

UEC hails election a success, announces first results

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NLD dominates the first round of election results

THE Union Election Commission announced the results of Sunday's general election for almost a third of townships in Yangon Region yesterday, with the opposition party polling strongly.

Among the 28 Pyithu Hluttaw [Lower House] seats included in the commission's 9 pm announcement, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won 25 seats, while the ruling Union Solidarity and Development party won two, and the Wa Democratic Party, one.

Out of 24 seats in the Yangon Region parliament included in the announcement, the NLD won 23, and the ruling party won one.

The Union Election Commission (UEC) will continue to announce official results from the country's historic election at 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm over the coming days. The UEC will hold daily press conferences at 4 pm at its office in Nay Pyi Taw. The commission's chairman U Tin Aye said during a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that 48 cases of voting irregularities were reported nationwide on election day.

He described the general election as peaceful and a success. It was the first held inclusive election in Myanmar in a quarter of a century.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A family in Yangon excitedly watches an official election announcement following Sunday's historic general election. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and results

No.	Region/State	Constituency	Victorious MP	Party/Independent	Total vote
1.	Yangon	Latha	Daw Khin Moh Moh Aung	National League for Democracy	9905
2.	Yangon	Seikkan	U Tin Maung Win	National League for Democracy	726
3.	Yangon	Insein	U Maung Maung Oo	National League for Democracy	99702
4.	Yangon	Yankin	Daw Zin Mar Aung	National League for Democracy	27392
5.	Yangon	Thakayta	Dr. Wai Phyo Aung	National League for Democracy	80523
6.	Yangon	Dawbon	U Htay Win (a) Pyone Cho	National League for Democracy	22769
7.	Yangon	Tamway	U Win Myint	National League for Democracy	60408

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2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Region/State Hluttaw representatives and results

No.	Region/State	Constituency	Victorious MP	Party/Independent	Total vote
1.	Yangon	Latha-1	U Zaw Win Naing	National League for Democracy	5083
2.	Yangon	Latha-2	U Kyaw Min Han	National League for Democracy	4670
3.	Yangon	Seikkan-1	U San Kyaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party	170
4.	Yangon	Seikkan-2	U Maung Maung Than	National League for Democracy	548
5.	Yangon	Insein-1	U Thar Aung	National League for Democracy	53998
6.	Yangon	Insein-2	U Wai Phyo Han	National League for Democracy	47675
7.	Yangon	Yankin-1	Daw Thida (a) Daw Thida Maung	National League for Democracy	13862

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Union Minister visits two tech universities in Yangon



Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo inspects practical room of technological university. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo visited two technological universities in Yangon yesterday.

He met with faculty members at Yangon Western Technological University and urged them to continually upgrade their teaching skills and research at the autonomous university, which was previously under a system of ministerial centralisation.

Dr Ko Ko Oo also met with bachelor students to discuss their needs and progress before inspecting laboratories and workshops.

He then went to the Technological University in Hmawby and met with faculty members and students.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Eye surgeons assemble in Yangon for international conference

TWENTY-NINE international ophthalmic surgeons gathered at the 4th Indo-China Ocular Inflammation and Infection Meeting, which was held yesterday in Yangon's Sedona Hotel.

The event was held in conjunction with the 27th Ophthalmic Surgeon's Conference.

Participants included experts from Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Taiwan, Indonesia, France, Australia, Germany and Switzerland. Participants discussed the latest research findings on the treatment and causes of eye diseases and exchanged professional insights.

The 27th Myanmar ophthalmic surgeons' conference continues on 10 and 11 November at the same venue and will focus on innovative methods of treating conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Parami Roundtable Series Group wins ASEAN People's Award

PARAMI Round table Series Group was chosen as the winner of the ASEAN People's Award, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The award honours individuals and organisations for their active participation in the establishment of the ASEAN community.

Parami Roundtable Series Group has its headquarters at Sakura Tower on Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon and delegates will travel to Malaysia to receive

the award on 21 November. The awards ceremony will be held during the launch of the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Myanmar's security committee invited application submissions through the local newspapers Myanmar Alinn and Kyemon on 11 September. Three individuals and five organisations submitted applications by the deadline of 30 September.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Deputy Minister discusses climate change in Singapore

A DELEGATION led by Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Thet Thet Zin attended the Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development in Singapore last week.

The deputy minister gave a presentation titled 'Myanmar Perspectives on Climate Change Strategy' to forum participants.

In the Dialogue on Climate Change Panel, Professor Dr Howard Bamsey of Australia National University, Deputy

Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Chief Coordinator of India Climate Change Mr Shyam Saran, Indonesian President's Special Envoy on Climate Change Mr Rachmat Witoelar and Mr. Nereus Acosta, Adviser at the President Office of the Environmental Conservation of the Republic of the Philippines.

The forum was held from 2 to 4 November at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre in Singapore.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Correction

Please read "Such accusations were orchestrated intentionally at a time the Human Rights Council is reviewing the national report of Myanmar under the Universal Periodic Review" in the second sentence of first paragraph in the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the headline of "Government and people of Myanmar do not recognize the term "Rohingya" as it is an invented terminology" on the page 2 of this daily issued on 9-11-2015.—*GNLM*

Germany pledges \$ 28 million for rural development, aquaculture and Myanmar Railways

THE GERMAN Government pledged another 25 million euro (about US\$28 million) Financial and Technical Assistance to rural electrification projects (grid extensions), the Railway Workshop in Yawhtaung (Sagaing Region), the support of Aquaculture projects and alternative agriculture in Southern Shan townships affected by opium poppy cultivation.

The promised aid also includes immediate relief for flood affected areas in Rakhine State in the amount of 250,000 euro (more than US\$ 269,000).

The Rural Electrification Programme consists of a 13.7 million euro (more than US\$ 14.7 million) loan to increase sustainable and affordable access to electricity. Aimed at households and enterprises in rural Shan State areas, it intends

to decrease accidental burns and respiratory disease caused by conventional lighting. Additionally, the increased availability of electricity to charge cell phones and radios will enable access to information and knowledge. A 2.5 euro million (more than US\$ 2.69 million) grant will support technical assistance to the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development with regard to the implementation of the National Electrification Plan (NEP).

In southern Shan region, Germany aims to secure alternative financial means for families relying on opium poppy cultivation. Around 1,500 families will be aided in transferring to legal and sustainable agricultural production (coffee, bananas, and beans etc.). The German Government and its implementing

agency GIZ will closely work together with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and UNODC.

A joint cooperation endeavor between the Governments of Myanmar, Germany and the European Union will promote towards the development of sustainable aquaculture. The German side has pledged to 2.5 million euro (more than US\$ 2.69 million) in the Shan region, to increase capacity building, climate change resilience, and sustainable intensification and management of aquaculture farms.

Through these measures the two Governments have paved the way for an intensive and close cooperation which should promote a long-term sustainable development, focused on rural areas.—*German Embassy*

Midwifery training aims to reduce maternal mortality

According to a 2005 survey, one in 10 pregnant women die during abortion procedures in Myanmar.

Khaing Thandar Lwin

THE Ministry of Health has started offering a foundation course in midwifery in an effort to reduce the number of fatal pregnancies, fatal abortion procedures and fatal birthings.

The World Bank provided a loan for the project implemented by the health ministry in cooperation with partner organisations this year, said Dr Theingi Myint, Director of the Maternal and Reproductive Health Unit of the Public Health Department.

The project will continue into next year. It aims to train midwives from every region and state. There are around 12,000 midwives in the country.

Abortion is the third leading

cause of maternal mortality in Myanmar. According to a 2005 study into the matter one in 10 pregnant mothers dies during abortion procedures, mostly in the Ayeyawady and Magway regions. The health ministry aims to reduce the rate of abortions performed in those areas.

Myanmar is included on the list of developing nations with a high mortality rate for pregnant women and children under five.

According to the World Health Organisation, over 20 million women experience an unsafe abortion worldwide each year.

There is no exact data in Myanmar but doctors say many poor, uneducated women undergo dangerous abortion procedures to avoid increasing the burden on their families.

UEC hails election a success, announces first results



Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye announces official results of the election. PHOTO: MNA

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye described Myanmar's general election of November 8 as a success

and thanked all those involved during a press conference yesterday.

His announcement coincided with the first elec-

tion results to be formally issued by the Union Election Commission (UEC).

In the Yangon Region Parliament, 23 seats were

won by the opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), while the incumbent Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won one seat.

In the Pyithu Hluttaw [Lower House], the NLD won 25 till 9 pm announcement seats, U Tin Aye said.

At more than 40,000 polling stations across the country on Sunday, just 48 irregularities were reported. The overwhelming majority of voters and candidates did not encounter any obstacles on the day of the historic vote, the UEC chairman said.

He gave the speech

during the formal opening of a media centre in Nay Pyi Taw, whose function is to convey election results to foreign and international journalists.

An information centre at the UEC's branch office in Yangon will also announce the results to the media, while the commission in Nay Pyi Taw will hold a daily press conference at 4 pm.

The first of such press conferences was held yesterday. UEC member U Myint Naing responded to questions from local and foreign media about the timing of election results announcements, advance voting, the voting rights of

ethnic candidates, illegal campaign activities, invalid votes and campaign spending.

The media centres will announce election results at 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm everyday, provided new information is sent from region and state election sub-commissions to the UEC.

The UEC chairman received delegations of election commissions from ASEAN member states as well as from Russia and India at UEC's headquarters yesterday and discussed the process of communicating election results to the public and the media.—*Myanmar News Agency*

2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and results

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8.	Yangon	Pazundaung	U Myint Lwin	National League for Democracy	19129
9.	Yangon	Ahlon	U Ye Lwin	National League for Democracy	19226
10.	Yangon	Lanmadaw	U Khin Muang Win	National League for Democracy	17177
11.	Yangon	Kamayut	U Kyaw Min	National League for Democracy	29418
12.	Yangon	Dagon	Dr. Thet Thet Khaing	National League for Democracy	8431
13.	Bago	Shwedaung	Daw Mya Khwa Nyo Oo	National League for Democracy	53589
14.	Mandalay	Amarapura	U Soe Myint (a) U Aung Zaw Myint	National League for Democracy	87535
15.	Mandalay	Madaya	U Zaw Min Lwin	National League for Democracy	94369
16.	Mandalay	Singu	Dr Zaw Win Myint	National League for Democracy	54364
17.	Mandalay	Kyaukse	Dr Tin Aung	National League for Democracy	79256
18.	Mandalay	Meiktila	Dr Maung Thin	Union Development and Solidarity Party	96314
19.	Mandalay	Mahlaing	U Hla Tun Aung	National League for Democracy	41674
20.	Yangon	Mingaladon	U Aung Hlaing Win	National League for Democracy	69141
21.	Yangon	Thongwa	Daw Su Su Lwin	National League for Democracy	49616
22.	Yangon	Dala	Dr Sein Mya Aye	National League for Democracy	54144
23.	Yangon	Kyauktada	U Nay Myo Htet	National League for Democracy	13136
24.	Yangon	Kyimyindine	U Zaw Win	National League for Democracy	38464
25.	Yangon	Hline	U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo	National League for Democracy	61674
26.	Shan	Hopan	U Kyin Wan	Wa Democratic Party	6039
27.	Shan	Mongyang	U Sai Sam	Union Development and Solidarity Party	2113
28.	Ayeyawady	Nyaungdon	U Ohn Lwin	National League for Democracy	73777

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8.	Yangon	Yankin-2	U Thein Zaw	National League for Democracy	13183
9.	Yangon	Thakayta-1	U Naing Ngan Lin	National League for Democracy	43131
10.	Yangon	Thakayta-2	Daw Thet Htar Nwe Win	National League for Democracy	38321
11.	Yangon	Dawbon-1	U Han Soe	National League for Democracy	10431
12.	Yangon	Dawbon-2	U Thant Zin	National League for Democracy	12008
13.	Yangon	Tamway-1	U Hla Thein	National League for Democracy	29317
14.	Yangon	Tamway-2	U Thein Myint	National League for Democracy	30971
15.	Yangon	Pazundaung-1	U Khin Maung Win	National League for Democracy	9311
16.	Yangon	Pazundaung-2	U Tint Lwin	National League for Democracy	9820
17.	Yangon	Ahlon-1	Daw Yin Yin Myint	National League for Democracy	9298
18.	Yangon	Ahlon-2	Daw Nwe Nwe Win	National League for Democracy	10700
19.	Yangon	Lanmadaw-1	Daw Aye Aye Mar	National League for Democracy	8698
20.	Yangon-2	Lanmadaw-2	U Kyaw Tun	National League for Democracy	8485
21.	Yangon	Kamayut-1	U Tin Win	National League for Democracy	18640
22.	Yangon	Kamayut-2	U Lin Naing Myint	National League for Democracy	10448
23.	Yangon	Dagon-1	U Tin Maung Tun	National League for Democracy	4549
24.	Yangon	Dagon-2	U Kyaw Zeya	National League for Democracy	3912

Myanmar News Agency

16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for S&T

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Kyaw Myat attended the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Science and Technology and the 70th

ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, from 2 to 6 November. Delegates at the meeting approved the ASEAN Action Plan on

Science, Technology and Innovation 2016-2025, and cooperation in ASEAN science and technology sector among partner countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Philippine court expected to decide US security deal is constitutional

MANILA — The Philippine Supreme Court is expected to decide that a new US-Philippine security agreement is constitutional and will announce its ruling before President Barack Obama visits Manila next week for an Asia-Pacific summit, a source said.

The deal gives US troops wide access to Philippine military bases and approval to build facilities to store fuel and equipment for maritime security, but it was effectively frozen after left-wing politicians and other opponents challenged its constitutionality last year.

The expected ruling comes amid growing tension between the United States and China over Beijing's island-building in the disputed South China Sea.

"I have seen the draft (ruling). The court will uphold its constitutionality, denying the petition to declare it unconstitutional," said a court source who declined to be identified.

The source said the Supreme Court's 15-member panel still needed to discuss the matter

on Tuesday. If no decision was announced at that session, it would happen on 16 November when the court next convened, the source added. Obama will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Manila on 18-19 November. The Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) was signed just days before Obama last visited Manila in April 2014.

Supreme Court spokesman Theodore Te declined to comment. A senior government official told Reuters the government expected a ruling before the APEC summit.

"I am very confident the Supreme Court will favour us," said the official.

Last week the court source had said the decision would likely come next year, but one Philippine political expert, Rommel Banlaoi, said the court probably acted to avoid political complications due to Philippine elections next May. "The court is probably worried politicians will use EDCA as an election is-

sue, so it made the decision now," said Banlaoi. "If the court decides the agreement is constitutional, it will be a big victory for President (Benigno) Aquino." It cements the strong security alliance between the US and the Philippines.

US-Philippine military ties are already robust. Philippine military officials say there has been an increase in US exercises, training and ship and aircraft visits in the past year under Obama's "rebalance" to Asia. But the EDCA would take the relationship a step further, partly by giving US forces broad access to the Philippines.—Reuters

"If the court decides the agreement is constitutional, it will be a big victory for President Aquino."

Rommel Banlaoi
Philippine political expert

Thai trafficking investigator quits raising questions over probe

BANGKOK — The resignation of a senior Thai policeman in charge of a sweeping human trafficking investigation raises serious questions over the country's commitment to end the illegal trade and protect its officers, a rights group said yesterday.

Major General Paween Pongsirin, whose team led arrests made since May, quit at the weekend saying an order to transfer him to Thailand's south would expose him to revenge by members of trafficking syndicates still at large.

Thailand has indicted 88 people suspected of involvement in human trafficking since launching a nationwide investigation into gangs following the discovery in May of 30 bodies in graves buried near the Thailand-Malaysian border, which prompted an international outcry.

One soldier and four police officers were among those arrested.

The clampdown triggered a regional migrant crisis when traffickers abandoned boats crammed with thousands of migrants at sea, rather than risk landing on Thai shores. Despite that crackdown, the US kept Thailand for a second year on Tier 3 — the lowest tier — in its

annual Trafficking in Persons report in July for failing to comply with the minimum US standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Sunai Phasuk, Thailand researcher at Human Rights Watch, said lack of protection for investigators and witnesses would impact the effectiveness of the trafficking trials. National police chief Jakthip Chaijinda told reporters Paween could have asked for protection but chose to resign instead.

"This is a shame, Paween is someone with knowledge," he said. Reuters could not reach Paween immediately.

On Tuesday, the 88 suspects will be moved from the south, where many of them were arrested, to Bangkok where a criminal court division set up in July specifically to handle trafficking cases will begin examining witnesses. But the trials could prove lengthy and convictions are far from certain.

Investigations have been exacerbated by at least three cases of witness intimidation. A Reuters report in July underscored how key witnesses felt traffickers could target them, raising questions about the long-term effectiveness of the crackdown.—Reuters

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Soul searching for India's Modi after humiliating Bihar defeat

NEW DELHI — Indian financial markets took fright yesterday at the humiliating defeat suffered in a pivotal state election by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party, whose leaders are expected to meet amid calls for a rethink of policies and priorities.

Modi was due to huddle later with a dozen senior colleagues of his Hindu nationalist party, including its president Amit Shah, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Home Minister Rajnath Singh, party and government officials said.

The loss in Bihar, India's third most-populous and poorest state, is the most significant setback for Modi since he won a crushing victory in a general election last year.

"We have to identify what went wrong," said Ram Madhav, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) general secretary.

The BJP office in New Delhi was deserted on Monday with workers compiling newspaper clippings on the election defeat in Bihar. Security guards turned away offerings of sweets and gifts for Diwali, a Hindu festival being celebrated this week.

Indian shares, bonds and the rupee fell to six-week lows as investors who had backed Modi fretted that he would struggle to push economic reforms through the parliament against an emboldened opposition.

The Bihar loss may hamper Modi's reform agenda because he needs to win most state elections



PHOTO: REUTERS

in the next three years to gain full control of parliament. India's states are represented in the upper house, where the BJP lacks a majority.

The election came against a background of concerns in India at incidents in which Muslims have been targeted by Hindu zealots. There have been protests by prominent intellectuals at what they call a climate of rising intolerance.

Some BJP lawmakers called for the party to refocus on a more unifying agenda focusing on economic development after a campaign that used rhetoric in Bihar

and sought to polarise voters along caste and religious lines.

"We have to be single mindedly focused on development, development, development," said Chandan Mitra, a BJP member of parliament. "We can't afford to be distracted by anything else."

During the election rally, Modi accused rival parties of snatching economic benefits from lower-caste Hindus and handing them over to a religious minority, a comment interpreted as veiled reference to Muslims.

The election commission banned several party posters they said could incite hatred. One

banned poster showed a young Hindu woman embracing a garlanded cow, an animal sacred to Hindus.

The BJP president was also criticised for comments suggesting that if his party lost, the result would be celebrated in archival Muslim-majority Pakistan.

Arun Shourie, a minister in the last BJP government, called for a change in course.

"We should be grateful to the people of Bihar because the direction has been halted," he told NDTV. Asked what went wrong with the party's Bihar campaign, he said "everything".—Reuters

Adani coal mine in Australia faces fresh legal challenge

SYDNEY — Indian conglomerate Adani Enterprises is facing possible further delays in constructing a giant coal mine in Australia after an environmental group lodged a fresh legal challenge on the grounds the project would harm the Great Barrier Reef and contribute to climate change.

Australia's Environment Minister on 15 October reissued an environmental permit for construction of the mine, costing an estimated \$7 billion, after clearing concerns raised in an earlier legal challenge over two rare out-back species that set the project back by several months.

On Monday, lawyers for the Environmental Defenders Office acting for the Australian Conservation Foundation launched a review of that approval.

"This case is about whether the minister correctly applied the law when considering the impacts of the project on the Great Barrier Reef and endangered Black-throated finch," said Sean Ryan, the principal EDO solicitor for the foundation.



Sediment can be seen in the water as ships and boats sail past the coastal town of Hervey Bay, north of Brisbane in Queensland, Australia. PHOTO: REUTERS

Adani, which originally aimed to ship 40 million tonnes of coal a year in the mine's first phase starting in late 2017, could

not be reached for immediate comment.

"Our question is has the Environment Minister properly applied this legal obligation when

considering the impacts of burning coal from this mine on the Great Barrier Reef?" Ryan said.

The grounds for the review included one in relation to the

Black-throated finch and three concerning climate change and the Great Barrier Reef, according to Ryan.

Environmentalists are fighting the mine on numerous fronts, lobbying banks not to provide loans and urging The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to designate the Great Barrier Reef "in-danger", citing potential damage from port dredging, shipping and climate change stoked by coal from the mine.

Adani has battled environmental opposition since work on the project started five years ago. Progress on the mine was blocked in August after a claim Adani failed to take into account the welfare of the yakka skink and ornamental snake.

While a push in India to rely more on solar and wind power and domestic sources of coal has raised questions over the viability of the project, Adani has said the majority of Carmichael production had been pre-sold, guaranteeing revenue.—Reuters

China's Xi calls for reforms

BEIJING — China must strengthen its reforms and modernise its system of governance over the next five years, President Xi Jinping told a meeting of a key Communist Party body yesterday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The government will push forward reforms in its free trade zones where it will provide more support for financial experimentation, including loosening market access and further opening the services sector, Xi said at the meeting.

"Further development needs to be based on reforms while progress in reforms gives a strong impetus for development," Xi was quoted saying.

The government will also

push forward the construction of financial infrastructure and work on building advanced think tanks, Xinhua reported.

The meeting was held nearly two weeks after the ruling Communist Party's key plenum meeting, at which Party leaders discussed the next five-year plan, the blueprint for the country's social and economic development in the 2016-2020 period.

Xi said last week that China needed to maintain annual economic growth of at least 6.5 percent over the next five years to realise the country's goal of doubling 2010 GDP and per capita income by 2020. The economy grew 6.9 percent between July and September from a year earlier, dipping below 7 percent

for the first time since the global financial crisis, though some market watchers believe real growth rates are much weaker than government figures suggest.

—Reuters

"Further development needs to be based on reforms while progress in reforms gives a strong impetus for development."

Chinese President Xi Jinping

Sri Lanka minister resigns amid 'floating armoury' probe

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's law and order minister quit yesterday to avert a possible split in the ruling coalition government after he defended a security firm amid a probe into allegations of a "floating armoury".

Tilak Marapana, an ex-attorney general handpicked by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, last week defended private security firm Avant Garde in parliament.

Police this year seized more than 3,000 weapons in 20 containers from the armoury, run by Avant Garde and docked in the

southern port of Galle. Marapana represented Avant Garde before he was appointed minister in September. A faction of Wickremesinghe's ruling United National Party (UNP) along with some civil society groups had demanded Marapana's resignation after his speech. The ongoing probes are conducted by the police, which come under Marapana's ministry.

"Some members of the government and public suspect that my position as the law and order minister could have an impact on the ongoing investigations con-

ducted by the police. So I have decided to resign," Marapana told reporters.

The investigations are part of a wide probe of alleged corrupt deals during the administration of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe's centre-right UNP and President Maithripala Sirisena's centre-left Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) formed a coalition government after 17 August polls and pledged to ensure good governance and probe past corrupt deals under Rajapaksa.—Reuters

Second suspect in Thai royal insult case dies

BANGKOK — A man arrested as part of a high-profile royal insult investigation in Thailand has died, the justice ministry said yesterday, the second suspect in as many weeks to die in police custody.

Suriyan Sucharitpolwong, a well-known fortune teller and former aide to Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, was admitted to hospital on Thursday and died of natural causes on Saturday, the Department of Corrections said in a statement.

Suriyan died of a "blood infection", the department said.

Suriyan was charged with lese-majeste, which in Thailand is one of the strictest such laws in the world, along with two other people involved in an alleged conspiracy to exploit the name of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn.

Thailand's royal insult laws carry up to 15 years in prison for each count for anyone convicted of insulting the king, queen, heir or regent.

Until his arrest, Suriyan had been seen frequently with top officials. He was also the chief organiser of a cycling event in August which the prince took part in, in honour of his mother, Queen Sirikit.

Another suspect, Prakrom Warunprapa, a prominent policeman, died in custody last month. Police say he hanged himself using his shirt but

refused to do an autopsy.

The investigation is part of a crackdown on perceived royal insults launched by the junta, which took power in a coup last year.

Ultra royalist Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has vowed to stamp out critics of the monarchy but some say the crackdown is aimed at ensuring an orderly succession.

King Bhumibol, 87, is convalescing at a Bangkok hospital after being treated by doctor's for 'water on the brain'.

His frail health has added to the political uncertainty surrounding Thailand since the 2014 coup.

"This is a very sensitive time for Thailand and part of the reason that the military is in power is to ensure a smooth royal succession when the time comes," said a Bangkok-based political analyst who declined to be named because of the sensitive nature of the issue.

Nervousness over the succession has formed the backdrop to a decade of political crisis in the country. The lese-majeste law prevents any open discussion of the succession.

National police chief Jakkhup Chaijinda said police were waiting to issue more arrest warrants, including for military officers, in connection with the investigation.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Members of the Miao ethnic group wearing ceremonial costumes take part in a parade during the traditional Lusheng (reed-pipe wind instrument) Festival in Gulong, Guizhou Province, on 8 November 2015. During the festival, Miao people make friends through singing and dancing. PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany's capacity to take in refugees is limited: Finance Minister



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Germany needs to send a message to the world that it's reaching the limit of its capacity to help Europe's flood of migrants, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said on Sunday, as he advocated restricting family reunions for Syrian refugees.

Germany has become a magnet for people fleeing war and violence in the Middle East. It expects 800,000 to a million refugees and migrants to arrive this year, twice as many as in any prior year.

"We need to send a clear message to the world: we are very much prepared to help, we've shown that we are, but our possibilities are also limited," Schäuble

said in an interview with ARD television.

The pace and scale of the influx has put pressure on local communities and opened a rift among the ruling coalition parties over the best way to handle the crisis.

The divisions re-opened over the weekend, after Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said in future Syrian refugees would receive modified refugee status and be barred from having family members join them, a statement he later retracted.

The Social Democrats (SPD), who share power with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, re-

"We are very much prepared to help, we've shown that we are, but our possibilities are also limited."

Wolfgang Schäuble
German Finance Minister

jected that proposal.

Schäuble, however, spoke out in favour of the measure and said it was a proposal that the government was examining in detail.

"I think it's a necessary decision and I'm very much in favour that we agree on this in the coalition," he said.

Horst Seehofer, the leader of Merkel's Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU), also backed de Maiziere's suggestion, telling the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* that the refugee status of Syrians should be individually checked.

The latest row comes after the coalition ended weeks of infighting on Thursday evening on how to speed up the deportation of asylum seekers who have little chance of being allowed to stay.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, who is also leader of the SPD, said it was important that the government first implement the measures it had agreed to rather than coming up with new ones on a daily basis. "This creates the impression that in the German government the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing," he said.—*Reuters*

UNESCO to vote on Kosovo's bid, Serbia seeks postponement

PARIS — The UNESCO General Conference will discuss and decide on Kosovo's bid to join the organization in Paris on Monday, and Serbia will do everything in its power to postpone the discussion on this point of the agenda and ensure it is addressed in Brussels.

Serbia's Ambassador to UNESCO Darko Tanaskovic told Tanjug that it would probably be a tight gap between votes "in favour" and "against".

"Serbia will propose that the debate on this controversial point of the agenda be postponed, at least until the next

session of the General Conference in 2017," he said, noting that the decision required a simple majority.

In order to join UNESCO, a UN non-member state needs to secure two-thirds of the total number of votes cast, excluding abstentions.—*Tanjug*

Obama, Netanyahu set for first talks since Iran deal

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet yesterday for the first time since the Israeli leader lost his battle against the Iran nuclear deal, with Washington seeking his re-commitment to a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu, who infuriated the White House by urging Congress, in an address in March at the Republican leadership's invitation, to reject an emerging accord with Iran, hopes the talks will help outline a new 10-year military aid package for his country.

While that issue will be on the agenda of Netanyahu's talks with Obama, US officials said the president would also press Netanyahu for steps to keep alive the possibility of a future Palestinian state alongside Israel.

US-sponsored peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014. The eruption of a wave of violence between the two sides last month has made an end to that bloodshed a more immediate priority.

In public remarks to his cabinet on Sunday about his Washington visit, Netanyahu spoke only in general terms about "possible progress with the Palestinians, or at least, stabilising the situation when it comes to them".

He said the Syrian crisis and US military aid for Israel would also be discussed in his first meeting in 13 months with Obama. The Democratic president and the conservative Israeli leader have little personal chemistry and have clashed of-

ten over the Iranian and Palestinian issues.

In a conference call with reporters last week, Rob Malley, the US National Security Council's coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf region, reiterated Obama's view that he would leave office without an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Given that reality, Malley said, Washington wanted to hear ideas from Netanyahu on how to stabilize the current situation and sought a signal from both sides that "they are still committed to and moving towards a two-state solution".

During Netanyahu's re-election campaign earlier this year, the right-wing Likud party leader vowed there would be no Palestinian state on his watch. Even when Netanyahu backtracked and insisted he was not reneging on long-time policy, the White House was unconvinced.

Seeking a boost in US defence aid, Israel argues that sanctions relief agreed by world powers under the July deal that curbs Iran's nuclear programme will allow Tehran to invest more heavily in its missile development, while redoubling funding for Hezbollah and Hamas guerrilla allies on its borders.

Israel now receives \$3.1 billion from the United States annually and wants \$5 billion per year for 10 years, for a total of \$50 billion, Congressional officials have told Reuters.

One US official predicted the sides would settle for an annual sum of \$4 billion to \$5 billion.—*Reuters*

Israeli officers shoot dead knife-wielding Palestinian woman

JERUSALEM — Israeli security officers shot dead a Palestinian woman who tried to stab them yesterday, officials said, the latest episode in an outbreak of violence that Israel's prime minister will discuss in talks in the White House.

The woman had approached an Israeli checkpoint in the occupied West Bank wielding a knife, Israel's Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"The security guards called to her to stop. When she didn't stop, they opened fire," the statement said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed the woman had been killed.

Since 1 October, 12 Israelis have been killed in street attacks by Palestinians, motivated in part by stepped-up Jewish visits to a Jerusalem site holy to both Muslims and Jews, and by deadlocked US-backed peace-making efforts.

Israeli forces have killed at least 73 Palestinians, including 44 who Israel says were carrying out or about to carry out attacks with knives, guns or cars. Many were teenagers.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet US President Barack Obama on Monday to discuss, among other issues, ways to calm the wave of violence.—*Reuters*

Australia's Christmas Island 'in meltdown' says opposition

SYDNEY — Australian opposition politicians on Monday demanded that the government disclose the extent of destruction caused by ongoing riots at a controversial immigration detention centre following the death of an asylum seeker.

Fences at the facility on the remote Australian outpost of Christmas Island were torn down and fires were lit, forcing guards to abandon the facility and allowing access to vulnerable inmates by other detainees, according to reports.

Christmas Island segregates detainees seeking political asylum, many of whom have fled from war-torn regions in the Middle East and Asia, from for-

eigners facing deportation for a variety of crimes.

Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told parliament that the unrest began around 11pm local time Sunday following the death of an inmate who had escaped on Saturday.

The body of the man, identified by refugee advocates as an Iranian Kurdish asylum seeker, was discovered by search and rescue teams on Sunday at the bottom of cliffs away from the centre, the Immigration Department said.

"If people have caused damage to Commonwealth property, they will be investigated and prosecuted in relation to those matters," Dutton told parliament.

But opposition Greens Party Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, who said that the centre was "in meltdown", demanded that the government disclose the extent of the unrest and exercise restraint in responding to it.

"I have spoken with people who are locked up in the centre and they say that there is widespread unrest and fires across the facility," she said in a statement.

Asylum seekers are a hot political issue in Australia. Successive governments have vowed to stop them reaching the mainland, sending those intercepted on unsafe boats to camps on Christmas Island, and more recently Manus

island in Papua New Guinea and Nauru in the South Pacific.

Many detainees on Christmas Island are from neighbouring New Zealand and are awaiting appeals after having been convicted of crimes. Some have lived in Australia for decades and the number of such deportations is a sore spot in the relationship.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key urged his citizens not to take part in any rioting, as it may further damage their legal standing.

"My concerns would be that, like a riot at any corrections facility, there can and may well be consequences as a result of that," Key told reporters.—Reuters

Merkel backs her interior minister after refugee row

BERLIN — German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere retains the confidence of Chancellor Angela Merkel, a government spokesman said on Monday, after a

spat within her cabinet over whether to limit the asylum rights of refugees from Syria.

The government was forced to clarify on Friday that its asylum policy for

refugees from Syria remained unchanged after de Maiziere said their applications would be handled differently in the future and that they would be barred from having family mem-

bers join them.

Asked if de Maiziere retained Merkel's confidence, government spokesman Steffen Seibert told a news conference: "Of course he does."—Reuters

Roadside bomb kills 16 Yemeni soldiers



A girl holds a banner during a protest against war in Yemen's southwestern city of Taiz. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAIRO — At least 16 Yemeni government soldiers have been killed by a roadside bomb in the province of Marib east of the capital Sanaa, military sources told Reuters late on Sunday.

The sources said the bomb, which also wounded six soldiers, appeared aimed at a patrol near an army camp in Marib. They said it was not clear who was behind the attack.

At least 5,600 people have been killed in seven months of war in Yemen,

the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula.

The conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthis and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh against armed groups who support exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi alongside a Saudi-led Arab coalition.

The coalition has gained ground in the south, but Houthi forces remain in control of much of the country despite the almost daily air strikes.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NEW LUCKY VOY NO (13)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW LUCKY VOY NO (13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./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



A migrant boy sits on a beach moments after arriving on the Greek island of Lesbos, on 9 November 2015. Since the start of the year, over 590,000 people have crossed into Greece, the frontline of a massive westward population shift from war-ravaged Syria and beyond. PHOTO: REUTERS

OPINION

Wise decisions matter

Myint Win Thein

IT is vital for every stakeholder in Myanmar politics to make wise decisions during this important juncture in the country's history. Veering away from what we know to be the best course of action for the people could see the country descend into confusion and chaos.

What makes a decision wise? One accommodates the wishes of the majority. The problems that have plagued Myanmar's political system have stemmed from the exclusion of the wishes of a significant number of stakeholders. It is therefore important for some stakeholders to retreat and for some to take a few steps forward. That said, there is enough room for every stakeholder to participate in the political processes of Myanmar.

With this in mind, stakeholders are required to ensure the smooth flow of political developments as they occur. In doing so, it is important that decisions are made for reasons of practicality rather than idealism. Decision makers must accommodate the wishes of all stakeholders. This is important for

peace as well as for national reconciliation. National reconciliation can only be achieved if it is completely inclusive.

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

Myanmar Tourism Industry needed to be developed further

U Win Sein

MYANMAR Tourism Industry can be traced back to the time of Burma, [Myanmar was called Burma previously] during the British colonialism of South East Asia. The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company Limited [IFC] has had a taste of tourism, which rendered to Prince Edward of England by taking him on board of its boat which traveled up stream to Mandalay in 1889. And at its peak business period in 1920 when thousands of Dutch tourists were flocking to Bali, the IFC with 600 vessels carrying 9-million passengers a year was the largest river boat transport of a company in the world. After Burma Independence, a Tourist Information Services [TIS] was formed under the Union of Burma Airways which was the principal agency for marketing and facilitating tourism in Burma during 1958 under the parliamentary Government of U Nu. Then TIS was incorporated into Tourist Burma under Burma Economic Development Corporation [BEDC] in 1961. Then in 1971 TIS and Tourism Burma were merged together to form the Hotel and Tourism Corporation under the Ministry of Trade. The Government then realized that tourism should be a separate entity in its own right. The Myanmar Tourism Law was passed in 1990 and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism was set up in 1992, the two-week visa was extended to one-month in early 1990 and border crossing was opened up.

In recent days most countries have carried on tourism business in line with responsible tourism practice, it has responsibility for achieving sustainable development through tourism; identifying economic, social and environmental issues, how it can help the people in the host communities towards

sustainable development, thus aiming for maximizing economic social and environmental development and minimizing cost for different tourist destinations.

In 2013 the World Travel and Tourism Council has been making research for 20-years in order to assess the value of money of travel and tourism total contribution to the global economy which has risen 9.5% of global GDP [USD 7-trillion] not only out pacing the other sectors of the economy but also growing faster than other significant sectors such as financial and business services, transport and manufacturing and creating nearly 266 million jobs more supported by travel and tourism, making a clear cut of 1 in 11 of all jobs in the world. The crying demand for travel and tourism, together with the ability to generate high level of employment continue to prove the importance as a tool for economic development and jobs creation. The outlook for travel and tourism in 2014 is also very positive with total travel and tourism GDP growth forecast to reach 4.3%. Much of the growth is being driven by higher consumer spending as the recovery from recession gathers pace and is becoming firmly established. It is estimated tourists are expected to spend more money for trip and stay longer on their holidays in 2014. Travel and tourism forecast over the next 10-years also look extremely favorable with the predicted rate of over 4% annually. It is necessary to require destination confirmation and regional authorities, particularly those emerging markets, to create favorable tourist business climate for investment in the infrastructure and human resources support, necessary to facilitate a successful and sustainable tourism sectors.

The European Council on Tourism and Trade has handed over to Myanmar the "World Best Tourist

Destination Award" in 2014. This award would attract more tourists to Myanmar, so tourism business is one of the most promising industry at present for Myanmar. The award is conferred to countries embracing tourism as a resource for cultural and social development, who have respects for ethics of human relation and preserve cultural heritages. As a receiver, the city or country must prove their commitment towards sustainable development, cultural tourism and preservation of historical heritages.

Myanmar has offered many kinds of tourism services to the world, they are; Marine tourism, cultural tourism, ecotourism, community tourism and trekking trips to the snow-capped mountains in the North of Myanmar. Myanmar was a country for more years ago which has been considered as a sensitive issue for tourists to visit Myanmar and the atmosphere of tourism activities was completely undeveloped. At present we have about 1300 licensed tour companies and more than 20 domestic and foreign airlines flying to and from Myanmar and hotel accommodations have been increased by 6000 rooms gradually each year.

After the three ancient "Pyu cities" Beikthano, Sriksetra and Hanlin recently have been entered as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Preparation has been started to have Bagan, one of the ancient heritage to be listed as one of the World Heritage Site in 2014. Bagan is situated in the central Myanmar, it was the Capital of Myanmar Kingdom from 9th to 13th century and the remains of some 2000 Buddhist temples and pagodas in Bagan, having a domestic airport with daily flights to and from Yangon as one of its transportation advantage, visitors can also get to Bagan by cars, buses, trains or water transport via the Irrawaddy River. As Be-

gan was listed in the list as one of the 10 cultural sites of the world, it stands out for her beauty and her heritage fame in the Myanmar culture. For the historical legacy of endowment of these Myanmar heritage sites, the country could benefit in getting technical assistances and financial assistances, as well as the increase in the income of tourism sector and a great job opportunities.

The brief descriptions of some of the famous places, temples and pagodas of Myanmar are being given in the following, they definitely needed to make known to the World Communities through the modern techniques of mass media communication;--

—Among the many townships of Myanmar for foreign tourists to visit is the most populated and the cosmopolitan city is Yangon City [End of strife], the former Capital of Myanmar, with a population of more than 5-million people, the most important commercial hub with the largest number of colonial buildings. While many high-rise residential and commercial buildings have been constructed or renovated throughout downtown and Greater Yangon in the past two decades. Most satellite towns that around the City continue to be deeply improvised. The official Capital of Myanmar has been relocated to Nay Pyi Taw.

—Mandalay is a hot and considered to be the second largest city of Myanmar, but Mandalay Hill, Mahamuni Pagoda, the Palace moat, Inlay Lake with its unique leg-rowers of the 50-feet long boat is the only kind of leg-rowers of a long slim racing boat in the world.

—Mrauk-U is a medieval town in Rakhine State, It was formerly known as Myohaung. All foreign tourists understand Mrauk-U which means "North Far" and many have seen it as seemingly a

sleepy village today, but not so long ago, it was the Capital of the Rakhine Empire where Portuguese, Dutch and French traders had been rubbing shoulders with the rogues of Bengal and Mogul princes on the run. Mrauk-U was declared the capital of the Arakanese Kingdom in 1431. At its peak, Mrauk-U had controlled half of Bangladesh and modern day Rakhine State, by boat the journey through the backwaters and then up the river is a wonderful trip to Mrauk-U.

—Ngapali, one of the sea beach of Myanmar, is less than one hour's flight from Yangon on the western side of Rakhine State, it is deservedly famous for the freshness and quality of the sea food served by hotels and restaurants, which are fed by several large fishing communities along the coast. Ngapali's charms are hard to ignore and provide the perfect place for a couple to lay a solid foundation for a life together. Better yet, you will want to come back every year to renew your vows.

—Among the many temples and pagodas, the Shwedagon Pagoda is one of the most famous pagodas in the world, and it is certainly the main attraction of Yangon. It sits atop Singuttara Hill and is 99 meters high, it can be seen from most places of Yangon day and night, as the golden roof illuminate the City. The Pagoda is 2600 years old, making Shwedagon the oldest pagoda in the world. The main golden dome is topped by a stupa containing over 7000 diamonds, rubies, topaz, sapphires and jades. As Myanmar's most revered shrine, it has been customary for families, merchants and devotees of Buddha to make pilgrimage to Shwedagon Pagoda in much the same way that Muslims feel compelled to visit Kacba at Mecca at least once in their life time. However, the Shwedagon Pagoda remains unrivaled a

shrine, a meeting place of Buddha's devotees and a national religious identity.

—Kyaik Hti Yoe Pagoda is located in the small town called Kyaikto in the Mon State. The destination is 160 km away from Yangon. The Pagoda is 1100 km above sea level. It is an 11-kilometer uphill climb for the devotees from Kinpun base camp. There is also a steep winding road for the 4-wheeler cars from the base to the nearest point of the Pagoda. The Pagoda is also known as "The Golden Rock" in the Mon language, it means a Hermit has carried the Pagoda on his head. The Pagoda was enshrined on a huge almost egg shaped rounded granite boulder perched on the very summit of a projecting and shelving tabular rock which in itself is separated several feet from the and when and on the further side that drops perpendicularly into the deep valley below. It is a great wonder that for many earth-quakes took place in the vicinity in the past had not even shaken or let fall off the boulder rock down below.

As some research sources have estimated that Myanmar will be receiving about 10-million tourists in 2016, it should be a good incentive for all, however, let's take an aggregate estimate of 5-million tourist arrivals in 2016. We shall have to take a double effort in order to prepare for the large influx of tourists and to make them as comfortable as they could for their stay in Myanmar and on their leaving of our country, they would have cheerfully stamped an impression deep in their hearts of the people with a thousand smiles from Myanmar.

The author is the former Assistant Registrar of Companies Registration Office, the Ministry of Trade.

General Elections held successfully in Kyaukme

THE 2015 multi-party general election was held successfully in Kyaukme Township, Shan State, on 8 November. All of the township's ballot booths were open from 6 am to 4 pm. After closing, booth officials tallied the votes, recorded them and announced the winning candidates.

Kyaukme Township has two constituencies. Constituency No. 1 had nine wards, 23 village tracts and 45 ballot booths. There were 11 wards, 48 village tracts and 64 ballot booths in Constituency No. 2. The whole township, including Mongngaw and Monglon wards, had 128,281 eligible voters.

According to a township election sub-commission member, the voter turn-out on Sunday

was 52.42 percent, with 67,249 voters casting their votes.

Candidates from seven political parties ran in the township's election, including the National League for Democracy, Union of Solidarity and Development Party, National Unity Party, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, Ta-aung (Palaung) National Party and the Diversity and Peace Party.

People of Bama, Kachin and Lesu ethnicities are among the residents of Kyaukme Township.

Voter turnout in the whole of Kyaukme District was 61.63 percent, with 227,617 voters casting their votes. There were a total of 369,335 eligible voters in the district.—*Myint Aung*



Local people waiting for casting votes in Kyaukme. PHOTO: MYINT AUNG

Village-to-village gravel road being built in Pobbathiri Tsp



Officials inspect quality of inter-village road. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

A VITAL rural road connecting Ngaseininn village to Zaloatgyee village is under construction in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The project is funded by the Rural Development Department under the Ministry of

Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, under its 2015-2016 budget.

Construction is being implemented by private contractor Swanyaungchi Construction Company. Ottara District Rural

Development Department head U Win Myint and township officials went to the construction site and urged the contractors to build a standardised road and to complete the project on time.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

International observers visit polling stations in Tatkon

INTERNATIONAL election observers visited polling stations 8 and 9 in Aungzeya ward in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on Sunday morning. They observed the voting processes of the local community throughout the voting day.

The observers were from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos and Timor-Leste and were accompanied by officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union. Tatkon Township had 136 polling stations to accommodate 162,428 eligible voters, according to an election commission member. The polls opened at 6 am.—*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*



International observers visit polling stations in Tatkon.

PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN

Mandalay takes measures against dengue fever, malaria

THE Mandalay City Development Committee and Mandalay Region Public Health Department toured the city's wards on Friday to take measures against dengue haemorrhage fever and malaria.

The rout was part of a weekly programme aimed at fighting the diseases.

On 7 November, Mayor U Aung Maung, along with other officials and members of civic organisations went to Aungpinlae ward in Chanmyathazi

Township and showed residents how to on cover, drain, change and filter stored water in containers in their homes.

The mayor and his party also observed municipal workers cleaning roadside drains by, soaking mosquito nets with anti-mosquito solution, diluting "Abate" solution in water containers and wells, distributing pamphlets on health education and spraying anti-mosquito repellents around the ward.—*Maung Pyithu*

HIV prevention, reproductive health booths open at pagoda festivals



Local people visit booths on HIV prevention and reproductive health.

PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

THE Buddha Pujaniya festivals held at the ancient Kyauktawgyi and Sandamuni pagodas are being held in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, from 28 October to 11 November.

Residents of Mandalay and nearby regions visited the festivals.

During the festivals, the HIV Control Branch of the Public Health Department and Marie Stopes International jointly open a booth on HIV-prevention, as

well as a booth on reproductive health near the Thudamma public rest-houses at the foot of Mandalay Hill.

Representatives of the organisations performed medical check-ups for couples at the booths.

The Mandalay Region Anti-Human Trafficking Committee also had booths at the festivals, showcasing documentary photos on trafficked Myanmar women.—*Maung Pyi Thu*

Asia shares mixed, dollar strong after US jobs data boosts case for Fed hike

TOKYO — Asian stocks were mixed, with Japanese and Chinese shares up, while the dollar stood at a 7-month high against its peers yesterday after robust US jobs data bolstered expectations of an imminent Federal Reserve interest rate hike.

The stronger dollar in turn knocked commodities like crude oil and gold.

With the US jobs release out of the way, spreadbetters are forecasting a slightly higher open for Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC.

Data on Friday showed non-farm payrolls increased 271,000 in October, the largest gain since last December 2014. The US unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent, the lowest since April 2008.

However, the prospects of the Fed hiking rates for the first time in almost a decade and ending sev-

en years of easy monetary policy, which has pump-primed global markets with flush liquidity, weighed on some riskier assets.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan declined 1 percent, while Australian shares lost 1.6 percent on lower commodity prices. South Korea's KOSPI dropped 0.6 percent and Indonesian shares lost 1.6 percent.

The gainers included Tokyo's Nikkei which rose 2 percent thanks to a sharply weaker yen against the dollar.

Shanghai shares advanced 1.6 percent after securities regulators said it would allow initial public offerings to resume after a July halt.

The gains also followed disappointing Chinese trade data released on Sunday that showed the world's second largest economy will have to do more to stimulate

domestic demand.

In recent months, financial markets have been buffeted by uncertainty over the timing of the Fed's rate hike, with some investors worrying that higher borrowing costs in the United States could hurt an already shaky global economy.

However, the fall in some Asian stock prices was measured, reflecting trading on Wall Street, which bounced from a selloff to end little changed on Friday.

"With (Fed Chair) Janet Yellen holding firm on a December rate hike expectation during her testimony to Congress on Thursday, and then the massive beat from the non-farm payrolls (NFP) on Friday, 2015 has been realigned with the beginning of the year's expectations of at least one rate hike," wrote Evan Lucas, market strategist at IG in Mel-

bourne. "What is also interesting from this realignment is the markets have not thrown a 'tantrum' or gone into 'hysterics' — yet. Time will tell, but the orderly movements of the NFP on Friday suggests the market will take a small increase to the Fed funds rate in its stride."

Interest rates futures were pricing in a 70 percent probability that the US central bank will raise borrowing costs next month, according to the CME Group's Fed-Watch.

In currencies, the dollar index, a measure of the greenback's strength against a basket of key currencies, stood near a 7-month high of 99.345.

The dollar advanced to a 2-1/2-month peak of 123.48 yen. The euro was steady at \$1.0744, in striking distance of a 6-month trough of \$1.0704 struck on Fri-

day. Higher Treasury yields supported the US currency. US debt yields soared on Friday in the wake of the strong jobs data, with the 2-year yield reaching a 5-1/2-year high.

The dollar's strength is likely to extend ahead of a likely Fed rate hike in December, and could drag on prices of oil and other commodities, said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at OptionsXpress in Sydney. Oil rebounded on bargain hunting after sliding on Friday, but the bullish dollar weighed on the commodity. A stronger greenback makes dollar-denominated commodities like oil expensive for purchasers.

Brent crude bounced 0.8 percent to \$47.81 a barrel after shedding 1.2 percent on Friday.

Spot gold struggled near a 3-month low of \$1,084.90 an ounce struck on Friday.—Reuters

Jaguar Land Rover plans to cut costs by \$ 6.8 billion

LONDON — British luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) (TAMO.NS) has launched a secret project to cut costs of 4.5 billion pounds (\$6.8 billion) and build 1 million cars per year by the end of the decade, the *Sunday Times* reported.

The project, called Leap 4.5, will entail building more models on similar core skeletons, overhauling the carmaker's supply chains and slowing down or halting the recruitment process, although there are no plans for redundancies, the paper reported citing people familiar with the matter.

Leap 4.5, envisaged to offset the effects of slowing sales in

China and the costs of meeting emissions standards, will however spare the 3 billion pound-a-year capital spending budget on research and development and building new plants, the *Sunday Times* said.

Sales in China, the firm's fastest growing market last year, fell 32 percent in the July to September quarter due to an economic slowdown, stock market slump and currency devaluation, which have hit demand in the world's biggest car market.

Tata Motors, the parent company of JLR and Jaguar Land Rover, could not be reached for comment.—Reuters



An employee works at the production line inside the Chery Jaguar Land Rover plant before the plant opening ceremony in Changshu, Jiangsu Province. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brent crude regains ground after slide

MANILA — Brent crude rose on Monday, recovering from a three-day decline, as the dollar moved away from last week's peak that was spurred by expectations the US Federal Reserve was on track to raise interest rates this year after robust employment data.

The dollar eased about 0.2 percent versus a basket of currencies, after hitting its loftiest in almost seven months on Friday following data showing US nonfarm payrolls jumped 271,000 in October, far exceeding the 180,000 increase that economists polled by Reuters had predicted.

But the dollar's strength is likely to persist ahead of a likely rate increase by the Federal Reserve in December, and could be a key drag on prices of oil and other commodities, said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at

OptionsXpress in Sydney.

A stronger greenback makes dollar-priced assets more costly for buyers using other currencies.

On the other hand, "the US economy is running on its own steam now and in a position where the Federal Reserve deems that a small interest rate hike is not going to damage confidence in the economy," said Le Brun.

"That should be a positive in terms of demand for crude."

Brent crude for December delivery was up 49 cents at \$47.91 a barrel by 0623 GMT, after falling more than 1 percent on Friday.

December US crude gained 42 cents to \$44.71 a barrel after touching a 1-1/2-week low of \$43.83. Hedge funds raised their bullish wagers on US crude last week by the most in

six months, data showed on Friday, as speculators bought into oil contracts in forward months on bets that market fundamentals will take time to improve.

Weekend data from China, the world's No.2 oil consumer, showed the country's crude oil imports fell 5.7 percent from the previous month to 26.35 million tonnes in October.

But while China's crude imports dropped to 6.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from 6.8 million bpd from September, the volume was still up 9.4 percent from a year ago and 8.9 percent higher in January-October. "Chinese demand for crude oil will counter the downturn in demand as refiners in the northern hemisphere go through autumn maintenance and reduce their crude purchases," BMI Research said in a note.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Snapchat's daily video views triple to 6 billion

NEW YORK — The number of videos viewed each day on Snapchat has tripled since May to 6 billion as the messaging app closes the gap with social media giant Facebook Inc, according to a report in the *Financial Times* that cites people close to the company.

The *Financial Times* said that Snapchat confirmed the 6 billion figure but had declined to comment further.

Nestle says Maggi noodles back on sale in India

ZURICH — Nestle India has resumed selling its popular Maggi noodles again after getting the green light to do so from government laboratories, Nestle said yesterday.

The Indian unit of the Swiss food giant Nestle SA has been grappling with its worst public relations crisis after local regu-

lators reported in May that some packets of the Maggi noodles contained unsafe levels of lead. "Following tests by government accredited labs in India showing Maggi noodles are safe to eat, Nestle India has announced that it has started selling the product again," the company said in a statement.—Reuters

Science's 'Breakthrough' winners earn over \$21 million in prizes



Russian entrepreneur and venture capitalist Yuri Milner arrives on the red carpet during the second annual Breakthrough Prize Awards at the NASA Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Academia just turned a little more glitzy for a select group of scientists.

Russian billionaire Yuri Milner on Sunday handed out seven Breakthrough Prizes, the award for scientific accomplishment he created three years ago alongside technology giants including Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, 23andme founder Anne Wojcicki and Google co-founder Sergey Brin. The prizes are worth \$3 million, around three times the sum a Nobel Prize winner receives.

For one group of Breakthrough recipients, the honor will carry more prestige than cash. Some 1370 physicians are being honored as part of a single \$3 million prize for their work con-

firming the theory of neutrino oscillation, a phenomenon in quantum mechanics.

Seven team leaders will split two-thirds of the prize. That leaves \$1 million to split among the others, or around \$700 to each physicist. "I would love to give \$3 million to each one, but we're not there yet," Milner said in an interview on Friday. Increasingly, he added, breakthroughs are made through vast consortiums rather than a handful of scientists working in relative isolation, raising the chances of such shared prizes in future.

Five prizes went to researchers in life sciences for advances in areas ranging from optogenetics to sequencing of ancient genomes. A prize in mathematics went to a professor at the University of Cal-

ifornia, Berkeley, for work in low dimensional topology and geometric group theory.

Eight scientists early in their mathematics and physics careers won awards of \$100,000.

Milner has set his sights on giving the sciences the same cultural resonance as sports or entertainment, but on Friday, he said it was too early to see if his work was having any effect. He pointed to the ceremony's broadcast on a major U.S. network, Fox, for the first time as a sign things were moving in the right direction.

A onetime physics PhD student in Moscow who dropped out to move to the United States in 1990, Milner has backed some of the world's biggest technology companies, including Facebook.

Seth MacFarlane, creator of the hit TV series "Family Guy," is hosted the black-tie ceremony, held at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif.

Hollywood celebrities like pop star Christina Aguilera hobnobbed with Silicon Valley celebrities like Theranos chief Elizabeth Holmes, whose blood-testing company has come under fire in recent weeks. News Corp. O chief executive Rupert Murdoch sat next to Gen. David Petraeus.

Singer Pharrell Williams serenaded the audience before dinner, created by chef Thomas Keller. Other celebrities milling about included actress Hilary Swank and cast members of the TV show "Silicon Valley."

Earlier this year, Milner said he would spend \$100 million looking for intelligent life in space by searching for radio and light signals.—Reuters

Homemade meals reduce risk of Type 2 diabetes

WASHINGTON — Home-cooked meals make us healthier than eating out and reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, said a US study Sunday.

Those who ate 11 to 14 lunches or dinners a week — or about two homemade meals each day — had a 13 percent lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes compared to those who ate less than six homemade lunches or dinners a week, according to the study presented at the American Heart Association's annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The researchers did not have enough information to include breakfasts in their analysis.

The findings were based on data from nearly 58,000 women who took part in a national nurse health study and more than 41,000 men in another study of male health professionals followed for up to 36 years.

None of the participants had diabetes, cardiovascular disease or cancer at the beginning of the study.

"The trend for eating commercially prepared meals in restaurants or as take-out in the United States has increased significantly over the last 50 years," study author Geng Zong, a research fellow at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said in a statement.

At the same time, he said, the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes has also increased.

Accumulating studies have suggested that eating out, especially in fast food chain restaurants, is associated with lower diet quality and higher body weight in children and young adults.

In the current study, the researchers demonstrated that eating homemade meals was associated with less weight gain over eight years in these middle-aged and older health professionals.

While the study does not provide a specific number of homemade meals people should eat each week, Zong said "more could be better."—Xinhua



Novo Nordisk diabetes drug fails to help heart failure

ORLANDO — The Novo Nordisk diabetes drug Victoza failed to improve clinical stability or delay death in patients suffering from advanced heart failure, researchers reported at a medical meeting on Sunday.

The injectable drug, known chemically as liraglutide, was tested in 300 patients with and without type 2 diabetes who had advanced heart failure and a recent hospitalization. Researchers had hoped that the medicine's effect on blood sugar could mitigate some of the metabolic effects of heart failure.

However, they found no significant difference between a placebo and Victoza in time to death or time to heart failure hospitalizations, according to data presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) scientific meeting in Orlando.

There was a higher number

of hospitalizations in the liraglutide group, but that was not deemed to be statistically significant.

"We're disappointed this didn't work out, but it's important to understand heart failure and diabetes together as common problems," Dr. Adrian Hernandez, professor of medicine at Duke Clinical Research Institute and one of the study's lead researchers, said in an interview.

Heart failure, in which the heart becomes unable to pump enough blood, is among the many serious health problems associated with diabetes, and a leading cause of hospitalizations and death. Novo Nordisk was not involved with the trial called Fight, which was independently undertaken by researchers from the government-funded Heart Failure Clinical Research Network.—Reuters

Cytokinetics, Amgen drug shows promise in heart failure study

ORLANDO — An experimental heart failure drug being developed by Cytokinetics Inc and Amgen Inc demonstrated several beneficial cardiac function effects in a midstage clinical trial, according to data presented on Sunday.

The trial of 448 patients with chronic heart failure already receiving optimal care tested a twice-a-day oral version of the drug, omecamtiv mecarbil, against a placebo over 20 weeks. After two weeks of treatment, a group of patients had the drug dose doubled to 50 milligrams from 25 mg.

Statistically significant improvements were seen in those patients compared to those taking a placebo, including increased volume and percentage of blood pumped with each heartbeat, a reduction in heart rate and a decrease in the size of the heart, known as

remodeling. As heart failure progresses and the heart has to work harder to pump blood it tends to become enlarged, so size reduction is viewed as an important effect in potentially slowing disease progression.

There was also a significant reduction in a biomarker associated with heart disease known as NT-proBNP in patients who received the drug, researchers said.

"The magnitude of cardiac effects observed are impressive. These may translate into improvements in long-term cardiac outcomes," said Dr. John Teerlink, who presented the data at the American Heart Association scientific meeting in Orlando.

Rates of serious adverse events, including deaths, heart attacks and chest pain, were similar for the drug and placebo groups,

researchers said. Heart failure, in which the heart becomes unable to pump enough blood, affects more than 23 million people worldwide and is the leading cause of hospitalization and readmissions in people 65 and older.

Teerlink, from the University of California, San Francisco, said finding an agent that provides improved cardiac function in heart failure patients "is the Holy Grail," adding that we're not there yet.

Larger trials are needed to evaluate the true safety and effectiveness of omecamtiv mecarbil, he said. Cytokinetics, which discovered the drug, said it and Amgen will analyze the data from this and previous studies before making a decision to move into much larger Phase III trials that would be used to seek regulatory approval.—Reuters

Russian artist arrested after starting fire at security HQ

MOSCOW — One of Russia's most radical political performance artists was detained in Moscow early on Monday after briefly setting fire to the entrance of the headquarters of the FSB security service, the successor to the Soviet KGB.

Video footage showed Pyotr Pavlensky standing on Moscow's storied Lubyanka Square in front of the building where political prisoners were interrogated in the Soviet era as flames

licked around its entrance, scorching parts of two heavy wooden doors.

Pavlensky, 31, was shown holding a petrol can and staring out onto the darkened square before a policeman grabbed him. His lawyer later told the Interfax news agency that Pavlensky was being held in a Moscow police station and might be charged with arson.

Unnamed law enforcement sources confirmed Pavlensky's detention, say-

ing he could be charged with petty hooliganism, an offence that usually carries a fine and a jail term of up to 15 days. Two journalists filming his actions said they were briefly detained before being released.

In a script accompanying the video of the incident, which was released from one of his own social media accounts despite his detention, Pavlensky said his action was called "Threat" and meant to draw attention

to what he called the terror tactics employed by the security agency.

"Fear turns free people into a sticky mass of uncoordinated bodies," he said. "The threat of inevitable reprisal hangs over everyone who can be tracked with devices, have their conversations listened to, and who faces borders with passport control," he wrote.

Pavlensky has attracted attention before, carrying out extreme acts which he says

are designed to poke holes in the Kremlin's propaganda machine and draw attention to society's problems. In 2012, he sewed his lips together to protest against the jailing of anti-Kremlin punk band Pussy Riot, and the following year he wrapped himself in barbed wire in front of a government building to show his opposition to laws he deemed regressive.

In his most shocking act, in November 2013, he nailed his scrotum to Mos-

cow's Red Square, a gesture he described as a metaphor for the political apathy of Russian society.

He was briefly detained in October 2014 after slicing off his earlobe while sitting naked on the roof of an infamous state psychiatry clinic to protest against what he said was the political abuse of psychiatry. Doctors have declared Pavlensky, who has in the past been ordered to undergo psychiatric tests, as sane.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2015 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.

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

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

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MV MERATUS GORONTALO

VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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Greece wants political solution on bad debt dispute blocking review



Greek Economy Minister George Stathakis (L) and Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos.
PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — Greece said yesterday it would take a political decision to overcome a dispute with international lenders over the treatment of non-performing loans at Greek banks, an issue it says threatens less well-off homeowners.

Athens insists resolving the issue should not

result in thousands of poor Greeks at risk of losing their homes and says a deal may have to be taken by Europe's leaders to bridge the dispute.

"The thorny issue is the distance that separates us on the issue of protecting primary residences," Economy Minister George

Stathakis told Real FM radio.

"I think the negotiations we conducted with the institutions has closed its cycle .. so its a political decision which must be taken," he said. The comments came ahead of a euro zone finance ministers' meeting in Brussels

which is to assess if Athens qualifies for more bailout funds.

Stathakis said that there was progress on most of the remaining issues holding up the review and that "a compromise will be reached" on the regulation of tax and pension fund arrears. The country's progress in meeting the terms of the bailout is due to be assessed at the Eurogroup later on Monday. An accord would have released 2 billion euros to Athens, part of an initial tranche of 26 billion under the bailout, worth in total up to 86 billion euros.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker discussed the bad-loans issue by telephone on Sunday. French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel also talked about it by phone.

"Greece is making considerable efforts. They are scrupulously respecting the July agreement," French Finance Minister Michel Sapin told reporters. "I want an agreement to be reached today. France wants an agreement today."—Reuters

Iran criticises Saudi Arabia over execution of its citizens

DUBAI — Iran summoned the Saudi charge d'affaires in Tehran on Sunday to protest over the execution of three Iranians in Saudi Arabia for drug trafficking, according to the Fars news agency.

The regional adversaries are at loggerheads over crises in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, as well as the disaster at the haj in September in which 465 Iranians died

in a crush of pilgrims near Mecca.

According to Iranian state media, the death sentences of the three men, who had been convicted of smuggling large amounts of hashish to the kingdom, were carried out in the city of Dammam earlier in the day.

"Countries refrain from executing such sentences by respecting bilateral relations

and keeping in mind that implementing such sentences will not bear a positive effect on ties," Iran's deputy foreign minister Hassan Qashqavi was quoted as saying by Press TV on Sunday.

Last year, Saudi Arabia executed more people than any country except China and Iran. Most executions in Saudi Arabia are by public beheading.

International monitor-

ing groups Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch say weaknesses in the Saudi justice system make convictions unsafe, and they have also criticised the frequent use of execution for non-violent offences.

The conservative kingdom, which uses sharia law, or Islamic law, and whose judiciary is composed of clerics, denies that its trials are unfair.—Reuters

Cambodia celebrates 62nd anniversary of Independence Day



Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni waves from a car during the celebration of the Independence Day in Cambodia, on 9 November 2015.

PHOTO: XINHUA

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia celebrated the 62nd anniversary of its Independence Day on Monday, with the participation of about 10,000 people from all walks of life.

King Norodom Sihamoni, along with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Na-

tional Assembly President Heng Samrin and Senate President Say Chhum, laid a wreath and lit the victory torch inside the Independence Monument to symbolise the country's independence from colonial rule.

The victory flame

will be kept burning for three days. Broadcast live on state-run National Television of Cambodia (TVK), the celebration was attended by senior officials, diplomatic corps, members of the armed forces, civil servants, residents and students.

Doves and balloons were released into the sky at the end of the event as a sign of independence and freedom.

In the evening, there will be a fireworks show over the Tonle Sap River in front of the Royal Palace.

The Southeast Asian country gained full independence from the French protectorate on 9 November 1953, during the reign of then-King Norodom Sihanouk.

France ruled Cambodia for 90 years from 1863 until 1953.—Xinhua

UK to boost intelligence staff to disrupt terror plots

LONDON — The British government will substantially increase the number of intelligence agency staff working to disrupt terrorist plots over the next five years, finance minister George Osborne said yesterday.

The government recently put forward new legislation that would give intelligence agencies sweeping new powers including the right to find out which websites people visit.—Reuters

Russia, Iran sign contract for missile system delivery

MOSCOW — Russia and Iran have signed a contract for Moscow to supply Tehran with S-300 surface-to-air missile systems, Sergei Chemezov, the chief executive of Russian state-owned defence conglomerate Rostec, was quoted by the RIA news agency as saying yesterday.

“S-300, the air defence system, the contract has already been signed,” Chemezov was quoted as saying at the Dubai Airshow.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ()

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA ZENITH VOY NO (12/15)

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO ()

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

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

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Fadeout near for travelling 'Cinema Paradiso' in Portugal



Projectionist Antonio Feliciano, 75, checks his projector before showing a film in Monforte, Portugal, on 16 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

MONFORTE — Shades of Oscar-winning classic "Cinema Paradiso" run through the life of Antonio Feliciano, a sprightly 75-year-old who fears he may be the last of Portugal's travelling film projectionists.

"If I'm not the last one, I'm close," Feliciano said. "This is a legacy that is going to end. When I'm gone, travelling cinema will be mentioned in articles, but only as a memory."

After six decades traveling four million km (2.5 million miles) to screen 4,000 films in Portugal's far-flung villages, Feliciano does not plan to retire just yet. But he is resigned to the fact that the Internet, digital TV and distribution monopolies have made his craft obsolete. Like Toto, the boy who befriends projectionist Alfredo in the 1988 Italian hit film, Feliciano also started as a youngster, in the 1950s, helping a traveling projectionist announce the weekend's bill on a loudspeaker in his village in rural Alentejo.

"The film bug", as he calls it, grew and by his teens he was out on the road, helping screen films in music halls and bullfighting rings. That led to a career which even the need to earn a living as a bookkeeper did not interrupt, combining weeks in a Lisbon office with weekend screenings.

Bachchan apologises to South African fan for not meeting her

MUMBAI — Amitabh Bachchan is feeling sorry for not being able to meet a wheelchair bound female fan, who has come from South Africa to catch a glimpse of the megastar.

Bachchan, 73, regularly addresses his fans every Sunday at his residence Jalsa in Mumbai.

Though the "Piku" star extended his sincere apologies to his admirer, but he said he will

About 200 km from Lisbon, hilltop Monforte is a typical Alentejo village — picturesque, but sleepy, its population reduced to 3,000 by economic woes and emigration. On a bright Sunday, however, the village livens up with Feliciano about to screen a film in honor of Domingos Pecas, a local projectionist who died in 2005 after 50 years in the business.

"Our entertainment was the traveling cinema, we didn't have anything else, no TV, no radio, we were very poor," resident Nazare Alfaia, 71, said. "I don't know how to read, so I can't remember the names of the films, but they were adventures, cowboys and horses," she added, surrounded by a collection of Feliciano's old projectors and fading posters of Westerns and musicals.

Artemisio Pecas, the projectionist's son, recalled that "before the film, they showed news, and it was at the cinema that people would see Lisbon, the colonies, even the sea, for the first time".

Wearing a blue workcoat with the word "Cinema" printed on the back, Feliciano spends an hour setting up, at one point using a hammer to align the reel of a biopic of Amalia Rodrigues, diva of Portugal's melancholic 'fado' music.—*Reuters*

try his level best to meet her some other time.

"My sincere apologies to this lovely lady for not being able to meet her in the crowd... But will try...", he tweeted.

The actor said his fans play an important role in his life.

"My love and my affection to all that make life existing for me...", Bachchan wrote along with some pictures of the gathering outside his house.—*PTI*

'Saturday Night Live' with Trump earns best ratings in years

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's appearance as guest host of "Saturday Night Live" helped the TV comedy sketch show earn its highest viewership ratings since 2012, the NBC television network said on Sunday.

The show, which came under fire from Latino groups for inviting the blunt-spoken Republican presidential frontrunner to host, garnered a 6.6 rating in the 56 US markets measured by Nielsen Media Research, NBC said in a statement.

The Trump show was the highest rating for SNL since Jan. 7, 2012, when an episode hosted by retired basketball star Charles Barkley pulled in a 7.0 rating, said the Comcast Corp.-owned network.

Saturday's rating was about 50 percent higher than the season premiere on 3 October when Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton made a cameo appearance, according to CNNMoney.com.

Ratings are a measure of the audience as a percentage of all television households, whether their sets were turned on or not during the show's time slot.

Trump's appearance received an avalanche of advance publicity when Hispanic groups objected to NBC's decision to invite the billionaire developer, saying it was legitimizing his "racist" views on immigration.

Even so, many critics say the SNL skits featuring Trump didn't quite live up to all the hype.

"Viewers tuned in to see a joyless, nearly unfunny show, which ended in a curtain call with Mr. Trump and the cast that played like a hostage video," wrote New York Times television critic James Poniewozik.

Before the show, Latino activists demonstrated outside NBC's New York studios at 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

The former star of reality TV

show "The Apprentice" outraged many Americans in June when he described Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug smugglers. While he made a crackdown on illegal immigration a main campaign theme, Trump has also said many of his employees are Hispanics and that they love him.

The show made reference to that controversy when comedian Larry David, in an obvious send-up, called out "Donald Trump is a racist!" to an apparently unfazed Trump. David then told the host that he was seeking a \$5,000 bounty that a website called DeportRacism.com promised to pay for on-air heckling.

Trump told CNN on Sunday that he vetoed some of the more risqué skits, and earlier in the week he told Fox News it was because he didn't want to alienate voters in Iowa, home of the first event in the 2016 presidential nominating contest.—*Reuters*

'Spectre' tops 'The Peanuts Movie' with \$73 million



A billboard and characters models of the film 'The Peanuts Movie' are seen in front of the Carlton Hotel as preparations continue on the Croisette before the start of the 68th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — James Bond and Charlie Brown brought the box office roaring back to life, as "Spectre" and "The Peanuts Movie" attracted big crowds over their opening weekends.

"Spectre," the latest 007 adventure, took first place, debuting to \$73 million from 3,929 theaters — a hefty figure and the second highest in series history, but one that nevertheless trails the launch of "Skyfall." The previous film in the long-running franchise bowed to \$88.4 million, but had better reviews and benefited from being the only new wide-release in its opening weekend. Going into the weekend, tracking suggested that the film would debut to \$80 million, but the strength of "The Peanuts Movie" and some critical grousing may have depressed ticket sales slightly.

Internationally, however, "Spectre" remains a juggernaut, pulling in \$200 million and pushing its worldwide total to

more than \$300 million after two weeks in release. With a production budget of \$250 million and millions more in marketing costs, "Spectre" has to pull in \$650 million globally to break even.

It's a time of transition for Bond. Daniel Craig, who was praised by critics for injecting an emotional depth and danger to the character, has hinted this is his last time playing the role.

The search for a replacement has already triggered frenzied speculation about who can take over the series. And Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Eon Productions are weighing distribution offers. Sony's deal to distribute the Bond films expires with "Spectre," and though the studio is expected to make a bid to keep the series, other suitors, such as Warner Bros. and Paramount, will aggressively pursue the rights to the franchise.

While older audiences flocked to see the martini-swill-

ing spy, Fox's "The Peanuts Movie" appealed to families. The adaptation of Charles Schulz's beloved comic strip racked up \$45 million across 3,897 screens. It cost \$100 million to make and was produced by Blue Sky, the creative force behind the "Ice Age" series.

On the limited release front, Open Road capitalized on Oscar buzz for "Spotlight." The look at the Boston Globe's investigation of the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal picked up \$302,276 from five theaters. That's a healthy per-screen average of \$60,455.

The film will gradually expand in the coming weeks and hopes to be in more than 500 theaters heading into Thanksgiving.

"There were multiple sell outs in every theater, every day this weekend," said Jason Cassidy, chief marketing officer at Open Road. "They had to add showtimes."

Fox Searchlight offered up another piece of awards bait, debuting the period romance "Brooklyn" in five theaters where it earned \$237,389 and picked up a solid per-screen average of \$36,200.

And Bleeker Street opened "Trumbo," a biopic about Blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo with Bryan Cranston, in five theaters. It picked up \$77,229 for a per-screen average of \$15,445, and will expand into Chicago, Boston, Washington DC, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Palm Springs. "We're prepared for the long run," said Jack Foley, distribution head at Bleeker Street. "The plan is to go wide at Thanksgiving and then play out from there."—*Reuters*

Baseball club removes banners after complaints from indigenous people

SAPPORO — A Japanese professional baseball club said Monday it will remove its huge banners from the departure lobby of New Chitose Airport on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido in response to protests that a message one of them bears is offensive to the local indigenous people.

"Hokkaido is a land of its settlers," says one of the banners advertising the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters, along with a photo of its manager Hideki Kuriyama, drawing flak from the Ainu Association of Hokkaido, an organ-

isation of the Ainu indigenous people who live in Hokkaido.

The settlement of Hokkaido by the Japanese, which began in earnest in and after the Edo period (1603-1868), deprived the Ainu of their ancestral lands.

The Pacific League club put up four types of 5.5 metres by 2 metres banners, including the one in question, in June, for a display scheduled to continue until January. Although the three other banners do not use the phrase, the Fighters said it will withdraw all four banners.

"We decided we should



One of four banners advertising the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters professional baseball club. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

quickly take them down because we lacked consideration for Ainu people and we should apologise," the team said.—Kyodo News

Japan mulls expanding local flights to aim for 30m visitors

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe indicated yesterday the government plans to increase flight services at local airports and speed up immigration procedures to accommodate an expected increase in the number of foreign visitors as the country aims to welcome 30 million visitors annually by 2030.

Speaking at the first meeting of ministers and tourism experts on transforming Japan into a tourism-oriented country, Abe referred to the government's plan to attract 20 million visitors a year by 2020 and said, "The 20 million visitors (mark) is just a passing

point." Abe added he plans to bring more tourists to various areas in addition to major tourist-attracting cities like Tokyo and Kyoto by "tying up world needs with the allure of regional Japan."

Specific measures for accommodating the increase in visitors are expected to be compiled within this fiscal year ending in March.

"Our country has abundant environmental resources and has the potential to become a tourism-oriented country, but it has many problems like difficulties in reserving hotels and using trains and buses," he said, adding, "We

must welcome fresh visitors by improving such problems and increase repeat visitors."

The members of the meeting will discuss topics including deregulation for allowing members of the public to let out their residences to visitors, increasing reserved buses and boosting the number of interpreters. As of 9 October, the number of foreign visitors to Japan this year surpassed 15 million. Deeming the target of 20 million visitors is already within reach, the government has decided to compile strategies for achieving the greater target for 2030.—Kyodo News

Britain's war memorials to be protected for future generations

LONDON — Millions of Britons remembered Sunday the victims of two world wars and people killed in other conflicts with a traditional two-minute silence in every town, city and village. Cultural custodians at Historic England announced all 44 war memorials created by celebrated architect Sir Edwin Lutyens have from today been declared protected structures to preserve them for future generations.

Lutyens, who died in 1944, is regarded as the greatest British architect since Sir Christopher Wren, whose most famous work is London's iconic St Paul's Cathedral.

Today Queen Elizabeth led the commemorations at Lutyens is most famous work, the Cenotaph in London's Whitehall.

The striking design of the Cenotaph bringing his skills to the attention of the world.

A spokesman for Historic England said: "They all remind

passers-by that every name is a human story, a loss, a grieving family. Today, the National Collection of Lutyens War Memorials have been listed."

"Before the First World War, Lutyens is reputation rested on his designs for country houses moving from Arts & Crafts-style country houses to Neo-Georgian manors. He set up his architectural practice when he was just 19 years old, and as his fame grew, he was appointed in 1912 to design New Delhi, the new capital of India," said the spokesman.

Today, 14 of his war memorials have been honored by the government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport, a higher listing status, with a further unusual memorial added to the list for the first time, the Garrards Cross Memorial Building in Buckinghamshire. As of today, all 44 First World War memorials by the architect of the Whitehall Cenotaph are now protected, creating a previously unrecognised

national collection by Lutyens.

Tracey Crouch, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Heritage, said: "The commemoration of the First World War Centenary has inspired people all over England to remember our shared history. Our war memorials provide a lasting legacy for those who sacrificed so much."

Roger Bowdler, Director of Listing at Historic England, said: "Lutyens was a key figure in determining how the dead and missing should be commemorated. His designs are admired for the universality of their message.

His pure architectural forms are mute symbols of grief, the simple inscriptions weighted with sorrow. These are enduring memorials, which show the power of classical architecture to convey meaning and dignity." The listing of all of the Lutyens memorials is part of Historic England's pledge to list 2,500 war memorials by 2018, during the centenary of the First World War.—Xinhua

Trove of wood, bamboo slips unearthed in Chinese tomb

NANCHANG — Nearly 3,000 wooden tablets and bamboo slips were been discovered in a tomb in Jiangxi Province on Monday, revealing details of life of ancient people 2,000 years ago.

Lead archaeologist Yang Jun said, the written records unearthed in the main tomb of the Haihunhou, or Marquis of Haihun, were copies of reports submitted to the emperor and the empress dowager, as well as medical and agricultural books dating back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC- 25 AD).

Two teams have been set up to preserve and decipher the precious documents, the provincial archaeology institute said.

Haihun was the ancient name of a tiny vassal in north Jiangxi. Located in the now provincial capital of Nanchang, the Haihunhou cemetery covers 40,000 square meters with eight tombs and a chariot burial site, with walls that stretch for

almost 900 metres.

The team discovered on Sunday five well-preserved horse-drawn vehicles, each with four sacrificed horses in the corridor of the main tomb. More than 3,000 accessories embellished with gold and silver were found at the same time.

The archeologists suspected that the main tomb might be that of Liu He, grandson of Emperor Wu, the greatest ruler of the Han Dynasty, which witnessed a fairly long period of social stability and prosperity.

Liu was given the title Haihunhou after he was deposed as emperor after only 27 days, de-throned by the royal clan due to, allegedly, his lack of talent and morals.

The excavation began in 2011. The next stage of the archaeological work, the institute said, will look for items locked in the coffin of the central mausoleum.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(10-11-2015 07:00 am~ 11-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:24	Am	Insight Myanmar "Inclusive Education"
07:52	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	On the River
08:47	Am	A Pilgrimage To Prominent Pagoda In Minbu
08:53	Am	Today Myanmar "Scraps to Products"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:51	Am	Thin Byu Mat
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Entrepreneur "U Than Myint"
10:34	Am	Caves of Myanmar

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

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

06:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-9) Crispy Deep-Fried Calamari Rings with Tartar Sauce & Apple Mint Mojito & Blue Lagoon Mocktails
06:52	Pm	Entrepreneur "U Than Myint"

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:52	Pm	Graffiti: Portraiture
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes Pre Kayaw: Their Life and Customs (Part- I)
08:52	Pm	Nang

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

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

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

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(10-11-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am	• Mono Classical Songs	8:35 am	• Musical Programme
6:20 am	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	8:45 am	• Radio Drama
6:40 am	• Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than	9:35 am	• Myanmar Video
7:00 am	• TV Drama Series	10:15 noon	• Colours of ASEAN
7:50 am	• TV Drama Series	10:25 noon	• Myanmar Video

Arsenal earn late point against Spurs, City stay top

LONDON — Arsenal's hopes of leapfrogging Premier League leaders Manchester City were frustrated when they drew 1-1 with London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday after City's surprising 0-0 draw with bottom club Aston Villa.

Tottenham, who moved up to fifth, had looked on course for a rare away win against their neighbours when they led through Harry Kane's first-half goal but substitute Kieran Gibbs equalised for the Gunners with 13 minutes left.

Juergen Klopp tasted defeat for the first time since taking over as Liverpool manager, his side beaten 2-1 by Crystal Palace at Anfield.

Manchester City, who hit the bar late on against a resolute Villa side under the command of new boss Remi Garde for the first time, have 26 points from 12 matches, the same as Arsenal, but have a better goal difference.

Tottenham, unbeaten in the league since an opening day defeat by Manchester United, have 21.

Liverpool have 17 points in 10th with Crystal Palace two points better off in eighth.

The Premier League now takes a two-week breather for a raft of international matches.

Injury-hit Arsenal, without the likes of Theo Walcott and Aaron Ramsey, had a gilt-edged chance to go into that break top, especially after City's stalemate at Villa Park in the day's ear-



Arsenal's Kieran Gibbs scores their first goal against Tottenham Hotspur during Barclays Premier League at Emirates Stadium, London, on 8 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

ly kickoff, but in the end were relieved to avoid only a second home league defeat by Tottenham in the last 23 meetings.

"It was a very intense game," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "In the second half we had a great mental response and we were determined not to lose.

"When you're 1-0 down it's a mixture of relief and regret because if we were really clinical in the last 15 minutes we could have won, but 1-1 was probably a fair result.

"City dropped points, we dropped points, Liverpool lost to Palace, it just shows what a hard

league this is."

Arsenal started brightly but Tottenham responded and took a deserved lead after 32 minutes when Kane raced on to Danny Rose's long pass and beat Petr Cech with a cool finish.

The Gunners improved after the break, having taken off a "dizzy" Santi Cazorla, and Olivier Giroud headed a chance against the top of the crossbar and an even better one wide.

Tottenham, though, remained dangerous, threatening a second goal with Christian Eriksen, Kane and Toby Alderweireld all denied by the im-

pressive Cech.

Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris made a great save from Costa Rica striker Joel Campbell but would have been disappointed not to keep out Arsenal's equaliser when Gibbs crept in at the back post to meet Mesut Ozil's delivery and bounced the ball past the Frenchman who seemed to have it covered.

"We should have won but I feel very proud of the players. We played very well. You need to kill the game. When we were 1-0 up we had chances to score again," Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino said.—Reuters

Kagawa on target as Dortmund win derby thriller

DORTMUND — Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa scored his third goal of the season and Borussia Dortmund beat Schalke 3-2 in a pulsating derby in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Kagawa got on the end of a delicious cross from Matthias Ginter to open the scoring with a rare header after 30 minutes.

"I have no memory of scoring (with my head) before," said Kagawa. "I was just focused on connecting with the cross." Dortmund's lead did not last long though as Klaas-Jan Huntelaar leveled for the visitors in the 33rd after being teed up by Leroy Sane.

Ginter headed in a corner from Henrikh Mkhitaryan to restore Dortmund's lead two minutes before the interval and the home side went further ahead in the 48th when Gonzalo Castro put the third on a plate for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Huntelaar reduced the arrears when he pounced on an error by Mats Hummels to score with 18 minutes left but Dortmund hung on to take the three points. "We were wobbling towards the end," said Kagawa, who singled out Ralf Fahrman for praise after the Schalke keeper had kept his side in the game with a number of key saves.—Kyodo News

Impressive Djokovic prevails in Paris again

PARIS — Novak Djokovic's already brilliant season took on another dimension on Sunday when the world number one became the first man to win six Masters titles in a calendar year by dismissing Andy Murray 6-2, 6-4 in Paris.

The Serbian won three of the four grand slam titles — Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open — and has already made sure he will finish 2015 as number one in the ATP rankings. He heads into the 15-22

November World Tour finals in London beaming with confidence, having won his last 22 matches.

"I am obviously very proud and very happy to win this title again, it's a great tournament and all the best players in the world were here," Djokovic said at the court side.

Djokovic, the first man with four Bercy titles and also the first to win three in succession, was in another league against a sorry Murray, the second seed.

The Scot struggled to find his range early on, sending a few shots long and Djokovic broke to love for 2-1. Murray had a

few tricks up his sleeve, trying to mix it up with drop shots, but Djokovic had too much poise and pace and he stole his opponent's serve again as he took advantage of some sloppy errors.

Murray raised his game in the second set after dropping his serve early on. He went to the net to level for 2-2 and in the sixth game he managed to lead 30-0 on Djokovic's serve.

That was as close as he came to an upset as Djokovic won the game and put the Olympic champion on the back foot again in the following game, breaking for 4-3 when Murray sent a forehand long.

Djokovic ended a quick final on his first match point when Murray returned wide.

Djokovic played in all the Masters finals this season, winning the first three in Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo, then prevailing in Rome and Shanghai.

He faltered at the last hurdle in Cincinnati and Montreal, where he was defeated by Murray. He did not take part in the Madrid Masters.—Reuters



Novak Djokovic. PHOTO: REUTERS

Misfiring Real need quick response ahead of Barca visit

MADRID — Real Madrid coach Rafa Benitez needs to get his misfiring side back on track quickly for the visit of Barcelona's ruthless attack in 'El Clasico' following another lacklustre display in a 3-2 defeat by Sevilla.

The pressure is growing on the well-travelled Benitez with Real again lacking creativity going forward while they were also fragile defensively.

There were whistles over their sluggish play in the narrow 1-0 victory over Paris Saint Germain in the Champions League last Tuesday and the criticism will only increase following their first defeat of the season.

Real's next game following the international break is against Barca at the Bernabeu on 21 November with the Catalan side having moved three points clear at the top of the La Liga table while looking ominous in a 3-0 win over Villarreal on Sunday.

"We now have time for the injured players to return. These are unusual types of games

(against Barca) and I expect the team to come back well from the defeat," Benitez told a news conference.

Statistics showed that Cristiano Ronaldo did not touch the ball inside the penalty area against PSG and he again offered little, while Gareth Bale lacked sharpness on his return from injury as Real were second best for long spells against Sevilla.

Benitez's tactical strength and discipline were reasons why president Florentino Perez brought him in this season but they were surprisingly easily opened up at the back.

"We were unable to manage the game and we thought we were in control when we weren't," said Benitez.

"We played well for the first 30 minutes but after that we allowed Sevilla to equalise and then we committed other errors. After that it was a case of who was willing to battle the most but this will serve as a lesson for us."—Reuters