridge had been damaged by flash flooding in the rainy season several times and so local authorities are upgrading the wooden bridge to be supported by reinforced concrete.—*Shwe Ye Yint*



New bridge under construction to link villages of Pobbathiri and Zeyathiri townships. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

School library opens in village of Kyaukpadaung



The opening ceremony of school library in progress in Kyaukpadaung Township. PHOTO: NAY AUNG (IPRD)

UNDER the patronage of the village monastery's abbot Bhaddanta Kesara the Bawa Alinyaung library was opened at the Basic Education High School in Thabyegaing village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, on Monday. The abbot and other officials cut the ribbon to officially open the library.

Township Education Of-

ficer Daw Yi Yi Lwin said the purpose of opening the library was to bring education, enlightenment and joy to the students.

Local youths donated K100,000 to the maintenance of the library. The school library holds hundreds of books on a wide range of subjects for the use of about 300 students.—*Nay Aung (IPRD)*

Township planning under review

TACHILEK District planning and implementation committee in eastern Shan State held a meeting at the hall of the District General Administration Department on Monday.

The district's deputy commissioner U Tin Win Shwe, who chairs the implementation committee, opened the meeting with a speech while head of District Planning Department U Min Thein spoke on the procedures used to draw up

regional plans.

Township officials discussed plans for the construction of roads and bridges in the development of rural areas, the implementation of township projects for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and further plans looking to the 2016-2017 FY.

The deputy commissioner stressed the need to make constant progress in regards to basic infrastructure.—*Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)*

China adopts two-child policy

BEIJING — China will ease family planning restrictions to allow all couples to have two children after decades of the strict one-child policy, the ruling Communist Party said on Thursday, a move aimed at alleviating demographic strains on the economy.

The policy is a major liberalisation of the country's family planning restrictions, already eased in late 2013 when Beijing said it would allow more families to have two children when the parents met certain conditions.

A growing number of scholars had urged the government to reform the rules, introduced in the late 1970s to prevent population growth spiralling out of control, but now regarded as outdated and responsible for shrinking China's labour pool.

For the first time in decades the working age population fell in 2012, and China, the world's most populous nation, could be the first country in the world to get old before it gets rich.

The announcement was made at the close of a key Party meeting focussed on financial reforms and maintaining growth between 2016 and 2020 amid concerns



A woman and her baby wait on the street for a military parade marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, in Beijing, China, in this September 3, 2015 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

over the country's slowing economy. China will "fully implement a policy of allowing each couple to have two children as an active response to an ageing population", the party said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua news agency.

There were no immediate details on the new policy or a time-frame for implementation.

Wang Feng, a leading expert

on demographic and social change in China, called the change an "historic event" that would change the world but said the challenges of China's ageing society would remain.

"It's an event that we have been waiting for a generation, but it is one we have had to wait much too long for," Wang said.—Reuters

S Korea, Japan, China senior officials hold talks ahead of summit

SEOUL — Senior officials from South Korea, Japan and China held talks on Thursday in Seoul to lay the groundwork for their leaders' summit, set for Sunday in the South Korean capital.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to reveal anything of the content of the talks, which were closed to the media.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama told reporters that final preparatory efforts are still to be made for the trilateral summit. He made the comment upon arrival at Seoul's Gimpo airport earlier in the day.

Sugiyama was expected to meet with Kim Hong Kyun, the South Korean Foreign Ministry's deputy minister for political affairs, and Liu Zhenmin, China's vice foreign minister.

On the sidelines of the talks, the first to be held in three and a half years, Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun Hye will hold their first one-on-one meeting Monday, and Abe plans to have separate talks on Sunday with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

The three-way summit has been suspended since May 2012, mainly because Japan's political ties with both China and South Korea chilled over disagreements over territory and the perception of wartime history.

In an effort to sustain improved relations between Japan and its two neighbours, Tokyo and Seoul are proposing reviving the annual summits, including a plan to meet in Japan next year.

However, Beijing has shown reluctance to spelling out such an idea in a joint document set to be issued after Sunday's meeting, according to diplomatic sources.—Kyodo News

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Japanese protesters dragged away as work resumes at US airbase



Protesters lie on the ground as they try to block work on a contentious US air base in front of the gate of the US Marine Corps Camp Schwab in Nago on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on 29 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — Police dragged away elderly protesters trying to block work on a contentious US airbase in Okinawa on Thursday as Japan's government resumed building even though the Okinawa governor had revoked a work permit for the site.

Residents of Okinawa, the site of bloody battles near the end of World War Two, resent hosting any US military at all, and oppose the government's plan to move the US Marines' Futenma base to another location on the southern island. Protests backing the stand taken by Okinawa have drawn tens of thousands of people, and perceptions of bullying by the govern-

ment could dent support ratings for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ahead of an election next year. Two weeks ago, anti-base governor Takeshi Onaga, who has accused Abe of looking down on Okinawa, revoked the permit issued by his predecessor for key landfill work needed for the new base. But, the government ignored it, citing the need for "administrative continuity". Roughly 100 protesters, many of them elderly, gathered early on Thursday to block the way for construction trucks and bulldozers, before police dragged them away.

One elderly woman with a cane yelled "Put me down!" as she was hauled off in a chair.

"What are you doing?" another white-haired woman shouted at police. "Aren't you supposed to be protecting citizens?"

Onaga told reporters that Okinawa would continue to resist.

"All I can sense is strong-arm governance, which is extremely unfortunate," he added.

The United States and Japan agreed in 1996 to close Futenma, located in a densely populated area that the central government says makes it one of the "most dangerous airports in the world", but plans to move it stalled due to opposition from Okinawa residents worried about noise, pollution and crime.—Reuters

Australia to trial world-first 'cloud passports'

CANBERRA — Australia is looking to trial a world-first innovation that would allow its citizens to travel overseas without a physical passport, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said on Thursday.

Revealing the idea of a "cloud passport" to Fairfax Media, the foreign minister said it came about after lengthy discussion with some Australia's best innovators.

Earlier this year, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) put out a call to its staff in Canberra and around the world, polling ideas about how best to modernize the portfolio.

Staff submitted and voted on up to 392 pitches, in what was called the "DFAT ideas challenge," with the top ten being presented to a panel of judges which included the foreign minister.

Bishop said the cloud passport was the winning idea, with the panel of judges thinking that "it will go global."

Last year, 38,718 Australian passports were reported to have been stolen or be missing, up from 38,689 the previous year. Under a cloud-based system, a traveller's biometrics data and identity would be stored digitally, allowing people to freely travel without the risk of a passport getting lost or being stolen while abroad.—Xinhua

India's Modi pitches 'partnership of prosperity' to Africa

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned on the charm for African leaders on Thursday, promising \$10 billion (£6.6 billion) in credit to back a “partnership of prosperity” and pitching a broad alliance for global reform.

Hosting 54 nations for the biggest India-Africa summit, Modi laid on a lavish cultural programme with dancers, drummers and videos in a sports arena.

“The dreams of a third of humanity have come together under one roof,” he said in a speech.

Behind the aspirational rhetoric lies a fundamental shift in India's outlook under the 65-year-old leader, who wants Asia's third-largest economy to break out of a history of isolation and non-alignment to become a global player.

Yet India, soon to become the world's most populous country, has its work cut out to catch up with China, whose annual trade with Africa is three times larger than its own \$72 billion.

“We will raise the level of our support for your vision of a prosperous, integrated and united Africa that is a major partner for



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives to address during the Inaugural Session of the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, India on 29 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

the world,” Modi told leaders, including presidents Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Mohammadu Buhari of Nigeria and Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt.

India and Africa are home to seven in 10 of the world's poor but are among the fastest growing economies, leading Modi to talk of a “vibrant India” and a “resurgent Africa”. He promised \$10 billion in new credit, in addition to \$7.4 billion in soft loans and \$1.2

billion in aid provided since the first India-Africa summit in 2008.

In addition, India will offer grant aid of \$600 million. Of that, \$100 million would go towards a new India-Africa Development Fund and \$10 million to an India-Africa Health Fund.

Modi urged India and Africa to speak with one voice on global affairs, including reform of the United Nations.

India aspires to a permanent seat on an expanded UN Security Council, arguing that it is rooted in the post-war global order and fails to reflect today's power relations. He appealed for African support on trade, saying a World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting in December in Nairobi should ensure that free trade talks serve both regions' goals.

India is pressing for a permanent deal on food stockpiling, an issue that has complicated the long-running Doha Round, arguing that it must hoard food to ensure that its 1.25 billion people do not go hungry.

Modi also appealed to African nations to join an alliance of “solar-rich” countries at the forthcoming UN climate summit

in Paris to promote clean and affordable energy. “When the sun sets, tens of millions of homes in India and Africa become dark. We want to light up lives of our people and power their future,” said Modi.

“But, we want to do it in a way that the snow on Kilimanjaro does not disappear, the glacier that feeds the River Ganga does not retreat and our islands are not doomed.”—Reuters

“... we want to do it in a way that the snow on Kilimanjaro does not disappear, the glacier that feeds the River Ganga does not retreat and our islands are not doomed.”

Narendra Modi

US, Chinese navy chiefs to discuss South China Sea on Thursday

BEIJING — The Chinese and US navies are set to hold high-level talks over tensions in the South China Sea after a US warship challenged Beijing's territorial assertiveness in the disputed waterway this week.

The US chief of naval operations Admiral John Richardson and his Chinese counterpart Admiral Wu Shengli would hold an hourlong video teleconference on Thursday, a US official said.

Both officers initiated the meeting to discuss recent operations in the South China Sea as well as naval ties, the official said. It will be the third such video teleconference between naval chiefs from the United States and China. Beijing rebuked Washington for sending a guided-missile destroyer within 12 nautical miles of one of China's man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago on Tuesday, saying it had tracked and warned the USS Lassen and called in the US ambassador to protest.

The patrol was the most significant US challenge yet to territorial limits China claims around its artificial islands in one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

“Neither the US nor China desires a military conflict, but the key problem is that the core interests of both sides collide in the South China Sea,” said Ni Lexiong, a naval expert at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law. “It's hard to see either side backing down.”

Separately, the English-language *China Daily* newspaper reported that Admiral Harry Harris, commander of US forces in the Pacific, would visit Beijing next

week. It cited an unnamed source and gave no further details.

A US embassy spokesman declined to comment.

Harris has been highly critical of China's island building in the Spratlys. Earlier this year he said China was using dredges and bulldozers to create a “great wall of sand” in the South China Sea. China rotates a large number of naval and coastguard vessels through the South China Sea, both for patrols and training missions, security experts say.

Chinese state media on Thursday said a “guided-missile destroyer flotilla” under the navy's South China Sea Fleet carried out a “realistic confrontation training exercise” involving anti-aircraft firing and firing at shore at night.

A state-owned news website carried photos from the drills, saying they took place recently in the South China Sea. One photo showed three warships sailing one after the other.

Despite criticism of China's actions in the South China Sea, foreign navies from the United States to Europe have sought to build ties with their Chinese counterparts.

A French frigate docked at China's main South China Sea base of Zhanjiang in the southern province of Guangdong on Wednesday on a four-day visit. It will participate in a maritime exercise about accidental encounters at sea. Two Australian warships will also hold exercises with the Chinese navy in the South China Sea early next week, Australian Defence Minister

Marise Payne said on Thursday.

“There have been no changes or delays to the schedule of the HMAS Arunta and HMAS Stuart since the United States activity in the South China Sea on 27 October 2015,” Payne said in a statement that gave no details on the precise location for the exercise.

Australian media said it would include live-fire drills. Canberra, a key US ally in the region, expressed its strong support for freedom of navigation this week, while stopping short of welcoming the USS Lassen's patrol. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of world trade passes every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.—Reuters



The US Navy guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen sails in the Pacific Ocean in a November 2009 photo provided by the US Navy. PHOTO: REUTERS

Witness testifying in Yingluck's rice-scheme case to start in January

BANGKOK — Thailand's Supreme Court on Thursday decided to arrange 21 hearings for prosecution and defense witnesses to testify in the trial of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra over her government's rice-pledging scheme.

The court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Office decided to have 14 prosecution witnesses testify in five hearings, with the first scheduled on 15 January and the last on 23 March 2016.

Subsequently, 42 defense witnesses will testify in 16 hearings, which will start on 1 April and conclude on 18 November 2016.

The court will decide later whether to have other witnesses provided by the prosecutors and defendant to testify. Yingluck, who is charged with dereliction of duty and abuse of authority, arrived at the Supreme Court in the morning and was greeted by many supporters waiting outside. Yingluck has been alleged of failing to stop corruption in the rice programme and incurring up to 17 billion US dollars in operational losses.—Xinhua

Nepal signs deal with China for supplies as fuel crisis deepens

KATHMANDU — Nepal signed a deal on Wednesday with China to import petroleum products, its embassy in Beijing said, as the Himalayan nation tries to boost supplies to deal with a deepening fuel crisis.

Kathmandu has been forced to ration fuel after protests against a new constitution strangled supplies from India into the landlocked nation.

India has been critical of Nepal for rushing through the constitution despite opposition from minorities living close to its border. While the Himalayan nation accuses India of imposing a blockade to show its displeasure, New Delhi says its truck drivers are concerned for their safety.

The Nepalese embassy said in a statement a memorandum of understanding had been signed between Nepal Oil Corp and National United Oil Corp (PetroChina), without giving details of the deal.

Nepali and Chinese officials were not immediately available comments. China will also supply 1,000 tonnes of fuel to Nepal as a grant, the statement said.—Reuters

Britain's long-awaited Iraq inquiry to be published in June or July 2016

LONDON — The chairman of a British public inquiry into the Iraq War that has been running for seven years said on Thursday he expected to publish his report mid-2016, prompting Prime Minister David Cameron to urge him to speed up the process.

The inquiry aims to shed light on every aspect of Britain's involvement with Iraq from 2001 to 2009, from the build-up to the US-led invasion in 2003 to the withdrawal of combat troops, and to identify lessons that can be learnt.

The Iraq War, and in particular the role of former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair in leading the nation into it, are still live political issues in Britain and the inquiry has come under repeated criticism from lawmakers and relatives of those killed over how long it has taken.

"My colleagues and I esti-

mate that we will be able to complete the text of our report in the week commencing 18 April 2016. At that point, national security checking of its contents ... can begin," John Chilcot said in a letter to Cameron published on the inquiry's website.

Chilcot said due to the length of the report — more than 2 million words — it would then take many weeks to prepare for printing, making publication in June or July most likely.

Cameron welcomed that there was now "a clear end in sight" for the inquiry, but said he was disappointed Chilcot did not believe it would logistically be possible to publish the report until next summer.

"I recognise that you have a significant task, but would welcome any further steps you can take to expedite the final stages of

the inquiry," he said in a letter to Chilcot released by his office.

More resources will be provided to the inquiry team if it allows the report to be published sooner, Cameron said, adding that the government planned to take no longer than two weeks to complete the national security checking process.

Publication has been held up by so-called "Maxwellisation", a confidential process in which people who are to be criticised in the report are given advance copies so that they have a chance to defend themselves.

On Sunday, US network CNN aired an interview with Blair in which he apologised for what he described as mistakes in planning and intelligence before the war, with media accusing him of trying to pre-empt the report's criticism.



A still image from video shows former British Prime Minister Tony Blair (BACK TO CAMERA) speaking at an inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq War, at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, in central London. PHOTO: REUTERS

Reg Keys, whose 20-year-old son Thomas was killed in Iraq, said seven years was too long.

"We, the families, believe that Sir John allowed this ridicu-

lous Maxwellisation process to run on far too long," he told the BBC. "It went on for two years when six months would have been fine. —Reuters

Greek coastguard rescues 242 migrants as boat sinks, three drown

ATHENS — The Greek coastguard rescued 242 migrants when their wooden boat sank north of the island of Lesbos on Wednesday, but at least three drowned, including two small boys, authorities said.

"We do not have a picture of how many people may be missing yet," a coastguard spokeswoman said.

A man and the two boys were found drowned and an extensive search was under way in the area after what was thought to be the largest maritime disaster off Greece in terms of numbers involved since a massive refugee influx began this year.

More than 500,000 refugees and migrants have entered Greece through its outlying is-

lands since January, transiting on to central and northern Europe in what has become the biggest humanitarian crisis on the continent in decades.

Inflows have increased recently as refugees are trying to beat the onset of winter, crossing the narrow sea passages between Turkey and Greece on overcrowded small boats.

"These praiseworthy attempts of the coastguard to save refugees at sea is at risk of now turning into a constant operation of locating and collecting drowned refugees," Greek shipping minister Thodoris Dritsas said.

Lesbos, which lies less than 10 kilometres from the Turkish coast in the north Aegean Sea, has been a primary

gateway for thousands of migrants entering the European Union's outermost border.

At a summit last Sunday, EU leaders agreed to cooperate further in handling the crisis, and to provide United Nations-aided housing for 100,000 people, half of them in Greece.

Aid organisations say it barely addresses the problem of ensuring safe and legal routes for people to seek refuge.

"What we don't need in the wake of this tragedy is another 'extraordinary' meeting that leads to a dead end. What would be truly out of the ordinary — but completely necessary — is real and concerted action," said Gauri van Gulik, Amnesty International's deputy director for Europe. —Reuters



A Greek Coast Guard helicopter flies over a Frontex vessel trying to rescue refugees and migrants, after a boat carrying more than 200 people sank while crossing part of the Aegean Sea from Turkey, near the Greek island of Lesbos, on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran considered nuclear weapons during 1980s Iraq war, former president says

DUBAI — Iran considered pursuing a nuclear deterrent when it began its nuclear programme in the 1980s, during an eight-year war with Iraq, a former president has been quoted as saying.

Iran is implementing a deal reached with world powers in July, aimed at curbing its nuclear programme to allay Western fears it was trying to build an atomic bomb.

Throughout the negotiations, Iran insisted its programme had only ever been for peaceful purposes. In an interview with Iran's Nuclear Hope magazine this week, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani suggested that officials were thinking about a deterrent capability when the nuclear programme first began, but insisted that it never took shape. "When we first began, we were at war and we sought to have

that possibility for the day that the enemy might use a nuclear weapon. That was the thinking. But it never became real," Rafsanjani said in the interview, which was carried by state news agency IRNA on Tuesday.

Iran fought a devastating eight-year war against Iraq in the 1980s. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, the aggressor, had a nuclear programme throughout the war. He never developed a nuclear weapon but used chemical weapons later in the war. "Our basic doctrine was always a peaceful nuclear application, but it never left our mind that if one day we should be threatened and it was imperative, we should be able to go down the other path," said Rafsanjani, who was parliament speaker during the war and became president shortly after. —Reuters

Gunman shoots three people at Indianapolis mall

INDIANAPOLIS — A gunman opened fire on Wednesday inside the Washington Square Mall on the east side of Indianapolis, and three people were wounded, police said.

An Indianapolis Metropolitan Police spokesman said the shooting occurred at about 6:30 pm in a mall corridor where the suspect encountered a man he knew and opened fire, wounding him and two other people, police said.

"This was a targeted individual. They had words," Deputy

Chief Brian Mahone said during a news conference aired on local television. "This is not a random act." The suspect fled the mall and is not in custody, Mahone said. The wounded man along with a woman and another man who were also shot managed to run through a Target Store connected to the mall after the incident and were taken to nearby hospitals, Indianapolis Police Sergeant Kendale Adams said. "None of the injuries are believed to be life-threatening," Adams said by telephone. —Reuters

OPINION

Building sustainable development on sustainable employment

Kyaw Thura

THERE is some truth in the assumption that poverty and crime often go hand in hand. This common belief holds that people out of work are highly likely to commit crime. In other words, they tend to commit wrongdoings in the name of money and out of desperation.

As a developing nation our country still has a long way to go before it can claim parity with its neighbours. The government seems to be under the

illusion that creating job opportunities by inviting local and foreign investments is an adequate way to address the problems of unemployment and poverty. The provision of training and capacity-building programmes cannot help that much. It helps only those who are already employed, not those who need work, food and support most desperately.

In this fast-changing world of work driven by technology, firms are seeking people with higher skills and qualifications and as a result many people find it difficult to get a job and stay in work. How Myanmar tackles the problem of unemployment therefore sets a critical context for crime reduction.

The government must be serious about charting a course for a sustainable future by framing specific strategies that are designed to deal with particular issues. Priority should be given, for example, to policies that will enable the unemployed to gain valuable skills in order to ply a trade or go into business before addressing the knock-on problem of keeping the employed technically up to date so that they can maintain

a competitive edge. It stands to reason that employment generates income and reduces poverty, not to mention that it raises the spirits and gives meaning to day to day life. Another good thing is that it not only implants a sense of dignity and worth in workers but also enables them to feel socially secured and more bound to their community.

It is at work that we can understand more about the diversity of cultures and strengthen our social bonds. All things considered, it is sustainable work that will guarantee sustainable human development.

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Teaching the younger generation to show more initiative

Myo Myint

AT a time when Myanmar is striving to achieve economic and social development, it can be considered to be fortunate that about one-quarter of its population is between the ages of 15 and 29. However, how fast the country can progress and how quick it catches up with the rest of the world largely depend on our young people's ability to harness information and communication technology to acquire information and knowledge swiftly and to develop the thinking skills necessary to create new knowledge, new products and new services speedily.

Our rigid education system, still measuring achievement largely based on memorization and reproduction, whether at school, university or tuition, requires very little analytical and synthesizing thinking skills and the ability to solve problems, both of which are required to develop creativity to be able to respond to complex challenges of this century. In addition to this problem is the very slow transition from top down management system to collaborative management system, both in the public as well as the private sectors which again stunts the development of new ideas, the expression of opinions and collaborative decision making. People appear to be rewarded more for strictly following orders and abiding by decisions rather than for coming up with creative thoughts and

solutions. Moreover, the general complaint among those in management is the lack of motivation and ambition, and a poor attitude to work among many young staff which have led to apathy and have inhibited self-improvement. These have probably been caused by inability to specialize in subjects of one's choice, lack of opportunity to follow a career of one's choice, and slow career progression. Worst still is the lack of initiative in young people, whether at home, school, or at work, which creates a very poor opinion of the person concerned and hinders both personal as well as professional development.

The word initiative according to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (7th edition) is "the ability to decide and act on your own without waiting for somebody to tell you what to do." This ability to decide and do things without having to be told is a crucial factor in developing higher-order thinking skills, forming a good impression on colleagues and superiors, improving the home and work environments and in being considered for training, promotion and salary increase at work.

Since the ability to take initiative is important in a young person's life, let us first consider some of the reasons that inhibit the use and growth of initiative. The first is being accustomed to being ordered about by one's superiors and elders, doing whatever one is told without an un-questioning mind and not

having the chance to use one's initiative. The second is the fear of arousing the disapproval and wrath of one's superiors for taking the initiative to do something. The third is not being shown appreciation by one's seniors, or elders, for having taken the initiative to doing something that has a beneficial effect. The fourth is not knowing what initiative is, and so not showing it, or not giving any thought to the needs of one's home or work. The final one is knowing when initiative can be taken, but not wanting to exert the necessary effort, or going the extra mile.

On the other hand, the benefits of taking initiatives can be numerous. By getting into the habit of making decisions without waiting for the orders of others, one learns to think for oneself and one's thinking skills are gradually developed. Moreover, by constantly taking initiatives, new ideas are generated which creates a dynamic working environment. Next, by taking initiatives and not waiting for somebody's decisions, matters can be settled more expeditiously which can contribute to the creation of harmony at work, and also have a positive impact on social relationships. Finally, one's positive actions serve as a good example to others, and one is likely to gain the recognition of one's colleagues and superiors.

Much as taking initiative is beneficial to those who do so, as well as to the people and organization in-

involved, care needs to be exercised in taking initiatives, or the action can misfire or be misconstrued. The most important thing is having a clear picture of the rules and policies of the organization one works for and to what extent it will allow showing initiatives, so that one knows well the limits of one's authority, and when one needs to consult others so as not to overstep one's boundary. Furthermore, for one's initiative to have positive results, it is also important to have the ability to think correctly and be aware of the limitations of one's thinking ability. Consequently, one must keep assessing oneself constantly to discover if one's decisions have been correct or not.

Since the ability to take initiative is beneficial not only to the person concerned as well as to the organization one serves and the general public, it is vital that we train children from young, both at home and at school, to do so. This can be done by parents and teachers explaining to children the set rules and asking them to do small things on their own accord, within the perimeters of the rules set. They should also be shown appreciation for having taken initiative to do something good in order to reinforce the habit. Parents and teachers should also set a good example and explain to children the benefits so derived by doing positive things without being told to do so by others. The training should be continued at work and apprecia-

POEM:

Private Education Institutions

In Myanmar, there has lately been a proliferation of private institutions of Basic, TVET and Higher Education some owned by Myanmar citizens, some as joint ventures with foreigners and some wholly owned by foreigners.

Some such private education institution claiming affiliation to foreign institution and maintaining that their curriculum will provide 'quality education' has not been up to the peoples' expectation.

The education provided is at a considerable cost and is not affordable by many and worst, the qualifications awarded by these institutions may not be recognized by Government organizations so that source of local employment of the students may mostly be the private sector establishments. Seeking employment abroad with such qualification may often raise problems of recognition.

The Private Education Law had been drafted which in the newspapers has been presented for the scrutiny and suggestions of the people should be enacted as soon as possible.

Consequently as in the said draft law provided The private education institutions could be regulated to offer the public, education which is quality assured and the recognition of their qualification is ensured.

At the same time the law includes provision for compliance of the of private institutions' qualification to levels of National Qualification Framework for comparison which would thus link, private and public institutional education and enable local and foreign employers to recruit employees with required level of knowledge and competencies no matter whether they obtained the qualification from a private or public educational institution.

Lokethar

tion shown, so that young people will know the beneficial effects of showing initiatives on them, as well as on the organization they work for, and the people they interact with daily. Finally, we should constantly remind ourselves that everyone of us has the ability to contribute to making a more harmonious and happier world and the more influence we have, the more we can contribute to making the world a better place by taking positive initiatives and not waiting for somebody to tell, or remind us to do something, whether major or minor.

Pilgrims throng to Werawsana Jade Pagoda

PILGRIMS from various regions thronged to the Werawsana Jade Pagoda in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region on Wednesday for the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut.

“The car park was filled with more than 1,000 vehicles belonging to pilgrims,” said a local. “The platform of the pagoda was packed with thousands of people on the Full Moon Day. Even on other days the pagoda is packed with visitors.” The pagoda is made of jade and cost more than K33 billion to build. It is in Hsinywa Myinhmu village, Amarapura Township.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*



Pilgrims from various regions of the country visit Werawsana Jade Pagoda in Amarapura Township. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

Highways Dept widens inter-township road

THE Department of Highways in Thaton Township is building the 35.5-mile Theinseik-Wiyaw-Laykay motor road in order to improve the quality of transport in Mon State.

The township department is widening the 12-foot-wide road to 30 feet for the sake of traffic safety, they say.

“The road will link Papun in Kayin State with Thaton in Mon State,” Staff Officer U Win Myint of the Township Department of Highways said.

The completion of the road will allow the Thuwannawati town of Thaton Township fast and easy access to other townships and regions.—*Khun (Winpa)*

Buddha Pujaniya festival begins at Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda



Ethnic people and pilgrims attend opening of Buddha Pujaniya at Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda. PHOTO: MOI WEB PORTAL

THE consecration and Buddha Pujaniya of Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda took place in Kyaikto, Mon State, on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, Wednesday.

Pilgrims, local people and tourists thronged to witness the ceremony.

Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint and a number of pil-

grims offered meals to members of the Sangha who consecrated the pagoda. At the opening ceremony of the Buddha Pujaniya festival Mon State minister U Thet Win held conference with senior monks. The chief minister along with well-wishers donated cash to the fund dedicated to offering gold foils to the pagoda

and provisions to members of the Sangha. The chief minister cut the ribbon to open the Buddha Pujaniya festival at which Kayin, Pa-O and Mon ethnic people from Kyaikto and nearby villages performed traditional dances.

Kyaikhtiyoe pagoda is one of the most recognised landmarks in Myanmar.—*MOI Web Portal*

Junior assistant teachers receive training

A WORKSHOP on enhancing standards of education for junior assistant teachers was held in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, from 20 October until 27 October.

A total of 24 experienced teachers led the enhancement workshop in participation with 297 junior assistant teachers

from Myeik, Kyunsu, Palaw, Taninthayi, Bokpyin and Kawthoung townships. Awards were offered to the highest achieving assistant teachers.

Assistant Director U Myo Lwin of the Myeik District Education Office presented the first prize to Daw Tin Tin Nwe of

Seikphu Basic Education Middle School in Bokpyin Township, the second to Daw April Kyaw Oo of Waingtaung BEMS (Branch) in Myeik Township and Daw Moe Moe Aye of Lonphaw Post-Primary School in Kawthoung Township.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)*

Elephant troupes in Kyaukse stick to tradition

THE elephant dancing festival, one of the most famous traditional festivals in Myanmar, was held in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday night.

The Shwe Myanmar troupe from Pauktaw Ward secured first prize in the senior elephant dancing contest while the Wunna Thura troupe won first prize in the junior competition.

Hla Yin Kyay troupe placed first in the traditional elephant dancing contest followed by Padauk Myaing troupe who came second. Pyae Ahman troupe came in third. A total of 16 dancing troupes participated in the event.

Officials of the organising committee presented K800,000 to the first prize winner and K600,000 to the second in the senior event, K600,000 to the first prize winner in the junior event and K1 million, K800,000 and K600,000 to the first, second and third prize winners in the traditional elephant dancing contest respectively.

Kyaukse District's deputy commissioner U Myint Naing and officials of Kanbawza Bank (Kyaukse) gave prizes to other elephant troupes who participated in the opening ceremony.—*Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)*



An official presents prize to a winning team in elephant dancing festival in Kyaukse. PHOTO: TUN TUN NAING

Syrian opposition, rebels not invited to Vienna talks

BEIRUT — Syria's main political opposition body and representatives of the armed opposition have not been invited to international talks on the country's war, an opposition politician and a rebel leader said.

The Syrian government in Damascus has meanwhile yet to issue any official comment on the meeting in Vienna on Friday that will bring together about a dozen countries including Saudi Arabia and Iran, which back opposing sides in the conflict.

The Syrian opposition has objected to Iran's participation in the talks — the first time it has attended such a meeting on Syria — because of its military support for President Bashar al-Assad.

George Sabra, a member of the Syrian National Coalition, told Reuters the failure to invite Syrians showed a "lack of seriousness". Asked whether the coalition had been invited to the talks, he said: "That didn't happen."

"It is a big weak point in the meeting, because it will discuss the issues

of the Syrians in their absence."

The talks will include regional opponents Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"The Saudi regime has committed war crimes and its presence in the multilateral Vienna talks on Syria is dubious and illegitimate," Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, head of Iran's armed forces, was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

Tehran and Moscow have provided crucial support to Assad's government, while his regional opponents including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey demand his departure.

Assad has stuck by his long-held position that "eliminating terrorism" must come first, after Moscow called on Syria to prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections. Assad says all the groups fighting him are terrorists.

Bashar al-Zoubi of the Yarmouk Army, a group affiliated to the Free Syrian Army, told Reuters that representatives of the armed opposition had not been invited to the Vienna meeting.—Reuters

Saudi-led coalition drops weapons for allies in Yemeni city



A man stands at the site of Saudi-led air strikes in Yemen's capital Sanaa, on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

DUBAI — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition bombed the Iran-allied Houthi movement across Yemen on Wednesday and dropped weapons to Islamist militias battling the group, a day after being accused of bombing the hospital of an international medical aid charity.

The sorties showed the coalition was determined to use its air power to push back the Houthis, Yemen's dominant group, despite charges by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) that coalition bombing destroyed one of its hospitals late on Monday. The alliance has denied the charges.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries

have been bombing the Houthis and their army allies loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh since late March.

At least 5,600 people have been killed, but the alliance has made little headway in restoring Yemen's exiled government to the Houthi-controlled capital, Sanaa.

The coalition dropped weapons in the southwestern city of Taiz, Yemen's third largest which has become a major front in the coalition's northward push towards the capital. Islamist militias are fighting artillery and heavy machine gun duels with the Houthis in civilian neighbourhoods there. "Coalition forces sup-

plied the resistance with a quantity of high-quality weapons which landed in the south of the city in an area under our control," a senior militia leader told Reuters.

The United Nations and aid groups have expressed alarm at a worsening humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which even before the war struggled with widespread poverty and hunger. They say civilian targets, including markets, factories, houses, schools and hospitals, have been bombed. MSF expressed outrage at the missile attack on its medical facility in Yemen's far northern province of Saada, and Human Rights Watch said the coalition appeared not

to be investigating alleged rights violations.

"Human Rights Watch has not been able to ascertain that Saudi Arabia or other coalition members are investigating a single air strike," the group said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The world is rightly concerned about the toll, especially to civilians, from this war," Yemen's Riyadh-based vice president, Khaled Bahah, wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*. "Any civilian death is a tragedy for which my heart bleeds, and the forces allied with us are taking extraordinary care to avoid civilian casualties and target only military objectives."—Reuters

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PlayStation 4 sales help Sony swing to Q2 operating profit

TOKYO — Sony Corp swung to a second-quarter operating profit as strong PlayStation 4 videogame sales helped to offset a fall in smartphone sales and keep the company on a recovery track after years of decline in its consumer electronics business.

Sony said on Thursday its July-September operating profit came to 88 billion yen (\$729 million), its best second-quarter operating profit in eight years. The profit was also a touch above the 87.3 billion yen average estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

In the same quarter last year, it booked a loss of 85.6 billion yen due to impairment charges for the mobile business.

The company said its game and networks business booked a 10 percent rise in operating profit thanks to strong PlayStation 4 software sales. It lifted the full-year profit outlook for the games business to 80 billion yen from a previous 60 billion and boosted the sales outlook for PlayStation 4 videogame consoles to 17.5 million units from 16.5 million.

Camera sensors have also played a key role in the company's recovery of the past year. The devices division, which includes image sensors, reported an



A reception staff works under a logo of Sony Corp at its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

operating profit of 32.7 billion yen, up 4.4 billion from a year earlier.

The upbeat results come a day after Sony agreed to acquire Toshiba Corp's image sensor business for an estimated 20 billion yen and take on about 1,100 workers from a company reeling from a \$1.3 billion accounting scandal.

"This business is crucial for Sony," Kenichiro Yoshida, Sony's chief financial officer said at a press conference. "We are facing a shortage of engineers in this field. We would welcome Toshiba engineers."

Sony is hoping that its dominant position in the camera sensor market would help the company offset weaker demand for its mobile phones, TVs and other consumer electronics.

Sony's mobile phone business remained in the red, posting a 20.6 billion yen loss due to heavy competition with other Asian makers.

Sony left unchanged its full-year operating profit and sales forecasts. It predicted an operating profit of 320 billion yen, a near five-fold jump, on sales of 7.9 trillion yen, down 3.8 percent.—Reuters

Alphabet, Indonesian companies to expand Web access via balloons

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O), the new holding company for Google, has teamed up with three Indonesian telecommunications companies to expand Internet access in that country using solar-powered balloons.

Alphabet officials, including co-founder Sergey Brin, and representatives from Indonesian companies Telkomsel, XL Axiata Tbk PT (EXCL.JK) and Indosat Tbk PT (ISAT.JK) signed an agreement Wednesday to bring so-called Project Loon to the nation of 250 million people.

The project sends solar-powered

balloons 16,000 feet (5,000 metres) into the air to deliver Internet access through radio frequency signals to antennae connected to buildings on the ground. The balloons use algorithms to find the best winds to carry them along their charted course.

Project Loon is part of Alphabet's secretive X division, where the company experiments with far-off technologies dubbed "moonshots" such as its self-driving car technology.

Alphabet and its partners will deploy hundreds of balloons in 2016 over the country of more

than 17,000 islands in an effort to determine where gaps in service lie as part of the tests before full-scale service is launched.

The US tech company has already tested the project in Brazil, New Zealand and Australia but with only a single carrier.

Project Loon Vice President Mike Cassidy said the Indonesian partnership marks the first time it will send signals from multiple telecommunications companies through a single balloon, and that it will be the service's largest deployment to date and could eventually reach 100 million users.

"We've been kind of having an increasing succession of tests: tests for getting balloon flights to work, tests to test connectivity. It's super exciting that this is going to serve actual communities," said Brin. He added that it is a cheaper way to offer Internet service, especially in areas that have "jungles or where you have to reach islands," such as Indonesia.

Cassidy said the effort is also a model for how Alphabet will move the product into the commercial market.

He said the telecommunications companies will use the trial period to determine pricing and billing while Google works out technical issues.—Reuters



A woman walks past a logo of Google at the Global Mobile Internet Conference (GMIC) 2015 in Beijing, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

Shell profits slump after huge write-offs

LONDON — Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA.L) on Thursday reported a sharp drop in third-quarter profits on the back of low oil prices and a hefty \$8.2 billion (5.4 billion pounds) charge which included write-offs in Alaska and Canada.

Shell's current cost of supplies (CCS) earnings excluding identified items, the company's definition of net income, fell to \$1.8 billion from \$5.85 billion a year earlier and from \$3.835 billion in the previous quarter.

It also fell short of analysts

expectations of \$2.74 billion, according to a Reuters poll.

Shell maintained its dividend at 47 cents per share.

"These charges reflect both a lower oil and gas price outlook and the firm steps we are taking to review and reduce Shell's longer-term option set," Chief Executive Ben van Beurden said in a statement.

"These are difficult, but impactful decisions. I am determined that Shell will become a more focussed and competitive company as a result." — Reuters

Samsung Elec unveils \$9.9 bn buyback as third-quarter profit rebounds



People are silhouetted as they pose with mobile devices in front of a screen projected with a Samsung logo. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Tech giant Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) on Thursday unveiled a 11.3 trillion won (\$9.9 billion) share buyback after reporting its first on-year profit growth in two years thanks to strong component sales, pushing its shares sharply higher.

Samsung said it would cancel all shares purchased through the buyback, its biggest to date, and planned to give shareholders 30 percent to 50 percent of its free cash flow over the next three years, primarily through dividends.

The buyback, to be carried out in phases over a year, will be welcome news for those investors who have been clamoring for bigger payouts from the world's top smartphone maker, which has lost market share to rivals such as Apple Inc (AAPL.O) and Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL].

"Samsung's core smartphone business is struggling, which means the shares would likely fall. The buyback helps defend the stock price," said Chung Sun-sup, head of corporate analysis firm Chaebul.com.

Cancelling the purchased shares would also help the Lee family, founders of Samsung

Group [SAGR.UL], boost their control of the conglomerate's crown jewel.

Samsung's shares touched a near six-month high and were up 2.2 percent as of 0340 GMT, compared with a 0.3 percent decline for the broader market .KS11.

The maker of Galaxy-series handsets and tablets said third-quarter operating profit jumped 82 percent to 7.4 trillion won (\$6.5 billion), in line with its guidance. Revenue rose 8.9 percent from a year earlier to 51.7 trillion won.

Samsung warned that earnings would fall sequentially in the fourth quarter as currency conditions — which added 800 billion won to profit in the third quarter — became less favourable.

The mobile division posted its first on-year profit growth in two years, climbing 37 percent to 2.40 trillion won, thanks to strong sales of the Galaxy Note 5 as well as new lower-end products.

The firm said it aimed to keep fourth-quarter mobile profits at a similar level, although the outlook beyond that was unclear as it expected the global smartphone market to slow in 2016.—Reuters

Vucic: We are buying weapons for country's protection

MOSCOW — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Wednesday that Serbia will buy a part of its armament from the Russian Federation for the country's protection.

Serbia has to purchase a part of its armament, but it will strive to manufacture a part in the country in cooperation with Russia, Vucic said, responding to reporters' questions in Moscow. He did not want to specify the type of armament, because the talks are ongoing. "We will not purchase attack weapons, but we have to protect our territory," Vucic underlined.

Vucic said that those wondering why Serbia is



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic.

PHOTO: TANJUG

buying weapons should also wonder why some neighbouring countries are obtaining combat helicopters, armored fighting vehicles, self-propelled howitzers, and why launch pads are being sent to some as a gift, while others are buying ballistic missiles.—*Tanjug*

Argentina's Massa to election rivals — Want my voters? Heed my ideas

BUENOS AIRES — Defeated Argentine presidential hopeful Sergio Massa unveiled key policy demands on Wednesday and said his 5 million supporters would vote in next month's run-off election based on how the two remaining candidates respond.

Massa, whose plans ranged from cracking down on drug-runners to scrapping income tax for workers, stopped short of endorsing either ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli or his conservative rival Mauricio Macri.

"The stance that the two candidates take vis-a-vis these proposals will define where more than 5

million voters place their support," he said.

Earlier, Scioli's hunt for swing voters suffered a blow when two of Massa's top allies said they would not vote for him.

Macri has the momentum early in the race to the 22 November run-off after his strong showing in Sunday's ballot defied polls and shocked the ruling Front for Victory party, which had eyed a win in the first round.

Jose Manuel De la Sota, the governor of Cordoba Province and a senior figure in Massa's alliance, said the leftist government of outgoing leader Cristina Fernandez had been "anti-federal and authoritari-



Argentina's ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli speaks during a news conference in Buenos Aires, on 26 October 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

an" in style. Roberto Lavagna, a former economy minister, said he wanted to see "change".

"Kirchnerismo has done no good for the

country," De la Sota told reporters, referring to the name given to the leftist populism of Fernandez and her late husband and predecessor Nestor Kirchner. "It has gotten drunk on power."

The policy blueprint leaned heavily on Massa's first-round campaign pledges and included scrapping the income tax for workers, removing hefty taxes on corn and wheat exports, tackling narco-gangs and stamping out corruption.

"Between change and continuity, change has already won," Massa said. "Now what we need to construct is intelligent change."—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (043 7JR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (043 7JR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

NOTICE OF DEADLINE EXTENSION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS

October 27, 2015

Invitation No.:LDC/KEDCF/15-16(528)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project
for FOC Backbone Network Construction
L/A No. MYA-8

- The Project Executing Agency, Myanma Posts & Telecommunications (MPT), now extends deadline for Bids submission on the Bidders' request in order to encourage as many as the competent companies to participate in the bids as well as enhance the quality of the bidders' proposal.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at 09:30 AM ~ 10:30 AM on 16th of November, 2015 MMT (Myanmar Time). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bond) of One (1) million US Dollars. Effective date of bid security - (Bond) - is March 14, 2016. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:30 AM on 16th of November, 2015 MMT (Myanmar Time).
Communication & Technology Office (1st floor),
Technology Department,
MPT, 125 Pansodan Street, Yangon, Myanmar
Telephone No.: +951 370 456
Facsimile No.: +951 370 458
e-mile: mgmgaye1516@gmail.com

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over South-west Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 30th October, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th October, 2015: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th October, 2015: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th October, 2015: Partly cloudy.

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Auto Telephone numbers of Hantharwady S-12 Exchange in Yangon Kyimyindaing RSU Area will be changed

To provide better quality and upgraded services for its auto telephone numbers, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications will substitute IP System NGN (Next Generation Network) with MSAN (Multi Service Access Node) of Mayangone (SoftSwift) Exchange. Hence, the numbers which start with (50xxxx, 51xxxx, 52xxxx, 53xxxx) of Hantharwady S-12 Exchange in Yangon Kyimyindaing RSU Area will be replaced with the numbers which start with (931-7xxx) of Mayangone Soft-X3000 (SoftSwitch) Exchange on 20th November, 2015. Those new numbers will have both voice call and ADSL internet access. Current ADSL users do not need to register again. New ADSL users will need to register to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications for internet access.

Static IP of Hantharwady S-12 Exchange in Yangon Kyimyindaing RSU Area will be changed into Static IP Range (172.x.x.x) Network. For further information and preparation for changes, Current ADSL Static IP users are requested to contact telephone numbers (01-650870 and 01-662707) of ADSL office at the Information Technology Department of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

Auto Telephone numbers of Yangon Ahlone Exchange Area will be changed

To provide better quality and upgraded services for its auto telephone numbers, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications will substitute IP System NGN (Next Generation Network) with MSAN (Multi Service Access Node) of Ahlone (SoftSwift) Exchange. Hence, the numbers which start with (214xxx, 215xxx, 216xxx, 217xxx) of NEXA-61 Container Exchange will be replaced with the numbers which start with (231-4xxx, 231-5xxx, 231-6xxx, 231-7xxx) of Ahlone ZXSS10SS1B (SoftSwitch) Exchange on 14th November, 2015. Those new numbers will have both voice call and ADSL internet access. Current ADSL users do not need to register again. New ADSL users will need to register to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications for internet access.

Static IP of Ahlone Exchange Area will be changed into Static IP Range (172.x.x.x) Network. . For further information and preparation for changes, Current ADSL Static IP users are requested to contact telephone numbers (01-650870 and 01-662707) of ADSL office at the Information Technology Department of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications



The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) hosted its 2nd Annual Factory Awards Dinner on 24 October at the Summit Parkview Hotel. One factory was honoured with a SMART Award for excellence in social compliance improvements. A runner-up factory was awarded an honourable mention for excellent practices in employee contracts and workplace conditions. Some members of the association threatened to close their factories rather than pay their workers a minimum wage of US\$2.80 per day earlier this year. PHOTOS: MGMA



Folks from all walks of life gathered in downtown Yangon this week to celebrate Thadingyut, the Myanmar Lighting Festival, which marks the end of Buddhist Lent. The festival is a great opportunity for Snapchat users to share videos of Myanmar youths practicing proper fire safety procedures. PHOTOS: JACOB GOLDBERG



The French Institute held a Brazilian Night on 24 October, giving lovers of Brazilian culture a chance to show off their capoeira and samba skills and drink caipirinhas. A special capoeira circle was led by Paulo Leite Dos Santos, known among the capoeira elite as Mestre Pintor, the founder of the Bantus Capoeira Group. Yangon's capoeira group meets on Tuesday and Sunday evenings at the French Institute. PHOTOS: RACHEL WONG



Daw Zan Zan Mar @ Baby Zan

@ Rita Goldberg

63 Years

B. Sc (Botany)

Representative of Kelvin Diesels Co., Ltd,
Scotland (U.K)

Daughter of (U Kyaw Zan - Daw Khin May Yi), daughter-in-law of (U Hla Myaing - Daw Myint Myint) of No (86) Lett-wel Thondara Road, 32 - Ward, North Dagon Township, Yangon, beloved wife of U Aung Thu Myaing (Myanmar Journalists Association) and beloved mother of Ma May Oo Myaing (Gold Horizon Engineering & Services Co., Ltd), Mg Shwe Po Myaing (Supreme Group of Companies) - Ma Ni Ni Hlaing, sister of (U Soe Win) - Daw Htay Htay Zan, U Kyaw Seyn Hlaing (National Consultant - ADB) - Daw Thwe Thwe Oo, U Aung Kyaw Zan @ Sonny (U.K), U Kyi San - Daw Tin Tin Aye, Professor Dr. Myint Thu Myaing (Law Department, Yangon University), passed away at 00:40 a.m on 29 October, 2015 (Thursday) at Asia Royal Hospital in Yangon.

Funeral will be held at Yeway Cemetery at 3 : 00 p.m on 31 October, 2015 (Saturday).

Bereaved Family

Pizza tossing record smashed in China

SHANGHAI — More than 500 people tossed pizza dough simultaneously in Shanghai on Wednesday, breaking a world record.

Participants are required to stretch and toss the pizza dough in a traditional way for a minimum of one minute, maintaining the size of the dough as long as 30.5 centimeters (12 inches).

Some 525 people gathered for the event,

held to raise awareness about breast cancer and money for charity, but 14 of them failed to make the challenge according to the rules, Guinness World Record certification officer Cheng Dong said.

"The final result is 511. Congratulations, it's a new Guinness World Record," he said.

The previous record was set in June with 338 people tossing pizza dough in London.—Reuters

Art biennial 'Saltwater' navigates turbulent Turkish times

ISTANBUL — Disparate ideas like a sea-borne zoo, an Aboriginal peace treaty and the lost birdsong of a ruined Armenian capital form a cohesive body of work at this year's Istanbul Biennial, a top international art show taking place in turbulent times.

"Saltwater: A Theory of Thought Forms," drafted by US-based art historian Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, is inspired by the waterways that shape this ancient city, and the sprawling show set in 36 venues stretches from a Black Sea lighthouse to the island refuge of the Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky.

The title evokes salt's dual nature to heal and corrode. "Salt is my way of speaking about power," she said. "Art does not belong to one side or the other. It serves a third: people."

The Istanbul Biennial, now in its 14th edition, opened in September against a backdrop of violence. Fighting between the Turkish army and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party that erupted suddenly in July wrecked a tenuous peace process. A suicide bombing blamed on Islamic State killed 102 people in the capital this month ahead of an election on 1 November. War in Syria has sparked an influx of 2 million refugees, tens of thousands of whom have made the treacherous voyage to Europe. The upheaval has not frightened off art crowds that reached a record 450,000 this week.



Visitors look at Anna Boghiguian's work 'The Salt Traders' at the 14th Istanbul Biennial at Galata Greek Primary School in Istanbul, Turkey, on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

They stop at bathhouses, hotels and garages in a kind of scavenger hunt for art through the city.

Christov-Bakargiev, who brought a lecture series to Kabul during the 2012 documenta fair, said art is most vital in times of strife. "I am interested in working in conflict zones."

Djambawa Marawili, a 62-year Aboriginal Australian, brought his own work as well as rare artifacts from his Yolngu people, including a graphic that served as a treaty with white settlers in 1935.

"I can see there are reasons for conflict here. By bringing our art all this way, maybe we can open eyes and minds. Making peace is what we do with art," Marawili said. Most references to nearby conflicts are deliberately oblique, and

Christov-Bakargiev bristled at art-world criticism the show glosses over Turkey's current problems. "You shed light on the present by looking at the past," she said.

A dozen artists examine the massacres of Armenians by Ottoman Turks early in the last century, including Belgian-born Francis Alys' black-and-white video "The Silence of Ani", in which children play among the ghostly ruins of Ani, the former seat of the Armenian kingdom, using whistles to imitate the area's lost bird species.

In "The Flesh Is Yours, the Bones Are Ours," American artist Michael Rakowitz, whose roots are Jewish Iraqi, uses art-nouveau plaster friezes moulded by apprentices of Istanbul's long-gone Armenian and Greek artisans.

He then incorporates the real excavated bones of stray dogs that were rounded up and deported to an Istanbul island where they starved to death in 1910. The episode foretells the expulsion of Armenians and Greeks in ensuing years. The work is in a former Greek primary school.

"Traces of fingers and hands that have borne silent witness to what has happened in the city from buildings that survived—that is something very hopeful and resilient," Rakowitz said. The pearl of the show is the island of Buyukada, an hour's ferry away, where horse-drawn carriages shuttle artgoers to crumbling Victorian homes for a rare peek inside, including where exiled Trotsky wrote "History of the Russian Revolution".—Reuters

Oklahoma haunted house welcomes blind with creepy sounds and chainsaw

OKLAHOMA CITY — Being chased through a haunted house by a chainsaw-wielding attacker is terrifying enough for most people, but for a group of blind and visually impaired teens and adults, the feigned mauling brought another level of fear.

For members of NewView Oklahoma, a nonprofit group that helps the visually impaired and blind, Halloween took on a new twist as they were invited to tour an elaborate haunted house in Oklahoma City.

"It was the scariest thing ever," Dalton Wright, 13 and visually impaired, said of his first haunted house experience.

"The chainsaw guy was the worst. I want to go back, though. I loved it."

The Bricktown Haunted House is located in the city's historic Bricktown warehouse district, now converted into an entertainment and restaurant hub. It has been organized around Halloween for nearly 30 years and helped establish the renovated district of the city as an entertainment centre.

The blind and visually impaired adults and youth were invited to tour the haunted house a week before Halloween.

For most, it was their first visit to a haunted house. Many said the creepy feeling of doom and the jarring sounds from all angles were the most frightening and thrilling part of the experience.

"The blind and vision-impaired do everything

that sighted people do every day. They have the same cares and wants, and they want to be entertained same as everyone else," said NewView Oklahoma Program Director Tamera Babbit. Actors were told about the blind visitors, but did little to change their performances.

Ted Corcoran, 49, of Oklahoma City attended with his sighted daughter.

"As far as navigating, I'm pretty good at feeling my way through the dark. I'm pretty hard to scare, but I dare them to try to scare me," he said before going through. For the most part he kept his cool among the mad voices and the people brushing by, but there were twinges of fear.

"You're in the dark and suddenly someone jumps

out in front of you and screams. There were a couple scary moments," Corcoran said.

The main agent of fear was the person dubbed "chainsaw guy," who wore a leather mask and is known in real life as Marcus "Panda" Bagwell.

"My mother went blind," said Bagwell. "My mother had macular degeneration, and I had to train her to walk, pour drinks, cook, you name it. I'll eventually go blind myself."

He said he did not pull any punches when it came to scaring the NewView clients.

"I love that they're doing this. If I could take my mom, I'd do it," Bagwell said. "I'm not going to turn it down, because that's the fun of it."—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(30-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 31-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Enchanting Rakhine Land
07:44	Am	Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts)
07:55	Am	Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Lucrative Businesses Of Tanintharyi Region
08:42	Am	Myanmar Invites You
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
09:42	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop
09:53	Am	Myanmar General Election 2015 (Korea Ambassador)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Size Does Matter (Ep-5) Human-Elephant Conflict, "Habitat Loss"
10:42	Am	The Art of Making Glaze Ware

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
07:40	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Toys
07:55	Pm	Goldsmith
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-1)
08:52	Pm	Crocodile Keeper

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

Myanmar Wave Rider Cup kicks off in Ngwe Saung

THE first day of the Myanmar Wave Rider Cup and KTA Race Open 2015 kicked off at Ngwe Saung Beach in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

The event featured three water sports, including wind-surfing, stand-up paddle boarding and kiteboarding.

Athletes from Myanmar, Thailand, Germany, Singapore, the US and the Philippines participated in the events.

Myanmar's U-18 men's junior stand-up paddle boarding team competes on the first day. A total of 48 contestants participated in SUP event.

The contests will continue until 31 October.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Participants taking part in men's junior stand-up paddle boarding contest. PHOTO: MNA

Three new football clubs added to MNL2

THE Myanmar National Football League-2 (MNL 2) is being organised for 2016 with the participation of 13 football clubs and includes the addition of three new clubs.

The TTU FC (Thanlyin Technological University), the Football Crazy FC (FC FC) and the Doctors & Friends FC (DNF FC) have applied to the organising department of the MNL for admission, thereby accepting official MNL rules and regulations.

The 2016 MNL 2 will be held in participation with two clubs from Ooredoo MNL 2015, Best United FC, Silver Stars FC, Mawyawadi FC, GFA FC, Myawady FC, Pong Gan FC, Dagon FC and the All-University Selection FC together with the three new clubs.

The organising committee is planning to hold League 2 in the second week of January 2016.—*Myanmar Football Federation*

Schoolgirl Ikee sets national record at World Cup

TOKYO — Junior high school student Rikako Ikee set a national record en route to victory in the women's 100 metres butterfly final at a World Cup meet in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Ikee powered home in a time of 57.56 seconds at Tokyo Tatsumi International Swim-

ming Centre to beat American Felicia Lee and compatriot Natsumi Hoshi. Lee clocked 59.15 and Hoshi came home in a time of 59.28.

Miki Uchida rewrote her Japanese record in the women's 50 meters freestyle, shaving 0.01 of her previous mark to

clock 24.95 for second place.

Australian Melanie Wright won the race in 24.92 and Ikee was third in 25.05. Elsewhere for Masato Sakai won the men's 200 butterfly in 1:55.75 Japan, while Ryosuke Irie had to settle for second in the 100 butterfly in 53.27. Elsewhere,

two-time former double Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima and Yasuhiro Koseki both failed to advance from the men's 50 and 200 breaststroke heats. Kanako Watanabe missed out on a place in the women's 200 freestyle final.—*Kyodo News*

Gold Trafford for Boro as Manchester United sent crashing

LONDON — Manchester United were dumped out of the League Cup on Wednesday after losing on penalties to second-tier Middlesbrough who reached the quarter-finals having withstood a late onslaught to secure a 0-0 draw in extra time.

Middlesbrough, who are coached by Spaniard Aitor Karanka, were clinical in the shootout as hosts United faltered with England internationals Wayne Rooney, Michael Carrick and Ashley Young all failing to convert from the spot at Old Trafford.

It was a much better night for two of United's fiercest rivals, new coach Juergen Klopp tasting victory for the first time as Liverpool beat Bournemouth 1-0 while Manchester City thrashed Crystal Palace 5-1.

Goals have been a priceless commodity for Liverpool this season and it was another nervy night as they scored in the first half through Nathaniel Clyne but could not add to their tally and were forced to hang on for the win.

Goals are rarely in short supply at the Etihad Stadium and City were ruthless as they brushed aside Palace with efforts from Wilfried Bony, Kevin



Middlesbrough's Kike shoots at goal against Manchester United during Capital One Cup Fourth Round at Old Trafford on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

de Bruyne, Kelechi Iheanacho, Yaya Toure (penalty) and Manu Garcia.

There was more woe for managerless Aston Villa who lost 2-1 at Southampton. Maya Yoshida and Graziano Pelle put the hosts two goals up before Scott Sinclair netted a late consolation from the penalty spot.

United became the latest high-profile casualty in the fourth round after Tuesday night

saw Arsenal knocked out by second-tier Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea beaten by Stoke City.

Middlesbrough thought they had scored in the second half when Daley Blind slammed the ball into his own net, only for an offside decision against Kike sparing the Dutchman's blushes.

United should then have wrapped up the contest in extra time but striker Anthony Mar-

tial and midfielder Marouane Fellaini missed fantastic chances to head them in front.

"It's very disappointing," coach Louis van Gaal told reporters. "We have to solve this problem, we have to finish our chances."

"I'm pleased with some performances of my players but I am also disappointed with some of my players. That's the life of a manager."—*Reuters*

