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UEC TO FORM ELECTION TRIBUNALS TO ADJUDICATE ANY OBJECTIONS

THE Union Election Commission has said it will set up tribunals to adjudicate any objections it receives about the general election.

During a workshop held to discuss preparations for the formation of tribunals in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, UEC chairman U Tin Aye said the tribunals will probe objections and cases of failure to submit campaign costs.

Workshop participants included UEC members, officials of the Supreme Court of the Union and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and representatives from five local and foreign election observer groups.

The objective of the workshop was to ensure smoothness and transparency in the formation of the tribunals in line with the law, said U Tin Aye.

The UEC will set up tribunals in regions and states in order to gain full access to witnesses of those who make objections and those whose seats are being contested, the chairman said.

He added that the aim of the tribunals will be to settle cases speedily and keep hearing costs to a minimum.

The UEC has said it will cooperate with the Supreme Court of the Union and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A woman casting vote in recent general election. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Officials arrive on scene of explosion in Haka to provide necessary assistance to locals. PHOTO: IPRD

Explosion in Haka kills six, injures seven

SIX people were killed and seven were injured by an explosion at a home in Haka on Sunday, according to local police.

Police suspect that the explosion was caused by the illegal storage of explosives, such as gun powder, which are often used at mining quarries.

One man and four women were killed by the blast that rocked the two-storey home. They were tenants living in the second storey.

The body of a woman was

found the next day by police, some 20 feet west of where the explosion occurred. She was identified as Daw Htaung Thin Ta Lwe, who had previously been convicted of possession in gun powder wires.

Three people living in the first floor apartment were injured by the blast, and four people living in a house opposite were also injured.

The landlords were not at home at the time the blast occurred, having travelled to Kalay

three days earlier.

A statement released by the police yesterday said a number of individuals in Haka, the capital of Chin State, have been engaging in illegal trade with neighbouring India, such as importing gun powder and accessories for quarrying stones.

The statement said several arrests are made every year for buying and selling illegal goods related to mining, and further investigation is being conducted.—

GNLM

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Roundup

MP U Sai Awm Sai Maing of Kehsi Constituency submitted an urgent motion that the government should provide assistance to internally displaced persons fleeing conflict zones in Shan State at Monday's Pyithu Hluttaw session.

Four MPs seconded the motion, and Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun explained measures being undertaken by their ministries.

In response to a question, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint explained that the ministry has opened 73 drug addiction treatment clinics across the nation. He said that treatment can be provided in Ye and Khawza townships in Mon State.

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Mya Win replied to a question about the functions and achievements of the commission by scrutinising complaints under its law. He

said the commission has solved 13 cases with cooperation from other ministries. Moreover, the commission gives talks on anti-corruption to military personnel in 30 ministries and departments in various regions and states.

U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency read the report of the Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of the Citizen, Democracy and Human Rights Committee, and Pyithu Hluttaw Social Development Committee member Daw Khin Than Myint read the committee's report. The deputy speaker of the Lower House invited MPs to discuss it.

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa announced ongoing tasks for the bill to amend the pension law, which was sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House).

The Hluttaw approved the bills to amend the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Investment Law.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw. Photo: MNA

Miner huts to move Hpakant landslide death toll rises to 113

Aye Min Soe

FOLLOWING Saturday's deadly landslide at a jade mining site in Hpakant, Kachin State, local authorities have said they will relocate around 70 make-shift huts inhabited by miners, as they are near mountains of dump soil. The first landslide buried around 70 huts located in a ravine comprising two mountains of dump soil that were approximately 200 feet high.

Nine bodies were recovered yesterday, bringing the death toll to 113. Two women are among the dead and many labourers remain missing.

"Our guess is that there are at least two miners in every hut. We know that around 70 huts were buried by the landslide. We believe there are another 30 victims under the soil. We will con-

tinue our rescue efforts tomorrow," an official from Hpakant Township General Administration Department told The Global New Light of Myanmar over the phone.

One victim was rushed to hospital on Sunday but died on arrival.

The soil had been dumped in the area by a mining company last year. Its presence attracted a large number of migrant miners searching for lesser quality jade that had been discarded by large mining companies.

Local authorities have designated several areas, including the one where the tragedy happened, as high risk spots for landslides and have issued notices to miners not to set up makeshift huts there.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses military cooperation with Israel



MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are invited to discuss cooperation between Myanmar and Israel. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw clarified an MoU on military cooperation in the defence sector and an agreement on the protection of secret information between Myanmar and Israel at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Monday.

The MoU covers military training, the development of defence and security policies, legal matters in the defence sector, information sharing, humanitarian and relief operations, military

education in economics, science and technology and military medical science, according to the deputy minister.

In addition, the deputy minister pointed out the benefits of signing the agreement on the protection of secret information between the two countries, including the promotion of defence and security cooperation, information sharing, the acquisition of technologies and the exchange of visits.

MPs were also invited to discuss the matter at another session.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session also discussed the differences between the Lower House and the Upper House over the proposal to amend the Myanmar Mining Law and the bill for the Myanmar Condominium Law.

Representatives approved some sections of the bills, and remaining sections will be discussed during a future session.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Roundup



U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No 4. PHOTO: MNA

THE Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) debated four bills yesterday.

U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No 4 said the 2015 Shops and Workplaces Bill should include clauses about rights for staff and consumers.

Tatkon Township holds Maha Kathina Festival

THE people of Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, held their annual Maha Kathina Festival on 22 November, at the town's Buddha Beikman Building.

Chief Abbot Sayataw Bhaddanta Pandava of Myo Oo



U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No 8. PHOTO: MNA

U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No 8 discussed the types of arms that should be included in the bill amending the Arms Law.

With regard to the government's Aungbalay Lottery Bill, Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No 7 cautioned that



Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No 7. PHOTO: MNA

the electronic lottery system will lead to gambling, whereas the government's Aungbalay lottery does not breach existing gambling laws because it features a lucky draw system. The Bill Committee submitted its report on the Industrial Bill to the Hluttaw.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Monastery and members of the Sangha opened the township's 49th festival.

The festival will be held until Thursday, 26 November, which coincides with the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, a

month in the Myanmar calendar. Many shops at the festival sell various commodities from across the country. Merry-go-rounds, a Ferris wheel and entertainment shows are also part of the festival.—*Tin Soe Lwin-IPRD*

President returns from ASEAN Summit in Malaysia

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein returned from Malaysia yesterday after attending the 27th ASEAN Summit.

The president was seen off at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by Malaysian Minister for Women, Family and Community Development YB Dato Sri Rohani Binti Abdul Karim and Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Zaw Myint.

The president and his party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw, where they were welcomed by vice presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein being seen off by Malaysian Minister for Women, Family and Community Development YB Dato Sri Rohani Binti Abdul Karim. PHOTO: IPRD

Union FM attends 27th ASEAN Summit and related summits



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and foreign ministers of ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo at 17th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting. PHOTO: IPRD

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back Nay Pyi Taw after attending the 27th ASEAN Summit and related summits held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 and 22 November.

The Union Minister attended the 13th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council (APSC) Meeting and 17th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting on 20th November prior to the 27th ASEAN Summit and related summits.

The Union Minister, together with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers attended the 13th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, which considered the Secretary-General of ASEAN's report on the recent developments of Sectoral Bodies under APSC and the im-

plementation of the APSC Blueprint. The Meeting adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Political and Security Council (APSC).

Subsequently, the Union Minister attended the 17th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting. The Secretary-General of ASEAN reported on the Work of ASEAN to the 27th ASEAN Summit and the Functions and Operations of the ASEAN Secretariat to the Meeting.

The Meeting further noted the Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), Report of the Chair of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force, Report of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), and Progress Report of the ASEAN Coordinating Coun-

cil Working Group on Timor Leste's ASEAN Membership Application to the 17th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting.

The Union Minister also attended the Launching Ceremonies of the Guide to ASEAN Practices and Protocol, and the Publication on the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Workshop on Strengthening Women's Participation in Peace Processes and Conflict Resolution held in the Philippines on 18-19 March 2015

On the same day, the Union Minister held bilateral meeting with Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Singapore and discussed issues of mutual interests between the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Permanent residency granted to 125 people

PERMANENT residency has been granted to 125 people out of a total of 242 applicants under the new Permanent Residence System, said the chairman of the Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residence System, Union Minister for Immigration and Population Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

He made the announcement during a committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. He said that 242 applications were received as of September.

Approval for the 44 remaining applications is being sought from higher authorities, according to the union minister.

The purpose of the meeting was to screen another 55 permanent residency applicants according to the criteria set by the government.

The system has been adopted to permit foreign investors, experts, former citizens and foreign relatives of Myanmar citizens to stay in the country for longer periods and to allow them to participate in the reform process. National security, national interests and the protection of small and medium businesses are the major factors considered during the granting process.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister for Immigration and Population Lt-Gen Ko Ko. PHOTO: MNA

Tenth anniversary of cardiac surgery commemorated in Mandalay

THE tenth anniversary celebration commemorating a cardiac surgical operation jointly conducted by the Mandalay General Hospital and French organisation AMFA was held at the Triumph Hotel in Mandalay on Saturday.

Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Olivier Rich-

ard and Prof Dr Khun Soe Moe (Retd) spoke on the occasion.

Prof Danieal Loisane of AMFA explained the experience of cooperating on a heart surgery with Myanmar medical professionals. Dr Wunna Tun of Mandalay General Hospital talked about the hospital's experience with heart surgeries.

The ministers inspected Mandalay General Hospital and Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime-fighting Philippine mayor jumps into presidential race

MANILA — A seven-term Philippine mayor who has built a reputation fighting crime, plunged into the presidential race on Monday, a surprise move that could shake up the election, analysts said.

Rodrigo Duterte, a 70-year-old lawyer, better known as the “the Punisher” for dealing with criminals in southern Davao City, vowed to clean up politics in one of Asia’s most graft-ridden countries.

“Yes, I am running,” Duterte told reporters in Manila after holding off on appeals by his supporters for weeks to join the race to succeed President Benigno Aquino next May.

The election is being closely watched by investors who fear the political succession in one of Asia’s fastest growing economies could derail gains made during Aquino’s rule.

Grace Poe, a senator who was abandoned as a baby, is leading the race, surveys showed. Vice President Jejomar Binay is running second while Aquino’s choice as successor, former inte-

rior minister Manuel Roxas, is in third place, the latest poll showed last week.

Duterte said he decided to run for president to stop Poe from becoming one, saying she wasn’t a natural-born Filipino and therefore ineligible to take the highest job in the country.

Poe, the adopted daughter of a late popular movie action hero, last week defeated a legal bid to unseat her from the Senate, boosting her chance to win other cases seeking to block her presi-

dential run. But Duterte said the election tribunal had overstepped its authority in giving that decision.

“We Filipinos belong to different tribes but a piece of paper called the constitution holds us together,” he said. “We should respect the constitution. The election tribunal has set aside the constitution to favour Poe.”

Under Aquino, the Philippines has seen economic growth of more than 6 percent on average, its best 5-year record in four decades. He has also battled to rein in corruption.

Duterte missed an Oct. 16 deadline to register his candidacy but the rules allow him to stand as a replacement candidate by December when the election authorities start printing ballot papers. Political analyst Ramon Casiple said Duterte’s anti-crime crusade resonates among poor Filipinos, bringing drama to the election next May.

“He’s a threat to everybody,” he said. “It’s an entirely new ballgame with Duterte joining the fray.” —Reuters

“He’s a threat to everybody. It’s an entirely new ballgame with Duterte joining the fray.”

Ramon Casiple
Political analyst

Malaysia’s 1MDB deal with China power firm on PMs’ agenda

KUALA LUMPUR — A share sale and purchase deal between Malaysian state fund 1MDB and China Nuclear Power Corp was listed among the items at a signing event during a joint media conference being held by Prime Minister Najib Razak and Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang, documents given out by Malaysian government officials showed.

Business agreements were

also due to be unveiled at the event on Monday evening, government officials said, but they later added that the 1MDB deal was not signed.

Sources told Reuters last week that 1MDB was nearing the sale of its power assets to an overseas consortium including a Chinese company, marking a key move for the embattled state fund to cut its heavy debt burden.—Reuters



Traffic passes a 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) billboard at the Tun Razak Exchange development in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Explosion at Yasukuni Shrine, no injuries reported



Police officers and firefighters gather at the South Gate of Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on 23 November, where an explosion was heard earlier in the day. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — An explosion was heard at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo yesterday morning with firefighters finding the ceiling and wall of a men’s public bathroom south of the shrine burned.

Nobody was injured in the incident but police sent a dedicated bomb unit to the shrine and are investigating further, suspecting it could have been a politically

motivated attack. More than 100 police, firefighters and Yasukuni Shrine officials gathered near the explosion site. Investigators said that the explosion left holes in the ceiling and burns on the floor of the bathroom, with batteries and objects believed to be unexploded bombs scattered around.

Many people were visiting the shrine on Monday as a Shinto

festival was being held from 10 am. The religious monument honors Japanese Class-A war criminals along with 2.4 million war dead.

The shrine often sparks diplomatic friction when visited by Japanese political leaders, as many neighbouring nations consider that their visits honor war criminals.—Kyodo News

ASEAN supports settling South China Sea disputes in line with int’l law: Cambodian official

PHNOM PENH — A senior Cambodian government official has said that the ASEAN leaders supported to settle South China Sea disputes peacefully in accordance with the international law and Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).

“On the issue of South China Sea, the leaders of ASEAN countries collectively agreed all countries undertake to uphold the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea in accordance with international law,” Kao Kim Hourn, Minister Attached to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, said in a press conference on Sunday night when Hun Sen returned from attending the 27th ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Malaysia.

“More importantly, ASEAN and China signed the DOC in 2002, so all parties involved in the dispute should fully implement it,” he said.—Xinhua

Pro-democracy camp earns more seats in Hong Kong election



Electoral officers empty a ballot box at a polling station in Hong Kong, China, on 22 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp saw an increase in district council seats following the first public election since last year's mass pro-democracy movement, although pro-establishment parties retained the majority, according to poll results released yesterday.

Official figures showed a record 47 percent of the eligible 3.12 million voters took part in Sunday's election. Of the total 458 seats across 18 district councils, 431 were contested, 19 more than in the last election. Apart from 68 politicians who won uncontested, 867 candidates were running for the remaining 363 seats.

Pro-democracy parties nabbed 112 seats, 21 more than in the last election in 2011, while the pro-establishment camp won 298 seats, three shy of the last total, the *Apple Daily* reported.

"It's a pass," Democratic Party chairwoman Emily Lau told the press. "In terms of promoting younger candidates, it is a success."

The party won 43 seats, four fewer than in the last election. Lau said if counting five members who left the party, they actually earned one more seat. Other big winners in the camp were the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, the Civic Party and the Neo-Democrats, who earned from three to seven

more seats each.

"We have made our targets in general, with a minor progress," said Audrey Eu, chairwoman of the Civic Party that won 10 seats, three more than last time.

In the pro-establishment camp, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, the biggest political party, continued to hold the majority with 119 seats, representing a loss of about 17 seats, including two big-name councilors who are also legislators.

"The voters' message is clear," DAB chairwoman Starry Lee said. "Seniority is no guarantee if the people are not satisfied (with councilors' work) in social welfare issues."

Lee admitted that a higher number of first-time voters could have played a role in the outcome, but she declined to comment on the lasting effect of the so-called Occupy Central movement on the election.

Hong Kong's leader Leung Chun-ying had called on the public to "vote out" people who supported the pro-democracy movement, which protested against Beijing's political reform plan last year.

Hundreds of thousands of people at times occupied major thoroughfares across the territory for 79 days after Beijing prescribed an electoral reform plan for Hong Kong's leadership

election in 2017 that would have given Beijing full control over the candidates.

A winner in the pro-establishment camp was the New People's Party, led by former security chief Regina Ip, which merged with another group during the term and saw its district council seat count grow from four to 26.

Although gaining seats in general, the pro-democracy camp also lost two major members, Albert Ho of the Democratic Party and Frederick Fung of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, who both served their constituencies for more than a decade and are incumbent legislators.

Apart from the two camps, there were 13 independent winners and eight who claimed to be "umbrella soldier" supporters of the occupation movement, in which protesters used umbrellas against police pepper spray.

"The record high turnout in the DC election was the effect of the umbrella movement. More voters came out to express their views," Chui Chi-kin, who ran for the first time and defeated a veteran pro-Beijing councilor, said in a radio programme.

Voter turnout rate grew from about 39 percent in the 2007 DC election to 41 percent in 2011. The four-year district council term runs from January 2016.—*Kyodo News*

South Korea military to proceed with drills despite North threat

SEOUL — South Korea said planned military firing drills would go ahead on Monday near a disputed maritime border with North Korea, which has threatened "merciless retaliation" if Seoul fires into its waters on the anniversary of a 2010 bombing that killed four people.

Five years ago North Korea fired artillery at the South's Yeonpyeong island, which lies south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL) sea border off their west coast, in what was the first attack on South Korean soil by the North since the 1950-53 Korean War.

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

South Korea's Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said yesterday there was no sign of unusual activities by the North Korean forces.

"The firing drills are regularly scheduled drills, and if the North mounts a provocation, we will respond strongly under our operational plan," Kim told a briefing.

North Korea's military said on Sunday the South "will experience merciless retaliation of the Southwestern Front units of the DPRK on the five islands," if Seoul's firing drills crossed into its waters.

DPRK is the acronym for the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Five islands including Yeonpyeong lie close to the disputed border.

On Friday, the rival Koreas agreed to hold talks on 26 November in what would be the first government-level meetings focused on easing tensions since the two pledged to improve ties following an armed standoff in August.—*Reuters*

China's anti-graft watchdog demotes four banking regulators

BEIJING — China's top graft-buster agency has demoted four bank regulators for violating Communist Party rules and procedures, in the latest punishment issued to the country's financial sector in President Xi Jinping's three-year anti-corruption campaign.

Wang Yanyou, Communist Party secretary at the China Banking Association and former head of innovative supervision department at the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), was removed from his position for concealing the fact that his wife had become a US citizen, and for attending conferences without approval, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said in an online statement late on Friday.

Wang was also accused of accepting compensation and treatment beyond the level of his position, the CCDI said.

Jiang Fengli, former head

of CBRC office in Nanyang, Henan Province, was demoted for appointing staff against Communist Party procedure and taking cash gifts from CBRC staff at his daughter's wedding, according to the statement.

Two other regulators, both working at the CBRC's office in northern Liaoning Province, were demoted respectively for gambling and promoting staff in violation of Communist Party procedure, the CCDI added.

In October, the CCDI launched its latest round of anti-corruption inspections, targeting 14 major financial institutions, including the central bank, banking regulator, insurance regulator, securities regulator, and the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges.

China's biggest policy and commercial banks, led by China Development Bank and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, are also on the list of inspections.—*Reuters*

Sri Lankan navy denies reports of attack on Indian fishermen

COLOMBO — The Sri Lankan Navy on Monday denied reports that it had attacked an Indian boat in mid seas near Katchatheevu, an uninhabited island in the northern seas belonging to Sri Lanka.

According to media reports, the attack which occurred on Sunday, had left one Indian

fishermen injured when Sri Lankan naval officers had allegedly attacked their boat by pelting stones and bottles. The boat had four Indian fishermen on board.

Sri Lanka's Navy Spokesperson, Captain Akram Alavi however denied the reports and said that such an attack had not taken place.

"If such an incident has occurred, the navy would have been notified immediately. But nothing of this sort has taken place," Alavi told *Xinhua*.

Media reports yesterday said that one fisherman identified as Muthu was injured in the forehead while the others managed to escape unhurt.

A complaint over the alleged incident had also been lodged with the Indian police and investigations were ongoing, reports added.

The Sri Lankan navy last week arrested 14 Indian fishermen for illegally poaching in local waters.

Both the countries have been

trying to resolve the long-standing fishermen issue with both sides having to face arrest and boats being detained when they stray into each other's waters illegally.

Recently both countries agreed to release all the fishermen in their custody as a goodwill gesture.—*Xinhua*

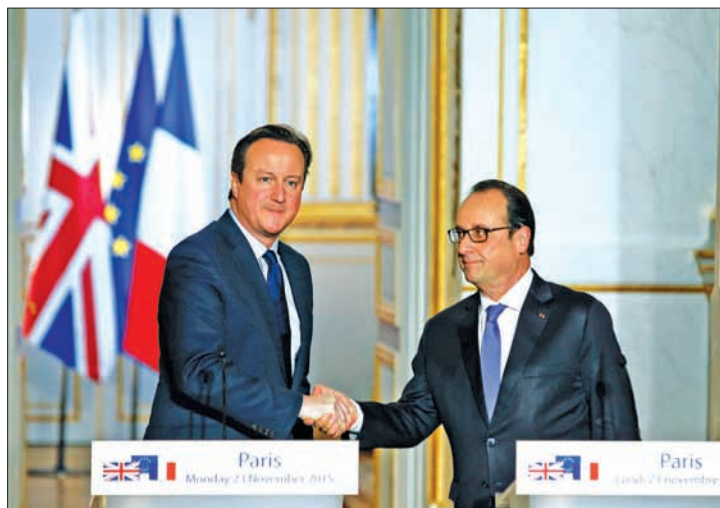
Cameron wants UK to join Syria strikes

PARIS — British Prime Minister David Cameron said in Paris yesterday that he was convinced the UK should carry out military air strikes alongside France and other partners in Syria in an effort to defeat Islamic State.

Speaking at a joint news conference French President Francois Hollande, Cameron also said he had offered France use of a British airbase in Cyprus as well as additional assistance with air-to-air refueling.

“Later this week I will set out in parliament our comprehensive strategy for tackling ISIL (Islamic State),” Cameron said.

“I firmly support the action that President Hollande has taken to strike ISIL in Syria and it is my firm conviction that Britain should do so too,” he said, adding that that was a decision for parliament to take. The UK prime minister is wagering that the attacks that killed 130 people in attacks in Paris on 13 November will tip parliament in favour of launching strikes.



French President Francois Hollande shakes hands with Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron during a joint news conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 23 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cameron is eager to avoid a repeat of 2013, when he lost a crunch parliamentary vote on air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

He also said that he would step up efforts to share intelligence with France and other European partners, adding that he planned to present a comprehensive strategy to defeat Islamic State to parliament later this week.

Hollande said that France planned to intensify its air strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria with its sole aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle getting into position yesterday for strikes.—Reuters

Stranded migrants block railway, call hunger strike



Migrants, stranded at the Greek-Macedonian border, try to keep warm by an open fire next to their tent near the Greek village of Idomeni on 22 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

IDOMENI — Moroccans, Iranians and Pakistanis on Greece's northern border with Macedonia blocked rail traffic and demanded passage to western Europe yesterday, stranded by a policy of filtering migrants in the Balkans that has raised human rights concerns.

One Iranian man, declaring a hunger strike, stripped to the waist, sewed his lips together with nylon and sat down in front of lines of Macedonian riot police.

Asked by Reuters where he wanted to go, the man, a 34-year-old electrical engineer named Hamid, said: “To any free country in the world. I cannot go back. I will be hanged.”

Hundreds of thousands of migrants, many of them Syrians

fleeing war, have made the trek across the Balkan peninsula having arrived by boat and dinghy to Greece from Turkey, heading for the more affluent countries of northern and western Europe, mainly Germany and Sweden.

Last week, however, Slovenia, a member of Europe's Schengen zone of passport-free travel, declared it would only grant passage to those fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, and that all others deemed “economic migrants” would be sent back.

That prompted others on the route — Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia — to do the same, leaving growing numbers stranded in tents and around camp fires on Balkan borders

with winter approaching.

Rights groups have questioned the policy, warning asylum should be granted on merit, not on the basis of nationality.

“To classify a whole nation as economic migrants is not a principle recognised in international law,” said Rados Djurovic, director of the Belgrade-based Asylum Protection Centre. “We risk violating human rights and asylum law,” he told Serbian state television.

The new measure coincides with rising concern, particularly on the political right in Europe, over the security risk of the chaotic and often unchecked flow of humanity into Europe in the aftermath of the 13 November attacks in Paris by Islamist militants in which 130 people died.

It has emerged that two suicide bombers involved in the attacks took the same trail, arriving by boat in Greece and then travelling north across the Balkans. Most of the attackers, however, were citizens of France or Belgium.

On the Macedonian-Greek border, crowds of Moroccans, Iranians and others blocked the railway line running between the two countries, halting at least one train that tried to cross, a Reuters photographer said.

A group of Bangladeshis had stripped to the waist and written slogans on their chests in red paint. “Shoot us, we never go back,” read one. “Shoot us or save us,” read another.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU to take some migrant costs out of budget deficit calculations

VIENNA — Austria's Finance Minister Hans Joerg Schelling said yesterday he expected the country's 2016 budget to meet European Commission's criteria on deficits as some of costs for dealing with migrants would be taken out of the calculations.

Earlier this month, the European Commission said Austria, as well as Italy, Lithuania and Spain, risked breaking European Union rules with their budget plans.

“As far as we know ahead of the meeting (to discuss the budget in Brussels), our budget will be accepted and the commission has acknowledged that the migrant (issue) was unforeseen and extraordinary,” Schelling told ORF radio.

He said it was yet to be decided how the costs would technically be taken out of the calculations. “But it's clear, that (something) will be taken out of the calculation.”—Reuters

Russian air force flies 141 sorties, hits 472 targets in Syria over weekend

MOSCOW — Russia's air force flew 141 sorties and hit 472 terrorist targets in Syria over the weekend, the RIA news agency quoted the Russian Defence Ministry as saying

on Monday.

Russian jets hit targets in Syria's Aleppo, Damascus, Idlib, Latakia, Hama, Raqqa, Homs, and Deir ez-Zor provinces, the ministry said.—Reuters

Defence-related UK stocks outperform on spending boost plan

LONDON — Security-related stocks such as Rolls Royce and BAE Systems rose in early trading yesterday, outperforming Britain's blue-chip FTSE 100 index, after the country planned to boost its anti-terrorism spending by 30 percent.

Britain also plans to increase the number of stealth fighter jets it can launch from aircraft carriers over the next

decade, finance minister George Osborne said yesterday.

“There is every likelihood that the defence sector is going to get a larger piece of financing than expected earlier,” IG analyst Alastair McCaig said.

Shares in Rolls Royce and BAE Systems were up about 1 percent, against a 0.8-percent weaker FTSE 100 index.—Reuters

Kerry to meet Saudi, UAE officials on unifying Syrian opposition

ABU DHABI — US Secretary of State John Kerry was set to hold talks with senior Emirati and Saudi officials in Abu Dhabi yesterday to find ways to bring Syrian opposition groups together at a conference that will be hosted by Saudi Arabia next month.

The hastily-arranged meetings in the UAE capital between Kerry, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahayan and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir will discuss how to unify opponents of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, a senior State Department official said.

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — met earlier this month in Vienna, where they agreed plans to launch formal talks between Assad's government and its opponents by 1 January.

Divisions among Syrian opposition factions, some backed by

the West and others by Gulf Arab states, are often cited as one of many obstacles facing diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Muslim Gulf Arab states have long been major backers of the insurgency against Assad, whom they say must leave power.

The opposition includes the Turkey-based Syrian National Coalition, a political body, and a wide array of rebel groups that are not united in a single military structure and do not answer to any of the political factions.

The Syrian conflict began in 2011 with protests against four decades of Assad family rule. About a quarter of a million people have been killed and 11 million — half the total population — have been driven from their homes.

Tens of thousands of Syrian refugees have fled to Europe in the past few months, which has led to increased efforts by Washington and others to find a political solution to end the war.—Reuters

NOTIFICATION

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

Current Location : Rakhine 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SC SUNNY VOY NO (1509)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SC SUNNY VOY NO (1509) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

Syrian army captures towns after Russian strikes

BEIRUT — The Syrian army and allied militias, backed by Russian bombardments, took control of two towns in western Syria after heavy battles with Islamic State fighters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said yesterday.

Syrian state media also reported the military and a local force had taken control

of Mheen and Hawwarin towns, to the southeast of Homs city, and had killed a large number of Islamic State militants. The two towns lie to the east of the north-south highway running through Syria's major cities that is crucial to control of mainly government-held territory in the west of the country. They are also close to roads that link the Islamic

State-held city of Palmyra in the central Syrian desert to western cities. The Observatory, which tracks Syria's nearly five-year-old conflict using sources on the ground, said Syrian and Russian aircraft had carried out dozens of strikes on the areas surrounding Mheen and Hawwarin. Russia, a main ally of President Bashar al-Assad, started carrying out air

strikes in Syria nearly two months ago in support of the Syrian army and allied ground forces.

The West has accused Moscow of mainly targeting rebels unaligned with Islamic State during the campaign which started on 30 September. Last week Russian and Syrian aircraft bombed Islamic State-held areas of eastern Syria.—Reuters

Turkish police say no attack on pro-Kurdish leader's car

DIYARBAKIR —

Turkish police said on Monday that damage to the car of pro-Kurdish opposition leader Selahattin Demirtas was not caused by gunfire, after a party spokesman said it had been hit by a bullet in an apparent assassination attempt. The spokesman for Demirtas's Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) had said the car's rear window was hit on Sunday as he drove in the city of Diyarbakir in the largely Kurdish southeast.

But the city's police said analysis of damage to a rear window in the car showed no evidence of gunfire. "No remnants of gunfire were detected in the analysis. The assessment was made that the damage was caused by a blow from a hard object," the police statement said, adding: "There was no attack on him or his vehicle."

The HDP won seats in parliament for the first time in June's election, helping deprive the ruling AK Party of its majority, and its vote remained above the 10 percent threshold to stay in parliament in this month's repeat poll, which the AK Party won. HDP supporters have been targeted in bomb attacks in recent months, including one in the Turkish capital, Ankara, believed to have been carried out by Islamic State sympathisers that killed more than 100 people. The party was also a facilitator in the ceasefire of the two-year ceasefire between the Kurdish militant group PKK and Turkey which collapsed in July.—Reuters

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 26th November (Thursday) Full Moon day of Tazaungmon 2015, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

Mali deepens probe into deadly attack on hotel



People drive motorcycles past the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako, Mali, on 22 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BAMAKO — Mali said on Sunday that investigators were following "several leads" after 19 people were killed in an attack on a luxury hotel claimed by three Islamist militant groups.

Islamist militants' most deadly strike on the West African country in years ended on Friday when Malian commandos stormed the Radisson Blue hotel in the capital, Bamako, after an eight-hour siege and freed 170 hostages.

But two days after the attack, little more has been revealed on the identity of the attackers.

On Sunday, the Massina Liberation Front, which has been blamed for previous attacks in southern Mali, became the third group to claim responsibility for the siege. Al Mourabitoun and al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI) already had claimed responsibility.

"Several leads are being followed. The hotel

that was attacked is being combed through carefully," according to a statement on state television.

A Malian intelligence agent said 13 foreigners were killed in the attack, including six Russians, three Chinese, two Belgians, an American and a Senegalese.

Israeli media had earlier reported one dead, but the Malian source was not able to confirm the information.

President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has said that both gunmen involved in the attack were killed, although an eye witness had previously said there was at least one additional attacker.

Former colonial power France is assisting with the probe and has sent in a team of elite investigators to assist.

The bloodshed in Bamako is the latest sign of deepening insecurity in the West African country.

Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda seized the desert north in 2012 but were scattered by a French military operation a year later.

However, jihadists have stepped up attacks this year on Western and Malian targets beyond their traditional desert bases. In August, they stormed a hotel in central Mali in August, killing at least 12 people in an attack similar to Friday's.

Mali, along with neighbours across the 15-nation West African ECOWAS regional block, will begin three days of national mourning on Monday.

Senegalese President Macky Sall, the current chairman of ECOWAS, arrived in Bamako on Sunday to express condolences and vowed to help Mali fight terrorism.

"Mali will never be alone," Sall said. "We stand together with Mali and together we will lead the fight."—Reuters

OPINION

Combat this social virus

Myint Win Thein

CORRUPTION can be compared to a virus: the two share many similar symptoms. Like a virus, corruption can be transmitted from human to human. Those who are exposed to it by working under a corrupt official are likely to become infected. It can also spread throughout society. This tends to happen imperceptibly, which means that we don't

realise until it's too late.

Second, corruption dismantles the immune system of society and the rule of law, in much the same way as a virus does to the human body, exposing it to various social woes such as poverty and disease. The infected society is too weak to fight back against injustice.

Third, it drains society of vital nutrients, such as funding for education and health funds. They are vaporised by corrupt officials. The majority of people in a corrupt society must endure poverty and lose the opportunity to learn. The infected society is weakened in the long run.

Finally, corruption is chronic and difficult to eradicate. Similar to combating a virus, many countries around the world have been grappling

with it for decades – without success. And this is despite the fact that there are many ways to prevent it. It can be said that corruption is the most lethal infectious disease for a society. May all countries be free of this toxic virus.

Write for us

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

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

Indo-Myanmar border

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

Dear Editor

ONE of least protected and highly porous international border in the world is the Indo-Myanmar border. A densely forested and hilly terrain with no clear marking between the two nations stretching over 1600 kms; lacking modern electrified and well lighted border fencing is a huge security threat to both the administrative and military establishments of India and Myanmar. The border security groups on either side must be appreciated for their dedication in protecting this dangerous and porous border against all odds. However, with respect to the growing security threats across the globe and in this region, both India and Myanmar needs to take much stronger action. The border adjoins the NE Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram; all impacted with serious cross-border insurgency issues like the corresponding Myanmar provinces. The security agencies guarding the Indo-Myanmar border is grossly short staffed; with poor funding, lacks

modern military gadgets, communication system and advance training and experience to work in such dense forest and hilly terrain compounded with ground problems such as poor intelligence coordination between Indo-Myanmar border agencies further jeopardizing national security for both nations. The poorly guarded border is a hot bed of several insurgent groups that are headaches for the security establishments of both India and Myanmar. Most of these groups operate on one side of the border and then cross over to the other side for safe refuge in the adjoining dense forests and remote frontier villages on either side. The border is an active hotbed of insurgent groups, human and wildlife traffickers, rampart prostitution, drug mafias, war lords and an important center for various cross border crimes like exchange of fake currencies, smuggling of contraband commodities, violent attacks on border villages and security agencies causing very high average annual death toll that is not disclosed by the government agencies or under reported due to re-

mote localities. With a new democratic government being elected in Myanmar; both nations should enter into some formal agreement for joint border management, management and surveillance. It will be important to work towards establishing secure fencing in the region, develop regional infrastructure (building roads, railways, emergency landing strips, medical units, schools and bridges; initiate massive electrification programs, establish mobile towers and secure stringent satellite surveillance), increasing the presence of ground troops, strengthening military intelligence network in the region and encourage socio-economic development in the border region. The remote, rural, border communities should be made stakeholders in the security network by employing them as informers, trackers and engaging them in infrastructural development projects in the border region.

Thanking you
Sincerely
yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

Mandalay hosts Malaysia palm oil seminar



Seminar on health and sustainability through Malaysian Palm Oil in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

MARKETING executive Mr Mohamad Hafezh Bin Abdul Rahman of the Malaysia Palm Oil Council explained the production and distribution of palm oil in Malaysia and environmental conservation during an event held on Sunday at Mandalay's Sedona Hotel.

The ceremony was attended by executives from Mandalay Region Oil Dealers Association and merchants, and it was jointly organised by the Malaysia Palm Oil Council, Felda Global Ventures and the Grand Wynn Group of Companies.

Saji vegetable cooking oil was also promoted at the event. The brand is distributed to the US, Europe and Asian countries. Mandalay Mayor U Aung Maung cut a ribbon to open the ceremony.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

POEM

PEACE PROGRESS
PROSPERITY AND POSTERITY

Htun Tin Htun

Always be mindful, energetic and intellectual

Be good to others

Character is power

Do no harm

Enduring patience is the highest austerity

Friend in deed Is friend in need

Getting good things done through the effort of the people is called management

Health is wealth

Innovation is essential for any growth and development

Journey to liberation of suffering is long

Knowledge and discipline can help progress the people in this world

Loving kindness and compassion in action is the key to peace, harmony, security and happiness

Man matters most

Nothing is impossible to one with wish-to-do, will, work-hard and wisdom (4W's)

One world one family is our vision

Peace, progress, prosperity and posterity are what our people in this planet have been looking for

Quality control is essential requirement for thriving and viability of SMEs

Responsible business is our main concern

Survival, sustainable, successful and significance are four requisites of victory for all mankind

Together everyone achieves more (TEAM)

Unity is strength

Virtue (morality) is the foundation for attainment of ultimate bliss

We are responsible for what we have done

Xerox can make copies but not original ones

You must strive on with diligence for your achievement

Zealousness is necessary for any success

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read with enjoyment on the article in today's newspaper of yours.

Good Old Days is a great article and make me remember my "good old days", which I realize that I am junior to the author by about five years.

There is a minor point that I wish to let him know, (for his own record as well as future historians), that the previous name of Pa Pa Win cinema hall is "Palladium" and not "Pledian". Also the price for tickets is that Back Stall is 2.50 kyats, DC (Dress Circle) is that 3.50 kyats and at the President there is a Lodge, which is 5.00 kyats.

I can't remember the gold price at that time, but it is interesting to read his interpretation on the cost of living.

rgds,
Joe Black

Myanmar national wins ASEAN Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 award

Vice chairperson Daw Nan Than Htwe of Kanbawza Bank Ltd accepted the ASEAN Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 Award at the ASEAN Business Awards 2015. The award ceremony took place at the 27th ASEAN Summit at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 20 November.

A total of 228 entrepreneurs from 10 ASEAN countries participated in the ASEAN Business Awards contest.

Four entrepreneurs from Myanmar won the ASEAN Business Awards at the summit.—*MNA*



Union Minister U Soe Thane presents ASEAN Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 Award to Vice chairperson Daw Nan Than Htwe of Kanbawza Bank Ltd. PHOTO: MNA

Nyaungshwe farmers get lessons

AGRICULTURAL education was provided to farmers of Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State on 20 November in the Thalae Oo village-tract. Participants observed the harvesting of monsoon paddy model field No 41, which belongs to farmer U Kyaw Soe.

Township Agriculture Officer Daw Moe Thida explained modern good agricultural patterns and urged farmers to plant quality seeds. The official also answered the farmers' queries.

The harvesting ceremony was attended by State Hluttaw representative Dr Tun Aung and local authorities.—*Nay Myo Thurein*

Soil preparations to provide jobs for Tatkon residents



Local farmers work at soil preparation for cultivation of crops in Tatkon Township. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN (TATKON IPRD)

FARMERS in the villages of Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, are offering soil preparation jobs to rural locals in the potato fields along Sinthe Creek.

“There was not much rain this year, so we have to rely on underground water. We are preparing the soil and mixing it with cow dung to grow potatoes,” said

farmer U Tun Oo of east Kinmoontan village.

He said ploughing the land with a pair of cows cost K4,000 for one morning. Rent-

ing a tractor would cost from K17,000-K20,000 per hour. A male field worker fetches K3,000 per day, and a female field worker gets K2,000 per day, accord-

ing to the farmer.

The plantation season is providing many jobs to the rural community, he added.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Women's Empowerment course opens at Dekkhina District



Members of Women's Affairs Organization attend Women's Empowerment Course. PHOTO: THANT MAUNG

A THREE-DAY Women's Empowerment Course opened at the Dekkhina District General Administration Department on 21 November. The course was held in cooperation with the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Vice president of the MWAFF Daw Tin Tin Latt delivered a keynote speech at the opening. Director U Tun Oo of SWD spoke next, saying the course aims to empower women to lead in the country's development. He said such women's

empowerment programmes are being implemented according to the Myanmar Social Security National-Level Strategy Project.

The course is attended by 30 trainees. They will be lectured on counseling, leadership and non-violent activism, social protection, general mainstreaming and prevention against trafficking in persons.

The courses will be led by General Secretary Dr Aye Myat Lwin of MWAFF, National Program Officer (Gender) U Sai Aung Sein Myint of the UNFPA, and SWD Director U Tun Oo.

The current course is the fifth so far this year.—*Thant Maung*

Euro and commodities skid, Asia stocks mixed

SYDNEY — The euro sagged to a seven-month trough on Monday as the prospect of more policy easing in Europe benefited the US dollar, while activity in Asian shares was crimped by a holiday in Japan.

The strength of the dollar also combined with worries about Chinese demand to clobber commodity prices again, sending copper to its lowest in over six years.

The head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, last week offered the strongest hint yet that the ECB will unveil fresh stimulus measures at its 3 December policy meeting.

The contrast with the US Federal Reserve could not be more stark as it seems destined to lift rates in December for the first time in a decade, underpinning the dollar.

The impact was clear in bond markets where yields on two-year German debt hit their lowest ever at negative 38 basis points, while US yields were at

their highest since mid-2010.

As a result the premium offered by US paper yawned out to 130 basis points, the fattest since 2006.

The drag from negative yields pulled the euro down to \$1.0605 EUR=, breaching the recent low of \$1.0615. It also peeled off to 130.55 yen EUR-JPY=, again the lowest since April.

Against a basket of currencies .DXY the dollar firmed 0.4 percent to 99.949, while also rising to 123.15 yen JPY=.

Equities were quieter, with MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan off 0.2 percent. South Korea's main index .KS11 gained 0.7 percent while Australian stocks added 0.35 percent.

Wall Street could find support from news of another blockbuster merger.

Sources told Reuters that Pfizer Inc (PFE.N) was due to secure formal board approval for its acquisition of Allergan Plc

(AGN.N) for more than \$150 billion, creating the world's biggest drug maker.

The EMINI contract on the S&P 500 ESc1 was trading 0.1 percent firmer on Monday. The Dow .DJI had ended Friday up 0.51 percent, while the S&P 500 .SPX added 0.38 percent and the Nasdaq .IXIC 0.62 percent.

The S&P 500 boasted its best week in almost a year, while Europe's main stock index enjoyed its strongest week in a month.

"Interestingly, markets are treating the prospects of policy divergence reasonably well," said Jo Masters, a senior economist at Australia and New Zealand Bank.

"But with two of the world's major central banks about to head on divergent policy paths, can such smooth sailing continue over the months ahead?" they wondered. "Increased policy tension is likely to mean that volatility remains elevated."

The strength of the dollar



A man looks at an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average and related indices at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo.

PHOTO: REUTERS

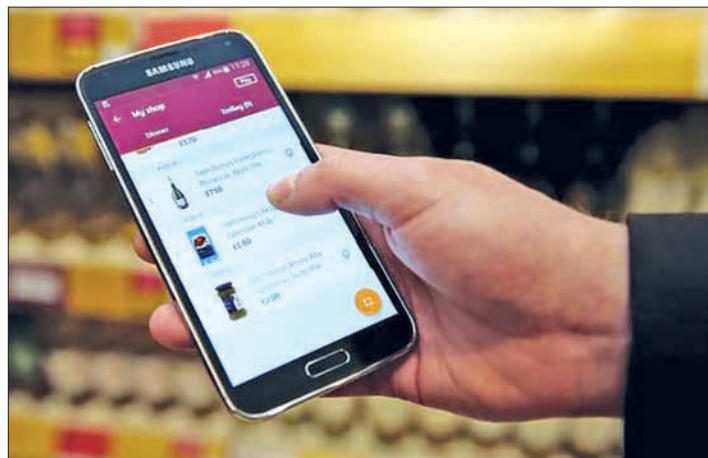
kept commodity prices under pressure. Gold was stuck at \$1,070.50 an ounce having touched its lowest level in nearly six years.

Copper CMCU3 slipped to a fresh six-and-a-half year low,

as traders bet metals prices had further to fall given China's slowing factory demand.

Oil prices sank again with US crude off 90 cents at \$40.99 a barrel, while Brent lost 60 cents to \$44.06.—Reuters

Retailers give shoppers new reasons to use mobile phones in stores



A journalist trials a SmartShop mobile app, which is still in development, at a Sainsbury's store in northwest London, on 23 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — At some Macy's outlets this holiday season, shoppers who download the retailer's app will be able to use their smart phones to guide them through the store to products they're seeking.

At JCPenney, customers will be able to take a snapshot of, for example, boots worn by a person passing by and quickly find out if the store has similar ones in stock. And Staples is testing an app that will allow sales clerks to let customers know how the store's prices match up against Amazon and other rivals.

Hoping to claw back market share from online rivals — and tired of watching customers use their phones to find better deals than those offered in stores — brick and mortar retailers are trying to give shoppers different reasons to use

their phones while doing holiday shopping.

The new apps will allow customers to easily order out-of-stock items for home delivery, to check store prices and even to summon a clerk.

But the retailers' efforts will face two significant challenges in the looming holiday season: getting customers to embrace the new technology, which is still sometimes glitchy and dependent on in-store systems, and getting them to trust that stores can match the Web's prices and convenience.

Retail purchases by mobile phone have increased by 34 percent in the last year, according to IBM, which estimates that more than 40 percent of the online traffic and about 20 percent of sales this Thanksgiving weekend will come from smart phones.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll of more than 3,000 respondents this month found that about half of those surveyed said they would use their mobile phones while shopping in stores this holiday season, for such things as making price comparisons, taking photos or researching products. Last year, only about 42% of respondents said they would use their phones while shopping.

Companies that don't make mobile work are playing a "very dangerous" game, said Jay Henderson, head of IBM's cloud-based marketing platform. "Retailers that can't deliver a more personalized experience on mobile devices will start losing customers to businesses that can," he said.

In addition to its pilot program guiding customers to products within stores, and a photo program similar to JCPenney's, Macy's has taken inspiration from dating app Tinder, recommending products to customers online who swipe one way to like an item and the other to reject it.

JCPenney's app can be used to scan barcodes to pull up product information or order out of stock items, and it saves digital coupons — two increasingly common offerings in retailer apps.

"We look at using phones in stores as an enhancement to shopping," said Kate Coultas, a representative with JCPenney which is heavily focused on mobile this year.—Reuters

US oil plunges more than 2pc on supply glut woes

SEOUL — Crude futures lost ground in early Asian trading on Monday, with US oil plunging over 2 percent on festering worries over a global supply surplus.

US crude's West Texas Intermediate (WTI) January contract CLC1 had dropped 78 cents, or 1.86 percent, to \$41.12 a barrel by 0340 GMT. It hit \$40.96 a barrel earlier in the session, near levels seen on Friday before the US crude December contract expired.

Benchmark front-month Brent futures for January LCOc1 fell 47 cents, or 1.05 percent, to \$44.19 a barrel, recovering from a session-low of \$44.04.

"The burden of carrying high US crude oil inventories is large," Kang Yoo-jin, commodities analyst at NH Investment and Securities in Seoul, said in a note on Monday.

"The markets would likely rebound only if they saw a fall in US crude inventories, while declining US crude output and seasonal demand provide some support to oil at low prices."

Daniel Ang at Phillip Futures noted that a string of US economic data scheduled for release this week could test the US dollar's recent strength. A stronger greenback makes dollar-denominated oil contracts more expensive for holders of other currencies.

"With the US dollar index hovering near 100, we expect to

see slightly more downside than up. This would mean that oil prices should be holding steady this week and should mean that supports of \$40 and \$43 for WTI and Brent January 2016 should hold," he said.

Elsewhere, Venezuela's oil minister said on Sunday that OPEC cannot allow an oil price war and must take action to stabilize the crude market soon. When asked how low oil prices could go in 2016 if OPEC doesn't change its policy, he said: "Mid-20s."

BMI Research, part of the Fitch ratings agency, said: "What is underway now is a structural market rebalancing in which low oil prices clear out high cost production — a relatively small part of which is US shale. It is not the result of OPEC policy, but of the basics of supply and demand."

The US crude December futures CLZ5 that expired on Friday ended 15 cents down at \$40.39 after hitting a low of \$38.99, the cheapest since 27 August.

Markets were keeping an eye on developing geopolitical tensions in the oil-producing Middle East as Jordan's King Abdullah, a US ally, will hold talks in Moscow on Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin on how to tackle "terror groups" led by Islamic State in Syria, an official source said.—Reuters

Australian scientists discover tectonic plate secrets

CANBERRA — Australian scientists drilling into the Pacific Ocean seafloor have discovered what happens when one tectonic plate first gets pushed under another.

The scientists, part of an international expedition, recently drilled into the floor and found that distinctive rocks had formed when the Pacific tectonic plate changed direction and began to plunge under the Philippine Sea Plate about 50 million years ago.

"It's a bit like a rugby scrum, with two rows of forwards pushing on each other. Then one side goes down and the other side goes over the top," said study leader Professor Richard Arculus on Monday.

Arculus, a petrologist in the Research School of Earth Sciences at Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, said, "But we never knew what started the scrum collapsing." The new knowledge will help scientists understand the huge earthquakes and volcanoes that form where the Earth's plates collide and one plate gets pushed under the other.

As part of the International Ocean Discovery Programme (IODP), the team studied the sea floor in 4,700 metres of water in the Amami Sankaku Basin of the north-western Pacific Ocean, near the Izu-Bonin-Mariana

Trench, which forms the deepest parts of the Earth's oceans.

Drilling 1,600 metres into the sea floor, the team recovered rock types from the extensive rifts and big volcanoes that were initiated as one plate bored under the other in a process known as subduction.

"We found rocks low in titanium, but high in scandium and vanadium, so the Earth's mantle overlying the subducting plate must have been around 1,300 degrees Celsius and perhaps 150 degrees hotter than we expected to find," Arculus said.

The team found the tectonic scrum collapsed at the south end first and then the Pacific Plate rapidly collapsed 1,000 km northwards in about one million years.

"It's quite complex. There's a scissoring motion going on. You'd need skycam to see the 3D nature of it," Arculus said.

Arculus said the new knowledge could give insights into the formation of copper and gold deposits that were often formed where plates collide.

The IODP is the world's largest geoscience research programme with 26 countries in its membership.

The team's research is published in the journal, *Nature Geoscience*.—*Xinhua*

Construction on China's mega radio telescope enters final stage

GUIYANG — Chinese scientists on Saturday tested the installation of the "retina" of the world's largest ever radio telescope to be completed in September next year.

Technicians lifted a 30-tonne feed cabin of the Five hundred meter Aperture Spherical Telescope — or FAST — above a half-finished dish-like reflector measuring 500 metres in diameter and 1.6 kilometres in perimeter.

Once completed, the cabin, home to a feed source which collects signals from the universe, will be suspended 140 to 160 meters above the reflector made up of 4,450 panels.

Each panel is an equilateral triangle with a side length of 11 meters, and has cables fixed to the back of it so that it could adjust angles and positions in synchronization with the source cabin, which is driven by cables, servomechanisms in addition to a parallel robot as a secondary adjustable system.

"If you compare the FAST to an eye, then the feed source is its retina," said Sun Caihong, a chief engineer with the FAST programme, "All signals we collect eventually comes here."

Sun said control of high-precision and long-dis-

tance movements of the source cabin using steel cables had been a serious challenge for experts, but they managed to narrow down maximum error to less than 10 millimeters.

"This is one of our greatest innovations," he said.

Construction of the FAST began in March 2011 with an investment of 1.2 billion yuan.

The installation of the test feed cabin means the construction of FAST has entered its final stage.

Technicians are still continuing the work that started months ago to assemble the reflector, which is hung over the ground supported by thousands of steel pillars and cables in a valley deep in southwest China's mountainous Guizhou Province.

The Karst formation in the local landscape is good for draining rainwater underground and protecting the reflector, Sun said.

The surrounding area has "radio silence" as there are no towns and cities within a sphere of five km and only one county center within a sphere of 25 km, he said.

Upon completion, the telescope will be the world's largest of its kind, overtaking

Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory, which is 300 metres in diameter.

It will also be 10 times more sensitive than the steerable 100-meter telescope near Bonn, Germany, according to Zheng Xiaonian, deputy head of the National Astronomical Observatories under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"FAST will be the top level facility in the world for at least 20 to 30 years," Zheng said.

Unlike optical telescopes used to observe the universe by visible light, a type of electromagnetic radiation, radio telescopes operate in the radio frequency portion of the electromagnetic spectrum where they can detect and collect data on radio sources.

The key science goals of FAST are based on observables between 70MHz and 3 GHz, including the 21 cm HI hyperfine structure line, pulsar emissions and radio continuum.

Earlier reports said it will enable astronomers to jumpstart many science goals. For example, they could survey natural hydrogen in distant galaxies, detect faint pulsars, look for the first star shining, or even hear possible signals from other civilizations.—*Xinhua*

Global health experts accuse WHO of 'egregious failure' on Ebola

LONDON — The World Health Organisation's failure to sound the alarm until months into West Africa's Ebola outbreak was an "egregious failure" which added to the enormous suffering and death toll, global health experts said on Monday.

A specialist panel convened by Harvard's Global Health Institute (HGI) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) said while the epidemic "engendered acts of outstanding courage and solidarity", it also caused "immense human suffering, fear and chaos" which went "largely unchecked" by leadership or reliable and rapid institutional responses.

Reviewing the global response to the epidemic which swept through Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the panel said such failures should not be allowed to happen again, and major reform is urgently needed to prevent future pandemics.

"We need to strengthen core capacities in all countries to detect, report and respond rapidly to small outbreaks in order to prevent them from becoming large-scale emergencies," said Peter Piot, LSHTM's director and the chair of the panel.

He said reform of national



A health worker sprays disinfectant on an ambulance in Nedowein, Liberia. PHOTO: REUTERS

and global systems to respond to epidemics is not only feasible, but also essential "so that we do not witness such depths of suffering, death and social and economic havoc in future epidemics".

The panel made 10 key reform proposals aimed at prevent-

ing future such catastrophes, including developing and investing core capacities to handle infectious disease outbreaks, strengthening incentives for early reporting of outbreaks and science-based justifications for trade and travel restrictions.

It also called for the creation of a unified WHO Centre with clear responsibility, adequate capacity, and strong lines of accountability for outbreak response, and for a transparent, politically-protected standing emergency committee to take on

responsibility for declaring emergencies.

Liberian panel member Mosoka Fallah of the campaign group Action Contre La Faim International, said the human misery and deaths should prompt serious reflection "on how and why the global response to the greatest Ebola calamity in human history was late, feeble and uncoordinated".

The Ebola epidemic has killed at least 11,300 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia since it began in December 2013. The crisis brought already weak health services to their knees and caused social and economic havoc.

"The most egregious failure was by WHO in the delay in sounding the alarm," said Ashish K. Jha, HGI's director and a leading member of the panel. "People at WHO were aware that there was an Ebola outbreak that was getting out of control by spring, and yet it took until August to declare a public health emergency."

Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust global health charity, said the report had "sobering lessons" which must be learned and "translated into concrete action if we are to avert another crisis".—*Reuters*

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Soldiers patrol streets of Brussels after overnight arrests



Belgian soldiers patrol the Grand Place of Brussels during a continued high level of security following the recent deadly Paris attacks, in Brussels, Belgium, on 22 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Soldiers patrolled the streets of Brussels on the third day of a security lockdown yesterday and the tenth day of a manhunt for the suspected mastermind of the 13 November attacks in Paris.

Belgian national Salah Abdeslam has not been found despite 19 raids and 16 arrests overnight and authorities are still warning of possible imminent attacks like those in the French capital, in which 130 people were killed. Brussels' metro, museums and schools, many shops and cinemas will stay shut on Monday in the usually bustling European Union capital where

many staff will stay to work from home. An armoured military vehicle was parked under an illuminated Christmas tree in front of the city's landmark Grand Place.

Prime Minister Charles Michel said the city of 1.2 million will remain on the fourth and highest level of security threat, meaning the threat of an attack was "serious and imminent".

"What we fear is an attack similar to the one in Paris, with several individuals who could possibly launch several attacks at the same time in multiple locations," he told a news conference. Belgian Interi-

or Minister Jan Jambon told RTL radio however Belgium's capital was not giving up completely. "Apart from the closed metro and schools, life goes on in Brussels, the public sector is open for business today, many companies are open," Jambon said yesterday morning.

Authorities were due to review the situation again yesterday afternoon.

Belgium has been at the heart of investigations into the Paris attacks after law enforcement bodies said two of the suicide bombers had lived there. Abdeslam, the main suspect, had returned home to

Brussels from Paris shortly after the attacks.

Among those who decided to go out on Monday was Zineb Toubarhi, a business engineering student in Brussels, who was waiting to catch a bus on a frosty morning.

"I am going to my friends' place to look after their children today. They must go to work and the schools are closed. I've had classes cancelled at the university so I will help them," she said.

"It feels strange to see armed soldiers in the streets but this is for our security. So, I don't know why, but I am not afraid."—Reuters

Sixteen people injured in New Orleans park shooting

NEW ORLEANS — A gunfight between two groups erupted on Sunday in a New Orleans park where hundreds of people were gathered for a block party and the filming of a music video, leaving 16 people wounded, police said.

Circumstances surrounding the shooting in the city's Upper Ninth Ward, and details of what precipitated the violence, were not immediately clear, but New Orleans Police Department spokesman Tyler Gamble told Reuters no fatalities were reported. Asked whether gang activity was thought to be involved, Gamble said it "was still too soon to say."

"We know, by speaking with some of the victims, that there were two groups of people shooting at each other," Gamble said.

Witnesses told police that both groups involved in the gun battle fled the park on foot immediately after the shooting, police said in a statement. No arrests were immediately reported.

According to the statement, 10 gunshot victims were taken to area hospitals by ambulance, and six more arrived at emergency rooms "via private conveyance."

Gamble said each of the 16 victims suffered either a "direct gunshot wound" or a "graze wound" and all were listed in stable condition, though the

full extent of their injuries was still to be ascertained. Police said they did not have the age or genders of the victims. The incident unfolded at about 6:15pm Central Time at the Bunny Friend playground, following a community "second line" parade that ended a few blocks away earlier in the day, police said.

Several hundred people were gathered in the park at the time for an unpermitted block party and the impromptu filming of a music video, according to police. New Orleans Police Commander Chris Goodley, speaking in a video clip posted by the New Orleans Times-Picayune website, said the crowd at the park

remained "orderly" after the shooting. "But we were trying to preserve the crime scene as best as we could and tend to the victims," he added. New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison also was quoted by the Times-Picayune as saying, "no one has died at this time." Three witnesses told the newspaper they saw a man with a silver-coloured machine gun, and also heard more gunshots coming from within the crowd as he ran away. Several people were lying on the sidewalk after the shooting, it said.

WVUE-TV said police believed the shooting stemmed from a fight. —Reuters

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Dev Patel wants a 'resonating' story for his Bollywood debut

PANAJI — For Dev Patel being part of an Indian film is a definite option but the British actor says he would do a film here only when he finds a story that resonates with him.

The 25-year-old actor became an overnight star, thanks to the stupendous success of Danny Boyle's India set film "Slumdog Millionaire", which also went on to win several Oscar awards.

Dev is quite impressed with the kind of stories being told in the Indian cinema scene and says he is looking to come back to the country and be part of a film here.

"It has to be the right people and the right project for me to do a film here. The story has to say something. When I find a project with a story that resonates with me, I will venture into Indian films.

"There are so many great directors and actors I would like to work with. I would love to come back to India and shoot an Indian movie soon," Dev told PTI on the sidelines of IFFI here.

He may not have started in an Indian film yet. But the actor's latest movie *The Man Who Knew Infinity* is deeply rooted in India as it tells the story about self-taught mathematician Sriniva-

sa Ramanujan. The Hollywood film directed by Matthew Brown opened this year's IFFI.

Dev says being part of the movie has been sort of a life-altering experience for him as he learned so much about the man, who sacrificed a lot to achieve the success that he eventually did.

"We made sure that the film does not seem like a documentary. It is not a mimicry. We didn't have any real footage so it was all Matt's research that is why it took him so long to shape this project. Our film catches the real essence of the man we know not much of."

Dev says he felt a sense of responsibility when he took up this project as he had to make sure that the depiction of the character was right.

"People don't really know who this man is. They do know about his achievements in the field of mathematics but that's it. I felt a sense of responsibility when I took up the project," he said.

"*The Man Who Knew Infinity*" is based on a book of the same name by Robert Kanigel and also stars Jeremy Irons, Toby Jones, Devika Bhise, Arundathi Nag and Dhritiman Chatterjee.—PTI

One Direction wins big at American Music Awards, Paris takes spotlight

LOS ANGELES — British boy band One Direction swept the top honours at Sunday's American Music Awards, while a sorrowful tribute to the victims of the attacks in Paris lent a somber note to a night of otherwise vibrant performances.

One Direction was named artist of the year for a second consecutive year, and also won the best pop/rock album for a third consecutive year, with the album "Made In The A.M."

"It's absolutely incredible to receive this award two years in a row. It's a testament to how incredible our fans are," band member Louis Tomlinson said. Actor-musician Jared Leto made a moving tribute to the 130 victims of the deadly 13 November attacks across Paris, specifically the 89 who died at the Bataclan concert hall, where he said he and his band, 30 Seconds to Mars, had performed "a beautiful, peaceful" show earlier this year. "Tonight we honour victims of the unimaginable violence



One Direction poses backstage with their awards for Favourite Rock/Pop Band/Duo/Group and Artist of the Year during the 2015 American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California on 22 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

that took place in Paris and around the world," he said. "France matters, Russia matters, Syria matters, Mali matters, the Middle East matters, the United States matters, the entire world matters and peace is possible." French-Canadian singer Celine Dion sang Edith Piaf's classic French ode "Hymne à l'amour" in memory of those lost. Key winners on the night included

Taylor Swift, who went into the night with a leading six nominations and won three awards but did not attend the event. Nicki Minaj won two awards in the rap/hip hop categories, The Weeknd won two soul/R&B awards, Florida Georgia Line won two country music awards and country artist Sam Hunt was named best new artist.—Reuters

'Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2' debuts to franchise-low \$101 million

LOS ANGELES — "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" dominated the weekend box office. The final film in the science-fiction franchise debuted to \$101 million, but even that massive figure wasn't as big a sendoff for Katniss Everdeen and her fellow revolutionaries as some had predicted.

The bow ranks as the year's fifth biggest opening, but it falls short of tracking that projected the picture would top \$120 million in its initial weekend in theaters. It also represents a low for the series, falling far short of the \$158.1 million high-water mark established by 2013's "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire." It's a sign, perhaps, that interest in the dystopian world of Panem has crested.

Investors in Lionsgate, the studio behind the series, reacted negatively to news that "Mockingjay - Part 2" would miss projections, sending the company's stock down more than 3% on Friday. For its part, the studio was put in the odd position of almost having to defend a debut that ranks among the largest in movie history.

"It's a phenomenal opening and we launched these movies

at this time consciously knowing there'd be a lucrative long run way through the holidays," said David Spitz, Lionsgate's domestic distribution chief.

The series made up some ground overseas, picking up \$147 million after debuting in nearly every significant foreign territory, including China. That left it with a worldwide haul of \$247 million, less than the \$274.9 million global kickoff enjoyed by "Mockingjay - Part 1" and far below the \$300 million weekend that some analysts had predicted.

"Across the board this is just down and it's a direct reflection of how people thought about ["Mockingjay - Part 1]," said Jeff Bock, a box office analyst with Exhibitor Relations. "That was not a film. It was just a trailer."

Lionsgate spared no expense in planning a farewell to its most valuable series. It spent nearly \$200 million to make and market the film. In the US the film did well in premium formats, earning an estimated \$9.8 million, and Imax, where it picked up \$8.5 million.

With "Mockingjay - Part 2" sucking most of the air out the multiplexes that left two new releases, Sony's "The Night Be-



Cast members Liam Hemsworth (L), Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson pose at the premiere of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" in Los Angeles, California, 16 November, 2015. The movie opens in the US on 20 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

fore" and STX/IM Global's "The Secret In Their Eyes," struggling to get some recognition. "The Night Before," a bawdy comedy with Seth Rogen and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, fared best, earning

\$10.1 million from 2,960 theaters. The film cost \$23 million to make, and drew an opening weekend crowd that was evenly split between men and women.

Sony distribution chief Rory

Bruer noted that there won't be another mainstream comedy in the marketplace until Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's "Sisters" debuts on 16 December. He predicted the film would "get that pop" of playing into the holidays, and noted that the film received an A-minus CinemaScore.

"People love this movie," said Bruer. "It's one of those movies that you see with an audience and you want to throw up your laughing so hard."

"The Secret In Their Eyes" faces fiercer headwinds. The remake of an Oscar-winning Argentinian thriller of the same name earned a disappointing \$6.6 million for a fifth place finish. The story of a team of FBI agents involved in a murder investigation stars Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts, and Chiwetel Ejiofor. It cost \$19.5 million to produce, and is the latest in a string of films pitched at adult audiences such as "By the Sea" and "Steve Jobs," to whiff at the box office this fall.

Despite the weak opening, STX, which bought domestic rights with Route One to the film for \$6.5 million, expressed confidence that "The Secret In Their Eyes" would find its audience over the holidays.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A Pakistani art student decorates a wall along a street in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 22 November 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

More UK artists experiment with handmade Japanese paper

LONDON — Growing numbers of artists and designers in Britain are exploring the potential of handmade Japanese paper as a new material with which to work, according to artist Elaine Cooper who is one of the very few foreign experts in the field.

Cooper, 55, spent 10 years in Mino, Gifu Prefecture, in central Japan, acquiring the skill of making "washi" by hand and is now extolling the virtues of this versatile art form to a wider public.

She says as British designers increasingly look East for inspiration they are moving away from traditional mediums and aiming for something different, like washi.

The process of making washi begins with peeling the outer bark of the mulberry plant and soaking it in water for days. Then the plant is boiled before other impurities are removed.

The fibers are loosened using wood sticks and mallets, mixed into a vat of water containing mucilage and filtered with wooden-framed bamboo screens before the finished paper is pressed and dried under the sun.

Cooper, who now lives in Bristol, first became aware of the process, which goes back 1,300 years, when she was asked to assist at a Japan festival in London in 1991.

The fine arts graduate already had a background in papermaking and used vegetable fibers and cotton to make paper for her etchings.

Cooper was fascinated by the thinness and translucency of washi, which she initially

laid one on top of the other to create designs. Her enthusiasm struck the Japanese artisans, who then asked her to come and study in Mino and work alongside traditional papermakers of Honmino-shi. She remained there for 10 years.

"They were so kind to invite me but must have had doubts that I would go," Cooper said. "I was a Westerner working with Japanese masters making traditional washi in Japan. I was a bit of an oddity, I guess, but felt so privileged."

"Mino City asked me to teach English and art at schools in the morning and then from 11:30am until midnight I would work in the paper studios. It was an unusual lifestyle."

"Akira Goto, my sensei (teacher), is incredibly skillful and very patient. He is like a father to me. I couldn't speak Japanese at first and he couldn't speak English, but we managed to communicate. As my language skills developed, so did my papermaking skills. I loved every minute of it."

On her return, Cooper decided to make it her goal to promote washi to the British public and since then has been creating wonderful, colourful pieces of washi at her Bristol studios.

She regularly gives talks, demonstrations and workshops.

The artist also sells her own handmade plain washi, which is mixed with small amounts of cotton to make it more durable for printing. In addition, Cooper also supplies the raw mulberry plant fibers to artists, as well as imported handmade washi.

She has also been pro-

moting washi to other artists and designers in an attempt to broaden its appeal.

Washi, including Honminoshi from Gifu, Hosokawashi from Saitama Prefecture and Sekishubanshi from Shimane Prefecture, was registered on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2014.

Cooper has been dispatching samples of washi all around the country to show artists how versatile the material is and feedback is sent to her Japanese colleagues.

"Washi is very strong, doesn't degrade and is incredibly beautiful, textured and versatile. I want to educate people about its wonderful properties."

"There is a growing demand for it. You can use it for dyeing, drawing, printing and stitching, and for lighting, screens, clothing, sculptures and installations. The raw mulberry fibers can be woven and spun to make objects like baskets as well."

"In Japan, even though they use Western-style, machine-made paper, there's a love still in their hearts for washi. Hopefully these traditions will be passed on. Washi has had an immeasurable influence upon Japan."

Washi has been used for centuries by Japan's woodblock artists and also on official documents.

Artist Mary Collet said, "Using Elaine's handmade washi paper as Chine-colle (a special printmaking technique) gives the prints a subtle texture, which makes the print more interesting. Despite its fineness the washi paper is strong and easy to use."—*Kyodo News*

Train journeys are very romantic: Deepika Padukone

NEW DELHI — Deepika Padukone, Ranbir Kapoor and Imtiaz Ali were on a promotional train trip from Mumbai to Delhi for their film "Tamasha" and the actress had a lot of fun as she finds such very journeys very "romantic".

The 29-year-old "Piku" star, who hopped on the Suvridha Express from Mumbai Central yesterday, says love for travel, food and trains, is a common factor that binds her, Ranbir, and the "Highway" filmmaker together.

"Train journeys are very romantic. I think we all have travelled by train individually. And train, travel, food, restaurants and places are common things between three of us.

We are always talking about

new places and travelling.

"We know travel is a very important part of Imtiaz's life and in the movies that he make. I am happy that media could share this experience with three of us. The idea was to have fun," Deepika said.

Ranbir, who gives the credit for the idea to Deepika said he enjoyed this new and unique way of promoting the film.

"When the idea was proposed, we all jumped at it. When you market a film there is a set pattern. But usually with Imtiaz he likes to break those patterns. In 'Rockstar', we travelled in a bus and media jumped at that. It's a very interesting idea," he said.

"Tamasha" will hit the theatres this Friday.—*PTI*

mitv Myanmar International

(24-11-2015 07:00 am~ 25-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Insight Myanmar "Parenting & Child Development" (Part-I)
07:52	Am	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Tazaungmone (Ep-2)
08:51	Am	Today Myanmar
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:45	Am	Chinlone & The Dreams of the players
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Entrepreneur: Dr. Thin Nwe Win
10:36	Am	The Richly Blessed Gem Land

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 06:26 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:26 Am)

06:26	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-11) Scones and Caramel Custard Pudding
06:53	Pm	Entrepreneur: Dr. Thin Nwe Win

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)
07:52	Pm	Paper Lantern Festival 2015 in Action
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "Gaybar Kayin"
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) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(24-11-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am	7:40 am
• Mono Classical Songs	• TV Drama Series
6:10 am	8:25 am
• Musical Programme	• Myanmar Video
6:25 am	9:25 am
• Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than	• Radio Drama
6:50 am	9:40 am
• TV Drama Series	• Myanmar Video
7:00 am	12:00 noon
• TV Drama Series	• Close Down



Mandalay District team accepts championship trophy in inter-district aerobic contest. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

Women's aerobics teams compete in Mandalay

THE Mandalay Region Women's Sports Committee organised the inter-district women's aerobics contest at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay on Sunday, which attracted 170 athletes from seven districts.

Patron of the Regional Women's Affairs Organisation Daw Myat Ngwe officially opened the contest, which in-

cluded singles events and triples events in the under-12 and over-12 age categories.

The Kyaukse District team won the under-12 event, while the Mandalay District team stood first in the over-12 event.

Patron Daw Myat Ngwe presented a trophy and K100,000 to the Mandalay District team.—*Tin Maung*

Djokovic ends year on high with Finals win over Federer

LONDON — Novak Djokovic put the finishing touch to a magnificent season by beating Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4 to win the ATP World Tour Finals on Sunday for the fifth time in his career.

The Serbian underlined his complete dominance of men's tennis with another immaculate display to become the first player in the year-ending tournament's 46-year history to triumph four times in a row.

Federer brought the tournament to a close in anti-climatic fashion with a double-fault, although not as much as a year ago when he pulled out of the final with back injury.

After a modest celebration, Djokovic walked back to his chair and wrote "And now for vacation" in Serbian on a camera lens. How he deserves one.

The 28-year-old has stomped through the season to leave his rivals trailing in his wake — securing the year-end world number one ranking weeks before the London finale.

He won three of the year's four grand slams, beating the evergreen Federer in the Wimbledon and US Open finals to take his career haul to 10, and would have celebrated the rarest of 'calendar year slams' had it not been for an inspired Stanislas Wawrinka in the French Open final.

Not only that but he won a record six Masters Series crowns and reached 15 consecutive finals after losing to Ivo Karlovic in the Doha quarter-finals at the start of the year.—*Reuters*

Thousands register for Yoma Yangon marathon

Ko Moe

MORE than 3,500 people have registered for the 4th Yoma Yangon International Marathon, which will start from the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, Yangon, on 17 January.

Funds raised during the competition will be donated to Hsutaungpyae Youth Development School and the Aungzabu Youth Development School.

The winner of the 42.195-kilometre marathon will be awarded US\$2,700; the second prize is \$1,400; and the third prize is \$900.

In the 21-kilometre half-marathon, the first prize winner will receive \$1,600, the second will get \$900 and the third will get \$500.

The first, second and third prize winners will be awarded US\$800, \$400 and \$250 in the 10-kilometre challenge race, respectively.

Runners may register at www.yomayangonmarathon.com or at FMI Centre and Yoma Bank branches before 18 December.

More than 4,000 participants, both locals and foreigners, took part in the 2015 Yoma Yangon International Marathon.



The press conference on Yoma-Yangon marathon in progress. PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW

France, Brazil to share intelligence ahead of Rio Games in 2016

BRASILIA — France will share counterterrorism intelligence with Brazil ahead of next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the foreign ministers of both countries said in a press conference in Brasilia on Sunday.

France's foreign minister, Laurent Fabius, in Brazil to discuss the upcoming U.N. climate summit in Paris later this month,

said French intelligence officials could provide Brazil with information about potential threats.

"Minister Fabius offered a possible exchange of information and experiences, which for the Brazilian government is very welcome," Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said.

Diplomats in Brasilia last week told Reuters that western

governments were worried about the safety of their athletes and tourists at the Rio 2016 Games because they believe many Brazilian authorities are complacent, taking too much comfort in the country's historical standing as a non-aligned, multicultural nation which is free of enemies. Fabius said this month's killings in Paris could have happened anywhere in

the world, which means any strategy to fight terrorism needs to be international. France remains on a state of emergency following the 13 November attacks that killed 130 people in Paris. The series of shootings and explosions came as the country prepared for the UN Climate Change Conference, also dubbed COP21, from 30 November to 11 December.—*Reuters*

Messi primed as blistering Barca prepare for Roma

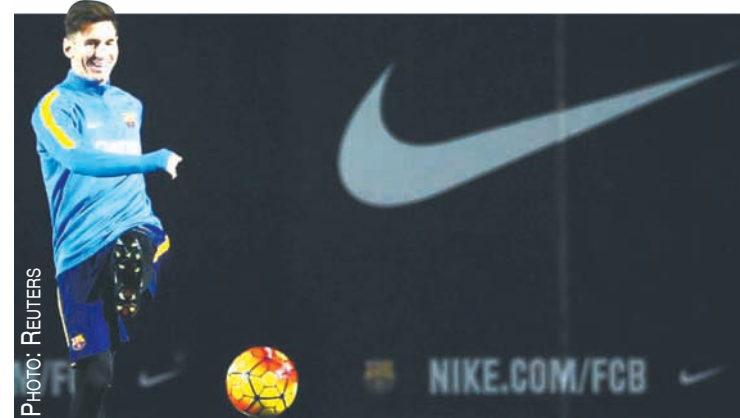
BARCELONA — Lionel Messi is set for his first start for nearly two months when Barcelona, fresh from pulverising Real Madrid 4-0 at the weekend, set their sights on Champions League qualification when AS Roma visit the Nou Camp on Tuesday.

A draw will be enough for last season's treble winners, five points clear at the top of Group E, to reach the last 16 for a 12th consecutive season and have Messi ready to start having come on as a substitute against Real on Saturday.

Messi had been out injured since the end of September but Barca have coped well without their talisman with strike partners

Neymar and Luis Suarez in blistering form.

Suarez hit two and Neymar got another in the demolition of Real, taking the pair's total to 19 goals in seven games. "It was a great performance. We can enjoy it now but we have some very difficult games ahead starting with Roma," midfielder Ivan Rakitic, who returned after a calf injury, told reporters. "Messi is a very important player and thank god he is back playing with us. His injury (knee ligament) was more serious than mine and he needed longer to recover but we all know how vital he is to the team." Roma and Barca drew 1-1 in the Italian capital in September.



Suarez gave Barca the lead but Alessandro Florenzi scored an extraordinary goal from a seemingly impossible position on the right touchline, nearly 50 metres from goal, to level. Roma, second

in the group one point ahead of Bayer Leverkusen and two clear of BATE Borisov, were held 2-2 in heavy rain on Saturday by lowly Bologna and are fourth in Serie A.—*Reuters*