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MORE BODIES RECOVERED

Hpakant landslide death toll rises to 104

Aye Min Soe

THE death toll from a massive landslide that engulfed the homes of migrant miners in Hpakant, Kachin State, rose above 100 yesterday.

By Sunday evening, rescuers had recovered 103 bodies from the landslide, which took place after a giant amount of dump soil from a jade mine collapsed at around 3 am on Saturday, according to local authorities.

One victim was rushed to hospital yesterday but died at the hospital. Many more people are still missing.

The landslide occurred next to the mountain of dump soil, which is about 200 feet high, measuring around 200 feet by 300 feet, burying around 70 makeshift huts located in the ravine between two mountains of dump soil.

The accident occurred at the mountain of dump soil, which was dumped by a mining company last year.

Just five huts escaped the landslide, according to a local resident.

An official of the Hpakant Township General Administration



Rescuers searching victims of mining landslide in Hpakant, Kachin state, on 21 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Department said the authorities has designated some areas, including the one where the tragedy happened, as risk areas for landslides and issued notices to small-scale miners not to reside there.

“We have issued orders and warned the people not to build makeshift huts near mountains of dump soil and not to stay there. The victims involved in the accident also signed onto the author-

ities’ written notices, pledging they would not stay there,” the official said.

Rescue workers under the local authorities, military staff from local regiments and residents are

using 17 backhoes to clear the soil, he added.

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



Work by Artist Kyaw Thu Win.

Mandalay artists to exhibit work in Yangon

Watercolour paintings will be displayed at the group showing, which aims to help support fine arts students

Khaing Thanda Lwin

THREE young artists from Mandalay will stage their collected watercolour works at an exhibition at Gallery 65 in Yangon this coming January. The focus of the artwork is on local lifestyles in Yangon and the cultural heritage of Mandalay.

This is the first group show for the artists Kyaw Thu Win, Aung and Zarni, who have pursued their studies at the State School of Fine Arts in Mandalay,

one of the artists told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

The event is scheduled to be open to the public from 1 to 3 January and is set to feature roughly 60 artworks.

All works will be for sale, prices range from US\$150 to \$300 and some of the proceeds of sales will be donated to charity, said artist U Kyaw Thu Win.

“We plan to use the funds to buy watercolour art supplies for the junior students of fine arts at the school, where approximately

20 students are learning traditional painting techniques,” he added.

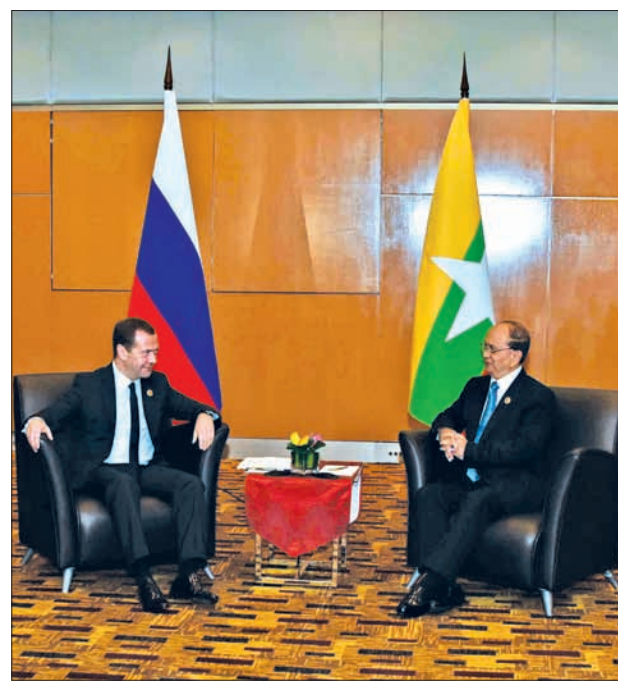
A 27-year-old artist who created 20 paintings for the event said, “Half of my creations highlight the loss of the city’s culture by replacing traditional buildings with modern ones in Mandalay.”

Artist Kyaw Thu Win said he has plans to hold a solo show in Yangon by 2017. His first solo event was held in Mandalay in 2013. The Gallery 65 is located at No. 65 on Yawmingyi Street in Dagon Township, Yangon.

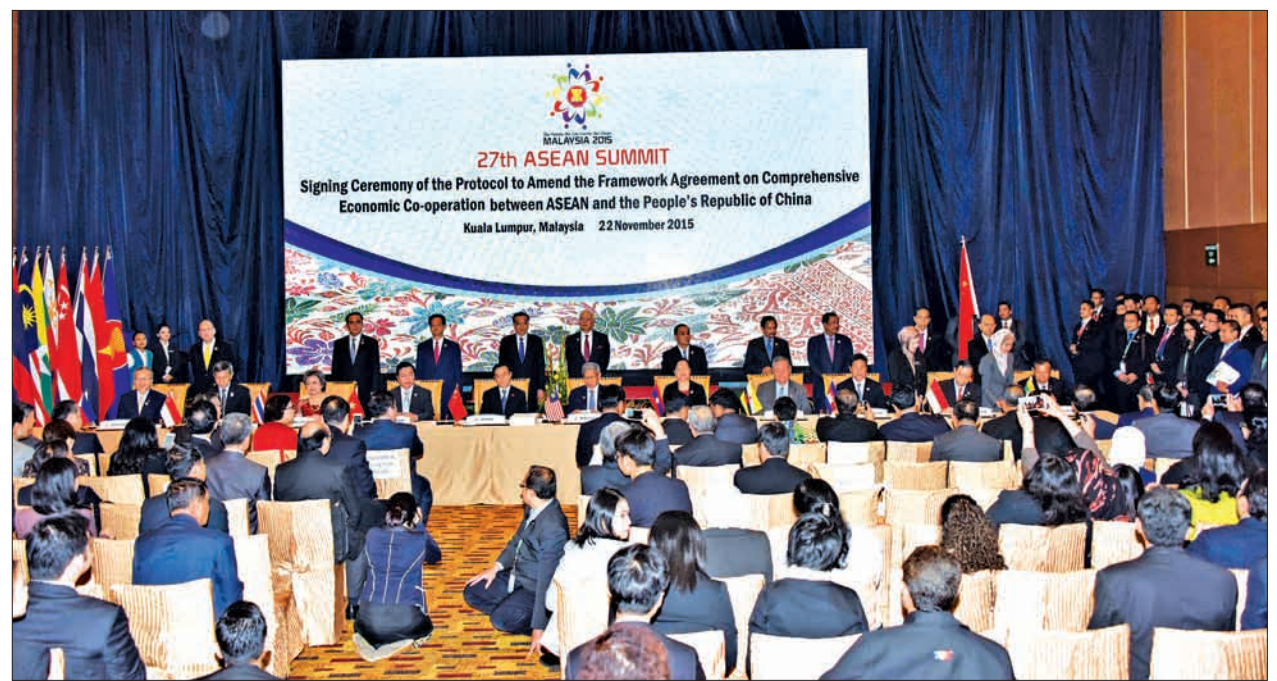
Historical Images of 27th ASEAN Summit and related summits



President U Thein Sein together with leaders of ASEAN countries and New Zealand Prime Minister pose for documentary photo at ASEAN-New Zealand 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November. PHOTO: IPRD



President U Thein Sein meets with Prime Minister of Russian Federation Mr Dmitry Medvedev. PHOTO: IPRD



President U Thein Sein attends signing ceremony of Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China of 27th ASEAN Summit. PHOTO: IPRD



Malaysian Prime Minister Mr Najib Razak hands over ASEAN chairmanship to Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong. PHOTO: IPRD



The 6th ASEAN-United Nations Summit in progress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. PHOTO: IPRD

President attends series of ASEAN summits in Malaysia

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein attended the ASEAN-New Zealand 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit, the 10th East Asia Summit, the 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 17th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit and the 7th ASEAN-UN Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia yesterday.

At 9 am local standard time, Malaysian Prime Minister Mr Najib Razak and New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key delivered speeches at the ASEAN-New Zealand 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit.

At 10:15 am, President U Thein Sein and the heads of state and government of the ASEAN countries signed the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community and the Kuala Lumpur 'Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together' at the convention centre.

The president also attended the signing of the joint statement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China together with ASEAN leaders and the Chinese Premier.

At the East Asia Summit,



President U Thein Sein and leaders of ASEAN countries together with Republic of Korea's President Ms Park Geun Hye pose for documentary photo at 17th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit. PHOTO: IPRD

the Malaysian prime minister and leaders of East Asian countries delivered addresses. President U Thein Sein also attended a luncheon hosted by the Malaysian prime minister

for heads of state.

After that, leaders of ASEAN countries and Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe attended the 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit, where the Malaysian

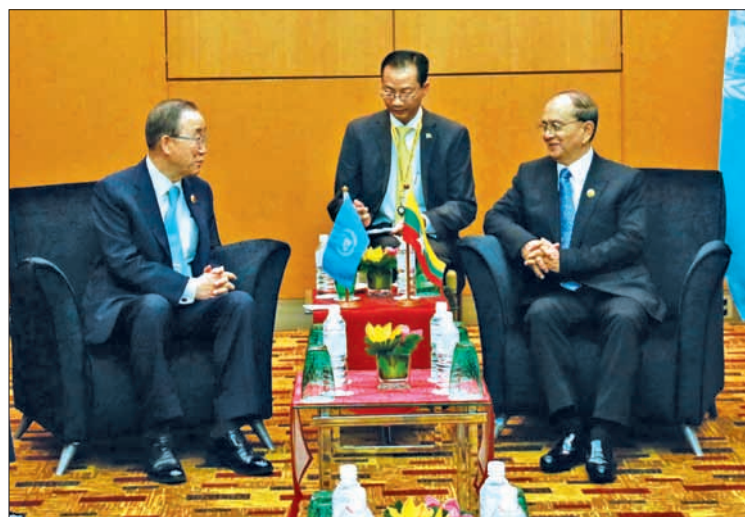
and Japanese prime ministers gave speeches.

The Malaysian Prime and the Republic of Korea's President Ms Park Geun Hye delivered speeches at the 17th ASE-

AN-ROK Summit.

The Malaysian prime minister and UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon delivered addresses at the 7th ASEAN-UN Summit.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Thein Sein meets Russian Prime Minister, UN Secretary General



President U Thein Sein holds talks with UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon. PHOTO: IPRD

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein held talks with the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr Dmitry Medvedev at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia yesterday.

They discussed the successful holding of Myanmar's elections, the promotion of bilateral relations, the progress of economic cooperation and human re-

sources development.

The president also met with UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon the same day. They discussed the recent fair elections in Myanmar, the implementation of election results, further development assistance by the UN for Myanmar and future plans for peace, stability and development in Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Resolute leadership of President U Thein Sein benefits ASEAN and international community: Malaysian Prime Minister

RESOLUTE leadership of President U Thein Sein brings about benefit for ASEAN and international community, Malaysian Prime Minister Mr Najib Razak said at the closing ceremony of the 27th ASEAN Summit on Sunday.

The closing ceremony of the 27th ASEAN Summit was held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Present were heads of state from ASEAN countries including

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

Rotating Chair of ASEAN Prime Minister of Malaysia Mr Najib Razak delivered a speech at the ceremony.

In his speech, the Malaysian prime minister praised the leadership of President U Thein Sein, who has lead the transition smoothly amidst challenges and said that the resolute leadership of President U Thein Sein shaped the new dem-

ocratic nation that will benefit not only Myanmar people but also the ASEAN and the international community. After the speech the Malaysian prime minister handed over a gavel, the symbol of the ASEAN chair, to Prime Minister Mr Thong-sing Thammavong of Laos that will assume the ASEAN chair in 2016.

The ceremony concluded with a video presentation of preparations for the ASEAN chair by Laos.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Thein Sein meets embassy staff, Myanmar students in Malaysia

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein met staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and of the office of the Military Attaché, as well as Myanmar scholarship stu-

dents, at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Zaw Myint in Kuala Lumpur yesterday evening.

The president presented

gifts to the invitees.

The ambassador hosted a dinner in honour of the president's visit.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice-Senior General Soe Win to attend ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

Win left Yangon International Airport yesterday to attend the 16th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-16) and the 25th ASEAN Armies Rifle

Meet (25th AARM) in Thailand. The delegation was seen off by the Commander of the Yangon Command Brig-Gen Myo Zaw Thein and officials.—*Myawady*

KOICA assists in development of 100 villages



An official discusses process for development of 100 villages across the nation.

PHOTO: KO PAUK (OKKAR MYAY)

A COURSE on planning for 100 model villages was conducted at the Nay Pyi Taw Agricultural Department in Zabuthiri Township on 19 November.

The project to establish 100 model villages will be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Deputy director-general of the department U Aye Ko Ko spoke at the event. A total of 120 trainees from 40 villages in Dekkhinathiri, Zabuthiri, Pynmana and Lewe townships attended the course, where Myanmar and Korean experts gave lectures on 19 and 20 November.

KOICA provided US\$22

million for the implementation of the project, which will run from 2014 to 2019.

The 100-village project will cover 40 villages in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 10 villages in Ayeyawady Region, 10 in Shan State and five each in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions and Mon State.—*Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)*

Local residents take shelter at relief camps in Mohnyin



Internally displaced persons taking shelter at local religious buildings in Mohnyin Township.

PHOTO: GNLM-001

AS clashes rage between the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Defence Services) and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in the hills near Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, from 15 to 19 November, local residents have been taking shelter at a Buddhist monastery and four Christian churches in the

urban area of Mohnyin as of 21 November. The Mohnyin Township administrator and other officials provided 35 bags of rice to 370 internally displaced persons.

“Men go back home to take care of animals and household equipment and spend nights at the relief camps. Actually, the secu-

rity of the region is not in good condition,” said Reverend Aung Ko Latt of Emmanuel Divinity College. Most of the internally displaced persons who are taking shelter at the college are Kayin ethnics from Patheingyi who arrived in Mohnyin to work at rubber farms.—*GNLM-001*

Illegal frozen chicken seized in Mandalay

OFFICIALS of the Food and Drug Administration and Consumer Affairs Department together with the Mandalay City Development Committee found and seized illegal frozen chickens, internal organs and ducks at the Ice Sea restaurant in Chanayethazan Township on 19 November. The poultry was deemed unfit for consumption.

The seized poultry prod-

ucts were burnt at Ayeyeknayein Cemetery in Patheingyi Township the following day.

The Mandalay City Development Committee has been cooperating with the Food and Drug Administration to monitor the city's wet markets, restaurants and super markets against selling illegal and unhealthy food products to consumers.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Local authorities prepare to destroy illegal frozen chicken.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Yunnan International Relations Promotion Association to provide free cataract operations

THE Yunnan Province International Relations Promotion Association, a China-based organisation, will provide free cataract operations to patients in need at Mandalay's Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, from 30 November to 3 December. The association is cooperating with the Ministry of Health and Mandalay Region government on the project.

The initiative is the association's third contribution to its Myanmar Alinyang Tour programme. A total of over 400 cataract operations were

performed during the last two initiatives.

The free-of-charge eye operations will be conducted by Deputy Medical superintendent and eye specialist Dr Mei Wan of Yunnan Province's No 1 Hospital and her health group from 30 November to 3 December.

Cataract patients have been informed register for the needed operations, according to medical superintendent Dr Kyi Kyi Khine of the Mandalay EET Hospital.—*Thiha ko Ko*

Fake building permits illegally sold in Mandalay

THE Mandalay City Development Committee has revealed that fake building permits have been illegally sold to construction companies for construction on land plots in the Myayinanda low-cost apartment compound Chanmyathazi Township.

"False building permits on land plots Ma Ma 19, 25, 28 and 29, owned by MCDC, are being illegally sold to construction companies," said an MCDC official.

He added that MCDC plans to formally open tenders and that the plan to construct low-cost buildings in the land plots are in the early planning stage.

"No construction permits have been issued by MCDC," he asserted. He said the unlawful selling is being investigated.

MCDC has also warned against such unlawful selling and has informed the public and construction companies to be wary of such illegal sales.—*Maung Pyithu*



Housings for public under construction in Mandalay. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

Senior scouts to meet in December



Myanmar senior scouts attend 25th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference in South Korea on 3 November. PHOTO: KO LATT (MNA)

THE Interim Myanmar Scouts Committee and senior scouts will discuss the necessary measures to meet the conditions for Myanmar's recognition as a full member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement at the Diamond Jubilee Hall at

Yangon University at 1pm on 6 December.

The Myanmar Scout Federation will send invitations to senior scouts.

Scout activities began in Myanmar around 1916, but the activities halted in 1962. Myan-

mar resumed scout activities during the 2012-13 academic year.

The Asia-Pacific Scouts Region and the World Organisation of the Scout Movement have been providing advice and training courses to Myanmar since 2013.—*Ko Latt (MNA)*

Hluttaw-funded desks presented to Kyaukme schools



School desks made through Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fund.

PHOTO: MYINT AUNG

SCHOOL desk sets, funded by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament), were handed over to schools in Kyaukme Township, Shan State, on 21 November. The school furniture was provided through the parliament's 2015-2016 budget.

The donation ceremony was held at the town's No 1 Basic Education High School. The township's Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) representative U Sai Saung, who made the initial request for the desks to parliament, were presented with a certificate of honour and appreciation by the schools.

A total of 375 desks and chairs were given to six schools in the township.—*Myint Aung*

Health plan workshop held in Namhsan Township

THE Public Health Department and the CESVI Burnet Institute jointly organised a workshop on the creation of a township health plan at the people's hospital in Namhsan Township, Palaung Self-Administered Zone, Shan State, on 21 November. Palaung Self-Administered Zone chairman U Maung Kyaw attended the workshop.

Township medical officer Dr Zaw Win Aung explained the drafting of the township

health plan, while Dr Bo Zaw Naing of CESVI discussed his organisation's plans. Dr Moe Zaw Oo and Dr Than Zaw Oo gave lectures on medical science.

Participants at the meeting focused on raising the health standards of rural people.

Executives of the leading body of the zone, the deputy township administrator, health staff and volunteers attended the workshop.—*Myint Aung*



PAINTING MARKS FOUNDING OF TOUNGOO: Basic education school students participate in watercolour painting contest in commemoration of 505th founding of Ketumati (Toungoo) City at Win Cinema on Bohmu Po Kun Street in Toungoo on 22 November. First, second and third prizes in addition to consolation prizes will be awarded to the winners. Officials plan to hold the painting and sculpture contest in commemoration of the founding of city. PHOTO: GNLM-017

Chinlone academy to train new generation of young athletes

THE Mandalay Region government has permitted the construction of a traditional chinlone and sepak takraw training school near the road to Mandalay International Airport.

The school will turn out skilful players under the tutelage of experienced Myanmar

chinlone players. The school will provide accommodation and meals to the trainees, Myanmar Chinlone Federation president U Soe Naing said.

Construction tasks will begin in February 2016 and are expected to be completed by July that year.—*Tin Maung*

ASEAN creates 'Community' at summit shadowed by terrorism worries

KUALA LUMPUR — Southeast Asian nations yesterday established a formal community that attempts to create freer movement of trade and capital in an area of 625 million people with a combined economic output of \$2.6 trillion.

The Community declaration was signed by leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur, this year's host of the group's annual summit.

The ASEAN Community includes a political, security and socio-cultural dimension in a region with governments ranging from communist in Vietnam and quasi-military in Myanmar to the kingdom of Brunei and the boisterous democracy of the Philippines.

But it is the economic community that offers the most concrete opportunities for integration in a region whose combined gross domestic product (GDP) would make it the world's seventh-largest economy.

"In practice, we have virtually eliminated tariff barriers between us," said Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, the summit host.

"Now we have to assure freer movements and removal of barriers that hinder growth and investment."

The countries aim to harmonise economic strategies, recognise each other's professional qualifications, and consult more closely on macroeconomic and financial policies.

They have also agreed to enhance the connectivity of their transportation infrastructure and communications, better facilitate electronic transactions, integrate industries to promote regional sourcing, and enhance private-sector involvement in the economy.

Eight groups of professionals will be able to work more easily throughout the region: engineers, architects, nurses, doctors, dentists, accountants, surveyors and tourism professionals.

Following the signing ceremony, ASEAN leaders met with eight others from Asia and the Pacific for the annual East Asia summit: the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

US President Barack Obama was set to raise concerns at the summit about China's more assertive posture in the South China Sea. On Saturday, at a bilateral meeting with ASEAN leaders, Obama said countries should stop militarising their claims in the disputed South China Sea.

"For the sake of regional stability the claimants should halt reclamation, construction and militarisation of disputed areas," Obama told a meeting between the United States and the 10 ASEAN leaders. China has been transforming reefs in the Spratly archipelago into arti-



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak (L) shakes hands with Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Le Luong Minh during a signing ceremony at the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community at the 27th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ficial islands and has built airfields and other facilities on them. This has caused ripples of alarm in much of East Asia about China's intentions and freedom of navigation in a waterway through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes annually.

China insists it has undisputed sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, a claim that overlaps with four ASEAN countries. Earlier this month, US B-52 bombers flew near China's artificial islands, signaling Washington's determination to challenge Beijing over the disputed sea.

China has said it does not want the South China Sea issue to be the focus of the meetings in

Kuala Lumpur. Premier Li Keqiang has yet to comment on the issue.

Najib opened the weekend series of meetings on Saturday, calling on world leaders to confront Islamist extremism. The night before, 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.

"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 speech at the ASEAN summit. "They are terrorists and should be

confronted as such, with the full force of the law."

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."

Obama said on Saturday 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 militants no safe haven.

"We will continue to root out terrorist networks," Obama told a meeting of business executives. "We will not allow these killers to have a safe haven."—Reuters

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China says 'freedom of navigation' no issue in S China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR — China said yesterday that freedom of navigation and overflight over the South China Sea has never been a problem and reiterated that disputes over territory in the strategic waterway should be resolved by the countries concerned.

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin made the remarks at a briefing during a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders.

"Freedom of navigation and overflight have never been a problem," he said speaking about the South China Sea at a news conference.

Liu said China has put forward a proposal for properly handling South China Sea issues.

China, which claims almost the entire energy-rich South China Sea, has been transforming reefs into artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago and building airfields and other facilities on some of them. That has prompted concerns in Washington and across the region that Beijing is trying to militarise its claims in the South China Sea.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also have territorial claims in the South China Sea.—*Reuters*

Japan to vow support for integrated community at summit with ASEAN

KUALA LUMPUR — A summit between leaders of Japan and Southeast Asian countries began yesterday, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe likely to throw his "full support" behind these nations' efforts to form an economically integrated community.

During the meeting between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Abe is expected to congratulate those nations on the establishment of the ASEAN Community, Japanese officials said.

Leaders of ASEAN — which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam — formally declared the creation of the community during their

meeting earlier Sunday.

The ASEAN Community envisions closer integration through political security, economic and socio-cultural pillars, and opens the way to creating a market with a combined population of over 600 million people.

Abe will likely express Japan's continued support for infrastructure development in the fast-growing, resource-abundant ASEAN region, the officials said.

With its official development assistance, support for human resource development and stronger security ties, Japan has been stepping up efforts to increase its economic and political clout with ASEAN, a regional bloc in which China is also making its presence felt with its own economic aid.

While Beijing has offered a

solution to the huge infrastructure needs of Asia with the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Abe announced in May an

investment initiative to provide \$110 billion to promote "quality infrastructure" in Asia over the next five years.—*Kyodo News*



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: REUTERS

India confident of meeting ambitious climate change targets

NEW DELHI — Indian Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has expressed confidence that a binding global agreement will be concluded at the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that begins 30 November in Paris.

Even if sufficient support to developing countries sought by India is not obtained in the negotiations, he said in an interview with *Kyodo News* on Saturday that India will achieve its greenhouse gas

reduction targets and will not use them as bargaining chips.

India, with a population of 1.3 billion people, is the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter after China and the United States.

The country was formerly resistant to calls to commit to emissions targets on the grounds that it could hamper its measures to fight poverty and economic growth. However, last month it unveiled a plan to reduce the "emissions intensity" of its economy, raising

hopes for a new framework to replace the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

Specifically, it pledged to cut carbon intensity — the amount of carbon per rupee of economic output — by between 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from the 2005 level.

In the interview, Javadekar repeatedly voiced confidence that a consensus will be reached in Paris.

"India accounts for only 5 percent of the world's emissions, but we suffer from torrential rains and

droughts due to climate change," he said, adding that countries that have emitted large quantities of greenhouse gases have a historical responsibility to deal with climate change.

At COP21, India, as a representative of the developing world, plans to seek funding and technical support. Receiving aid is "the right of developing countries," he said, indicating the expectation that aid for developing countries will be incorporated in a new agreement.—*Kyodo News*

S Korea's ex-president Kim Young Sam dies at 87



Former South Korean President Kim Young Sam. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Former South Korean President Kim Young Sam, who was in power from 1993 to 1998 as the country's first civilian leader after more than three decades of military rule, died early Sunday of blood poisoning and acute heart failure. He was 87.

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn said at a Cabinet meeting that a state funeral will take place at the

National Assembly on Thursday after a five-day mourning period, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

President Park Geun-hye, currently in Malaysia for a regional summit, expressed her condolences, according to a presidential official. "My heart goes out to the bereaved family members, and I pray for the soul of the deceased," spokesman Jeong Yeon Guk quoted Park as saying.

An iconic figure of South Korea's pro-democracy movement, Kim had been treated at Seoul National University Hospital several times in recent years for stroke, angina and pneumonia, and was admitted Thursday with a high fever, the hospital said.

While in office his two predecessors — former generals Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo — were convicted and imprisoned for treason and other charges, although Kim later pardoned them. He also accepted a massive international bailout during the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.—*Kyodo News*

UN Secretary-General Ban urges Russia, US to cooperate on terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Russia and the United States yesterday to cooperate in rooting out terrorism and said he would unveil a comprehensive plan to fight extremism and violence early next year.

"All these terrorists and ideology extremists should be defeated in the name of humanity," he said at the annual East Asia Summit, this year hosted by Malaysia.

"In that regard, we need to unite. We need to show global solidarity to address ... the common enemy of ISIL, Daesh, some other extremists and terrorist groups," he said, referring to Islamic State.

US President Barack Obama said at the same summit the United States and its allies would not relent in the fight to combat Islamic State extremists and would hunt down their leaders and cut off the group's financing.

"Destroying (Islamic State) is not only a realistic goal, we're going to get it done," he told a news conference after the summit.

"We will destroy them. We will take back land they are currently in, take out their financing, hunt down leadership, dismantle their networks, supply lines and we will destroy them."

Obama said it "would be helpful" if Russia directed its focus on tackling Islamic State and he hoped Moscow would agree to a leadership transition in Syria that meant its president stepping down.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said countries with large populations of Muslims, including Russia, should unite to fight against Islamic State.

"We need a consolidated anti-terrorist position of those countries that have a large Islamic community, and incidentally Russia is

one of these countries," Medvedev said at the annual East Asia Summit hosted this year by Malaysia.

Medvedev said "it is now clear we can only fight this threat by bringing our forces together and by working through such international institutions as the United Nations". The UN Secretary-General said he "highly commended the leadership of the Russian Federation together with the United States to address some of the roots causes of terrorism".

Ban said the United Nations is now gathering ideas and experience from its member states. "Early next year, the UN is going to present a comprehensive plan of action to defeat violence and extremism."—*Reuters*

"We need a consolidated anti-terrorist position of those countries that have a large Islamic community, and incidentally Russia is one of these countries."

Dmitry Medvedev

OPINION

Time for genuine national reconciliation

Myint Win Thein

IN the history of the world, many empires, from that of the Romans centuries ago to that of the British decades ago, collapsed. The reason was that they were built on military might alone. As a result, they were defeated when their military might weakened or their rivals' military might surpassed theirs.

In the history of Myanmar, some kings established empires that were bigger than the nation's modern territory. These empires collapsed long ago, and Myanmar was even colonised by the British for about a century. Myanmar was defeated in three wars with the British and lost her independence. Some attribute the defeat to Myanmar's lack of modern military technology. However, the main reason for the loss of Myanmar's sovereignty was that the empire was built on military might alone.

People build a better society based on the experience and knowledge of the older generations. Therefore, it is necessary to build a new Myanmar society based on the unity of all people living in it. For people to be united, it is important that all members of the society enjoy equal rights.

The idea that a country can be united through its military might is a false one. Military might alone cannot unite people and may even lead to war and bloodsheds. It is time for Myanmar to exert efforts for genuine national reconciliation.

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The Imperial Jade from Myanmar

U Win Sein

JADE is an ornamental stone which the Chinese have a much higher regards for it than any other people have on it. For thousands of years jade has been the most popular gemstone in China. The Chinese Empire desired excellent specimen of jade and they traded and even waged war with distant countries to acquire them. Jade is a durable colorful material that can be made into different shapes and when given a high polish, these properties made them into desirable gemstones. Because of their hardness, they were used for caving in prehistoric time to make axe-heads, weapons, scraping and hammering tools and other religious artifacts. Some of them have a beautiful color and could be polished into brilliant luster, people started to use jade for gemstones and ornamental objects, these stones have a variety of color that include green, white, lavender, yellow, blue, bleak, red, orange and grey. So they were used as a variety of jewelry items such as pendants, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, beads, cabochons and other objects.

The name jade is applied to two different metamorphic rocks that are made up of different silicate minerals, they are classified by a Frenchman Alexis Damour as jadeite and nephrite. The jade that was found in Myanmar is belonging to jadeite group, they are mainly extracted from Northern Myanmar particularly in the towns of Tawmao, Hweka, Mamon with Hpakant being quickly developed as a present-day center of jade mine, in addition, there are less notable mines in the towns of Nasiben, Natmaw and Hkamti. Jadeite and nephrite have distinctively different mineral composition. Jadeite is an aluminium rich pyroxene, while nephrite is magnesium aprite.

However the two minerals have a very similar physical properties in the eye of average person, only trained observers with significant experience are able to differentiate them with the aids of mineral testing equipment.

5000 years ago, China has been a leading producer of jade objects. A few hundred years ago, some master Chinese craftsmen who worked with jade daily recognized that some of the jade obtained from Burma [now the Republic of the Union of Myanmar] was different. It was harder, denser, could worked easier and produced higher quality of luster

"As 90% of the world's jadeite is mined in the northern part of Myanmar, so that jade trade is predominantly has taken place in Myanmar, the largest jade trader groups come from China, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea to the Annual Myanmar Gems Emporium in Myanmar which has contributed about 2 to 3 billion of US dollars into the coffer of the Government annually."

after polishing, so much so it gradually became the only kind of jade preferred very much by the Chinese people, before scientists could differentiated jadeite and nephrite in 1863. Though later on they could distinguished jadeite from nephrite and appreciated to pay more money to jadeite. On a rare occasion, some Chinese craftsmen had encountered a fine-grained jadeite with a bright translucence and a rich uniform green color. It was so beautiful that they all in an awesome manner had given the name "Imperial Jade" as regarded it as fit and right to be the stone reserved for the ownership by the Emperor only. Now anyone who can afford to buy it can own one Imperial Jade.

The volume of green jade traded through Yunnan increased toward the end of the Ming Dynasty and during the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, W Warry, a member of the Chinese Consular Service on an expedition to Burma in 1788/Wrote the following about the origin of Chinese demand for green jade in the local folklore:-

The discovery that green jade of great quality occurred in Northern Burma was made accidentally by a small Yunnan trader in the 13th century. The story goes like this; -that on the returning from a journey across the frontier of Burma, he had picked up a piece

particularly for the beauty of the translucence quality of the stone, using her political position to acquire the gem and wearing it with her royal attire in public occasion

During the mid-18th century, there was an expansion of jade mining in Burma and greater subsequent export of jade to China. A result of the insatiate taste among the wealthy Chinese for the Imperial Jade from Burma, a regular trade route between the Burma Government and China was established. In 1861 as a relaxation of restrictions on trade, merchants could extend trade even to Mandalay and brought back jade via maritime route. From this time onwards, the majority of high quality jade stones produced in Burma could find its way into China through Hong Kong and Shanghai. After 1949 the eruption of civil war in China had put a halt of jade transaction of border trade between Myanmar and Yunnan. Consequently the jade produced in Kachin State was transported by rail to Rangoon where it was then exported by sea to Hong Kong. In 1962 the Government has declared all gemstones as properties of Myanmar State Government, virtually halting the maritime export of gems to foreign countries. All this time most of the gems producing regions in Upper Myanmar were taken over by the insurgent groups. Seized gemstones were taken down to Yangon for auction sales. Jade traders have to resort to the only way by obtaining jadestones at Myanmar's jade producing regions and then smuggled them through the border crossing points to gemstones trading companies in Thailand.

Though the western people preferred to buy diamonds, rubies and sapphires whereas the Asian people especially the Chinese preferred to buy the Imperial Jade with an uncommonly fixation, so as to leave a loophole for attracting

some unscrupulous minded jade traders to get fast money in a way by confusing the potential buyers with a large variety of inferior gemstones such as chalcedony, serpentine, maw-sit-sit and hydro-grossular garnet which are very much look like jadeite but they are not jadeite and very less in cost of value than to real jadeite. And on another kind of inferior stones, with a special kind of technical treatment could turn the stones to look very much alike jadeite on sale in the international market. With only the trained jade expert eye they can be able to differentiate the real ones from the adulterated ones.

As 90% of the world's jadeite is mined in the northern part of Myanmar, so that jade trade is predominantly has taken place in Myanmar, the largest jade trader groups come from China, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea to the Annual Myanmar Gems Emporium in Myanmar which has contributed about 2 to 3 billion of US dollars into the coffer of the Government annually. "Imperial Jade" was coined by a Chinese jade trader for the Myanmar jade as its finest quality, almost transparent with a vibrant emerald green color. This name was made known nation wise among the Chinese through the patronage of Empress Dowager Cixi who owned one herself and wearing it in public occasion with her Royal attire. There is also a belief among the Chinese people that "Imperial Jade" can ward off evil spirits and have a beneficial effect on health and in another Chinese saying, that wearing a bangle of jade could survive oneself from a house burning down by fire. So we should bear in mind that good quality of jade can come from the one and only Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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Good Old Days: Why People Were Happy Then?

San Shwe Aung

PEOPLE normally think old days were better than now. Many would say it was so good when we were young. Everything seemed to be pleasant, affordable and people had less stress. It refers to an era considered by the elderly people to be better than the current era. It is a form of nostalgic romanticism. Is it however real one or fallacy? We old people reminisced the good old days whenever we had gathering with old friends and classmates. Nowadays we have seen many groups of classmates who had attended together in the schools, universities, military & police academies, training courses, colleges in foreign countries are making regular gatherings sometimes together with their family members. We also have formed an informal alumni group who had attended a university four and a half decades ago in the then Rangoon. Since 4 years ago, we have been regularly meeting at a restaurant every last Sunday of the month to chat, revisit events of the old days, and share different experiences. Most of us are in mid sixties now and almost all are retired persons, except some who still advise to the private companies, NGOs and who are running own businesses. We will collect monthly contribution from the classmates and save in a bank to offer our donation to our elderly teachers and professors who are now in late seventies and in eighties. Most of the long retired teachers, lecturers and professors are in frail health and we all agree to support them every year by organizing a ceremony where we give homage in respectful ways to them for their selfless teaching and guidance to us. We actually owe our teachers a lot. With higher education knowledge, professional competency and guidance provided by our teachers, we have been able to stand tall and perform our tasks in our various careers in the country and abroad. Several decades ago, the pace of the life was steady. But things worked perfectly. We send letters to our parents, friends and employers by air-mail. Postal services were used worldwide quite efficiently. When I was in Africa in early 1980s, for 2 years, I used to send and receive letters to and from my family by air-mail postal services. One letter from the family in Myanmar took 2 weeks to reach me in Africa and vice versa. We submitted our monthly, quarterly and annual reports in hard copies and by air-mail to the headquarters in other countries.

I passed matriculation examination in the education year of 1966-67 from an up-country town and was selected to attend at a university in Rangoon. My elder sister,

who was 2 years senior to me, was already attending the university in Rangoon then. My parents therefore had to sell their gold saving, which brought about 1,000 Kyats for 4 tical of gold ornaments to fund for initial requirements of a new university student who also had to go to Rangoon. Imagine that the cost of 1 tical of gold was then only 250 Kyats! My elder sister during her undergraduate study at Rangoon Arts and Science University (RASU) received a government stipend at 75 Kyats per month while I didn't, because 2 students from the same family were not entitled to the government stipend grants. My father's salary as a government employee was then only 320 Kyats per month. We had 4 brothers and one sister. I used to receive 125 Kyats monthly from my father for the university classes fees (15 Kyats/month), hostel fees (15 Kyats/month) and food at the university hostel (47 Kyats/month). The remaining 48 Kyats was for my monthly pocket money, which I would spend on soap, hair cream, tooth paste, hair cut, coffee & snacks, going to the cinema and to have some nice food in downtown, such as ice cream and Chinese fried noodle. At the hostel we had no breakfast but we were given very early main meal, rice and curry at 7 am and after the morning meal, off we went to the classes. Dinner was served at the dining room of the hostel from 4 to 6 pm. Before dinner, we used to play volleyball, football, badminton, karate and body building according to one's preference. Majority of hostel students made their own laundry, washing clothes, ironing etc. mainly during the weekends. From our hostel in Insein township we took number 8 Hino bus to Hledan to visit our friends at RASU or went straight to downtown to watch famous movies such as "Fistful of Dollars", "Diamonds are Forever" and "Planet of the Apes" at President cinema hall. Then, there were famous cinema halls in downtown Rangoon such as Pa Pa Win (Pledian), Globe, Royal, etc. President cinema hall is still there with the name changed to Thamada though. But Sule Shangrila (previously Traders) hotel is now in the old site of Pa Pa Win cinema hall. A cinema back stall ticket cost 4 Kyats and a dress circle (DC) ticket cost 5 Kyats then. When we went out from the hostel, we paid the bus fare of 15 Pyas (0.15 Kyat) from Insein to Hledan and 30 Pyas (0.30 Kyat) to downtown. During that time the salaries of government employees were very competitive, I would say. People may question how come, as a senior assistant teacher (SAT) then received only 320 to 440 Kyats per month and the salary was competitive? A gazette officer salary was 350-25-700



An old house and antique car.

Kyats. 25 Kyats was annual salary increment. A director or general manager of the government department received flat 1,200 Kyats monthly salary. Mind boggling for the new generation young men and women, isn't it? This writer mentioned earlier that salaries of old days were competitive. So I have to prove my claim at least mathematically even though it might not be taken into account several other political, trading & business, security factors and changing global socio-economic situations.

We in Myanmar have been having a traditional norm set by our ancestors since many decades ago. **The price of one tical of gold is generally equal to the prevailing price of 100 baskets of rice.** One is free to disagree by saying that the expression is an out-of-date method of ultra simplification. Could be! But let us look and make an analysis at the real figures then. Perhaps we look back at the gold price in 1972, which was around 400 Kyats per one tical of gold, My father's salary was 400 Kyats which is 100% of a value of one tical of gold in that time. In an imaginary way my father salary could have been equivalent to 795,000 Kyats per month in current value (current one tical price of gold 795,000 Kyats). Let us look at the salary of senior assistant teacher (SAT) who was receiving a ceiling salary 440 Kyats (1.05 tical of gold) and now it could have been equal to 834,750 Kyats. The salary of a general manager or director of a government department then was 1,200 Kyats (3 tical of gold) and now it could have been equal to 2,385,000 Kyats per month. In

addition, the prices of consumer goods, rice, fish, meat, vegetables were also very affordable then. A cup of tea cost 0.25 Kyats, one serving of lunch with rice, meat, vegetable and soup would cost 1.5 to 2 Kyats maximum. One Pyi of rice (8 empty condensed milk tin cup of rice) costs 75 Pyas to 1.5 Kyats depending on the quality of rice. In old days a daily unskilled labour got 3.15 Kyats per day which could have been equivalent to current 6,260 Kyats if one converts with current gold price. As mentioned before, there are of course other factors affecting the prices of basic goods and services. However, one may conclude that the salaries of old days are competitive because the salaries received by all sector of nation work force well covered the basic needs for the family and even people could save a small part of their monthly salaries. Then, the government employees were very honest, respectable and no need to look for bribes, illegal income, corrupt practices and misappropriation of public funds and budgets. They were quiet **happy** with their legal and official income and salary. A teacher did not need or insist to receive gifts and presents from the students and work extra time on private tuitions. The responsible officials did not need either to misappropriate the budgets allocated for the various state owned projects by using many wicked ways to enrich themselves and so on. I sincerely hope in writing this article that all stake holders to look at & revisit the values of the basic principle laid out by our ancestors **"the price of one tical of gold is generally equal to the prevailing**

price of 100 baskets of rice". Perhaps this brief reflection of life of the good old days could remind all of us that what we basically need is to review the salaries (and income of self employed people, small traders as well) whether those are actually sufficient for the decent living, food, clothing, education, leisure, for religious affairs and saving for the families in our country. It is quite apparent that the current official salaries paid to the employees in public as well as in private sectors are very low compared to those of our neighboring countries. Therefore, it is and will still be very difficult and challenging to fight, minimize and eradicate the corruption and bribery with existing official salaries structures in our country. *By the way current 2015 October market price of 100 baskets of good quality rice is between 700,000 and 900,000 Kyats.* On 16th October 2015 it was reported that "the price per 100 baskets of Manaw Thukha old crop in Nay Pyi Taw has raised from under 700,000 to nearly 900,000 Kyats as of the second week of October, said a paddy trader in Pyinmana, on 13 October". On the other hand on 21st October 2015 another online news reported that 1 tical of gold price in Yangon was 796,000 Kyats. Interesting, isn't it? This trend reminds me an old Myanmar saying "Do not ignore old tradition and likewise do not spend carelessly in shopping". “ရှေး ထုံး လည်း မဝယ် နှင့် ဈေး သုံး လည်း မလွယ် နှင့်”

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Argentina opposition has chance to win presidency after 12 years



Argentina's opposition challenger Mauricio Macri. PHOTO: REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's centre-right opposition, led by candidate Mauricio Macri, has its best chance in more than a decade to wrest the presidency from the populist Peronists in a run-off election yesterday and set the economy on a markedly different course.

Outgoing President Cristina Fernandez, who was preceded in office by her late husband Nestor Kirchner, is as revered by the poor for her generous welfare programmes as she is reviled by business for the strict controls the couple put on the economy over 12 years in power.

Barred from seeking a third straight term, she will leave office next month with Argentina deeply divided between those who want the government to keep playing a strong role in their lives and those who back the opposition's free-market policies.

In a sign of Argentines' weariness with a stagnant economy and high inflation, Fernandez's candidate, Daniel Scioli, lost his front-runner status after the 25 October first-round vote when Macri unexpectedly came in right on his heels.

Macri, the two-term mayor of Buenos Aires and scion of a wealthy family, developed a comfortable lead in the opinion polls for the run-off. But with one in 10 voters undecided, Sci-

oli cannot be counted out.

Whoever is sworn in on 10 December will inherit a yawning fiscal deficit that Fernandez has financed by printing pesos, contributing to double digit inflation. Foreign reserves are at a nine-year low and the county has been shut out of the global bond market due to a festering sovereign default.

Macri wants to open Latin America's No. 3 economy to more investment by lifting currency and trade controls, but will also have to put accounts in order after eight years of free-spending populism under Fernandez.

Juana Fontana, a 74-year-old lawyer, said she will vote for Macri because the current policy model "has hit bottom."

Scioli, seen as more of a moderate than Fernandez, says he would be flexible in adjusting macro-economic policy while standing by the poor.

Macri has accused Scioli, the governor of Buenos Aires province, of fear-mongering in ads claiming that he would scrap welfare programmes. Scioli says it is Macri's planned spending cuts that create panic. Each accuses the other of lying.

Scarred by the economic collapse in 2001 that tossed millions into poverty, many Argentines fear any dramatic shift could make things worse.

"I'm not crazy about Scioli,

but I'm going to vote for him because Macri's policies would let too many foreign goods into the country, and that would be bad for local industry," said Cristina Castillo, a 53-year-old Buenos Aires psychologist.

"Reading between the lines, it's clear Macri wants a drastic fiscal adjustment," she added.

A new fiscal policy is exactly what investors want, along with the lifting of currency controls and a solution to a marathon legal battle with bondholders who rejected Argentina's 2005 and 2010 debt restructurings.

The local Merval stock index has shot up 25 percent since Macri's muscular performance in the first round, as investors factored in the possibility he will win the run-off and free up markets by dismantling currency and trade controls.

Fernandez, who often cites her late husband as the guiding light of her approach to governing, has taken to the airwaves in recent weeks, appealing to voters to ensure that government funding of education, health-care and programmes for poor mothers remains.

"When I leave, please God, I don't want to see ruined what it took us years to build!" she shouted to cheering, chanting and crying supporters at a recent rally. —Reuters

PM: Serbia safe country, invests in defence industry

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic announced on Saturday further investments in the defence industry, which would contribute to the development of Serbia's economy, defence capacities and protection from possible terrorist attacks.

"We will continue to invest

in the defence industry, but this will not raise our fiscal deficit or jeopardize the budget and public finances," Vucic told a news conference after the anti-terrorism drill dubbed "Shield 2015", announcing the opening of a new plant near Uzice, and the expansion of capacities in Velika Plana.

Vucic noted that the serial production of the multi-purpose armored vehicle Lazar would start in March next year.

The prime minister added that two Russian helicopters should be delivered to Serbia by the end of January, and then two German ones by the end of the year. —Tanjug

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia kills 10 militants who had sworn allegiance to IS-agencies

MOSCOW — Russia's Anti-Terrorism Committee said yesterday that 10 militants who had sworn allegiance to Islamic State had been killed in a special operation in a southern Russian republic, Russian news agencies reported.

"During the active phase of

a special operation near Nalchik, according to preliminary information, 10 militants were neutralised," the committee said, Interfax reported. "They were all members of armed groups that had sworn allegiance to the international terrorist organisation

ISIL." —Reuters

Swedish prosecutors release attack plot suspect

STOCKHOLM — Swedish prosecutors released a man yesterday held on suspicion of plotting an attack saying he was no longer a suspect.

Moder Mothama Magid, 22, was arrested on Thursday after a intense manhunt. He was

suspected of having plotted in Stockholm to carry out an unspecified "terrorist crime". He had said he was innocent.

"The man is no longer a suspect," prosecutor Hans Ihrman said in a statement. —Reuters

Belgium maintains maximum security alert status for Brussels

BRUSSELS — Belgium maintained maximum security for the capital Brussels yesterday, with a further review by intelligence, police and judicial services set for later in the day.

The Belgian crisis centre, which advises the government on security, said in a tweet that Brussels remained on the maximum level four, indicating a

"serious and imminent" threat of an attack, while the rest of the country would at be at level three, meaning a possible and probable threat.

Belgium put Brussels on maximum security alert on Saturday, shutting the metro and warning people to avoid crowds because of the threat of coordinated, multiple attacks by militants. —Reuters

State of emergency declared in Crimea after electricity pylons 'blown up'

MOSCOW — A state of emergency has been declared in Crimea after pylons carrying electricity from Ukraine were blown up cutting off power to almost two million people, media and the Russian government said yesterday.

The Russian Energy Ministry didn't say what had caused the outages, but Russian media reported that two pylons in the Kherson region of Ukraine north of Crimea had been blown

up by Ukrainian nationalists.

The attack, if by Ukrainian nationalists opposed to Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine last year, is likely to further increase tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Russia's Energy Ministry said in a statement that two power lines bringing power from Ukraine to Crimea had been affected, as a result of which 1,896,000 people had been left without power. —Reuters

11 injured in S Philippine grenade explosion

MANILA — At least 11 people were injured when a grenade exploded in the southern Philippine province of Sultan Kudarat, local police said yesterday.

An unidentified suspect hurled a grenade near a gasoline station along the national highway in Isulan town Saturday night, the Police Regional

Office said.

The incident took place on the eve of a festival in Isulan.

Those injured were immediately brought to hospital for medical treatment.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the motive and those behind the attack. —Xinhua

Currency managers see brisk business with soaring US dollar

NEW YORK — Currency managers are getting back on their feet after weathering lacklustre performance and investor outflows in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, thanks to a surging US dollar and increased volatility in the foreign exchange market.

US institutional investors, ravaged by a strengthening dollar, have turned to global currency specialists to strip out the greenback's effect on their portfolios and at the same time, generate additional return.

Many in the currency management industry are benefiting, from funds owned by custodian banks such as State Street to forex specialists and small firms such as those managed by industry veteran John Taylor, who once ran the largest currency hedge fund in the world.

The latest figures made available to Reuters by institutional investment data analytics firm eVestments showed total inflows to currency asset managers in 2015 were \$8.7 billion through September, compared with \$4.9 billion for the same period in 2014.

"Most shops doing a decent job are growing right now, especially with this new demand from

US investors," said Colin Crownover, head of global currency management at Boston-based State Street, which has \$2.4 trillion in assets under management.

Managers tend to hedge between 50 percent and 70 percent of international portfolios against a further rise in the dollar. They do this through buying a corresponding short forward contract in a currency a fund may be invested in, such as the euro. Currency managers benefit when they recognise market shifts and act quickly.

State Street's currency assets under management stood at \$125 billion as of this week. Its assets have been growing at a 12-month trailing average of 12 percent, Crownover said.

The industry struggled for a few years as global central bank action kept interest rates low and currencies stuck to narrow trading ranges.

There have been several casualties in the currency hedge fund industry. Taylor was forced to shutter his FX Concepts fund in 2013 and filed for bankruptcy. Brevan Howard and QFS Asset Management were also among asset managers that shut their currency funds amid losses.

Volatility has returned to



An employee of a money changer holds a stack of US Dollar notes before giving it to a customer in Jakarta, on 8 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

markets as the Federal Reserve has moved closer to raising interest rates, while the European Central Bank embarked on a massive asset-buying programme.

One-month volatility in the euro/dollar currency pair rose to as high as 15 percent last July, from just 4 percent in the summer of 2014. That uncertainty is what has spurred managers to seek help from currency experts.

Clients of Adrian Lee & Partners, a London-based quantitative currency manager overseeing \$6 billion in assets, have given the firm 50 percent more of their assets to manage, said Adrian Lee, the firm's president and

chief executive officer.

"Our pipeline or the people we're actually talking to is bigger than I have ever seen, with about 25-30 names," said Lee.

Millennium Global, a UK-based forex manager, has snagged \$3.5 billion in inflows so far this year, pushing its assets under management to \$16 billion at the end of October, said Mark Astley, chief executive officer.

Even Taylor, whose FX Concepts once had \$14 billion in assets at its peak, has resurfaced, managing about \$150 million, he said. His new firm is called FX Concepts News, which is also a research and advisory service.

Despite past struggles, Tay-

lor has become a sub-manager for other hedge funds' currency portfolios and has a \$50 million-credit line that he can use, he said.

"The environment right now is spectacularly good because the governments have their hands in the market and they're making a complete mess of it," said Taylor. His most profitable trade has been shorting the Chinese yuan, Brazilian real and Mexican peso.

Returns have not been shabby. A broad index of currency fund performance — BarclayHedge Currency Index — was up 3.4 percent in the year to October, continuing a positive trend since 2007, BarclayHedge data showed.—Reuters

Google aims for China launch of Google Play app store next year

BEIJING — Google, part of Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O), aims to launch the China version of its Google Play smartphone app store next year, according to people familiar with the matter, its first major foray in the market since ending localised product support in 2010.

The Google Play app store would be set up specifically for China, and not connected to overseas versions of Google Play, two of the people said.

They said Google intends to comply with Chinese laws on filtering content that might be viewed as sensitive by the ruling Communist Party, and laws requiring the company to store the app store's data within China.

A Singapore-based Google spokesman declined to comment.

Google largely pulled its services out of China five years ago after refusing to continue self-censoring its search results. It has maintained a limited presence in the world's biggest smartphone market, but most of its services, including Play, have been rendered borderline inaccessible.

The US company would use a successful app store as a launch pad to place other products and services in China, said two people familiar with Google's thinking.

They said, however, that the company has not settled on which product might come next.

Chief Executive Sundar Pichai and other top brass have made no secret that the company wants to get back into China, and Google Play would likely be its first foray.

But critics say Google has lost basically all ground in most of its major services, especially search and video streaming, to Chinese players. The biggest competition might come from products on the wrong side of the law, said technology analyst Rob Enderle.

"There are a substantial number of free ways people get music in China that makes it difficult for any service, especially from the West, to get into the market," he said. For Google, having a product in China would be a symbolic gesture to show that the company values the market, said Shen Si, CEO of Chinese mobile advertising

company PapayaMobile and a former Google employee.

"If they want to break the ice with the Chinese market then they have to pick a pretty important product to make available to the

"Google Play would be a really good product for that because it's not very sensitive."

CEO Shen Si
Chinese mobile advertising
company PapayaMobile

Chinese people and make it really localised," she said. "Google Play would be a really good product for that because it's not very sensitive." Chris MacDonald, a business ethics expert at Toronto's Ryerson University, agreed Google Play was a safer bet than search or Gmail in China but said Google should take its time deciding what

product to bring to the market next.

"Which ones involve the least consumer data? Which ones are least likely to be politically sensitive or serve as a means of expression for political dissidents?" asked MacDonald. If Google wants to penetrate the Chinese market in a meaningful way it has to be led by search, said Enderle.

"How do you use YouTube without search? Everything they've got hinges on search. In the end if they can't get search in everything it is going to be even more crippled than it already is," he said. Google has had its employees working hard in China to lay the ground for the app store's launch, said one of the people with knowledge of executives' plans.

The US-based firm is hoping to launch Google Play in China some time after Chinese New Year in February next year, and before early summer, that person said. Another person at a company in China that works with Google said the store will go live in 2016.

The company hopes the app store will include as payment options Alipay, the online payment

service from Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's (BABA.N) finance arm Ant Financial Services Group [ANTFIN.UL], and Tencent Holding Ltd's (0700.HK) WeChat Payment, said the person familiar with executives' thinking.

Rather than requiring explicit approval from China's government to launch the app store, Google just needs to comply with Chinese laws including those governing data storage and content filtering, the person added. That was echoed by PapayaMobile's Shen.

Spokeswomen for Ant Financial and Tencent declined to comment. China is too big a market for Google to ignore. Apple Inc (AAPL.O) complies with local laws and made \$58.7 billion last in the year ended 26 September in Greater China, which includes the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan, making it its second-biggest market. Last month, Google said it would take a minority stake in Beijing-based artificial intelligence firm Mobvoi as part of a \$75 million fundraising round, as the US search giant tries to rebuild its presence in China.—Reuters

China's Li voices hope for better ties with Japan

KUALA LUMPUR — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said yesterday he views his country's relations with Japan as improving, expressing hope to continue moving bilateral ties forward, a Japanese official said.

Li, who approached Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a brief chat, was quoted as telling Abe, "I hope that we can cooperate and maintain this outcome (of improved relations) into the future," citing their countries' first trilateral summit with South Korea in three and a half years.

On 1 November, Abe, Li and South Korean President Park Geun-hye held talks in Seoul, in a sign of a thaw in relations between Japan and its neighbours,

which are often beset with disagreements over history and territory. The three agreed to revive annual trilateral summit talks.

Abe and Li also held their first one-on-one talks at that time.

Li said during his five-minute chat with Abe yesterday they were able to have "good discussions" at the trilateral summit and bring back their relations to a normal level, which Li characterized as "an extremely big accomplishment," according to Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko. Abe said he had good discussions with Li in Seoul as well as during the trilateral summit with Park and he believes the "atmosphere of bilateral ties is improving dramatically."

The two leaders were in Kuala Lumpur to attend a series of regional summits involving Southeast Asian nations and their dialogue partners.

Even as there are signs of improvement in ties between Japan and China, thorny issues between them linger such as tensions in the East China Sea, which is home to the Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed Senkaku Islands. China has also been displeased by Japan's move to raise the issue of the South China Sea, which pits China against some Southeast Asian nations.

Beijing has called on Japan and other countries that are not claimants in the South China Sea not to interfere.—*Kyodo News*



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Five injured in fire in famed Chicago skyscraper

CHICAGO — Five people were injured, none seriously, on Saturday in a fire that sent flames bursting out of windows from a residence on the 50th floor of the Chicago's famous John Hancock Center, according to the Chicago Fire Department.

The fire broke out on the east side of the 100-story building in mid-afternoon and was quickly extinguished by responding firefighters, according to tweets by the Chicago Fire Department.

The fire began in a bedroom and spread through the rest of the apartment, gutting it, the department said. The cause of the fire, confined to the one apartment, is under investigation but was determined to be accidental.

Five people suffered smoke



Windows are seen missing from the 50th floor of the John Hancock Centre after a 2-11 alarm fire was extinguished by firefighters in Chicago, Illinois on 21 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

inhalation or other minor injuries and were in good or stable condition, the department said. Several ambulances responded to the scene.

The fire department posted pictures of the flames coming from the building as smoke

obscured views of the upper floors.

The Hancock building, a landmark in downtown Chicago, has condominiums on most of the upper half floors and an observatory popular with tourists for its sweeping views of the city and Lake Michigan.—*Reuters*

North Korea threatens South Korea ahead of island shelling anniversary

SEOUL — Five years after North Korea fired shells on to a South Korean island, Pyongyang vowed yesterday to retaliate mercilessly should Seoul hold fire drills near the border on the anniversary.

North Korea fired scores of artillery shells at South Korea's Yeonpyeong island on 23 November, 2010, killing four people including two civilians in one of the heaviest attacks on its neighbour since the Korean War ended in 1953.

North Korea said it was provoked into the attack by South Korean live-fire drills in the area that dropped shells in its territorial waters.

The threat came after the two Koreas agreed on Friday to hold talks later this month, setting the stage for the first government-level meeting focused on easing tension since the two pledged to improve ties following an armed standoff in August.

"If the South Korean military fires at the waters of the DPRK in the hotspot area of the West Sea of Korea on Monday, they will experience merciless retaliation of the Southwestern Front units of the DPRK on the five islands," the North's official KCNA news agency quoted spokesman for the southwestern front command of the Korean People's Army as saying.

DPRK is an acronym for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"They should not dig their own graves with war drumbeats for the preemptive strike against the DPRK but draw a lesson from the bitter defeat they suffered five years ago," the military command spokesman said.

An official at South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said they were monitoring the situation but he declined to give further comment.—*Reuters*

Hong Kong votes year after protests in test of appetite for democracy

HONG KONG — Hong Kong, decked out in colourful posters and flags, voted yesterday in district-level elections that will mark the first real test of public sentiment since pro-democracy protests crippled parts of the Chinese-controlled city last year.

About 900 candidates are competing for the 431 seats in 18 district councils, where pro-Beijing parties currently hold a majority, at a time when people are divided over the pace of political reform.

The results, due late on Sunday, will provide insight into how a Legislative Council election due next year and a controversial lead-

ership poll in 2017 could pan out.

The 79-day demonstrations last year, when activists streamed on to highways to demand full democracy for the former British colony, became the biggest political challenge to Beijing's Communist Party leaders in years.

The protests failed to persuade China to allow a fully democratic vote in 2017. Beijing says city voters have to choose from a list of candidates it has approved.

But they triggered what many in the financial centre see as a political awakening, which has included a lively debate over how much control China's central government should have.

Scores of new candidates have come forward since the protests, including Steve Ng Wing-tak, 30, a former chef.

"Without the Umbrella Movement, I would definitely not have run for the district council," said Ng, referring to the democracy demonstrations. "I would've been more politically apathetic than most."

The city's streets were festooned with banners and flags, while candidates and volunteers in sashes and colourful windbreakers handed out flyers to passers-by.

"If you are fighting for democracy but not actually partic-

ipating in a democratic election, you are a bit of a hypocrite," said 29-year-old candidate Edward Lau, who took part in the democracy protests.

Others said they would not vote for a candidate who took part in "trouble-making".

"People should not stir up trouble," said a 79-year-old retiree surnamed Yung. "I have voted for a candidate who thinks this way."

One of the most keenly watched seats will be that of Albert Ho, a Democratic Party lawmaker who faces stiff competition in the gritty new town of Tuen Mun in the western New

Territories.

A bespectacled Ho, wearing a bright green T-shirt, told Reuters he was confident of winning and, when asked how he would feel if he lost, said: "I will only tell you if I lose."

Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that gives it substantial autonomy and freedoms, with universal suffrage promised as an "ultimate goal".

District councillors wield little power, acting more in an advisory role in which they can push forward policies for the government to consider.—*Reuters*

Bangladesh executes two opposition leaders for 1971 war crimes

DHAKA — Bangladesh executed two opposition leaders on Sunday for war crimes committed during the 1971 war to break away from Pakistan, a senior police official said, in a move likely to draw an angry reaction from supporters.

“Both of them were hanged simultaneously on two separate platforms,” the police official said.

Islamist opposition leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former legislator from former premier Khaleda Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), were hanged shortly after President Abdul Hamid rejected their appeals late on Saturday for clemency.

Mujahid, 67, of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, and Chowdhury, 66, were hanged at Dhaka Central Jail. The Supreme Court had previously rejected their appeals against a death sentence imposed by a special tribunal for geno-

cide and torture of civilians during the conflict.

The Border Guard Bangladesh paramilitary force has been deployed across the country to tighten security.

Muslim-majority Bangladesh, until 1971 East Pakistan, has seen a rise in Islamist violence in recent months, with two foreigners and four secular writers and a publisher killed this year.

Mujahid was found guilty on five charges including torture and the murders of intellectuals and minority Hindus while he commanded Al Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, during the war to break away from Pakistan.

Chowdhury, former legislator from former premier Khaleda Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was convicted in October 2013 on charges of genocide, religious persecution, abduction and torture during the war.

“While we are saddened that we have lost our father by way of a motivated and predetermined trial and where the country is gagged from speaking out, we find hope in the fact that the international community recognises the injustice and that fairness and truth shall be restored in Bangladesh,” Humam Quader Chowdhury, a son of Chowdhury, told Reuters.

“We fought for them under the law and we have been defeated in the legal fight,” defence councillor Khandker Mahub Hosain told Reuters.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened an inquiry into crimes committed during the war in 2010, paving the way for prosecutions by a war crimes tribunal that Islamists have denounced as part of a politically motivated campaign aimed at weakening Jamaat-e-Islami’s leadership.

Two Jamaat leaders have been executed, one in December 2013 and another



An ambulance carrying the body of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former legislator from former premier Khaleda Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), leaves the Dhaka Central Jail after his execution on Sunday. PHOTO: REUTERS

in April. They declined to seek clemency from the president.

BNP spokesman Asaduzzaman Ripon said: “Salauddin has fallen victim to persecution because of his political identity, and he has been denied justice.”

Moqbul Ahmed, acting Amir of Jamaat, said in a statement that Mujahid was a victim of government conspiracy. He called a day long general strike on Monday across the country.

The government de-

nies accusations of interference in the judiciary.

East Pakistan broke away to become independent Bangladesh after a war between India and Pakistan. About three million people were killed.

—Reuters

Spanish retailers cheer signs of Christmas recovery

MADRID — From department stores to delicatessens, Spanish retailers are anticipating their best Christmas in years as shoppers gear up for a spending spree that should help extend an economic recovery and boost a struggling jobs market.

Tax cuts, low inflation and falling energy prices have helped bump up stretched family budgets this year and, with a national election due next month, the government will hope the positive effects of a Christmas splurge rub off on voters.

Businesses believe this year’s retail campaign, widely expected to be the most successful since 2008 when the downturn began, may also

mark the turning point the country has been hoping for since it exited recession in mid-2013.

“Not everything that was lost has come back, and we’re not back to 2007 levels (in revenues), but some of it has been recovered,” said Alberto Marti, whose family-owned company produces gift hampers packed with Iberian ham, fine wines and sweets, which businesses traditionally offer to their clients.

The company, which operates out of Madrid and Barcelona, increased its range of budget hampers during the crisis, and has noted modest improvements in sales since 2013.

But this season things

are looking much rosier with order up 10 to 20 percent on 2014. While unemployment, to date the most intractable legacy of Spain’s long slump, has started tailing off, it is still running at above 21 percent — the second highest rate in Europe after Greece.

So recruitment group Adecco’s prediction that 850,000 jobs could be added between November and January — up 16 percent on 2014 — points to a welcome retail-driven employment spurt, even if most of the hiring will be temporary.

El Corte Ingles — a department chain viewed as an economic bellwether and selling everything from clothing and house-

hold goods to food and holidays — said it was taking on 7,000 extra staff for the season. That is nearly three times as many as last year.

Online retailer Amazon said its Spanish warehouse would operate with 75 percent more staff at Christmas than a year ago, adding 600 jobs, while delivery firms, supermarkets and electronics stores are all recruiting too.

Spaniards also are among the Europeans expected to spend more on presents, food and leisure this Christmas, forking out an average of 560 euros, 0.2 percent more than in 2014, according to a survey by consultants Deloitte.

—Reuters

Heads of state confirm Paris climate talks attendance

PARIS — Heads of state invited to climate talks in Paris starting on 30 November have confirmed they will attend even after the 13 November attacks by Islamic State militants that killed 130 people, a French presidency source said.

“None of the heads of state or government has cancelled,” the source told Reuters, adding that 138 leaders were expected on the opening day of the UN Climate Change conference that runs until 11 December.

World leaders will discuss plans to curb

greenhouse gas emissions and prevent global temperatures rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Some 40,000 to 45,000 people are expected to attend the event, also dubbed COP21, which will be held at Le Bourget, north of Paris, a conference management source said.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Monday that no foreign leaders had asked France to postpone the summit, a move he said would amount to “abdication to the terrorists”.—Reuters

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NOTIFICATION

Name of Wreck : m.v. AZIZA (IMO.9052733)
(Ex. ASRTAEUS)

Current Location : Rakine State, MyanAung Island
Reef, near Kamar Village

This is to notify that the repossession of the described wreck has been applied by HNN Marine Resources (YGN) Ltd with completed documents. Any person who may concerned the repossession of the above mentioned wreck can be objected with evidences within (14) days of the issue of this notification to the Receivers of Wreck (Department of Marine Administration, Yangon).

Receivers of Wreck
Department of Marine Administration

Mainland director wins best leading actor award in Taiwan

TAIPEI — Feng Xiaogang, a renowned director from the Chinese mainland, won the best leading actor award at the Golden Horse Awards for his performance in the film “Mr. Six”.

The award ceremony was held late Saturday night in Taipei.

Feng played an aged gangster in the action comedy “Mr. Six”. He

won the award for the best adapted screenplay of Golden Horse in 2005. Another two mainland directors also scored awards of Golden Horse. Jiang Zhengke won the best original screenplay award for his film “Mountains May Depart” and Pema Tsenden won the best adapted screenplay award for his film “Tharlo”. The best director award

went to Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-hsien, who also won the best director award at the Cannes Film Festival in May for the film “The Assassin”. The film won the best feature film award Saturday night.

The best leading actress went to Karena Lam from Taiwan for her role in the film Zinnia Flower. —Xinhua



Chinese director Bi Gan



Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-hsien



Taiwanese actor Lee Hong-chi



Actress Karena Lam

PHOTOS: REUTERS

Germany withdraws Eurovision contender after lyrics uproar

BERLIN — Germany withdrew its contender for next year’s Eurovision song contest on Saturday following a backlash from critics who accuse the R&B artist of using anti-Semitic and homophobic slurs in his songs.

Xavier Naidoo, a singer of Indian and African heritage whose albums have sold millions, was selected as Germany’s candidate by public broadcaster ARD on Thursday, but the uproar in newspapers and social media prompted a swift change of heart.

“Xavier Naidoo is a wonderful singer who isn’t racist or homophobic in my view,” ARD executive Thomas Schreiber said in a statement. “It was clear that he is someone who polarizes but the ferocity of the reactions surprised us. We misjudged.”

Top-selling newspaper Bild questioned the choice of Naidoo on its front page on Friday. Anetta Kahane, founder of well-known anti-racism group the Amadeu Antonio Foundation, described his selection as “problematic”.

Reacting to the decision to withdraw his nomination, the 44-year-old musician said on Facebook it was “okay for me” and stressed that ARD had urged him to compete in the first

place.

Earlier in the week he rejected criticism of his nomination, saying he represented a Germany that was “open to the world” and tolerant of different religions and lifestyles.

Naidoo’s 2012 song “Wo sind” (Where Are) was widely criticized in Germany for lyrics that linked homosexuals and pedophiles.



Xavier Naidoo.
PHOTO: REUTERS

When Germany marked the 25th anniversary of reunification last year, he appeared at a rally of the Reichsbürger group, which wants a German Reich based on pre-World War Two borders.

In another song released after the 2008 financial crisis, Naidoo refers to the German-Jewish Rothschild banking family as “Baron Deadschild” and uses the word “schmock”, a derogatory term in Yiddish. Scandal and political controversy are common at the Eurovision song contest, a kitsch mix of pop and geopolitics that is watched by millions in Europe and beyond.

Germany, which came last in this year’s competition with zero points, will name a new contender as soon as possible, Schreiber from the ARD broadcaster said.—Reuters

Several killed in Paris attacks hid in US band’s dressing room: Jesse Hughes



People mourn outside “Le Carillon” restaurant a week after a series of deadly attacks in the French capital Paris, France, on 22 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — The California rock band that was playing in Paris on the night of the 13 November attacks survived the massacre at their concert, but others died seeking shelter in a dressing room, the group’s lead singer said in an interview with international news channel Vice.

Jesse Hughes of the band Eagles of Death Metal spoke to Vice in an interview that airs on its website next week. A 30-second excerpt was posted on Saturday. It was the first time a member of the band had spoken about the shootings, Vice said.

Bombings and shootings carried out by Islamic State militants in Paris killed 130 people, includ-

ing 89 who were attending the US band’s performance at the Bataclan concert hall. “Several people hid in our dressing room and the killers were able to get in and killed every one of them — except for a kid who was hiding under my leather jacket,” Hughes said in the interview, as the band’s co-founder, Josh Homme, sat next to him.

“People were playing dead and they were so scared,” Hughes said, his voice quavering. “A great reason why so many were killed is because so many people wouldn’t leave their friends. So many people put themselves in front of people.”

In a statement on its Facebook page earlier this week, the band said those killed that night includ-

ed Nick Alexander, its merchandising manager, and three record company “comrades” of the band: Thomas Ayad, Marie Mosser and Manu Perez.

The band, which also goes by the acronym EODM, was on stage at the Bataclan when gunmen opened fire with automatic rifles.

A brief video clip taken inside the hall as the assault began was posted to Instagram and has since been shown on television. In it, three EODM musicians can be seen on stage in the middle of an instrumental performance as gunfire erupts, prompting the drummer to duck for cover while one guitarist flees the stage and another stands frozen.—Reuters

Rostelecom Cup ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Moscow



Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje of Canada perform during the ice dance free dance program at the Rostelecom Cup ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Moscow, Russia, on 21 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Victoria Sinitsina and Nikita Katsalapov of Russia perform during the ice dance free dance program at the Rostelecom Cup ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Moscow, Russia, on 21 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Early season snowstorm coats Midwestern US, affects travel

CHICAGO — A heavy fall snowstorm hit the Midwestern United States on Saturday, blanketing states from South Dakota to Wisconsin with as much as 16 inches (40 cm) of snow, slowing air travel and delaying some events for US presidential candidates.

The storm was forecast to travel east into the Great Lakes region, reaching Michigan and upstate New York according to the National Weather Service. It forecast widespread accumulations of 4 to 8 inches (10-20 cm) of snow.

Forecasters warned that trees that had not already dropped their leaves could be damaged by the heavy, wet snow.

"We have snow across the

area with heavier amounts across northern Illinois," said Amy Seeley, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Chicago.

While it is uncommon for the Midwest to see such heavy snowfall so early in the year, the storm is not unprecedented, Seeley said, noting that an early November storm in 1951 dropped 9.3 inches of snow over the area.

"This has happened before, but obviously it's not as common to have this much snow in November," she said.

In Chicago, Brian Love, 50, headed out anyway, stopping at a local pharmacy before making a library run.

"This is good weather to push my bike in," Love said. "The only thing you can do is walk it because it's too slushy and too deep to actually ride."

Robert Schneck, 52, a worker for the maintenance division of suburban Park Forest, Illinois, had been called out for an unusual Saturday shift because of the storm.

"It couldn't be light and fluffy. It had to be heavy and wet," he said. "Gotta clear a path for people to walk."

The storm also caused several Republican presidential candidates to cancel events in Iowa, home of the critical first nominating caucus. US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Carly Fiorina, a former Hewlett-Packard chief executive, cut some events from their schedules while US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas canceled plans to visit the state.

Snow was forecast to continue into the early evening hours, with single-digit Fahrenheit temperatures hitting parts of the northern Midwest overnight, she said.

The storm affected air travel, with 514 US flights canceled by Saturday morning, with Chicago's O'Hare International and Midway International airports the hardest hit. One in three Midway departures had been canceled by 9:30 am (1530 GMT).—Reuters



A general view of snow in the stadium at Kinnick Stadium. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexico's monarch butterfly sanctuaries open to tourists

MEXICO CITY — The monarch butterfly sanctuaries in the states of Mexico and Michoacan opened their doors Saturday to tourists.

The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources said the sanctuaries would remain open till 31 March, 2016, so that visitors could get to know the

species. The butterflies traveled over 4,000 km from Canada and the United States to arrive at their final destinations in Michoacan and the state of Mexico.

The butterflies, half a gram in weight, will stay in Mexico for four months during their breeding phase.—Xinhua

Italy art critics, politicians recriminate after \$16 million paintings heist

ROME — Amid recriminations and wildly diverging theories, Italian politicians and art critics are still trying to comprehend a dramatic robbery which saw 17 paintings including several masterpieces taken from a museum in Verona this week.

The paintings worth an estimated 15 million euros (\$16 million), including works by Tintoretto, Mantegna and Peter Paul Rubens, were stolen by three armed robbers shortly before the Castelvecchio museum closed on Thursday evening.

Art historian and critic Tomaso Montanari wrote in la Repubblica daily on Saturday that it was "inconceivable" that the museum was defended by only "a single, private armed guard, like a supermarket".

He blamed "savagery" public spending cuts on culture, and called for much tougher sentences for art thieves.

Verona's Mayor Flavio Tosi said the theft was "a wound for the city," and asked for increased protection from central government. But he rejected criticism of the se-

curity measures that were in place.

A city council spokesman said the thieves had acted just after the museum's 11 staff had left but before the remote alarm system with the police station had been activated. They tied up the museum cashier and forced the armed guard to hand over the key to his car, which they used to get away.

Art critic Vittorio Sgarbi, a former junior culture minister, said the theft was "an absolute disaster" for Italy and "one of the most serious art robberies in our history."

He suggested it may have been organised by Islamist militants as a "demonstrative act" because the paintings would be instantly recognizable and virtually impossible to sell. Mayor Tosi said the thieves were working under commission but Alberto Deregibus, deputy head of the Carabinieri police unit for safeguarding the national heritage, said this was unlikely in view of the large number of paintings stolen. "It may have just been delinquents who thought: 'let's steal them and decide later what to do with them'," he said.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(23-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 24-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Than Kywe
07:39	Am	Mt. Naw Bu Baw
07:48	Am	Moving Meditation: Aikido
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Their Traditions and Hot-air Balloon Competition
08:52	Am	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
09:41	Am	One Heritage.....One Festival
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-1)
10:46	Am	Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-2)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-1)
07:51	Pm	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
08:50	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) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

Suarez, Neymar humiliate Real in 4-0 'Clasico' romp

BARCELONA dealt a stinging blow to Real Madrid's title hopes when Luis Suarez and Neymar continued their scintillating form to fire the champions to a stunning 4-0 victory in the La Liga 'Clasico' on Saturday.

Suarez struck twice either side of goals from Neymar and captain Andres Iniesta as Barca humiliated their arch rivals with an imperious performance at the Bernabeu.

They surged six points clear at the top with 30 from 12 matches and ratcheted up the pressure on under-fire Real coach Rafa Benitez who had the luxury of fielding the trio of Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema but to little effect.

Barca's dominance in the 231st meeting between the two teams, which prompted the angry Real fans to roundly whistle their own players and chant for president Florentino Perez to step down, was all the more remarkable considering coach Luis Enrique had started with a fit-again Lionel Messi on the bench.

The Argentina captain, who has been out for nearly two months with a knee injury, came on for Ivan Rakitic just before the hour and promptly sent Suarez clear to score the European champions' fourth. An utterly dominant Barca could easily have added to



Luis Suarez celebrates with Neymar after scoring the first goal for Barcelona. PHOTO: REUTERS

their tally in the closing stages and Real's humiliation was complete when substitute Isco was shown a straight red card for a wild lunge at Neymar six minutes from time.

"We played what was quite honestly a complete match in

every sense," Iniesta, who was given an ovation by the home fans when he was substituted late on, told Spanish television.

"There is a long way to go, it's not decisive at all but we are going away very, very satisfied,"

added the Spain playmaker.

A giant French flag was unfurled in the stands and the Marseille played during a minute's silence before kickoff to honour the victims of the Paris attacks and security was tight for the clash in

the Spanish capital.

In an ominous sign for the home side, Barca had the first clear chance of the game when Suarez laid the ball off to Neymar in the seventh minute but the Brazil forward fired wildly over.

Sergi Roberto burst through the middle and played Suarez in on the right of the penalty area to open the scoring in the 11th minute with a clinical finish.

James Rodriguez had Real's only dangerous shot of the first half in the 28th minute before Iniesta slipped a pass through for Neymar to make it 2-0 five minutes before the break.

Marcelo had to clear a Suarez effort off the line moments before halftime after brilliant work from Neymar and as the players trooped off, a cacophony of whistles rang out around the stadium mixed with chants for Perez to go.

Real came out fighting after the break and Marcelo and Rodriguez each went close before Neymar sent a backheel into Iniesta's path in the 53rd minute and he hammered the ball past Keylor Navas into the top corner.

Isco came on for Rodriguez shortly after and initially gave Real some much-needed zip in attack, with Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema largely anonymous.—Reuters

Vardy equals record as Leicester go top

LEICESTER City's Jamie Vardy equalled a Premier League record by scoring for the 10th straight match as they went top with a 3-0 win at Newcastle United before Manchester City were crushed 4-1 by Liverpool on Saturday.

On a day when champions Chelsea ended their slump with a 1-0 win over Norwich City, Leicester became the third team in five hours to top the table after Manchester United also briefly led following their 2-1

seillaise', the French national anthem, was played at grounds throughout England as a mark of solidarity with France following last week's Paris attacks.

Chelsea's French defender Kurt Zouma led a rendition of the anthem at Stamford Bridge where a huge French flag was displayed

before the champions ended a run of three successive league defeats with victory over Norwich City thanks to a second-half goal from Diego Costa.

That lifted Chelsea up one place to 15th on 14 points, but still a long way behind leaders Leicester who have 28 followed by United on 27 with City and Arsenal level on 26.

While Vardy equalled former Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy's 12-year-old record for scoring in consecutive Premier League games, Leonardo Ulloa and Shinji Okazaki also scored for Claudio Ranieri's un-

fashionable Leicester side.

Dutchman Van Nistelrooy had set the record in the last eight matches of the 2002-03 season and the first two of 2003-04.

The top-flight record is held by Stan Mortensen, who scored in 11 successive matches for Blackpool in the old Division One in 1950-51 and Vardy will equal that if he scores against Manchester United next week.

Van Nistelrooy had tweeted a good luck message to Vardy prior to the game.

"I'm pinching myself every day," Vardy told Sky Sports. "I've matched his (Van Nistelrooy's) record and we have got the three points and a clean sheet.

Ranieri's unlikely leaders sit proudly above both Manchester giants and Arsenal after United briefly went top following a dramatic finale at Vicarage Road.

United led 1-0 following an 11th-minute volley from Memphis Depay before Troy Deeney equalised with an 87th-minute penalty but then scored an own goal in stoppage time.

United, who are suffering an injury crisis, conceded their first goal in six matches in all competitions.—Reuters



Jamie Vardy celebrates scoring the first goal for Leicester City to equal the record for scoring in consecutive Premier League PHOTO: REUTERS

victory at Watford in the early kickoff.

Manchester City, leaders at the start of the day, conceded three goals in the first 32 minutes as Liverpool got their most impressive win yet under new coach Jurgen Klopp, while Arsenal also blew an opportunity by losing 2-1 at West Bromwich Albion.

Leicester reaching the summit was the highlight of a poignant afternoon when 'La Mar-

LOCAL NEWS

Chinlone and sepak takraw tournaments to seek fresh talent

MYANMAR traditional Chinlone and Sepak Takraw tournaments will take place at the chinlone gymnasium near the Jade Pagoda in Hsinywa Myinhmu village, Amarapura Township, starting on 16 January, said Myanmar Chinlone Federation president U Soe Naing.

More than K60 million (US\$46,485) will be awarded to the winning team, he added.

The tournaments will include eight events, including skill demonstrations for women and men and 10-stroke and four-stroke events.

Outstanding players from the tournaments will be chosen as tentatively selected players for the national team.

The president of the federation said the Myanmar Chinlone Federation will provide K60 million, the Max Power soft drink company will donate K40 million for the organising of the tournaments.—Tin Maung