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THE STORM IS OVER

Myanmar fishermen return home from India

Zaw Min Latt (MNA)

MORE than 150 fishermen were repatriated from India on Monday as their prison sentences for illegally entering India's territorial waters expired.

Myanmar officials brought back 158 fishermen, the first batch of a total of 243 fishermen, from India's Port Blair by charter flight.

Authorities provided them with cash and gifts at the Yangon International Airport.

The remaining 85 fishermen will be brought back to Myanmar on Tuesday.

Out of 158, 137 are from Ayeyawady Region, 20 are from Rakhine State and one is from Taninthayi Region.

They were detained by the Indian navy while they were drifting in Indian territorial waters.

They illegally entered Indian waters when they were hit by storms. The engines of their fishing boats broke down, and they drifted into Indian territory.

At the Yangon International Airport, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing and other officials welcomed the fishermen and assisted them in their return home.



Myanmar fishermen return home on a flight from India. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)

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More than 10,500 observers to monitor 8 November election

MORE than 10,500 foreign and local observers will monitor the upcoming 8 November election.

The Union Election Commission has issued accreditation cards to 470 diplomats from 32 international embassies, 465 staff from six international election observation bodies, 183 staff from nine international organisations that are assisting in electoral processes and 9,406 staff of local observation organisations, according to a statement released by the UEC on Monday.

More than 290 media personnel from 45 foreign media organisations will cover the election, according to the UEC.

In its statement, the UEC urged the observers to abide by the UEC Code of Conduct drafted for observers and the existing laws of Myanmar in order to avoid bias.

The UEC is committed to holding the upcoming election with transparency and democratic principles, the Monday statement said. The government requested diplomats and foreign election observers to refrain from activities that could be construed as being biased or that may negatively impact the country's ability to hold free and fair elections.

At a meeting with diplomats and election observers held in Nay

Pyi Taw about two weeks ahead of the 8 November election, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin said the diplomatic community has an obligation to abide by the Union Election Commission's Code of Conduct. He said it also has an obligation to adhere to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and called for the cooperation and support of the diplomatic community for holding a general election that is peaceful, credible and transparent.

UEC chairman U Tin Aye called on ministries today to cooperate in providing observers with

hospitality and convenience services and to announce the results of the election on time.

The UEC's media centre and the Ministry of Information are currently working together to announce the results of the election on the election day.

A total of 6,065 candidates will compete for the seats in parliament. Male candidates make up the 86.8 percent of the total, with 5,274 women making up the rest, according to statistics from the UEC.

The UEC will not hold elections in five of the country's 330 townships due to security concerns.—GNLM



Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Dr Khin Shwe accept World Peace Awards. PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT

Buddhist monk, emergency specialist win World Peace Award

A Buddhist monk and a layperson won the World Peace Award, selected by the World Peace Awarding Council, at a ceremony held at Karaweik Palace Hotel in Yangon on 1 November.

Joint-founder of the council and leader of the assessment committee Dr Han Min Su and Abbot Dr Moktak of the Republic of Korea made speeches at the ceremony.

The Korean Sayadaw offered the World Peace Award to Bhamo Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatta Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika

Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, while Dr Han Min Su presented the award to Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Manijotadhara Wunna Kyawhtin Dr Khin Shwe, the chairman of the Rescue and Helping Committee in the Myanmar parliament.

Four persons from Myanmar, South Korea and Japan won World Peace Awards in 2015.

The World Peace Awarding Council was established by US president John F. Kennedy in 1961.—*Yan Naing*

IP rights seminar focuses on infringements and judicial matters



Participants poses for documentary photo at National Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights for Judges and Prosecutors. PHOTO: MNA

THE National Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights for Judges and Prosecutors, jointly organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology and EU-ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

(ESCP III), took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Kyaw Myat urged the participants to openly discuss infringements of intellectual property rights and judi-

cial matters. Professor Dr Alexander Von Muehlendahl of Munich, Germany, discussed intellectual property rights infringements and judicial rules and regulations.

The seminar was attended by the director-general of the

Atomic Energy Department, officials of the Supreme Court of the Union and the office of Attorney-General of the Union, legal experts, departmental officials and members of various associations.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Bushes cleared around Tatkon Hospital

BUSHES and drains were cleared around the yard of the 100-bed Tatkon Township Hospital on 31 October. The corridors, walls and windows of the hospital were also cleaned by volunteers, including members of nearby military units, members of the police force, civil service personnel, and NGO staff.

Tatkon station commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Hlaing, Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Tatkon Township administrator U Myint Shwe, local officials and town elders greeted the over 600 volunteers who participated in the cleaning activities.—*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*

Ethnic minorities, women, migrants, disabled persons at risk of vote rejection

Votes may be rejected in the upcoming election due to the weakness of voter education programmes.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

MANY people, including students, migrants and even returning officers, are in a position to lose their voting rights in the 8 November election, said U Chan Nyein Aung, President-cum-CEO of Charity-Oriented Myanmar (COM).

To promote inclusiveness of electoral process, COM, a Yangon-based civil service organisation, conducted a study from 1 September to 10 October this year

and published its findings in a report yesterday.

The study is mainly focused on four groups—ethnic minorities, women, migrants and people with disabilities.

With the technical assistance of Democracy Reporting International (DRI), a total of 31 well-trained long-term observers from the organisation carried out the study in 28 townships in 11 regions, including Rakhine and Kachin states and the Naga Self-Administered Zone.



U Chan Nyein Aung, President-cum-CEO of Charity-Oriented Myanmar and party meet media. PHOTO: KTL

“According to the survey in the targeted areas, some townships see very few voter education activities, while some townships have none at all,” said U Chan Nyein Aung.

“The study points out that there is no voter education targeting ethnic [minority] groups,” he added.

“There may be many reject votes in the upcoming election due to the weakness of voter edu-

cation programmes,” said U Aung Htike Min, external consultant for the COM.

Few ethnic minority individuals or women are members of township sub-election commissions, and there are no members with disabilities, the report says.

The targeted group faced problems such as errors in voter lists, language barriers, lack of information and security, lack of access to sub-commission offices

and remote locations of sub-commission offices.

“Migrant workers in industrial zones face the most problems,” said U Aung Htike Min.

The COM will announce its preliminary election observation report on 11 November and the final report in December, with plans to monitor at over 450 polling stations in 48 townships and employing around 900 observers on the election day.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends selection for military corps



Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets cadet at selection of military corps at DSTA. PHOTO: MYAWADY

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the selection process for the 18th intake of the Defence Services Techno-

logical Academy on Monday.

Also present were Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior officers from the Central Command. The vice-senior

general enjoyed lunch with the cadets and inspected them.

The vice-senior general continued observing the selection for the military corps in the afternoon.—*Myawady*

Deputy Minister attends 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment



Deputy Minister Dr Thet Thet Zin and attendees pose for documentary photo at 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and related meetings. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Thet Thet Zin attended the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and related meetings in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 28 to 30 October.

The meeting was launched with an address by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung. The deputy minister in her

address said that Myanmar government is drawing policy and work procedures for the reduction of climate change, and it hopes for further cooperation with ASEAN countries and dialogue partner countries in environmental conservation.

The delegates discussed the draft of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change, to be

submitted to the UN Conference of Parties (COP 21) in Paris, France. They also discussed terms of references for the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy, established in Myanmar, and ASEAN Guidelines on Peatland Fire Management.

On 30 October, the delegates visited Tieng Anh national park.—*MNA*

Public Health Department holds coordination meeting

THE Public Health Department under the Ministry of Health held a work coordination meeting for the 2016-17 fiscal year in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Deputy Minister for Health

Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay made an opening speech at the meeting.

The director-general of the department and other officials discussed financial and management issues at the meeting.

The deputy minister urged officials at the meeting to provide public healthcare services effectively and to make most beneficial use of health spending.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on both 3 and 4 November.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamyia FM, FM Bagan, Thazin Radio and Yangon City FM will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Hotel service courses conclude in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aun gave a speech at the conclusion of hotel service courses, conducted by the Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone Entrepreneurs Association, in the Dekkhinathiri Hotel Zone yesterday.

He urged the trainees to

continue their education on hotel services using the internet.

U Ohn Kyaw, vice chairman of the association, presented completion certificates to trainees.

The union minister greeted the trainees.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar, EU to jointly combat climate change

MYANMAR and the European Union committed to strengthening cooperation on climate change in a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

At the workshop, officials from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, other key line ministries and the EU, civil society representatives, the private sector participants, and other development partners discussed the draft National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in Myanmar.

The National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

is supported by the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, a flagship programme of the Government of Myanmar to increase the institutional and technical capacities to address climate change. The 4-year EU-funded programme is being jointly implemented by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to raise the awareness around climate change and making sure government policies, plans and activities take climate change into consideration.—*GNLM*

Scout delegation leaves for Republic of Korea

A Myanmar scout delegation led by Myanmar Scout Committee Chairman Dr Tin Nyo left for the Republic of Korea to attend the 25th Asia Pacific Regional Scout Conference on Monday.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by members of the committee and

families of the scouts.

The delegation will discuss Myanmar's bid for recognition as a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and tasks being carried out by the committee and future tasks at the conference, which will be held from 3 to 8 November.—*Ko Latt (MNA)*



Myanmar Scout Committee Chairman Dr Tin Nyo and party seen at the airport before departure for Republic of Korea. PHOTO: KO LATT

Japan, China able to boost momentum of improving ties via summit

SEOUL — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday he was able to strengthen the momentum of improving relations with China through his first meeting with Premier Li Ke-qiang.

“I believe that we were able to enhance the improving trend of Japan-China relations in line with the principle of mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests,” Abe told reporters in Seoul a day after the meeting with Li.

“With regard to various outstanding issues, we frankly discussed and, of course, I said what I had to say,” Abe said, when asked if China’s rapid island-building activities in the South China Sea were on their agenda.

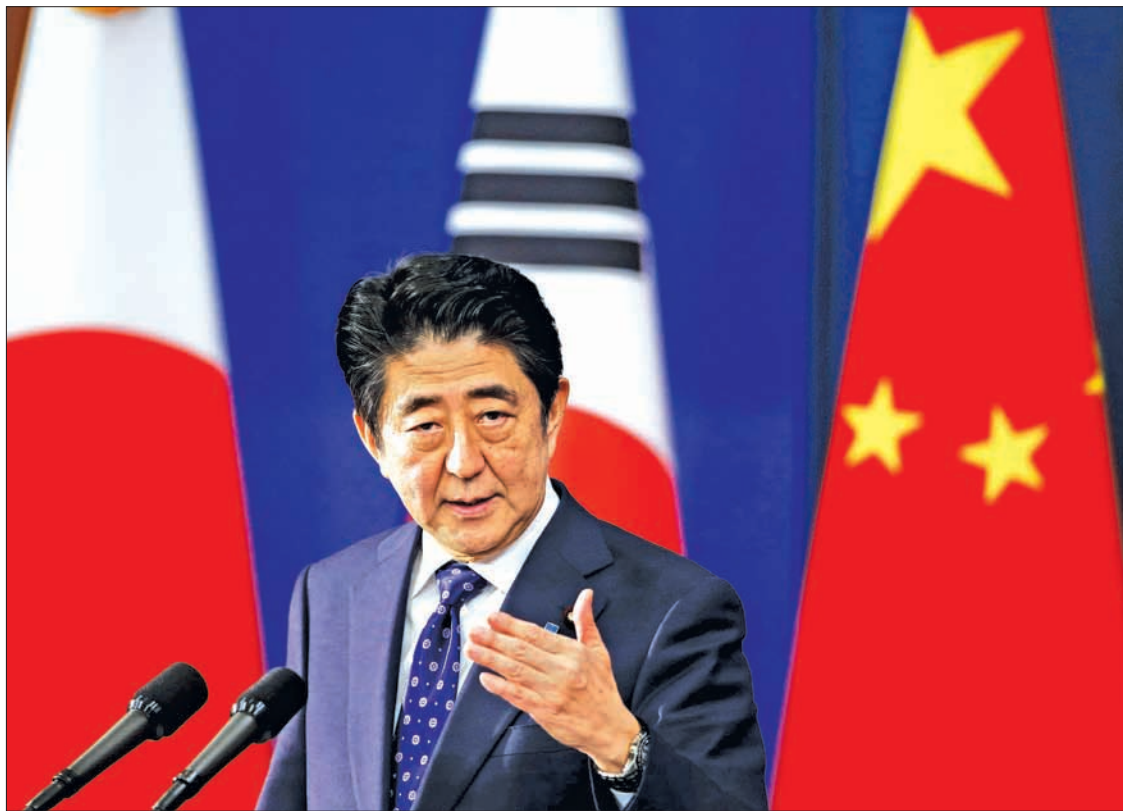
His meeting with Li took

place after they attended a trilateral summit with South Korean President Park Geun-hye, during which the three countries, for the first time in more than three years, confirmed together their commitment to boosting cooperation for regional stability and prosperity.

Abe said he cannot disclose details of what he discussed with Li, citing an agreement between Japan and China.

But he said, “Also with Japan-China relations, I believe it is important to say each side thinks it necessary.”

Before Abe’s arrival in the South Korean capital, Japanese government officials said that among other issues Abe would tell Li that China’s ongoing massive reclamation projects in the disputed sea are “unilateral at-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with reporters following his first one-on-one meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye in Seoul, on 2 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

tempts to change the status quo,” and would urge Beijing to respect freedom of navigation and international rules.

To challenge China’s continuation with the projects in defiance of regional opposition, the US Navy recently sent a guided-missile destroyer to an area

close to one of Beijing’s man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago. Following the dispatch of the warship, there has been growing tension between China and the United States, Japan’s foremost security ally.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China

Sea, one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes. It has repeatedly said disputes with smaller Asian claimants, including the Philippines and Vietnam, should be dealt by the parties themselves, urging outsiders, including Japan and the United States, to stay out.—*Kyodo News*

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Thai military sees red over critical comments, warns dissident

BANGKOK — Thai soldiers warned the daughter of an assassinated dissident commander on Monday not to do anything to disturb the country after she staged a symbolic protest in support of ousted former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The army seized power in a coup in 2014, toppling Yingluck’s government in another convulsion in a decade of confrontation between the establishment and Yingluck’s brother, former telecoms tycoon and ousted populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The military government has banned gatherings and put controls on the media while Thaksin remains abroad to avoid a graft conviction he says was politically motivated and Yingluck faces her own corruption charges that she too denies.

Khattiyah Sawasdipol,

“I am a politician, and if I see something wrong, I need to speak.”

Khattiyah Sawasdipol

Daughter of assassinated dissident commander

daughter of a prominent pro-Thaksin military commander, posted a picture of herself on Sunday wearing a red shirt, the colour Thaksin and his supporters adopted to set themselves apart from the yellow of their royalist, pro-military establishment rivals. She also posted comments critical of junta leader Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, prompting the warning.

“They wanted to meet me over comments I posted and told me not to do anything to disturb the country,” Khattiyah told Reuters.

“I said I am a politician, and

if I see something wrong, I need to speak.”

Junta spokesman Colonel Winthai Suvaree declined to comment. A sniper shot dead Khattiyah’s father, Major-General Khattiya Sawasdipol, on a Bangkok street while he was overseeing a protest by Thaksin’s supporters against the then pro-establishment government in May, 2010. No one has been charged with his killing.

Thaksin has been keeping a low profile, and has told his supporters to bide their time, since last year’s coup but on Sunday he also posted a picture of himself

wearing red.

“I, like the red shirts, want to see the return of justice and democracy,” Thaksin said on Instagram.

“Whoever wants to win the heart of red-shirted people can do it easily. You don’t have to use a gun ... Just use a kind heart,” he said. Any call by Thaksin to his disgruntled supporters to confront the military would ramp up tension at a time the country is apprehensive about the health of ailing of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

There is no sign Thaksin has any intention of doing that but the military is wary, an analyst said.

“Thaksin’s message hit a chord of the reality which is there has been no attempt to address the grievances of the red shirt movement since the coup,” said Sunai Phasuk, researcher at Human Rights Watch.—*Reuters*

UN body rules Anwar’s detention in Malaysia is arbitrary

KUALA LUMPUR — The United Nations’ Human Rights Council has ruled that Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim is being detained arbitrarily and called for his immediate release, according to information released by his family on Monday.

Anwar’s case was brought to the attention of the Human Rights Council’s Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which deliber-

ated on the matter in September.

“The deprivation of liberty of Mr Ibrahim is arbitrary,” read to the opinion adopted by the working group. “Taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the working group considers that the adequate remedy would be to release Mr Ibrahim immediately and ensure that his political rights that were removed based on his arbitrary detention be reinstated.”

The working group arrived at

its findings based solely on communications from Anwar’s legal team, as the Malaysian government chose not to respond, despite a request for information from the UN body.

Anwar, 68, is currently serving a five-year jail term after the Federal Court, the country’s highest court, in February upheld a conviction and five-year jail term meted out by the lower court for a sexual offence involving his for-

mer male aide, Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

He also lost his last chance for freedom when his petition for a royal pardon was rejected in March.

This is his second time in jail. In 1999, the former deputy prime minister was slapped with charges of corruption and sodomy and sentenced to a total of 15 years in jail after being found guilty on both counts.—*Kyodo News*



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shakes hands with South Korean President Park Geun-hye before bilateral summit at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan's Abe says wants US, South Korea cooperation over South China Sea

SEOUL — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told South Korea's president on Monday he wanted cooperation between the two countries and the United States in maintaining an open and peaceful South China Sea, a Japanese government spokesman said.

Abe has in the past been critical of China's assertiveness

“Japan would like to cooperate with South Korea and the United States at various occasions to preserve the open, free and peaceful sea.”

Shinzo Abe

in the South China Sea, through which much of Japan and South Korea's trade and energy supplies pass.

“He said Japan would like to cooperate with South Korea and the United States at various occasions to preserve the open, free and peaceful sea,” Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda told reporters after Abe held talks with President Park Geun-hye of South Korea in Seoul.

Hagiuda did not elaborate, but on Friday, Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani reiterated that Tokyo had no plan to take part in US-led “freedom of navigation patrols” in the South China Sea.

A US warship sailed within 12 nautical miles of one of China's man-made islands in the area last Tuesday in the most significant US challenge yet to territorial limits China claims around the Spratly archipelago.

The voyage triggered an angry rebuke from China and a warn-

ing that a minor incident in the area, one of the world's busiest sea lanes, could spark war if the United States did not stop what it called “provocative acts”.

China claims most of the energy-rich South China Sea. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims. Japan has long been mired in a territorial dispute with China over a group of tiny, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

Abe told Park the situation in the South China Sea was “a common cause of concern for international society”, Hagiuda told reporters.

Asked about the remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that recently “some people” had expressed concerns about the South China Sea, but she did not know why they were worried as there were no problems with freedom of navigation.—Reuters

Iran has begun implementing nuclear accord

TOKYO — Iran's vice president said Monday his country has begun implementing an accord struck with major powers that will see Tehran curbing its nuclear activities.

“We have started the preliminary work” which includes reducing the number of centrifuges, Ali Akbar Salehi, who is also head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, said in an interview with Kyodo News in Tokyo at the residence of the Iranian ambassador to Japan.

Salehi said he was detailing for the first time Iran's implementation of the deal reached in July, referring to steps such as reducing the number of centrifuges at the Natanz and Fordow plants which “was by the order of the president” of Iran. For the whole deal to be implemented, though, he said it will still “take some time.”

Under the historic agreement between Iran and six major powers — the United States, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — economic sanctions will be lifted in stages in return for Iran agreeing to long-term reductions in its nuclear programme.

Based on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran pledged to curb activities such as uranium enrichment and reduce its centrifuges.

Regarding the redesigning and conversion of the Arak heavy water reactor to a light water reactor, Salehi said, “We will not start right away” with the process as there are still “a number of stages” that will have to take place.

The plan of action states that

the redesigned and rebuilt reactor in Arak, western Iran, will not produce weapon-grade plutonium and will be used for medical purposes. The plan, according to the US State Department, is for Iran to slash its number of centrifuges from 19,000 to about 6,000. Iran has been accused of nuclear weapons development but it has claimed that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. As the July accord has diplomatically resolved the issue of Tehran's nuclear development program after more than a decade of negotiations and the agreement was officially adopted 1 October, international attention is now focused on whether Iran will stick to its promises. Salehi, who is in Japan to attend events such as the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs being held in Nagasaki, said when he speaks at the conference on Wednesday, he plans to share Iran's experience in dealing with the nuclear issue and stress how “engagement is a better approach than confrontation.”—Kyodo News



Iran's vice president Ali Akbar Salehi. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia PM scraps knighthood honours, shows republican colours

SYDNEY — Australia's pro-republic Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Monday scrapped knights and dames from the nation's honours system, less than a year after a furore sparked by the award of a knighthood to Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth's husband.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott, a staunch monarchist, reintroduced the antiquated honours in 2014, provoking criticism that he was out of touch with public sentiment. Abbott was ousted by Turnbull in a party coup in September.

The politically disastrous decision to give Prince Philip the nation's highest honour, Knight of the Order of Australia, on Australia Day, has been cited as the beginning of the end for Abbott.

The decision by Turnbull, a former head of the national republican movement, to scrap the honours may be interpreted as a signal of his willingness to revisit the thorny question of Australia's

relationship with the monarchy.

“Knights and dames are titles that are really anachronistic, out of date and not appropriate in 2015,” Turnbull told reporters.

Opposition Greens Party leader Senator Richard Di Natale welcomed the decision, even as he used it to mock the government.

“It says something about the standard of leadership in this country that installing knights and dames was one of the most significant acts of our former prime minister, and undoing that folly is so far one of the most significant acts of our new one,” he said in a statement.

Others who received the honours were governors general Quentin Bryce and Peter Cosgrove, former air chief marshal Angus Houston and New South Wales state governor Marie Bashir, which Turnbull has said they will retain.

Queen Elizabeth is Australia's largely ceremonial head of state, but has the power to approve the

abolition of parliament, which last happened in the controversial 1975 toppling of Gough Whitlam's government.

Australia's sometimes strained relationship with the British crown came to a head in a 1999 national referendum, when almost 55 percent of Australians voted against breaking with the monarchy, defeating Turnbull's republicans. A poll this year for the Australian National University showed that public support for a republic has fallen further since the referendum, while the royals' popularity has risen. But Turnbull's move into the leadership has buoyed the hopes of republicans eager to revisit the issue in a fresh referendum, despite his ranking of the faltering economy, not the monarchy, as his government's top priority.

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla are expected to receive a warm welcome when they visit Australia and New Zealand next week.—Reuters

Nepali police clear protesters from India border post

KATHMANDU — Nepali police cleared protesters from a key checkpoint on the border with India on Monday in an attempt to end a border blockade that has badly damaged Nepali relations with the country's big southern neighbour.

Nepal has faced an acute fuel crisis for more than a month since protesters in the lowland south, angered that a new constitution fails to reflect their interests, prevented supply trucks from entering from

India. Many in Nepal see India's hand in the protests, although New Delhi denies any role. With the Himalayan nation of 28 million still recovering from its worst earthquake on record, the government has turned to China for assistance.

Police cleared protesters who were staging a sit-in on a “friendship” bridge across the border that is on the main supply route to the capital Kathmandu.

“No one was hurt in the in-

cident although five people were arrested,” Chetab Raj Ghimire, a chief district official, told Reuters.

A police official said that 219 empty trucks had been cleared to return to India but that none had entered the country from the Indian side of the border.

The protesters had gone into the town of Birgunj where they were burning tyres. “We have fired a few tear gas shells and mildly baton charged the protesters,” the police official said.—Reuters

Erdogan says Turks voted for stability, world must respect result

ISTANBUL — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday the nation had voted for stability in a parliamentary election that saw the AK Party he founded win almost 50 percent of the vote, and said the world should respect the result.

The Islamist-rooted AKP swept to an unexpected landslide victory on Sunday, returning Turkey to single-party rule in an outcome that will boost Erdogan's power but may deepen social divisions.

"The national will manifested itself on 1 November in favour of stability," Erdogan said in comments to reporters after praying at a mosque in Istanbul.

"Let's be as one, be brothers and all be Turkey together."

But in characteristically pugnacious form, he also attacked the global media and its criticism of him.

"Is this your understanding of democracy?" he said. "Now a party with some 50 percent in Turkey has attained power... This should be respected by the whole world, but I have not seen such maturity."

The AKP took just shy of 50 percent of the votes on Sunday, initial results showed, comfortably enough to control about 316 of the 550 seats in parliament and a far higher margin of victory than even party insiders had expected. Erdogan said earlier the outcome was also a message to Kurdish insurgents in the restive southeast that violence could not coexist with democracy.

Security forces have been battling militants of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the country's predominantly Kurdish southeast in a renewed surge in violence since a ceasefire collapsed in July.—Reuters



Women wave flags outside the AK Party headquarters in Ankara, Turkey, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bush relaunches campaign with e-book, tour

WASHINGTON — Battered by weeks of negative headlines, Republican Jeb Bush launches a campaign reboot on Monday with a "Jeb Can Fix It" tour and release of an e-book that reveals a more personal side to a 2016 candidate who has struggled on the public stage.

Bush's dismal performance at a debate of Republican presidential candidates last week in Colorado was an added burden to a candidate once considered the favourite for the nomination and now suffering drooping poll numbers and fund-raising.

In Tampa on Monday, Bush hopes to begin a political comeback. He will give a speech presenting himself as a problem-solving politician who carried out conservative reforms as Florida's governor from 1999 to 2007.

A campaign aide said the speech will be a "rejection of the 'competing pessimisms' created in the (President Ba-

rack) Obama era in favour of leadership that solves problems."

He will take the message to South Carolina and then on a three-day bus tour of New Hampshire.

The tour coincides with the release of a 730-page e-book, entitled "Reply All." It is a compilation of many of the email exchanges he had with Floridians during his time as governor.

The emails cover everything from his drive for tax cuts and education reform in Florida to dealing with hurricanes.

Beyond the work issues, there was plenty of the comical, such as when a 9-year-old girl wrote to tell him she did not like her piano lessons because "my teacher smells of dead alligators." She wanted to know if Jeb and brother George had taken piano while growing up.

"Yes, I had piano lessons," Bush emailed her. "It was tough

and I didn't enjoy it. In fact, I wasn't that good at it. But you know what? It gave me discipline which helped me as an adult."

Another writer wanted to know how the bilingual Bush became so fluent in Spanish.

"I learned Spanish by marrying a Mexican girl, by living in Venezuela and by taking Spanish courses in school. The first two were the most important," Bush replied.

Bush makes clear in a 2006 exchange with a reporter his support for comprehensive immigration reform, an issue that has roiled the Republican race this year as billionaire Donald Trump has pledged to build a wall along the US-Mexican border and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.

Bush said a more secure border is needed "but the notion that we would felonize folks that have been here and that are contributing to our progress is just plain wrong."—Reuters

Four refugees drown, six missing off Greece-coastguard

ATHENS — Four refugees drowned and another six were missing off the Greek island of Farmakonisi after their boat sank, the Greek coastguard said on Monday.

Four people were rescued, the coastguard said in a statement. The vessel the migrants were travelling on sank in an unknown location north of the island, it said.

Eleven people, including six

infants, drowned on Sunday when their boat capsized off the island of Samos, trapping them in the cabin.

The toll from drowning among thousands of refugees making the short but dangerous crossing from Turkey to Greece's outlying eastern islands has risen in recent weeks from the onset of colder weather. There were near-gale force winds blowing in the Aegean at the weekend.—Reuters



A Syrian refugee rests after arriving with other refugees and migrants aboard the passenger ferry Eleftherios Venizelos from the island of Lesbos at the port of Piraeus, near Athens, Greece. PHOTO: REUTERS

Six suspected members of Basque group ETA go on trial in France

PARIS — Six suspected members of the Basque separatist group ETA go on trial in France on Monday over the killing of a policeman in a shootout in the eastern suburbs of Paris in March 2010, a judiciary source said.

Sergeant Jean-Serge Nerin was killed when shooting broke

out between police and ETA members after the armed group tried to steal cars from a used car store and locked up the salesman.

It was the last killing attributed to ETA before it called a unilateral ceasefire in 2011 and pledged to turn in its weapons.

Investigators believe up to

nine activists were involved in the incident, but only six were identified. One was arrested at the scene, the others managed to escape but were arrested between May 2010 and July 2015.

Only two, Xavier Goyenexea Irragori and Mikel Kabikoitz Carrera Sarobe, have been charged

with the policeman's murder. The others are charged with various crimes, including weapons theft and kidnapping. The trial is expected to continue until 11 December. ETA was formed in the late 1950s during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco and aimed at establishing an independent Basque

state in northern Spain and southern France. The group killed more than 800 people over several decades, according to the Spanish government. ETA has been severely weakened in recent years after hundreds of its members were arrested and some of its weapons seized.—Reuters

First bodies delivered to Russia after Egypt plane crash

ST PETERSBURG — The first bodies from a plane crash in Egypt in which all 224 passengers, most of them Russians, died over the weekend arrived in St Petersburg early on Monday morning aboard a Russian government plane.

The crashed Airbus A321 plane, operated by Russian airline Kogalymavia, was carrying holidaymakers from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to St Petersburg when it crashed in the Sinai Peninsula on Saturday morning.

Russian officials have said the plane likely broke up in mid-air but have stressed that it is too early to draw conclusions from

this. President Vladimir Putin declared Sunday a national day of mourning.

Russian news agencies reported that a first Il-76 Emergency Situations Ministry plane flew into St Petersburg's Pulkovo Airport a little before 6 a.m. local time, carrying 144 bodies.

The ministry said the next plane carrying bodies would leave Cairo on Monday evening for St Petersburg. On arrival, the first bodies were loaded onto stretchers and carried into a large white lorry waiting on the runway at Pulkovo Airport.

A Reuters photographer then saw the white lorry leaving the airport, escorted by police cars. It



Russian emergency ministry officers wait to unload the bodies of victims of a Russian airliner, which crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Saturday, at Pulkovo airport in St Petersburg, Russia, on 2 November 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

was heading for a St Petersburg morgue, where the bodies were to be identified. The identification process was meant to start around 11 a.m. local time.

At Pulkovo Airport on Sunday, grieving Russians piled flowers high in memory of their

dead compatriots. Mourners in Moscow arranged candles to spell out 7K-9268, the number of the flight that crashed.

Russia and other former Soviet republics have poor air safety records, notably on domestic flights. Some accidents have been blamed

on the use of ageing aircraft, but industry experts point to other problems, such as poor crew training and lax government controls.

St Petersburg authorities have decided that official mourning events will last until Tuesday in Russia's second city.—Reuters

Iraq parliament bars government from passing reforms unilaterally, in blow to PM Abadi

CAIRO — Iraq's parliament voted on Monday to bar the government from passing key reforms without its approval in an effort to restrict Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, parliamentarians said.

The chamber took the step after Abadi unilaterally passed reforms in August it considered a violation of the constitution such as sacking the vice presidents and deputy prime ministers and cutting the salaries of government employees.

"What we have warned against in our letter to Abadi last week of taking unilateral reforms now came to an end. Under this resolution no more absolute authorities for the prime minister," an MP, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters.

Last week more than 60 members of Iraq's ruling State of Law coalition threatened to withdraw parliamentary support for Abadi's reforms if he does not re-

spond to their demands for wider consultation. Growing political tensions could undermine efforts to tackle an economic crisis and form a united front against Islamic State militants, who pose the biggest security threat to Iraq since a US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. Abadi announced a reform campaign in August after protests erupted over graft and poor water and electricity services in Iraq, a leading OPEC oil producer.

The steps are intended to scrap senior political offices that have become a vehicle for patronage for some of the most powerful people in Iraq and combat incompetence which has undermined the battle against militancy.

Some of the measures have been implemented, while others appear to have stalled. Iraq's three vice presidents, whose positions were to be cut, remain in place.—Reuters

Rebels free kidnapped workers in South Sudan, no sign of stolen fuel

GENEVA — South Sudanese rebels have released 13 contractors a week after kidnapping them and seizing the fuel barge they were taking to a UN base in South Sudan, the United Nations said.

The UN mission in the world's youngest country said it sent helicopters to pick up the

South Sudanese workers on Sunday, and recovered the barge - but not the 55,000 litres of fuel it was carrying.

"This (release) was the result of a week-long dialogue... with members of the opposition at all levels," Shantal Persaud, a spokeswoman for the UN mission, said on Monday.—Reuters

Al Qaeda chief urges militant unity against Russia in Syria

CAIRO — Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri called on Muslim supporters to band together to confront the threat from the West and Russia in Syria and Iraq, the latest recording suggesting greater unity between al Qaeda and Islamic State.

"The Americans, Russians, Iranians, Alawites, and Hezbollah are coordinating their war against us — are we not capable of stopping the fighting amongst ourselves so we can direct all our efforts against them?" Zawahri said in an audio recording released on the Internet on Sunday.

It was not clear when the recording was made but references to Russian aggression suggest it was made after Russia, an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, launched air raids against opposition groups and Islamic State in Syria on 30 September.

In a recording released in September, Zawahri dismissed Islamic State and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as illegitimate but said his followers would join them in fighting the Western-led coalition in Iraq and Syria if possible. "My mujahideen brothers in all places and of all groups ... we face aggression from Amer-

ica, Europe, and Russia ... so it's up to us to stand together as one from East Turkestan to Morocco," Zawahri said. Islamic State, the ultra-hardline group that controls large parts of Iraq and Syria, has called for a holy war against both Russia and the United States in response to air strikes on its fighters in Syria.

Any cooperation between al Qaeda and Islamic State would further complicate efforts to stabilise the Middle East, where militant groups have gained influence and escalated attacks since the Arab uprisings of 2011 toppled autocrats who had contained them.—Reuters

Zanzibar opposition to meet army chief over political crisis

DAR ES SALAAM — The main opposition leader in Tanzania's semi-autonomous Zanzibar archipelago will meet the country's army chief to discuss the political situation in the islands, amid unrest after a disputed election.

Tanzania held national elections on 25 October, which included a vote for local authorities in Zanzibar, traditionally a bastion of opposition to the central government.

But Zanzibar's election commission annulled the vote for the island's president, citing "gross violations". The main

opposition Civic United Front (CUF) rejected the move, saying it had won that poll.

Two bombs exploded minutes apart in Zanzibar on Saturday without causing casualties.

In a statement late on Sunday, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete's office said the president had ordered talks between CUF leaders and the Chief of Defence Forces, General Davis Mwamunyange, following a request from the opposition party.

It is unclear what opposition leaders plan to discuss with the army chief in the meeting

scheduled for this week.

Kikwete has also instructed the country's police chief to investigate opposition complaints against the conduct of policemen during the elections.

The presidency dismissed opposition claims that Kikwete had refused to meet with CUF's presidential candidate in Zanzibar, Seif Sharrif Hamad, to discuss the situation on the islands.

"President Kikwete would like to express his readiness to do whatever is in his powers to regularize the situation in Zanzibar," the presidency added in a statement.—Reuters

OPINION

Beware of self-defamation

Myint Win Thein

People often accuse each other of defamation. Sometimes, they even bring their accusations to the courts. However, such people often fail to understand that they are truly at fault for damaging their own reputations.

One's speech, actions and attitude can damage one's reputation more than anything else in the world because people judge one another based on these criteria. Others can hurt one's reputation only when circumstances allow, but a person can

damage one's own reputation at any occasion. What one says, does or thinks is firmer grounds for a poor reputation than what others accuse that person of. This is because what has been done cannot be undone.

Speech is the easiest way to express oneself. Special care should be taken before saying anything. Proofs of the importance of speech are the transformations of public figures into clowns as a result of their own statements.

Actions have even more damaging effects on one's reputation. This may be because action affects others more seriously. Good deeds lead to a good reputation, while bad deeds result in a poor reputation.

One's attitude is always reflected in one's speech and action. Indeed, it leads to wrong speech and ac-

tion. Therefore, a bad attitude seems to be the main culprit behind self-defamation. Therefore, it is also important to nurture a decent attitude.

It can be seen that self-defamation is the worst obstacle in life. One needs to be careful with one's speech, actions and attitude. Victory over oneself is the greatest victory of all.

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The Impact of watching Violent Movies and playing Violent Games

Tommy Pauk

Movies, known as motion pictures and computer games are produced for pastime, pleasure and entertainment. Various kinds of movies and the electronic games are produced with the help of modern technology. Special effects and some backdrops are created by computer in film industry as well. Nowadays, youngsters across the world are addicted to violent games and violent movies. The stories of the violent movies and games portray homicide, cruel killings, vendetta, kidnap, act of terrorism, sexual assaults and serial killings and the people or characters in the stories neglect the law enforcement blatantly. The scenes and stories are almost horrific and violent from the beginning to end of the story. Amid the occurrences of racial conflicts and religious conflicts in some western countries and in Middle East countries, the violent movies escalate the conflicts rapidly. Surprisingly, the acts of cruelty, brutality and atrocity in some regions in the world are identical to the stories in the violent movies. It seems that the terrorists' horrendous and atrocious acts of brutality may be connected to the content of violent movies. The violent movies produce negative impacts to the viewers especially the youngsters. The negative effects of the violent movies are that some people do not hesitate to kill the other people when conflict or dispute arises and do not obey the law in the society. The violent T.V games and violent movies also influence the youngsters and even the emotions of children of under 10 year years old. Evidently, in America, school violence is a great panic for the parents concerned as some school children committed killing spree or shooting at classrooms, friends and teachers by using their parents' guns. These miserable incidents frequently occur in some states of America. It is learned that the impact of watching violent movies and playing violent games is grater in western countries than in eastern countries.

The kids and adolescents in every society across the world prefer to watch violent movies and to play violent games rather than other kinds of movies and games. This situation is still a mystery. Why do they enjoy watching violent movies rather than non-violent movies?

In Myanmar, school children also like to play games on T.V or computer or smart phone. Of the school children, school boys are more addicted to games than the school girls. After doing their homework, Myanmar school boys play games on any available electronic devices at home. The parents of Myanmar parents cannot limit the duration of playing games as their offspring are extremely addicted to games. Sometimes, the children even fail to do their homework and the excessive game-playing does affect their study. Once they are exposed to video games, they will have passion for playing video games. Mostly, the children play violent games which are captivating with unusual characters and graphics. Not only the violent stories of the games, but also the graphic descriptions of characters are attractive and appealing to the players. During summer vacation in Myanmar, parents usually send their children to take basic computer course in urban areas. As soon as the children obtain the knowledge of how-to-operate-computer, they start playing computer games, installed in it. Myanmar adolescents are fond of playing games and addicted to violent games. They play a video game at least once per day, either on a large console, tablet computer or smart phone, spending about three hours more or less. Normally, they play at home but they like to sit and play in video games center or shops. While staying at home, they hardly ever help their parents in household chores because they always stick to playing video games especially violent games. Some of the names of popular violent games are "Counter strike", "Assassins", "Grand Theft Auto", "Halo" and "Mortal Kombar", etc. An exposure to games with violent content may

turn ordinary children and adolescents into violent people in the real world. Due to influence of violent games, the US has the highest homicide rate in the world. While attending classes at school, the school authority detains the school children's tablets, smart phones and other electronic devices and returns them to the school children when the school is over. Laptop computer is allowed to bring into the classrooms for doing school lessons with it, but the teachers have to prohibit playing games in the classroom. Otherwise, the school children might use these electronic devices for playing games and disturb the teachers who teach in the classroom.

Most of the settings and themes of the violent games are created in battle fields or killing fields or traps between two or more groups using sophisticated weapons or normal weapons or magical power etc. The electronic games are created by writers, computer specialists, artists and graphic designers. We recognize their innovation and their art of creation on non-violent stories, but the violent stories they have written or drawn can mislead to the youngsters. The graphics of non-violent games are rather amazing and the stories are amusing, fantastic, appealing and entertaining to all of us regardless of age. We, the elders cannot blame and obstruct our children to play modern games played on T.V or on computer for enjoyment. Actually, playing these games are enjoyable pastime for youngsters and some adults. Nonetheless, we shall need to educate our youngsters on the negative effects of playing violent games. If they play a lot of violent games, they would become the aggressive persons. Even then, the children's minds are filled with thoughts of aggression and violence. As for children, parents' vigilance and teachers' guidance are important to protect the potential negative behaviors. The elders were shocked to hear about some of the themes in the games. Parents were worried about the realism, target, context and goals of the violent games.

The violent movies influence

people of all ages indeed. They arouse aggressive feeling and emotion on the viewers. The violent movies are made with horrendous and callous scenes of homicide. Some violent movies vividly play the story or episode of thriller or inhumane torture or cold blooded murder or sexual assaults. People like to watch violent movies because they are captivating with unusual stories or strange stories. Psychological studies say; "Watching violent movies really does make people more aggressive, but only if they have an abrasive personality to start with." Those who watch violent movies a lot can turn to be aggressive and unkind persons as their minds are influenced by the content of violent movies.

According to The Lord Buddha's analysis, naturally a man has two types of minds—the mind which takes delight in good deeds or meritorious deeds and the mind which is obsessed by bad deeds. In secular world, man is usually urged or stimulated to commit sins or breed cruelty or act aggressive behaviors. In the mean time, some people watch a lot of violent movies and their minds get obsessed with atrocious acts, seen on the screen. Then these people do not hesitate to commit brutal and cruel killings or theft or sexual assaults or misdeeds in real world. Moreover, the children who watch violent movies are prone to aggression and this can make stronger impact to their environment— school and friends. The adolescents, certain unwise adults and children are victimized by the contents, acts and the themes of the violent movies produced especially from the western countries.

Nobody can say that the violent movies and games are harmless to the viewers or players in the world. Isn't it? Why don't governments around the world ban all that stuff? Respective governments should protect their posterity from the dangerous impact or negative effects of watching imported violent movies and playing violent games. Otherwise, school violence, severe crimes and inhumane acts will

overwhelm in a certain society. It is a must to ban a variety of violent movies and violent video games in every society so that we can lessen violent behavior on youth. However, the non-violent movies must not be banned. There is a wide range of subjects and genres in film production. The feature films or movies such as romance, adventure, science fiction and comedy are non-violent movies which do not do any harm to the viewers of all ages.

Movies are made to entertain or educate or dispense knowledge to the people when they are at leisure. Unfortunately, some inconsiderate and selfish film makers produce such violent moves for movie lovers around the world. Concerning video games, the producers intend to entertain the gamers with fantastic playing methods. Despite a variety of video games, the violent games become popular among the players amazingly and incredibly. Anyway, parents must draw the guidelines about the amount of time children can play games at home and be sure that other activities, such as playing with friends, time with family, doing homework, playing sports etc. In order to protect the potential youth violence, parents, authority and guardians must provide their children with a good balance and discipline. The youth of today in a certain society should be gentle, kind and brilliant so that they would become good leaders or good citizens in future!!!

About the author

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

New Meiktila Lake bridge to open in February 2016

SPECIAL Bridge Construction Group No. 4 has been assigned to the construction of a second 600-foot bridge across Meiktila Lake with a budget of K2 billion for the 2015-16 fiscal year, according to superintendent engineer U Thein Aung of the Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction.

He said the construction will start on 9 November, and a plan has been set to complete the bridge in February next year.

“The bridge will be 600 feet long and 24 feet wide and flanked by three-foot pedestrian walkways on either side. The western approach road will be constructed by the Department of Highways. Both bridge and road will be completed in March 2016,” the superintendent engineer said.

—Chan Thar (Meiktila)



A concrete bridge crossing Meiktila Lake for smooth transportation of local people. PHOTO: CHAN THAR

Muse IPRD photographers briefed elections



Officials explain rules for photographers of IPRD in elections. PHOTO: MUSE DISTRICT IPRD

PHOTOGRAPHERS from the Muse District Information and Public Relations Department in northern Shan State were briefed on 31 October on how to document the 8 November election.

The meeting was attended by IPRD Deputy Shan State Head U

Wai Lin, district and township IPRD officials and photojournalists.

The IPRD photographers were instructed to document the elections using the guidelines of the Union Election Commission. The civil servants were urged to

abide by legal rules and regulations as well as by the media personnel guidelines set for the elections. They were also told not to disturb the voting process while they take photos. They were advised to prepare for their duties in advance.—*Muse District IPRD*

Bridges under repair on inter-village road

THE Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development allocated a budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year for rural development tasks in Maukmei Township, Shan State.

Engineers from the township's Department of Highways are repairing two 50-foot bridges, one 35-foot bridge, one

30-foot bridge and one 20-foot bridge on the Maukmei-Namluk road.

Township Administrator U Tin Maung Soe, who chairs the Township Management Committee, and other officials inspected the bridge repairs and encouraged workers to finish on time.—*Sai Myo Thant (IPRD)*

Election police course concludes

AN police course for special police for the election period concluded at the hall of the Border Area and National Races Development School in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 31 October.

The commander of the township's police force, Police Major Sein Dway, said in his address that additional police will be assigned to carry out

security tasks at polling stations during the election period. The head of the Dawei Police Station Police Captain Myo Myint Oo announced the assignments of the police, while the commander presented a prize to outstanding trainee Han Nyunt. A total of 87 trainees attended the additional police course, which ran from 20 to 31 October.—*Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*



Construction of Kyunhla-Chatthin-Kawlin road in progress. PHOTO: KO KO MAUNG (KAWLIN)

Department of Highways upgrades inter-township road

THE Sagaing Region government allotted K378.391 million to upgrade a two-mile road section on the Kyunhla-Chatthin-Kawlin road in Kawlin Township.

The Department of Highways is placing asphalt on the 18-foot-wide road section from mile posts 35/6 to 38/6.

The department is also building a 60-foot bailey bridge near the Daungmyu Creek bridge between mile posts 33/7 and 34/7

with a budget of K29.75 million, provided by the regional government.

Moreover, the department also built a 40-foot earthen embankment and paved a one-mile road section with a budget of about K200 million.

Upon completion, the upgraded roads will create smooth transport access for the local people from Kyunhla, Kanbalu and Kawlin townships.—*Ko Ko Maung (Kawlin)*

EU proposes savings bank exemption from deposit guarantee scheme



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. PHOTO: REUTERS

FRANKFURT — European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has proposed that savings banks and cooperative banks be made exempt from a European guarantee for bank deposits, a German newspaper reported.

The proposal may help to win German approval for such a system, which is highly controversial in the country because it is seen as a scheme under which money to guarantee German deposits could be used to rescue savers elsewhere.

“The cooperative banks and savings banks will not be touched by the deposit guarantee,” Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung quoted Juncker as saying at an event in Germany.

Juncker told the paper that it was “people who did not follow the virtues of a social market economy” who caused the financial crisis and cooperative banks and savings banks were not to blame.

The commission intends to set up a European guarantee for bank deposits based on a reinsurance system for national schemes.

EU states are already obliged to protect bank deposits up to 100,000 euros, but with several credit institutions underperforming there are concerns that this guarantee may not be enough in some states.

The reinsurance system will guarantee national deposit protection schemes and the Commission plans to set out details in a legislative proposal before the end of the year.

The joint scheme would be the third and final pillar of the European banking union project, which has resulted in the setting up of a common supervisory body for banks and a shared resolution mechanism for troubled credit institutions.—Reuters

Asian shares slide as soft China surveys, US data sap risk appetite

TOKYO — Asian stocks slid to their lowest level in nearly three weeks on Monday, as profit taking set in after soft Chinese factory surveys and US consumer spending data raised concerns over the global economic outlook.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell as much as 0.7 percent, hitting its lowest level since Oct 14. Tokyo’s Nikkei retreated 2.1 percent.

European shares are expected to open weaker, with spread-bettors looking for Germany’s DAX to fall 0.8 percent, France’s CAC 40 to drop 0.9 percent, and FTSE to start 0.6 percent down.

Mainland China markets fell, with the main Shanghai index falling 1.2 percent, hurt by the factory survey results and the government’s crackdown on illegal futures trading.

China’s factory activity fell for an eighth straight month in October, the Caixin purchasing manager’s index (PMI) showed, fuelling fears the economy may still be losing momentum in the fourth quarter despite a raft of stimulus measures.

The Caixin figures followed Sunday’s official survey, which showed activity in China’s manufacturing sector unexpectedly contracted in October for a third straight month.

On Friday, in the United States, data showed consumer spending in September recorded its smallest gain in eight months as personal income barely rose, suggesting some cooling in domestic demand after recent hefty increases.

“When the Fed says it is still considering a rate hike in December, there’s limited room for share prices to rise further,” said Ayako Sera, senior market economist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank.

The dollar lost 0.2 percent to 120.32 yen as the fall in Tokyo shares cooled risk appetite and favoured the safe-haven Japanese currency.

With most central banks except the US Federal Reserve committed to an easing bias, focus now falls on this week’s run of US data, including the all-important non-farm payrolls due on Friday, and how they could affect the Fed’s stance on hiking interest rates.

The Fed did not hike rates last month but caused a stir by leaving the door open for a hike in December, again highlighting the divergence in monetary policies between the Fed and other central banks such as the European Central Bank and the BOJ.

“US economic data bear significance for the December FOMC decision and could drive



Businessmen look at their mobile phones in front of an electronic stock quotation board outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

higher FX and rate volatility in the coming weeks,” strategists at Barclays wrote.

“The October FOMC statement was somewhat more hawkish than our expectations, and with the assessment on global risk having been removed, we think there is a clear attempt by the FOMC to keep a December hike on the table.”

The euro extended its Friday gains, rising 0.3 percent to \$1.1038.

By far the biggest winner in the currency market was the Turkish lira, which soared 5.6 percent to 3-month high of 2.758 lira per dollar after the ruling AK Party swept to an unexpected election victory on Sunday.

The results will return the

country to single-party rule after five months of political instability following an inconclusive election in June, but could sharpen social divisions.

In commodities, crude oil prices slipped, unable to sustain gains made on Friday on the latest decline in the US oil rig count. US output may be declining but global supplies of crude and refined oil products continue to grow, weighing down the market.

US crude was down 0.5 percent at \$46.36 a barrel. Spot gold touched a 4-week low of \$1,134.60 an ounce, hurt by lingering worries of a potential rate hike by the Fed. Higher interest rates tend to diminish the appeal of non-yielding bullion.—Reuters

Walking Chinese robot breaks Guinness world record

CHONGQING — A quadruped robot in the southwestern municipality of Chongqing walked its way on to the pages of the Guinness World Records book on Sunday.

“Xingzhe No. 1” was developed by Li Qingdu, a professor with the college of automa-

tion under the Chongqing University of Post and Telecommunications. Starting on 24 October, it took 340,000 continuous steps over 54 hours covering a distance of 134.03 km and used 0.8 kwh of power.

The previous record was set by Ranger, a quadruped ro-

bot developed by Cornell University in America, which walked 65 km in 30 hours consuming 0.5 kwh.

Li and his team began developing the robot in November 2014.

The first prototype was produced in January

“We can apply the technology and processes involved to a wide range of robotic devices, to make them more efficient, durable and reliable.

In the future we could begin to use these robots for dangerous or remote tasks,” Li said.—Xinhua

Tech firms on alert as US top court takes up class action case

WASHINGTON — The US Supreme Court will consider on Monday whether to nip in the bud a class action lawsuit against online search service Spokeo Inc in a case closely watched by Silicon Valley companies that face similar claims.

If the court rules for Pasadena, California-based Spokeo and finds that a consumer lawsuit cannot proceed when the plaintiff cannot show he is being harmed, it could curtail a recent wave of class action cases against online companies.

Google Inc, Facebook Inc, eBay Inc and Yahoo Inc filed court papers backing Spokeo, a people search website.

If similar cases are allowed to proceed against other companies, any user of their services who alleges a legal violation

based only on a technical violation of a federal statute could “pursue a multi-billion dollar statutory damages claim despite the lack of injury,” the brief said.

The case gives the conservative-leaning Supreme Court another chance to limit class action litigation as it has in a series of rulings including a major 2011 victory for Wal Mart Stores Inc.

“We think this case presents the opportunity ... to close the door on non-injury class actions,” said Jason Matthes, Spokeo’s general counsel.

Facebook, Google and Yahoo have all faced similar lawsuits over violations of different federal laws. As many online companies have millions of users, a case can quickly snowball

into a multimillion dollar class action.

Without class action status, a case involving an individual plaintiff presents a much smaller risk to a company.

Kate Todd, an attorney with the US Chamber of Commerce’s legal arm, called the Spokeo dispute an example of plaintiffs’ lawyers “pushing the boundaries” of the types of cases that can be pursued.

In the Spokeo case, plaintiff Thomas Robins sued in California on behalf of himself and a potential class under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, which requires consumer reporting agencies to provide correct information. There is a maximum \$1,000 penalty per violation.

Robins, who was unemployed when he sued in 2010,

had claimed his Spokeo entry had damaged his job-seeking prospects because it contained inaccurate information. The entry, for example, said Robins has a graduate degree, which he called incorrect.

“In today’s age, consumers are increasingly concerned about their online reputation,” said Robins’ attorney, Jay Edelson, whose firm specializes in suing tech companies for privacy violations.

The high court is currently considering two other class action cases. One involving claims against advertising firm Campbell-Ewald Co was argued last month.

The other, concerning a lawsuit against food producer Tyson Foods Inc, will be argued on 10 November.—Reuters

Drugged up: GSK, Roche and Sanofi to set out their stalls



The GlaxoSmithKline logo is seen at the entrance of a building in Luxembourg, September 10, 2013. Picture taken September 10, 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Three of Europe's top drugmakers — GlaxoSmithKline, Roche and Sanofi — face health checks this week at high-profile presentations designed to show they can overcome looming market threats.

The unusual confluence of investor days comes at a testing time for the \$1 trillion-a-year global drugs industry, as deal-making sweeps a sector facing mounting competitive pressures.

Chief executives at the three companies face different challenges, but they all have a point to prove.

GSK's Andrew Witty and Sanofi's new boss Olivier Brdicourt both need to demonstrate recovery potential, after recent disappointments, while Roche's Severin Schwan must show he can withstand future cut-price competition to his group's top bi-

otech drugs. "Roche probably has the easiest job, since we know they have good data with new multiple sclerosis (MS) and oncology drugs, whereas GSK and Sanofi have quite a lot to prove," Berenberg Bank analyst Alistair Campbell said.

Roche's three most anticipated drugs — ocrelizumab for MS, atezolizumab for cancer and ACE-910 for haemophilia — are together expected to rake in annual sales of some \$5 billion by 2020, according to consensus forecasts from Thomson Reuters Cortellis, which is well above rivals.

Roche is particularly bullish on ocrelizumab, after it succeeded in the hard-to-treat progressive form of MS and set a new benchmark for treating relapsing disease.

Like its Swiss rival, GSK is also seeking to showcase its re-

search and development (R&D) prowess at its first R&D event in more than a decade. But after past setbacks in clinical trials, investor expectations are relatively low.

Much of the focus is expected to be on GSK's experimental shingles vaccine Shingrix, Nucla for severe asthma, sirukumab for rheumatoid arthritis and a new long-acting HIV medicine.

Beyond that, investors are keen to get a glimpse deeper into GSK's pipeline to see whether the company's R&D can deliver in the medium to long term as it seeks to offset declining sales of the best-selling inhaled lung treatment Advair.

A key question is how many of the 40 or so experimental medicines it has said it will profile at the event will be ready to move into final Phase III trials in the next 12 months.—Reuters

Having children might reduce woman's death risk from several common conditions

LONDON — Researchers found that women who had given birth might have a reduced risk of death from several common conditions than those who had not, according to a study released Friday by the Imperial College London (ICL).

The study, led by ICL researchers, was published in the journal *BMC Medicine*. It investigates the association between the so-called reproductive factors — such as having children and breastfeeding — and a woman's risk of death.

Researchers analyzed data from 322,972 women across 10 countries, including the UK, France, Germany and Sweden, with an average age of 50.

Each woman was followed for an average of 12.9 years. During this period, there were 14,383 deaths overall, which included 5,938 deaths from cancer and 2,404 deaths from circulatory system diseases, according to the study.

The team compared a host

of reproductive factors with risk of death from several common conditions, such as breast cancer, stroke and heart disease.

The researchers found that women who had given birth had a 20 per cent reduced risk of death than those who had not. It was also found that there was a reduced risk of death (eight per cent) in women who had breastfed compared to those who did not. The risk of death from cancer was lower in those that had given birth compared to those that had not. Within this group, the risk was reduced even further in women that gave birth to two or three children in comparison to those who had one child. "Hormonal mechanisms may explain the lower risk of death that we observed with breastfeeding, having given birth and using oral contraceptives, as these factors are associated with changes in hormone levels," said Dr Melissa Merritt from ICL, who led the study.—Xinhua

Fossil unearthed in Spain sheds light on ape evolution

WASHINGTON — The well-preserved partial skull and skeleton of a gibbon-like creature that lived 11.6 million years ago in Spain is shedding new light on the evolutionary history of modern apes.

Scientists on Thursday announced the discovery in Catalonia of fossil remains of a small, fruit-eating female ape that lived in a warm, wet forested region teeming with animals including elephant relatives, rhinos and saber-toothed predators.

They gave the ape, weigh-

ing 9-11 pounds (4-5 kg), the scientific name *Pliobates cataloniae* and the nickname "Laia." "There is no living primate like *Pliobates*, which exhibits a unique combination of modern ape-like features with other, more primitive ones," said paleobiologist David Alba of the Catalan Institute of Paleontology near Barcelona.

"We can imagine a small ape, like the smallest living gibbons, with a gibbon-like appearance regarding the cranium but with different body proportions: less elongated arms and hands."—Xinhua

Int'l confab of scientists begins in Nagasaki to seek nuke abolition

NAGASAKI — Scientists and nuclear experts from around the world gathered in southwestern Japan on Sunday to push for the abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with this year marking the 70th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Japanese cities.

Nagasaki, one of the two cities devastated by an atomic bomb at the end of World War II, is hosting for the first time the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, which originated from calls for such a meeting from eminent scientists such as Albert Einstein about 60 years ago.

With the momentum toward nuclear disarmament seen to

have suffered a setback after a UN conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ended in failure in May, organisers hope once again to call attention to the inhumane nature of nuclear arms and encourage dialogue in a world plagued with conflicts.

The five-day international conference, which is the 61st of its kind, brings together nearly 200 participants from about 40 countries, including US and Russian officials and the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi, according to the organisers.

On Sunday morning, participants met at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum with Yoshiro Yamawaki, 81, an atomic bomb

survivor, to hear firsthand about the horrors of nuclear weapons.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, paths toward a world free of nuclear weapons and risks involved in the civilian use of nuclear energy in light of Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. A declaration will be released on the final day of the event. Some sessions are open to the public, including a speech by Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2008. He was in a city adjacent to Nagasaki when the atomic bomb was dropped.—Kyodo News



Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs participants visit the Nagasaki Peace Park, a memorial to the tens of thousands killed by the atomic bombing of the Japanese city by the United States in August 1945, before the start of a five-day meeting. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

South Korea, US agree not to tolerate North Korean provocations

SEOUL — US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and South Korean Defence Minister Han Min Koo agreed in annual security talks held here Monday not to tolerate any further North Korean aggression or military provocations.

“The minister and the secretary reaffirmed that any North Korean aggression or military provocation is not to be tolerated and that the ROK and the United States would work shoulder to shoulder to demonstrate our combined resolve,” the two sides said in a joint statement issued after the 47th Security Consultative Meeting.

They cited such incidents as the South Korean warship Cheonan and the artillery shelling of Yeonpyeong Island in 2010, North Korea’s long-range missile launches in 2012, its third nuclear test in February 2013 and the provocations in the Demilitarized Zone in

August 2015. The statement said Carter reiterated the “firm and unwavering” US commitment to the defense of South Korea, while reaffirming that the current level of combat-ready US military personnel in the country will be maintained.

The two sides also agreed to move forward with plans for the transfer of wartime operational control from the United States to South Korea, which has been postponed several times, “at an appropriate time and in a stable manner,” implying it could happen after the South becomes better prepared to counter the North’s military threat. The transfer was originally scheduled to take place in 2007, but it was subsequently postponed until sometime after 2020, taking into account North Korea’s growing military threat including its nuclear weapon tests and missile launches.

During peacetime,



US Defence Secretary Ash Carter (C in black) and South Korean Defence Minister Han Min-Koo (R) shake hands with soldiers at the Joint Security Area, in the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, South Korea, in this handout picture provided by the Defence Ministry and released by Yonhap. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Korea is in charge of its own forces. Under the current arrangement, however, US commanders would take command of all US and South Korean troops on the Korean Peninsula in the event of war with North Korea. Carter and Han agreed to bolster US-South Korean collaboration to better cope with growing threats in space and cyberspace, as well as to promote the security of critical infrastructure including information and space systems.

The US defence secretary said his visit to the DMZ on Sunday made him realize

North Korea is an “up-close, dangerous and continuing threat.” As for the escalating tensions in the South China Sea, Carter reiterated his country’s stance the disputes be resolved peacefully. “We don’t take sides in the maritime disputes. But we do staunchly stand on the side of resolving them peacefully,” he said. Tensions between the United States and China have spiked after a US guided-missile destroyer moved through Beijing-claimed waters in the South China Sea last week, triggering a sharp reaction from China.

Seeing that China’s massive reclamation work is continuing, despite regional opposition, the US Navy’s warship came within 12 nautical miles of one of Beijing’s man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago. Carter, who arrived in Seoul on Sunday for a two-day visit, is scheduled to leave for Malaysia later in the day. Meanwhile, new chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford held talks with his South Korean counterpart Gen. Lee Sun Jin on Sunday.—Kyodo News

China prosecutor approves detention of former work safety chief

BEIJING — China’s state prosecutor said on Monday that it has approved the detention of the former head of the work safety regulator, sacked after blasts that killed more than 160 people in August in the northern port city of Tianjin.

Yang Dongliang was removed as director of the State Administration of Work Safety shortly after the massive August explosions in a warehouse in Tianjin, a city that lies not far from the capital, Beijing.

In a brief statement, the prosecutor said that it had approved the taking of “coercive measures” against Yang, a term that generally denotes detention and marks the next step in the legal process before a court case.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AMBER ALENA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AMBER ALENA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1041W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1041W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

US Navy salvage team seeks to confirm wreckage of sunken El Faro

MIAMI — A US Navy salvage team prepared on Sunday to launch a remotely operated submersible to confirm that wreckage discovered near the Bahamas was that of the cargo ship El Faro, lost in a hurricane last month along with its 33 crew members.

The team’s mission is to document the shipwreck and any debris field, and to retrieve the sunken vessel’s voyage data recorder — similar to an airplane’s black box — as part of an investigation into its loss, according to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

If human remains are encountered during the submersible operation the Navy will attempt to recover them, NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said.

It was the worst maritime accident involving a US-flag vessel since 1983.

The cargo ship’s owner, Tote Inc, has been hit with four lawsuits filed by relatives of the crew, alleging the ship was not seaworthy and should have changed course to avoid Hurricane Joaquin.

Tote filed for protec-

tion in a federal court in Florida on Friday, citing US maritime law and saying the ship was “seaworthy and properly manned” and that the company bears no responsibility for its loss.

As El Faro left port in Jacksonville, Florida, en route to Puerto Rico, the captain set the ship on what appeared to be a collision course with the powerful storm, a decision that has baffled shipping experts.

The El Faro disappeared on 1 October after the captain reported losing propulsion and taking on water. The crew included 28 Americans and five Poles.

It was unclear on Sunday what plans were in place to recover remains of the crew. The wreck site is at a depth of nearly 3 miles beneath the surface, far beyond the reach of divers, Knudson said.

A week-long search and rescue mission launched by the US Coast Guard after the ship went missing found only one body.

Some relatives of the crew complained that not



A life preserver ring from the cargo ship El Faro.

PHOTO: REUTERS

enough was being done to find their loved ones after the Coast Guard called off its search.

“We still don’t have any closure. I feel it’s not really any better until they find some bodies,” Schmiorra Hill, 33, of Jacksonville, said on Sunday. Hill is a cousin of Roosevelt Clark, a veteran seaman who was aboard the El Faro.

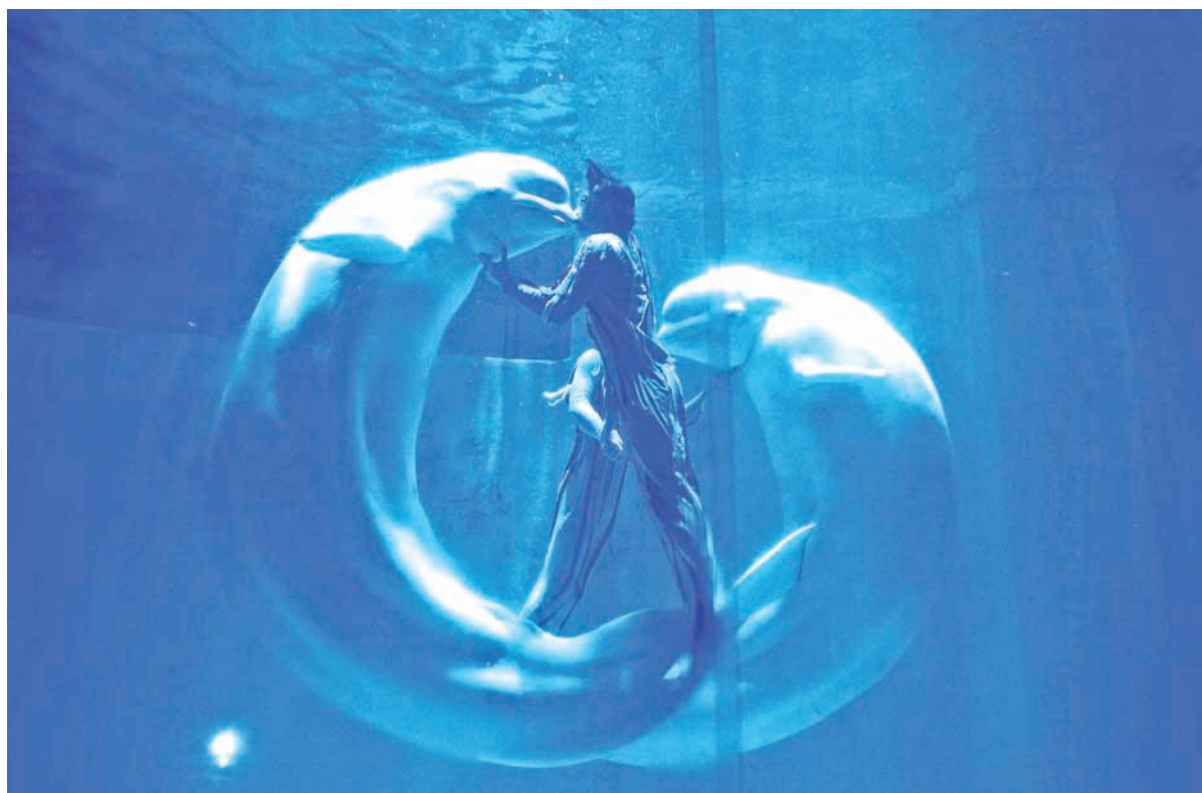
The NTSB said in a statement on Saturday that wreckage consistent with the missing 790-foot (241 metres) cargo ship was found using sonar equipment, lying upright and intact on the sea floor.

The submersible,

known as CURV-21, is equipped with a video camera and could be launched as early as Sunday, the NTSB said.

The voyage data recorder attached to the aft of the ship’s bridge is designed to be removable by a remotely controlled device, according to shipping experts. It preserves the last 12 hours of engine orders and communications from the bridge and could provide vital clues as to why the ship sank. Tote has said the loss of propulsion likely resulted in the ship sinking as it was unable to steer clear of high seas whipped up by Joaquin.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Beluga whales kiss their trainers during a performance at a aquarium in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, China, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Okinawa files complaint against state overruling of US base decision

TOKYO — The Okinawa government on Monday filed a complaint against the state's decision to overrule the local authority's attempt to block landfill work for the relocation of a US military facility in the southern island prefecture.

The local government filed the complaint with a third-party panel tasked with handling disputes between the central and local governments, seeking to restore Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga's revocation of his predecessor's ap-

proval for the work related to the relocation of the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma within the prefecture.

The Okinawa government plans to file a lawsuit if it is not satisfied with the decision of the third-party panel, the Central and Local Government Dispute Management Council. The state is proceeding with formerly invalidating Onaga's revocation and is also planning to file a lawsuit.

Political wrangling has escalated since Ona-

ga revoked on 13 October the approval for the landfill work granted by former Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, prompting land minister Keiichi Ishii last Tuesday to suspend the revocation.

The state launched the controversial landfill work Thursday at the base relocation site in the Henoko area of Nago, northern Okinawa.

The local government and many residents are opposed to the relocation plan and want the Marine base moved outside of Okinawa

to reduce the burden on the prefecture from hosting the bulk of US forces in Japan.

Japan and the United States, which struck an accord in 1996 on the return of the Futenma site to Japanese control, say the existing relocation plan is the "only solution" for removing the dangers posed by the air station, currently located in the densely populated city of Ginowan, without undermining the deterrence of the two countries' alliance in East Asia.—*Kyodo News*

China says one-child policy stays in effect for now

BEIJING — China must continue to enforce its one-child policy until new rules allowing all couples to have two children go into effect, the top family planning body said.

The ruling Communist Party said last week that Beijing would loosen its decades-old one-child policy. The plan for the change must be approved by the rubber-stamp parliament during its annual session in March.

Several parents interviewed by Reuters were lukewarm about the idea of having a second child after the new policy was announced last week.

But e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, which runs China's most popular online shopping websites and collects reams of data about consumers, said searches for books about conception and pregnancy leapt 100-times the day after the announcement and continued to grow.

The online statement by the National Health and Family Planning Commission contradicts a remark by a family planning official in the southern province of Hunan, who said last week that couples currently pregnant with a second child will not be punished, according to the *Hunan Daily* newspaper.

"Ahead of (ratification), all localities and departments must seriously

implement the population and family planning laws and regulations currently in effect, maintain good order for births and must not act of their own accord," an unnamed official with the commission said in the statement. About 90 million families may qualify for the new two-child policy, which would help raise the population to an estimated 1.45 billion by 2030, the planning commission has said. China, the world's most populous nation, had 1.37 billion people at the end of last year.

For decades, China harshly implemented the one-child policy, leading to forced abortions and infanticides across the country.

Beijing loosened the policy in late 2013, allowing couples to have a second child where one partner was an only child, but as of June, only 1.5 million of the 11 million eligible couples had applied to expand their families, the official Xinhua news agency has reported.

In a report on one of its websites on Saturday, Alibaba highlighted data showing that people with relatively high incomes in small cities were most interested in books about conceiving babies while the lowest level of interest came from "first tier" cities, which include Beijing and Shanghai. It did not say how many searches overall there had been.—*Reuters*

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Yangon. 3rd November 2015

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2015 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.

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Powerful cyclone kills three on Yemeni island, heads for Qaeda-run city

ADEN — A rare tropical cyclone packing hurricane-force winds lashed the Yemeni island of Socotra on Monday, killing three people and injuring dozens, residents and officials said, as it headed for an Al Qaeda-controlled town on the mainland.

Amateur pictures and videos on social media, which could not be immediately verified, showed torrents of water washing through the provincial capital Hadibu's streets.

"Three people were killed, around 100 have been injured and hundreds of families were forced to leave their homes in coastal regions for the mountains," said a local official, without elaborating on the

causes of death.

Situated in the Arabian Sea and slightly larger than Majorca or Rhode Island, isolated Socotra is home to hundreds of exotic plant species found nowhere else on earth. Its around 50,000 residents speak their own language.

Also cut off politically from mainland Yemen by a seven-month war there between Iran-allied fighters and a coalition of Arab states led by Saudi Arabia, its impoverished residents are not likely to receive prompt aid.

The US Navy's Pearl Harbor-based Joint Typhoon Warning Centre said the storm, named Chapala, had reached maximum gusts of 240 km (150 miles) per hour, equivalent to a cate-

gory 4 hurricane. Yemeni officials said it was the most powerful storm the mostly arid and hot country had experienced in decades.

The centre projected the cyclone would make landfall on the mainland just west of the restive port city of Mukalla, which has been run by a tribal council and Al Qaeda militants since the army and government institutions withdrew in April.

Residents there worried that the power vacuum would mean no authorities were in a position to deal with the storm damage.

"The sea water level has risen by 9 meters and has destroyed the Mukalla seafront," said resident Muhammed Ba Zuhair.—*Reuters*



PHOTO: REUTERS

Jennifer Lawrence says Hollywood pay gap complaint was self-critical

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence said on Saturday that her recent critique of the gender pay gap in Hollywood raised as many questions about herself, and her willingness to be assertive, as it did about bias in the US film industry.

“It was more of how did my mentality get in my own way of fighting just as hard as the men to get a better deal,” Lawrence said during a Los Angeles press conference for her latest film “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2.”

Lawrence unleashed a highly-publicized attack on male-female pay

discrimination in Hollywood earlier this month in an open letter published in Lena Dunham’s Lenny newsletter. She said that in the past she worried about being labeled a spoiled brat when negotiating movie deals, but she was now finished with trying to be “adorable” while getting shortchanged.

The actress added that her “American Hustle” male co-stars Bradley Cooper, Christian Bale and Jeremy Renner “all fought and succeeded in negotiating powerful deals for themselves,” and were praised for doing so.

“I hoped to just write more about how my own fears of ‘how am I going to be portrayed,’ or ‘how am I going to look,’ or ‘how will people judge me,’” Lawrence said on Saturday.

“(That) got in my way when obviously the men in the movie don’t think that way,” she said.

The actress added that one headline called her letter a “brat-

ty display.” “Thank you for completely making my point that if a woman goes and speaks up, and is assertive and has a voice, she’s going to be called a brat. I just don’t see a man being called a brat,” she said.

Lawrence, 25, was the world’s highest-paid film actress last year with an estimated \$52 million in earnings from movies and endorsements, according to Forbes. She has been praised by her colleagues and fans alike for being open about an issue usually kept under wraps.

In response to her complaint, Cooper told Reuters he had already begun teaming up with female co-stars to negotiate salaries.

Lawrence is currently promoting the final installment of “The Hunger Games” franchise, out in theaters next month. She plays the young heroine Katniss Everdeen, who leads a rebellion against a tyrannical ruler of a dystopian society.—Reuters

North Korea’s girl with seven names still feels hunted



Lee Hyeon-seo. PHOTO: REUTERS

UBUD — The girl with seven names is finding it hard these days to contact relatives in Stalinist North Korea on the underground mobile phone link defectors have used for years.

Hyeonseo Lee is also increasingly worried about her personal security since the July publication of the best-selling memoir about her escape from North Korea, “The Girl with Seven Names”.

Defectors living in South Korea contact relatives in the North through Chinese mobile phones that are smuggled across the border. They communicate through transmission towers on the Chinese side of the border.

It’s all arranged through brokers on the Chinese side, who also help smuggle money from the defectors to their relatives.

North Korea, however, has been cracking down on this lifeline, using phone signal detectors and interference devices, Lee said in an interview on the sidelines of the Ubud Writers and Readers festival. The signals can reveal the location of the speaker if the conversation lasts much longer than a minute.

Lee arranged for many of her family members to join her in exile after her own escape in 1998, but she still talks to an aunt there.

“Right now the signal is not so good. I can’t hear their voice clearly ... And my aunt says after a minute, oh my god, we have to turn off the phone now we’re being monitored.”

The aunt was sent to a labour camp for a few months last year, accused of trying to escape. “She was reported by her best friend. That’s how this regime works,” Lee said.

Sending money across the border—or private communications of any kind with the North—is also illegal in South Korea.

The money from defectors goes into North Korea’s increasingly established rural markets, which sprouted up during the famine years when the state food distribution system broke down. The markets are thriving hot spots of commerce, where people can buy or barter for things, including smuggled Hollywood and South Korean movies.—Reuters

Box Office: ‘Our Brand is Crisis,’ ‘Burnt,’ ‘Scouts Guide’ All Bomb

LOS ANGELES — Illustrating the limits of star power, “Our Brand is Crisis” and “Burnt” were both roundly rejected by audiences despite the presence of Sandra Bullock and Bradley Cooper.

“Our Brand is Crisis,” a political satire about a spin-doctor navigating a Latin American presidential election, is the worst wide release opening of Bullock’s career, sliding in below 1996’s “Two If By Sea” with \$4.7 million. It debuted to a dreadful \$3.4 million across 2,202 locations. Warner Bros. distributed the \$28 million production.

“We’re proud of the movie, we had higher expectations, and we’re obviously disappointed,” said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution executive vice president. Not that Cooper fared much better playing a down-and-out chef trying to score a comeback. “Burnt” made a meagre \$5 million bowing across 2,900 theaters. The Weinstein Company distributed the critically scorched dramedy. It cost roughly \$20 million to make and was directed by John Wells (“August: Osage County”).

“It’s a small film and we didn’t spend a ton of money on it, but we were obviously hoping for more,” said Erik Lomis, the Weinstein Company’s distribution chief. “We love Bradley and he worked so hard on it with John Wells. It’s a passion project that hit a tough weekend.”

It wasn’t just star power at play. Both films debuted on Halloween weekend that fell at a particularly rough time on the calendar. The holiday happened to take place on Saturday, traditionally the

busiest day for movie-going, so studios were bracing for a weekend that offered up more trick than treat. Their worst fears were realized. Overall ticket sales fell below \$75 million, the worst results of the year. The weakness of “Our Brand is Crisis” and “Burnt” enabled a group of holdovers to maintain their grip on the top spots at the box office.

“The Martian” captured first place with \$11.4 million. The Fox adventure story is on pace to be the biggest domestic grossing release of Ridley Scott’s career, having made \$182.8 million since debuting in October.

Second and third positions went to Sony’s “Goosebumps” and Dreamworks’ “Bridge of Spies” with \$9.8 million and \$8.1 million, respectively. “Goosebumps” has made roughly \$57 million in three weeks, while “Bridge of Spies” has been one of the only adult dramas to connect, earning \$45.2 million over the same period. The top five was rounded out by Sony’s “Hotel Transylvania 2” with \$5.6 million and Lionsgate’s “The Last Witch Hunter” with \$4.7 million. The pictures have made \$155.7 million and \$18.6 million domestically.

“Steve Jobs,” the Universal drama about the Apple founder, sank in its second weekend of wide release. The picture earned \$2.6 million, a 65% fall, bringing its domestic total to \$14.5 million.

It was also a bad weekend for distribution experiments. Paramount’s “Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse” was brutalized when it kicked off to roughly \$1.7 million across 1,509 locations.—Reuters



Cast member Sandra Bullock poses at the premiere of ‘Our Brand is Crisis’ in Hollywood, California on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Halloween poses new security challenge to Tokyo police



A woman wearing a costume is carried in a pumpkin-shaped float on the streets of Shibuya, Tokyo, on 31 October 2015. Thousands of people in outlandish costumes through the area for Halloween celebrations every year. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — As the popularity of Halloween celebrations has grown markedly in Japan in recent years, the autumnal opportunity to have fun on the streets in outlandish costumes is increasingly posing a headache to police.

The Metropolitan Police Department made two arrests during last year's Halloween festivities in Shibuya — the most popular destination for Halloween partygoers in Tokyo — one for punching a police officer in the face and another for groping a woman under the cover of the heaving crowd.

This year, numbers

of police officers posted to the streets of Shibuya were doubled. In an effort to help disperse the crowd, an event called "Shibu Fes" was held for the first time this year, taking place simultaneously at 20 locations in the area, including nightclubs and live music venues.

"There are no organisers (of Halloween festivities) and we cannot predict the course of moves of people who gather, or its peak time," a senior MPD official said. "This is a new challenge in maintaining security."

Another innovation introduced this year was a large tent set up near

Shibuya Station as a temporary changing room. The facility was installed to avoid last year's experiences of litter and stage blood being left in bathrooms of the station and nearby department stores by people who put on their outfits on site, rather than coming to Shibuya by train already costumed. The tent was set up in collaboration between local businesses and the Shibuya municipal government.

Despite all these efforts and innovations being put in place, the MPD arrested at least two people. One was a 25-year-old unemployed man who hit a police officer on the

head with an air gun near a crossing outside Shibuya Station around 10 pm on Saturday, and was arrested on the spot.

The following day, police also arrested a 36-year-old unemployed man on suspicion of stealing a wallet from a 22-year-old woman's bag on the Shibuya streets the night before.

The victim was there to take part in the Halloween celebrations and the man admitted to the charge, saying he had only 200 yen (\$1.65).

The suspect was not wearing a costume, according to the police.—Kyodo News



Entertainment Channel

(3-11-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am

• Mono Classical Songs

6:20 am

• Teleplay

6:30 am

• Kyaé Pwint Myaýe
Yin Khone Than

6:50 am

• Fashion Show

7:05 am

• TV Drama Series

8:00 am

• TV Drama Series

8:45 am

• Musical Programme

9:00 am

• Radio Drama

9:40 am

• ABU Radio Song
Festival

10:00 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

10:25 am

• Myanmar Video



Myanmar International

(3-11-2015 07:00 am~ 4-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:25 Am Insight Myanmar: Myanmar Election Tech in Voters' Education

07:50 Am Yangon Markets: Mingalar Wholesale Market

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am To My Dream City (Part- 2)

08:44 Am Myanmar General Election 2015 (Ambassador of Israel)

08:46 Am Hip-Hop and Design

08:51 Am Today Myanmar: Technology in Election

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am International Dances in Myanmar

09:45 Am Chinlone & The Dreams of the players

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Myanmar Entrepreneur: Entrepreneur "Soe Nyi Nyi"

10:35 Am The World's Largest Book

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

(03:00 Pm ~ 06:30 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:30 Am)

06:26 Pm Let's Cook (EP-8) Caesar Salad and Scrumptious Crackers with Assorted

06:51 Pm Myanmar Entrepreneur: Entrepreneur "Soe Nyi Nyi"

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "A stir about of Rainbows"

08:50 Pm Chef Life "Ky Soe"

(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)

Prepare to listen to the hand drum and horse-head fiddle



The band Haya, founded by Zhang Quansheng (left), is devoted to taking Mongolian music to a wider audience.

PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — In a spacious room of a five-star hotel in downtown Beijing, people are walking around, watching the streams of cars on Chang'an Avenue flow beneath a warm afternoon sun, and waiting. Suddenly, the sound of a hand drum erupts and the five members of the band Haya appear in the room.

As Zhang Quansheng pulls the strings of a matouqin, a horse-head fiddle, lead vocalist Daiqing Tana, dressed in a long red gown with her hair braided, slowly steps forward.

Other members, including drummer and khommei (throat-singing) singer Bao Yin, guitarist and matouqin player Chen Xibo and bassist Eric Lattanzio, speed up the music and Tana's voice soars,

reminding her audiences of Mongolian women riding horses on the grasslands.

"That's what we have been doing during the past 10 years, translating our traditional Mongolian music to the contemporary era," says Zhang, who founded Haya in Beijing in 2006.

"Our music also expresses our love for the grasslands and nomadic people."

Haya is launching a national tour in Beijing on 24 December.

"I hope our music will appeal to not just Mongolians, but also people of other ethnic groups," he says.

During the past 10 years, the band has released five studio albums, including songs adapted

from traditional Mongolian folk songs and their original compositions. Almost all songs are sung in the Mongolian language.

The band has won the established Golden Melody Awards of Taiwan three times: with its first album Wolf Totem in 2009; its CD Migration in 2012; and its album Crazy Horse last year.

Haya has also performed throughout the country and abroad in Sweden, Germany and Canada.

In the Mongolian language, haya means "the edge", which is a metaphor for a nomadic lifestyle that has become so edgy today. "In our home, people used to live in harmony with nature. But this has been compromised by the industrialization of so-

ciety," Zhang says.

"Our traditional songs and instruments have also become edgy. When I started the band, I hoped to bring them back," he adds.

Zhang grew up with his grandparents and moved to Hohhot, the capital of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, with his parents at age 8, when he started to learn the violin and matouqin. The versatile singer-songwriter graduated from the music department of Minzu University of China in Beijing in 1991, and is now regarded as one of the best matouqin players in the country.

Tana was born in Delingha, Qinghai Province, and studied vocal performance at Minzu University of China.—Xinhua

Kone treble inspires Everton, Southampton win

LONDON — Arouna Kone grabbed a hat-trick as Everton piled on the Premier League relegation worries for Sam Allardyce's Sunderland with a 6-2 demolition job at Goodison Park on Sunday.

In the day's other match, Ronald Koeman's Southampton climbed to seventh in the table after first-half goals from Steven Davis and Graziano Pelle secured a 2-0 home win over south-coast rivals Bournemouth.

Everton were 2-0 up inside 31 minutes against Sunderland thanks to Kone and Spanish forward Gerard Deulofeu.

Kone sent a looping ball over the defence for Deulofeu to score the opener and the Ivory Coast international added a second goal following a one-two with strike partner Romelu Lukaku on the edge of the box.

Jermain Defoe inspired a Sunderland rally, volleying their first goal in stoppage time before playing a part in Steven Fletcher's headed equaliser five minutes after the break.

The visitors, however, were always vulnerable to the counter attack and Everton made it 3-2 when Sebastian Coates prodded a right-wing cross from Deulofeu into his own net. Deulofeu also set up the fourth for Lukaku, with the Belgian rounding goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon to score.

Another Everton counter-attack led to Kone planting the ball into the net with his left foot in the 62nd minute before the Ivorian completed the rout with a close-range header fol-



Arouna Kone scores the sixth goal for Everton completing his hat trick during Barclays Premier League at Goodison on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

lowing a centre with the outside of his left boot from Lukaku.

Everton's victory lifted them to ninth with 16 points from 11 games while Sunderland remained second from bottom on six points. Southampton have 17 points, moving above Liverpool on goal difference.

"I thought our attacking play was exceptional," said Everton manager Roberto Martinez. "More than anything, the understanding of how to break down a defensive system.

"Sunderland came here with a clear idea of being very difficult to break down and then try to hit us on the counter attack and I thought the way we coped with that was very impressive."

Martinez's opposite number Allardyce disagreed, blaming his own team for their sec-

ond-half capitulation.

"If Everton had scored a wonder goal you can say 'there's not a lot we can do about that', but the last four goals were all stoppable by us and there was nothing brilliant about Everton's play," said Allardyce.

"We became so open and so easy to play through. We seemed to get carried away by the euphoria of getting the equaliser."

Southampton went ahead against fourth from bottom Bournemouth when a sweeping passing move ended with Ryan Bertrand crossing for Steven Davis to volley home from close range in the 31st minute.

Pelle then made sure of the win with a towering header following a left-wing centre by Dusan Tadic.

The only negative for Southampton was the late sending-off of Victor Wanyama for a second bookable offence.

"That was the best 45 minutes, maybe the best in more than one year," said Koeman. "It was a high tempo. We had good ball possession and if you watch the two goals it is all about a high quality of football.

"I am very pleased about that but we know we still have to learn from mistakes and we know that you get a reaction from the opponent after half-time." On Monday, Tottenham Hotspur entertain manager-less Aston Villa with Mauricio Pochettino's side looking to rise to fifth in the table and close within five points of joint leaders Manchester City and Arsenal.—Reuters

Carter and New Zealand scoop top awards

LONDON — Dan Carter completed a memorable weekend when, a day after being named man of the match in New Zealand's World Cup final victory over Australia, he was voted the sport's player of the year for a third time.

The All Blacks, the first team to win the tournament three times, were also named team of the year — for the sixth time in a row — at the ceremony in London on Sunday night.

Despite overseeing that back-to-back triumph, Steve Hansen missed out on a fourth successive coach of the year award as that went to Michael Cheika after his impressive turnaround of the Wallabies over the last 12 months as he led them to the Rugby Championship title and runners-up spot in the World Cup. Carter, who also won in 2005 and 2012, joins team mate and All Blacks captain Richie McCaw as the only triple winners of the award, which was first given in 2001.

He received the award ahead of five other nominees — All Blacks team mate Julian Savea, Australia flanker Michael Hooper and number eight David Pocock, Wales lock Alun Wyn Jones and Scotland scrum half Greig Laidlaw.

Carter, 33, will now walk away from the international game after scoring a record 1,598 points from his 112 appearances—including 19 in the Twickenham final.—Reuters

Uchimura wins third 2015 world championships gold

GLASGOW — Japan's Kohei Uchimura closed the 2015 world gymnastics championships with a win in the men's horizontal bar on Sunday, taking his third gold medal in Glasgow and 10th worlds title of his career.

Uchimura scored 15.833 points to take gold ahead of the United States' Danell Leyva (15.700) and men's all-around silver medalist Manrique Larduet (15.600).

Uchimura's routine on the high bar had to be perfect because he had a difficulty rating of 7.100, less than Leyva's 7.300, and despite a brief stall on the handstand, he closed out his near-flawless routine to take gold.

"I was able to put on my performance at the very end. I just concentrated on stretching my arms and regripping for my release," said Uchimura after successfully executing the

high-difficulty Cassina release, after failing to do so during Wednesday's team competition.

It is the first time Uchimura has won gold on the horizontal bar. His previous best at the worlds on the apparatus was silver in 2014.

"The team win at Rio is my biggest target. My performance won aesthetic appraisals this tournament and I believe the result will come our way if we don't let our guard down."

"I'll give my best shot to hear the 'Kimigayo' anthem three times at the Olympics."

The 26-year-old's third gold of the tournament was the last of the five medals won by Japanese, all in men's, in Glasgow. Japan won its first team gold in 37 years, Uchimura claimed his sixth straight individual all-around title before Kenzo Shirai's gold on the floor exercise and Kazuma Kaya's pommel

horse bronze on Saturday.

Yusuke Tanaka was seventh in the parallel bars on 15.600 points on Sunday, while Shirai also finished seventh in the vault in 14.516.

Among the women, sixteen-year-old Sae Miyakawa narrowly missed the podium after marking 14.933 points on the floor exercise, 0.067 points shy of fourth place. American Simone Biles won to claim her fourth gold of the tournament on 15.800 points following her victories in team, all-around and parallel bars.

"I gave my all and was able to execute my performance at my biggest tournament so far, and that will give me confidence," said Miyakawa. "I'm not losing on the height (of jumps) so it's now down to landings. I'd like to get stronger and improve my skills and win gold in Rio."



Japan's Kohei Uchimura performs during the men's horizontal bar at the world gymnastics championships in Glasgow, Scotland, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Infostrada Sports reports that Uchimura's 10th world championships gold medal puts him equal second on the all-time winners list, behind Belarusian

Vitaly Scherbo's 12. Biles also won her 10th world title on Sunday to join Uchimura and France's Joseph Martinez in second on the list.—Kyodo News