



President U Thein Sein pledges peaceful, smooth transition at ASEAN Summit

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HUGE LANDSLIDE KILLS 30

More deaths feared at loose soil collapse in Hpakant

Aye Min Soe

AT least 30 dead bodies were retrieved from a landslide site and more are missing after a giant amount of dump soil from a jade mine collapsed around 3 am yesterday.

"The information we got from local authorities as of 2 PM is that eighteen bodies have been recovered and one victim rushed to hospital," said U Htein Lin Aung, the head of Kachin State Public Relations and Information Department, to the *Global New Light of Myanmar*.

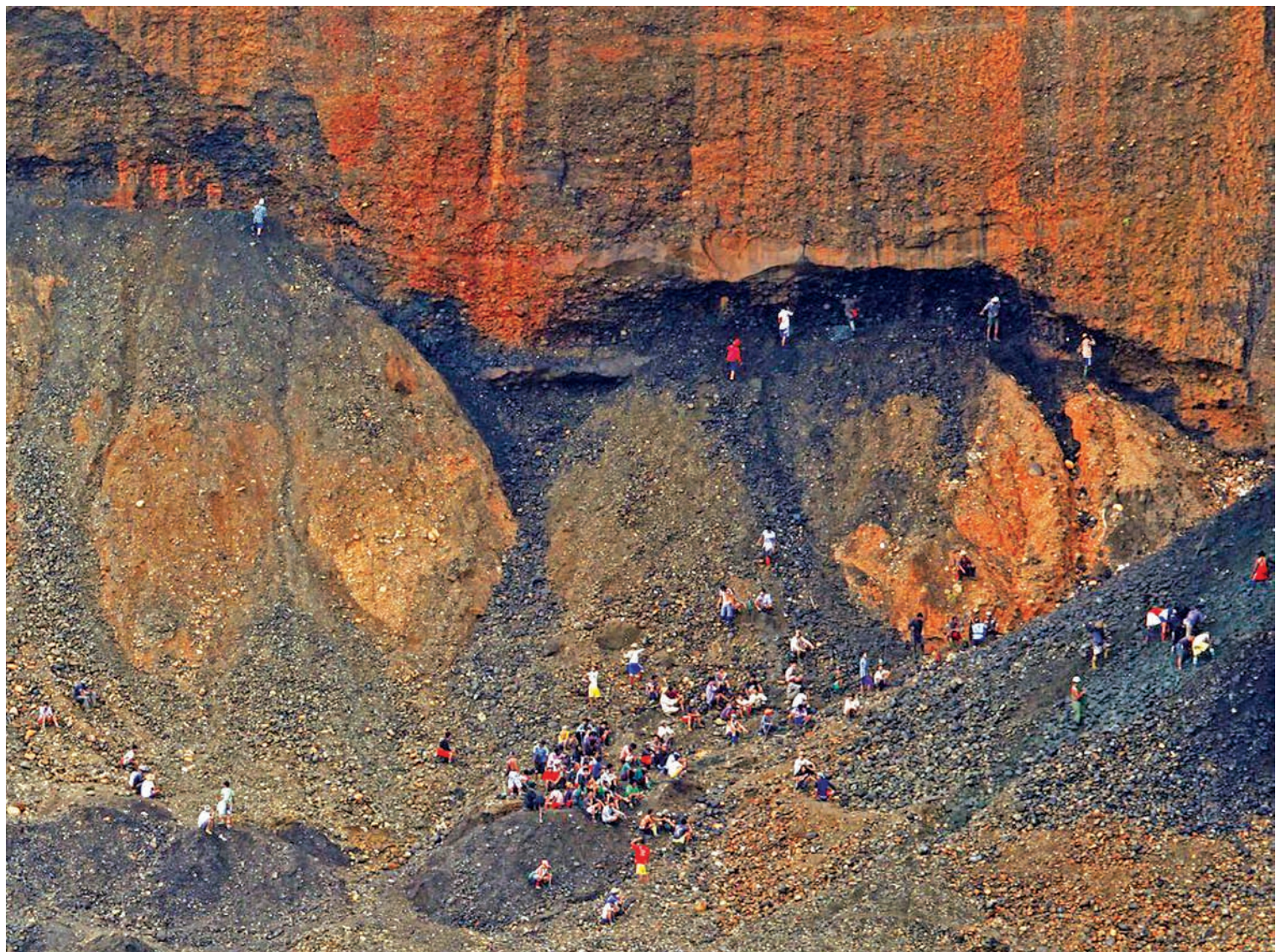
The landslide occurred next to the mountain of dump soil which is about 200 ft high, measuring around 200 ft x 300 ft. 70 huts were buried in which miners were sleeping.

"Just five huts escaped the landslide. The death toll may reach more than 100" said a resident.

Rescue work is being carried out by local authorities, military men from local regiments and residents, he added.

The death toll from the accident is increasing, reaching nearly 30 in the evening, according the Skynet broadcast media.

Migrant small-scale miners were searching for jade in piles of waste soil on the mountainside.



Hand-pickers search for jade through rubble dumped by mining companies at a jade mine in Hpakant, Kachin State in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

16 party representatives selected to be included in UPDJC

Ye Khaung Nyunt & Myat Thandar Maung

SIXTEEN party representatives were selected from 91 political parties at a meeting in Yangon yesterday to be included in the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee which will lead political dialogues.

The meeting at the Yangon Region Government was attended by 220 representatives from political parties and delegates from ethnic armed groups.

Four representatives and four

advisers from 55 ethnic parties and three representatives and four advisers from political parties from the mainland were selected by vote.

The four members representing 55 political parties are U Min Ngwe Soe from All Mon Democracy Party, U Zaw Than Myint from Federal Union party, U Ngai Sark from Chin Democracy League party and U Mann Aung Pyai Soe from Salon-Sawaw Democratic party while the four from 36 political parties in mainland are U Thu Wai from Democratic

Party Myanmar, U Khin Maung Swe from the National Democratic Force and U Myo Nyunt from Democracy and Peace party.

Nine members were selected directly without voting. Among them, two are from the National League for Democracy, two from the Union Solidarity Development Party, one from Arakan National Party, one from Shan nationalities League for Democracy, one from United Nationalities Alliance-UNA, one from Federal Democracy party and one from Nationalities Brotherhood Feder-

ation.

Sixteen each were chosen from the government, ethnic armed groups and political parties. All members have been invited to form the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee to lead political dialogues.

A framework for political dialogues will be drafted within 60 days after the UPDJC is formed. Meetings for drafting the framework for political dialogue are expected to start before 14 December 2015, according to the timeline of the ceasefire terms. Political dia-

logue is expected to start before 14 January, as it must begin within 90 days after the political framework is signed by the UPDJC.

The Myanmar government and eight ethnic armed groups agreed at the first committee meeting on October 31 that both sides would meet certain requirements within the 30 days after the signing of the NCA on 15 October.

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

Union Civil Service Head attends ASEAN Conference

CHAIRMAN of the Union Civil Service Board U Kyaw Thu arrived back from Malaysia Thursday after participating in an ASEAN Conference on the Civil Service from 18 to 19 November.

During the two-day conference experts discussed work practices and services for the ASEAN civil service departments under the two titles "Towards an ASEAN Citizen—Centric Civil Service" and "ASEAN Civil Service: Where Are We AT".

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, the former international trade and industry minister who was a speaker at an Asean civil service conference in the Malaysian capital today said civil servants in the 10 ASEAN nations should work together in solving matters to increase efficiency internationally.

ASEAN groups Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Myanmar delegation, led by U Kyaw Thu, attended the meeting of the heads of civil service of ASEAN, Networking Session and Gallery Walk on 17 November in Malaysia.

He signed the Putrajaya Joint Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Priorities towards an ASEAN Citizen-Centric Civil Service for civil service reform and greater people-centric engagement along with other ASEAN heads of civil service.—GNLM

New Myanmar Aquariums under construction in Yangon



A poster shows a conceptual design of a new aquariums. PHOTO: (SOE WIN-MLA)

A NEW Myanmar Aquariums centre is being constructed on Natmauk Road by Royal Lake in Yangon. The aquarium, designed by Singapore's Surbana, is being built by the Department of Fisheries and the Myanmar Aquariums Company Ltd with the approval of

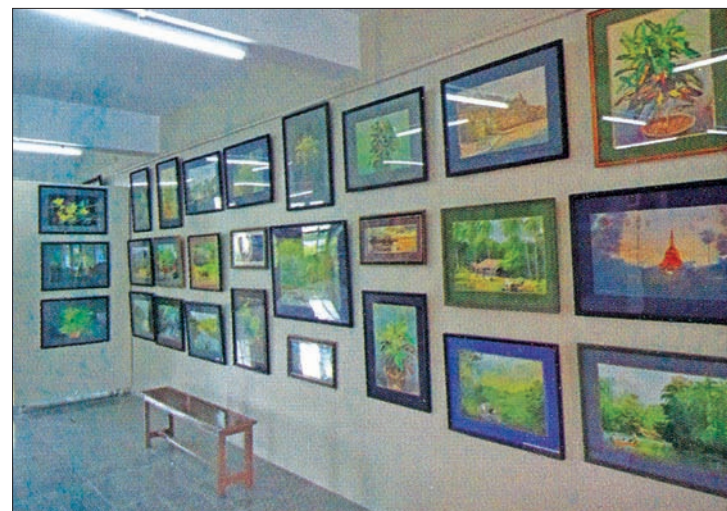
Yangon regional government.

The site is located on a five acre plot with construction beginning in 2014. The site employs over 100 construction workers including engineers from abroad. The new international two-and-a-half-story aquarium will showcase

salt and seawater fish, according to a DF official. The fish will be sourced from abroad as well as locally. The old aquarium had only fresh water fish.

The new aquariums will be able to accommodate over 3000 visitors a day.—(Soe Win-MLA)

Ayeyarwun shows collection of old and contemporary arts



Paintings of art masters are being displayed at Ayeyarwun Gallery. PHOTO: MNA

AN art gallery displaying old and contemporary works opened on Ayeyarwun Road in Dagon Seikkan Township yesterday.

"Ayeyarwun Gallery" has been established with the aim of becoming a gathering place for the country's old and new generations of artists to facilitate communication and mutual respect,

said U Saw Hlaing, an art master, who was present at the opening ceremony.

The gallery is located at No. 903904 in U Ba Kyi Lane in Ayeyarwun Road in Ward 58, Dagon Seikkan Township.

Several known art masters formally opened the gallery.—Myanmar News Agency

Students of Mandalay BEHS No 26 using Skype for language training

STUDENTS of No 26 Basic Education High School in Chanmyathazi Township held talks on the benefits of environmental conservation with students from Japan's elementary school in Kitakyushu city by use of Skype, the online video communication program, on Friday.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung Mung gave opening remarks while the IGES Section Director Ms Masako of Kitakyushu, Japan spoke words of thanks.

The mayor and officials inspected the greening tasks of the students of BEHS No 26.

During the Skype meeting, Japanese students introduced themselves and recounted their experiences of sanitation tasks in Japan and their efforts in growing plants at their schools. Myanmar students spoke about the creation of small parks with the use of waste materials to benefit the environment.

—Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Teachers in Meikhtila receive skills for information and communication technology. PHOTO: CHAN THAR

ICT training course run for education personnel of Meikhtila

A COURSE on Basic ICT Training for education personnel was opened in Meikhtila, Mandalay Region, on Friday. The course is run by the Department of Basic Education, the Ministry of Education and UNESCO. The course was conducted at the town's No 5 Basic Education High School.

The training course is aimed at enhancing the teaching skills of educators. They will be able to develop their knowledge of English and mathematics by using the internet.

The four-day course is attended by 40 senior education officials of the Meikhtila, Mahlaing, Pywebwe and Tharsi townships. The course was taught by Assistant Director U Khin Maung Kyaw of the Department of Basic Education and other project officials.

Similar courses have been held in schools in Myingyan and NyaugOo townships in Mandalay Region, Mon State, and Bago Region, according to a ministry official.—Chan Thar

President U Thein Sein pledges peaceful, smooth transition at ASEAN Summit

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein pledged that his administration will work towards a peaceful and smooth transition of power, honouring the election results while addressing the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

The country held its open general elections on 8 November.

In his address, the President thanked the ASEAN member countries involved in providing relief to the victims of flooding in Myanmar.

He vowed that Myanmar is committed to becoming a valued member of the ASEAN Community and will work towards ASEAN's vision of a cooperative,

closely tied region.

Hailing the adoption of the 70th United Nations General Assembly's resolution on Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, the President said that he hopes that regional nuclear powers will show a willingness to add additional protocols to the treaty.

The President gave an account of the nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and eight ethnic armed organisations.

In his address, the President strongly denounced the terror attacks that occurred in Bangkok, Paris and Mali that killed scores of civilians.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Heads of ASEAN countries pose for a documentary photo at the 27th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 November 2015. PHOTO: MNA



President U Thein Sein attends the 27th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 November, 2015. PHOTO: MNA

President U Thein Sein attends ASEAN Summits

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein attended the 18th ASEAN-China Summit, the 13th ASEAN-India Summit, the 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and the 3rd ASEAN-US Summit in Malaysia.

Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohammad Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak and Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang delivered addresses at the 18th ASEAN-China Summit held at Conference Hall-1 of Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi addressed the 13th ASEAN-India Summit.

The 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit was held in the evening, with the Malaysian PM, President Ms Park Geun-hye, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzō Abe and the Chinese Premier addressing the summit.

Leaders from ASEAN also met the East Asia Business Council at the Conference Hall-3.

President U Thein Sein and ASEAN leaders held talks with President of the United States Mr Barack Obama at the 3rd ASEAN-US Summit held at Conference Hall-1.

Together with leaders of ASEAN and dialogue partners, the President also attended a dinner hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister and his wife at the Convention Centre.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar signs ASEAN convention against human trafficking

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein signed a key convention against human trafficking in Malaysia yesterday, demonstrating Myanmar's commitment to protecting the victims of trafficking, particularly women and children.

The signing ceremony of the Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children-ACTIP written by the 10 ASEAN members was held at the Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The leaders stressed that victims of trafficking, mainly wom-

en and children, have the fundamental right to be protected in accordance with international law and relevant international conventions.

After the ceremony, President U Thein Sein attended a luncheon hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohammad Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, held in honour of ASEAN leaders.

Recognising the need and urgency to address the issue of human trafficking in the region, the ASEAN leaders during the 18th ASEAN Summit in Indone-

sia, 2011 tasked the ministers in charge of transnational crimes to consider an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons.

The convention establishes a legal framework for the region to effectively address the issue of trafficking in persons.

ACTIP's objectives among others are to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children; ensure just and effective punishment for convicted traffickers, to protect and assist human trafficking victims with full respect for

their human rights and promote cooperation among the relevant parties in order to meet the outlined objectives.

ACTIP is the second convention endorsed by ASEAN following the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, which was signed by the ASEAN leaders in Cebu, Philippines on 13 January, 2007.

The 10 members of ASEAN are Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Katha harbour moved temporarily due to emerging sand banks — Sagaing Region

THE harbour of Katha, Sagaing Region, has been temporarily moved to a more suitable Ayeyawaddy river bank as sand banks have surfaced in the old harbour, said a jetty official.

The new harbour, near the town's Martyrs' Monument, will be more convenient for the docking of ships, cargo transportation and for jetty workers and travelers, he added. The reason for sand banks appearing, he said, was erosion, littering in the river, cargo ships/boats which surpass the limit speed and the extracting of river sands for commercial purposes.

The busy Katha harbour is a crucial port where cargo ships stop in on the way to upper Kachin State. The sand banks in the middle of the river become large plantations during the post monsoon season due to the rich fertilizing silt. —(Ngwe Aoe-Katha)



A cargo ship docks at the old harbour in Katha. PHOTO: (NGWE AOE-KATHA)

Gold exports draft submitted to commerce ministry

Ko Moe

EXPORTING gold from Myanmar to the international market is still being considered, according to Secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

Secretary U Kyaw Win told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that the procedures for exporting gold had been discussed by association members and a draft proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Commerce.

He added that the ministry would add various procedures to the rules and regulations for the Mining Law.

The idea of permitting legal exports of gold is gaining currency, as it may curb rampant smuggling and contribute to the economy.

Use of combine harvester contributes to cultivation of cold season crops



Use of combine harvesters in Nyaunglebin brings efficiency of time and costs to farmers. PHOTO: NAY LIN

FARMERS in Hngetpyawta village, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, are now using combine harvesters to farm monsoon paddy. Locals say the shift to mechanised farming reflects a

broader trend of modernisation and greater efficiency in recent years.

"In the past we faced shortage of labour for harvesting paddy. This year, with the use of combine harvesters, we have

saved money and time," said a local farmer. He said that farmers can hire combine harvester at K50,000 per acre of paddy in Nyaunglebin Township. —Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Residents receive training in masonry work and carpentry

THE DaikU Township Rural Development Department concluded basic masonry and carpentry course 1/2015 at the monastery in Pathwe village, DaikU Township on Friday.

Head of the Bago District Rural Development Department U Aung Kyaw Moe spoke at the event. Head of Nyaunglebin Township Department U Than Lwin and Head of DaikU Town-

ship Department U Min Min Thein presented certificates, masonry and carpentry equipment to the trainees. Altogether 100 trainees attended the one-month course. —Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

500,000 Euro for Mine Victims Support

THE Government of the Federal Republic of Germany granted 500 000 Euro support to the International Red Cross Society to finance the project "ICRC – Physical Rehabilitation in Myanmar 2015. The project activities shall mostly focused on improvement of the living conditions of the affected population in Kachin State, Rakhine State and Shan State, according to the press release issued by the German Embassy in Yangon on 18 November.

On the one hand gadgets for the disabled are provided to help them master their daily life a lot easier and to open up new chances for them in their follow-

ing personal and professional life. Prosthetic feet, support to rehabilitation centers, physiotherapy and other assistive devices are part of the support given by the German Government.

What needs to be mentioned additionally is the immaterial help that can be continued using the funds. Mine victims can attend first-aid workshops, sport activities, courses on security within mine-dominated areas and social reintegration programs. By supporting such a broadly based project the German Government hopes to ensure security and a brighter future for both the victims and their families.—GNLM

Thai delegation visits livelihoods project in Shan State

A THAI delegation led by General Niwat Meenayothin, assistant to the justice minister, arrived in Myanmar yesterday to attend the International Conference on Alternative Development-2 (ICAD-2).

The delegation will carry out its work in Yaungkha village, Monghsat Township in Shan State. The project covers transport, health, education, clean water supply, livestock breeding, agriculture and electrification. Vocational development projects will also be launched in in Monghsat and Tachilek districts.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe spoke

about the necessity of implementing alternative development projects in border areas to raise living standards. The delegation members visited the project area in Yaungkha village prior to returning to Thailand.

Myanmar's Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board signed the first MoU on alternative development vocational project in Thailand in 2012. The project has been implemented in Tachilek and Monghsat districts in Shan State and Yenangyoung Township in Magway Region. —Myanmar News Agency

Malaysia urges world leaders to confront Islamist extremists

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak called on world leaders to confront Islamist extremism, saying its “barbaric acts” do not represent any race or religion, as he opened a regional summit overshadowed by a spate of attacks around the globe.

Islamist militants killed 19 people in an attack on a hotel in Mali on Friday before Malian commandos stormed the building and rescued 170 people, many of them foreigners. This came a week after Islamic State militants killed 129 people in coordinated attacks in Paris.

“The perpetrators of these cowardly and barbaric acts do not

represent any race, religion or creed, nor should we allow them to claim to do so,” Najib said in his opening speech at the ASEAN summit.

“They are terrorists and should be confronted as such, with the full force of the law.”

Malaysia has deployed extraordinary security measures around Kuala Lumpur as leaders from 18 countries, including US President Barack Obama, arrived for a pair of weekend summits.

Obama said yesterday the Mali hotel attacks only stiffened the resolve of the United States and its allies, which would be relentless in fighting those targeting its citizens and would allow mili-

tants no safe haven.

“With allies and partners, the United States will be relentless to those who target our citizens,” Obama said in opening remarks to ASEAN business executives. “We will continue to root out terrorist networks. We will not allow these killers to have a safe haven.”

Most of the leaders arrived from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Manila.

Both the APEC meeting and the ASEAN summit typically focus on economic issues but have been overshadowed by the terrorist attacks.

Najib said he had intended to open the summit to talk about an

economic community that the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations intends to launch in a region of 622 million people with a combined economic output of \$2.5 trillion.

“But the events of recent days and weeks have cast a shadow over us all,” he said.

He said predominantly Islamic countries such as Malaysia have a duty to expose as lies the “ideology propagated by these extremists that is the cause of this sadistic violence.”

Malaysia has announced it is setting up a “counter-terrorism” messaging centre using social media and other messaging tools.—Reuters



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak delivers a speech at the opening of the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 21 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Abe says good ties with China, S Korea boon for ASEAN

KUALA LUMPUR — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday raised expectations that a recent improvement in Tokyo’s relations with China and South Korea will serve as a major boon for other parts of Asia.

“I am hoping that the normalization of the Japan-China-South Korea process will lead to a further advancement of

ASEAN-plus-three cooperation,” Abe said at a meeting he attended with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, South Korean President Park Geun-hye and their counterparts from Southeast Asian countries.

Since a rare meeting three weeks ago, it is the first time that Abe, Li and Park have sat down together, this time with the lead-

ers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur.

In a more promising sign of thawing in Japan’s relations with China and South Korea, the three leaders agreed in Seoul to revive an annual trilateral summit after a three-and-half year hiatus.

At that time, Abe, Li and

Park, who gathered together for the first time, were saying that good cooperation among the three countries is a prerequisite for Asia’s more robust growth along with the 10-member ASEAN.

Japan will be the chair of the three-way framework next year and co-host meetings between the three countries and ASEAN.

Among other issues, during the meeting in the Malaysian capital, the leaders were scheduled to call for an early conclusion of talks toward forming a huge free trade zone, called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, involving the 13 countries, Australia, India and New Zealand, officials said.—Kyodo News

China, India have more common interests than divergences: Li

China, India have more common interests than divergences: Li

KUALA LUMPUR — Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said here yesterday that China and India — the world’s two largest developing countries — have more common interests than divergences.

Li made the remarks when meeting with his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, on the sidelines of a series of leaders’ meetings on East Asian cooperation.

China and India boosting mutual trust and cooperation will not only achieve win-win results, but

also contribute to the peace, development and prosperity of Asia and the world at large, said Li.

Citing China’s “Made in China 2025” and “Internet Plus” drives and India’s “Make in India” and “Digital India” programmes, Li pointed out that the two countries have compatible development strategies and bilateral cooperation enjoys bright prospects.

China, he said, also stands ready to join hands with India to beef up cooperation in trade and investment, infrastructure con-

struction and financial services, and broaden people-to-people exchanges, so as to further consolidate public support for bilateral relations. Meanwhile, China is willing to work with India to strive for “early harvests” in the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, he added.

Beijing, he said, also looks forward to strengthening coordination with New Delhi on multilateral affairs and jointly tackling terrorism and other global challenges.

Speaking highly of the development of India-China ties, Modi said his country is willing to work with China to implement the consensus the two sides have reached and deepen cooperation in such areas as trade and economy, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges, so as to make new progress in bilateral cooperation and promote Asian and global economic growth. The two leaders also compared notes on global and regional affairs of common concern.—Xinhua

Fertility aid, loans for single parents eyed to revive Japan society

TOKYO — The government is drawing up measures to help revitalize Japanese society that includes expanded financial aid for fertility treatment and loan programmes for single-parent households, sources close to the matter said yesterday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is promoting “dynamic engagement of all citizens” to address the nation’s aging population and lower birthrates while struggling to keep the economy on a recovery path.

A panel of ministers and experts on such issues is expected to agree on the policy measures next week, the sources said.

In an attempt to raise the birthrate for couples hoping to have children, the government

plans to raise subsidies for women receiving fertility treatment and newly allow the cost of surgery for men to be covered by the programme.

On assistance for single-parent homes, the government is considering setting up a loan scheme as well as increasing childcare allowances.

Abe is focusing on reforming Japan’s welfare system to make it easier for people to raise children or care for the elderly while working.

The policy package could also involve setting up more nursing homes operated by public interest corporations and raising benefits for those taking family-care leave.—Kyodo News

India unveils road map for phasing out corporate tax exemptions

MUMBAI — India has unveiled details of its plan to phase out some tax exemptions for companies as the government looks to simplify tax laws and make them transparent before it lowers the tax rate.

Over four years, the government plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 25 percent from 30 percent, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his budget speech in February. During that period, exemptions and deductions will be phased out.

Profit-linked, investment-linked and area-based deductions will be phased out for both corporate and non-corporate tax payers, according to a document posted on the tax office’s website late on Friday.

For tax incentives with no set

date of termination, the government will set 31 March, 2017 as the so-called sunset date, the tax office said. This will apply to development, operation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities, development of special economic zones as well as commercial production of natural gas and mineral blocks, according to the document.

Gokul Chaudhri, head of the direct tax practice at BMR & Associates LLP in New Delhi, said the industry “would have” hoped for a lengthened and staggered phase-out of incentives, especially for capital-intensive and long-term projects in fields such as power and upstream oil and gas.

The government has asked for stakeholder comments on the proposals within 15 days.—Reuters

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India blocks visits by US officials despite warmer ties

WASHINGTON — Despite a much-heralded fresh start in US-India ties under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a diplomatic source said on Friday the United States has run into problems arranging visits by two senior officials, recalling a diplomatic spat that soured relations two years ago.

Washington has been seeking to send Susan Coppedge, its newly appointed anti-people trafficking ambassador, and Randy Berry, its special envoy for LGBT rights, to New Delhi this month.

Human trafficking has caused friction between the United States and India.

The countries also disagree on gay rights, which the Obama administration promotes, while homosexuality in India is illegal.

The source, who did not want to be identified, said the visits had run into problems.

"These visits were planned, they were meant to be here around this time. But there were some is-



A man holds the flags of India and the US while people take part in the 35th India Day Parade in New York, on 16 August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

sues," the source said.

The State Department declined formal comment but a department official said the two sides were "working to coordinate the best timing."

India's Foreign Ministry did not respond to request for comment and Indian Ambassador Arun K. Singh did not offer clar-

ification when asked on Thursday about Coppedge's plan to visit, which was revealed at a 4 November congressional hearing by Kari Johnstone, principal deputy director of the State Department's trafficking office.

"We'll see," Singh told reporters. "When you ask a US official when somebody will be given

a visa, they always say 'we will assess when visa is applied for.' ... I can do no better than to reiterate the US position."

The human trafficking issue blew up in 2013 over the arrest of an Indian diplomat, Devyani Khobragade, for visa fraud and underpaying a domestic worker who was later given a US "T visa" issued to trafficking victims.

Khobragade's arrest and strip search provoked an outcry in India and the issue has festered, although US-India relations have strengthened since Modi came to power in May 2014, with both sides stressing shared strategic interests.

US officials say Indian citizens who have been issued US T visas have been subject to restrictions, including long delays in renewing passports at Indian consulates in the United States.

Between July 2014 and March 2015, the crackdown was harsher, with authorities at Indian airports confiscating at least

20 passports stamped with US T visas confiscated. This prevented trafficking victims who went home to collect their families from returning to the United States.

Berry is Washington's first gay-rights ambassador and a US official said no trafficking czar had visited India for the past eight years.

The India ambassador played down the impact of the trafficking issue on US-India relations, saying these were "at a very good stage now." with two visits by Modi to the United States, and Obama becoming the first US president to visit India twice while in office.

"These are all reflections of where the relationship is headed," he said.

India was happy to work in an international framework to tackle the problem of trafficking, but rejected "unilateral assessments" of another country," he said.

"We will never accept it," he said.—Reuters

3 Chinese citizens killed in Mali hotel siege, 4 rescued



A hostage waits on a balcony for rescue at the Radisson Blu hotel, Bamako, Mali, on 20 November 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

BAMAKO — Three Chinese citizens were killed in a hostage-taking situation at a hotel in Mali's capital Bamako, the Chinese Embassy confirmed to Xinhua on Friday.

Four other Chinese citizens were rescued from Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako, said embassy officials.

According to Wang Yi, political counselor of the Chinese embassy in Mali, the rescued

Chinese are in stable condition.

At least 22 people were killed on Friday after Malian forces staged a rescue mission to free hostages held by gunmen at the luxury hotel in Bamako.

There were no more hostages held at Radisson Blu hotel, said security minister Salif Traore, hours after gunmen stormed the hotel and held 170 people hostage, many of them foreigners.

But security sources said Malian forces were in the process of securing the hotel as gunmen were still holding out inside the seven-storey building.

Security sources said two attackers had been killed, but it remained unknown if the attackers were among the 22.

The rescue operation by Malian special forces received support from MINUSMA, the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, US and French troops.

The gunmen entered the hotel, which houses 190 rooms and sheltered 140 people of different nationalities, on a car with diplomatic plate, said Traore.

Some hostages succeeded in escaping by their own means while the majority of them were rescued by the special forces.

Jihadist Al-Murabitoun group based in northern Mali has claimed responsibility for the hotel attack.

The group was also responsible for a shooting attack on a restaurant popular with foreigners in Bamako on 7 March this year, which killed five people and wounded nine others.—Xinhua

Japan gains observer status ahead of return to UN Security Council

NEW YORK — Representatives of Japan began attending UN Security Council meetings on Friday, the first day of the country's observer status eligibility six weeks ahead of its record 11th term as a non-permanent member.

Japan's deputy ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura was among those who sat in on the day's addresses by UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon and Security Council member states on issues such as UN peacekeeping operations around the world.

"(The meetings) gave me a strong feeling that we must take various sides into account as we deal with the world's conflicts and the challenges of instituting peace and stability," Okamura said.

"I am humbled by the thought of the work ahead."

Per Security Council custom, newly elected member states are granted up to six weeks of full access to meetings and closed-door consulta-

tions as observers, without the ability to make statements or cast votes.

Japan, whose last stint on the council ended in 2010, was elected unopposed to the council's Asia-Pacific region seat in October for a two-year term beginning in January.

The other non-permanent members elected at that time are Egypt and Senegal from Africa, Uruguay representing Latin America and Ukraine for Eastern Europe.

The Security Council has five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — as well as five other non-permanent members that remain through next year — Angola, New Zealand, Spain, Malaysia and Venezuela.

Japan is pushing for Security Council reform along with Germany, Brazil and India, with each nation aspiring to permanent membership in an expanded council.—Kyodo News

ASEAN women's involvement in conflict prevention, peace building remain limited

KUALA LUMPUR — The involvement of women from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in conflict prevention and peace building still remained limited, Le Luong Minh, the secretary general of the bloc, said here Friday.

Le Luong Minh made the remarks on the occasion of launch-

ing the Report of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Workshop on Strengthening the Participation of Women in Peace Process and Conflict Resolution. The launching of the report came one day ahead of the 27th summit of ASEAN to be held here Saturday and Sunday with the theme "Our people, Our

Community, Our Vision."

The secretary general recalled that the United Nations Security Council in October 2015 held a high-level review of women's participation in peace and security to renew the international community's commitment to increasing women's participation in conflict prevention and peace building.

But such efforts from ASEAN remain limited as reviewed by the AIPR workshop, he noted.

To meet the challenges, the AIPR has come out with concrete recommendations to get more women involved in peace process, including establishing peace network for ASEAN women, setting up training courses for women ne-

gotiators and participants working for peace, developing knowledge on the subject, and exploring partnership between UN, AIPR and women in peace and security.

"We appreciate AIPR's implementation of its mandate which can benefit all of us from ASEAN," the secretary general added.—Xinhua

Obama administration asks top court to revive immigration plan

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Friday asked the US Supreme Court to revive President Barack Obama's executive action to protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation, saying Republican-led states had no legal basis to challenge it.

Exactly a year to the day after Obama announced the plan, the Justice Department formally appealed a 2-1 decision on 9 November by the New Orleans-based 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals that affirmed a lower court's February decision to halt it.

If the appeals court ruling is left in place, millions of people would "continue to work off the books, without the option of lawful employment to provide for their families," Solicitor General Donald Verrilli said in the filing to the nine justices.

Obama's executive order would let up to 4.7 million illegal immigrants live in the United States without the threat of deportation. It was directed at people

with no criminal records whose children are US citizens.

Verrilli wrote that the Supreme Court should hear the case because the appeals court "upheld an unprecedented nationwide injunction against implementing a federal immigration enforcement policy of great national importance."

If left intact, the ruling would "allow states to frustrate the federal government's enforcement of the nation's immigration laws," Verrilli added.

The legal challenge was made by 26 Republican-governed states led by Texas that contend Obama overstepped his presidential powers by bypassing the Republican-led Congress and acting unilaterally.

The states have no legal standing to sue the US government over decisions on how to enforce federal laws, the administration said in its appeal.

A spokesman for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said

the state will "continue defending the rule of law" against "the president's unconstitutional use of executive power."

The administration had said on 10 November that it planned an appeal. The justices will consider whether to hear the case once they receive responses from the states, due within 30 days.

If they hear the dispute, it would become one of the centerpiece cases of the court's term that runs through June, along with a challenge to a restrictive Texas abortion law. Two hours after the appeal was lodged, dozens of immigration advocates rallied in front of the Supreme Court building, chanting in English and Spanish and waving placards. One read, "Children have the right to be with their parents."

Separately, the appeals court on Thursday allowed three illegal immigrant women from Texas to participate in the case in support of the administration.

Obama's executive order,



An audience member holds up an anti-refugee sign during a campaign rally with US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Worcester, Massachusetts on 18 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

which came after a bipartisan immigration policy overhaul bill passed by the Senate died in the House of Representatives, expanded a programme first launched in 2012 that deferred deportation for immigrants brought to the United States as children.

The immigration issue has driven a wedge between Hispanics, a voting bloc with rising clout, and Republicans, many of whom take a hard line against illegal immigrants. Most of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants are Hispanic.—Reuters

UN Security Council adopts resolution on preventing IS attacks

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council adopted a resolution here on Friday, calling on all countries to coordinate efforts to prevent further terrorist attacks by the Islamic State (IS) and similar groups.

The unanimously-adopted resolution calls upon member states that have the capacity to do so to "take all necessary measures" to "redouble and coordinate their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts" committed by IS and other terrorist groups.

The resolution "unequivocally condemns in the strongest terms" the horrifying IS terrorist attacks in Sousse, Ankara, Sinai, Beirut and Paris, and other attacks including hostage-taking and killing, terming "all such acts of terrorism as a threat to peace and security."

It also expresses sympathy

to the people and governments of Tunisia, Turkey, Russia, Lebanon and France, and to all governments whose citizens were targeted in the above mentioned attacks and all other victims of terrorism.

IS has been conducting terrorist acts in different countries. The most recent ones that have shocked the world are the Paris attacks which took place on last Friday, in which about 130 people were killed and many more were injured.

Francois Delattre, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, speaks after UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling on all countries to coordinate efforts to prevent further terrorist attacks by the Islamic State (IS) and similar groups, at the UN headquarters in New York, 20 November 2015.—Xinhua



The United Nations Security Council vote on a resolution on counterterrorism at the UN headquarters in New York, on 20 November. PHOTO: XINHUA

Brussels metro shut as Belgian capital put on maximum alert

BRUSSELS — Belgium raised the alert status for its capital Brussels to the highest level on Saturday, shutting the metro and warning the public to avoid crowds because of a "serious and imminent" threat of an attack.

A week after the Paris attacks carried out by Islamic State militants, of whom one suspect from Brussels is at large and said by authorities to be highly dangerous, the city was placed on the top level "four" in the government's threat scale after a meeting of top ministers, police and security services.

"The advice for the population is to avoid places where a lot of people come together like shopping centres, concerts, events or public transport stations wherever possible," a spokesman for the government's crisis centre said.

He declined to say what specifically prompted the new alert.

A statement on the centre's website said it had recommended closing the underground rail network until Sunday and the municipal transport authority tweeted that stations on the four main metro lines were closed "by order of the police".

The crisis centre website said it was calling on local authorities to cancel large events, urge people to avoid crowds, postpone soccer matches, close the Brussels metro for the weekend and stepping up the military and police presence.

Suspected militant Salah Abdeslam, 26, returned home to Brussels from Paris after the attacks, when his elder brother Brahim blew himself up at a cafe.

Fears of the risk he still poses prompted the cancellation last



Belgian police officers escort students from Brussels university ULB/VUB at the occasion of the Saint Verhaegen day, the founder of the Brussels university, after security was tightened in Belgium following the fatal attacks in Paris on Friday, in Brussels, Belgium. PHOTO: REUTERS

week of an international friendly soccer match in Brussels against Spain. The crisis centre said weekend games in the top two professional divisions should now be postponed.

The alert level for the whole country was raised following the Paris attacks to level three out of four, implying a "possible or probable" threat. Previously, only certain sites, such as the US embassy, were at level three.

Belgium, and its capital in particular, have been at the centre of investigations into the Paris attacks — which included suicide bombers targeting a France-Germany soccer match — after the links to Brussels emerged. Three people detained in Brussels are facing terrorism charges.

French authorities have said

the attacks were planned in Brussels by a local man, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, 28, who fought for Islamic State in Syria and was killed in the siege of an apartment in the Paris suburb of St. Denis on Wednesday.

Salah Abdeslam, who was from the same neighbourhood and is said by officials to have known Abaaoud in prison, was pulled over three times by French police but not arrested as he was driven back to Brussels early last Saturday by two of the men now in custody. As well as Abdeslam's brother, a second man from Brussels, Bilal Hadfi, was also among the Paris suicide bombers.

The crisis centre spokesman declined to say what had led to the status change because investigations were proceeding.—Reuters

OPINION

Let's stop abusing Facebook

Myint Win Thin

FACEBOOK can be used in various ways. Some people use it only for social dealings. Some use it to advertise their businesses. Some use it to disseminate knowledge. These kinds of uses benefit the online community.

Unfortunately, some use it to spread hatred. There is no benefit in such use of it. It can even

be dangerous for society.

One of the best ways to use Facebook or indeed the internet in general is to expose injustice through it. However, only a few use it in such a way. Recently a girl of eight being abused in a house in Yangon was exposed by a facebook user.

The facebook user posted photographs of the girl being abused by a woman together with the address of the house. The police and the media rushed to rescue the girl but the child and her tormentor had already disappeared. It is expected that the police will rescue the girl and action will be taken against the abuser soon. Another facebook user posted detainees being abused in a place said to be a police station. It is also expected that authorities will take action against the abuser.

Nevertheless, it shows one of the ways to ex-

pose injustice and to use Facebook most beneficially. Facebook is an opportunity for citizen journalists to make the world a better place to live in.

Facebook users should use it to expose injustice instead of spreading hatred.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email thantunaungnlm@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

A Pleasurable Workplace Enhances Productivity and Creativity

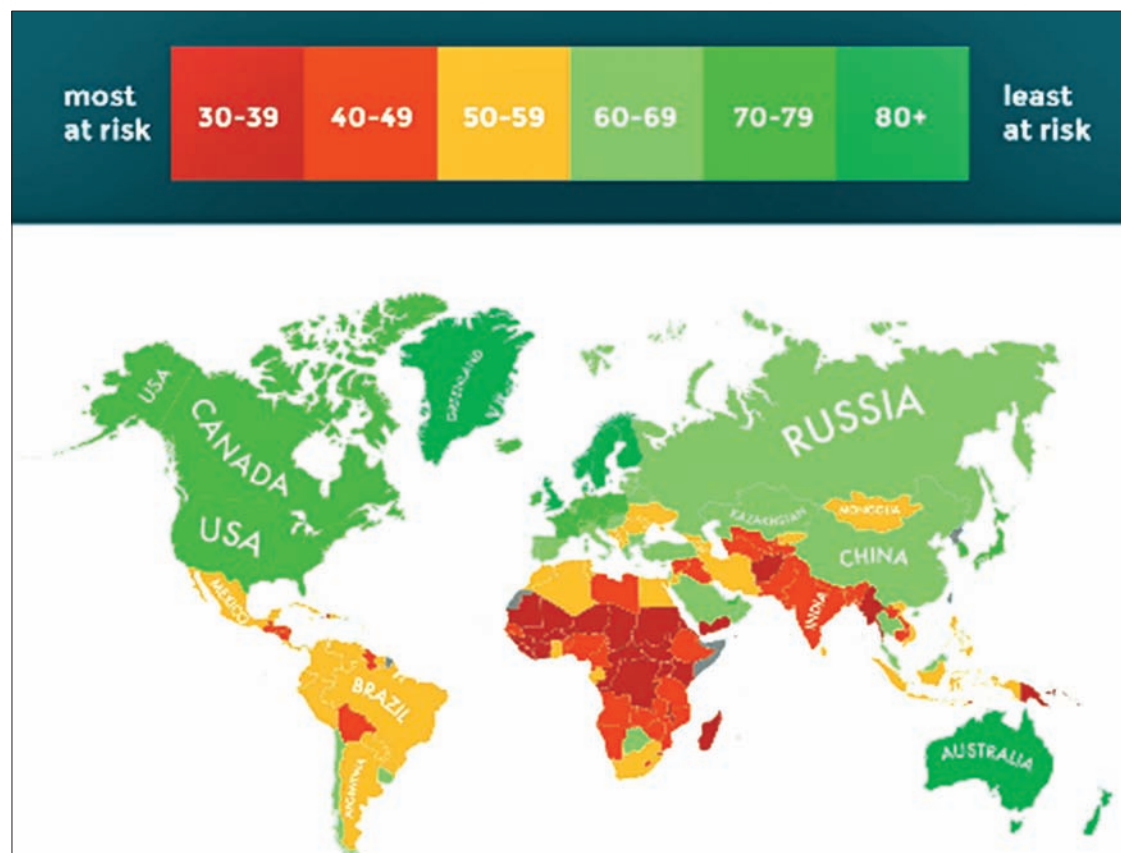
Khin Maung Myint

FROM my experience as an office worker, I came to understand the importance of a pleasurable or fun workplace. A workplace where the staffs are happy and do not have to be unnecessarily scared of the aggressive and abusive boss, is a pleasurable or a fun workplace. Happy and pressure-free persons are more creative and thus more productive than those who are under pressure and unhappy. Thus a workplace must be a place where the staffs or employees look forward to go and not to be shunned. If someone is reluctant to go to work, something is certainly wrong.

Most of the problems for causing the workplaces unpleasant are created by the bosses or superior officers. Their arrogance or lack of self-confidence compelled them to bully the subordinates, making the workplaces become unwelcoming. It is important to create a good atmosphere at the offices or workplaces so that the staffs or employees feel at ease and happy.

During my career, I had come across many officers who are bullies, inconsiderate and irresponsible to the subordinates. They could not give proper guidance to the staff but would not hesitate to blame or scold if something went wrong. In my opinion such officers lacked leadership qualities. A leader must be able to lead, guide and be a good example to the subordinates. They should be competent in their jobs and have self-confidence to be able to lead and garner the respect of those under his charge. A superior who doesn't speak openly to the face of the subordinates if they are wrong, but blame or criticize behind their backs are un-leaderlike.

Also, a superior who always find faults, but didn't give clear



briefing or guidance are selfish persons, who are trying to cover their weaknesses. Such persons would shamelessly take the credit for the achievements, which are the fruits of the teamwork of the staffs, but wouldn't hesitate to put the blame when something went wrong. Good leaders will never put the blame on the subordinates, but take the blame instead, as they are more responsible.

There are various ways to make an office or a workplace to be pleasurable and fun place for the employees. The most important is the relationship between the boss the staffs. There must be a friendly, rather than a boss-subordinate relationship all the time. Because the boss deals with the staffs in a friendly manner, the latter should not take advantage. There must be mutual respect and regards for one another. Then only the friendly workplace atmosphere would be sustainable.

Another important factor that contribute to a pleasurable workplace is mutual trust between the staffs. There should be openness. The boss should give attention to what the subordinate have to say or suggest and accept their suggestions or advices if they are plausible. The staffs too must be ready to accept the boss's decisions if they are right, although it may not agree with their suggestions or advices. However, in most un-pleasurable workplaces, I had noticed that the bosses are the ones who create the bad atmosphere. Most of the times it was their arrogance, contemptuous attitudes, bullying and rudeness towards the subordinates, born of their high positions or ranks that caused the unpleasantness. In my opinion, though they may hold high positions they are not good leaders.

Such persons are also found to please their superiors to the point of shamelessness to get undue favours and privileges. They

would press on those under their charge, but would not hesitate to go out of their way to please their superiors. Their moods changed noticeably depending on the situations or place. In front of the superiors they are meek and polite, whereas, when they faced their subordinates they turned arrogant and rude.

I had met some, who used to say as they are officers their orders must be obeyed with questioning. Such behaviours betrayed their lack of self confidence and their inferiority complexes, the two most undesirable traits for an officer to nurture. If an order is reasonable and legitimate there is no question any subordinate would disobey. However, if the orders are not reasonable or illegitimate, they would face opposition. The subordinates have every right to disobey such orders.

Thus for an establishment or an organization to be prosperous and successful, it is important to

have a pleasurable and fun workplace. Happy persons are more creative and thus more productive. Apart from the facts mentioned above there are many ways to make a workplace pleasurable. If the above mentioned can be called the mental aspects of keeping a workplace pleasurable, the followings could be termed the material aspects.

A workplace must be clean and tidy and have all the amenities needed to provide a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. In many offices during my career days, only the high ranking officers were provided with air conditioned office spaces, while the other staff members were sweating away in cramped un-airconditioned halls. It shouldn't be taken for granted that just because they hold lesser positions they are inferior. In the developing countries there are set norms where facilities are concerned, even for those at the lowest level of the hierarchy. There are rules and regulations to enforce the employers to meet those norms.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize again, the importance of maintaining pleasurable atmospheres at the workplaces. The relationship among the staffs should be based on mutual respects and regards. Goodwill grows both ways. If one gives one's goodwill but if not responded in the same way would lead to the divide or disunity. Such situations are damaging to the relationships and would not contribute to the productivity or progress of an establishment. They should be avoided at all costs. Those in the high positions should not forget that they are also employees like the other staffs. I had seen many officers became more arrogant and contemptuous as they rose in their careers. They acted as though they were absolute authoritarians. In my opinion such things are undesirable.

Hot air balloon competitions at Taungyi Tanzaungtaing Festival

THE famous hot-air balloon competitions of Taungyi Tanzaungtaing Festival started on Thursday at the Awaiya hot-air balloon square, in Taunggyi of south Shan State.

A total of 30 hot-air balloons were released on the first day of the competition. The balloons

were of various shapes, some were of two-legged and four-legged characters including a goblin.

After the day competition the night competition began with bigger hot-air balloons, which attracted many spectators. —(Maung Maung Than-Taungyi)



A team released a hot-air balloon during a competition in Taunggyi. PHOTO: KO KO NAY

Local youths attending mechanical vocational course



Young people receive mechanic skills to grasp job opportunities in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

BASIC motorcycle mechanic course 5/2015 kicked off in Nyaungbingyi Village, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday. The aim of the course is to provide education and job opportunities for local youths.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Rural Development

Department U Ko Ko Naing spoke at the event while Head of the district department U Win Myint urged the trainees to train studiously.

A total of 50 trainees from around Nyaungbingyi village are attending the training course which will run until 30 November. —Shwe Ye Yint

Demonstrations over death of two red Shan men

THE leader of the Shan Nationalities Affairs group Chairman U Sai Tun Yin and secretary U Sai San Wai together with 1500 Shan ethnic people went on demonstration marches around Zaw Jun road, Aung San road, Thakhin Nat Phay road and station road

over the death of two red Shan from Wai Khar Village, Phakant Township, Kachin State.

During the demonstration protestors marched around the town shouting slogans denouncing armed groups. —Shwe Lin Pyae Sone

Well-wishers donate houses, clothes to flood-affected peoples in Chin State

THE Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry held a ceremony to donate low-cost houses, emergency cash assistance funds and clothes to local residents at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Union Minister for the SWRR Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Deputy Minister Daw Su Su Hlaing accepted donations from wellwishers and spoke words of thanks. With the aim of rehabilitating flood-affected areas in Chin State, wellwishers at home and

abroad donated K372.96 million to purchase 84 large houses and K100.98 million for 27 small houses. Donations for clothing reached US\$306,000 and US\$100,000 in cash was delivered for the residents care of the Ministry of SWRR. —Ko Ko Nay

Mandalay Region celebrates UN Convention on child rights

A CEREMONY to mark the 26th Year Celebration of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was held at the youth training school in Mandalay on Friday.

The celebration was organised by the Mandalay Region Child Rights Committee together with Save the Children, World Vision,

NCRWG, CFN, Care, TLMM, CCT and Tdhl and the Shwe Min Thar Foundation.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economics U Aung Zan and officials of NGOs and INGOs attended the ceremony.

Daw Amara San Min of World Vision spoke on the

celebration of CRC Day.

The minister and party met children from the women's vocational training school, child nursery, school for the deaf children, World Vision's school for the disabled children, school for the girls and other social organisations. —Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Children perform at a ceremony to celebrate the 26th Year Celebration of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

UN to hold March summit to resettle, place millions of Syrians

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday announced plans for a summit in March on resettling millions of people who have fled Syria as he expressed concern at “misplaced suspicions about migrants and refugees.”

Some 4.2 million Syrians have escaped the country’s nearly five-year civil war to neighbouring Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, according to the UN Refugee Agency. Hundreds of thousands of those Syri-

lim. We must be on guard against such distortions and discrimination, which only play into the hands of terrorists trying to sow divisions and fear,” Ban said. “We must respond not by closing doors but by opening our hearts with unity, tolerance, and pluralism and compassion.”

He said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees would convene a conference in March to win pledges from countries to resettle or help place those who have been dis-

“We must respond not by closing doors but by opening our hearts with unity, tolerance, and pluralism and compassion.”

Ban Ki-moon

ans have streamed into Europe this year.

After deadly attacks in Paris a week ago by Islamic State, some politicians in Europe and North America have warned that countries face big risks by admitting refugees without rigorously determining if any could be dangerous extremists.

A Syrian government crackdown on a pro-democracy movement in early 2011 sparked the civil war and Islamic State militants used the chaos to seize territory in Syria and Iraq. The UN says some 250,000 people have been killed during the conflict.

Ban told the 193-member UN General Assembly on Friday that he was deeply concerned about “misplaced suspicions about migrants and refugees, especially those who are Mus-

placed due to the Syria conflict. The US House of Representatives, defying a veto threat by President Barack Obama, overwhelmingly passed Republican-backed legislation on Thursday to suspend Obama’s programme to admit 10,000 Syrian refugees in the next year. Some Republicans have said some refugees could be militants bent on attacking the United States, noting reports that at least one Paris attacker may have slipped into Europe among migrants registered in Greece.

“Millions of refugees who have lost everything to violence and oppression want to end those threats more than anyone. They can potentially be a major constituency in combating violent extremism,” Ban said.—Reuters

Israeli spy Pollard released after 30 years in US prison

NEW YORK — Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard was released on Friday after 30 years in an American prison but he will stay in the United States under strict parole conditions in a case that strained relations between the two allies for decades.

Pollard, a former civilian intelligence analyst for the US Navy, was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted in 1987 of passing classified information to Israel.

He was released from a federal prison in North Carolina and headed to New York, where he was set up for electronic monitoring as required under his parole, according to spokesmen for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and US Marshals Service.

“After 30 years in prison, he wants to get his life back on track,” said Eliot Lauer, one of Pollard’s attorneys.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, which has long pushed for Pollard to be freed, welcomed his release. But Netanyahu has urged Israelis not to celebrate too much in case that damages efforts to persuade the US government to let Pollard leave for Israel sooner.

Pollard, who was granted Israeli citizenship while in prison, has said he wants to emigrate to Israel, where his wife lives and where he



Israelis hold placards depicting Jonathan Pollard during a protest calling for his release from a US prison, outside US Secretary of State John Kerry’s hotel in Jerusalem. PHOTO: REUTERS

can expect to receive substantial Israeli government back pay.

“I’m sorry, I can’t comment on anything today,” the 61-year-old Pollard told a swarm of reporters as he left the courthouse in Manhattan with his wife, Esther, after being fitted for the monitoring.

Pollard’s lawyers filed a petition with the court seeking to rescind the parole conditions, calling them “onerous and oppressive.”

He will be required to wear an electronic bracelet so his movements can be monitored at all times.

His computers and those of his employer will be subjected to unfettered monitoring, something his lawyers said could prevent Pollard from starting a job

in research at an unnamed New York City investment firm.

As part of his parole, Pollard must remain in the United States for five years, although his lawyers have asked President Barack Obama to commute his sentence, allowing him to go to Israel immediately.

US Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes said Obama “has no plans to alter the forms of his parole” to allow him to leave the United States.

Successive US administrations had resisted Israeli calls to show the unrepentant Pollard clemency, though Washington did, at times, mull an early release as part of its efforts to revive talks on Palestinian statehood in Israel-occupied territories.

“The people of Israel welcome the release of Jonathan Pollard,” Netanyahu said in a statement on Friday. “After three long and difficult decades, Jonathan has been reunited with his family.”

The US Justice Department helped smooth the way for the freeing of Pollard, who was already eligible for mandatory parole in November, by declining to raise objections that could have delayed his release.

In July, Secretary of State John Kerry denied that a decision by the US Parole Commission to free Pollard was a US gesture to try to dampen Israeli objections to the nuclear agreement struck between Iran and major world powers.—Reuters

Militants may have spent as little as \$7,500 on Paris attacks

LONDON — The militants who killed 130 people in Paris, triggering waves of air strikes on Syria and security alerts around the world, may have spent as little as around 7,000 euros (\$7,500) to stage their attacks.

World leaders scrambled to crack down on terrorist financing after the 13 November assaults, which have been claimed by Islamic State in retaliation for strikes on Iraq and Syria.

Within days, France and Belgium announced 1 billion euros worth of ad-

ditional security measures.

In contrast, the attacks themselves, requiring little more than Kalashnikovs and ammunition, homemade suicide belts, rental cars and apartments, suggest that the eight attackers spent relatively little to kill indiscriminately and sow fear and confusion.

The 11 September attacks on Washington and New York cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000, according to the independent 9/11 Commission, a sum that covered pilot training for the hijackers, flights and

living expenses over an extended period of training and preparation.

A Reuters calculation has estimated the Paris attacks — which killed mainly young people enjoying a Friday evening out at bars, restaurants, the Stade de France sports stadium and the Bataclan concert venue — could have cost less than around 2 percent of that.

Reuters was unable to reliably calculate certain costs including the sum for any accomplices who may have come from outside France and Belgium. These

costs were not included in the total.

The most sophisticated part of the attack, making the suicide vests, would have only required some cheap materials. Security sources said this job would have fallen to an experienced bomb-maker who was likely not to have been one of the actual attackers.

All seven dead assailants in Paris were wearing and used suicide belts, with identical TATP detonation compound, a battery and a blow-up button, French police said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (069N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (069N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.11.2015 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.

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Britain's biggest ever Black Friday may come at a cost

LONDON — Spending in Britain on next week's "Black Friday" discount shopping day looks set to break last year's record despite warnings that retailers would be wise to shun an event imported from the United States.

Misgivings about the broader impact on crucial pre-Christmas trading are illustrated by the decision of supermarket group Asda, itself owned by America's Wal-Mart, not to join the frenzy this year. Asda argues that shoppers don't want big fluctuations in prices.

Other retailers are prepared to take the risk and sign up for an event that sparked brawls in stores last year as shoppers wrestled over bargains.

Retail researcher Conlumino is forecasting Black Friday will generate UK sales, both in stores and online, of 1.6 billion pounds, up 20 percent on 2014, as more retailers join the fray and existing players whip up more business.

Online spending is forecast to soar 32 percent year-on-year to 1.1 billion pounds, according to Experian-IMRG.

Black Friday, the day after the US Thanksgiving holiday, was so named because spending would surge and retailers would traditionally begin to turn a profit for the year, moving from the red into the black.

The day has developed into an important part of the British shopping calendar over the past five years as retailers competed with online bargains offered by Amazon.

It really took off last year

when more familiar names such as Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer embraced it in a big way, while rivals Tesco and Asda also gave it an even larger push.

"The issue for retailers is in how they can benefit from this demand, while not losing margin, or damaging their reputations," said Conlumino's Maureen Hinton.

Though it delivered a sales boost in 2014, the cost was lower demand in the weeks before and after and an expectation of continued pre-Christmas discounts, which damaged profitability.

Some retailers failed to cope with demand, which saw websites crashing and delivery operations overloaded, as well as those unseemly scuffles in shops.

This year police chiefs have warned retailers to have sufficient security staff on duty.

British retailers have traditionally tried to hold off on sales until Boxing Day, 26 December, when products not wanted for Christmas were offered at reduced prices.

After last Christmas the bosses of retailers, including John Lewis, Britain's biggest department store, and Argos owner Home Retail [HOME.L] questioned the wisdom of concentrating so much business on Black Friday and suggested diluting the event.

However, John Lewis boss Andy Street conceded last week that this call had fallen on deaf ears. "It will be bigger again this year," he said.



Shoppers wrestle over a television as they compete to purchase retail items on 'Black Friday' at an Asda superstore in Wembley, London.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Retailers such as electricals group Dixons Carphone, maintain that Black Friday must remain a fixture as long as shoppers want it.

Dixons Carphone has shown it has a winning formula. By planning meticulously and buying products specifically manufactured for Black Friday deals it can deliver a sales boost and protect profit margins.

But the concern is that the distortion to trade seen last year is being repeated.

Last month Home Retail warned on profit, blaming uncertainty ahead of Black Friday and the British Retail Consortium blamed weak October numbers on shoppers holding out for bargains.

This year Home Retail's Argos is offering discounted "red", "white" and "blue" deals on the Fridays preceding Black Friday in an attempt to smooth

out demand. M&S, Britain's biggest clothing retailer, was the highest profile casualty last year, with its huge distribution centre in central England thrown into chaos.

Unable to cope with demand, automated picking and packing failures delayed the delivery of goods ordered online. Disappointed customers lambasted the firm on social media and a subsequent loss of sales was a major factor in the firm missing forecasts.

M&S says it has tested its systems and won't get caught out again.

Asda, which is currently the weakest performer among Britain's largest supermarket groups, believes it will have the last laugh.

"It might drive some of the ones in (the) red into even deeper red," quipped Asda finance chief Alex Russo.—Reuters

Euro slides vs dollar, hurt by comments from ECB's Draghi

NEW YORK — The euro tumbled against the dollar on Friday after two days of gains, pressured by comments from European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi who expressed willingness to add more stimulus to the euro zone economy to raise inflation.

Most major banks have stuck firmly to the view that the euro will fall toward parity with the dollar in the months ahead as the Federal Reserve begins to lift interest rates while the ECB takes the opposite course.

The euro, which slipped back below \$1.07 against the dollar, was down 3.3 percent so far in November, on pace for its worst month performance since March.

Draghi on Friday suggested that the ECB would do whatever it takes to raise inflation as fast as possible, and pointed to the benefits of a cut in deposit rates to aid an expansion of its quantitative easing programme of bond-buying.

"The comments support expectations of additional, possibly aggressive, stimulus at the (ECB's) December policy meeting," said Shaun Osborne, chief currency strategist, at Scotiabank in Toronto.

In late trading, the euro fell 0.8 percent against the dollar to \$1.0643 EUR=, and was down 0.8 percent versus the yen at 130.82 yen EURJPY=.

Nomura's global head of FX strategy Jens Nordvig now expects the euro to hit parity with the dollar by mid-2016. He said it may take that long for the Fed to deliver its second interest rate hike.

Whether the euro can move substantially lower next year will depend on, among other factors, how low the ECB is willing to push the deposit rate, Nordvig said.

The dollar, meanwhile, was flat against the yen at 122.89 yen JPY=, but was up 0.6 percent versus the Swiss franc at 1.0186 francs CHF=.

Speculation among market participants of intervention by the Swiss National Bank intensified this week, weakening the Swiss currency. The euro slid 0.3 percent against the franc to 1.0843 francs EURCHF=.

Overall, there are still some doubts over the dollar's ability to rise in the sort of sustained fashion seen at the end of 2014.

For the short term, the options market has substantial barriers in place around \$1.06, preventing the euro from falling further.

On Friday, the influential head of the New York Fed, William Dudley, further affirmed expectations of a rate hike next month. He said the Fed should "soon" be ready to raise rates as US central bankers grow confident low inflation will rebound and that employment remains stable.—Reuters

FAA task force to recommend drone registry



An Intel AscTec Firefly drone is seen before a flight demonstration at the House Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington on 19 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — A Federal Aviation Administration task force will submit recommendations for registering drone operators on Saturday, setting the stage for regulators next month to propose regulations intended to help reverse a surge in rogue drone flights.

A final version of the panel's recommendations was ex-

pected to receive approval from 25 task force members on Friday. It would signal broad agreement among stakeholders, including drone makers, pilots, hobbyists and regulators, on a free and user-friendly registration process for recreational users of unmanned aerial systems, or UAS.

Registration is one of sev-

eral steps the FAA and other government agencies are considering to address a disturbing rise in reckless drone use this year, including near-misses with commercial airliners near airports.

Officials are concerned that safety and security risks could rise in coming years as drone sales continue to soar, with more than 1 million drones expected to be sold in the United States this year.

The task force report was not expected to be released to the public until next week, according to people familiar with the matter.

But they said the recommendations would require drone operators to register on a website or via a phone app, if they own UAS weighing as little as 8.8 ounces (250 grams), and attach their registration number to their drones.

"On Saturday, the task force will deliver its report to the Federal Aviation Administration," FAA Administrator

Michael Huerta said in a blog posted to a federal website on Friday.

"We will consider their recommendations and the public comments as we develop an interim final rule on registration, which will likely be released next month and go into effect shortly thereafter."

US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, who announced the registration initiative last month, had charged the task force with completing its work by Friday.

Two sources said the drone registry could ultimately provide an alternative to the more laborious, paper-based process for registering manned aircraft for both recreational and commercial drone users.

Commercial operators are currently required to register their drones through the manned aircraft process on a case-by-case basis. Registration of commercial drones will be addressed in final FAA regulations expected early next year.—Reuters

More than half of Amazon tree species seen at risk of extinction

WASHINGTON — South America's vast Amazon region harbours one of the world's most diverse collection of tree species, but more than half may be at risk for extinction due to ongoing deforestation to clear land for farming, ranching and other purposes, scientists say.

Researchers said on Friday that if recent trends continued, between 36 and 57 percent of the estimated 15,000 Amazonian tree species likely would qualify as threatened with extinction under criteria used by the group that makes such determinations, the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The study covered roughly 2.1 million square miles (5.5 million square km) spanning Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. The researchers analysed Amazonian forest surveys and data on current

and projected deforestation areas.

"Many of the species that we suggest may be threatened are used by Amazonian residents on a daily basis, and many others are crucial to Amazonian economies," conservation ecologist Nigel Pitman of the Field Museum in Chicago.

These range from wild populations of economically important food crops like the Brazil nut, açai fruit and heart of palm, to valuable timber species, to several hundred species that Amazonian residents depend upon for fruits, seeds, thatch, medicines, latex and essential oils, Pitman said.

The trees also are important in their ecosystems for erosion control and climate moderation, Pitman said.

"Scientists have been raising the alarm about Amazonian deforestation for several decades, and projections indicate that forest loss will continue



Traditional slash and burn agriculture is shown in central Guyana in this handout courtesy of Hans ter Steege taken in 2000. PHOTO: REUTERS

for the foreseeable future," said forest ecologist Hans ter Steege of the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre in the Netherlands.

"The good news is that over the last 10 years the rate of forest loss in the Amazon has dropped dramatically."

Amazonian forests have been shrinking since the 1950s as people cut and burn areas for farming, ranching and development. Until now, there has been no reliable estimate of how many tree species were threatened with extinction.

"Yes, the threats are

daunting, but it's important to remember that more than 85 percent of forests in the greater Amazon are still standing," Pitman said.

The researchers said Amazon parks, reserves and indigenous territories, if managed well, should be able to protect most

of the threatened species. Previous research found Amazon forests already have dwindled by about 12 percent and will decline up to another 28 percent by 2050.

The research was published in the journal *Science Advances*.—Reuters

US likely to make another South China Sea patrol before year-end: Navy official

WASHINGTON — The US Navy will likely carry out another patrol within 12 nautical miles of artificial islands in the South China Sea before the end of the year, a US Navy official said on Friday.

The USS Lassen, a guided missile destroyer, last month sailed close to one of China's man-made islands in the Spratly Islands

archipelago to underscore its rights under international law, drawing an angry rebuke from Beijing.

A US defence official said this month the Navy planned two or more patrols a quarter in the region as part of its plan to regularly exercise its rights under international law and remind China and others about its view.

The US Navy official

said the next patrol in the Spratly Islands archipelago would likely take place in December.

Two US B-52 bombers also flew near the artificial Chinese islands last week, in advance of President Barack Obama's visit to the region this week to attend Asia-Pacific summits.

Obama on Friday said the disputed region would

be a major focus of summit meetings among world leaders this weekend in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of world trade transits every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

On Thursday, Obama demanded China halt land reclamation work that is turning seven reefs into artificial islands. China is building airfields and other facilities on some of them.

In a report published on the Chinese defence ministry's website on Thursday, China's top admiral, Wu Shengli, said his forces have shown "enormous restraint"

in the face of US provocations in the South China Sea, while warning they stand ready to respond to repeated breaches of Chinese sovereignty. Earlier this month, Senator John McCain, the Republican head of the Senate Armed Services Committee called on the Pentagon to clarify publicly the legal intent of last month's patrol.—Reuters



APOLLO TOWERS
MYANMAR Ltd.

Notice to Apartment Owners, Building Owners and Land Owners who entered into Lease Agreements with Apollo Towers Myanmar Ltd.

Under the authority conferred by Apollo Towers Myanmar Limited, located at No.(51), Sayarsan Ward, Sayarsan Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar, it is hereby informed as follows; Apollo Towers Myanmar Limited was formed under the Certificate of Incorporation no. 770 FC/2013-2014 on (6-1-2014) and received its permit no. 689/2014 from the Myanmar Investment Commission on (17-3-2014). Apollo Towers Myanmar Limited also acquired its Network Facilities Service (Class) License on (3-2-2015) from Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and is therefore licensed to perform the construction of Telecommunications Towers and associated services.

In order to deploy the telecommunication network, Apollo Towers Myanmar Limited is constructing the towers throughout Myanmar. Therefore, for the construction of towers, the company has entered into Lease Agreements with landowners, building owners and apartment owners as per the existing laws. The rights and obligations of the Lessor and Lessee are clearly and expressly stated in the Lease Agreement in accordance with the law, and as such, both the Lessor and Lessee are legally bound by those rights and obligations.

However, it has been discovered that some of the land owners, building owners and apartment owners are failing to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement. Even after the agreement has been signed and payment has been made, owners are making illegal requests for rental increases as well as demanding additional charges not set out in the Lease Agreement. Owners are also performing actions that do not comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement such as blocking access to the site after the lease has been signed, when Apollo has a lawful right to access the premises.

Therefore, it is hereby informed to land owners, building owners, apartment owners that they must strictly comply with the terms of the agreement pursuant to applicable laws.

If land owners, building owners, apartment owners who entered into agreements with Apollo Towers Myanmar Limited fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the Lease Agreement, Apollo Towers shall be forced to take action in accordance with the Telecommunications Law and existing laws.

On behalf of and under the instruction of Apollo Towers Myanmar Limited

Daw Aye Aye Aung
LL.B, DBL, DML, DIL
Advocate (Sr.8670)

Daw Su Su Lwin
LL.B (Sr. 8947)
Advocate

U Han Min Hlaing Oo
LL.B (Sr.42718)
Higher Grade Pleader

U Htun Min Soe
LL.B (Sr.41628)
Higher Grade Pleader



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Our heartfelt congratulations to the
 Vice Chairman of KBZ Bank and KBZ Group of Companies,
 Thiha Thudhamma Theingi, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi,
 Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi,
 Daw Nan Than Htwe

for winning the First Prize of ASEAN Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 Award
 out of 10 ASEAN Countries

at the ASEAN Business Awards Ceremony on 20th November 2015

during the 27th ASEAN Summit

at the Grand-Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Dr. Moe Mya Mya

Director, Dagon International Limited.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.11.2015 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
 LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ()

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

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

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

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

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Justin Bieber storms UK charts to equal John Lennon's 1981 feat

LONDON — Justin Bieber stormed the British singles charts on Friday with three singles from his new album in the top five, a feat no other artist has managed since John Lennon, posthumously, in 1981.

The Canadian singer's singles "Sorry", "Love yourself" and "What do you mean" took first, third and fifth place. "Sorry" pushed Adele's "Hello" slipped to second place from the top spot it had occupied for three weeks.

Lennon's "Imagine" was top, "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" was third and "(Just Like) Starting Over" fifth in January 1981, the month after he was shot dead in New York.

Bieber's songs all come from his album "Purpose" which sold 90,000 copies this week. Every track from it charted inside the top 100 singles.

But it was narrowly beaten to top position in the album chart by four-piece boy band One Direction's "Made in the A.M." which is now the fastest-selling album of 2015.

Notching up over 93,000 sales, this is the group's fourth UK No. 1 having previously scored the top place in 2012 with "Take Me Home," in 2013 with "Midnight Memories" and in 2014 with "Four".



Singer Justin Bieber performs on NBC's 'Today' show in New York on 18 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Both Bieber's "Purpose" and One Direction's "Made in the A.M." broke the record for most-streamed album in the first week of release on online streaming platform Spotify.

"Purpose" set a new record with 205 million global streams while "Made in the A.M." was streamed 106 million times, both outpacing the previous record

holder, The Weeknd's "Beauty Behind The Madness," which garnered 90 million global streams in September.

The third most popular album was Elvis Presley's "If I Can Dream," produced nearly 40 years after his death. This collection of Elvis classics featuring orchestral reworkings by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra had been number

one for two weeks running.

Jeff Lynne's ELO was fourth with new entry "Alone In The Universe". The group's other album "All Over The World — The Very Best Of" re-entered at number 28.

Fifth place was taken by Little Mix's "Get Weird", slipping down from last week's second place.—Reuters

Alabama Shakes finish tour of Southern soul in wintry London

LONDON — "Hang loose! Hang loose!", exhorts Brittany Howard as she warms up a tense crowd at Alabama Shakes' sold-out two-night set at London's Brixton Academy on Thursday, where extra security staff were on hand following terrorist attacks in Paris.

Lead singer Brittany, bespectacled in a black dress, belting out her blue

electric guitar, begins the show channeling her inner rock chick, almost screaming into the mic.

Though the band is a four-piece, it can feel like a solo performance by its charismatic front-woman as she stomps about the stage, sometimes sultry, sometimes defiant, but always a strong stage presence. Twenty-seven-year-old Howard,

whose raspy tones and

tales of heartbreak give her the air of an older woman, sings a lot about home on the last leg of a 93-city tour following the launch in April of the group's second album, "Sound and Color", which topped the US Billboard charts.

The former truck driver and postal service worker from Athens, Alabama, has a tattoo of the state with a heart on her arm.

"Where's my home/where I belong?" she demands in "Rise to the Sun", from the band's debut 2012 album "Boys and Girls".

From blues to rock to rodeo, Howard's long list of influences - Prince, Jim Hendrix, Elvis Presley - ring out.

She takes a bow after "Hold On" in the middle of the set, the band's breakthrough number one single, named 2013's song of the year by Rolling Stone magazine and nominated for three Gram awards.

The crowd is now warmed up, with sporadic screams of "I love you Brittany," as she wails out songs from the new album.

"I saw the true you and you, true me," she screams in "Gemini", then she rips off her glasses, throws them to the floor, then

walks off stage.

"One, two, three," comes the encore.

"Y" all are so nice, so refreshing. So far away from home and this is the last show.... Thank you for coming out, it's a good time to spread love, a good time to spread joy, to love music and create."

Just six days earlier, scores of people were gunned down in an attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, where California's rock band Eagles of Death Metal were playing. Following that attack, Alabama Shakes' s Luxembourg set at the Sonic Visions festival was cancel led.

Matt Troy, a 22-year-old student from New York, brought along 20-year-old Brittany Gregory at the last minute, because the friend she had planned to come with had not wanted to travel to London, worried about the threat of a terrorist attack. Troy's parents were also anxious about her attending the gig.

"I was a little concerned because the band is American and has an American name — that was a bit of a red flag," Troy said at the end of the show. "But the feeling was so good in here, I tried to not think about it." —Reuters

Brittany Howard. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Jessica Jones' strips down a superhero as Marvel gets gritty on Netflix

LOS ANGELES — Marvel's first leading female superhero on-screen, "Jessica Jones," swigs whiskey out of a paper bag, relishes a scathing put-down, is not afraid to get dirty fighting villains and does what she pleases in a new Netflix series.

Streaming all 13 episodes Friday on online streaming platform Netflix Inc, "Jessica Jones" follows the damaged, tough-talking private investigator Jones as she is tormented by Kilgrave, a villain with mind-control powers.

Played by Krysten Ritter, "Jessica Jones," who has the power of super-strength, is the first female superhero to headline her own Marvel show in a genre dominated by male characters.

"She's a complex human being, and it's so rare that women get to play those roles," said show creator Melissa Rosenberg.

"The audiences have been in the past slow to respond to a deeply flawed female character. We've been held up to a much greater standard and it's been incredibly limiting."

The show is set in Hell's Kitchen in New York destroyed by the events in 2012's "Avengers" film, interconnected into the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which includes the blockbuster films, ABC television shows and Netflix's "Daredevil" series.—Reuters



Jessica Jones. PHOTO: REUTERS

Singapore's surging growth straining geographical limits

SINGAPORE — When Singapore celebrated its 50th birthday as an independent country in August, the city state bore little resemblance to the tiny island nation that was expelled from Malaysia in 1965.

Years of strong growth have turned it into an international financial and shipping hub with spotless streets, well-tended parks and living standards unmatched in Southeast Asia.

Not only has its GDP per capita risen by more than 4,400 percent, according to government statistics, but its physical stature has swollen by 20 percent since independence thanks to one of the world's most aggressive land reclamation drives.

With a population of 5.5 million spread over just 719 sq km, Singapore has outlined plans to expand further over the coming decades, for both housing and for financial and industrial growth. Container terminals, industrial estates, petrochemical factories and the Changi Airport, repeatedly voted the world's best, are built on reclaimed land.

The Marina Bay Sands Hotel & Casino, and much of its expansive financial district, are

also on land reclaimed from the seas from the 1960s to the 1990s. The bay area is home to some of Singapore's popular tourist destinations — a Ferris wheel, its \$1-billion Gardens by the Bay park spanning 100 hectares and the Formula One Grand Prix circuit.

But Singapore's success and an influx of foreign workers has brought high property prices, crowded public transport and a widening wealth gap which have fueled resentment among many in a city that surveys rank as one of the world's most expensive.

The extent of its land reclamation has come under criticism for causing environmental damage and caused tension with its neighbours. It has led to loss of marine life, destruction of mangrove area and coral reefs, critics say.

Singapore's terrain is largely flat today — it used the earth from its hills for reclamation. With no more material available within its borders, Singapore has imported 517 million tonnes of sand in the last 20 years, according to a United Nations report last year.

Indonesia, which was the biggest supplier of sand to Singa-



Tourists take photos by the famous Merlion fountain in Singapore on 29 July 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

pore, banned exports to the city state in 2007, saying sand mining caused the extinction of several fish species, destruction of coral reefs and the disappearance of a number of small islands.

Environmentalists also say reclamation is causing change in tidal flows, not just at Singa-

pore's coasts but also those of its neighbours. In 2011, Singapore raised the minimum height of land reclamations to protect itself from rising sea levels.

With the island's population expected to increase to 6.5-6.9 million by 2030, the government has said it will need another 50 sq

km of land. It detailed a plan in 2013, marking out areas it could reclaim for military training, industrial and port uses.

Singapore has also said it has room for further reclamation beyond 2030. That may not be easy amid growing environmental and political objections.—Reuters

One-man 'Madam Butterfly' sequel debuts in London

LONDON — A sequel to Giacomo Puccini's classic opera "Madam Butterfly" is being staged for the first time at a London theater and the creators hope they can take it eventually to the place of the original story's setting in Nagasaki, southwestern Japan.

The tragic tale of an ill-fated romance between a US naval officer and a Japanese girl has been gripping audiences worldwide ever since the start of the 20th century.

But the story leaves many questions unanswered and this is why Mexican-born actor and singer Ignacio Jarquin decided to revisit the story and help create the one-man opera "Madam Butterfly Returns" that has already won accolades and been performed for the Japan Society in London.

With a libretto by playwright Andrew G. Marshall, the opera was scored by the avant-garde English composer Michael Finnissy and has echoes of Puccini's work as well as musical forms taken from Kabuki.

In the two-act show, which is running from 4 to 22 November at the Landor Theatre in Clapham, southwest London, Jarquin has managed to incorporate several classical Japanese art forms into the production.

"This is something I have

been playing with in my mind for a long time," he said in an interview with Kyodo News.

Puccini's original opera sees the naval officer Benjamin Pinkerton and his Japanese lover "Cio-Cio-san" or Butterfly marry in Nagasaki. She falls pregnant with Pinkerton's child but he has to leave the Japanese port.

Three years later, he returns with his American wife, with the intention of bringing up the child in the United States.

But just before the two former lovers meet, a distraught Butterfly blindfolds her son, Tomisaburo, and commits suicide. Puccini's opera ends with Pinkerton arriving to find Butterfly's dead body and then rushing off.

"Madam Butterfly Returns" is set 30 years on and tells what happened to the son.

"I was always thinking 'Who is going to take care of the child?' To my surprise no one has done a follow-up to what happened to the child," Jarquin said.

In his performance, in which he plays all eight characters, the audience finds Tomisaburo has travelled to the United States and is seeking a meeting with his father who is now the governor of Georgia. However, Pinkerton is advised against seeing his son given that his re-election campaign is based on family values and notions of racial purity.

When Tomisaburo realises after waiting three days that his father does not want to meet him, he decides he has only one option and, like his mother before, commits suicide. Jarquin uses elements of Noh and Kabuki drama, as well as martial arts, in his performance.

"I wanted to use Japanese art forms in order to create a believable vehicle for what is ultimately a Greek tragedy. I'm paying homage to Japanese art forms and the way they inform our theater-making," he said.

Jarquin said he hopes eventually to take his show to Japan.

"It would be a dream come true to perform this opera in Nagasaki. The story we are telling is universal."

"I have had Japanese people in the audience...They said it was darker than Puccini's Butterfly. They recognised we were trying to use Japanese art forms in a genuine way," he said.

Jarquin, who has performed several one-man operas before, says it is quite difficult to perform several characters in quick succession. The Japanese characters are played in a soft "sine-ewy" way in order to contrast them with the Americans who are performed in a more confident manner, he told Japan Society members at a recent talk in London.—Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(22-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 23-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Stone Of The Heavens
07:52	Am	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Tazaungmone (Ep-1)
08:52	Am	Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
09:53	Am	Myanmar's Export: Mango
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-I)
10:47	Am	Miss Asia Myanmar 2015

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday 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	Let's Cook (EP-11) Scones and Caramel Custard Pudding
07:50	Pm	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action
07:53	Pm	Today Myanmar
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-3) His Public Service & Literary World
08:53	Pm	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action

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

(22-11-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am	8:20 am
• Shwe Pyi Aye Music Troupe	• Sing & Enjoy
6:20 am	9:30 am
• Myanmar Video	• Myanmar Movie
	12:00 noon
	• Close Down

LOCAL SPORT

Yangon United must strive to get to semi-finals

YANGON United must defeat Lao Toyota by many goals to reach the semi-finals, said Coach Emerson at a press conference held at the Hotel Yangon on Saturday.

"Everything is possible in a soccer match but we hope to win. The team needs to score many goals. We have studied the techniques of the other team," Emerson said.

He added that the soccer match the next day would be a great show as the Lao team are very skilled. The match to take place on Sunday is his first match as the coach of Yangon United team.

Cambodia team Boeung Ket Angkor won the Lao Toyota match 2-0 on 1 November.

Assistant coach Chandala Phone of the Laos team said that Myanmar team was made up of many skilled players that will be hard to beat.

Yangon United will play against Boeung Ket Angkor in Cambodia on 29 November.

Emerson has vowed to take the Myanmar team as far as possible in Asian matches.

The team that wins the most points will play against Vietnam.—*Ko Moe*

PyinOoLwin lights festival to include traditional boxing matches

THE Myanmar traditional boxing championship will be organised at the Tazaungtaing lights festival in PyinOoLwin on 23 and 24 November.

The matches will be supervised by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and sponsored by the Aung Thamadi Goldsmith Shop.

Famous traditional boxers as well as local boxers will participate in the championship.

One ticket for the matches will cost K 3,000.—*Min Khit*

FIFA ethics committee requests sanctions against Blatter, Platini

THE ethics committee of world soccer governing body FIFA said yesterday it had completed its investigation into the conduct of FIFA President Sepp Blatter and UEFA president Michel Platini and requested sanctions against them.

Both were provisionally banned for 90 days on 8 October pending the full investigation, engulfed by a deepening corruption scandal as the sport faces criminal investigations in Switzerland and the United States.

Blatter has been FIFA president since 1998. Platini has been head of European soccer's governing body UEFA since 2007 and, until he was suspended, had been favourite to replace Blatter in the 26 February presidential election.

"The investigatory chamber of the independent Ethics Committee has submitted its final

reports containing requests for sanctions against Joseph (Sepp) Blatter and Michel Platini to the adjudicatory chamber chaired by Hans-Joachim Eckert," said the statement.

It did not give details of what the report had found or the sanctions it had requested.

"For reasons linked to privacy rights and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, the chamber will not publish details of the concluded reports and the requested sanctions against the two officials."

Eckert heads the adjudicatory chamber which said in a separate statement it would decide whether to

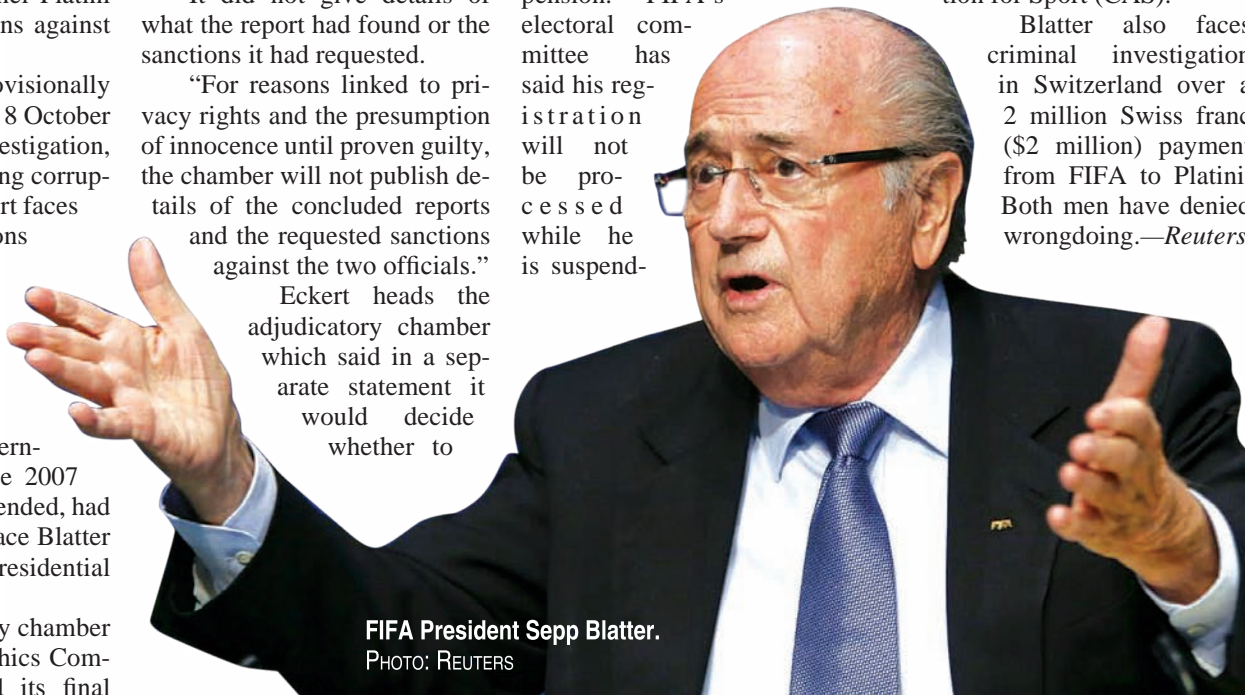
open formal proceedings and, if necessary, on sanctions "in due course."

Platini's hopes of standing in the FIFA election have been put on hold because of his suspension. FIFA's electoral committee has said his registration will not be processed while he is suspended.

ed, although it could reconsider its position if he wins an appeal.

Platini's appeal was rejected by FIFA's Appeal Committee this week and he has taken his case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Blatter also faces criminal investigation in Switzerland over a 2 million Swiss franc (\$2 million) payment from FIFA to Platini. Both men have denied wrongdoing.—*Reuters*



FIFA President Sepp Blatter. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wawrinka knocks out Murray, Nadal still unbeaten

LONDON — Britain's Andy Murray can focus fully on next week's Davis Cup assignment in Belgium after Stanislas Wawrinka sent him packing from the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena on Friday.

The concluding round-robin match at the year-ender had become a straight knockout between the two players after Rafael Nadal had already sealed top spot in Ilie Nastase Group, and Wawrinka looked the sharper as he won 7-6(4), 6-4.

Earlier, Nadal spent two hours and 36 minutes beating fellow Spaniard David Ferrer 6-7(2), 6-3, 6-4 to make sure he went into Saturday's semi-final against world number one Novak Djokovic with a 100 percent record so far this week.

Wawrinka will face Stan Smith Group winner Roger Federer, who like Nadal was unbeaten in group play.

Murray and Wawrinka were both guilty of numerous careless errors, Murray in a first-set tiebreak that he led 4-2.

His Swiss opponent then wobbled towards the end and nearly let slip a 5-2 lead, having to save two break points when he served for the match for a second time at 5-4.

World number two Murray,

who smashed a frame in anger in the final game, said the proximity of next week's Davis Cup final on a claycourt in Ghent had not been a factor in his defeat.

"Way too many errors. Cheap ones, as well. Disappointing," the 28-year-old, who fell at the group stage for the second year running, told reporters.

"I didn't find it difficult not thinking about the Davis Cup final, to be honest. Obviously the only positive for me this week is I've come away from it injury-free."

"Now I have a couple more days to get ready for Belgium."

Murray was straight back on court afterwards, taking out his frustration in a knockup with coach Jonas Bjorkman

on a deserted centre court as cleaners picked up litter in the stands.

With Nad-

al already in the semi-finals and Ferrer going home after two defeats, the clash of the Spaniards had no impact on the tournament but the packed arena was treated to the longest match of the tournament so far.

It looked as though Nadal might be in for an easy ride when he won 10 of the first 11 points, breaking Ferrer twice, but his 33-year-old opponent is renowned as one of the sport's best battlers and he hit back to

win a tiebreak.

World number five Nadal, who had already beaten fourth-ranked Wawrinka and Murray, buckled down though and levelled the match before breaking the Ferrer serve in the final game of the contest.

"It should be like this," Nadal, who has been transformed since a modest summer, told reporters.

"Doesn't matter if I was qualified. For me the main goal is to try to arrive in good shape next year. Today was an opportunity to play against another of the top eight players of the world."

"I think I competed well. I won a very tough match. I think a very good match in terms of quality moments."

In the doubles, Ivan Dodig and world number one Marcelo Melo beat Marcin Matkowski and Nenad Zimonjic to set up a semi-final against Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea.

Second seeds Jean-Julien Roger and Horia Tecau will face the Bryan twins after beating French duo Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut.—*Reuters*



Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka in action at O2 Arena, London, on 20 November. PHOTO: REUTERS