



Myanmar, US eye smooth transfer of executive duties

PAGE 3

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with US Assistant Secretary of State, Senior Associate Editor of Washington Post

PAGE 3

ANALYSIS

Lay a deeper foundation for peace

PAGE 8

TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

Stakeholders gather for talks on future political dialogue



Representatives from political parties, the government and ethnic armed organisations held tripartite talks on future political dialogue at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Ye Myint

THREE groups comprising a committee of 16 representatives from political parties, the government and ethnic ceasefire signatories gathered at Myanmar Peace Centre yesterday for talks on future political dialogue, agreeing to place emphasis on national reconciliation.

The purpose of the Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee meeting was to facilitate upcoming political dialogue, in which Myanmar's political prob-

lems are expected to be resolved through dialogue.

According to a press conference held afterwards, a political framework drafting committee was formed with eight representatives, each from the three sides at the tripartite talks, with those present agreeing to start drawing up the framework this Friday.

Agenda setting, representation and participation of stakeholders and setting a decision-making rule are included in the framework for political dialogue, said U Hla Maung Shwe,

senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre.

The framework is expected to be set up by 14 December and the first round of political dialogue is slated to be held no later than 13 January, the senior adviser added.

According to the terms of truce pact signed by the government and eight ethnic armed groups on 15 October, both sides are required to draw up the framework within 60 days of the signing and to hold political dialogue within 90 days.

There will be a total of 24 representatives on the framework drafting committee, with 16 already named to represent the government and ethnic groups.

Despite having eight representatives from political parties tentatively named, this will be confirmed during the first round of framework drafting meetings, said Sai Kyaw Nyunt of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, who is also the secretary of the UPDJC representing political parties.

As it was the first meeting

for political parties, some did not bring a mandate as to who will be named as representatives, added the secretary.

"But, we have no differences about the main purpose: focusing on national reconciliation is very important."

According to spokespersons at the press conference, one representative from each ethnic armed group will represent the ethnic side, while the government's side is also comprised of eight members and will be led by Union Minister U Aung Min.



Tatmadawmen of local battalion and volunteers participate in clearing of debris and searching of bodies in landslide in Hpakant Township.

PHOTO: MYAWADY

Supplies arrive for relatives of Hpakant landslide victims

Aye Min Soe

CASH and rice has reached relatives of the victims of the deadly landslide at a jade mining site in Hpakant, Kachin State, according to local authorities.

Nearly K54 million (US\$ 41,600) was donated by local authorities, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association.

One more body was recovered yesterday, bringing the death toll 115. Of them, 30 bodies are uni-

dentified yet, according to an official from Hpakant Township General Administration Department.

It is estimated that there are around 4 to 5 bodies that still remain under the soil, he added. Estimates the day before were of 30 bodies. Around 70 makeshift huts were buried by the landslide.

U La John Ngan Sai, the Chief Minister of Kachin State, arrived on the scene to assist with rescue efforts. He urged miners staying in makeshift huts in risky areas to relocate immediately.

Following Saturday's deadly landslide at a jade mining site

in Hpakant, local authorities have said they will relocate around 70 makeshift huts inhabited by miners, as they are near dangerous mountains of dump soil. 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 Roundup

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

THE appreciation of the US dollar against the kyat has cost the union government over K635 billion in its additional budget, according to a report by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw committee.

Public Account Joint Committee reported its findings on the Additional Budget Bill of the Union for 2015-16 fiscal year during yesterday's session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The union government has sought K2,535 billion in the additional budget, including K635.48 billion that resulted from the appreciation of the US dollar against the Myanmar kyat, according to the commit-

tee. Representatives were invited to discuss the budget bill during future sessions.

Union Minister U Win Shein reported tax collection for the first half of the 2015-16 fiscal year, which exceeds the target and amounts to K 2,357.805 billion.

Representatives also discussed the report on the implementation of national planning in the second half of 2014-15 fiscal year.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw responded to questions raised by representatives about the implementation of national planning.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MPs debate more than K635 billion of additional budget. PHOTO: MNA

UEC approves winning Amyotha Hluttaw candidate in Shan State

SHAN State Election Sub-commission released announcement No 53/2015 on 12 November that U Sai Hsar Lu, 13/KaKhaNa(N)002433 was elected as the winning candidate from the Union Solidarity and Development Party in Shan State Constituency No 5 for a seat in the Amyotha Hluttaw.

On 23 November, the sub-commission issued announcement No 164/2015 that

U Nyi Sein of Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party was elected as the winning candidate in the same constituency with the largest number of votes.

As such, the UEC approved U Nyi Sein, 13/NakhaNa(N)018747, of Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party as the winning candidate for Shan State Constituency No 5 under Section 49(b) of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law.—GNLM

Volunteers clear debris after Haka explosion



Local people carrying out sanitation at damaged places.

PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

PERSONNEL from the local battalion, police, firefighters and Red Cross together with locals cleared debris from the buildings that were damaged during an explosion on Thida Street in Zaythit ward, Haka, Chin State, yesterday.

Officials from the Haka

Township Red Cross Brigade and the Township General Administration Department provided relief supplies to the residents of eight households who survived the explosions, which is thought to have been caused by illegally stored explosives used for mining.—Haka District IPRD

Pyithu Hluttaw Roundup

Pyithu Hluttaw

THE process for citizenship scrutiny of Bengalis in Myebon Township in Rakhine State was clarified by the Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint at the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Tuesday.

According to the deputy minister, citizenship scrutiny is conducted at the township level by a team comprising the township administrator, the township law officer, the township police officer, a representative of the Bengalis and a representative of the Rakhine before state level scrutiny is conducted by a committee comprising the state security and border affairs minister, the state commissioner, the state

law officer, state police commissioner, a representative of the Bengali and a representative of the Rakhine.

Findings are then scrutinized by the head office of the Immigration and National Registration Department, which sends its findings to the central committee for citizenship scrutiny composed of union ministers for defence, home affairs, immigration and population and foreign affairs.

The deputy minister said that citizenship documents are issued to those who are approved by the central committee in accordance with the law of the Immigration and National Registration Department.

The deputy minister added that laws pertaining to citizenship are often misunderstood and comments on citizenship should not be made easily as they are very sensitive.

Complaints and opinions based on racial and religious backgrounds and the concept of majority and minority are one-sided and far from reality, often leading to disastrous consequences, the deputy minister added. Representatives at the session were also invited to discuss the reports of the health promotion committee and development scrutiny committee and bills sent back with comments from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency

ADB approves \$80m loan to upgrade Yangon's transmission network

THE Asian Development Bank announced yesterday that it has approved a US\$80 million loan to upgrade Yangon's electricity transmission ring line system to 230 kilovolts (KV). The upgrade is expected to benefit more than one million people.

"The ageing and overloaded transmission network requires urgent improvements to provide stable and ample supplies of power to support the country's economic growth targets and poverty reduction objectives," said Bui Duy Thanh, senior energy economist at ADB's Southeast Asia Department.

"Yangon plays a central role as an economic hub for the country and this assistance will help the government ensure reliable power supplies are provided to the city and surrounding areas." According to a press release

issued yesterday by ADB Myanmar, the Power Transmission Improvement Project will upgrade the Thida-Thakayta-Kyaikkasan transmission ring lines to 230 KV from 66 KV and construct two new substations at South Okkalapa and West University.

This will complete the critical 230 KV ring for Yangon straddling the substations of Ahlon, Thida, Thakayta, South Okkalapa, Hlawga, Myangtagar, Yangon West University, Hline-thaya and back to Ahlon. The work will complement associated upgrades being done by the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise.

ADB said that Myanmar's economy is expected to grow at around 7.8 percent per year over the next decade and to meet the rising demand for power, which is predicted to be around 9 percent annually through to 2030.

Myanmar therefore needs to develop new generation sources and to expand and strengthen transmission and distribution networks.

The government has drawn up a development master plan to meet its energy goals, and ADB has been supporting the government through infrastructure upgrades, regulatory development and institutional capacity building, the press release stated.

According to ADB, the government will provide counterpart support of \$3.3 million, covering administration costs, environmental and social safeguard measures, and the construction of access roads and staff housing in substation areas to complement ADB's concessional loan.

The project will run over 3 years, with an expected completion date of June 2019.

Myanmar, US eye smooth transfer of executive duties

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein met with Mr Daniel R Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the United States at the Presidential Place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the successful completion of the general election in Myanmar, planning a smooth process for the transfer of executive power, and enhancing Myanmar-US bilateral relations.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Ye Htut, together with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the United States Mr Daniel R Russel. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with US Assistant Secretary of State, Senior Associate Editor of Washington Post

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Daniel R Russel, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the senior general said that he has plans to meet with the chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to establish relations with the incoming government. He added that to best serve the interests of the country the Tatmadaw will participate in maintaining stability and the development of the nation.

The pair discussed US concerns and interests related to Myanmar's political transition, current relations between Myanmar and the US and two armed forces, plans to hold meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the on-

going internal peace process, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and ethnic affairs.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also met with Senior Associate Editor Elizabeth (Lally) Graham Weymouth from The Washington Post daily at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

The senior general explained the holding of the general elections, Myanmar's constitution, military and civil relations, the country's relations with neighbouring countries, including Myanmar-US relations, the realisation of a firm multi-party democratic system and the role of Tatmadaw.

The editor has held interviews with the Prime Minister of Turkey, the Egyptian President, the South Korean President, the Brazilian president, the Prime

Minister of Lebanon, senior delegates from foreign affairs offices and security policy affairs staff

of the EU, the Philippine foreign secretary and the Ukrainian president during 2015, as well as

with the Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.—*Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Senior Associate Editor Elizabeth (Lally) Graham Weymouth from The Washington Post daily. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Myanmar Industrial Port to build jetties, container yard

UNION Minister for Transport and Rail Transportation U Nyan Tun Aung inspected the data cen-

tre control room, server room and the installation of security equipment at the Myanmar Industrial

Port in Ahlon Township, Yangon, on Monday.

Managing Director U Kyaw Myint of the Myanmar Port Authority briefed the union minister on the construction of jetties 3, 4 and 5 in addition to a container yard at the port built on 48,071 acres of land, all permitted by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

Managing Director U Ko Ko Htoo of the port said 264,454 containers from 233 vessels were held at the port during the 2014-15 fiscal year, compared with 19,895 containers during the 2003-2004 fiscal year.—*Transport*



The container yard of Myanmar Industrial Port in Ahlon Township. PHOTO: TRANSPORT

Union ministers receives foreign guests

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Daniel R Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the United States, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertinent to the recent general election of Myanmar and enhancement of Myanmar-US bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Union minister also

met with a delegation of National Management College of Lahore, Pakistan led by Mr Shahid Rahim Sheikh, members of the Directing Staff of the College and discussed evolvement of Myanmar foreign policies and organization of the ministry.

The US Assistant Secretary of State called on Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko at the ministry yesterday to discuss successful holding of the election, on-going tasks of the ministry, and preparations for transfer of executive power to new government.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Kanpwint Co Ltd donates transformers to Yesagyo villagers

TRANSFORMERS were donated to three villages in Yesagyo Township, Magway Region by U Aung Than, owner of Kanpwint Company Ltd, and his family on Friday. The donation is the family's eighth contribution to rural areas in need of access to electricity.

Two 315 KVA transformers were donated to Wahya and Htansaepin villages, and a 160 KVA transformer was donated

to Myephu village.

Kanpwint Company Ltd has donated a total of 29 transformers to 34 villages to date, at a cost of K176.6 million (US\$136,000).

U Aung Than said he expects the donations will contribute to rural development projects being implemented in the township and lifting the socio-economic status of the rural community.—*Pe Tun Zaw*



U Aung Than, owner of Kanpwint Company Ltd, and his family donate transformers for villages to local authorities for rural electrification in Yesagyo Township. PHOTO: PE TUN ZAW (YASAGYO)

Sports University nears completion in capital



Four-storey main building of Sports University under construction. PHOTO: KO PAUK (OKKAR MYAY)

CONSTRUCTION on a new Sports University in Nay Pyi Taw will be completed by March 2016, and it will occupy an area of 89.7 acres near the Nay Pyi

Taw Sports Complex in Zabuthiri Township.

The university will have a capacity of 500 students, and it will be built at a total cost of K4.7

billion (US\$3.6 million), said engineer U Htay Aung of Shwebonsan Myanmar Construction Company Ltd.—*Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)/Than Naing (Zabuthiri)*

Eye specialists provide free treatment in Kalay

PROFESSOR Dr U Mya Aung and a group of eye specialists arrived at the Sitagu Arojadana Hospital in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region on Sunday to provide free medical treatment. They came at the invitation of the Sitagu Sayadaw, a local abbot, and the Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Association.

The medical team includes two British ophthalmologists.

A total of 1,274 eye patients registered to be seen by the medical team. Among them, 270 patients needed surgery and 70 cleft lip patients were examined at the hospital in preparation for operations. Kalay's Sitagu Arojadana



Local eye patients receive medical checkups from specialist. PHOTO: JU NINE

Hospital was first opened in 2009 with funding from private donors, as well as the Sangha. To date, it

has treated 6,911 eye patients, of whom 1,576 patients underwent eye operations.—*Ju Nine*

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)*

Rare, 25-carat pink diamond found among Imelda Marcos collection

MANILA — A rare 25-carat, barrel-shaped pink diamond has been found among the jewellery collection of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, Christie's said on Tuesday after the government asked the auction house to appraise her collection of rare stones.

The Philippine government could decide to auction the collection after Christie's and rival So-

theby's appraise three sets of jewellery confiscated almost three decades ago after the fall of Imelda's husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"We had an extremely exciting find," said David Warren, director of jewellery at London-based Christie's. "We found an old brilliant-cut diamond, which is 25 carats. It has a distinct pink colour. Pink diamonds are exceedingly

rare." He said the diamond could be valued at \$5 million and would significantly increase the value of the entire collection if the collection is auctioned. The three sets in the collection were valued at \$6 million-8 million in 1991.

Only three pure, vivid pink diamonds of more than 10 carats have appeared for sale in almost 250 years of auction history, according to Christie's. A large cushion-shaped, pink-hued diamond sold for \$28.55 million at the Christie's semi-annual jewellery sale in Geneva on 10 November. The Philippine government had tried to auction the three sets in 2005 but Imelda Marcos contested the move, claiming ownership of only two of the sets. One was found in the presidential palace after her family's hasty departure in 1986 and another was seized in Hawaii, where they lived in exile. Imelda Marcos, now an elected member of Congress, is best known for leaving behind more than 1,200 pairs of shoes when her family fled. She has vowed to recover her family's seized assets. Ferdinand Marcos was president for nearly two decades before he was ousted in an army-backed uprising in 1986. He

was accused of amassing more than \$10 billion while in office and died in exile in 1989.

Among his assets were paintings by such masters as Monet, Picasso and Van Gogh. The government displayed the 750 pieces in the three sets of jewellery to the media. The collection, kept in a vault at the central bank, includes rubies, diamonds and emeralds. "It shows you the excesses of the Marcos regime," said Andrew de Castro, commissioner of the state agency tasked with recovering the wealth amassed by the Marcoses and their cronies.

"At a time when people were suffering, they were collecting this set of jewellery," he said. Sotheby's will appraise the collection on Thursday.—Reuters

"At a time when people were suffering, they were collecting this set of jewellery."

Andrew de Castro
Commissioner of the state agency



An employee from the Bureau of Customs shows items from the Marcos Jewelry Collection that will be appraised inside the Central Bank in Manila on 24 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cambodia, Russia sign 10 cooperation agreements

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia and Russia yesterday reached 10 agreements, aiming to promote ties and cooperation between the two countries, according to an announcement at the signing ceremony here.

The pacts were signed by senior officials of the two countries at the Peace Palace under the presence of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and visiting Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

The deals included cooperation in nuclear power technologies for peaceful development, information exchange on money laundering and terrorism financing, air transport services, investment, information, culture, and health.

Also, an agreement on cooperation between the ruling Cambodian People's Party and the ruling United Russia party was signed. Prior to the signing ceremony, the two prime ministers held a 90-minute talk, vowing to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation for the benefits of two countries and peoples, Eang Sophalleth, a spokesman for Hun Sen, told reporters after the meeting.—Xinhua

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than
mnmnthn2@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor
Than Tun Aung
thantunaungnm@gmail.com

Chief Reporter - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Senior Consultant Editor
Jessica Mudditt
jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Consultant Editor
Jacob Goldberg
jgold.news@gmail.com

Alec Wilmot
alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com

Editors
Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,
Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,
Myint Win Thein
journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news
Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Tun Tun Naing
tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters
Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw
tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translators
Ma Than Htay,
Hay Mar Tin Win
haymarfat@gmail.com

Proof reader
Nwe Nwe Tun

Layout designers
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:
adv.gnlm@gmail.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Thai court indicts two men over deadly Bangkok bombing

BANGKOK — A Thai military court has indicted two men accused of carrying out a Bangkok bomb attack that killed 20 people including 14 foreigners, making it the deadliest such incident in Thai history.

A lawyer for one of the men said a Bangkok military court brought ten charges against the pair on Tuesday, including premeditated murder, illegal possession of weapons and murder for the bombing in August.

"The court has accepted the ten charges that prosecutors formally brought against the two men," said lawyer Schoochart Kanpai.

The two were named as Bilal Mohammad and Mierali Yusufu.

Documents sent by prosecutors to the court said both men were Chinese nationals from the Uighur minority.

The attack at the Erawan Shrine, a major landmark in the heart of Bangkok, injured more than 120 people.

Thai police have said that the blast was revenge for a crackdown on human trafficking. They ruled out any link to the repatriation of 109 Muslim Uighur people to China in July.

The Uighur are a Turkic-language speaking group that calls China's western Xinjiang region home. Some Turks see themselves as sharing cultural and religious bond with their Uighur



Suspects of the 17 August Bangkok blast, Bilal Mohammed (also known as Adem Karadag) and Yusufu Mieraili, are escorted by soldiers and prison officers as they arrive at the military court in Bangkok, on 24 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

"brothers". The Uighur issue is sensitive for the Thai government and any link between the bomb and the deportation of people at China's behest could expose it to censure that its foreign policy led to the bomb attack.

Uighurs, who are mostly Muslim, say they flee China's Xinjiang region due to persecution. Beijing rejects that.

Mohammad and Yusufu have been held at an army base in Bangkok since their arrests in August and September.

The motive for the bombing remains unclear and no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police have released arrest warrants for 17 people over charges stemming from the

Bangkok attack but say many have fled abroad.

Schoochart said interpreters were being arranged for both suspects as they could not communicate with interpreters provided by police. The charges were being translated from Thai into English, he said, and the men will formally hear the charges against them on 16 February.—Reuters

Australia urges more intelligence sharing in Asia to stop Paris-style attack



Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull yesterday called for greater intelligence sharing in Southeast Asia to stop a Paris-style attack and ordered local law enforcement officials to test their readiness to handle a mass casualty attack.

Citing “increased terrorist threats”, the United States issued a global alert on Monday for Americans planning to travel following deadly militant attacks in France and Mali.

In a national security address to parliament, Turnbull called for greater intelligence sharing with the leaders of Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to which Australians are frequent visitors.

“From an Australian perspective, we see a real risk that terrorist groups in the region might be inspired by attacks such as we have seen in Ankara, Beirut, Bamako and Paris and we are very mindful

of the fact that hundreds of thousands of Australians visit Southeast Asia every year,” he said.

Turnbull yesterday ordered Australian law enforcement officials to test their readiness for a mass casualty attack in the wake of the 13 November Paris attacks which killed 130 people.

Australia is conducting air strikes against Islamic State as part of a US-led coalition, which has led to threats of retaliatory attacks.

Turnbull reiterated there were no plans to change Australia's military tactics against Islamic State, despite some politicians calling for troops to be sent to Syria.

He did, however, highlight the need for countering violent extremism online, citing Australian support for a new Malaysian program to counter extremist messaging. “Just as Australia cannot fight any military conflict against

ISIL unilaterally, we cannot counter violent extremism alone, particularly online,” he said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

Turnbull also said Attorney General George Brandis would visit Indonesia next month to discuss furthering regional intelligence coordination.

Australia has been on heightened alert for attacks by home-grown radicals since last year.

In September, police shot dead a Melbourne teenager after he stabbed two counter-terrorism officers. Last December, two hostages were killed when police stormed a central Sydney cafe to end a 17-hour siege by a lone gunman, who was also killed. About 120 Australians are believed to be fighting with Islamic State and other militant groups in Iraq and Syria, with several believed by intelligence agencies to hold leadership positions in Islamic State.—Reuters

Two Koreas exchange list of delegates for talks set for Thursday

SEOUL — North and South Korea yesterday exchanged a list of delegates for talks set for Thursday to lay the groundwork for high-level talks between the two sides, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

At the talks set to take place at the truce village of Panmunjeom, South Korea's three-member team will be headed by Kim Ki Woong, director of Special Office for Inter-Korean Dialogue from the Unification Ministry.

The North's team, also comprised of three members, will be headed by Hwang Chol, director at the secretariat of the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

The high-level talks, aimed at improving bilateral relations after tensions rose in August, would be a follow-up to an agreement reached later that month between the two Koreas.

Tensions had escalated after South Korea accused the North of planting landmines in the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas that seriously injured two South Korean soldiers in early August. The two sides also fired artillery shells at each other later that month.

The two sides are still technically in a state of war as the 1950-1953 Korean War ended in an armistice and not a permanent peace treaty.—Kyodo News

China, Thailand joint air force exercise highlights warming ties

BANGKOK — Thailand's military held an air show with China yesterday ahead of joint manoeuvres in a sign of warming ties, but Thailand said it was not distancing itself from the United States which downgraded their military relationship following a 2014 coup.

Five Thai and Chinese military planes performed aerobatic demonstrations for assembled media, flying some 3,000 feet (900 metres) above ground at the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, around 260 km (161 miles) north-east of Bangkok.

On Thursday and Friday, Chinese and Thai air forces will conduct their first joint exercises that China has said are aimed at increasing “mutual trust and friendship.”

Since a May 2014 coup, Thailand's military generals have sought to counterbalance the

country's ties with Washington and launched a charm offensive toward their neighbour to the north.

“Thailand has been pushing for this for quite some time,” Air Marshal Bhanupong Seyayongka, director of operations for the Royal Thai Air Force, told Reuters.

“We are not trying to use China to counter the US. Our foreign policy is to have no enemies and to be friends with everyone.”

Major-General Werachon Sukhondhapatipak

Deputy government spokesman

“We've been studying this plan for a long time.”

The US was critical of the coup and downgraded joint military exercises and training with Thailand saying they would be restored once a general election is held.

Recent deals between China and Thailand include a plan by Thailand's navy to buy submarines worth \$1 billion from China and an ambitious project to build rail links from southern China through Laos to Thailand.

Chinese tourism to Thailand is expected to be a record 7 million this year, up from 4.63 million last year, despite a deadly bomb attack at a major tourist spot in Bangkok in August.

But senior Thai government officials say Thailand has not turned 180 degrees toward China, despite a chill in ties between Bangkok and Washington fol-

lowing the 2014 coup.

Major-General Werachon Sukhondhapatipak, deputy government spokesman, said Thailand's foreign policy was to be friends with everyone, including the US.

“We are not trying to use China to counter the US. Our foreign policy is to have no enemies and to be friends with everyone,” Werachon told Reuters.

Bhanupong said Thailand would continue military exercises with the US.

“We will definitely keep practicing with the US as well,” Bhanupong said.

China has rattled nerves in Southeast Asia with its increasingly bold acts in the South China Sea, where China, Vietnam, The Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei all have competing territorial claims.—Reuters

Anti-graft investigators probe two brokerages in Shanghai

SHANGHAI — Anti-corruption investigators opened probes into two of China's largest brokerages and censured four executives at a leading insurer yesterday, the latest moves in a campaign against graft in the financial sector following a market slump.

After a bloodbath in the share market in mid-June, Beijing began cracking down on alleged illegal activity, such as insider trading and ‘malicious’ short-selling, which were blamed partly for volatility.

Investigators in Shanghai

have started probing Guotai Junan Securities and Haitong Securities, two of the largest state-owned brokerages, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing a government paper.

Guotai Junan International, the Hong Kong subsidiary of Guotai Junan, said on Monday its chairman had been missing since Wednesday.

This is the third probe in Shanghai this year, Xinhua said, and will involve sweeping investigations that involve 12 other

state-owned companies and six universities.

President Xi Jinping opened a campaign three years ago to root out corruption in all walks of life in China.

Executives at CITIC Securities have fallen foul of China's corruption authorities and have allegedly admitted to insider trading and leaking information.

Meanwhile, four executives at state-owned People's Insurance Company of China Co (PICC), one of the country's largest insurers, were punished

for a wide range of misdemeanours from hiding a spouse's US green card status, to using trade union money to fund shopping sprees, according to a statement posted on the country's main anti-graft body's official website.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said some employees were fired, while others were demoted or given warnings.

On Monday, the CCDI demoted four bank regulators for violating Communist Party rules and procedures.—Reuters

Kerry says Palestinian attacks 'acts of terrorism' that must be condemned



US Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before their meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, on 24 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

JERUSALEM — US Secretary of State John Kerry began a one-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories yesterday by describing a wave of Palestinian knife and car ramming attacks as terrorism that must be condemned.

At the start of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Kerry said they would discuss ways to work together to restore calm. With US-backed Palestinian statehood negotiations frozen since 2014, Netanyahu said there could be no peace while an "on-

slaught of terror" continued.

Shortly before Kerry and Netanyahu convened in Jerusalem, a Palestinian drove his car into three Israeli soldiers and a paramilitary border policeman along a road in the occupied West Bank, injuring all four, the army said. Israeli forces shot and wounded the driver.

"It is very clear to us that the terrorism, these acts of terrorism which have been taking place, deserve the condemnation that they are receiving," Kerry told reporters, with Netanyahu at his side.

"And today I express my complete condemnation for any act of terror that takes innocent lives and disrupts the day-to-day life of a nation," Kerry said.

He was due to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas later in the day in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Abbas and other Palestinian leaders have accused Israel of using excessive force to quell attacks, saying that in many cases assailants could have been stopped and detained without being shot and killed. They have also described the violence as a consequence of Israel's occupation and related policies.

Since 1 October, 19 Israelis and an American have been killed in Palestinian attacks. Eighty-six Palestinians have been killed, some while carrying out assaults and others in clashes with Israeli forces. Many of them were teenagers.

The bloodshed has been driven in part by Muslim agitation over stepped-up Jewish visits to East Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque compound — Islam's third holiest site and also revered by Jews as the location of two destroyed biblical temples.

In Abu Dhabi on Monday, Kerry said Washington had ideas "for how things could proceed" to try to stem the violence. But he cautioned: "People aren't in the mood for concessions".—Reuters

Majority of Britons want to leave the EU after Paris attacks: opinion poll



The Eiffel Tower lit with the blue, white and red colours of the French flag is reflected in the Trocadero fountains in Paris, France, on 23 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — More than half of Britons now want to leave the European Union, according to an opinion poll carried out after the Paris attacks for the *Independent* newspaper.

The ORB survey of 2,000 people showed 52 percent of British voters wanted to leave while 48 percent wanted to stay. In similar polls in June, July and September, a majority had want-

ed to stay in the EU.

Earlier this month, British Prime Minister David Cameron launched his attempt to reform the 28-member bloc ahead of a referendum on whether Britain should remain an EU member, a vote which he has promised will take place by the end of 2017.

A British divorce would shake the bloc to its core, ripping away its second largest economy and one of its top two military powers. Pro-Europeans warn an exit from the EU would hurt Britain's economy and could trigger the break-up of the United Kingdom by prompting another Scottish independence vote.

Other polls have shown British support for staying in the European Union fell this year as an influx of migrants into Europe raised concerns about membership.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey to consult with NATO, UN on Syria border developments

ISTANBUL — Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has ordered the foreign ministry to consult with NATO, the United Nations and related countries on the latest developments on the Syrian border, his office said in a statement yesterday.

Turkish F-16 fighter jets shot down a war plane of unknown origin earlier on Tuesday after it violated Turkish air space close to the Syrian border and ignored warnings, a Turkish military official told Reuters.—Reuters

Strikes planned at Rotterdam port

AMSTERDAM — Container workers at the Port of Rotterdam have voted to hold a series of 24-hour strikes in December and January in protest at possible job cuts, threatening to freeze the movement of goods through Europe's largest port.

Niek Stam, leader of the FNV Havens union, said in a statement members of the union had voted in favour of the strikes to back their demand for guarantees of no layoffs for the

coming nine years. Major container employers ECT, APMT and RWG have rejected that demand in contract talks which have been running since April.

"The employers have said that they think that demand is not realistic, something of a different era," said Sjaak Poppe, a spokesman for the Port of Rotterdam, which is brokering the now-stalled talks and which has been asked by the employers to speak on their behalf.—Reuters

Russian defence ministry says its fighter jet downed in Syria

MOSCOW — Russia's defence ministry said yesterday one of its Su-24 fighter jets was downed in Syria, but it rejected Turkish allegations the aircraft had entered Turkish airspace.

"Today on Syrian territory, apparently as the result of fire from the ground, a Su-24 with the Russian aviation group in the Syrian Arab Republic crashed," the ministry said in a statement posted on its Internet site.

"The plane was flying at a height of 6,000 metres. The

fate of the pilots is yet to be confirmed. According to preliminary information, the pilots were able to eject."

"For the entire duration of the flight the aircraft was exclusively over Syrian territory.

This was recorded by reliable monitoring methods," the statement said.

The incident highlighted the risks to NATO member Turkey as Syrian, Russian and US coalition aircraft target various insurgent groups inside Syria often close to Turkish borders.—Reuters

Pakistani fighter jet crashes, killing female pilot

ISLAMABAD — A female Pakistani air force pilot was killed yesterday when her trainer jet crashed, the military said.

The crash occurred during "routine operational training", the air force said in a statement.

A second pilot survived, the statement said.—Reuters

Japan, Iraq discuss anti-terrorism measures in wake of Paris attacks

TOKYO — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jafari met yesterday in Tokyo where they discussed measures to fight Islamic State militants in the wake of the Paris terror attacks.

"Iraq is at the front line of the fight against Islamic State. Japan would like to cooperate

in antiterrorism measures," Kishida said at the outset of the meeting at the Iikura guesthouse in Tokyo.

Al-Jafari said he believes his visit to Japan would "further solidify bilateral relationship."

The Iraqi minister arrived in the country Sunday for a weeklong visit.—Kyodo News

OPINION

Lay a deeper foundation for peace

Myint Win Thein

THE government signed a nationwide ceasefire agreement with eight ethnic armed groups in October this year. There are other ethnic armed groups that have not signed the truce. In addition, many technical issues for the ceasefire agreement are still under discussion. Therefore, it can be said that

the ceasefire agreement remains incomplete. As a result, fighting is continuing in some areas of the country, despite the fact that the military pledged not to launch offensives against any ethnic groups, regardless of whether they have signed the truce deal.

However, some analysts, referring to the signing of the NCA, have said that the foundation for peace has been laid. However it is too early to say so because the NCA is just one step of many needed to settle differences through peaceful means. Division and differences between ethnic groups must be reconciled through dialogue.

Inequality between ethnic groups in Myanmar has led to divisions and a civil war that is considered the world's longest. Therefore, the outcome of political dialogue should be a consen-

sus that equality and self-determination for all ethnic groups is the only foundation for peace. These outcomes must be duly promulgated in the constitution. Only then can it be said that the foundation for peace has been permanently laid.

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.

Harnessing the Climate Change

Khin Maung Myint

THE 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris, from 30 November to 11 December is drawing near. Every eco-conscious persons are anxious what would emerge from that conference; "Would they be able to pass a viable resolution that could harness the climate change?", is the question most of them must be asking, in their minds.

Some are doubtful that any significant improvement would be achieved. However, I am optimistic there would be some encouraging results, though minor they may be. My assumption is based on the fact that the whole world is aware of the adverse effects of the global warming and the climate change. Thus if every country, especially the large emitters of the greenhouse gases cooperate, I believe that a sustainable solution to harness the climate change could be found.

Though I do not know what the actual agenda of the conference would be, I am sure the necessity to maintain the temperature rise at no more than 2°C above the average temperature of the pre-industrialization period, would be top priority. According to some experts, that could be achieved if the rain forests of the Amazon and the Indonesian Archipelago could be conserved properly. These are the two places where large scale deforestations are taking place due to extensive logging, mining, industrialisations and agricultural developments. However, that assumption would be just a theory, which would not be practical.

In my opinion, burdening those two countries with the responsibility to fight the global warming wouldn't be fair. No country would be spared from the consequences of the climate

change although it don't have a hand in causing it. Thus every country should be involved in the process of curbing the temperature rise. The countries that caused more damage to the environment should shoulder more responsibility. Meaning, the largest emitters of the greenhouse gases, or in other words, the countries with more industries should be held responsible and enforced to curb their Carbon Dioxide emissions drastically.

Concerning the CO₂ emissions, the present system of allowing the Carbon Emission quota allotments and trading them should be reassessed and revised. In my opinion the present practice of allowing the trading in excess Carbon Emission quota is ridiculous. If a country had used up its Carbon Emission quota, it should not be allowed to emit more. The effects of the extra CO₂ emitted by that country would not be isolated only to that place, it would affect everywhere. Instead of allowing the purchasing, that country should be enforced to increase its own Carbon Emission quota by growing more trees or reduce their emission by reducing their industries. It may sound unacceptable, but I believe it is the only logical approach.

For us, as we are located close to two or may be three industrially fast-growing countries, we would suffer more if they produce more greenhouse gases made possible by the purchased Carbon Emission quota from far away countries that have excess. If you would observe my statement with a rational mind, you would find it logical, if not scientific.

Thus the trading in the Carbon Emission quota should not be allowed.

There is a saying in Myanmar: "While the deer is breeding, the tiger is eating", which I think has the same meaning as "back at square one". There

wouldn't be any progress, not withstanding how many more trees are grown, if the trading goes on. It may deprive some countries the opportunities to earn money and thus may reduce the incentives for them to conserve the forests. However, every country should be made aware that the consequences of the climate change would not be confined to the large Carbon emitting countries only, but it would be widespread all over the world. Thus it is necessary for all nations to contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions as a duty.

It is learnt from the reports that China topped the list of most emitters of the greenhouse gases, followed by the US. Others are not as bad as those two. Those two countries should be grilled at the upcoming conference. If the UN is not prepared to apply pressure on them, the conference would not yield any significant

plants, which would be worse than a war. So the UN should consider taking the climate change issue to the Security Council and pass a binding resolution, if the Paris convention should fail to achieve the objectives.

I had been persistently writing about the catastrophic consequences of the climate change. I used to emphasize the importance of conservation of the forests and the ecosystem whenever I get the opportunity. Once again, I would like to highlight that fact. Depletion of the forests and destruction of the ecosystem lead to the imbalance of nature. The most noticeable and damaging is the increase in temperatures. I hope, by now, it wouldn't be necessary to go into detail how that increase could be caused, so I would concentrate on the consequences of the temperature increase.

The rise in temperatures

"Every country should be made aware that the consequences of the climate change would not be confined to the large Carbon emitting countries only, but it would be widespread all over the world. Thus it is necessary for all nations to contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions as a duty."

result. Unlike wars, the climate change is everyone's problem. The wars would be confined to a certain region and mostly affect the populace of the belligerent nations, whereas the climate change would doom the whole world.

Why not use the sanctioning as a tool, to forcefully harness the climate change? My ideas may be far fetched, but if those two countries are left unchecked, it would be very devastating to all living things including the trees and

caused more evaporations to take place and led to more rainfalls, triggering a chain action — flooding and landslides — causing loss of lives, properties, livestock, agricultural products, land and spread of epidemic diseases, etc. The worst are the El Nino and the La Nina phenomenas that occurred alternately. If the temperatures should continue to rise, they could further cause more catastrophes. The most devastating would be the inundating of those places in the low lying areas, the

whole year round. Even now, people living in low lying regions, such as Bangladesh are being driven out of their homes and in most cases out of their country. A new breed of migrants had emerged due to the effects of the climate change. They are appropriately called "the Climate Change migrants".

If the Paris convention is unable to pass binding resolutions that could harness the climate change in time and reduce it, our country is headed for our doom. I am including a map showing the levels of risk each country would be facing, to make my point. It was based on a study by the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, USA. If the readers would study the map closely, they are bound to see that our country is in the "maroon", darker than "red", meaning: we are among the most vulnerable group. However, those countries that are causing the most climate change are in the "green". It's quite clear that the culprits are getting away scot-free, while the innocents have to bear the brunt of the consequences of the climate change. The risk levels are said to be calculated based on the ability of a country to cope with the climate change: how well equipped and prepared to fend off, in the event of the climate change reaching life-threatening levels.

I may sound naive or absurd, but I would like to make a request to those delegates, who will be attending that conference, to push through a resolution that would sanction heavy monetary fines on the large Carbon emitters. Money thus acquired should be dispersed to the poor nations, like ours', who are at the highest level of risk, to equip ourselves to prevent from the effects of the climate change. In conclusion I would like to suggest again that they should seriously consider abolishing the Carbon Emission trading.

That practice is not contributing much to the controlling, but instead, encouraging the Carbon emissions.



The opening ceremony of one-stop shop in progress in Nyaunglebin Township. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Nyaunglebin Township opens one-stop shop

A PUBLIC services office (One Stop Shop) was opened at Myoma Market, Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, yesterday with the aim of providing the smooth service of departmental tasks for locals.

At the OSS opening ceremony Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Ko Ko Gyi and the Chairman of the Township Development Supporting Committee U Thein Naing cut the ribbon to

open the office.

The Township OSS includes the General Administration Department, the Myanmar Police Force, the Development Affairs Committee, the Fire Services Department, the Electricity Supply Enterprise, the Public Health Department, the Land Management and Statistics Department, the Internal Revenue Department and the Immigration and National Registration Department. — *Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)*

Paddy field replanting successful in Kanbalu

REPLANTED paddy fields in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, which were destroyed by floods in July and August, are now thriving, according to farmer U Khin Maung Aye of Pyintaw village.

The farmer has regrown Makyuli and Manaw paddy strains on his 20-acre paddy field. He added that other surrounding paddy fields have also been successful.

He said the current selling price of a basket (33.33 kg) of paddy is K5,000.

The Township Agriculture Office said the government provided K101.514 million (US\$78,175) to replant the paddy fields, where Ayeyamin, Palaethwe GW1, Sinthukha, and Makyuli (Ywethaung) paddy breeds were regrown. The office claims the township has now exceeded the targeted paddy acreage of 146,905 acres.— *Aung Win Nyein*

Masonry course completed in Zigon Village

COMPLETION certificates were issued at the closing ceremony to basic masonry course (3/2015). The ceremony was held at the monastery of Zigon Village, Tatkon Township by the Rural Development Department on Monday.

The training course was aimed at proving employment

opportunities and skills to local citizens. Deputy Staff Officer U Than Myint Tun inspected the practical works of the trainees. The trainees' tubs, fencing posts and slabs made of concrete will be donated to the local basic education primary school and the monastery.

A trainee said that farming

is their traditional work in the village. The training course will contribute much to the development of a local economy in concrete production.

The trainees thanked officials of the Rural Development Department for providing the course.— *Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*



A local woman trainee practically makes concrete work. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN (TATKON IPRD)

Mandalay's literati to mark centenary of Ludu Daw Ahmar's birth

ARRANGEMENTS are underway to hold an event commemorating 100 years since the birth of the writer and journalist Ludu Daw Ahmar, which will take place on 29 November.

During a meeting on Saturday at the former office of the Ludu Daily newspaper in Mandalay on Saturday, advocate U Tun Aung Kyaw and writer Nyi Pu Lay explained the programmes that will be held as part of the ceremony.

Writer Hsu Hngat gave a lecture about Ludu Daw Ahmar. Her contribution to the arts, theatre, dance and music also earned her much respect, as did her fiction and non-fiction work. She and her husband, Ludu U Hla, also established the Ludu Daily.

An organising committee has been set up comprising young writers and journalists, who will organise the four-day event at Dhammathala Hall from 26 to 29 November. The books, manuscripts and photos of the great writer will be exhibited around the hall.

On 26 November, writer Hsu Hngat will give a talk on Ludu Daw Ahmar, and academic papers will be read on 27 and 28 November. On 29 November, meals will be offered to members of the Sangha at Taunglaylon Monastery in Amarapura Township.— *Tin Maung*

Fire breaks out in village of Pobbathiri, none injured



Photo shows burning of a house. PHOTO: SHWE KOKKO

A FIRE broke out at a house in Khapyat village of Pobbathiri township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 7:00 pm on Monday. The outbreak of the fire at the two-story brick house was suspected to be faulty wiring.

A total of 13 fire engines and trucks, led by township Fire Services Department officer U Aung Ko Ko Oo and auxiliary firefighters from nearby Pyinmana township fire brigade rushed to the scene. The fire was declared out at 7:20 pm.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Min Naung and senior regional officials came and gave minor assistance to the departmental officials.

It is reported that there were no injuries nor deaths resulting from the fire.

The damage of the fire is estimated at about K 960,000 (US\$740).

The house owner U Hla Ko is under investigation by the township police department.— *Shwe Kokko*

Bomb shatters windows outside business federation in Athens

ATHENS — A bomb exploded outside the offices of a Greek business federation in central Athens early on Tuesday, police officials said, smashing windows but causing no injuries.

The blast, which police believe was carried out by domestic guerrilla groups, is the first such incident since leftist Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras came to power in January.

Attacks against banks, politicians and business people are not uncommon in Greece, which has a long history of political violence and has been mired in its worst economic crisis in decades.

The device, triggered by a timer and placed in a backpack near the entrance of the Hellenic Business Federation offices, went off around 3:30 am (0130 GMT). An anonymous caller warned a newspaper some 30 minutes earlier, a police official said on condition of anonymity. Witnesses said glass from smashed windows was strewn across the streets in one of the busiest parts of central Athens, a stone's throw from parliament in Syntagma Square that is lined with cafes, banks and shops.

"I heard it, it made me dizzy because it was so loud," said Kostas Papalogizopoulos, who was working the night shift at a kiosk across the street.

"We knew about it, police had warned us that there may be a bomb because they found a suspi-



Forensic experts search for evidence on a street where a bomb exploded outside the entrance of the Hellenic Business Federation offices in Athens, Greece, on 24 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

cious bag and told us to be careful because of the sonic boom, so I was standing outside the kiosk."

Police cordoned off a two-block area surrounding the building and bomb disposal squads were examining the scene.

Video from a security camera at a nearby building recorded two people wearing dark clothes and helmets fleeing the scene on a motorcycle at high speed, a po-

lice official told Reuters.

"This confirms the account of what a security guard in the area saw. The building of the business federation is not regularly guarded," the official said, declining to be named. Police were checking other cameras in the area.

The blast caused damage in five nearby buildings, mostly shattered glass. Makeshift bomb

and arson attacks have escalated in Greece since 2010, when it first adopted unpopular austerity measures such as tax rises, wage and pension cuts in exchange for multi-billion euro bailouts by the European Union and the IMF.

In July, Athens agreed to further rounds of austerity under its third bailout.

Tsipras' government condemned the attack.—Reuters

Car bomb kills three at hotel housing election judges in Egypt's Sinai

CAIRO — A car bomb exploded outside a hotel housing election judges in Egypt's North Sinai yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring 14, security and medical sources said.

The blasts in the provincial capital of al-Arish came a day after the second round of a parliamentary election closed. Egyptian state television also reported the incident.

A suicide bomber tried to drive a car bomb into the hotel before security forces opened fire on him, causing the car to explode, security sources said.

The bomber and three others, two policemen and a judge, were killed, security sources said. Two judges, seven policemen and five hotel staff were injured, authorities added. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Islamic State's Egypt affiliate, Sinai Province, has carried out similar attacks in the region as part of its bid to topple the Cairo government.

State television and security sources first said a car bomb exploded then a second blast hit the area about ten minutes later.

Ambulances rushed to the scene, which was sealed off by soldiers and police, said the security sources.—Reuters

US issues global travel alert as manhunt continues for Paris attackers

WASHINGTON — Citing "increased terrorist threats" from militant groups in various regions of the world, the US State Department issued a global alert on Monday for Americans planning to travel following deadly militant attacks in France and Mali.

As millions of Americans prepare to travel for the US Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, the agency said potential attackers could target private or government interests.

The department did not advise people against travel but said US citizens should be vigilant, especially in crowded places.

The State Department has regularly issued such worldwide travel alerts since the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States. A State Department official said the latest alert, which expires 24 February, effectively updated past warnings. In the statement on its website, the State Department said: "Current information suggests that (Islamic State), al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and other terrorist groups continue to plan terrorist attacks in multiple regions."

Although it did not mention the 13 November Paris attacks

claimed by the Islamic State group in which 130 died, the department noted that militants had carried out attacks in France, Nigeria, Denmark, Turkey, and Mali during the past year.

"Authorities believe the likelihood of terror attacks will continue as members of (Islamic State) return from Syria and Iraq," it said. "Additionally, there is a continuing threat from unaffiliated persons planning attacks inspired by major terrorist organisations but conducted on an individual basis."

France and Belgium have launched a manhunt following the attacks in Paris, with a focus on Brussels barkeeper Salah Abdeslam, 26, who returned to the city from Paris hours after the attacks and is still at large.

Abdeslam's mobile phone was detected after the attacks in the 18th district in the north of Paris, near an abandoned car that he had rented, and then later in Chatillon in the south, a source close to the investigation said.

Detectives were examining what appeared to be an explosive belt found in a litter bin in the town of Montrouge, south of the capital and not far from Chatillon.

The source said it was too soon to say whether the belt had been in contact with Abdeslam, whose elder brother blew himself during the gun and suicide bomb attacks. One theory was that Abdeslam had intended to blow himself up in the 18th district but had abandoned the plan, although it was not clear why.

"Maybe he had a technical problem with his explosive belt," a police source said.

"We are still confronted with the threat we were facing yesterday."

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel

Fearing an imminent threat of a Paris-style attack, Belgium extended a maximum security alert in Brussels for a week but said the metro system and schools could re-open on Wednesday.

"We are still confronted with the threat we were facing yesterday," Prime Minister Charles Michel said. Potential targets remained shopping areas and public transport.

Belgium has been at the heart

of investigations into the Paris attacks since French law enforcement bodies said two of the suicide bombers had lived there. Three people have been charged in Belgium with terrorist offences, including two who travelled back with Abdeslam from Brussels.

As authorities tried to establish Abdeslam's movements and whereabouts, a source said he travelled through Italy in August with a companion, but his presence

caused no alarm because he was not a wanted man at the time.

His companion was Ahmet Dahmani, a Belgian man of Moroccan origin who was arrested in Turkey last week on suspicion of involvement in the Paris attacks, the investigative source said.

In Belgium, prosecutors said they had charged a fourth person with terrorist offences linked to the Paris attacks.

They released all 15 others

detained in police raids on Sunday. Two of five people detained on Monday were also released while the other three had their custody prolonged. Soldiers patrolled the streets of Brussels, the bustling European Union capital, which has been in lockdown since Saturday.

On the Grand Place, a historic central square that usually draws crowds of tourists, an armoured military vehicle was parked under an illuminated Christmas tree.

NATO, which raised its alert level after the Paris attacks, said its headquarters in the city were open, but some staff had been asked to work from home. EU institutions were also open with soldiers patrolling outside.

Interior Minister Jan Jambon told RTL radio, however, that the capital was still operating. "Apart from the closed metro and schools, life goes on in Brussels," he said.

Workers were also setting up stalls for the city centre Christmas market, which is due to open on Friday, and organisers of the Davis Cup tennis final between Belgium and Britain in the city of Ghent, 55 km (35 miles) from the capital, said it would go ahead this weekend.—Reuters

India oil imports from AsiaPac spike in October as refiners tap new routes



An employee fills an iconic yellow ambassador taxi with diesel at a fuel station in Kolkata. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW DELHI — India's crude oil imports from the Asia-Pacific region spiked last month as its refiners looked beyond their traditional suppliers for cheaper purchases amid a global supply glut.

Crude imports from points east of India, mainly Malaysia and Australia, surged to 187,000 barrels per day (bpd) in October, the highest since April 2014, according to ship tracking data obtained

from sources and compiled by Thomson Reuters Oil Research & Forecasts.

That was more than double the volume imported from Asia-Pacific in September and up some 70 percent from a year ago, the data showed. The surge in shipments were a boost to Malaysia, Southeast Asia's second-biggest oil producer, and Australia, where some refineries have been shut.

Malaysia in particular has been looking for stable outlets to bolster oil revenues and cushion the impact of falling global crude prices, reducing spot prices to attract buyers and offering grades to refiners further away such as in India. "Malaysia has reduced the premium (to the Brent benchmark) it charges, so these grades have become attractive. Also, freight cost from Malaysia is less compared to Nigeria, that makes the Malaysian grade cheaper," said a senior executive at Bharat Petroleum Corp.

Malaysian oil supplies to India last month were the highest in six months, the data showed.

Refiners in India normally buy Malaysian oil through term deals but BPCL recently procured barrels through spot tenders. Shell supplied Malaysian Kikeh and Miri grades to BPCL in October under a deal obtained through a spot tender.

Last month, the Indian refiner for the first time also imported the Russian Sokol grade from Far East Russia, a high-quality crude that usually goes to refiners in nearby South Korea and Japan.

Other spot values for Asia-Pacific crude loading in September fell to multi-year lows, as refinery margins weakened amid slowing regional demand and a buildup of product stocks, further boosting the shipments from East Asia. And at a time of slowing demand growth in China, India looks like the "brightest spot" for Asian barrels, said Ehasan Ul-Haq, senior analyst at London-based consultancy KBC Energy Economics.

Still, India by far meets the bulk of its oil demand through supplies from Middle East, West Africa and Latin America, with Saudi Arabia regaining its top supplier status in October and Iraq falling back to the second slot.

Crude futures have already lost around 60 percent of their value since mid-2014 due to a global oil glut that has sparked price competition among producers from West Africa to East Asia in a fight for global market share.

Overall in October India imported nearly 9 percent more crude than a year ago at 3.94 million bpd, according to the shipping data.—Reuters

Asian shares slip, dollar close to eight-month peak

TOKYO — Asian shares struggled yesterday after a health-care mega-merger failed to impress Wall Street, while the dollar took a breather from its run to 8-month highs on rising conviction that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next month.

The mood was expected to carry over into European trading. Financial spreadbetters predicted Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE would open down by as much as 0.4 percent, Germany's DAX .GDAXI would fall as much as 0.4 percent, and France's CAC 40 .FCHI was seen dropping 0.5 percent. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan wavered in

and out of positive territory, and was last down 0.2 percent.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 ended a choppy session with a 0.2 percent gain, after a long weekend. Markets were closed for a national holiday on Monday.

"We're post Japan Inc earnings now and the focus is back on China where local brokers are talking about market reforms, many of which have direct market impacts, which is important because China is a policy-driven market," said Gavin Parry, managing director of Parry International Trading.

"There's also a continued focus on the US Federal Reserve,

with a lot of sell-side banter about quantifying what level of rate increase brokers are expecting," he said. Chinese shares wilted, with the blue chip CSI300 index .CSI300 of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen off session lows but still down 0.2 percent, while the Shanghai Composite Index .SSEC edged down 0.1 percent.

On Monday, Wall Street marked modest losses as Pfizer's (PFE.N) plan to buy Allergan Plc (AGN.N) in a \$160 billion deal quickly drew criticism from politicians as a tax dodge.

"Investors may feel that even if this deal comes through, this

will become the last of this sort," said Yoshinori Shigemori, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset.

Markets showed no immediate reaction to a worldwide travel alert issued by the US State Department, that warned US citizens of the risks of travelling because of what it described as "increased terrorist threats."

The dollar index, which tracks the US currency against six major peers, edged down about 0.1 percent to 99.741, after it rose to an 8-month high of 100.00 USD=.DXY overnight, within sight of its 12-year peak of 100.39 touched on 13 March.—Reuters

Dell admits security hole in new laptops

NEW YORK — Major US computer company Dell Inc [DI.UL] said on Monday a security hole exists in some of its recently shipped laptops that could make it easy for hackers to access users' private data.

A pre-installed programme on some newly purchased Dell laptops that can only be removed manually by consumers makes them vulnerable to cyber intrusions that may allow hackers to read encrypted messages and redirect browser traffic to spoofs of real websites such as Google or those belonging to a bank, among other attacks.

"The recent situation raised is related to an on-the-box support certificate intended to provide a better, faster and easier customer support experience," Dell said in a statement to Reuters. "Unfortunately, the certificate introduced an unintended security vulnerability."

Dell declined to say how many computers or which specific models are affected.

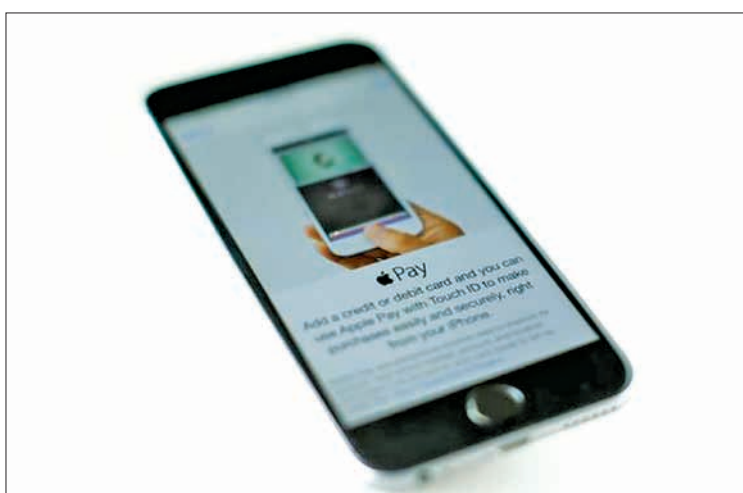
The software began getting installed on laptops in August, according to a spokeswoman.

The company also said future systems would not contain the bug.

Dell said it would provide customers with instructions to permanently remove the certificate by email and on its support website, a process that will likely be highly technical.

Dell's security flaw is similar to a so-called "Superfish" program detected on Lenovo computers earlier this year.—Reuters

Apple plans to launch Apple Pay in China by February



An Apple iPhone 6 with Apple Pay is shown in this photo illustration in Encinitas, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Apple Inc plans to launch its mobile payment system Apple Pay in China by early February, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The iPhone maker has struck deals recently with China's big four state-run banks, the newspaper reported late Monday, citing people familiar with the discussions.

When launched, Apple Pay will mainly compete with Alipay, the online payment platform run by Alibaba Holding Group Ltd affiliate Ant Financial, and UnionPay Co, a state-controlled consortium that has a monopoly on all yuan pay-

ment cards issued and used in the country.

Apple's plans could still face regulatory hurdles in China, where banking and e-commerce are overseen by a number of government agencies, *WSJ* said.

Launched in the United States in October last year, Apple is bringing its payment service to China, the most important market for smartphones.

The company's sales nearly doubled in Greater China in its fiscal fourth quarter from a year earlier.

The amount Apple would make off such transactions has been a sticking point in negotia-

tions to bring Apple Pay to China, the *Journal* quoted the people as saying.

It is also not clear how much Apple would charge for purchases made through Apple Pay in China.

The company gets 0.15 percent of all credit card transactions and 0.5 cents per debit transaction in the United States, the paper said.

Apple could not be reached immediately for comment outside regular US business hours. In July, Apple brought its mobile payments service to Britain to capitalize on the increasing online transactions.—Reuters

Police continue probing possible explosion at Yasukuni Shrine

TOKYO — Japan's top government spokesman said yesterday that police are continuing to investigate a possible explosion in a public restroom at the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine and the government will not comment on it for the time being.

"The Metropolitan Police Department is currently investigating whether it might have been an act of terrorism, some kind of guerrilla activity, or other kind of incident," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference. "I would therefore like to refrain from making any further comments."

According to the MPD, the sound of a blast was heard around 10am Monday in the men's restroom near the South Gate of the shrine. No injuries were report-

ed in the incident.

Traces of a burned battery case were found in one of the stalls in the restroom, but there were no burn marks on the floor or walls, hence no sign to prove a blast actually occurred, police investigators have said.

Suga said that as the incident occurred shortly after the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris the government is determined to "ensure the safety of the people by building a system of vigilance" so that there would "never be terrorism in our country."

The shrine is a source of diplomatic friction between Japan and China and South Korea. The two countries see it as a symbol of Japan's past militarism as it honors convicted war criminals along with millions of war dead.—Kyodo News



PICTURE OF THE DAY
A Sukhoi Su-24 fighter jet takes off from the Hmeymim air base near Latakia, Syria, in this file handout photograph released by Russia's Defence Ministry on 22 October, 2015. PHOTO:REUTERS

7 women killed every day in Mexico: official figures

MEXICO CITY — An average of seven women were killed every day in Mexico during 2013 and 2014, according to figures published Monday by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

Between 2000 and 2014, 235,000 homicides were registered in the Latin American country, and 11.2 percent of the victims

were women, according to INEGI.

The figures were released to coincide with the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which falls on 25 November.

The trend for female homicides, especially murders, rose in recent years in Mexico, according to INEGI. In 2010, the number of females murdered in

Mexico reached its highest level, with 126 murders per 100,000 inhabitants.

Firearms, sharp objects, hanging, suffocation and strangling were among the ways of killing women between 2000 and 2013, said INEGI.

In 2011, six out of every 10 women aged 15 and above in Mexico admitted having suffered from some sort of violence, while

women aged between 30 and 39 are most exposed to violence, with 68 percent of that age group experiencing at least one episode of violence or abuse.

However, there was a gradual decrease in the number of men killed in Mexico, from 10,737 in 2000 to 9,329 in 2004. But the figures reached a peak of 27,213 in 2011 and 25,967 in 2012.—Xinhua

Canada to tell world it's serious about climate change, says PM

OTTAWA — Canada will tell a green summit next week that it is finally ready to tackle climate change, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday after a meeting with the country's provinces to work out a national strategy.

Trudeau's Liberals won an election last month promising radical change on the environment from the previous Conservative administration, which was widely criticized for not doing enough to combat global warming during its near decade in power.

Trudeau, who will attend a United Nations environmental summit in Paris next week, says Canada must curb its emissions of greenhouse gases.

"In Paris a united Canada will demonstrate that we are serious about climate change," Trudeau told a late-night news conference after meeting with premiers of the 10 provinces and three territories.

Alberta, home to

most of Canada's oil sands, said on Sunday in a ground-breaking move that it would implement an economy-wide tax on carbon emissions in 2017.

Trudeau and the provinces hope their united approach and Alberta's move will help dispel some of the international suspicion about Canada and climate change.

At previous UN summits the Conservative government sometimes found itself openly at odds with activist groups and even some provinces. Those days were over, said Trudeau.

"We need to show a renewed image of Canada to the world," said Quebec premier Philippe Couillard.

Some premiers are nervous about the idea. Brad Wall of Saskatchewan says Canada must find a balance between the environment and protecting employment.

Low crude prices have triggered major job losses among energy industry workers.

"As we prepare for Paris and to present a constructive and national front to the world, we just need to be mindful of that fact," he told the closing news conference.

Although the Conservatives had pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, government figures show rising emissions mean the goal is out of reach.

Trudeau will not be going to Paris with a new target, but has committed to coming up with a goal with the provinces within 90 days of returning from the talks.

Two government scientists told the strategy meeting that Canada's rate of warming was about twice the global rate.

This means hotter summers with more forest fires, melting permafrost and a smaller Arctic ice cover that will force polar bears onto land as they search for food, they said.—Reuters

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း

ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲကျင်းပရေးကော်မရှင်

အမှတ် ၂၄၉၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ မင်္ဂလာတောင်ညွန့်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲကျင်းပရေးကော်မရှင်သည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး) အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်အဖွဲ့ (၂၀၁၆-၂၀၁၈) ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲကို ပွင့်လင်းမြင်သာမှုရှိပြီး တရားမျှတမှုရှိစေရန် ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ အဆိုပါရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲကို ၂၀၁၅ခုနှစ် ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၂၆ ရက် စနေနေ့ (၁၀:၀၀နာရီမှ ၁၆:၀၀) နာရီထိ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး) နှစ်ပတ်လည် အစည်းအဝေးနှင့်အတူ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း၌ ကျင်းပမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

- ၁။ ဆန္ဒမဲပေးပိုင်ခွင့်ရှိသူများ၏အရည်အချင်းသတ်မှတ်ချက်များ
 - (က) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း၏ ရာသက်ပန်အသင်းဝင် (သို့မဟုတ်) အသင်းဝင်ကြေး အကြေးမရှိသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
 - (ခ) ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးတွင်နေထိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
 - (ဂ) ပြစ်မှုကင်းရှင်းသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
 - (ဃ) ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲဆိုင်ရာ လုပ်ထုံးလုပ်နည်းစည်းကမ်းများကို တိကျစွာလိုက်နာနိုင်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၂။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း(ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး) အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်အဖွဲ့ဝင်အဖြစ် အရွေးချယ်ခံမည့်သူများ၏ သတ်မှတ်အရည်အချင်းများ

- (က) ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်၏ နိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (ခ) ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးတွင်နေထိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (ဂ) ပြစ်မှုကင်းရှင်းသူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (ဃ) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း၏ ရာသက်ပန်အသင်းဝင် (သို့မဟုတ်) အသင်းဝင်ကြေး အကြေးမရှိသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (င) သက်တမ်းရှိ(ဆမ) လက်ဝယ်ရှိသူ (သို့မဟုတ်) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးကောင်စီ၏မှတ်ပုံတင် လက်ဝယ်ရှိသူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (စ) မိမိဆန္ဒအလျောက် ဆရာဝန်အသင်း၏တာဝန်များကို ထမ်းဆောင်နိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (ဆ) နိုင်ငံရေးပါတီတစ်ခုခု၏ ဗဟိုအလုပ်အမှုဆောင်ကော်မတီတွင် လည်းကောင်း၊ လွှတ်တော်တစ်ရပ်ရပ်တွင် လွှတ်တော်ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖြစ် တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်နေသူ လည်းကောင်း မဖြစ်စေရ။
- (ဇ) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆရာဝန်အသင်း၏ ပွဲစည်းပုံအခြေခံစည်းမျဉ်းစည်းကမ်းများကို လေးစားလိုက်နာသူဖြစ်ရမည်။

အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်အဖွဲ့ဝင်အဖြစ် ရွေးချယ်ခံရန် ၂၇-၁၁-၂၀၁၅ မှ ၁၅-၁၂-၂၀၁၅ ရက်အတွင်း ရွေးကောက်ပွဲ ကော်မရှင်ရုံးခန်းအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် ၁၀:၀၀ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၄:၀၀ နာရီအတွင်း (ရုံးပိတ်ရက်များ အပါအဝင်) ဆန္ဒပြုလှုပ်ပုံစံနှင့် ကိုယ်ရေးမှတ်တမ်းပုံစံကို လာရောက်ထုတ်ယူ၍ ၁၅-၁၂-၂၀၁၅ ညနေ (၄:၀၀)နာရီ နောက်ဆုံးထားပြီး လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ကြောင်း အသိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်အဖွဲ့ဝင်အဖြစ် ရွေးချယ်ခံမည့်ကိုယ်စားလှယ်လောင်းစာရင်းနှင့် ၎င်းတို့၏ ကိုယ်ရေးမှတ်တမ်းများကို ၁၉-၁၂-၂၀၁၅ ရက် နံနက်ပိုင်းမှစတင်၍ ကော်မရှင်ရုံး၌ ကြေညာထားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထို့အပြင် ရွေးကောက်ပွဲဆိုင်ရာမူဝါဒနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ မရှင်းလင်းသောအချက်များ ရှိပါကအပတ်စဉ် တနင်္လာနေ့မှ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့ထိ မွန်းလွဲ ၁:၀၀ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၄:၀၀နာရီအတွင်း ရွေးကောက်ပွဲကျင်းပရေးကော်မရှင်ရုံးခန်းတွင် လာရောက် တွေ့ဆုံ မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲကျင်းပရေးကော်မရှင်

US blames pilot error for fatal crash of MV-22 Osprey aircraft

WASHINGTON — The US Marine Corps said Monday that pilot error was the main cause of the fatal crash of an MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft in Hawaii in May.

"The investigation found the main contributing factors to this mishap were pilot performance

and an improper site survey" of the landing zone in a training area on Oahu Island, according to US Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

The safety operation of the aircraft dubbed Osprey has been a matter of concern not only in the United States but also in Japan, where the US military already de-

ployed 24 units to its base in a densely populated area in Okinawa. The Japanese Self-Defence Forces plan to procure 17 units by the end of March 2019.

"The pilots did not violate any regulations or flight standards" but they should have taken into account factors such as low visibility in

the landing zone and chosen a different route and place, the Marine Corps said.

It said that sand and dust kicked up as the aircraft was hovering near the ground caused a stall in the left engine and resulted in a hard landing, which killed two crew members. —Kyodo News



Japan's Defence Minister Gen Nakatani meets with reporters in Honolulu, Hawaii. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Vucic tours Suzhou Industrial Park

SUZHOU — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic began a three-day visit to China yesterday by touring the industrial park in the city of Suzhou and bus maker Higer Bus.

The Suzhou Industrial Park was founded on 26 February, 1994, when China and Singapore signed the agreement on the joint development of this administrative region.

The entire region occupies 288 km², out of which the area of the China-Singapore cooperation covers 80 km² with the local population of 1.2 million, the government's media office said in a release. In the afternoon hours, the Serbian prime minister will attend the Fourth Meeting of Heads of Government of Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) at the Taihu International Conference Center in the city of Suzhou.—Tanjung

Thai PM says two refugees sent back on request from China

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Tuesday said two registered refugees were deported to China, at Beijing's request, after they entered Thailand illegally.

The UN refugee agency said Thailand should not have sent the men back to a country where their lives could be put in danger, and Prayuth is the most senior official to comment on the controversy.

When they were ar-

rested by the Thai authorities on 28 October, Jiang Yefei and Dong Guangping both held a UN protection letter and were waiting to go to Canada, having been accepted as refugees.

"They violated immigration law and after checking we found that there was an arrest warrant from the source country," Prayuth said, alluding to China.

"They asked us to send them back and we had to send according to proce-

dure," he added.

"What was said about protection from UNHCR — we did not know about that," Prayuth said, referring to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

He said China had undertaken to ensure the deported men's rights were not violated.

"We told the source country that if they take them they have to look after them and not violate

human rights and they gave their word," Prayuth said.

The Canadian Embassy in Bangkok said it was not in a position to comment on the case.

Thailand deported about 100 Uighur Muslims to China in July, drawing condemnation from the United States and others.

The Uighurs are a Turkic-language speaking group from China's western Xinjiang region.

Thai immigration offi-

cials said the two deported men were not Uighurs.

Thailand's generals have sought warmer ties with Beijing since seizing power a coup in May, 2014, as the United States had criticised the coup.

On Thursday and Friday, the Chinese and Thai air forces will conduct their first joint exercises. China has said the exercises are aimed at increasing "mutual trust and friendship."

—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (146N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (146N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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 LINDAUNIS VOY NO (0017S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (0017S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 WEST SCENT VOY NO (097N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (097N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2015 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

ADVERTISE WITH US!

- We are Myanmar's highest-circulating English language daily newspaper
- We offer competitive ad rates
- Your ad will be seen by a wide and influential readership

Email: thantunaungnlm@gmail.com

Phone: (01) 860 4532

Bieber tops One Direction on Billboard chart, but Adele on the horizon

LOS ANGELES — Canadian pop star Justin Bieber edged out British boy band One Direction in a battle to the top of the US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, but his reign will be short-lived as British singer Adele looks to break records with her new release.

“Purpose,” the fourth studio album by Bieber, sold 520,000 albums, 602,000 songs and was streamed 100 million times in its first week, totaling 649,000 units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

It is Bieber’s best-selling debut in his career so far. One Direction’s “Made in the A.M.” sold 459,000 units in its first week, landing at No. 2.

Adele’s “25,” released on Friday, won’t officially enter the Billboard charts until next week, but Billboard said Saturday that the album sold more than 900,000 copies on Apple Inc.’s iTunes store in its first day.

The current first week US

sales record is held by boy band NSync’s 2000 record “No Strings Attached,” which opened with 2.4 million copies.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online download sales, Adele’s heartbreak ballad “Hello” held onto the top spot with another 327,000 copies sold this week.

As album sales have dropped drastically due to the rise in online streaming, it’s increasingly rare for an artist to top 1 million copies sold in the first week. Taylor Swift was the last artist to achieve the milestone, with her “1989” album opening with 1.29 million last year.

Both Bieber and One Direction set new streaming records on Spotify last week with their latest albums.

The boy band came away the big winners at the American Music Awards on Sunday and was one of the night’s top performances, as well as Bieber.

Eight new albums debuted in

the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart. Rapper Logic’s “Incredible True Story” debuted at No. 3, rapper Jeezy’s “Church In These Streets” at No. 4 and country artist Chris Young’s “I’m Comin’ Over” at No. 5.

Progressive rock group Trans-Siberian Orchestra’s “Letters from the Labyrinth” debuted at No. 7, Canadian R&B singer Alessia Cara’s “Know-It-All” came in at No. 9 and gospel musician Kirk Franklin’s “Losing My Religion” entered at No. 10.

Last week’s chart-topper, “Traveller” by country artist Chris Stapleton, dropped to No. 6 this week.



PHOTO: REUTERS

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



PHOTO: REUTERS

U2 sets dates for Paris concerts postponed by attacks



Adam Clayton, Bono, the Edge and Larry Mullen (L-R) of the band U2 pose with their Music International trophies during the Bambi 2014 media awards ceremony in Berlin. PHOTO:REUTERS

LONDON — Irish rock band U2 set early December dates for concerts in Paris on Monday, after cancelling two earlier performances following the attacks by Islamic State militants that took 130 lives.

U2 said they hoped to reflect the indomitable spirit of the city with their “iNNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE LIVE IN PARIS” special, which will be filmed live and broadcast by cable TV chan-

nel HBO. The band was originally scheduled to perform in Paris on November 14 and November 15, immediately after the November 13 attacks on bars, restaurants, a soccer stadium and the Bataclan concert hall.

“So much that was taken from Paris on the tragic night of November 13th is irreplaceable. For one night, the killers took lives, took music, took peace of mind - but they couldn’t steal

the spirit of that city,” frontman Bono said in a statement.

“It’s a spirit our band knows well and will try to serve when we return for the postponed shows on December 6th and 7th. We’re going to put on our best for Paris,” he added.

The 7 December concert will be filmed live at the Accorhotels Arena in Bercy and will air on HBO the same day.—Reuters

After a gory death, ‘Game of Thrones’ revives Jon Snow

LOS ANGELES — HBO’s medieval saga “Game of Thrones” is known for serving up graphic deaths of its lead characters, but when fan favourite Jon Snow was killed off, avid followers speculated every theory and sighting that would bring back their heroic soldier.

It looks like they prevailed. “Game of Thrones” tweeted a teaser poster on Monday with a partial shot of Jon Snow’s rugged, bloodstained face and trademark hair, with the simple caption “APRIL. #GoTSeason6.” The sixth season will air on HBO in April 2016.

It is the first time the TV series has officially acknowledged the future of the character, played by British actor Kit Harington, and the poster sent fans on social media into overdrive. The “Game of Thrones” tweet was shared more than 35,000 times in three hours on Monday and “Jon Snow” became the top Twitter trend.

Emmy-winning “Game of Thrones,” based on George R. R. Martin’s “A Song of Ice and Fire” books, is a sweeping fantasy epic of the battle across seven kingdoms for the

Iron Throne. It is HBO’s most-watched series, averaging 20 million viewers per episode this year.

Fan speculation on Jon Snow’s fate has ranged from sightings of Harington on set in Ireland to the actor’s decision not to cut his shoulder-length brown locks, which have become a trademark of his character. Little slips from fellow cast members in interviews have also fueled the fire, but HBO and the show’s creators have enjoyed toying with fans, always avoiding the question and keeping Harington out of fan-events.

Jon Snow, the illegitimate son of Ned Stark (who was beheaded in season one) and Commander of the Night’s Watch, made it through five seasons of “Game of Thrones” before being betrayed by his subjects and stabbed to a seeming death in the penultimate episode that aired in June. Whether Jon Snow is actually alive or dead is still not known in a series that is woven through with dark magic, sorcery and the mysterious “White Walkers,” an army of the undead.—Reuters

In sign of the times, Arkansas phone booth makes Historic Places list

LITTLE ROCK — In the first such honour for an once ubiquitous, now fast-disappearing feature of the American landscape, a telephone booth has made it to the National Register of Historic Places.

Located across a rural Arkansas highway from the Prairie Grove Civil War Battlefield State Park, about 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Little Rock, the lonely phone booth is among a dwindling number in a country increasingly reliant on cellular communications.

“Surprise is an understatement,” said David Parks, president of the Prairie Grove Telephone Co, which owns the booth.

The aluminum and glass structure, now a relic of a bygone era, features a bifold door and overhead light.

It was one of thousands manufactured for the Bell Telephone

Co. Few are known to survive.

Installed in the late 1950s, the telephone produces “about \$4 a year” for the company at 25 cents per call, Parks said. “It’s not profitable.”

When the booth was heavily damaged by an automobile in the summer of 2014, “My first thought was, ‘We can finally get rid of that thing,’” Parks said with a laugh.

On learning of a social media campaign to save the booth, Arkansas historic preservation officials nominated the structure for inclusion on the national index. It soon became a tourist destination.

After reviewing the state’s analysis of the booth’s construction and its social and cultural value, the National Register consented. State officials were notified last Friday of the decision.—Reuters



Patrick Smith, who repaired a rare phone booth after it was hit by a car, is pictured inside the structure in St Prairie, Arkansas. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kansai transport firms offer ‘omotenashi’ hospitality to foreigners

OSAKA — “Omotenashi” hospitality services introduced by transport companies in the Kansai region of western Japan for foreign visitors are increasingly expected to be a model for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Dong Fang, a 28-year-old staff member of a West Japan Railway Co affiliate, works as a helping hand for foreign tourists crowding the platform of the Nara Line at the railway operator’s Kyoto Station.

Fluent in Japanese and English in addition to her native Chinese language, Dong helps foreign tourists get on the correct trains to visit the Fushimi Inari-Taisha, a Shinto shrine famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates and a popular tourist site in Kyoto’s Fushimi Ward.

Dong is one of the foreign staff members who not only sit in booths on platforms to wait for questions from tourists but also walk around to actively offer assistance.

Kyoto Station began the service in April last year because many foreign tourists would form long lines near ticket gates to ask station attendants for directions, despite the presence of many information boards written in foreign languages.

“We recognised the demand for direct person-to-person interaction” to help foreign tourists, Kazuyoshi Yamamoto, master of the station, said.

Sakura Taxi Group, based in Osaka’s Fukushima Ward, in September introduced a system enabling all of its 400 or so cabs to receive support around-the-clock from interpreters of Chinese and



A taxi driver in Osaka, western Japan, receives assistance from a translator for a foreign passenger via smartphone and speaker-microphone attached to a sun visor on 22 October. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

four other languages when drivers are unable to communicate with foreign passengers.

Each Sakura cab has a microphone cum speaker attached to the sun visor above the driver’s head through which an interpreter translates conversations which are then relayed to passengers.

“It’s almost impossible for all drivers to learn foreign languages,” a Sakura official said. “But the system helps drivers smoothly take passengers to their destinations.”

Noriko Yagasaki, associate professor of tourism at Toyo University and a member of the organising committee for the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo, has noticed hospitality efforts by transport companies in Kansai.

“Careful support is necessary in particular to help (each foreign visitor) use Japan’s complicated transit systems. Their

(Kansai’s) methods of attending to specific needs should be introduced in Tokyo as well,” she said.

In fact, programmes to help foreign visitors have already started in Tokyo, focusing on the importance of dialogue.

For example, the Tokyo metropolitan government began an English training programme in July for volunteers who will give directions to foreign visitors and help them buy train tickets. Participants receive five two-hour lessons to learn practical English.

Some 35,000 Tokyoites and other citizens are expected to take part in the programme by 2019, according to the metropolitan government.

“Visitors feel good if they are spoken to by friendly local people,” an official in charge said. “Everyone can give good service to visitors anywhere on the street.”—Kyodo News

‘Wizard of Oz’ dress fetches over \$1.5m at auction

NEW YORK — The blue gingham dress worn by Judy Garland in the 1939 movie “The Wizard of Oz” sold for \$1.56 million at an auction in New York on Monday.

The pinafore, one of 10 thought to have been made for Garland in her role as Dorothy in the movie, had been estimated by Bonhams auction house to fetch between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million at its Hollywood memorabilia sale held in conjunction with Turner Classic Movies.

Described as bearing sweat stains around the neck but in good condition, the costume was believed to be one of only two such pinafores that Garland actually wore on-screen for the classic musical. It was sold to an unidentified buyer bidding by telephone.

The final price for the dress, made by MGM’s famous cos-

tume designer, Adrian, was \$1,565,000 including commission.

Officials said they were pleasantly surprised by the final price.

“But the great pieces should bring a lot of money,” Catherine Williamson, Bonhams’ director of entertainment memorabilia, said after the hammer fell.

Prices of famous memorabilia have soared in recent years. Just a year ago, the Cowardly Lion costume worn in the movie by actor Bert Lahr, including the sculpted likeness of Lahr’s face, sold for almost \$3.1 million at Bonhams.

The same “Oz” dress was last sold in 2012 at auction for \$490,000, after first having been consigned and sold in 1981 by Kent Warner, an MGM costume designer who assisted with the landmark 1970 MGM studio auction.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(25-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 26-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Chef Life “Thanakrit Chamnongbutr”
07:41	Am	Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	One Heritage.....One Festival
08:46	Am	Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Myanmar Leading Lady “Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe”
09:37	Am	A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)
09:48	Am	The Iron Rider
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
10:49	Am	Paper Lantern Festival 2015

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

(06:00 Pm ~ 08:00 Pm) Transmission (Live: Paper Lantern Festival 2015)

Prime Time

08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquareware Making
08:52	Pm	Paper Lantern Festival 2015

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(25-11-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am	8:30 am
• Songs Of Yester Years	• Orchestra Concert Myanmar
6:10 am	8:45 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	• Catch Asia News (Part-18)
6:30 am	8:55 am
• Musical Programme	• Myanmar Video
6:45 am	10:00 am
• TV Drama Series	• Myanmar Movie (Black & White)
7:40 am	12:00 noon
• TV Drama Series	• Close Down



Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik launches the chess tournament. PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW

Players from nine countries join Myanmar International Open Chess Tournament

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar International Open Chess Tournament 2015 kicked off at the Central Hotel in Yangon on Monday.

The Ukrainian Mr. Komarov Dimitri, German Mr. Scherler Gerhard and Vietnamese Mr. Nguyen Duc Hoa in addition to five international masters are taking part in the tournament.

“Participation of grand masters and international masters will make the tournament a big match,” President of Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung Maung Lwin said.

The tournament, with the participation of 66 players from nine countries including Myanmar

will run until the 28 November.

First, second and third prize winners will be awarded US\$3,000, US\$1,400 and US\$1,000 respectively. The top Myanmar players will win US\$700 for the first prize, US\$400 for the second and US\$200 for the third.

The best female player and best youth players will be awarded US\$100 each in the U-18, U-14 and U-10 events.

A total of 137 players from 18 countries including Myanmar participated in the 2014 tournament in which England’s Nigel Short and Russia’s Belous Valadimir secured the joint champion award.

Defence (A) team becomes champion in Japan Cup Judo C’ship



Defence (A) team celebrates victory with medals in Judo event. PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW

Ko Moe

DEFENCE (A) team won the championship trophy with five gold, five silver and six bronze medals in the 11th Japan Cup Open Judo Championship at Aung San Gymnasium, Yangon, yesterday.

Best player awards went to Saw Maing San of Rail Transportation and Khin Khin Su of Mawlamyine while Khun Thant Zin of the Mandalay Sports and Physical Education Institute and Phyo Swe Zin Kyaw of SPEI Yangon won the most progressive sportsperson awards.

Officials presented prizes to

all the winners.

A total of 127 players from 10 ministries participated in the championship on the 23 and 24 November.

The championship was organised by the Myanmar Judo Federation with the assistance of the Japanese Embassy in Yangon.

Spieth back in Sydney to defend title that sparked golden year

SYDNEY — World number one Jordan Spieth returns to the course where he rediscovered the art of winning last year to defend the Australian Open title he clinched with a quite brilliant final round.

The American arrived in Sydney last November ranked 14th in the world with just one US PGA title to his name but shot a course record 63 to beat Rory McIlroy and Adam Scott, then the top two in the world, and secure the Stonehaven Cup.

It triggered a year in which everything the 22-year-old Texan touched seemed to turn gold as he captured his first two majors at the US Masters and US Open and won the Tour Championship to sew up the Fedex Series. “I didn’t think it would launch that type of year,” Spieth told reporters at The Australian Golf Club on Tuesday.

“But in that Sunday round I really learned how to close in my head. I played one of the best rounds of my life when I really needed it.

“I really had that mental edge over the weekend to really close the deal. I had it for my whole life but I had lost it for a while. Winning here really launched it.” Despite his remarkable year, Spieth still believes he can get better.

“If I could somehow duplicate that year for the rest of my career, I’d be pretty pleased,” he conceded. “But there’s a chance it could all come together and we could improve on the last year. I have to believe that, but I do believe it.”

Adam Scott, who leads a strong local contingent at his home Open, is still seeking his first title of the year after a horror third round saw him fall out of contention at the Australian Masters last week.—Reuters

Chelsea youngsters must fight for first-team action: Mourinho

LONDON — Chelsea’s academy players should fight to break into the first team, manager Jose Mourinho has said, while defending the way in which he is using the youngsters.

The Blues, who currently have 33 players out on loan, have had many young players under contract in recent years, most of whom were out on loan and were eventually sold, and 34-year-old John Terry is the last academy

graduate to win a regular place at Stamford Bridge.

Mourinho, who is expected to name an experienced team for Tuesday’s Champions League clash against Maccabi Tel-Aviv, said 19-year-old Ruben Loftus-Cheek has to do more to get regular game time. “Sometimes young players can argue that the chances were not too many for them. Ruben is the last one who can complain about that,” Mour-

inho told a news conference on Monday.

“He is a player who we have lots of hope for but, sooner or later, he — him, not me — has to give one step forward to be more stable in the first team. “It’s easier to get chances in smaller clubs. At big clubs, not many players his age have the opportunities he has had to start matches in the Premier League, Champions League and the cups, to be on the bench for

lots of matches consecutively, living and learning with top players.

“So he is having everything.” Mourinho also dismissed suggestions he neglects his academy players in his starting line-ups and highlighted the emergence of 21-year-old Kurt Zouma as proof that the Blues do give a chance to their young players. “In the first-team squad we have seven under-21 players who have 26 starts and 12 substitute appearances this

season, and 43 appearances on the bench (when they were) not used,” Mourinho said. “Zouma is in his second season at this level and is unleashing himself as a top player. When he came here, he was not the player he is now.

“I remember the first two matches he played for us in pre-season in 2014. He was very bad. But now he’s a player, fighting with Terry and (Gary) Cahill hand to hand.”—Reuters