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PROGRESSING TO PEACE

Drafting of framework for dialogue begins

JOINT Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement began planning the formation of a Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, which will draft a framework for holding political dialogue as part of efforts for the peace process.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the second meeting held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw was another step towards the implementing nationwide ceasefire agreement, which was signed on 15 October with the government and eight ethnic armed groups.

The vice president also praised the level of coordination between JICM and the ethnic armed groups to form the committee and include political parties in its processes.

Meetings for drafting the framework for political dialogue is scheduled to start before 14 December, 2015, set according to the timeline of the ceasefire terms. Political dialogue is expected to start before 14 January, as it must begin within 90 days after the political framework is signed by the joint committee.



See page 3 >> Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers speech at Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Tilapia breeder says technology needs to modernise to attract FDI

Ye Myint

U MYINT Sein, a local tilapia breeder, said that the US has shown interest in importing 30 shipping containers of tilapia from Myanmar each month, equalling 360 containers a year.

Foreign partnerships, im-

portant in attaining technological know-how in the intensive aquaculture industry, is required to have better access to U.S markets for tilapia farmers, he said yesterday.

The breeder, who recently attended the Boston Seafood Show in the US, added that tilapia farmed in Myanmar need to

be bigger and healthier to meet standards set by the US, which imports 70,000 containers of tilapia annually, mostly from China.

“Myanmar tilapia’s flesh is often thin and they come in varied sizes. The US market demands tilapia with thick flesh and fish which are similar in size,

around 1 kg.”

These requirements can be fulfilled by setting up a sustainable aquaculture projects with the aid of advanced technology in Myanmar, he said. U Myint Sein said that he is seeking a joint venture partner for high-tech aquaculture projects that would

help fill the gap.

He called on those in Myanmar’s fishery sector to develop modern aquaculture system in tilapia and ka-kadit farming to help hit the country’s yearly export earnings target of US\$ 1 billion in the fishery sector.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Roundup



Deputy Minister U Han Sein.
PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Education is upgrading distance education universities in order to stay abreast of universities in other countries by reviewing the education assessment system, training academic personnel and building infrastructure for both students and faculty members, said Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung in Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

The reply was given in response to a question from Daw Nang Nwam of Shadaw constituency, who asked about progress on plans to upgrade distance education universities in remote areas.

U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency asked a question on future plans for travel sectors, including aviation, waterways and railways. Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein replied that the Ministry of Transport upgraded 33 airports at a cost of K102.71 million (US\$79.50 million) from 2010 to 2015 fiscal years. A total of 10 state-owned and privately operated airlines have been operating between 2010 to



Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung. PHOTO: MNA

2014, while 23 international airlines now offer direct flights to Myanmar.

The number of sea vessels rose up 4,922 in 2015 from 3,658 in 2010. Moreover, the Ministry of Rail Transportation purchased 42 locomotives, 80 passenger coaches, 250 wagons and 57 RBE trains from 2011 to 2015. The domestic workshops assembled locomotives, coaches and wagons from 2011 to date.

The Hluttaw approved the arbitration bill sent back with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and decided to discuss 52 separate points of contention at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

U Win Than of Thabaung Constituency read out the report of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee while Bill Committee member U Soe Rei of Dimawhso Constituency read the report on bill amendment of the Myanmar Lighthouse Act. U Win Myint of Patheingyi Constituency read out the report of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquillity Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Roundup

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung submitted bills to Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) yesterday, which resumed on Monday.

They submitted the pesticides bill, the new plant species protection bill, the science,

technology and innovation bill, the 2015 shops and industries bill, the bill amendment of 1951 workshops act, and the payment bill.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Khin Maung Yi and party read out reports on nine bills amending the foreign exchange management law, evidence act, use of road and bridge law, highways

law, expressway law, and second amendment of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, together with the banks and monetary organizations bill, the Aungbalay lottery bill, and the industries bill.

The Hluttaw speaker invited MPs to discuss the bills and sought the approval from the Hluttaw for the reconstitution of the bill committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo.
PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Ohn Than.
PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Htin Aung.
PHOTO: MNA

Thai tourists tour significant sites in Tachilek

UNDER arrangements made by Myanmar Vega Travels & Tour Co., Ltd, and Thailand's Vega Travel Agency, 60 Thai travellers arrived in Tachilek via Mae Sai in Thailand by bicycle last week.

The tourists visited Maha Muni Pagoda, Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda and Talaw market in Tachilek including significant places and returned to Mai Sai later that same day.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is striving for increase of tourists in the country to reach more than 4 million this year.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Tilapia breeder says technology needs to modernise to attract FDI

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U Myint Sein said that he has invited Ima Enterprise Ltd, a Canada-based aquaculture system provider, to operate tilapia production in Myanmar under a 50-50 or 80-20 joint venture in which he would bear the cost of machines, manpower and land property while the technology for breeding and upgrading the species of tilapia in Myanmar would be taken up by his counterpart.

During his presentation on

the prospects of aquaculture systems in Myanmar at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation yesterday, Jamal Ahmed of the Canadian firm elaborated on semi-intensive indoor re-circulation systems suitable for small investment projects.

The fishery expert stressed the need to modernise the country's aquaculture system and broaden its production base as well as species variety to become a major seafood exporter in the region.

Striking workers at World Jin Factory to arbitrate labour dispute

Ko Moe

THE disagreement over whether to reinstate 34 striking workers formerly employed by World Jin garment factory will be arbitrated as negotiations between factory owners and workers broke down Monday, according to a labour official.

"The workers want to return to the factory. But their boss is not willing to reinstate them and wants to pay them compensation instead. The deadlock between them could not be broken during

Monday's negotiations," said U Kyaw Kyaw Tun of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department.

It is not sure when the case would be handed over the arbitration council, he added.

Most of the 34 workers were leaders of the strike, which involved around 300 workers out of more than 500 employed at the factory.

Demands centred around asking the factory's boss to sack a Korean in-charge of the garment factory and to allow the

striking workers to return to the job.

The garment factory has issued an announcement urging the striking workers to return their jobs, with a 20 November deadline.

If workers fail to return to the job, they will be regarded as having quit on their own volition, the announcement states.

The two sides will sign employment contracts when workers return to the job, according to the agreement reached in early November.



Permanent Secretary U Aung Lynn of Ministry of Foreign Affairs signs the book of condolence for the demise of former German Chancellor Helmu Schmitt at the German Embassy in Yangon on 17 November. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General inspects 500-year-old-moat



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to an official at Ottawin Station. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with defence services personnel in Ottwin Station on Tuesday.

Also present was Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air Force) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint. The senior general also inspected the renovation of the 500-year-old moat of Ketumati Toungoo. The senior general offered Tatmadaw's help in renovation of the moat, as the moat could be a key driver of local tourism.

After delivering a speech at Ottwin station, the senior general, Quartermaster General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and Lt-Gen Thein Htay presented books, gifts, foods and sporting gear to defence services personnel.—*Myawady*

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Latvia, Oman

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Raimonds Vējonis, President of the Republic of Latvia, and Her Excellency Ms. Laimdota Straujuma, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Latvia, which falls on 18 November 2015, and His Majesty Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman, on the occasion of the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, which falls on 18 November 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Military order lifted in Kokang Self-Administered Zone

A MILITARY administration order in Kokang Self-Administered Zone, Shan State, has been lifted, according to an ordinance issued by the President Office on Tuesday.

A state of emergency was declared in the self-administered zone but the situation has since returned to normal and the rule of law has been restored in the zone, the ordinance said.—*GNLM*

Progressing to peace

>> From page 1

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that there was no fighting between the army and the eight ethnic armed group signatories since the ceasefire had been signed on 15 October, stressed a need to maintain the current status quo to carry on the remaining steps of the JICM.

He also pledged that the current government would implement the NCA agreement in line with the NCA's timeline during the remaining term of the government, as part of efforts for laying down good foundations for the next government.

Myanmar government and eight ethnic armed groups have agreed at the first committee

meeting on October 31 that both sides would adhere to certain steps until 30 days after the signing of the NCA on October 15.

The two sides were set to draw up a political framework within 60 days after the formal NCA signing and start a political dialogue within 90 days.—*Myanmar News Agency*



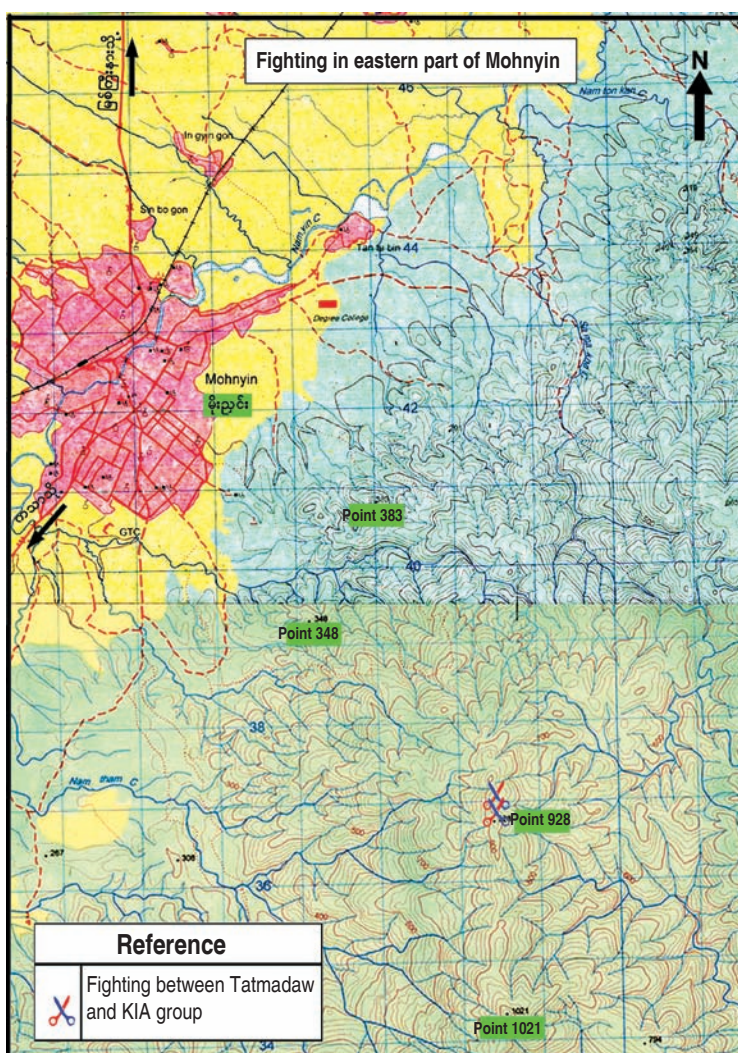
Permanent Secretary U Aung Lynn of Ministry of Foreign Affairs signs the book of condolence for the victims in attacks that occurred in France on 13 November, at the French Embassy in Yangon on 17 November. PHOTO: MNA

Fighting breaks out between Tatmadaw and KIA in Mohnyin

COMBINING the Mohnyin area of the KIA, a Tatmadaw column launched an attack on a KIA camp on Point 928 hillock about three miles from Mohnyin on Sunday, forcing the KIA to retreat northward.

During the fighting, an undisclosed number of officers and Tatmadaw troops were killed and a number of others were injured. The military column captured the hillock and seized one M-25, ammunition and equipment.

After reinforcing, the KIA members launched a counter attack on the Tatmadaw column on Monday, the Tatmadaw responded with air support and heavy artillery. The Tatmadaw are continuing to comb the area of the KIA.—*Myawady*



Daw Yin Yin Myint concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Czech Republic

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the

Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Human rights commission meets international counterparts

FORMER Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea Professor Kyong Whan Ahn representing the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-Asia), Chairman of the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission Mr Nur Kholis, Ms Betty Yolanda and Mr Joses Kuan of the FORUM-Asia Secretariat called on the Chairman and party of the Myanmar National Human

Rights Commission at his office in Yangon yesterday.

Officials of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission explained the appointment of commission members, cooperation with civil organisations, responses to complaints, inspection at prisons, participation in international human rights treaties and the endeavours of the commission in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Meiktila Robes to be offered to Buddha images on Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone



Local women prepare weaving of Mathoe Thingan (robe) before competing in the contest. PHOTO: CHAN THAR

THE Nagayon Maha Bawdi Pagoda Board of Trustees are organising the 45th Mathoe Thingan (robe weaving) contest and rice offering ceremony, which will be held at the pagoda's prayer hall in Nandawgon Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Region, on 25 and 26 November.

The event coincides with the full moon day of Tazaungmone and will include female weaving teams taking part in a contest using five looms on the evening of 25 November.

The contest itself is the production of Mathoe Thingan (robes). Once completed, offi-

cial and well-wishers will offer the robes to four Buddha images at the pagoda.

Members of the Sangha will consecrate the Buddha images in the morning of 26 November.

On the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, locals will offer rice to more than 1,000 Buddhist monks from 30 monasteries.

Weaving contest of Mathoe Thingan (robes) is one of Myanmar's traditional festivals as well as religious occasions dedicated to the Lord Buddha. —Chan Thar

Legendary artist exhibits works

93-YEAR old artist U San Hlaing is exhibiting his works at the Strand Hotel in Yangon from 17 to 18 November.

More than 110 realist paintings depicting Myanmar classic stories are being displayed at the exhibition titled 'Solo Show of A Classical and Legendary Artist U San Hlaing'.

"The reason that I created these paintings is to conserve the national cultural identity of Myanmar, said U San Hlaing, showing his paintings at the exhibition.

The artist is considered one of Myanmar's oldest. The inspiration for his works is his memories and feelings.

The artist held his solo show at Jubilee Hall in Yangon in 1956.

He also drew at least thirty to forty illustrations a month until he was 75 years old of age.

At this time U San Hlaing has painted more than 100 water colours and 150 oil paintings.—GNLM



Enthusiasts view round works of artist at Solo Show of A Classical and Legendary Artist U San Hlaing. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Shopkeepers attend fire seminar in Nay Pyi Taw

A FIRE drill was held by shopkeepers and firefighters at a market in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. The drill was attended by Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi, who chairs the Township Fire Prevention Commit-

tee. Firefighters demonstrated the effective use of fire extinguishers and performed a mock emergency fire response.

Deputy Director U Aung Khant of the Markets Department of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, engi-

neer U Tin Myo Aung of the Electricity Supply Enterprise and the head of the Township Fire Services Department U Soe Tint gave lectures on fire prevention methods, electrical safety and fire risk assessment.—Shwe Kokko



Tourists visit Taungthaman Lake by boat in Amarapura Township. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Mandalay nears 2015 tourist target of 300,000

A TOTAL of 224,358 tourists visited Mandalay between January and October 2015, in comparison with 165,000 tourists during the same period last year – a 35 percent increase, said an official of the Mandalay Region Hotels and Tourism Development Department.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism targeted 300,000 tourist arrivals in Mandalay in 2015. The majority of tourists visiting Mandalay arrived by air. Chinese tourists make up the highest number, followed by Thailand. Tourists from France, Germany and the US stood third.

The ministry is expecting overall arrivals to reach 4.5 million tourists this year. Between January and October, around four million tourists visited Myanmar.—Min Htet Aung

East Timor appeals to Australian public in border dispute

SINGAPORE — East Timor is seeking Australian public support to try to persuade Canberra to settle a longstanding maritime border dispute over the oil and gas rich waters that lie between the two countries, a senior minister told Reuters.

Development Minister Xanana Gusmao — a former rebel leader and president of the impoverished, tiny state — told Reuters that East Timor would appeal to Australians' sense of fair play to push their government into meaningful talks.

"If we go to the media and if we raise awareness, it is not because we want people to be against Australia but just to say 'oh yes, it is unfair'," Gusmao told Reuters in an interview.

The Timorese struggle for independence from Indonesia was a celebrated cause for Australian activists and Gusmao hopes to win their sympathy, along with support from Australian soldiers who had served as peacekeepers there.

East Timor has sought for

years to renegotiate a treaty governing oil and gas revenue sharing arrangements that was signed with Australia soon after it gained statehood in 2002.

"From the beginning we asked Canberra to talk. They wouldn't want to blow up all of these issues. We are neighbours, we have problems, we sit down, we talk — but nothing," Gusmao said.

East Timor argues the sea border, undefined since it was a Portuguese colony, should fall halfway between it and Australia — which it says would put several oil and gas fields in its territory.

Under the treaty, East Timor shares revenues from these fields - from a mooted half share of the as-yet undeveloped Greater Sunrise fields to 90 percent of the currently producing Bayu-Undan and Kitan fields. Allegations that Australian spied on Timorese negotiators fueled controversy over the treaty. The issue was taken to the International Court of Justice before the two sides settled.

But, East Timor is still pursuing international arbitration over both the maritime border dispute and a tax case involving a pipeline from the existing fields to Australia. Australia warns that defining the border the way East Timor wants may prompt Indonesia to also seek to shift its sea border - and thus gain ownership of disputed oil fields.

An Australian government map shows most of the Greater Sunrise fields in its waters, but with a warning they could be claimed by Indonesia if the border moves. East Timor's map shows the fields within its claimed share of the Timor Sea.

Greater Sunrise is 33 percent owned by Woodside, the operator. Its co-owners are ConocoPhillips, Royal Dutch Shell and Japan's Osaka Gas Co Ltd.

Greater Sunrise contains an estimated 5.1 trillion cubic feet of gas and 226 million barrels of condensate, although the border dispute, and low gas prices, means development is on hold.—Reuters

Indonesian ministers at odds over haze policies

JAKARTA — Divisions have started to appear between Indonesian government ministries over how to tackle peatland fires that have caused choking smoke to spread across much of Southeast Asia.

Indonesia and the wider Southeast Asian region have been suffering for weeks from so-called "haze" caused by smouldering forest and peatland fires, largely in Sumatra and Borneo islands that climate officials described as a crime against humanity.

Green groups welcomed the Indonesia's environment and forestry ministry's decision late last month to review laws that allow smallholder farmers to burn. It has also asked plantation firms to halt peatland conversion, restore burnt areas, while banning planting on burnt peatland.

Contradicting this, however, Agriculture Minister Amran

Sulaiman said on Monday, 100,000 hectares of burnt peatland in Kalimantan may now be used to plant corn and soybeans, according to *Kontan* newspaper.

"We will ask for peatland that has already been burned to be converted into agricultural land," Sulaiman was quoted in the newspaper, adding that the development should be led by local people and state-owned enterprises.

Sumardjo Gatot Irianto, director general of agriculture tools and infrastructure in the agriculture ministry, said on Tuesday he was not aware of any plan to plant on burnt peatlands in Kalimantan.

But Greenpeace Indonesia told Reuters it was concerned about Sulaiman's comments and urged President Joko Widodo to stick to his moratorium on developing peatlands and avert fires next year.—Reuters

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Security concerns hang over Asia-Pacific summit



Residents walk past the Philippines Air Force (white) and police personnel standing guard near the venues of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the capital city of Manila, Philippines on 17 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — US President Barack Obama and other world leaders arrived in Manila yesterday for the first of two regional summits that were supposed to bolster trade and security ties but have been clouded by the Islamic State threat half a world away.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering on Wednesday and Thursday comes on the heels of a G20 summit in Turkey, which was dominated by discussions about the violence

emanating from Syria's 4-1/2-year-old civil war.

Many of the leaders then go on to Kuala Lumpur to attend an East Asia summit at the weekend.

For Obama, the latest flurry of summitry illustrates how his effort to "rebalance" US policy toward Asia-Pacific countries has consistently run into the geopolitical reality that the persistently volatile Middle East cannot be ignored.

The Philippines was on high

alert as the leaders arrived. Police in this city of 12 million closed off many roads leading to the venues of the meeting, which will be attended by about 20 heads of state or government, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Philippines officials say there has been no intelligence suggesting there might be an attack on the Manila summit but about 30,000 police and soldiers have been deployed to guard it.

The air force has placed 13 aircraft on standby, most of them helicopters, while the navy has two former US coast guard cutters and a dozen smaller watercraft in Manila Bay.

The USS Fitzgerald, a US navy destroyer, will also be stationed in Manila Bay for the duration of Obama's visit.

As Air Force One was coming in to Manila, two groups of around 100 people each approached the US embassy to stage protests but they were held back by police.

But even before Friday's assault by gunmen and bombers that left at least 129 dead in Paris, there had been concern that APEC's agenda of enhancing economic integration would be undermined by other issues, not least feuding over the South China Sea.

Aides said that on his trip Obama would reassert Washington's commitment to freedom of navigation and overflight in the disputed strategic waterway. As part of that, he was due to tour a coast guard operation in Manila harbour later on Tuesday.

The Philippines has vowed to be a "good host" by keeping the South China Sea off the summit agenda. But the subject has whipped up tension between China and the United States in recent weeks, and officials in Manila said it could come up at a concluding retreat of leaders on Thursday.—Reuters

China security chief calls for greater 'de-radicalisation'



A pedestrian reacts as a security officer holds out a detector on a street in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region, on 17 November, 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China needs to deepen its fight against separatists, intensify “de-radicalisation” efforts, and increase global co-operation to defend against terrorism, the country’s domestic security chief wrote on Tuesday.

The Chinese government says it is facing a threat from Islamist militants and separatists in the far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people and where hundreds have died in unrest in the past three years or so.

China’s foreign minister has already called for greater international cooperation in its fight against Xinjiang radicals in the wake of the Paris attacks at the weekend.

Writing in the ruling Communist Party’s official *People’s Daily*, Meng Jianzhu made no direct mention of Paris, but said a country’s “rise and fall” would depend on how it secured itself.

“We must ensure that political security is put in first place, tightly prevent and strike hard against the infiltrating, subversive activities of enemy forces in accordance with the law,” Meng wrote.

“We must deepen the anti-separatist struggle and reso-

“We must deepen the anti-separatist struggle and resolutely maintain ethnic and national unity.”

Meng Jianzhu
People’s Daily

lutely maintain ethnic and national unity,” he added.

“Always maintain high pressure on violent terrorist activities ... further deepen de-radicalization efforts and international anti-terrorism cooperation to form a protective anti-terror security screen.”

Rights groups and exiles say Xinjiang’s violence stems more from widespread resentment at Chinese controls on religion and culture rather than being committed by a well-organized militant group. China strongly denies abusing human rights in Xinjiang.

Uighurs have traditionally followed a moderate form of Islam but many have begun adopting practices more common in

Saudi Arabia or Pakistan, such as full-face veils for women, as China has stepped up security in recent years.

The government has responded by cracking down on what it sees as overt signs of religiosity, like veils or beards.

Meng said that China needs to build on the legal basis of its sweeping new national security law, passed earlier this year to widespread criticism from rights groups. Foreign business lobbies have also criticized the law, which included measures to tighten cyber security for key network infrastructure and information systems.

China should push forward with three other laws, on anti-terrorism, the management of foreign non-governmental organisations and cybersecurity, Meng added, without giving details.

The state also needs to “perfect” its national security approval system for things like investment projects and internet technology, Meng said.

Foreign firms fear those measures could require them to make products in China or release information to inspectors that could compromise control of intellectual property.—*Reuters*

13 killed, 100 injured in train accident in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 13 people were killed and over 100 others injured when four compartments of a passenger train derailed near Pakistan’s southwest Mach District yesterday afternoon, local media reported.

Geo TV said that the passenger train Jaffer Express was on its way to Rawalpindi city when it met accident near Aab-e-Gum area of Mach, a main district in the country’s southwest Ba-

lochistan Province. The injured and the bodies were shifted to Civil Hospital Mach where several of the wounded are said to be in critical condition.

Officials with paramilitary troops said that further investigation is being made to check the possibility of any act of terrorism.

Railway authorities said that four among the deceased were employees of Pakistan Railways.—*Xinhua*

Japan gov’t files suit over Okinawa’s landfill approval revocation

TOKYO — Japan’s land minister filed a lawsuit Tuesday demanding Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga retract his decision to block landfill work for the relocation of a key US military air base within the southern island prefecture, paving the way for a court battle between the central and Okinawa governments.

Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Keiichi Ishii lodged the suit with the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court as Onaga refused to comply with the minister’s instruction to reinstate local government approval of the landfill work for the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The landfill work is needed to transfer the Futenma base from a crowded residential district in Ginowan to the less populated Henoko coastal area of Nago.

If the court hands down a ruling in favour of the central government, it would empower Ishii

to override the governor’s revocation of his predecessor’s approval of the work.

The feud between the central and local governments has been escalating since last month when Onaga revoked the land reclamation work approval granted by his predecessor Hirokazu Nakaima in 2013.

The Okinawa government earlier this month filed a complaint with the Central and Local Government Dispute Management Council over the land minister’s suspension late last month of the governor’s revocation.

If the council does not accept Onaga’s claim, the local government also plans to bring the case to the high court.

The Okinawa government and many residents are opposed to the base relocation plan and want the airstrip moved outside the prefecture to reduce the burden from hosting the bulk of US forces in Japan.—*Kyodo News*



Protesters stage a sit-in in front of the US Marine Corps’ Camp Schwab in Nago in Japan’s southernmost prefecture of Okinawa on 17 November. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

North Korea frees South Korean held for illegal entry

SEOUL — North Korea freed and returned a South Korean national yesterday who the South’s Unification Ministry said had been arrested by the North in late September as he crossed the river border from China.

The 48-year-old man, whose name was withheld by the ministry, was the fourth person to be

returned to the South by the North this year after being held for illegal entry into the isolated state.

His release came a day after South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon would visit North Korea’s capital Pyongyang this week.

No date was given for the vis-

it. The UN spokesman’s office and South Korea’s Foreign Ministry did not comment about the reported trip.

North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Isolated North Korea last month freed a 21-year-old South

Korean college student who holds a US green card, six months after he was caught crossing from China. The two Koreas in August held high-level talks to end a tense standoff at their border and try to improve ties, although there have been no follow-up meetings between the governments.

In June, the North repatriated

a South Korean married couple who were also believed to have illegally entered the North. Three other known South Korean citizens remain in captivity in the North, including two men who appeared on North Korean media and confessed to having spied for the South. The other is a South Korean Christian missionary.—*Reuters*

German police chief plays down security threat from refugees



Migrants queue at the compound outside the Berlin Office of Health and Social Affairs (LAGESO) waiting to register in Berlin, Germany, on 17 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — There is no sign that Islamist militants have entered Germany posing as refugees to commit an attack, the head of the police has said, responding to concerns following the attacks in Paris that an open-door refugee policy poses a security risk.

Holger Muench, president of the BKA federal police, told the daily *Die Welt* he could not discount the threat of militant attacks in Germany as radical Isla-

mists had Western targets in focus, but played down any signs of an imminent attack.

“There is a threat level that should be taken seriously, but we have no concrete indications of planning for an attack,” he said. “So far, we have no indication that a terrorist has entered Germany as an asylum seeker in order to perpetrate an attack.”

Muench said about 10 individual migrants were under

investigation as possible jihadists or war criminals, after tip-offs mostly from other refugees.

Coordinated suicide bombings and shootings in Paris on Friday, which killed at least 129 people, have raised concerns that Germany’s open-door policy for refugees from Syria may pose a security risk to Europe. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attacks.—*Reuters*

Britain says Islamic State militants plotting deadly cyber attacks

LONDON — Islamic State militants are trying to develop the capability to launch deadly cyber attacks against Britain’s infrastructure, finance minister George Osborne will say on Tuesday as he announces a doubling of spending on cyber security.

Osborne, Prime Minister David Cameron’s close ally, said Friday’s attacks in Paris, which killed at least 129 people and were claimed by Islamic State (ISIL), underscored the need to improve Britain’s protections against electronic attack.

“ISIL are already using the Internet for hideous propaganda purposes; for radicalisation, for operational planning too,” he said in excerpts of a speech he was due to give at Britain’s GCHQ eavesdropping agency.

“They have not been able to use it to kill people yet by attacking our infrastructure through cyber attack,” he said. “But we know they want it and are doing

their best to build it.”

Osborne said public spending on cyber security would be almost doubled to a total of 1.9 billion pounds over the period to 2020 even as he prepares to announce fresh overall spending cuts next week in a bid to return Britain to a budget surplus by the end of the decade.

“It is right that we choose to invest in our cyber defences even at a time when we must cut other budgets,” he said. “The Internet represents a critical axis of potential vulnerability.”

Prime Minister David Cameron said on Monday that the size of Britain’s intelligence agency staff would be increased by 15 percent.

Osborne said the decision to ramp up cyber defence funding had been taken before Friday’s bloodshed in Paris.

“The stakes could hardly be higher — if our electricity supply, or our air traffic control, or our hospitals were successfully attacked online, the impact could

be measured not just in terms of economic damage but of lives lost.”

A new national cyber security plan drawn up by the government would feature a dedicated force to ensure faster and more effective responses to major online attacks. The force would be based at GCHQ in Cheltenham, southwest England.

Other elements of the plan included possible cooperation between Internet service providers, with help from the government, to fend off malware attacks and block bad addresses used against British Internet users, as well as a new institute to train coders, Osborne said.

British broadband provider TalkTalk suffered a cyber attack in October which affected 157,000 customers.

This month, Britain and US authorities carried out a drill with leading banks to test their response to a cyber incident in the financial sector.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt detains two airport staff in connection with Sinai air crash

CAIRO — Egyptian authorities have detained two employees of Sharm al-Sheikh airport in connection with the downing of a Russian jet on 31 October, killing all 224 people on board, two security officials said yesterday.

“Seventeen people are being held, two of them are suspected of helping whoever

planted the bomb on the plane at Sharm al-Sheikh airport,” one of the officials said.

Russia’s FSB security service said yesterday it was certain a bomb brought down the plane, joining Britain and the United States in reaching that conclusion. Egypt has not yet confirmed a bomb downed the jet.—*Reuters*

Tear gas, pepper spray fired in Kosovo parliament

PRISTINA — Opposition lawmakers in Kosovo fired tear gas and pepper spray in parliament yesterday, the latest such incident in a deepening political crisis over relations with former master Serbia.

The protest was led by prominent opposition figure Albin Kurti, who has set off tear gas in the chamber several times to demand the government scrap a deal to regulate ties between Serbia and its former southern province.

Lawmakers, who were due

to debate the government’s proposed budget for next year, left the chamber, but appeared to be trying to hold the session in another room. Kurti fired pepper spray at police.

An alliance of opposition parties, led by Kurti’s Self-Determination party, opposes a European Union-brokered deal to grant minority Serbs in majority-Albanian Kosovo greater local powers and the right to some financial links with Belgrade, creating a so-called “association” of Serb municipalities.—*Reuters*

Vucic, Ravkov discuss defence industry cooperation

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic met with Defence Minister of Belarus, Lieutenant-General Andrei Ravkov, on Monday, to discuss defence industry cooperation between the two countries, including in third markets.

Vucic and Ravkov agreed that a memorandum of understanding signed today, providing for exchange of students of military and educational institutions

and their special training, and research and development cooperation, would help improve defense industry cooperation.

Vucic expressed his gratitude to Belarus for the principled support for Serbia’s territorial integrity and sovereignty and for voting against Kosovo’s admission to UNESCO at the General Conference of that organisation in Paris the week before.—*Tanjug*

France to breach EU deficit goal

PARIS — France is bound to overshoot its European Union budget deficit target as it boosts security spending in the wake of the 13 November Paris attacks, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said yesterday.

The deficit target will “necessarily be exceeded” as France amends budget plans to

hire 10,000 more police and gendarmes and boost their resources, Valls told France Inter radio.

“The European Commission must understand,” Valls said, that the struggle against Islamic State militants “concerns France but also concerns Europe”.—*Reuters*

Iran’s Rouhani tells Hollande ‘we need all our might’ to fight Islamic State

PARIS — It is of vital importance to fight Islamic State with “all our might”, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday, a day after Paris called for a grand coalition to destroy the group.

“President Rouhani ... insisted on the vital importance of

the fight against Daesch (Islamic State) and terrorism with all our might,” a French presidential source said after a call between the two presidents.

The (two men) insisted on the importance of the Vienna peace talks to resolve the conflict in Syria, the source said.—*Reuters*

OPINION

Nature reserves are essential for our future

Myint Win Thein

MYANMAR has plans to establish nature reserves covering more than 10 percent of its total land mass as part of a 30-year plan created for the forestry sector. It currently has 39 forest reserves covering 5.57 percent of its land mass.

Establishing the nature reserves is an effort not just to prevent deforestation, which resulted

in flooding in many areas of the country this year, but also to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development.

Myanmar is a country that is severely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Nature reserves reduce the impact of climate change as forests absorb carbon monoxide and produce oxygen. Reducing the emission of harmful gases is vital. Establishing nature reserves and forests can effectively reduce the economic loss caused by natural disasters.

Nature reserves also play an important role in the sustainability of biodiversity. They can serve as habitats for millions of species. Biodiversity can support healthy ecosystems, sustainability of water resources and sustainable production and consumption.

Nature reserves can provide local people with

food, energy, forest products, employment and contribute to a reduction of poverty.

Therefore, establishing nature reserves is a prerequisite for sustainable development. It is necessary to speed up the implementation of nature reserve projects without delay and to act in cooperation with the international community and the United Nations in particular.

Write for us

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

The Mind and The Flowers

Htun Tin Htun

THE mind of one which when affected by the vicissitudes of life does not agitate; is undisturbed, is not boisterous and is serene, this is the highest blessing. (Mangala Sutta). "Just as the Fletcher straightens an arrow shaft, even so the discerning man straightens his mind-so fickle and unsteady, so difficult to guard and control."

Happy indeed we live, friendly amidst the hostile. Amidst hostile men we dwell free from hatred. "As a fish when pulled out of water and cast on land throbs and quivers, even so is this mind agitated. Hence should one abandon the realm of Mara." (Literally, the destroyer, Mara stands for: (1). mental defilements; (2). phenomenal world; (3). death (No. 1 leads to 2) and 3); (4). Lord of evil forces-a powerful deity who tempts and misleads those following the path of Nibbana).

Elders are the persons in whom there are truthfulness, virtue, inoffensiveness, restraint and self-mastery, who are free from defilements and are wise. "Wonderful, indeed, it is to subdue the mind, so difficult to subdue, ever swift, and seizing whatever it desires. A tamed mind brings happiness."

Mind-centered teaching taught us that "Let the discerning man guard the mind, so difficult to detect and extremely subtle, seizing whatever it desires. A guarded mind brings happiness."

If anything is to be done, let one do it with sustained vigor. A lax monastic life stirs up the dust of passions all the more. "Dwelling in the cave (Heart is the seat of consciousness. Hence the analogy of the mind resting in the cave of heart. Every moment of consciousness arises, continues

and passes by itself, not together with other moments, hence 'alone') of the heart, the mind, without form, wanders far and alone. Those who subdue this mind are liberated from the bonds of Mara."

Neither in the sky nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts, nowhere in the world is there a place where one may escape from the results of evil deeds. "Wisdom never becomes perfect in one whose mind is not steadfast, who knows not the Good Teaching and whose faith wavers."

Difficult is life for the modest one who always seeks purity, is detached and unassuming, clean in life, and discerning. "There is no fear for an awakened one, whose mind is neither sodden (by lust) nor afflicted (by hate), and who has gone beyond both merit and demerit." (The Arahat having abandoned all defilements, can no longer perform evil actions; having no more attachment to any plane of existence his virtuous actions no longer bear kammic fruit).

A man is not versed in Dhamma because he speaks much. He who, after hearing even a little Dhamma, realizes its truth directly and is not heedless of it, is truly versed in the Dhamma. "Realizing that this body is as fragile as a clay pot, and fortifying this mind like a well-fortified city, fights out Mara with the sword of wisdom. Then, guarding the conquest, remain unattached."

Neither by mere eloquence nor by beauty of form does a man become accomplished, if he is jealous, selfish and deceitful. "Ere long, alas! This body will lie upon the earth, unheeded and lifeless, like a useless log."

Difficult is life for the modest one who always seeks purity, is detached and unassuming, clean in life, and discerning. "Whatever harms an enemy may

do to an enemy, or a hater to a hater, an ill-directed mind inflicts on oneself a greater harm."

The craving of one given to heedless living grows like a creeper. Like the monkey seeking fruits in the forest, he leaps from life to life (tasting the fruit of his kamma). "Neither mother, father, nor can any other relative do one greater good than one's own well-directed mind."

He who sits alone, sleeps alone and walks alone, who is strenuous and subdues himself alone, will find delight in the solitude of the forest. "Who shall overcome this earth, this realm of Yama (another name of Mara as king of death and ruler of the states of woe) and this sphere of men and gods? Who shall bring to perfection the well-taught path of wisdom as an expert garland-maker would his floral design?"

Exert yourself, cut off the stream (of craving), and discard sense of desires. "A striver-on-the-path (Sekha) (one who has achieved any of the first three stages of supramundane attainment: a stream-enterer, Once-returned and Non-returned. Sekha perfects the path of wisdom (37 Bodhipakkhiya Dhamma) shall overcome this earth, this realm of Yama and this sphere of men and gods. The striver-on-the-path shall bring to perfection the well-taught path of wisdom, as an expert garland-maker would his floral design."

For a person 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. "Realizing that this body is like froth, penetrating its mirage-like nature, and plucking out Mara's flower-tipped arrows of sensuality go beyond sight of the King of Death!"

Let go of the past, let go of the future, let go of the present,

and cross over to the farther shore of existence. With mind wholly liberated, you shall come no more to birth and death. "As a mighty flood sweeps away the sleeping village, so death carries away the person of distracted mind who only plucks the flowers (of pleasure)."

One should give up anger, renounce pride, and overcome all fetters. Suffering never befalls him who clings not to mind and body and is detached. "The Destroyer brings under his sway the person of distracted mind who, insatiate in sense desires, only plucks the flowers (of pleasure)."

Wisdom springs from meditation; without meditation wisdom wanes. Having known these two paths of progress and decline, let a man so conduct himself that his wisdom may increase. "As a bee gathers honey from the flowers without injuring its colour or fragrance, even so the sage goes on his alms-round in the village (Sage collects alms in the village and provides others the opportunity to gain merit)." "Let none find fault with others; let none see the omissions and commissions of others. But let one see one's own acts, done and undone."

Easy is life for the shameless one who is as imprudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt. "Like a beautiful flower full of colour but without fragrance, even so, fruitless are the fair words of one who does not practise them." Delight in heedfulness! Guard well your thoughts! Draw yourself out of this bog of evil, even as an elephant draws himself out of the mud. "Like a beautiful flower full of colour and also fragrant, even so, fruitful are the fair words of one who practises them." "As from a great heap of flowers many garlands can be made, even so should many good deeds be done by one born a mortal."

Realizing that "The wise are controlled in thought, controlled in speech and controlled in bodily action. They are truly well-con-

trolled." "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. (Fragrance of virtue pervades everywhere. Tagara: is a fragrant flowering shrub) "Of all the fragrances-sandal, tagara, blue lotus and jasmine- the fragrance of virtue is by far the sweetest." "Faint is the fragrance of tagara and sandal, but excellent is the fragrance of the virtuous, wafting even amongst the gods."

Speak the truth; yield not to anger; when asked, given even if you only have a little. By these three means can one reach the presence of the gods. "Mara never finds the path of the truly virtuous, who abide in heedfulness and are freed by perfect knowledge." "Upon a heap of rubbish in the road-side ditch blooms a lotus, fragrant and pleasing. Even so, on the rubbish heap of blinded mortals the disciple of the Supreme Enlightened One shines resplendent in wisdom." (Verse No. 30-59 of Dhammapada, Anthology of Verses, A Practical Guide to Right Living, Acharya Buddhakkhita, 16th October 1986).

The gift of Dhamma excels all gifts; the taste of Dhamma excels all tastes; the delight in Dhamma excels all delights. The craving-Freed vanquishes all suffering (Verse No.354 of Dhammapada).

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Village of Mindat Township gets new bailey bridge



A new bailey bridge lies on Chichaung Creek in Mindat Township. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

THE Chichaung bailey in Chichaung village, Mindat Township, Chin State, was damaged by heavy rains during natural disasters earlier this year.

Special Bridge Construction Group No 3 of the Ministry of Construction completed a new bridge before the November 8 election.

The 140-foot-long bridge can bear 13-tonne loads. The construction group further added retaining walls for the prevention of water erosion.—*District IPRD*

Students take part in first-aid course



An official presents certificate to a trainee. PHOTO: THANT MAUNG

THE Nay Pyi Taw Red Cross Supervisory Committee and Nay Pyi Taw Education Department jointly conducted first-aid courses at schools in eight townships.

A ceremony to conclude the course was held at Basic Education High School at Sugar Mill, Pyinmana Township, yesterday.

Head of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi who chairs

the Nay Pyi Taw Red Cross Supervisory Committee spoke at the event. Headmistress of the school Daw Kyu Kyu Win expressed thanks for the training and officials presented certificates to the trainees.

Eight teachers who are members of the Red Cross Brigade gave training to 65 students from 14 to 17 November.—*Thant Maung*

Cold season crops thriving in Kalay

LOCAL authorities are working towards the re-cultivation of cold season crops on 26,565 acres of farmlands in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region. Under the direction of the Sagaing Region Chief Minister the Agricultural Mechanisation Department ploughed 5,737 acres of farmlands in 29

village-tracts of the township with the use of 95 tractors. Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and Head of District AMD U Kyaw Kyaw Oo inspected new bean plantations on the farmland of U Myint Oo in Natnan Village on 14 November.—*Ju Nine*



District officials view thriving cold season crops plantation in Kalay Township. PHOTO: JU NINE

Region Minister inspects monsoon pigeon plantation

THE Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than and Head of the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department U Myint Oo inspected a monsoon pigeon pea plantation on five acres of land in Yeywai Village-tract, Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on Sunday.

Head of District Agriculture Department U Toe Min reported on the cultivation of monsoon crops, while the Head of the Township Agriculture Department U Maung Maung Nyein spoke on the cultivation of monsoon pigeon pea.—*Chan Thar*



Mandalay Region Minister U Myint Than visits thriving pigeon pea plantation in Meiktila Township. PHOTO: CHAN THAR

Minbu Township extends water supply in urban areas

THE Magway Region government is extending water infrastructure to residents in Minbu Township.

The local authorities assigned the Pwint Oo Company to construct a turbine station, a Leiktaung water tank, a Aungmyay water tank and a water pumping station in Ward 2. The WWWW Company will lay water pipelines in the urban sector while the Han Sein Thant Company will install water pumps in the township.

The Magway Region Electricity Supply Enterprise implements the installation of power lines for local residents.

The region government allotted K1.63 million (US\$1.2 million) for the implementation of these projects as of October 2015, with a plan to complete all projects by March 2016.

At present 410,000 gallons of water are provided each day to more than 29,000 residents in four wards.—*Tin Tun Oo*

Dissident Afghan Taliban leader 'shot and wounded' by bodyguard

PESHAWAR — A leader of a breakaway Afghan Taliban faction fighting for control of the Islamist movement has been shot and wounded by a bodyguard, two Taliban commanders said on Tuesday, highlighting unprecedented chaos embroiling the militants.

The Taliban have been riven by a split for the first time and are also contending with an ideological challenge from Islamic State (IS) militants who appear to be gaining supporters in

Afghanistan.

But the rivalry in the Taliban is not expected to benefit the government, reeling from the militants' brief capture of a provincial capital in September, but is likely to kill off any hope for peace talks and could present IS with turmoil to exploit.

The two Taliban commanders said Mullah Mansoor Dadullah, brother of a notorious Taliban commander killed in 2007, was shot and wounded by a bodyguard several days ago in

the southern province of Zabul.

"He lost consciousness due to loss of blood and was taken to a clinic where he was given treatment but was very critical," said one of the commanders, both of whom declined to be identified.

A spokesman for Dadullah confirmed he had been wounded but said it was in fighting rival Taliban forces.

Dadullah is a leader in a Taliban faction that broke away from the main insur-

gent group following the announcement in July of the death of supreme Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

One of Mullah Omar's aides, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, was appointed as successor, but his claim to the leadership has been rejected by some in the movement and a splinter faction named a rival leader this month.

A prolonged Taliban split would likely complicate the resumption of peace talks with the government, which broke down in July

following the announcement of Omar's death.

The first Taliban commander said the bodyguard who shot Dadullah was immediately killed by Dadullah's other guards.

The other Taliban commander said Dadullah's whereabouts were not known.

"His close people are claiming he is alive ... We asked them to at least issue an audio statement so people will believe he is alive," the second commander said.

But Dadullah's men

said he would issue a message when had recovered, he said.

Afghan police said last week Dadullah had been killed in a clash with rival militants but a spokesman for his faction denied that.

However, on Tuesday, the spokesman, Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, said Dadullah had been wounded.

"We know the enemy has spread rumours about his death but we will soon prove he is alive," Niazi said.—Reuters

Japan, Australia to hold talks Sunday with eye on submarines

TOKYO — The Japanese foreign and defence ministers will meet with their Australian counterparts in Sydney on Sunday, the ministries said yesterday, with Tokyo aiming to pitch the advantages of teaming up in building Australia's new fleet of submarines.

During the so-called "two-plus-two" security meeting, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defence Minister Gen Nakatani are expected to promote a Japanese proposal to gain an edge over German and French bids for what Canberra calls its "largest

defence procurement programme in history."

To be selected as a partner to develop the submarines to replace the Australian navy's conventional Collins class subs, participants in the competitive evaluation process must submit their proposals by

the end of this month.

In a related speech in Adelaide the same day, Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne said that the co-developer will be selected next year and it will take three more years to work out the details of the programme.

She also said the number of submarines to be built will be unveiled in a defense white paper early next year.

Kishida will visit Australia for four days from Friday and will also meet one-on-one with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. Nakatani will make a

three day visit from Friday and will hold separate talks with Payne, the ministries said.

Nakatani will later travel to Hawaii and meet with Adm. Harry Harris, commander of the US Pacific Command.—Kyodo News

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR YANGON CENTRAL
RAILWAYS STATION COMPLEX
POSTPONEMENT OF EOI SUBMISSION DATE

With reference to Comprehensive Development for Yangon Central Railways Station Complex Project, Myanma Railways had published in the media requesting Expression of Interest (EOI) from the potential developers in August 2015.

Myanma Railways would like to inform that the closing date for submission of EOI has been postponed to (6.1.2016).

As the Yangon Central Railways Station Complex Project is the essential part of the Greater Yangon City Project, Myanma Railways has decided to extend additional two months, intending to provide more information and further clarification to the potential developers to have better understanding of the proposed project.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Ministry of Rail Transportation

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE
EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

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 - TEAK CONVERSION (253) TONS
 - HARD WOOD LOGS
 - PADAUK (409) TONS
 - PYINKADO /THIN WIN /HNAW/IN-KANYIN/
 SAGAWA ABOUT (5063) TONS
 - HARDWOOD HANDSAWN CONVERSION
 PADAUK/TAMALAN ABOUT (1135) TONS
 - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.

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OPEN TINDER COMMITTEE
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Yemen's exiled president returns



Yemen's exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.
 PHOTO: REUTERS

ADEN — Yemen's exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi returned to the southern port city of Aden yesterday to rally forces loyal to him in the country's civil war and oversee a campaign to retake the city of Taiz, a presidency official said.

Hadi's loyalists made advances amid heavy fighting in the southwestern province surrounding the city which killed around 45 fighters from both sides on Monday, medical sources said.

"Twenty-five pro-Hadi fighters were killed in an ambush laid for them by Houthi and Saleh forces at the Bab al-Mandeb, and 20 Houthi fighters were killed in fighting and coalition air strikes," a medic told Reuters by telephone from Taiz, adding that a family of 8 were killed in an air strike on the city.

Residents said Arab warplanes had bombed Houthi militia targets in the city dozens of times on Tuesday.

At least 5,700 Yemenis

have been killed during seven months in a civil war that has pitted supporters of the exiled government, backed by a Saudi-led Arab coalition, against forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh and Houthi militia allied to Iran.

It was not immediately clear how long Hadi would stay in the country, his second return to Aden since the Saudi-led coalition retook the port city in July, or whether his visit would herald the permanent return of his exiled administration from the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Mukhtar al-Rahbi, an official in Yemen's presidency, said Hadi had arrived in Aden to oversee the campaign to retake Taiz, which has been battered by fighting. Medics in the city say more than 1,600 people have died there.

"He will also meet with military officials to assess the security situation and to oversee the merging of the resistance forces into the army and security forces," al-Rahbi said.

The coalition has made some progress on the battlefield and took control of Aden in July, but the Houthis still retain control of much of Yemen, despite almost daily air bombardment.—Reuters

Oil prices give up early gains as crude, petroleum glut persists

SINGAPORE — Oil prices dipped away from early gains yesterday as the risk premium following the Paris attacks and the French air strikes in Syria faded, and traders began to focus on the global oversupply in crude and petroleum products again.

Analysts said that despite the Paris attacks and French retaliation against Islamic State (IS) in Syria, prices would remain low for the rest of the year and into 2016 as oil markets stay oversupplied, with 2015 production outpacing demand by 700,000 to 2.5 million barrels per day, according to estimates.

Many speculators are even positioning themselves for further price falls.

Front-month US crude futures initially rose towards \$42 per barrel but then dipped back to \$41.62 a barrel by 0745 GMT, down 12 cents from its last settlement.

Internationally traded Brent crude futures rose towards \$44.80 before dropping back to \$44.59 a barrel.



A customer prepares to fill up his tank in a gasoline station in Nice.

PHOTO: REUTERS

“The well-supplied crude market, record high inventories in OECD and lack of a material threat to the oil facilities in the Middle East from the military escalation against IS in Syria are going to prevent geopolitical premiums building in oil prices,” BMI Research said.

On the supply side, ANZ bank said that US shale oil pro-

duction, which many analysts said would fall sharply as a result of lower oil prices, would only dip.

“We estimate crude oil production from US shale fields will fall just 2.5 percent (in Q4),” the bank said, adding that this was a result of falling shale production costs and healthy refined oil product sales.

Money managers cut their net long US crude futures and options positions to the lowest in three months during the week to Nov. 10, the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said on Monday.

The speculator group cut its combined futures and options position in New York and London by 27,456 contracts to 127,351 during the period.

The cut in bets on higher prices has come in parallel to soaring amounts of contracts actively betting on a further fall in oil. US crude oil prices have now been lower than \$50 per barrel for longer than they were during the height of the global credit crunch in late 2008/2009, and the forward curve also shows less price increases today than it did then.

“It reflects the ‘lower for longer’ thesis and expectation that it is likely to be a slower re-balancing process than initially anticipated,” said Virendra Chauhan, oil analyst at Energy Aspects in Singapore.—Reuters

Icahn exits eBay stake, opts for PayPal after spinoff

NEW YORK — Billionaire activist investor Carl Icahn swapped his entire equity stake in eBay Inc (EBAY.O) for the same number of shares in PayPal Holdings Inc in the third quarter, regulatory filings showed on Monday.

The filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that Icahn sold his stake of 46.3 million shares in eBay and reported the same number of shares in PayPal (PYPL.O), which completed its spinoff from eBay in mid-July.

Icahn, whose PayPal stake as of 30 September amounted to 3.8 percent of the company, had pushed for eBay to spin off PayPal last year and has board representation at PayPal through Icahn Capital managing director Jonathan Christodoro.

Icahn eventually backed off from his push for the spinoff in April of last year. But eBay directors and executives shifted their stance on the split in June of last year after a six-month internal study of the payments landscape. Icahn, who is known for taking large stakes in companies and pushing for management change, also showed that he took a 1.36 million share stake in American International Group Inc (AIG.N) during the third quarter, ahead of publicly pressuring the insurer to split into three companies.—Reuters

VW's European car sales, market share slip after emissions scandal



Volkswagen cars parked outside a VW dealership in London, Britain. PHOTO: REUTERS

MILAN — Volkswagen's (VOWG_p.DE) European sales and market share slipped in October, industry data showed yesterday, as the German carmaker's emissions-cheating scandal began to take its toll at a time when the overall market continued to grow.

New passenger car registrations in the European Union and European Free Trade Association trading block rose 2.7 percent last month on a year ago to 1.14 million vehicles, according to the Brussels-based Association of European Carmakers (ACEA).

The increase marked the 26th consecutive month of growth in the region but at a slower rate than in the preceding

months, although last month's figures were for one fewer selling day than in October 2014.

Nevertheless sales for the Volkswagen Group, Europe's biggest carmaker, dropped 0.8 percent last month, while its European market share slipped to 25.2 percent, down from 26.1 percent in the same month last year.

VW's mass market brands suffered falls in sales last month, with Seat sales down 11.2 percent, Skoda's down 2.9 percent and the carmaker's namesake brand down 0.4 percent.

However, premium brands Audi and Porsche still recorded healthy growth, with sales rising 3.5 percent and 13.3 percent respectively. Because car deliveries typically occur several weeks after

purchase decisions, the full repercussions of the scandal, which started with VW's admission on 18 September that diesel-engine emission tests had been rigged, are expected to become more apparent in November registration figures.

However, VW's drop in sales in October compares with a rise of 8.3 percent the previous month.

The overall growth in the European market last month was mainly driven by German brands Daimler (DAIGN.DE) and BMW (BMWG.DE), rising 20.9 percent and 12.8 percent respectively, and by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCHA.MI), which is enjoying strong sales of its new Jeep Renegade and Fiat 500X cars.

FCA's overall sales rose 7.7 percent.—Reuters

EasyJet confident on future

LONDON — EasyJet (EZJ.L) signalled its confidence in future growth by ordering 36 additional A320 aircraft amid what it called resilient demand for flights, after reporting an 18 percent jump in annual profit on bumper summer holiday travel.

British airline easyJet, the no.2 low-cost carrier, said the new planes reflected its robust trading and the profitable opportunities it sees in its markets, adding that forward bookings were in line with last year.

For this winter, easyJet's bigger rival Ryanair (RYA.I) has talked of a fare war in the cut-throat European travel market, as airlines raise capacity and compete against each other in a lower fuel price environment.

But easyJet said it would retain its profit momentum through growing passenger numbers 7 percent a year and controlling costs, adding that current market expectations are in line within the board's forecast for its 2016 financial year.—Reuters

FanDuel runs 2 to 3 days behind paying out players

NEW YORK — Daily fantasy sports site FanDuel is running two to three days behind paying out players withdrawing their money, a company spokeswoman said on Monday.

The company stopped taking new deposits from players in New York last week after the state's attorney general declared the games to be illegal gambling and demanded that FanDuel and DraftKings - the two daily fantasy sports market leaders - stop accepting money from players in the state.

The company is three days behind paying out withdrawals for players who have asked to be paid by check and two days behind for players who have asked to be paid using PayPal, company spokeswoman Justine Sacco said.

The company said it has not seen significant spikes in withdrawals since the attorney general's order. It linked the delays to a new identity verification process it has recently added to comply with government regulations and prevent fraud.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Photo taken on 16 November, 2015 shows a projection of pictures and videos on a building of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris, France. UNESCO celebrated the 70th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution. The constitution of UNESCO was signed on 16 November 1945 to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture. PHOTO: XINHUA

Eight migrants drown off Greek island

ATHENS — Eight migrants drowned and at least another three were missing after their inflatable boat sank off the Greek island of Kos yesterday, the coastguard said.

Seven people were rescued, and emergency crews were still trying to recover all the bodies of the people who died from the capsized vessel, a coastguard official added.

More than 600,000 refugees and migrants fleeing Syria, Afghanistan and other war-torn countries have arrived in Greece from Turkey this year, risking the short

but perilous sea crossing, often on inflatable rafts. Hundreds have drowned.

Greece, struggling with its own economic crisis, has said it does not have the funds to care for all the arrivals before they move on to other destinations including Germany and Sweden.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has said financial aid could be offered to Turkey to register and process the migrants on its territory instead. Tsipras is visiting Turkey on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the worst refugee crisis since World War II.—Reuters

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION AND LAND CONSOLIDATION
SCHEMES IN MYANMAR
UNDER
THE LINE OF CREDIT FROM
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. Sealed bids are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter called the employer), from the qualified and resourceful Contractors (hereinafter called the bidders) registered in India for procurement of farm machinery and implements for Development of Irrigation and Land Consolidation Schemes in Myanmar.

Tender Description	Bidding Document Fee (USD)
Procurement of farm machinery and implements for Development of Irrigation and Land Consolidation Schemes in Myanmar	500

2. The bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders upon submission of a formal request on payment of a non-refundable fee indicated above for each set of tender documents.
3. The bidding documents will be available from the office as noted in paragraph 8 on any working day with effect from **27.11.2015 to 8.1.2016 (from 9.00 hr. to 16.00 hr. local time)**.
4. Pre-bid meeting will take place at the below address at **10.00 hr (local time) on 10th December, 2015** for discussions of various issues raised by the prospective bidders. The matters requiring clarification shall preferably be intimated by the bidders to the employer through email at **aungwinamd@gmail.com**, 07 (seven) days in advance of the date of **pre-bid meeting**, with a copy to the Project Management Consultant, i.e. WAPCOS Ltd. (**commercial@wapcos.gov.in**)

**Building No.15
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar.**

5. The bids duly completed in all respects as described in the bidding document shall be submitted, in a sealed envelope, to the employer **on or before Wednesday 30.12.2015 at 10.00 hr (local time)**, and shall be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of opening of bid initially, subject to the extension from time to time. The bids will be opened thereafter in the presence of the bidder's representatives at **10.00 hr. (local time) on 30.12.2015** at the address mentioned above.
6. The bid must be accompanied, in a separate envelope duly sealed, by a bid security of **as indicated above with validity of 118 days** initially, subject to the extension from time to time as desired by the employer in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB). The bid without the bid security shall be summarily rejected.
7. The bid received after the expiry of the stipulated time of submission shall not be considered. The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at on its discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever. The employer is not bound to accept the lowest offer / bid and reserves the right to negotiate with bidders.
8. Contact Address is as mentioned the following.

**Office of Director General,
Agricultural Mechanization Department,
Building No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar.
Telephone No- +9567-431172, Fax: +95-67-431246
www.moai.gov.mm**

Four euro zone countries risk breaking EU rules with 2016 budgets

BRUSSELS — Italy, Lithuania, Austria and Spain risk breaking European Union rules with their 2016 budget plans, the European Commission said yesterday, while France might also not meet some of the fiscal targets set out by EU finance ministers.

It said, however, that the costs of Europe's migrant and refugee crisis would be treated as a special case.

The Commission, the EU executive arm, checks draft budget plans of euro zone countries every year to see if they are in line with the Stability and Growth Pact, which sets rules for EU budgets.

The rules say a government has to keep the headline budget shortfall below 3 percent of GDP and strive to balance its books in structural terms — excluding one-off revenues and spending and the effects of the business cycle. To be in line with the rules, each year governments must reduce their structural deficit by at least 0.5 percent of GDP until they are close to balance or in surplus.

The Commission pointed the finger this year at Italy, Lithuania, Austria and Spain. "The draft budgetary plans of these countries might result in a significant deviation from the adjustment paths towards the medium-term objective," its said.

France's 2016 draft budget was broadly compliant, the Commission said, because the headline deficit

was as required.

But France is under a disciplinary EU process, called the excessive deficit procedure, for having a budget gap higher than 3 percent of GDP. EU finance ministers set annual fiscal consolidation targets for countries under this procedure. The Commission said Paris was at risk of missing these targets.

"In the case of France, while the recommended headline deficit target is projected to be met in 2016, the (draft budget) contains risks as regards compliance ... as the fiscal effort is projected to fall significantly short of the recommended level, according to all metrics," the Commission said.

It said that it asked the French authorities to take the "necessary measures within the national budgetary process" so that the 2016 budget is in line with EU rules. Without changes in current policies, France is also expected to have a deficit above the 3 percent limit in 2017, in breach of agreed targets, the Commission estimated. Brussels' analysis of France's budget was carried out before the Paris attacks of last weekend.

Spain, which faces elections in December, was in bigger trouble.

"The draft budget plan... was found to pose a risk of non-compliance with the requirements for 2016. In particular, neither the recommended fiscal effort nor the headline deficit target for 2016 is forecast to be achieved," the Commission

said confirming an opinion issued in October.

It said it had asked Madrid to make sure the budget would comply with EU rules and asked for a updated draft as soon as possible.

Italy's draft budget plan is also at risk of non-compliance with EU fiscal rules, the Commission said in a statement, urging Italy to take "the necessary measures within the national budgetary process to ensure that the 2016 budget will be compliant". The Commission will decide in May whether Italy can be granted some budget leeway for investments and structural reforms.

It also said that the budget costs of the migrant crisis would be treated as an exceptional circumstance and not counted into the deficit calculations, but concessions will be made only after actual expenses are properly assessed.

Italy, Greece, Austria and Germany are all dealing with hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers from the Middle East and Africa who are fleeing conflicts and poverty in their countries.

The Commission said it would monitor the situation closely to determine what was eligible and ensure that it did not impact 2015 and 2016 budget enforcement.

Overall, the aggregate euro zone budget deficit is to shrink to 1.7 percent in 2016 from 1.9 percent in 2015. Debt is also to fall slightly to just below 90 percent of GDP. The Commission said this represented a neutral fiscal stance.—Reuters

French police make 128 overnight raids after Paris attacks



French police secure the area outside a housing complex as police conduct a door-to-door search operation in the Neudorf neighbourhood in Strasbourg, France. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — French police conducted 128 raids overnight following a wave of shootings and suicide bombings in Paris on Friday which left at least 129 people dead, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said yesterday. He told France Info radio station police were making rapid progress in their investigation into the attacks claimed by Islamic State militants but declined to give further details.

President Francois Hollande has declared a state of emergency allowing administrative arrests and searches without a warrant following the bloodiest attacks in French history.—Reuters

Quake hits off Greek island

ATHENS — A strong earthquake struck off the western Greek island of Lefkada on Tuesday, killing at least one person and damaging several buildings, Greek police said.

The epicentre of the magnitude 6 quake was 13 km (8 miles) west of Lefkada in the Ionian Sea, the Athens Geodynamic Institute said.

Police said a 59-year-old woman had been killed when her house collapsed after being struck by a falling rock in the seaside village of Ponti. A local resident said a second woman had been crushed to death in a stable in the mountain village of Athani. Police could not confirm her death.

“There is a dead

woman, the stable fell over her and we are still trying to recover her body under the rubble,” Nikos Rombotis, 61, owner of a gift shop in the village, told Reuters by phone. The quake also damaged the main road in the southwestern part of the island. The US Geological Survey registered the quake as magnitude 6.5.—Reuters

More than 100 flights cancelled as blizzard conditions grip Colorado

DENVER — More than 100 flights were canceled at Denver International Airport early on Tuesday as a powerful storm system dropped snow over the Rocky Mountains, while tornadoes were reported from Texas to Nebraska, officials said.

A blizzard warning was issued for a large swath of northeastern Colorado and western

Kansas, with a storm system that originated in Alaska forecast to drop up to 12 inches of snow on the Denver metropolitan area by midday Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service.

Several tornadoes were spotted over northern Texas, western Kansas and southern Nebraska overnight, according to weather forecasting

site AccuWeather.

Denver International, one of the busiest US airport hubs where more than 100 flights were canceled in and out, advised passengers to allow extra time to get through security.

The storm was heading east, where it could cause flooding later along the Gulf Coast, the National Weather Service said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (10-15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (10-15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (119N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (119N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KUMANO VOY NO (059)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUMANO VOY NO (059) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (003)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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'Bela Sheshe' completes 200 days at box office

KOLKATA — Bengali film "Bela Seshe" (At the end of the day), based on the story of an aged divorced couple, on Tuesday completed 200 days of successful run at the box office.

"The entire team of 'Bela Seshe' is completely thrilled with this news. It is indeed a big feat for a film to continue its dream run for 200 days, I am truly overwhelmed with the love the audiences are showering upon the film," director Shiboprosad Muk-

hopadhyay said in a statement.

Directed by Mukhopadhyay and Nandita Roy, "Bela Seshe" stars Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Soumitra Chatterjee and veteran actress Swatilekha Sengupta.

The film's story deals with the aftermath of an aged couple's decision to seek divorce after five decades of marriage and how their three daughters, a son and their spouses deal with it.

"Bela Seshe" released in West Bengal on 1 May to fa-

vourable reviews and was later released across the country including cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Pune and Bangalore.

"After a long time we are witnessing families flocking to cinemas and repeat viewings in Bengal. The success of this film goes to show how good content will always be a winner," Nandu Ahuja of Eros International Media, who distributed the film, said.—PTI

Kenyan conservationist says his Jolie-directed biopic to go ahead



PHOTO: REUTERS

NAIROBI — A film to be directed by actor Angelina Jolie about the life of Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey will be shot in Kenya, Leakey told reporters on Monday, giving what Nairobi hopes will be a boost to a struggling safari and tourism industry.

Kenya has been encouraging the film about Leakey, celebrated for campaigns to save

wildlife from poachers, in the hope of bringing back tourists who have shunned the country after attacks blamed on al Shabaab militants from neighbouring Somalia.

The film could put Kenya back on film-makers' radar and help recover business that has been lost to South Africa, just as the Academy Award winning film "Out of Africa" did for the

country three decades ago, when its portrayal of author Karen Blixen's life in colonial Kenya drew tourists in droves. "We will make the film and it will be made in Kenya - for sure," 70-year-old Leakey told a news conference. The film project has struggled to secure financing and agree on a script, while South Africa has pushed to be the location for filming, Leakey and others involved in the project have previously said.

Leakey said he discussed the project with Jolie a week ago and was confident a new script, cutting out some of the violence in the previous version, would be ready in a few months. Preparation for filming could start in early 2016, Leakey said.

Hollywood actor Brad Pitt, Jolie's husband, had previously been linked to the main role but Leakey said that would depend on whether Pitt liked the new script. Leakey, who will step down from his post as chairman of the Kenya Wildlife Service at the end of the year, also said progress was being made in the fight against poachers - 83 elephants were killed by poachers in Kenya in 2015, down from 302 in 2013.—Reuters

Country singer Stapleton No. 1 on Billboard chart again

LOS ANGELES — Country singers Chris Stapleton and Eric Church kept pop singer Ellie Goulding from the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday.

Stapleton's "Traveller" spent its second consecutive week at No. 1 with 124,000 album units sold in the week ending Nov. 12, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Church's "Mr. Misunderstood" climbed one spot to No. 2 with 65,000 units sold. Both Stapleton and Church saw

boosts in sales following their appearances and wins at the Country Music Awards earlier this month.

At No. 3 was British singer Goulding's latest album, "Delirium," which sold 61,000 units.

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart included country singer Tim McGraw's "Damn Country Music" at No. 5, while a re-issue of the Beatles' 2000 compilation album "1," featuring all of the British band's chart-topping hits, made its debut at No. 6.

Singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles' "What's Inside: Songs from Wait" entered the chart at No. 10.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online download sales, Adele's ballad "Hello" held onto the top spot for a third week with 480,000 downloads.—Reuters

Lennon, Thatcher, Henry VIII star in 'Face of Britain'



Artist Chris Levine poses next to his lenticular image of Britain's Queen Elizabeth. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — What do John Lennon, Margaret Thatcher, Henry VIII and West Indian immigrants in 1956 London have in common? They are all, according to British historian Simon Schama, part of "The Face of Britain".

Schama — known to worldwide audiences for his 15-part documentary "A History Of Britain" — has curated a small but delightfully precise exhibition at London's National Portrait Gallery.

It takes a thematic approach. Rather than starting with portraits of early Britons and heading towards the modern, the exhibition is presented in five rooms dedicated to "Power", "Love", "Fame", "Self" and "People".

This approach allows for some fascinating juxtapositions.

In "Power", for example, Thatcher, Britain's first woman prime minister, shares space with Henry VIII, the king who ruled England from 1509 to 1547.

Both portraits — respectively, a sitting by Rodrigo Moynihan and a painting by George Vertue after Remigius van Leemout and Hans Holbein the Younger — tell a tale about their subjects.

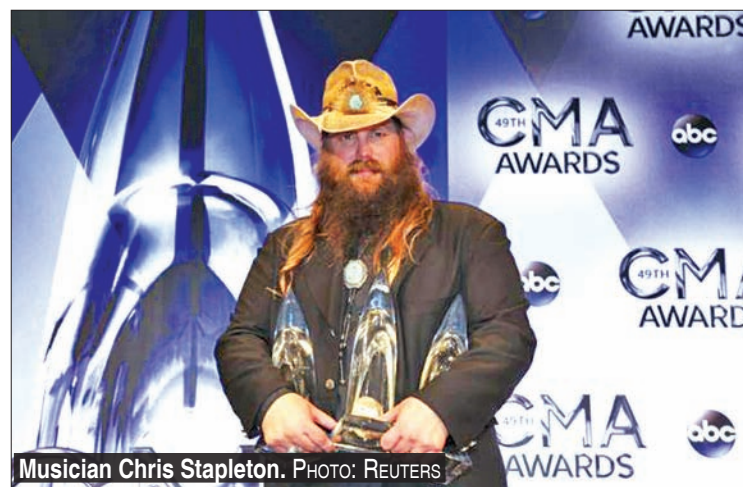
Henry is portrayed with his third wife, Jane Seymour,

but also with his parents Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. The message is one of legitimacy in a dynasty - the Tudors - that at the time was still fairly vulnerable.

The Thatcher portrait was apparently subject to much interference from the sitter, who was renowned for her strident views and penchant for control. The painting, as a result, is rather bland.

Elegant juxtapositions continue in the "Love" gallery, where Beatle Lennon shares the walls with George, prince of Wales, and his older, commoner mistress of circa 1784 onwards, Maria Fitzherbert. Both have poignant stories. The Lennon portrait - the famous photograph by Annie Leibowitz of a naked Lennon curled up on his (clothed) wife Yoko Ono — was taken just a few hours before he was assassinated in 1980. George, meanwhile, is said to have died as King George IV in 1830 with a miniature of Fitzherbert around his neck.

"The craving to keep the ones we love close to us never goes away," says in an introduction to the "Love" gallery. "If they can't be with us, having their likeness can turn absence into presence, divide distance and even defy death."—Reuters



Musician Chris Stapleton. PHOTO: REUTERS

METI staff wear traditional dress in 'Kimono Day' event

TOKYO — About 30 employees worked in colourful kimono on Monday at the industry ministry in Tokyo in an event held to promote the Japanese traditional garments that have become largely ceremonial and rarely worn casually.

In an attempt to boost public interest in Japanese traditional dress and revive the industry, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry encouraged its workers to wear the attire at work the day after the 15 November "Kimono Day," which was designated by the country's kimono industry.

"We want to lead efforts to promote kimono culture at home and abroad," said Hidenobu Teramura, director of METI's Textile and Clothing Division.

Although many Japanese wore kimonos as casual dress before World War II, westernization of clothes in postwar Japan has changed domestic lifestyles, leading the industry into a slow decline. The ministry officials who

took part in the event wearing the traditional attire gave positive responses.

"Wearing a kimono while working, I feel my posture improves and it is actually easier to move than I thought," Yuko Yokoi, an employee at the division, said, adding, "I hope there will be more chances to dress in them (at work)."

Some of the male workers also got involved.

"Kimono is not only for women but also for men. Actually, a kimono might even be easier to wear for a man as I just took 10 minutes to get ready today," said Yoji Kobayashi, deputy director general for labor and human resources at the ministry. "I hope we get more opportunities to wear kimono on a daily basis," he said.

According to Yano Research Institute, a private marketing research company, retail sales of kimono in Japan dwindled to about 285.5 billion yen (\$2.3 billion) in 2014, less than one-sixth of the



Employees work in colourful kimono on 16 November, at the industry ministry in Tokyo in an event held to promote the Japanese traditional garments. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

peak in 1981 of some 1.8 trillion yen.

The ministry held a panel meeting the same day to discuss the current situation of Japan's kimono industry and how to revitalize kimono culture and related businesses.

At the meeting, comedian Naoki Matayoshi, who won the prestigious Akutagawa Prize for up-and-coming authors this summer, proposed deploying social media such as Twitter to promote kimono, as the spread of costume pictures through social platforms

has boosted the popularity of Halloween in Japan in recent years.

Tsuneo Kitamura, parliamentary vice minister of the industry ministry, said, "The (2020) Tokyo Olympics is also a good chance to promote the charm of kimonos" to foreign visitors.—*Kyodo News*

Memorial services for Paris terror victims held around world



A girl offers flowers on 15 November, at the French Consulate General in Kyoto to mourn the victims of a series of terrorist attacks in Paris. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Memorial services for those killed in a series of terror attacks in Paris were held all over the world.

In the United States, hundreds of people gathered at California State University, Long Beach, to mourn Noemi Gonzalez, 23, who studied design in Paris as an exchange student.

Around one thousand people attended a vigil at the French Embassy in Beijing, and sang La Marseillaise, the national anthem of France.

At the French Consulate General in Japan's ancient city of Kyoto, a stand has been set up to allow people to lay flowers in tribute to the victims.—*Kyodo News*

mitv

Myanmar International

(18-11-2015 07:00 am~ 19-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Chef Life: Avi Bitton (Israeli Chef)
07:39	Am	Oboist and His Life
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Well-Trained Elephants
08:37	Am	Myanmar Betels
08:53	Am	Dengue Fever
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabai Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi
09:38	Am	Karaweik Palace- A Symbol Of Glorious Myanma Culture
09:53	Am	Let's Enjoy Fish Crispy
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Orchid Lover
10:35	Am	School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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	A Glance At A Naga Family Life
07:45	Pm	Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
07:52	Pm	Coin Collectors
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts
08:55	Pm	Orphanage

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

(18-11-2015, Wednesday)

- 6:20 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:40 am
- Fashion Show
- 7:00 am
- TV Drama Series
- 7:45 am
- TV Drama Series
- 8:30 am
- Musical Programme
- 8:45 am
- Catch Asia News (Part-17)
- 8:55 am
- Orchestra Concert Myanmar
- 9:00 am
- Myanmar Video (Black & White)
- 12:00 noon
- Close Down

Permanent A-bomb exhibit opens at UN office in Vienna

VIENNA — The UN Office at Vienna put on permanent display from Tuesday objects and photos related to the horror of nuclear weapons to push for their elimination, with this year marking the 70th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Similar permanent exhibits

are being held at the UN headquarters in New York and the UN Office at Geneva.

The four objects exhibited in Vienna include a blistered roof tile and a small bowl in which glass has melted that were collected after the Japanese cities were devastated by the atomic bombings in World War II. Visitors can also

see photos of the two cities shortly after the bombings. One photo of Hiroshima shows a building that later came to be called the Atomic Bomb Dome left standing amid the devastation.

Around 55,000 people, including children, annually tour the UN Office at Vienna, which also houses the International Atomic

Energy Agency and a commission preparing for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty's entry into force.

"We hope to convey the importance of nuclear disarmament that should transcend generations and races," said an official of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organisations in Vienna, which helped to arrange

the exhibit. The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, and the second on Nagasaki three days later. Around 210,000 people are estimated to have died from the attacks by the end of 1945. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15 that year, bringing World War II to an end.—*Kyodo News*

Myanmar's table tennis umpires to take part in int'l championships

Maung Sein Lwin

A TOTAL of 33 Myanmar trainees attended the international umpire course jointly conducted by the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) in 2014 – however only three passed the course, which finished last year.

“Myanmar Table Tennis Federation can assign umpires to international championships. We expect more trainees will pass the upcoming training courses,” said the vice president of ASEAN Table Tennis Federation and

MTTF President U Kyaw Kyaw. Police Captain Daw Thuza Lwin of the Transnational Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force, U Phone Myint and U Kyon Hayin Mann have received the certificates of international table tennis umpiring from ITTF.

The MTTF will send Daw Thuza Lwin to discharge duty of umpire in the table tennis event of the Para SEA Games, which will be held in Singapore in December.

MTTF is making arrangements with ITTF for the holding of the second table tennis umpire course in 2016.



Three trainees who passed umpiring course of International Table Tennis Federation seen with certificates. PHOTO: MIN HTET

Myanmar U-21 team to meet with HAGL U-21, South Korean U-19



Head coach Eric Williams gives training to players of Myanmar U-21 team. PHOTO: MFF

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar Football Federation released the finalists of the Myanmar U-21 team which will take part in the International U-21 Football Tournament Youth Newspaper Cup 2015 in Vietnam.

Myanmar is in the same group as Hoang Anh Gia Lai U-21 team of Vietnam and South Korea's U-19 team. Myanmar will play its first match against HAGL U-21 team on 20 November and the South Korean youth team on 22 November.

The Myanmar team has been

formed with goalkeepers Phone Thitsa Min and Hsan Hset Naing, defenders Htaik Htaik Aung, Thein Zaw, Naing Lin Tun, Nan Wai Min, Ye Yint Aung and Soe Moe Tun, midfielders Myo Ko Tun, Yan Naing Oo, Swan Htet Aung, Kyaw Zeya, Maung Maung Lwin, Hlaing Myo Aung, Zin Phyto Aung and Aung Moe Thu, forwards: Than Zaw Hein, Maung Maung Soe, Than Paing and Shine Thura.

The players are under the training of head coach Eric Williams, assistant coach U Nyi Nyi Latt and goalkeeping coach U Yin Min Aung.

Messi back in training five days before 'Clasico'

MADRID — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi was back in training on Monday five days before the La Liga leaders play at second-placed Real Madrid in the first of the season's two 'Clasicos'.

Messi has not featured since sustaining a knee injury at the end of September, depriving the Spanish and European champions of their talisman and top scorer.

Barca have performed well in the Argentina captain's absence, however, with Uruguay striker Luis Suarez and, especially, Brazil forward Neymar in fine form.

“The session included Leo Messi, who is continuing his recovery from the left knee injury he picked up on Sept. 26,” Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es).

Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic, sidelined since damaging a calf muscle in the Champions League Group E game at home to BATE Borisov on Nov. 4, was also back in training, they added.

With 11 matches played, Barca, who are chasing a sixth La Liga title in eight years, lead Real by three points, with Atletico Madrid a further point behind in third. —Reuters

Brief encounters as Murray and Nadal post easy wins

MIXING the top eight players in London for the ATP's grand finale should be a recipe for thrilling fare but a large crowd were again left short-changed on Monday with Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka the biggest disappointment.

Wawrinka, who produced arguably the year's standout performance when he beat Novak Djokovic in the French Open final, appeared at times to be going through the motions against Rafa Nadal in the night session at the ATP World Tour Finals.

Rushing through points and spraying 35 unforced errors, world number four Wawrinka, who lost an epic semi-final here last year to Roger Federer, collapsed to a 6-3, 6-2 defeat.

In the day's earlier Ilie Nastase Group match, home favourite and world number two Andy Murray was at least made to scrap for his 6-4, 6-4 win over dogged

Spaniard David Ferrer.

With Djokovic hammering Japan's Kei Nishikori on Sunday and Federer cruising past Tomas Berdych it means 14 of the last 16 group matches at the prestigious and much-hyped season finale, have been won in straight sets.

“I don't know. Was just a really bad day at the office. Many little things that weren't good today,” 30-year-old Wawrinka, who is guaranteed \$167,000 just for showing up, told reporters when asked about his performance.

“It's a really bad match. Bad behaviour in the second set. Things weren't too great about myself.”

“Just disappointed in general. Everything went wrong. Just everything went the wrong way. Simple.”

While Wawrinka was poor, it was another positive step for Nadal as he tries to rediscover the kind of form that delivered 14 grand

slam titles and the world number one ranking.

Things did not start well when he lost his opening service game to love, but he replied immediately in similar fashion and moved 5-3 ahead when his opponent blazed a forehand wide.

He failed to convert any of the seven break points a rattled Wawrinka offered up at the start of the second set and then saved two himself in the next game, one with a stunning lob.

Wawrinka then crumbled.

“Every day for me now is an opportunity to enjoy on court, enjoy the competition, something that I missed for moments this year,” Nadal, who fell to 10th in the rankings during a miserable summer, said.

With Murray up next on Wednesday, however, Nadal played down expectations that he could yet end a below-par year with his first ATP Tour Finals title,

having twice been runner-up.

“I won the first match, that's all. I cannot think about that, seriously.”

Murray, despite having one eye on next week's Davis Cup final in Belgium, definitely looks capable of claiming the title and complete the hat-trick of Wimbledon, Olympic gold and Tour Finals in his home city.

The 28-year-old's preparations have been geared towards a claycourt in Ghent rather than the indoor surface at the O2 Arena, but he still toyed with Ferrer at times.

Murray, who already boasted a career-best 68 wins this season coming into the tournament, saved a break point in the opening game and then settled into his groove.

He could not capitalise on three break points in the eighth game but was gifted the opening set with a Ferrer double fault — one of eight the Spaniard produced.—Reuters