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WORK TOGETHER, WITHOUT GRUDGES

President pledges peaceful, smooth power transfer

Aye Min Soe

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein pledged to systematically transfer power to the incoming government within a set timeframe, in line with the Myanmar constitution.

At a meeting with political parties in Yangon on Sunday, the first since general election on 8th November, the president stressed that the current government would work for a smooth transition in line with existing laws, regulations and procedures, and would do so calmly, peacefully and smoothly so as not to cause worries about the power transfer.

The president said he would send invitations to convene the second parliament in accordance with established procedures.

He also reminded political parties to make preparations to participate in political dialogue, as they also play a role in the peace process.

The president told political parties that the current government is making efforts to initiate political dialogue soon, in accordance with the timeline provided in the NCA, expressing his belief that the next government would do its best to continue to build on this good foundation.

The government, led by President U Thein Sein, signed a nationwide ceasefire agreement with eight ethnic armed organizations on 15 October.

“The importance of the agreement lies in the political guarantees for resolving armed



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with a leader of an ethnic party at a meeting with political parties. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

conflict through political means and establishing a federal and democratic Union through political dialogue,” he said.

During the meeting, National League for Democracy party spokesman U Nyan Win promised to undertake these tasks

peacefully, upholding the principle of national reconciliation which, he said, the party adopted at its establishment.

During the meeting with the president, ethnic political parties, including the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy,

demanding that the president stop ongoing offensives against ethnic armed groups in Shan State.

Some parties demanded that the president release all political prisoners.

In his concluding remarks, President U Thein Sein called

on political leaders, parties and the public to work together for the development of the country, without holding grudges.

(The full text of President U Thein Sein’s speech is available at www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye delivers closing remarks at closing ceremony of the Media Centre of the Union Election Commission.

PHOTO: MNA

UEC holds final press conference

THE press conference on results of the general election and the closing ceremony of the Media Centre of the Union Election Commission was held at the media centre of the commission in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

UEC Member U Myint Nang announced the results of the general election and the closing of the media centre.

Then, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye said that election complaints can be submitted to the commission, which will set up the election tribunal to hear and examine them. The chairman said the complaints will be dealt with in a fair manner before the media and observers and the date to hear the complaints will be announced later.

The commission has so far announced 99 percent of the election results and the remaining results for two Pyithu Hluttaw seats, one Amyotha Hluttaw seat, four state/region Hluttaw seat and state/region Hluttaw (Ethnics) seat will be announced through state-owned media before 20 November. — *Myanma News Agency*

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

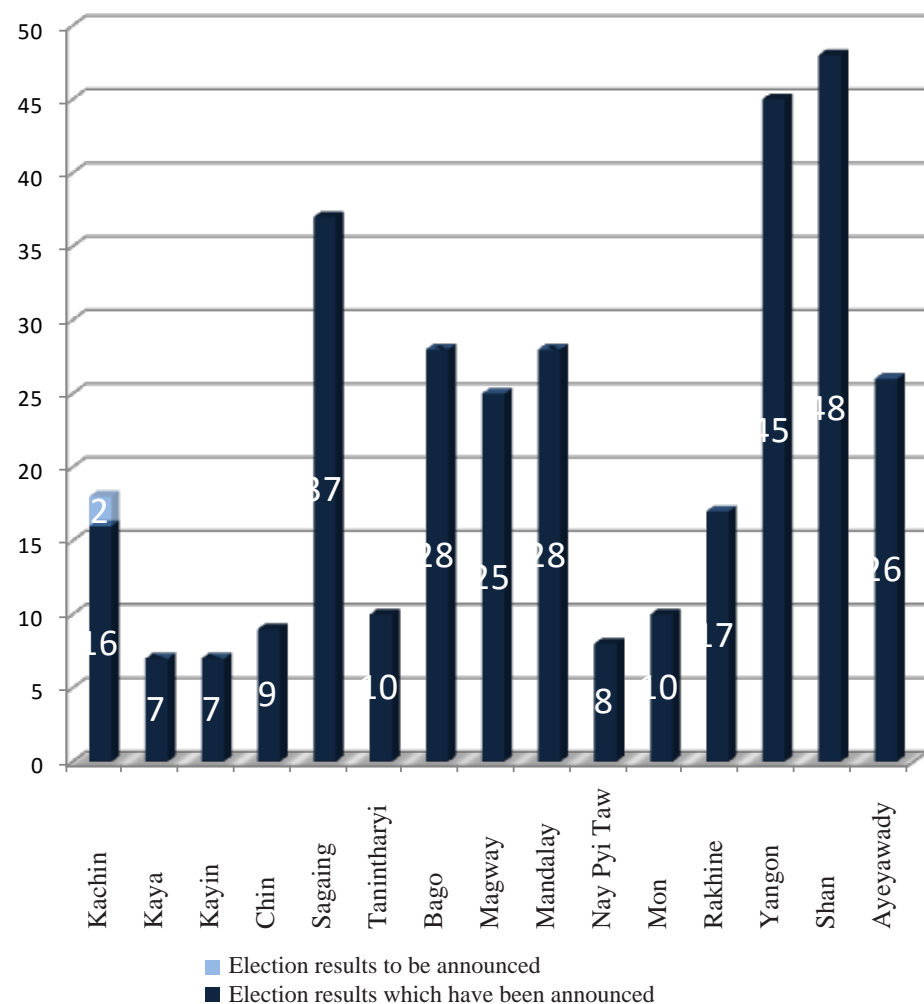
No.	Region/State	Constituency	Victorious candidate	Party/Independent	Total vote
316.	Sagaing	Lahe	U Thet Naung	National League for Democracy	11564
317.	Sagaing	Nanyun	U One Hla	National League for Democracy	13284
318.	Rakhine	MyaukU	U U Saw Hla	Arakan National Party	67030
319.	Rakhine	Kyauktaw	U U Tun Win	Arakan National Party	55725
320.	Rakhine	Minbya	U Sid Naing	Arakan National Party	45047
321.	Rakhine	Myaybon	U Pe Than	Arakan National Party	25345

Myanmar News Agency

2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Region/State Hluttaw candidates and results

No.	Region/State	Constituency	Victorious Candidate	Party/ Independent	Total Vote
615.	Sagaing	Lahe-1	U Law Yon	National League for Democracy	7172
616.	Sagaing	Lahe-2	U Hsar Mu	Union Solidarity and Development Party	4995
617.	Sagaing	Nanyun-1	U Sein Maung	National League for Democracy	6768
618.	Sagaing	Nanyun-2	U K Sai	National League for Democracy	6972
619.	Rakhine	MyaukU-1	U Tun Tha Sein	Arakan National Party	37234
620.	Rakhine	MyaukU-2	U Kyaw Win	Arakan National Party	30754
621.	Rakhine	Kyawtaw-1	U Maung Hla Kyaw	Arakan National Party	25252
622.	Rakhine	Kyauktaw-2	U Maung Than Sein (a) U Maung Maung	Arakan National Party	29047
623.	Rakhine	Minbya-1	U Hla Thein Aung	Arakan National Party	22670
624.	Rakhine	Minbya-2	U Hla Aung Nyunt	Arakan National Party	20815
625.	Rakhine	Myaybon-1	U Aung Win	Arakan National Party	13180
626.	Rakhine	Myaybon-2	U Mya Than	Arakan National Party	12840
627.	Rakhine	Manaung-1	U Thame Maung	National League for Democracy	5293
628.	Rakhine	Manaung-2	U Boe Nwe	National League for Democracy	6620

Myanmar News Agency



UEC Chairman expresses thanks for success of election

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission expressed his gratitude and thanks yesterday to all those who have made contribution to success of the November-8 election.

In his announcement U

Tin Aye, Chairman of the UEC, thanked the president and the government, staff of the ministries, members of the UEC and its sub-commissions nationwide, volunteers and civil society organizations.

He also acknowledged the helping hands lent by the service personnel of the military to transport ballots and materials for the polling stations to the far-flung areas as timely and media personnel.—GNLM

2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Amyotha Hluttaw candidates and results

No.	Region/State	Constituency	Victorious candidate	Party/Independent	Total vote
164.	Sagaing	No. 12	U Min Naing	National League for Democracy	29960
165.	Rakhine	No.4	U Kyaw Kyaw	Arakan National Party	63677
166.	Rakhine	No. 5	U Myint Naing	Arakan National Party	57443
167.	Rakhine	No.6	U Aye Thar Aung	Arakan National Party	75758

Myanmar News Agency

2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Region/State Hluttaw (Ethnic) candidates and results

No.	Region/State	Constituency	Victorious Candidate	Party/ Independent	Total Vote
23.	Sagaing	Shan	Daw Hmwe Hmwe Khin	Tai-Leng Nationalities Development Party	32958
24.	Sagaing	Chin	U Lar Htaung Htan	National League for Democracy	33987
25.	Rakhine	Chin	U Pon Bway	National League for Democracy	11512

Myanmar News Agency

Election results up to 4 pm 15 November announced by Union Election Commission Victorious parties, candidates results

No.	Political Party	Pyithu Hluttaw	Amyotha Hluttaw	Region/State Hluttaw	Region/State (Ethnic) Hluttaw
1.	National League for Democracy	254	135	474	17
2.	Union Solidarity and Development Party	29	12	72	2
3.	Zomi Congress for Democracy	2	2	2	
4.	“Wa” Democratic Party	1		2	
5.	Kachin State Democracy Party	1		3	
6.	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy	13	3	26	
7.	Kayin People’s Party			1	
8.	Mon National Party		1	2	
9.	Independent	1	2	1	1
10.	Arakan National Party	12	10	22	1
11.	Kokant Democracy and Unity Party	1		1	
12.	Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State			1	
13.	PaO National Organization Party	3	1	6	
14.	Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party	3	1	7	
15.	Democratic Party (Myanmar)			1	
16.	All Mon Regions Democracy Party			1	
17.	Wa National Unity Party			1	
18.	Lahu National Development Party			1	1
19.	Lisu National Development Party	1		1	
20.	Akha National Development Party				1
21.	Tai-Leng Nationalities Development Party				1
	Total	321	167	626	25

Myanmar News Agency

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office holds Kathina robes donation ceremony



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donate robe to a Member of the Sangha. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Office (Army, Navy and Air) held a ceremony to donate Kathina robes and cash to the Members of the Sangha Sunday.

At the 5th ceremony of the families of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office held at the office of the

Commander-in-Chief (Army) in Nay Pyi Taw, Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered robes to the Members of the Sangha.

A total of 72 Members of the Sangha attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the families of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office col-

lectively donated more than K 65 million to the Members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior-General Soe Win and senior military officers.—*Myawady*

Statements from Information Minister about meeting between President, Political parties

Union Information Minister U Yet Htut replies questions raised by reporters on meeting between the President and political parties.

UNION Minister for Information U Ye Htut: A democratic country will experience many elections. Some parties won a minority of seats and some did not win any seats in the elections. The president urged the winning and losing parties to establish checks and balances between the executive pillar, legislative pillar and judiciary pillar. As there are many challenges in our country, and we need to build trust among communities, we can build trust among us only

through dialogue.

When we establish a culture of political dialogue, the president listened to all political parties, whether they are small or big, and used their ideas to lay down the government's policies.

We made the best use of their ideas in our reforms, including the peace process, executive reforms and economic reforms. We hope that the next government will do its best to continue to apply these practices.—*Myanma News Agency*



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Political parties welcome meeting with President

MYANMAR'S multiparty democratic general election, which was observed by the international community and civil society organisations, was successfully held on 8 November. As the post-election period is an impor-

tant time for the country, President U Thein Sein met with political parties to ensure a smooth transition at the Yangon Region Government Office at 10am on Sunday. The political parties expressed satisfaction with the

meeting.

U Nyan Win of the National League for Democracy said all participants welcomed the points made by the president at the meeting, but he also said the peace process needed to be dis-

cussed further.

He added that the president pointed out the importance of forming a new government in accordance with the law, and the NLD placed emphasis on national reconciliation.

important for the transition.

U Parcy Pyi Hein of the Negotiation and Stability Party said he discussed the Myitsone Hydropower Dam and the number of representatives for political parties in the peace process.

U Htwe Aung of the Kachin National Democracy Congress Party welcomed the meeting and urged the new government to keep its promise to realise a federal union.

Salai Hlian Mone of the Chin National Front said he was glad the meeting addressed the importance of the peace deal and national reconciliation.

U Aung Moe Zaw of the Democratic Party for New Society said he asked the president to release the detained students and political prisoners as soon as possible.—*Myanma News Agency*



U Nyan Win of the National League for Democracy.



U Than Htay of the Union Solidarity and Development Party.



Dr Aye Maung of the Arakan National Party.



Salai Hlian Mone of the Chin National Front.



U Htwe Aung of the Kachin National Democracy Congress Party.



U Aung Moe Zaw of the Democratic Party.

Correction

PLEASE read U Sai Tun Aung, a candidate of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy party, representing Kyaukme constituency in the announcement No. 77/2015 of the Union Election Commission on 11.11.2015 instead of National League for Democracy party.

He won a seat for Pyithu Hluttaw from Kyakme constituency in Shan State in the November-8 election.—*MNA*

South Korea vows no tolerance after violent protest in Seoul

SEOUL — The South Korean government vowed yesterday to crack down on any more violent protests, a day after dozens were arrested during a rally against labour reforms, the largest street protest of President Park Geun-hye's term.

Organisers say they will take to the streets again on 5 December.

More than 60,000 people took part in Saturday's protest, according to police, and a group of a few dozen fought with the police at the front line, trying to break through barricades of police buses blocking off downtown Seoul's main thoroughfare.

Police used water canons to disperse the crowd and sprayed liquid laced with an irritant found in chilli pepper to fight off protesters swinging metal pipes and sharpened bamboo sticks.

"The government was fully prepared to guarantee a lawful and peaceful rally, but some people came prepared with illegal equipment such as steel pipes and conducted a violent protest," Justice Minister Kim Hyun-woong told a news conference.

"These activities were a grave challenge to law and order and



A riot policeman is held by protesters as water mixed with tear gas liquid is sprayed by police water canon to disperse protesters during an anti-government rally in central Seoul, South Korea, on 14 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

public authority, and they will not be tolerated." The police arrested 51 people and are questioning them on various charges including illegal protest, assaulting police officers and destroying public equip-

ment. The police said about 10 protesters were injured, including a member of a militant farm activist group who was knocked down by a water canon blast. He was in stable condition after emergency surgery

on Sunday, a police official said.

Some of the country's most militant labour and activist groups were involved in the protests, including Han Sang-gyun, the president of the Korean Confederation

of Trade Unions, who is wanted under a warrant for organising previous illegal rallies.

"It was led by some of the most organised elements — labour, farm, anti-poverty activists, which was a little different from when there was more public participation," said Yu Chang-seon, an independent political commentator.

Protestors say the labour reforms benefit only the country's huge family-controlled conglomerates, and make it easier to fire workers.

Park, who had left earlier on Saturday for Turkey to take part in the summit of G20 nations, has seen her public support ratings fall recently over a decision to replace privately published school history textbooks with a government version.

The protests do not, however, appear to pose an immediate threat to Park or her conservative Saenuri Party, which is well ahead in opinion polls, scoring 39 percent in a Gallup survey of 1,012 people released on Friday, while the largest opposition party, New Politics Alliance for Democracy, polled 22 percent. Parliamentary elections take place next April.—Reuters

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World Bank provides additional 177m USD financing to increase electricity supply in Bangladesh

DHAKA — The World Bank has approved an additional 177 million US dollars financing with the overall aim to increase reliable, low-cost electricity supply in Bangladesh.

According to a statement of the Washington-based lender received here Saturday, the additional financing will enable the completion of construction of a 335-megawatt combined cycle power plant at Siddhirganj, near Dhaka.

The combined cycle technol-

ogy allows the plant to produce higher energy with lower gas consumption, it said.

According to the statement, this cleaner technology reduces carbon emission while ensuring higher thermal efficiency.

The plant will deliver at least 2.49 billion kwh annually, which accounts for 6 percent of the total electricity delivered to the national grid, it said.

"Despite increased power generation capacity, Bangladesh still faces significant outages dur-

ing the peak demand hours. Inadequate power supply is affecting families, undermining competitiveness and hindering growth," said Martin Rama, acting World Bank country director for Bangladesh.

"This additional financing will add new power generation capacity for Bangladesh and increase efficient use of its scarce domestic gas supplies."

In 2008, the World Bank provided 350 million US dollars to construct a 300 megawatt gas

turbine power plant in Siddhirganj.

In the face of increasing power demand and gas shortages, the government decided to convert the peaking power plant to an energy-efficient 335 megawatt combined cycle power plant.

The additional financing will fill the financing gap for constructing the power plant, said the World Bank statement and added the plant is expected to start commercial operation in 2016.—Xinhua

Indonesia, China have matched interests in connectivity initiatives

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government's idea to boost the nation's maritime connectivity is likely to match with China's proposal to link economies through the "Belt and Road" initiative.

"The cooperation to align Indonesia and China's connectivity programmes were strongly possible. We can align the interests," Dradjat Wibowo, an expert at Institute of Development and Economics and Finance (INDEF), told Xinhua on Friday.

Indonesia, the largest economy in Southeast Asia, is considered to have potential in further economic cooperation with China. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative was firstly introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in his speech in Indonesian parliament building dur-

ing his visit to Jakarta in October, 2013.

Dradjat said that alignment of China's Belt and Road initiative and Indonesia's maritime connectivity vision would be very beneficial to each other.

He said that the alignment would give Indonesia a new export channel, as the two countries have set target to see 150 billion US dollars of bilateral trade value by 2020.

"It would be best if the alignment is implemented in the expansion of the ship industry which is direly needed in Indonesia," the expert said.

He pointed out that Indonesia has several competitive edges to make itself a complementary growth centre to China.

"Indonesia has a huge mar-

ket and resources at the same time, talented workforces who potentially make Indonesia as center of innovation. Besides that, as a tropical country, Indonesia can provide further cooperation in biotechnology researches," Dradjat said.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo was determined to advance the nation's maritime connectivity through his so-called Sea Toll Road programme in a bid to overcome high economy disparity problem in the nation.

The Sea Toll Road was also expected to reduce the high logistic cost that has been burdening investors in Indonesia.

Besides the maritime connectivity programme, the president is also determined to transform the nation into the Global

Maritime Axis given its geographical position which is located between two continents and two oceans.

To heed up with the president's aim, Indonesia has ordered a total of 71 vessels from several dockyards in the past two months.

The government also plans to construct a total of 24 seaports within five years, including 5 large hub seaports and 19 smaller ports designed as passenger and cargo feeders to the hub seaports.

The Indonesian president has set an ambitious target to see more than 8 percent growth at the end of his presidency term in 2019 from the present 4.7 percent. The nation may face an uphill battle to achieve the target with insufficient infrastructure to facilitate the efforts.—Xinhua

Afghanistan, UNDP launch project to improve public services

KABUL — The Afghan Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the country have launched a new five-year project, aiming to deliver improved public services, the IDLG said in a statement yesterday.

The project called, Local Governance Project-Afghanistan (LoGo), which was launched on Saturday, will strengthen government institutions at provincial and district levels to deliver improved public services across the country, according to the statement.

“LoGo will enhance accountability, transparency and effectiveness in service delivery at the local level by supporting the implementation of subnational governance policies and improving capacity in provincial and district-level institutions for outreach, planning, monitoring and budgeting,” it reads.

“It will also strengthen communities to hold government accountable for service delivery by supporting networking organisations and interest groups, and through awareness raising programs in local communities,” the statement said. “UNDP Af-

ghanistan is a critical partner in supporting the government to improve governance in Afghanistan,” Ghulam Jelani Popal, director general of IDLG, was quoted in the statement as saying.

“LoGo fully reflects the government’s priorities, and constitutes IDLG’s most critical programme for the next five years,” he said. The project was developed jointly by the IDLG and UNDP Afghanistan, in consultation with donors, the statement noted.

“LoGo is fully aligned with the government’s priorities,” Douglas Keh, UNDP Afghanistan country director said, adding that “at the same time, it emphasizes capacity development in order to support the government’s efforts toward self-reliance.”

“LoGo will support local governance institutions, including provincial governors’ offices, provincial development committees, provincial sector and technical services departments, provincial councils, municipalities and district governors’ offices. LoGo will also support the IDLG in Kabul, particularly in policy and planning,” the statement said.—Xinhua

APEC launches trade repository focusing on helping small enterprises

MANILA — The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) yesterday launched an online database especially for micro, small and medium enterprises in its member economies to better access cross-border trade in the region.

The APEC Trade Repository (APECTR), according to Ceferino Rodolfo, assistant secretary of the Industry Development Group of the Department of Trade and Industry, served as a single online reference point on APEC economies’ trade and tariff mechanisms with the objective of further promoting APEC’s work on transparency, connectivity and trade facilitation. The APECTR was

built on the existing APEC Web Trade Repository and information including most-favoured-nation tariff rates, preferential tariff rates, rules of origin on existing free trade agreements, best practices in trade facilitation, domestic trade and customs laws and regulation and procedures for imports and exports will be available in the newly launched database.

The proposal of the APECTR was first presented by the Philippines in February 2015 and the APEC in September adopted the initiative to launch the database during the upcoming APEC Economic Leaders’ meeting.—Xinhua

Christmas light-up launched at Singapore’s Orchard Road

SINGAPORE — Singapore’s President Tony Tan Keng Yam on Saturday officiated this year’s Christmas light-up at Orchard Road, illuminating the city state’s shopping and entertainment hub with sparkling lights and colour.

Themed on “Christmas on A Great Street”, this year’s Christmas light-up will be displayed from Saturday to 3 January, 2016. Visitors can look forward to celebrating the festive season in an atmosphere of merriment. With the

support from Singapore Tourism Board, Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA) has come up with a truly unique creative design for the Christmas baubles and set pieces.

This year’s creative concept is produced by local artist Dick Lee and designer Yang De Rong. Singapore’s Minister for Social and Family Development Tan Chuan-Jin also attended the Christmas light-up, which started in 1984.—Xinhua

Bangladesh aims to rein in poverty to below 14% by 2021

DHAKA — Bangladesh aims to cut its poverty rate to less than 14 percent by 2021 from 22.4 percent now, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday, as the country sets its sights on becoming a middle-income nation.

Hasina was speaking at the opening of a two-day meeting where Bangladesh will seek up to \$12 billion in assistance from funding partners to develop its ramshackle infrastructure.

“We set a target to reduce the rate of poverty below 14 percent by 2021, when we also expect to become a middle-income country,” Hasina said, adding that Bangladesh had already reined in the figure to 22.4 percent, from 56.7 percent in 1991.

About 23 percent of the population of nearly 160 million falls below the poverty line, with a daily income of less than

\$2 a day.

About 40 representatives of bodies such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the US Agency for International Development, the Department for International Development, the European Union and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) attended the event.

Early in July, the World Bank upgraded Bangladesh to its category of lower middle income nations from its earlier status as a least developed country (LDCs).

Hasina said her government had chalked out a five-year plan to achieve its vision of middle-income status for Bangladesh.

One of the officials at the meeting, Kingo Toyoda, dep-

uty director general of Japan’s foreign affairs ministry, said his country would continue to cooperate with Bangladesh, but urged it to ensure the safety of visiting Japanese citizens.

A Japanese national in October became the second foreign national to be killed in the South Asian nation, with Islamic State claiming responsibility.

“We want to invest more and our entrepreneurs are enthusiastic,” Toyoda said. “But the security of Japanese citizens is very important and we urge the government to ensure it.”

Japan, which has contributed about \$10 billion in aid since Bangladesh’s independence in 1971, has committed assistance of \$4.89 billion over the next 4 to 5 years, and JICA is the country’s largest bilateral development partner.—Reuters



A woman collects garbages from a dump yard near a tannery at Hazaribagh along the polluted Buriganga river in Dhaka. PHOTO: REUTERS

North Korea prepares for possible missile launch

SEOUL — North Korea has declared a no-sail zone off its east coast in a sign it could be preparing a missile launch, Yonhap news agency reported on Sunday.

The warning covers all movement of ships from 11 November to 7 December for an area off the North’s central coast, the agency said, quoting an unnamed government source.

“We are observing closely whether North Korea will launch a Scud missile or a new model of ballistic missile because the area under the warning is quite vast,” a government source was quoted as saying by Yonhap.

The Scud is a short-range missile initially developed by the Soviet Union.

South Korea’s defence ministry declined to confirm

whether a no-sail warning had been issued. The prohibited area is near the eastern port city of Wonsan where leader Kim Jong Un’s family compounds are located, according to media reports. The North has previously declared a no-sail zone without launching a missile. The country is under UN sanctions for its previous ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests.—Reuters

France names first attacker, vows to destroy Islamic State

PARIS — Police questioned yesterday the relatives of one of the suicide attackers who brought carnage to Paris on Friday, with France denouncing the strikes as an act of war and vowing to destroy the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

Paris prosecutor Francois Molins told reporters that three jihadist cells staged co-ordinated hits at bars, a concert hall and soccer stadium killing 129 people and injuring 352, including 99 who were in a serious condition.

Museums and theatres remained shuttered in Paris for a second day on Sunday, with hundreds of soldiers and police patrolling the streets and metro stations after French President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency.

Seven gunmen, all of whom were wearing suicide vests packed with explosives, died in the multiple assaults. The first to be identified was named as



People hold hands to form a human solidarity chain near the site of the attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, on 15 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ismael Omar Mostefai, a 29-year-old who lived in the city of Chartres, southwest of Paris.

French media said he was French-born and of Algerian descent. Molins said the man had a security file for Islamist radicalisation, adding that he had a crim-

inal record but had never spent time in jail. A judicial source said Mostefai's father and brother had been taken in for questioning, along with other people believed to be close to him.

Another source said police had found a car in a suburb east of

Paris that was believed to have been used in the assault, suggesting that at least one of the attackers had escaped.

Prosecutors said the slaughter — claimed by Islamic State as revenge for French military action in Syria and Iraq — appeared to involve a multinational team with links to the Middle East, Belgium and possibly Germany as well as home-grown French roots. Greek officials said one and perhaps two of the assailants had passed through Greece in October from Turkey alongside Syrian refugees fleeing violence in their homeland.

"We are at war. We have been hit by an act of war, organised methodically by a terrorist, jihadist army," Prime Minister Manuel Valls told TF1 television on Saturday night.

"Because we are at war we will take exceptional measures. We will act and we will hit them. We will hit this enemy to destroy them, obviously in France and

Europe ... but also in Syria and Iraq," he said. "We will win."

France was the first European state to join US air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq in September 2014, while a year later it extended its air strikes to Syria.

It had already scheduled to send an aircraft carrier to the region later this month.

The names of the first victims have started to filter out on social media, many of them young people who were out enjoying themselves on a Friday night. The dead included one US citizen, one Swede, one Briton, two Belgians, two Romanians and two Mexicans, their governments said.

In the worst carnage, three gunmen systematically killed at least 89 people at a rock concert by an American band at the Bataclan theatre before detonating explosive belts as anti-terrorist commandos launched an assault.—Reuters

G20 leaders agree to cooperate on migration as a global problem



An official adjusts a Turkish national flag prior to the start of the G20 summit in Belek in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya, Turkey, on 14 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BELEK — Leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies (G20) will agree on Monday that migration is a global problem that must be addressed in a coordinated way, in a diplomatic coup for Europe and Turkey, a draft communique showed on Sunday.

The leaders will also agree that all countries should help manage the migrant crisis, which is expected to bring a million people from the Middle East and Africa to Europe this year alone, through accepting refugees and humanitarian aid.

Europe and Turkey, the most heavily hit by the crisis, had been pushing for the G20 to recognise the issue as a global problem and help to deal with it financially, despite opposition from China, In-

dia and Russia.

"We call upon all states to contribute to responding to this crisis, and share in the burdens associated with it, including through refugee resettlement, other forms of humanitarian admission, humanitarian aid and efforts to ensure that refugees can access services, education and livelihood opportunities," the draft, seen by Reuters, said. The draft has yet to be accepted by all and is to be published on Monday.

G20 leaders will also agree to step up financing for international organizations dealing with migrants, as requested by Europe, and to address the root causes of migrant displacement, such as the war in Syria, the draft said.—Reuters

Clinton's Iraq vote, Wall Street stance criticised at US Democratic debate

DES MOINES — US Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton came under heavy criticism in a debate on Saturday for her 2003 vote backing the US invasion of Iraq, with rival Bernie Sanders linking it to regional chaos that aided the rise of Islamic State militants.

Sanders and rival Martin O'Malley took a more aggressive tone with Clinton than in their first debate last month, also accusing her of being too cozy with Wall Street and unwilling to stand up to corporate interests.

The day after a series of bomb and gun attacks that killed at least 129 people in Paris, Sanders criticised Clinton's vote authorising the Iraq invasion and said it was "one of the worst foreign policy blunders in the modern history of the United States."

"I would argue that the disastrous invasion of Iraq, something that I strongly opposed, unraveled the region immensely, and led to the rise of Al Qaeda and to ISIS," said Sanders, a US senator from Vermont.

"I don't think any sensible person would disagree that the invasion of Iraq led to the massive level of instability we are seeing right now," he said.

Clinton, who has frequently called the vote a mistake, said it should be placed in the historical context of years of terrorism before the invasion.

"If we're ever going to really tackle the problems posed by jihadi extremists, we need to understand it and realise that it has antecedents to what happened in Iraq," she said.



Democratic US presidential candidate former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks as fellow candidate and Senator Bernie Sanders listens during the second official 2016 US Democratic presidential candidates debate in Des Moines, Iowa. PHOTO: REUTERS

"This is an incredibly complicated region of the world. It's become more complicated. And many of the fights that are going on are not ones that the United States has either started or have a role in," she said.

The Iraq exchange came early in the second debate for Democrats seeking their party's nomination for the November 2016 presidential election, which focused on foreign policy and ways to combat terrorism after the Paris attacks.

The candidates and audience at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, observed a moment of silence at the beginning of the debate to honour those killed in France. Clinton, the former secretary of state, has far more foreign policy experience than either Sanders or O'Malley.

But she was forced on the defensive early in the debate about her years of leading President Barack Obama's foreign

policy team. Clinton struck a sharp contrast to Obama's comments in an interview aired on Friday that ISIS had been contained. "We have to look at ISIS as the leading threat of an international terror network. It cannot be contained, it must be defeated," she said.

Republican presidential contenders have criticised Obama for what they say was an inadequate response to the rise of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

In the aftermath of the attacks, businessman Donald Trump and US Senator Ted Cruz called on the administration to reconsider plans to allow thousands of Syrian refugees to be resettled in the United States.

The White House aims to increase to 10,000 the number of Syrian refugees accepted in the United States during fiscal year 2016, from less than 2,000 accepted in the previous year.—Reuters

Turkey cancels \$3.4 bn missile defence system tender

BELEK — Turkey has cancelled a \$3.4 billion (2.23 billion pounds) long-range missile defence system tender which was provisionally awarded to China, a move that had stirred US and Western concern, an official at the Turkish prime minister's office told Reuters yesterday.

NATO member Turkey in 2013 had chosen China Precision Machinery Import and Export Corp as the preferred candidate for the deal, sparking Western worries over inherent security risks from Chinese technology.

"It has been decided that this tender will be cancelled," an official at Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's office said. "This decision has been signed of by the Prime Minister this week."

An official from Turkey's Defence Industry Undersecretariat, which has run the technical negotiations with China, said in July that

a major stumbling block has been China's reluctance to make a technology transfer which could give Turkey the knowledge to operate the system and eventually replicate it. The prime ministry official said Ankara was now planning to go solo. "Turkey will now launch its own project to build such a defence system," he said.

Turkey had given mixed messages on whether it was planning to integrate the system with NATO infrastructure or not and US and European allies has wanted Turkey to use a system that is compatible with NATO's air defence.

During the tender, US firm Raytheon put in an offer with its Patriot missile defence system. Franco-Italian group Eurosam, owned by the multinational European missile maker MBDA and France's Thales TCFP.PA, came second in the tender.—Reuters

Diplomats agree on timetable of speeding up peace process in Syria



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (R) and US Secretary of State John Kerry address the media before a meeting in Vienna, Austria, on 14 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — World major states and regional powers agreed Saturday on the time table of establishing a transition government of Syria, and to hold an election within 18 months, but failed to bridge gaps over the future of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

After the one-day meeting here, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters that participants of the Syria talks agreed to start immediate talks with opposition groups in Syria, but the talks could be difficult, noting sides aim to hold an election in Syria within 18 months.

The remarks are echoed by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Lavrov also said after transition political process within six months, the election would be held within 18 months, and led by Syrian people. According to a joint statement released by the United Nations, the talks between difference sides in Syria should establish "credible, inclusive and non-sectarian" transitional government

that would set a schedule for drafting a new constitution in six months, then a UN-supervised election would then be held within 18 months.

Kerry also announced agreement on the date, 1 January, for the start of talks between al-Assad's government and the opposition.

It's clear the talks made some progress over ending the ongoing crisis in Syria, while the meeting failed to bridge gaps over the role and future of al-Assad. Russian foreign minister Lavrov said Russia and the United States are keeping in touch to prevent conflict in Syria, as both sides deployed military forces in the region.

However, the two sides still have differences over Russian military operation in Syria, as the United States said Moscow is attacking anti-al-Assad force in Syria while Russia emphasized they are fighting terrorism.

Overshadowed by the deadly shootings in Paris, diplomats in Vienna showed solidarity in fighting terrorism.—Xinhua

Lebanon arrests five Syrians, one Palestinian suspect in Beirut bombings



People light candles during a vigil at the site of the two explosions that occurred on Thursday in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Beirut, on 13 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — Lebanese authorities arrested five Syrians and a Palestinian in connection with the twin suicide bombings in central Beirut on Thursday that killed 43 people, a senior security source said on Saturday.

The bombings in a busy residential and commercial area that is a stronghold for Lebanese Shi'ite movement Hezbollah were claimed by Islamic State.

"Within 24 hours the network was arrested in the fastest uncovering of a bombing incident in the country," the source said.

The explosions were the first attacks in more than a year to target a Hezbollah stronghold in Lebanon, as the Iran-backed group steps up its involvement in the war in neighbouring Syria.

Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said Syrian and Lebanese detainees

were arrested on suspicion of being involved in the bombings, which he squarely blamed on Islamic State.

However, he did not say if any of those arrested were Palestinian.

Nasrallah warned his followers of a backlash against ordinary Syrians and Palestinians in the aftermath of the bombings, saying the goal of radical Islamist Sunni fundamentalists, who consider Shi'ites to be heretics, was to sow discord among Sunnis and Shi'ites.

The blasts occurred almost simultaneously late on Thursday and struck a Shi'ite community centre and a nearby bakery in the commercial and residential area of Borj al-Barajneh, security sources said.

A closely guarded Hezbollah-run hospital is also nearby.

Nasrallah condemned the Paris attacks, saying the region which was reeling under the

"earthquake of Daesh barbarity" felt more than any others the pain the French people were now experiencing.

Daesh is an Arab acronym for Islamic State.

Islamic State said in a statement posted online by its supporters that its members blew up a bike loaded with explosives in Borj al-Barajneh and that when onlookers gathered, a suicide bomber blew himself up among them. The group said the attacks killed 40 people.

Hezbollah has sent hundreds of fighters to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces in the four-year-old conflict over the border.

Government forces backed by Hezbollah and Iranian troops have intensified their fight against mostly Sunni insurgents, including Islamic State, since Russia launched an air campaign in support of Assad on 30 September.—Reuters

Four Islamic State fighters shot dead by Turkish soldiers

ANKARA — Turkish soldiers killed four Islamic State fighters on Saturday after they came under fire from the militants along Turkey's Syria border, local media reported.

Two cars belonging to the extremist Sunni group approached a Turkish armoured vehicle in the Oguzeli District of Gaziantep Province and when ordered to halt, responded by firing shells, *Hurriyet Daily*

News reported. Returning fire, Turkish soldiers killed four IS fighters in the first vehicle, while an unknown number in the second car fled.

Islamic State (IS) controls swathes of Syrian territory abutting Turkey's Syrian frontier, and there are periodic clashes. One Turkish soldier is thought to be held by the group after going missing during an exchange of fire in September.

The group on Saturday

claimed responsibility for a series of bomb and gun attacks in Paris which left at least 127 people dead.

Turkey has stepped up its fight against the militants since July, when it began launching air strikes against the group and opened its air bases to US-led coalition war planes.

Since then Turkey has been hit by two suicide bomb attacks linked to IS, killing more than 130 people.—Reuters

OPINION

No grudges in national reconciliation

Myint Win Thein

THESE days, 'national reconciliation' is the most frequently used term in Myanmar politics. All stakeholders in the Myanmar political scene have agreed that national reconciliation is indispensable for national development.

It is also true that national reconciliation is a great opportunity for every stakeholder in

Myanmar to turn a new page in the history of the country.

When it comes to national reconciliation, everyone understands that the hatred and prejudice of the past must be left behind. However, this is just one of the prerequisites for national reconciliation.

For national reconciliation to be successful, it is important to leave all of the country's turmoil and tension in the past, including the causes of past divisions, such as inequality among stakeholders.

Therefore, it is vital that every stakeholder has equal footing in the national reconciliation process. If a certain stakeholder aims to gain the upper hand in the process, national reconciliation may not be successful—it will just be coercive national reconciliation, which will just lead the

country down the old course of division and hatred again.

It is now clear that only true national reconciliation can bring about unity among all political stakeholders in Myanmar. None of the stakeholders should miss the opportunity to turn a new chapter in the history of the country.

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The Affection and The Happiness

Htun Tin Htun

THE cankers only increase for those who are arrogant and heedless, who leave undone what should be done and do what should not be done. "Giving himself to things to be shunned and not exerting where exertion is needed, a seeker after pleasures, having given up his true welfare, envies those intent upon theirs."

He who has no attachment whatsoever for the mind and body, who does not grieve what he has not—he is truly called a wise man. "Seek no intimacy with the beloved and also not with the unloved, for not to see the beloved and to see the unloved, both are painful."

Even as the trader controls a noble steed, one should control oneself. One is one's own protector; one is one's own refuge. "Therefore, hold nothing dear, for separation from the dear is painful. There are no bonds for those who have nothing beloved or unloved."

As a silver smith removes the dross from silver, a wise man should remove his own impurities, one by one, little by little, moment by moment. "From endearment springs grief, from endearment springs fear. For him who is wholly free from endearment there is no grief, whence then fear?"

"From affection springs grief, from affection springs fear. For him who is wholly free from affection there is no grief, whence then fear?"

"From attachment springs grief, from attachment springs fear. For him who is wholly free from attachment there is no grief, whence then fear?"

Easily seen is the fault of others, but one's own is difficult to see. "From lust springs grief, from lust springs fear. For him who is wholly free from lust there is no grief, whence then fear?"

Cut off your affection in the manner a man plucks with his hand an autumn lotus. Cultivate only the path to peace, Nibbana, as made known by the Exalted One (the Buddha). "From craving springs grief, from craving springs fear. For him who is wholly free from craving there is no grief, whence then fear?"

The cankers cease for those mindful and clearly comprehending ones who always earnestly practise mindfulness of the body, who do not resort to what should not be done, and steadfastly pursue what should be done. "People hold dear him who embodies virtue and insight, who is principled, has realized the truth, and who himself does what he ought to be doing."

In this world good is the abandoning of all suffering (through Arahatsip). "One who is intent upon the Ineffable (Nibbana), dwells with mind inspired (by supramundane wisdom), and is no more bound by sense pleasures—such a man is called "One Bound Upstream". (A Non-Returner) (anagami)

Of all the fragrances—sandal, tagara, blue lotus and jasmine—the fragrance of virtue is by far sweetest. "When, after a long absence, a man safely returns home from afar, his relatives, friends and well-wishers welcome him home on arrival."

Not the sweet smell of flowers, not even the fragrance of sandal, tagara or jasmine blows against the wind. But the fragrance of the virtuous blows against the wind. Truly, the virtuous man pervades all directions with the fragrance of his virtue. (tagara is a fragrant flowering shrub) "As kinsmen welcome a dear one on arrival, even so his own good deeds will welcome the doer of good who has gone from this world to the next."

Arise! Do not be heedless! Lead a righteous life. The righteous live happily both in this

world and the next. "Happy indeed we live, friendly amidst the hostile. Amidst hostile men we dwell free from hatred."

Neglect is the bane of a home; non-repetition is the bane of scriptures; slovenliness is the bane of personal appearance, and heedlessness is the bane of a guard. "Happy indeed we live, un-afflicted amidst the afflicted (by craving). Amidst afflicted men we dwell free from affliction."

Discipline (character/morality/virtue) and wisdom are power. "Happy indeed we live, free from avarice amidst the avaricious. Amidst avaricious men we dwell free from avarice."

There never was, there never will be, nor is there now, a person who is wholly blamed or wholly praised. "Happy indeed we live and we who possess nothing. Feeders on joy we shall be, like the Radiant Gods."

He who wholly subdues evil both small and big is called a monk, because he has overcome all evil. "Victory begets enmity; the defeated dwell in pain. Happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat."

Even the gods hold dear the wise one, whose senses are subdued, like horses well trained by a charioteer, whose pride is destroyed and who is free from the cankers. "There is no fire like lust, no crime like hatred. There is no ill like the aggregates (of existence) (Khandha: he five groups of material form, feeling, perception, mental formations and consciousness into which the Buddha analyses the living being) and no bliss higher than the peace and happiness (of Nibbana)"

"Hunger is the worst disease, conditioned things (refer to phenomenal existence—samsara) are the worst suffering. Knowing this as it really is, the wise realize Nibbana, the highest bliss."

A worse taint than these is ignorance, the worst of all taints.

Destroy this one taint and become taintless. "Health is the precious gain and contentment is the greatest wealth. A trustworthy person is the best kinsman, Nibbana is the highest bliss."

Person who is tormented by evil thoughts, who is passion-dominated and given to the pursuit of pleasure, his craving steadily grows. He makes the fetter strong indeed. "Having savoured the taste of solitude and peace (of Nibbana), pain-free and stainless he becomes, drinking deep the taste of the bliss of Truth."

Person, who has control over his tongue, is moderate in speech, unassuming and who explains the Teaching in both letter and spirit—whatever he says is pleasing. "Good it is to see the Noble Ones; to live with them is ever blissful. One will always be happy by not encountering fools."

"Indeed, he who moves in the company of fools grieves for long. Association with fools is ever painful, like partnership with an enemy. But association with the wise is happy, like meeting one's own kinsmen."

Nothing is impossible to one with a wish-to-do, work-hard, will and wisdom. "Therefore, follow the Noble One, who is steadfast, wise, learned, dutiful and devout. One should follow only such a man, who is truly good and discerning, even as the moon follows the path of the stars."

Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself. But exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. Well done is that action doing which one repents not later, and the fruit of which one reaps with delight and happiness.

Swans fly on the path of the sun; men pass through the air by psychic powers; the wise are led away from the world after vanquishing the Destroyer (Mara) and his host. Truly, misers fare not to heavenly realms; nor, indeed, do fools praise generosity. But the wise man rejoices in charity giving, and by that alone does he become happy hereafter.

Speak the truth; yield not to anger; when asked, give even if you only have a little. By these three means can one reach the presence of the gods. In his first visit to Kaushambi, before the Buddha let the three monks, Nandiya, Kimila, and Anuruddha, he spoke to them, "Monks, the very nature of a Sangha is harmony. I believe harmony can be realized by following six principles: (1). Sharing a common space such as a forest or home; (2). Sharing the essentials of daily life together; (3). Observing the precepts together; (4). Using only words that contribute to harmony, avoiding all words that can cause the community to break; (5) Sharing insights and understanding together; (6) Respecting others' viewpoints and not forcing another to follow your own viewpoint. A Sangha who follows these principles will have happiness and harmony. Monks, let us always observe these six principles." The monks were happy to receive this Teaching from the Buddha. The Buddha bid them farewell and walked until He reached Rakkhita Forest, near Parileyyaka. After sitting in meditation beneath a lush sal tree, he decided to spend the approaching rainy season alone in the forest. (Kosambiya Sutta) Source: (Verse No. 209 to 220 and Verse No. 197 to 208, Dhammapada, A Practical Guide to Right Living; Anthology of Verses: Acharya Buddhakkhita, 16th October 1986), (Where the Buddha walked, A Companion to the Buddhist Places of India, Rana P.B. Singh 2003)

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Laypersons hold Kusinayon Sayadaw's ruby jubilee birthday



U Than Naing of Thamada Monk's Robe Centre donates offertory to the Members of the Sangha.

PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT (THE MIRROR)

LAYPERSONS held a ruby jubilee birthday of the Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Sadhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Nannisara, of Kusinayon, Uttar Pradesh State

in India, in Yangon Sunday. The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw at the ceremony and Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Laypersons donated offertories to the Members of the Sangha to mark the birthday of Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nannisara.—Maung Maung Thant (*The Mirror*)

Authorities aim to keep Chaungtha Beach clean and pleasant

A poll is being taken among the residents of Chaungtha Beach as of 11 November in order to keep the beach clean and pleasant, to prevent the drainage of sewerage water into the sea and to dig drains in the Hotel Zone, according to the Shwethaungyan Town Development Affairs Committee.

“Officials are collecting the polls among the local residents from Amazing Hotel to ACE Hotel,” said executive officer U Kyin Soe of the township’s

development affairs committee.

He said the committee had instructed officials to dredge the drains along both sides of Chaungtha-Pathein road and maintain the sewage tanks of the hotels. After dredging the drains in the hotel zone, officials of the development affairs committee will join with volunteers and members of the public to in carry out the tasks for the systematic drainage of waste for environmental conservation.

—Thi Thi Min



Authorities will establish drainage system at Chaungtha Beach to keep the beach clean and pleasant. PHOTO: THI THI MIN



PHOTO: CHINDWIN THAR (IPRD)

Kalay region gets new roads

THE Irrigation Department is accelerating rehabilitation tasks in recently flood-affected homes, schools, roads and drains in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, with the use of heavy machinery.

The department has built seven new houses in Pyntha village, Kalay Township. Moreo-

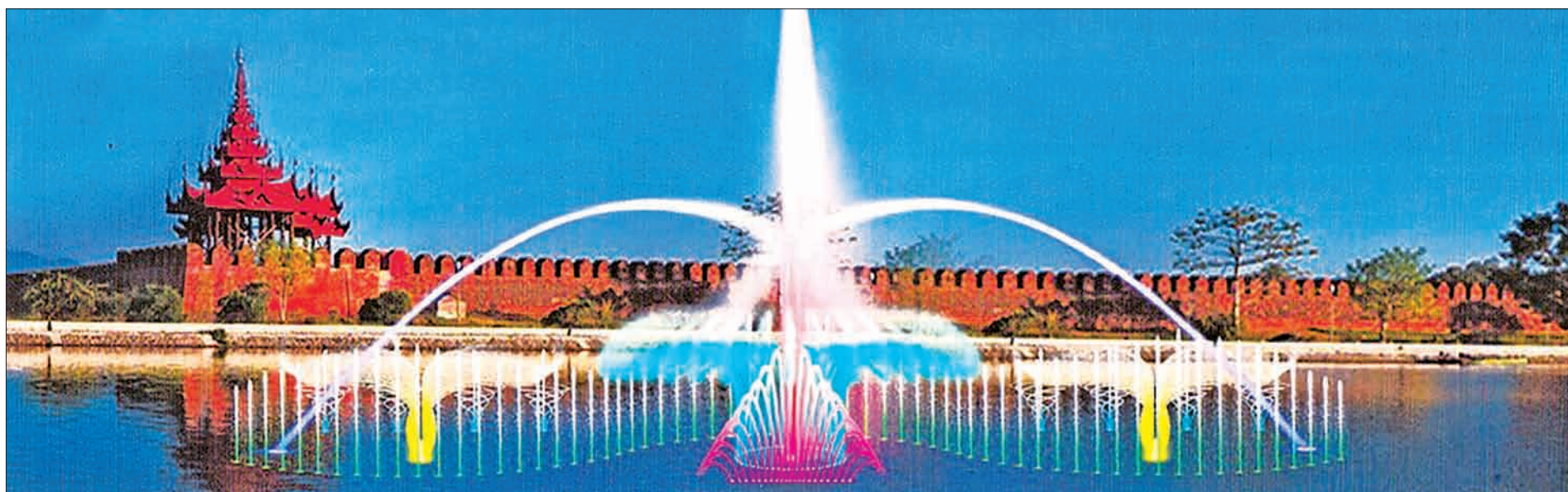
ver, officials have been supervising the dredging of drains along both sides of the Kalay-Pyntha road and the road's concrete pavement.

Workers constructed the concrete drains in the compound of No. 1 Basic Education High School, paving the road to the

school with concrete and the construction of new roads in Kyikon and Natgyigon villages.

Departmental officials carried out the construction of the axis for the new Ywathit road in Mawlaikkalay village and the road for Nansaungpu village. —Chindwin Thar (IPRD)

Mandalay's moats to attract tourists and locals with water fountains



Moats of Mandalay would be more attractive with water fountains in early 2016. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY MANDALAY CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MANDALAY City Development Committee has a plan to install water fountains at the water of moats in Mandalay in early 2016.

An official of MCDC said that the committee shapes Mandalay as a garden city. “The water fountain will attract tourists who

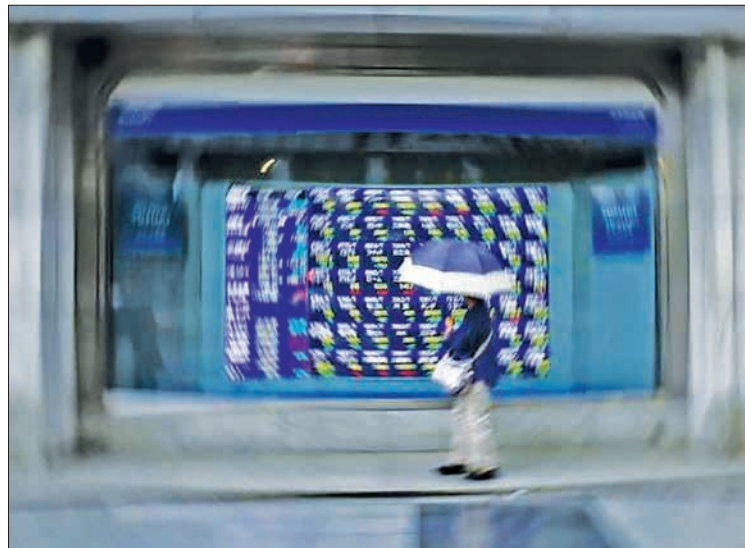
visit Mandalay,” he said. The water fountain will be 183 feet long and 100 feet high. Seven types of water fountains will be created

through computer control system.

The seven types of the water fountain are central straight spray, round swing spray, run-

ning straight spray, seagull swing spray, rainbow shape spray, peacock's tail shape spray and rotary spray.—Min Htet Aung

Global markets brace for short-term hit after Paris attacks



A woman holding an umbrella looks at an electronic stock quotation board outside a brokerage in Tokyo. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Global stocks are set for a short-term sell-off on Monday after Islamist militants launched coordinated attacks across Paris that killed 129 people, but analysts said a prolonged economic impact or market reaction was unlikely.

President Francois Hollande has declared a state of emergency, ordering police and troops into the streets, and set three days of official mourning after the attacks he called an “act of war” by Islamic State.

The carnage prompted condemnation by world leaders and outpourings of support for Parisians from around the globe, but would likely have only a knee-jerk impact on investment decisions, said Shane Oliver, chief econo-

mist at Australia’s AMP Capital in Sydney.

“History will tell us that if the economic impact is limited and I think it will be — that markets will quickly recover and go on to focus on other things,” Oliver, who is also head of strategy at the A\$156 billion (73 billion pounds) wealth management firm.

While news of the attacks hit after markets closed on Friday, S&P 500 Index futures were still trading and shed about 1 percent in light volume.

“If this had happened during market trading hours there could have been a panic but markets had a weekend to digest all the information,” said Eiji Kinouchi, chief technical analyst at Daiwa Securities in Tokyo.

With Wall Street closing more than 1 percent lower after weak US retail sales figures, Asian and European share markets would have been expected to fall even without the Paris attacks.

French stocks, particularly those exposed to the country’s large tourism sector, are likely to suffer the biggest falls.

“These Paris terrorist attacks and the larger scale of this attack could have a meaningful negative impact on the travel and tourism sector,” said Robert T. Lutts, president and chief investment officer at Cabot Wealth Management in Salem, Massachusetts.

France has the largest number of tourists in the world and the sector accounts for almost 7.5 percent of GDP.

“Given that France has a big tourism industry there may be some damage to the economy if this leads to a fall in visitors to France, or in tourism in general after the crash of a Russian plane,” said Hidenori Suezawa, financial market and fiscal analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities.

“I do not expect this impact to go so far as to affect the Fed’s monetary policy though at this point.”

Europe has suffered similar coordinated attacks on public transport systems previously, in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005. Almost 250 people were killed and more than 2,500 injured in those bombings on trains and buses by Al Qaeda-inspired militants. —Reuters

VW brand chief says no evidence of more cheating

BERLIN — Volkswagen’s top brand executive said he saw no evidence of further misconduct at the carmaker beyond diesel-emission and carbon-dioxide manipulations, as it reported a drop in sales for the first full month since the scandal broke.

In a joint interview with VW works council chief Bernd Osterloh published by German news agency DPA on Friday, Herbert Diess also said he saw no threat of job cuts for permanent staff as a result of the scandal. VW is grappling with the biggest business crisis in its 78 year history after admitting in September it cheated US emissions tests on diesel vehicles and adding earlier this month that it

also understated fuel usage in some cars. US law firm Jones Day has been running an independent inquiry at VW into the emissions test cheating since September, and VW on Thursday pledged to speed up a programme to encourage staff to cooperate in the investigations.

Osterloh said he did not know whether diesel emission manipulations committed by the company involved 10, 50 or even 100 people. “No one can tell that today,” he said.

“But even if I take 100 out of (a global workforce of) 600,000, it remains a limited group,” he added. VW’s top management and labour representatives are in talks to balance spending cuts and future

investments as they brace for a bill expected to run into billions or euros in fines, lawsuits and vehicle refit costs. Sources at VW have said Diess is considering a reduction in temporary staff at its namesake division, the carmaker’s biggest. Osterloh also said bonus payments to workers would not be at last year’s level. The carmaker’s sales in October showed some impact from the scandal, with VW brand deliveries down 5.3 percent year-on-year after a 4 percent drop in September.

The fall partly reflected temporary sales bans of diesel cars in Western Europe, VW said. Group sales, also including brands such as Czech division Skoda and luxury nameplate Audi, fell 3.5 percent to 831,300 cars, the seventh straight monthly decline, VW said. “The entire company is working to restore the trust of our customers in the brand and our products,” VW brand sales chief Juergen Stackmann said. —Reuters

“The entire company is working to restore the trust of our customers in the brand and our products.”

Juergen Stackmann
Chief of VW brand sale

Amazon takes on UK supermarkets with ‘Pantry’ offer

LONDON — Online retailer Amazon has stepped up the pressure on Britain’s traditional supermarkets with the nationwide launch on Friday of a packaged groceries offer for Amazon Prime members.

The move is the ecommerce giant’s most ambitious foray into Britain’s growing online grocery market but stops short of replicating its broader US Amazon Fresh service, which offers about 20,000 chilled, frozen and perishable products and items from local shops. Retail analysts have speculated the US company is gearing up for a launch of Amazon Fresh in Britain next year.

The new “Amazon Pantry” service offers Amazon Prime members, who pay an annual fee of 79 pounds (\$120), the choice of more than 4,000 “everyday essentials, in everyday sizes”, including major brands of food and

drink, household supplies, baby, child and pet care, health and beauty. Members can fill up as much of a 20 kg Amazon Pantry box as they wish for one-day delivery, with a 2.99 pound fee for the first box and 99 pence for each additional box in the same order. “Amazon Pantry has been designed to take the heavy lifting out of replenishing the often bulky basics and store cupboard essentials that people need every day,” Amazon Pantry manager at Amazon UK, Helene Parthenay, said. Amazon Pantry is already available in the United States, Germany and Japan. All of Britain’s big four supermarkets — market leader Tesco, Wal-Mart’s Asda, Sainsbury’s and Morrisons — have seen sales and profits hit as they cut prices to stem the flow of shoppers to German discounters Aldi [ALDIEI.UL] and Lidl [LIDUK.UL]. —Reuters



A parcel travels along a conveyer belt at Amazon’s new distribution centre in Brieselang, near Berlin. PHOTO: REUTERS

Amid chaos, Parisians offer refuge to strangers via Twitter

PARIS — People in Paris took to social media to find and offer refuge on Friday night, as the city was gripped by chaos following a string of attacks that left dozens dead.

The Twitter hashtag #porte-ouverte, which means “open door” in English, was being used to offer shelter as authorities urged people to evacuate the streets. The hashtag trended globally, with more than 400,000 Tweets using it, in the few hours since its creation.

“This account will be used for tweeting and retweeting places to stay safe tonight,” said a post from @PorteOuvverteFRA, a Twitter handle opened within hours of the attacks. Dozens of addresses and phone numbers for apartments were being tweeted on the handle, and it was retweeting offers of accommodation from other individuals. A post from @

LaraPlowright, written in mixed English and French, read: “Anyone stuck around gare du nord area, si besoin (if needed) #porte-ouverte quartier Gare du Nord, peut loger 2-3 personnes (can accommodate 2-3 people).”

Other posts on the tag said taxis were offering free transport for anyone in need of a lift to a shelter. Still, some people found the process confusing amid the chaos. “I’m not using the tag at the moment, but people are stuck in various areas and cannot leave, I hear,” said Alessandra Gargiulo, who was waiting for her landlord’s permission to open up her apartment for the night. Gargiulo, 24, lives in the 16th arrondissement on the other side of the city from the attacks, but said she could see and hear helicopters and sirens from her apartment. She spoke to Reuters via Facebook messenger. —Reuters

Swiss foundation donates hearing aids to disadvantaged Cambodian children



PHNOM PENH — Hear The World Foundation, which is an initiative of the Switzerland-based Sonova Group, on Friday donated 150 sets of hearing aids to a Cambodian charitable organisation in order to help children with hearing loss.

Sarah Kreienbuhl, Group Vice President of Sonova and board of directors of the Hear The World Foundation, handed over the devices to Sintith Makara, outreach manager of local organisation All Ears Cambodia, here.

Sarah said the value of the 150 hearing aids, hearing aid batteries, equipment and financial funds donated this year amounts to around 150,000 US dollars.

“We are very pleased to have chance to assist poor Cambodian children with hearing loss,” she said. “Sonova’s vision is to bring the delight of hearing to as many people as possible in the world.”

She added that the foundation is committed to improving the quality of life and to promoting equal opportunities for people with hearing loss globally.

Sonova has developed and manufactured hearing aids and sold those products over 50 countries worldwide, Sarah said.

“However, some countries including Cambodia, children in poor families cannot afford to buy these instruments, so we need to assist them through making donations,” she said.

According to Sarah, since 2010, the foundation has provided a total of 350 hearing aids, batteries, equipment and financial donations to All Ears Cambodia with a value amounting to around 500,000 US dollars.

Moreover, it has sent its experts to Cambodia to teach the organisation’s staff about how to use those hearing aids.

Founded in 2006, the Hear the World Foundation has a spe-

cial focus on projects that support children in reaching their development milestones and realizing their full potential in life regardless of their hearing loss, she said.

To date, the foundation has been involved in over 60 projects on all 5 continents and has already given thousands of people with hearing loss the chance of a better life, she added.

Sintith Makara said hearing loss in Cambodia has many causes. They range from incorrectly treated inflammations of the middle ear, overdosed malaria medications, acoustic trauma due to landmines, and damage to the cochlea nerve in cases of leprosy.

“The donation is very important to improve the quality of life for poor Cambodian children with hearing loss,” she said, adding that the instruments would be provided to disadvantaged children free of charge.—Xinhua

Guinea releases last 68 people from Ebola quarantine

CONAKRY — The final 68 people who had been in contact with an Ebola patient were released from quarantine on Saturday, said a senior health official, raising hopes of an end to the disease in the last West African country with confirmed cases.

The world’s worst Ebola epidemic, which hopped borders to kill more than 11,300 people and devastate already fragile West African economies, has already been declared over in Liberia and Sierra Leone. But Guinea, where the outbreak began, has had a more difficult time eradicating the disease.

Dr. Abdourahmane Bathily, head of the Ebola centre in Forecariah in western Guinea, said the 68 contacts had emerged from quarantine at midnight on

Saturday morning. “There are no longer any people who had contact with a person infected by the Ebola virus,” said Bathily.

He added that the last confirmed Ebola case was a baby in isolation, who should be released from a treatment centre next week, allowing for the West African nation to begin its own countdown clock.

Ebola-affected areas must spend 42 days without a case to be declared free of the hemorrhagic fever, although after cases cropped up after Liberia’s first Ebola-free declaration, the World Health Organisation has instituted an additional 90-day surveillance period. More than 3,500 people fell ill and 2,000 people died in Guinea during the outbreak. — Reuters

Bangladesh distributes vitamin A capsules to millions of children to prevent night blindness

DHAKA — Bangladesh has offered vitamin A capsules to millions of children between six months and five years of age in an effort to prevent night blindness.

Health workers and volunteers on Saturday distributed vitamin A at 120,000 permanent and 20,000 mobile sites across the country. Bangladesh conducts vitamin A campaign twice a year through placing great emphasis on it. Parents were seen to take their kids to the centers in Dhaka to feed them vitamin A.

Bangladeshi State Minister

for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque said the government’s target is to feed capsules to at least 21 million children across the country.

Maleque said such vitamin A campaigns contributed a lot to the government’s efforts in reducing night blindness and the risk of child deaths from diseases such as measles and diarrhoea.

The campaigns have reportedly slashed the rate of night blindness to 0.04 percent now in the country from the figure of 3.76 percent in 1982. — Xinhua

Bee-lieve it or not: people liked honey back in the Stone Age

WASHINGTON — Murals from ancient Egypt’s vibrant New Kingdom era depicting bees and honey amid scenes of everyday life some 4,400 years ago provide early evidence of people using of beehive products. But humans have been using the stuff far longer than that.

Scientists said on Wednesday they have found evidence of beeswax in pottery made by Stone Age people from early farming cultures in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, including in cooking pots from a site in eastern Turkey dating to about 8,500 years ago.

“The distinctive chemical fingerprint of beeswax was detected at multiple Neolithic sites across Europe, indicating just how widespread the association between humans and honeybees was in prehistoric times,” organic geochemist Mélanie Roffet-Salque of the University of Bristol in Britain said. The beeswax was present in the pottery because these people may have been using honey, which bears traces of beeswax, or coating the inside of pots with beeswax for waterproofing, Roffet-Salque said.

“It is clear that Stone Age people knew their environment very well and were exploiting various natural resources such as beeswax, but also tree resins and tars,” Roffet-Salque added.

The most obvious reason for making use of the honeybee would be for honey, “a rare sweetener for prehistoric people,” Roffet-Salque said.

“However, beeswax could have been used in its own right for various technological, ritual, cosmetic and medicinal purposes, for example, to waterproof porous ceramic vessels or soften brittle



A colony of Italian worker bees congregate outside their hive while pollinating a blueberry field near Columbia Falls, Maine. PHOTO: REUTERS

birch bark tar to make glue,” Roffet-Salque said.

Honey could not be detected directly because it is mainly composed of sugars that would not sur-

vive thousands of years at archaeological sites. “Detecting beeswax in pots allows us to say that early farmers were exploiting hive products: beeswax and honey,” Rof-

fet-Salque said.

The ancient Egyptian murals, prehistoric rock art and other evidence had already shown humankind’s use of the honeybee dated back many millennia, but how long and how widespread had been uncertain.

The researchers examined chemical compounds trapped in the clay of more than 6,000 potsherds from more than 150 Old World sites. Pottery examined from more northerly sites, specifically above the 57th parallel, for example from Scotland and Scandinavia, were found to lack beeswax. This suggests honeybees did not live in those locales at that time perhaps due to the harsher, high-latitude conditions, University of Bristol biogeochemist Richard Evershed said.

The research was published in the journal *Nature*.—Reuters

Costa Rica re-opens border, issuing visas to Cuban migrants

PASO CANOAS — To cheers from a large crowd of Cuban migrants, Costa Rica on Saturday re-opened its border with Panama after a sudden tightening in its immigration policy had left more than 1,200 of them stranded there.

Like other countries in the region, Costa Rica has seen a surge in the number of Cubans entering as the process of détente between Washington and Havana announced in December stirs fears that longstanding US asylum rights may soon be lost.

Costa Rica surprised the migrants on Friday by detaining them at the border, prompting some Cubans to block the Inter-American Highway for a few hours in protest until the government began issuing them with seven-day transit visas.

However, it is unclear how the migrants will fare in neighbouring Nicaragua, which re-

fused 100 Cubans deported from a holding centre in Costa Rica on Friday.

“The situation we’re facing is extraordinary — we’ve never dealt with this before,” said Costa Rica’s Assistant Director of Immigration Gladys Jiménez. “We hope Nicaragua will accept them with their documents so they can continue on.”

Cuban migrants receive special treatment in the United States from Cold War-era arrangements, and have long travelled through Mexico and Central America to reach the US border.

If successful, they can take advantage of the so-called “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy under which Cubans who set foot on US soil can stay, while those captured at sea are sent back.

It is a policy many Cubans feel may be running out of time.

“The situation between the United States and Cuba is an issue because they’re talking, and



A Cuban migrant man receives his passport with the visa granted by the immigration office at the border post with Panama in Paso Canoas, Costa Rica. PHOTO: REUTERS

could possibly deny us the support of the Cuban Adjustment Act and the ability to request asylum,” said Alain Pentón, 38, a Cuban migrant at the border.

Pentón said he left Cuba on a route taken by many: flying legally to Ecuador, then crossing illegally into Colombia, Panama

and Costa Rica. The overland route was safer and less heavily policed than the Straits of Florida, he said.

As of September, 12,166 Cuban migrants had been identified this year by Costa Rican authorities, more than double the figure for last year and over five

times the 2013 total.

According to US Customs and Border Patrol data requested by the Pew Research Centre, 27,296 Cubans entered the United States in the first nine months of the 2015 fiscal year, a 78 percent increase from 2014. —Reuters

German intelligence chief urges ‘orderly procedures’ for refugees at borders

BERLIN — The head of Germany’s domestic intelligence services called for “orderly procedures” regarding the handling of the daily entry of thousands of refugees to Germany, saying extremists could exploit the sometimes chaotic migration situation.

Friday’s deadly attacks in Paris in which at least 129 people were killed have fuelled a debate in Germany on Chancellor Angela Merkel’s welcoming approach to refugees and on how to get a better overview of the people entering the country.

Europe is grappling with its worst refugee crisis since World War II, and Germany has been taking in the bulk of some 1 million people expected to arrive this year.

“It’s possible that there are also terrorists coming with the refugees, but we consider this as less likely,” Hans-Georg Maassen, president of the BfV domestic intelligence agency, said in an interview published by several local newspapers on Sunday.

“For the security authorities it’s important to have orderly procedures regarding the entry to Germany and the implementation of asylum procedures,” he said.

While German police are currently conducting passport checks at border crossings and in border areas, thousands of refugees are thought to be coming into the



People hold signs during a pro-refugee demonstration in downtown Hamburg, Germany. PHOTO: REUTERS

country without any checks.

Maassen noted that the refugee route from Syria and Iraq to Turkey, Greece and north via the Balkan countries was extremely dangerous. “It would be risky and untypical for persons with a combat mission to cross over from Turkey to the Greek islands in a coffin ship”, he said.

Maassen also expressed concern that radical Islamists already in Germany could seek to recruit young migrants.

“We observe that Islamists are specifically approaching refugees in reception facilities. We already know of more than 100 cases,” he said. Radical Isla-

mists view the refugee crisis as a chance to recruit people for their cause, he said.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere and Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel have both warned against making any hasty links between the Paris attacks and the refugee debate.

In light of the refugee influx, Germany reimposed border controls on 13 September and decided to keep them in place beyond the initial limit of two months foreseen by Europe’s Schengen rules using a clause that permits checks to be kept in place for a maximum of six months. —Reuters

At least 10 killed as train derails during testing in eastern France

ECKWERSHEIM — A train undergoing a trial on a new high-speed line from Paris to Strasbourg derailed on Saturday near the German border, killing 10 people, the local prefecture said.

Another 32 people were injured, 12 seriously. Five more people were unaccounted for, as it was not clear whether they had actually boarded.

Environment Minister Segolene Royal said at the scene that the 49 people believed to be on board the trial run had included not only staff from the SNCF railway but also their family members and other guests.

The accident was caused by excessive speed, although it was too early to say why the

train was going that fast, the prefecture said. Royal also said that sabotage had been all but ruled out. But the accident jarred nerves coming less than a day after gunmen and suicide bombers killed 129 people in waves of attacks in Paris.

Pictures from a Reuters photographer at the scene of the train accident showed the locomotive partly submerged in a canal alongside the tracks with other parts lying broken and detached in a field beside the track. Medical units including police divers were on the scene.

The second section of the Paris-Strasbourg high-speed TGV line on which the crash happened is set to open for service in April 2016. —Reuters



Rescue workers search the wreckage of a test TGV train that derailed and crashed in a canal outside Eckwersheim near Strasbourg, eastern France, on 14 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A girl watches Lora sea turtles arriving to lay their eggs on Ostional Beach, 295km northwest of San Jose, capital of Costa Rica. Over 250,000 Olive Ridley sea turtles came ashore on 9 November morning to nest at Ostional Beach on Costa Rica's coast. PHOTO: XINHUA

California governor extends water conservation order

SAN FRANCISCO — California Governor Jerry Brown has extended his executive order requiring residents to conserve water as the state readies for a fifth year of drought.

The order gives state water officials greater authority to deal with drought conditions and to cope with potential winter storms from El Nino, a periodic warming of ocean surface temperatures. Brown's office announced the order on Friday.

Brown has ordered communities throughout the state to reduce water use 25 percent this year in

the first-ever mandatory cutbacks.

State regulators set targets for local agencies and the goals were to expire in February.

The Democratic governor's new order lets emergency water conservation measures to continue through October if California still faces a drought in January. The order also extends the suspension of some environmental rules, lets some state residents capture more water and eases expedites rebuilding permits for power plants damaged by wildfires.—Reuters

Argentine opposition leads ahead of 22 November presidential vote

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's opposition candidate had a comfortable lead over the ruling party's pick for the 22 November presidential runoff election, according to a poll released on Saturday.

Potential investors in Latin America's No. 3 economy are watching to see if front-runner Mauricio Macri, the business-friendly mayor of

Buenos Aires, can keep the momentum he gained in the 25 October first round election and win the presidency.

He promises to open Argentina's economy after years of protectionist policies under the country's outgoing leader, Cristina Fernandez, who is barred by law from seeking a third term this year.

The poll, conducted

by Management & Fit and published in newspaper Clarin, gave Macri about an 8 percentage point advantage over ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli, the governor of Buenos Aires province, who has been endorsed by Fernandez.

In the survey Macri got a voter intention rating of 52 percent versus 43.7 percent for Scioli, factor-

ing in each candidate's projected share of undecided voters.

The poll of 2,400 voters taken last week had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

The poll results were virtually unchanged from a Management & Fit survey released a week earlier.

Macri is calling for a clean break from Fernan-

dez's interventionist policies, which include heavy controls on trade and currency. He defied the opinion polls in the 25 October first round election by getting a higher-than-expected 34 percent of the vote, easily forcing a second and final round later this month.

Scioli promises to retain Fernandez's popular welfare policies while

gradually pushing economic policy in a more orthodox direction.

The only debate of the 22 November campaign is scheduled for Sunday evening, in which Macri and Scioli will compete for votes that went to moderate Congressman Sergio Massa, who finished third in the 25 October first round election.—Reuters

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Dated 16 November 2015 yma@kcyangon.com

STORM WARNING

(Issued at (06:00) hours M.S.T on 15-11-2015)

According to the observations at (05:30)hrs M.S.T today, yesterday's the low pressure area over Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further concentrate into a depression during next (24)hours.

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Oscar voters honour Lee, Rowlands, Reynolds at gala

LOS ANGELES — Oscar voters on Saturday gave honorary awards to three movie veterans, including director Spike Lee, at a gala event that shone a spotlight on Hollywood's drive for diversity amid its glitzy awards season.

Along with Lee, whose films include "Malcolm X" and "Do the Right Thing," the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gave its Governors Awards for film achievement to "Singing in the Rain" actress Debbie Reynolds and Gena Rowlands, a champion of independent film and star of "The Notebook."

The Governors Awards annually is one of the academy's key events ahead of the Oscars, the film industry's top awards given out in February. Hollywood A-listers including Meryl Streep and Denzel Washington turned out.

Security was tight at the dinner inside the Ray Dolby Ballroom in Hollywood following Friday's killings in Paris. Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs took a moment at the beginning of the ceremony to mourn those killed.

"All of us here stand in solidarity and support with France and the French people," she said, noting that country's long history of film making and its love of cinema. Boone Isaacs also talked of Hollywood's need for more ethnic and gender equality in the indus-



Director Spike Lee accepts an Honorary Award at the 7th Annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Governors Awards at The Ray Dolby Ballroom in Hollywood, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

try, a call that struck home with Lee whose career is marked by movies dealing with race relations in the United States.

Lee, who has been twice nominated for Oscars, talked about his early career as a director and his desire to put more African Americans in acting roles and in jobs behind the camera. He said Hollywood still has a long way to go. We "need to have a serious discussion about diversity and get some flavor up in here," he said.

Rowlands, who like Lee re-

ceived an "honorary Oscar," is no stranger to long days on movie sets. In a career that has spanned seven decades and included films such as "A Woman Under the Influence," Rowlands has worked with many of the industry's greats including her husband, filmmaker John Cassavetes. Reynolds, who was given the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian award for her charitable work, was unable to attend due to recent surgery. The Oscars will be given out in Hollywood on 28 February, 2016.—Reuters

On Walk of Fame, Radcliffe says will never stop 'feeling lucky'

LOS ANGELES — "Harry Potter" actor Daniel Radcliffe said he would never stop feeling lucky as he was honoured with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Radcliffe, who grew up in the spotlight after landing the coveted role of Harry Potter at 11, got emotional at Thursday's ceremony on the famed boulevard, thanking his parents and telling the crowd how he had not taken his career for granted.

"Regardless of what kind day I was having, I was always lucky because there was always a film to make

... Dog died — go make a movie. Failed some exams — go make a movie. Had your first kiss — go celebrate by making a good damn movie," he said.

"If you get

to work in this job, you are by sheer virtue of statistics one of the luckiest people on earth so none of us who are lucky enough to do this should ever forget that and I promise you that I won't. I'll never stop feeling lucky to be here and be a part of this."

Since finishing the "Harry Potter" movies in 2011, based on the books by J.K. Rowling, the 26-year-old Briton has starred in films such as "The Woman in Black" and "Horns" as well as on stage in "Equus" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying".

Radcliffe will next be seen on cinema screens in "Victor Frankenstein", out from 25 November. —Reuters



Actor Daniel Radcliffe poses during a ceremony honouring him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California on 12 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



Cast members (L-R) Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling, Marisa Tomei and Steve Carell pose at the premiere of 'The Big Short' during the closing night of AFI Fest 2015 in Hollywood, California on 12 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Financial crisis best-seller 'The Big Short' gets Hollywood makeover

LOS ANGELES — Michael Lewis' "The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine" comes to cinema screens next month in a Hollywood adaptation of the best-selling book about the 2007 financial crisis.

"The Big Short" film, which stars Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale and Brad Pitt, is based on the true story of four people who foresaw the credit and housing crisis.

"There was a level of fraud on a national scale that people were not privy to that could happen again tomorrow," Carell said at the film's premiere at the American Film Institute's AFI Fest on Thursday evening.

"I think it's a cautionary tale and I hope it starts conversations about how to change things and to avoid it happening again because it could be far worse next time."

A New York Times best-sell-

er for 28 weeks, "The Big Short" book followed Lewis' previous volumes that inspired the 2009 and 2011 films "The Blind Side" and "Moneyball."

The movie's actors said "The Big Short", directed by "Anchorman" director Adam McKay, was a learning experience in the world of finance and real estate.

"Like most people, I thought I knew and I really didn't and I learned a lot from reading the script, I learned a lot from making the film and I learned a lot from watching the film," Gosling said.

"I think Adam McKay is a ... really great talent for taking this information that feels alienating and somehow make it very inclusive and accessible and entertaining." The world premiere of "The Big Short" marked the closing of the AFI Fest film festival.—Reuters

Prayer's place in US football gets high school test



Ohio State Buckeyes team members circle for prayer prior to the game against the Oregon Ducks in the 2015 CFP National Championship Game at AT&T Stadium. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEATTLE — Carrying out what he called a personal act of faith, high-school football coach Joe Kennedy walked out to the 50-yard-line after a recent game, knelt down and prayed.

For that post-game ritual, the Bremerton, Washington, district superintendent suspended Kennedy with pay in late October and is debating whether to renew his contract, which ends in December.

The district's crackdown marks the latest high-profile injunction against prayer at football games in the United States, where Christian observances continue unabated in many public school sports arenas, despite court rulings limiting school-sponsored religious ceremonies.

Kennedy has performed variations on his ritual regularly over the last eight years as coach at the high school in Bremerton, a city of 40,000 about an hour's ferry ride from Seattle.

"It's my constitutional right to do this," he told Reuters, invoking the freedom of speech afforded by the First Amendment. "It's part of me, it's who I am. I am not going to hide my faith."

Neither the district nor Washington's high-school sports governing board would comment on the frequency of prayer by coaches at games in the state.

But activists say it is common in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

"We get more than one thousand complaints every year about prayer and other religious violations in public schools, and a substantial number of them are related to prayer associated with sports and coach-led prayer," said Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of ad-

vocacy group the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

The foundation's 2015 report found that numerous public universities, including the University of Washington, have chaplains paid for with taxpayer funds as part of their football programmes.

In two other recent cases, a Georgia high school held a mass on-field baptism for players in September and Oklahoma State University players and coaches knelt in a pre-game prayer a few hours after a drunk driver killed four people at a homecoming parade on 24 October.

In the wake of these controversies, the debate over religious liberty and football has raged across the country, from social media and newspaper columns to Washington DC. Conservative lawmakers have invoked them to warn of dangers to religious freedom.

"They're frightened when people exercise their faith ... and so they try to quash it, quiet it," US Senator James Lankford, of Oklahoma, told lawmakers after the Bremerton incident.

The debate around religious expression comes at a time when Americans are becoming less pious, with just 39 percent of young people likely to pray daily, a recent Pew poll found.

Kennedy initially complied with the district's mid-September request to stop on-the-job prayer, but on 16 October, with the advice of lawyers from the Liberty Institute, a religious advocacy group, he walked out to the 50-yard-line and prayed as players encircled him in support.

He argues that his suspension is unwarranted because he was praying in a way intended to

be solitary — like a teacher whispering grace over her meal in the school's cafeteria.

The district said in a community memo that the law requires its employees to neither endorse nor discourage student-led prayer, and that a coach praying might impose "a degree of coercion" over students.

Kennedy's lawyers say they intend to file a federal employment discrimination claim within six months.

The Supreme Court has barred school-sponsored, student-led prayer at public school games, while lower courts have granted school districts authority to limit an employee's on-the-job religious activity.

"A First Amendment claim has to be that he has a free speech or a free exercise of religion right to do this, and that right is sufficiently strong to overcome what could ordinarily be the employer's control over its employees," said University of Virginia law professor Douglas Laycock.

"I think that claim is pretty weak."

While the school district studies its options, some students and members of the public are testing for themselves the limits of religious expression.

At an 29 October Bremerton High game, about a dozen members from the Satanic Temple of Seattle, a group of atheist activists, protested outside the stadium, invited by a number of teachers and students, including the class president. Other Bremerton students swarmed the robed non-believers, holding up crosses, chanting "Jesus" and throwing liquid that one student said was holy water.—Reuters

British collector buys iconic Elvis Presley shoes for 45,000 US dollars

LONDON — The white boots worn by the so-called King of Rock Elvis Presley were bought by a British collector at an auction Saturday for 45,000 US dollars.

Presley wore the size 11 boots as he sang the hit song "If I Can Dream" during a coast-to-coast television special broadcast in 1968 on the NBC network.

The singer recorded the song just months after the assassination of civil rights campaigner Dr Martin Luther King. The song was a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr written by Walter Earl Brown, and included direct quotations from Dr. King. What amazed viewers at the time was the moment Presley fell to his knees as he sang the song, as if it was a religious experience.

The auction, by coincidence, took place in the week that a 14-track album of songs by Presley, re-mixed with backing by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, topped the album chart in Britain, and entered the Billboard chart in the United

States at number 21. The album's title is "If I Can Dream".

There was world wide interest in the boots when they came up for sale Saturday at an auction house in Devizes, Wiltshire.

Auctioneer Andrew Aldridge of Henry Aldridge and Son had estimated a price tag of between 38,000 US dollars and 45,000 US dollars.

After the sale Andrew Aldridge said he was delighted the historic shoes had reached their target price.

"It was a good day for us," said Aldridge, "the boots represent a tangible link to a truly iconic moment in showbusiness history. The song, If I Can Dream, was the closing number of one of the greatest moments in entertainment history and is regarded by Elvis collectors as one of the 'Holy Grails'."

Along with the boots was a handwritten letter from stage director Charlie Hodge, who appeared on the NBC show alongside Presley. After the show Presley gave the boots as a gift to Hodge.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(16-11-2015 07:00 am~ 17-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe
07:39	Am	A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Kathapha
07:54	Am	Scented Buddha Images
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
08:37	Am	The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
08:53	Am	Traditional Snacks
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Unique Pattern Of Myanma... A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Hanlin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
10:51	Am	Pre-PLF 2015

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Shan Style Clay Pot)
08:45	Pm	Diary of a Fisherman

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

(16-11-2015, Monday)

6:00 am	8:45 am
• Mono Classical Songs	• Myanmar Video
6:15 am	10:15 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	• Musical Programme
6:35 am	10:25 am
• Fashion Show	• Colours of ASEAN
7:00 am	10:40 am
• TV Drama Series	• Myanmar Video
8:30 am	12:00 noon
• Golden Music of Old Stars	• Close Down

Kvitova and Sharapova leave Fed Cup final tied

PRAGUE — The Czech Republic and Russia were tied at 1-1 after the opening matches in the Fed Cup final on Saturday as Petra Kvitova and Maria Sharapova each notched victories.

Kvitova, the Czech No.1, got off to a nervous start against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the opening match, committing 15 unforced errors to help the Russian take the first set 6-2.

The two-time Wimbledon champion settled down after the break and stormed back to grab the next two sets 6-1, 6-1 with the Russian double-faulting on match point.

In the second singles, the world number six Kvitova on Sunday now becomes pivotal to the outcome and the Russian expects it to be close.

“It’s the last match of the season against an opponent I know really well,” Sharapova said. “It is just going to come down to a little bit here or there.” After the Kvitova-Sharapova showdown, Pliskova plays Pavlyuchenkova and the title could be decided by the doubles between the Czechs Lucie Safarova and Barbora Strycova and their opponents, Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina.

—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

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—Reuters

Sharapova’s match against



Ukraine’s Andriy Yarmolenko (L) in action with Slovenia’s Bojan Jokic during European Qualifiers, Play-off for Final Tournament at Arena Lviv stadium on 14 November 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar to compete in 1st Asian Civil Service Games



Myanmar players will participate in the 1st Asian Civil Services Sports Tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 17 to 19 November. PHOTO: MNA

THE MYANMAR International Sports Federation has selected 16 players to compete in the 1st Asian Civil Service Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The tournament will be held from 17

November to 19 November.

The 16 players of Myanmar’s golf and bowling teams, led by U Kyaw San Oo, the director of the Sports and Physical Education Department, left Yan-

gon on 5 November.

Members of the department and the Myanmar International Sports Federation saw off the players at the Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Ukraine too strong for Slovenia in Euro playoff

LVIV — Ukraine, who have never won a playoff for a major tournament in five previous attempts, took a firm grip on their Euro 2016 qualifying tie with Slovenia by winning the first leg 2-0 on Saturday.

Winger Andriy Yarmolenko opened the scoring

with a low shot into the far corner of the net in the 22nd minute that sparked wild celebrations at a packed Lviv Arena.

Yarmolenko also played a part in the second goal in the 54th minute, striker Yevhen Seleznyov converting his cross to supply the finishing touch to a swift counter-attack.

Seleznyov could have added a third goal 15 minutes later when he scuffed his shot when well-placed but Ukraine will still be in a strong position in Tuesday’s second leg to book their ticket to the finals in France.

Slovenia provided little threat up front although Branko Ilic fired just over the bar from the edge of the penalty area in the first half following a clever header from Miliivoje Novakovic.

The visitors, bidding to repeat their Euro 2000 playoff victory over Ukraine, never looked like getting back into the game after the break.

Keeper Samir Handanovic, captaining Slovenia, produced a stunning save from a header by Denys Gamrash before Seleznyov struck the woodwork in the 69th minute.

Ukraine coach Mykhaylo Fomenko warned his players not to get carried away by the margin of victory.

“We have only played the first leg,” he told national television. “We could have scored a third goal and I’m glad Slovenia did not capitalise on our mistakes.

“I think my players understand what they have to do and I should not need to find any additional words (of motivation) for the second leg.” Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko and Slovenia counterpart Borut Pahor watched the game from the stands.

“The President greeted us in the dressing room after and wished us good luck for the return game,” said defender Evhen Khacheridi.

Slovenia coach Srečko Katanec, who was also at the helm for the Euro 2000 playoff, blamed the referee for the second goal.

“We started off with purpose but couldn’t keep it going,” he said. “I think the second goal was offside so the luck was not on our side today. “The result is hard for us but there is nothing impossible in football. We will do our best to snatch a win with the right scoreline.” —Reuters