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EN ROUTE TO DIALOGUE

Political dialogue framework drafting process continues

Ye Myint

WHETHER a joint drafting team will be formed or not will be decided after reaching a common agreement on 10 points under discussion, said spokespersons on the second day of the political dialogue framework drafting committee meeting yesterday.

The proposal to form the team with the membership of two persons from political parties, the government and ethnic ceasefire signatories was made by the ethnic side in order to complete the process in a timely manner on the first round of the meeting on Friday.

Discussions on the 10 points set to be involved in the framework continued on Day 2 of the drafting committee's meeting, said U Aung Naing Oo, a programme director at Myanmar Peace Centre at a press conference. The committee which comprises a group of eight representatives from the three groups was formed by the 48-member Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee. The 10 points include the framework's basic principles, representation and participation of stakeholders in political dialogue, a decision-making method, management of political dialogue, signing



Together with U Myo Win (middle) and Sai Kyaw Nyunt (far right), U Aung Naing Oo (far left) elaborated on progress achieved on the second day of the political dialogue framework drafting committee meeting at Myanmar Peace Centre yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

of Union agreement and the implementation process.

We cannot say exactly whether the task of drawing up a detailed framework should be assigned to drafters or not when discussions on the points are over, said U Myo Win, one of the ethnic representatives on the committee.

Despite having a frameworks

drawn up by various stakeholders before the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement, a new draft framework will be set up collaboratively in accord with the approved concept that the framework must be drafted based on the NCA, said the spokespersons.

They also reiterated that they are committed to making the

framework flexible to cater for coming changes in representation of the government and the parliament and completing the process in a 60-day timeline as stipulated by the truce pact.

U Sai Kyaw Nyunt, a representative from the political parties, stressed the need of flexibility in drawing up the new framework by

stakeholders without being dogmatic. The framework should be seen as a reference model, he added. The drafting committee meeting is set to run for four days until 1 December, and it was adjourned until this coming Monday.

Political dialogue is expected to be held at the Athletes' Village in Nay Pyi Taw.

Stroke Unit to be opened at Yangon General Hospital by 2016

15 MILLION people suffer strokes annually worldwide, the majority of victims are women

Khaing Thanda Lwin

THE Ministry of Health intends to open a stroke unit at Yangon General Hospital next year with the aim of providing better and more effective treatment to stroke victims, according to a spokesperson.

The major aim of establishing a stroke unit is to offer recombinant tissue plasminogen activators (r-tPAs) therapy to patients who arrive the hospital within a few hours of their stroke.

Other countries have also used this therapy that may reduce the risk of death and chronic pa-

ralysis and can also activate some paralytic parts, said Prof Phyu Phyu Lay from the North Okkalapa General Hospital.

She added, "Plans are underway to expand stroke units at some general hospitals which have neurology department including Mandalay General Hospital and Magway General Hospital."

"Among hospitals, Yangon's North Okkalapa General Hospital is high on the ministry's list of priorities to open a stroke unit after the YGH."

In many parts of the world, people die from strokes when they occur.

According to the World

Health Organisation, 15 million people suffer from stroke each year worldwide and one person dies every six seconds from the disease.

The survey shows that women are more likely to have a stroke than men.

Despite no exact figures on stroke patients, North Okkalapa Hospital alone receives at least 20 patients per month, the majority of whom are suffering from ischemic stroke, Prof Phyu Phyu Lay said.

High blood pressure is the main risk factor for stroke. Doctors suggest people change their life styles and try and get a half hour daily dose of exercise.



A stroke patient at Yangon's Traditional Medicine Hospital.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Puppets look good to tourists

WITH the beginning of the open season in November the sale of marionette puppets is upward in Bagan as tourists enjoy purchasing them as souvenirs.

“Decorative puppets for sale at the shop attracted tourists and many bought one,” said a owner of a souvenirs shop at the Htilo-minlo Pagoda in Bagan.

The puppets are made in Bagan and sold at the shop as souvenirs, a practice dating far back into history, according to marionette vendors in Bagan.

A puppet can cost K3,000 to K10,000.

Tourists purchase hand-made marionette puppets which are elaborately costumed and jeweled to decorate their homes or as gifts to friends and family back home.

Puppetry is the fundamental art symbol of Myanmar people and they are often used to decorate living rooms. — *Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing (Mahlaing)*



Decorative puppets are attracting tourists in Bagan. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW HLAING (MAHLAING)

Six new foreign garment factories to create 30,000 jobs

THE Myanmar Investment Commission has given the green light to the construction of six foreign garment factories on the Myingyan-Mandalay highway near Ywagyi village,

Mandalay Region, according to the village's administrative officer.

“These factories will provide employment to about 30,000 local people,” he said.

In Pyinsi village vineyards which have been under construction for two years a winery would be constructed for the purpose of exporting wine. — *Htay Myint Maung*

Traditional bronze and iron materials being sold at pagoda festivals

FARMING tools and household utensils made of bronze and iron are traditionally sold in central dry zones, especially Pyinmana and Tatkon in Nay Pyi Taw and Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Thazi townships in Mandalay Region.

Merchants normally sell

bronze ware at the country's pagoda festivals in those townships and including Nyaungshwe in Shan State.

Dealers mainly import bronze items from Meiktila and Pyawbwe in Mandalay Region. Some items such as vases are

from Sagaing Region.

Bronze scissors made in Magway Regio, daggers from TadaU Township, traditional musical instruments from Yamethin Township and household utensils from Mandalay sell best. — *Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*



Local visitors purchase bronze utensils and iron farming tools from a shop. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN

Birth centenary of celebrated writer Lu Du Daw Amar held in Mandalay



An undated photo shows Lu Du Daw Amar and Thakin Kodaw Hmine.

ACADEMIC papers were read out to commemorate the centennial birthday of the late writer Lu Du Daw Amar at Dhamma Tharlar Hall in Mandalay on Friday.

Daw Khin Hnin Oo, U Aung Myint Oo, Nay Yu and

Nyi Say Min read out descriptions about the life of Lu Du Daw Amar entitled Lives of Neighbours through the Literary Window, Editor Lu Du Daw Amar, Mother Mar in Poems and Instinct and Environment of Auntie. — *Shwe Lin PyaeSone*

Yangon Region Government meets youth leaders from Japan, ASEAN countries



Youth leaders from Japan and ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo together with Yangon Region Government. PHOTO: MNA

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party met youth leaders from Japan and the ASEAN countries who are visiting Myanmar under the 42nd South-east Asian and Japanese youth programme (SSEAYP).

U Myint Swe welcomed the programme arranged by the Jap-

anese government that increases bilateral relations and mutual understandings between Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

The programme is believed to be designed to help establish the ASEAN community, said the chief minister who urged them to visit the country's significant national

monuments like Shwedagon Pagoda and to try traditional foods.

The government of Japan has carried out its programme since 1974 with Myanmar joining the programme in 1998. More than 500 Myanmar youth participated in the programme.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Daw Yin Yin Myint presents credentials to President of the Republic of Estonia

DAW Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Estonia, presented her Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia, on 19 November 2015, in Tallinn.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MCF organises ICT competition on education



Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) is making efforts for promoting the wider use of information and communication technology. PHOTO: MNA

THE Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) yesterday organised an education project competition for the National ICT Award 2015 at the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Yangon, aimed at promoting the wider use of ICT in the country's education sector.

Addressing the ceremony, Science and Technology Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo said that the development of a country was measured by the efficiency

and capacity of its human resources.

"Just as a country with people of higher education can guarantee sustainable economic growth, a developed country can provide quality education," the union minister said, describing the information and communication technology as an essential tool for improving education.

The competition was divided into four categories ranging from basic to professional levels.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rising inflation linked to high GDP growth: Central Bank

A HIGH GDP growth rate is one of the factors that can lead to higher inflation, the vice governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar said in a recent interview, quoting international researchers.

U Set Aung said that Myanmar's high GDP growth rate is likely to trigger economic overheating, citing economic growth rates of developed countries.

According to the vice governor, economic growth is low in

developed countries like the United States, Japan and the European Union, where steps are being taken to keep the inflation rate at 2 per cent.

He also described high credit growth as one of the reasons for surging inflation, noting that Myanmar is still new to the capital market and that economic successes depend on bank loans.

He stressed the need to encourage private-public partnerships as a driver for the economy.

As part of its efforts to keep rising exchange rates under control, the Central Bank is holding talks with international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

U Set Aung admitted that challenges remain for Myanmar's burgeoning economy, which stagnated for decades during military rule.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rebel group launches attacks at Laukkai

A REBEL group known as the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Kokang, opened fire on military columns on patrol in the town of Laukkai, northern Shan State, on Friday. The rebels retreat to the northeast when the army returned fire. The government's military columns are combing the area for their hideouts though none of the rebels involved in the assault and retreat were identified.—*Myawady*



Photo shows rocket (Left) and improvised mine used by MNDAA. PHOTO: MYAWADY

New homes in Hakha, Tamu to be ready this opening season

THE Construction of new homes for those who lost their livelihoods during landslides in Hakha, Chin State, between June and late August will soon be completed.

More than 400 houses are currently under construction by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

More than 385 houses, two monasteries and two clinics are under construction in seven villages in Tamu District, Sagaing Region as well as four wards in Tamu Township which were also hit by natural disaster.

The Ministry of Electric Power is making ef-

orts to complete the construction on time in Tamu.

In western Chin State, landslides and flash floods caused severe damage leaving more than 1,000 homes damaged or destroyed and affecting 7,670 people and killing five.

The nationwide death toll from landslides and floods between June and late August reached 120. Most of those deaths occurred in Rakhine State, where 56 people were killed, followed by 23 in Sagaing and 12 in Mandalay Region, according to data from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—

Myanmar News Agency



Several new homes are ready for those who lost their livelihoods during landslides in Hakha.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY



Several new homes are under construction in Hakha.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY



Several new homes are under construction in Tamu.

Photo: Ministry of Electric Power



Several new homes are under construction in Hakha.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY



Several new homes are under construction in Tamu.

Photo: Ministry of Electric Power

Modi meets Sonia Gandhi to discuss new indirect tax

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted opposition Congress party leader Sonia Gandhi for talks on Friday to try and break a deadlock over launching a new indirect tax, in a bid to put his economic recovery agenda back on track.

The face-to-face meeting between the rivals was the first since Modi rose to power 18 months ago, and could herald a long-awaited compromise on the proposed goods and services tax (GST), billed as the biggest tax reform since independence.

While there was no immediate breakthrough after the 30-minute meeting, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters that the Congress party has raised its concerns, and both parties were expected to meet again soon.

Gandhi and former prime minister Manmohan Singh left Modi's official residence by car without talking to reporters.

Modi, 65, has raised India's global profile with a series of

trips abroad but suffered his biggest setback as prime minister when his nationalist party crashed to defeat in a big state election this month.

That loss, aides and analysts said earlier, means Modi will have to show more willingness to compromise on the GST after Congress — which first proposed the tax when it was in government — set a series of non-negotiable demands.

"The government is under tremendous pressure to get GST cleared," said Rakesh Sinha, director of the India Policy Foundation, a think tank with close ties to the government.

"Modi's engagement with the opposition is only way to prove that every effort is being made to accelerate the pace of economic growth. He is willing to discuss, debate and negotiate now."

Financial markets ticked higher on Friday as TV channels flashed news that Modi had for the first time reached out to Gan-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: REUTERS

dhi. Her son and heir-apparent Rahul, the target of a series of public attacks by the BJP, did not attend the talks.

Analysts cautioned that while the outlines of a compromise on GST were taking shape, there was no guarantee that a bargain would be struck.

"Clearly it is not given that today's talks will be a blanket 'yes' or 'no' to what the government wants," said Ashish Vaidya, head of trading and asset liability

management at DBS India.

The GST would create a common market in Asia's third-largest economy and, the government estimates, add 2 percentage points to economic output.

Yet horse trading has threatened to wreck efforts to simplify taxes: BJP-ruled states have called for an extra state levy and a GST rate of over 20 percent, raising concerns of yet more red tape and tax evasion.

Congress wants to cap the GST at below 20 percent, scrap the state levy and create an independent mechanism to resolve disputes on revenue sharing between states.

"We will discuss every aspect of GST with the prime minister and they will have to accept our demands," a senior aide to Sonia Gandhi said before the meeting.

Complicating matters for the government is the need for a two-thirds majority in the upper house to pass a constitutional enabling amendment that would make it possible to implement the GST as soon as next April.

The government's strategy has been to try and win the backing of smaller, regional opposition parties for the GST, thereby isolating Congress.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Venkaiah Naidu said that 30 out of 32 parties now backed GST. Still, to be sure of guaranteeing passage the votes of Congress would be needed.—Reuters

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than
mnmnth2@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor

Than Tun Aung
thantunaungnlm@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
tunyaing@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

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Japan to resume whaling in the Antarctic despite IWC ruling

TOKYO — Japan has decided to resume whaling in the Antarctic Ocean by the end of March after a hiatus since last year, a move likely to prompt international outrage.

The International Court of Justice ruled in March last year that Japan's decades-old whale hunt in the Antarctic should stop, prompting Tokyo to cancel the bulk of its whaling for the 2014/2015 season.

The Japanese Fisheries Agency on Friday notified the International Whaling Commission that Japan will resume

whaling in the 2015/2016 season under a revised plan.

The plan, which calls for cutting annual minke whale catches by two-thirds to 333, is scientifically reasonable, the agency said in a document filed with the IWC.

Japan began what it calls scientific whaling in 1987, a year after an international whaling moratorium took effect.

Japan has long maintained that most whale species are not endangered and that eating whale is part of its food culture.—Reuters



A worker sprays water on a Baird's Beaked whale before butchering it, as shadows of a crowd of grade school students and residents are cast on the ground, at Wada port in Minamiboso, southeast of Tokyo.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia goes cold on secure intranet sale

SYDNEY — Australia's government said on Friday it has decided against selling state-owned intranet assets that link government buildings in the nation's capital, two days after local media reported a Japanese-owned firm offered to buy it for A\$400 million (\$290 million).

While the government says its decision not to sell is unrelated to national security, it comes on the back of a wider political backlash the government has faced in seeking to sell national assets to foreign buyers through a A\$100 billion privatization programme.

In a statement, Finance Minister Mathias Cormann said

selling the network in the nation's capital "would not represent value for money" and that an independent report had found it "provides significant value to the Government as a strategic asset".

Two days earlier, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported that internet company Dimension Data, a unit of Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp, offered the government A\$400 million for the asset.

A spokeswoman for Cormann was not immediately available to confirm that offer but denied that the decision to cancel the sale was because of security concerns.—Reuters

North Korea may have failed launch of ballistic missile

SEOUL — North Korea appears to have failed its launch of a ballistic missile from a submarine in the Sea of Japan yesterday afternoon, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported.

The report quoted a South Korean government official as saying the likelihood is high that the test launch of a submarine-launched ballistic missile failed because Seoul has confirmed fragments of part of a cover of a missile launcher in

the sea but there were no signs that a missile had been thrust into the air. North Korean media reported on 9 May this year that the country successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submerged submarine and released what they said were images of leader Kim Jong Un observing the test.

"The North's apparent failure shows that North Korea has yet to master the technology needed for SLBMs," Yonhap said.—Kyodo News

Drought-hit India's quest for water hampered by thirsty crops

RAMPUR — Pleas by local officials for farmers to switch from rice to oilseeds and pulses and protect dangerously low water levels are falling on deaf ears, and may be further undermined by government policies encouraging cultivation of thirsty crops.

Back-to-back droughts for the first time in nearly 30 years mean some rural areas in the north are running out of water for human consumption and agriculture, prompting warnings of serious consequences if urgent action is not taken.

"It is unlikely that India will have another drought next year; three years in a row has never happened before," said Ashok Gulati, a farm economist who advised the last government.

"But with extreme events increasing due to climate change, you never know. If we don't wake up now then, God forbid, people will leave farming to become labourers at railway stations."

With more than two-thirds of the 1.25 billion population living off the land, water scarcity could affect the majority and hit long term food supplies.

As world leaders meet in Paris next week to agree a deal on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, India says climate change is already hurting the agriculture and

water sectors, and the impact is amplified by poverty and a heavy reliance on farming. Locally, officials are trying to change farming habits and enforce stricter rules on water usage.

"We are encouraging crop diversification; we are going for pulses," said Amit Kishore, chief development officer in Rampur, a farm belt city in Uttar Pradesh.

"We have been trying to convince farmers to shift to horticulture as well, but the uptake has not been satisfactory."

Four out of Rampur's six administrative areas are so-called "dark zones", with 80 percent or more of groundwater exhausted. In those zones, the practice of boring wells has been banned this fiscal year.

Without urgent action, the region risks going the way of Punjab and Haryana, two parched states where the groundwater has sunk even further.

Some farmers in those states now need to dig 300 feet (91 metres) for water, compared to five feet (1.5 metres) in the 1960s, according to research by a local government scientist.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged farmers to use water wisely, advocating a "per drop, more crop" approach that includes water-saving methods like drip



A woman uses a hand-pump to fill drinking water on the outskirts of Amritsar in the northern state of Punjab, India, on 15 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

irrigation. Yet his 18-month-old government has also boosted incentives to grow water-intensive rice, wheat and sugarcane that India exports, at the expense of crops like oilseeds or pulses that it has to import.

Little wonder some farmers in the northern farming belt are ignoring the advice of local officials.

"We grow rice because that is what sells," said Babu Ram Saini, standing by a pond in Jiwai Jadid village in Rampur. "Productivity for lentils is so low that we'll not be able to sustain ourselves without massive government support,"

he said. Some experts are advocating tougher measures to force more efficient use of water. Wastage is encouraged by the supply of free or subsidized power which boosts politicians' popularity.

"We have been trying to tell farmers that if you continue growing rice, more places are going to become dark zones," said V.K. Mishra, a regional head of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute in Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow.

"We should make a law that you can't grow rice in areas where the water table is very low."

Rice covers 62 percent of

Punjab's area under cultivation, up from 10 percent in 1970. The expansion of rice has been similar in neighbouring Haryana.

Though the droughts have hit crops, India still produces more rice, wheat and sugar than it consumes, drawing accusations from the World Trade Organisation that stockpiling to provide cheap grain to the poor unfairly distorts trade.

"It is quite natural for our farmers to go for rice and cane when both power and water are almost free," said economist Gulati, adding that selling such produce abroad is like exporting "precious water for free".—Reuters

"We are encouraging crop diversification; we are going for pulses."

Amit Kishore
Chief development officer

Japan likely to reach deal with India on defence equipment exports

TOKYO — Japan and India are likely to reach next month a broad defence accord that is seen as a step toward exporting Japan-made amphibious aircraft, Japanese government sources said yesterday.

An accord on the transfer of defence equipment and technology is expected to be sealed when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits India from 11 to 13 December, reflecting Japan's desire to have closer ties with India over maritime security to counter China's growing assertiveness at sea.

Since Tokyo eased its near-

half-century ban on defence equipment exports in April 2014, Japan and India have accelerated talks over India's possible purchase of US-2 amphibious aircraft.

The aircraft can take off and land at sea even in bad weather and has a flight range of more than 4,500 kilometres. India is considering using the aircraft to enhance its sea patrol capability, the sources said. Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force uses the aircraft for rescue operations.

But the two countries have yet to conclude negotiations that

have continued more than two years, given the relatively high cost of the aircraft, about 12 billion yen (\$98 million).

The accord, aimed at preventing the leak of Japan's technology, would ban India from transferring the equipment or technology to a third-party without Japan's consent.

Japan had banned arms exports since the Cold War era but is now allowing the export of defence equipment and technology if they contribute to international cooperation and to Japanese national security interests.—Kyodo News

5.5 magnitude quake strikes off Hokkaido, Japan

TOKYO — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.5 struck eastern Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said yesterday. According to the agen-

cy, the earthquake occurred at 11:51 am local time, but no damage was reported and no tsunami warning was issued as a result of the tremor. The weather agency said the quake originated 80 kilo-

metres underground in the Pacific off the Nemuro Peninsula, and was logged at 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of seven in both Nemuro and Nakashibetsu in Hokkaido.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka urges Saudi not to stone to death maid for adultery

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka said on Friday it was calling on Saudi Arabia to pardon a domestic worker sentenced to death by stoning after she admitted committing adultery while working in the Arab nation.

An official from Sri Lanka's Foreign Employment Bureau said the married 45-year-old woman who was working as a maid in Riyadh since 2013 was convicted of adultery by a Saudi court in August.

Her partner, also a Sri Lankan migrant worker, was given a lesser punishment of 100 lashes on account of being single.

"She has accepted the crime four times in the courts. But the Foreign Employment Bureau has hired lawyers and have appealed against the case," Upul Deshapriya, spokesman for the Foreign Employment Bureau, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"The appeal is going on. Also from the foreign ministry side, they are in negotiation with the Saudi government on a diplomatic level."

Officials from the Saudi Embassy in Colombo did not respond to requests from the Thomson

Reuters Foundation on whether they would consider the plea for clemency.

Oil-producing Saudi Arabia follows Sharia, or Islamic law, and is often criticised by human rights groups for the wide range of crimes such as adultery, drug smuggling and witchcraft which carry the death penalty.

Stoning, a form of execution where a group throws stones at a person buried waist or chest deep in the ground until they are dead, is still carried out in parts of the Muslim world.

In 2013, Saudi Arabia beheaded a young Sri Lankan housemaid for the killing of an infant left in her care, rejecting repeated appeals by Colombo against her death sentence.

Thousands of men and women from the Indian Ocean island travel to the Middle East every year to seek jobs as maids or drivers.

According to Central Bank data, 279,952 Sri Lankans went to work in Middle Eastern nations in 2014, generating over \$7 billion in remittances, around 9 percent of total GDP.—Reuters

Refugee crisis resurrects German anti-immigration party



Supporters of the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) demonstrate against the German government's new policy for migrants in Berlin, Germany, on 7 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Europe's refugee crisis has resurrected Germany's AfD anti-immigrant party, which aims to enter three new state parliaments next year by luring conservative voters angry with Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door asylum policy.

The Alternative for Germany party holds its annual congress this weekend in Hanover, where it will outline its plan to bring order to what it calls the "asylum chaos."

After imploding over a bitter leadership struggle in July, the AfD placed third nationally, at 10.5 percent, for the first time this month in a survey for pollsters INSA.

"The refugee crisis has

brought the AfD back from the dead," said Manfred Guellner, head of Forsa, another polling institute. The party won seats in the Hamburg state assembly in February, entering a legislature in western Germany for the first time, and has since also gained seats in Bremen.

It previously had seats in Saxony, Thuringia and Brandenburg in eastern Germany — where resentment against refugees is greatest — and is gaining further momentum nationally as a fraught debate over whether to cap an influx expected to top 1 million migrants this year has exposed rifts in Merkel's ruling conservative coalition.

The AfD was polling around

3 percent in July after leader Bernd Lucke left the party he had founded in 2013 as a vehicle for opposing euro zone bailouts, accusing it of developing xenophobic tendencies.

"As long as the government continues to look dysfunctional on the refugee question, the AfD will benefit," said professor Hajo Funke of the Free University in Berlin.

Under Lucke's successors Frauke Petry and Joerg Meuthen, the party has espoused a tough line on immigration and virtually ignored euro zone issues.

"Frauke Petry has turned the AfD into a magnet for right-wing radicals," Forsa's Guellner said.—Reuters

Putin seeks map of forces not to bomb in Syria: France

PARIS — Russian President Vladimir Putin has asked France to draw up a map of where groups fighting Islamic State militants operate in Syria in order not to bomb them, France's foreign minister said on Friday.

French President Francois Hollande and Putin agreed during talks in Moscow on Thursday to exchange intelligence on Islamic State and other rebel groups to improve the effectiveness of their aerial bombing campaigns in Syria.

"He asked us to draw up a map of forces that are not terrorists and are fighting Daesh (Islamic State). He committed to not bombing them once we've provided that," Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on RTL after accompanying Hollande to Moscow.

The West has accused Moscow of targeting mostly Western-backed rebel groups fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad instead of Is-

lamic State. France has stepped up its aerial bombing campaign of Islamic State targets in Syria since the group claimed responsibility for attacks in Paris on 13 November that killed 130 people.

The militants have also claimed the downing of a Russian airliner that broke up over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on 31 October, killing all 224 people on board.

"There is now one point which everyone agrees and that is the objective of destroying Daesh," Fabius said referring to the Arabic acronym for Islamic State. "I think on that we are progressing."

He added that immediate priorities for both sides in the coming weeks would be to free Raqqa, Islamic State's Syrian stronghold, as well as targeting oil infrastructure controlled by the group.

"It is the neurological centre of Daesh, where attacks, es-

pecially those in France, originated," he said.

However, in what could prove a stumbling block to cooperation between Moscow and the West, Putin and Hollande remained at odds on Thursday over the fate of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Assad is an ally of Russia but Western countries, Turkey and Sunni Arab states such as Saudi Arabia blame him for Syria's nearly five-year civil war and want him removed from power.

"If we want to move towards a free, united ... Syria, it cannot be that he (Assad) who is at the origin of 300,000 deaths and millions of refugees can lead (Syria) ... Assad cannot be the future of his people," Fabius said.

Hollande said in Moscow Paris was ready to increase its support for groups fighting Islamic State on the ground.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pirates attack Polish ship off Nigerian coast, kidnap five

WARSAW — Pirates attacked a Polish-owned cargo vessel off the Nigerian coast and kidnapped its captain and four crew, Polish authorities said, in the first documented incident of its kind in almost a year in some of the deadliest shipping lanes on earth.

The Cyprus-registered Szafr was boarded overnight by armed men in two boats, who looted the 10,000-tonne container ship, operator EuroAfrica said.

The as yet unidentified kid-

nappers had made no demands so far and Poland was liaising with Nigerian authorities, its Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski told a news conference in Warsaw on Friday.

The kidnapped sailors also included other officers, which made the ship impossible to navigate. "The rest of the crew, 11 people, are still on the ship and they are safe... The ship suffered some damage," Waszczykowski said.—Reuters

Brazilian president cancels trip to Japan, Vietnam

RIO DE JANEIRO — The Japanese Embassy in Brazil on Friday confirmed media reports that Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has canceled a trip scheduled for early December to Japan.

The trip, also including a visit to Vietnam, was called off to save money after a Congress decision forced her to make an additional budget freeze, according to Reuters. The president will go ahead with her plan

to attend a UN climate conference, which will open in Paris on Monday, but will not now travel on to Japan and Vietnam, according to the media report. During the visit, Japan and Brazil, hosts respectively of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Olympics, were to confirm cooperation in the staging of the events in fields such as antiterrorism measures, according to Japanese officials.—Kyodo News

Eight corpses found in Mexico's Oaxaca State

MEXICO CITY — Eight men were found dead, their throats slit, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, a local emergency services official said.

The bodies were discov-

ered in a car in a municipality on the border with the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, the official said in a message sent to Reuters on Friday evening.—Reuters

Brazil regulator to apply additional fines against Samarco

BRASILIA — Brazil's environmental regulator is planning additional fines against iron ore miner Samarco on top of the 20 billion reais in damages and clean-up charges the government is seeking, the country's attorney general, Luis Adams, said on Friday.

The regulator, known as Ibama, has already fined Samar-

co 250 million reais in the aftermath of a rupture of a tailings dam that ravaged communities and contaminated a major river. Samarco is a joint venture between the world's largest mining company, BHP Billiton Ltd (BHP.AX) (BHP.N) (BLT.L), and the biggest iron ore miner, Vale SA (VALE5.SA) (VALE.N).—Reuters

Belgium charges sixth suspect over Paris attacks

BRUSSELS — Belgium has charged a sixth suspect with terrorist offences over the 13 November attacks in Paris after a series of house searches in Brussels and southern Belgium on Thursday.

Federal prosecutors said on Friday that they had charged a man detained in Brussels with terrorist murders and participation in the activities of a terrorist group.

Two other people picked up in the eastern town of Verviers on Thursday were released.

Belgian broadcaster RTBF said they were the brother and father of the man charged.

A court also ordered on Friday that a suspect named as Ali O. and an unidentified person who was picked up on Monday morning be held in custody for a month.

Belgium is still hunting Brussels-based Salah Abdeslam, whose brother blew himself up in Paris and who called up a friend from Paris on the night of the attacks seeking a lift back to Brussels.—Reuters

OPINION

Myanmar, where old and new media meet

Kyaw Thura

IT is undeniable that the media in our country has just witnessed somewhat unprecedented freedom of expression since the government took office in 2010.

It is however safe to assume that the old media, also known as the print media, is gathering momentum each day in our country, at a time

when that media is on the verge of going out of fashion in the developed world.

Unlike other countries, Myanmar will have to undergo a new period of two differing forms of media. With easy access to smartphones and the internet, more and more people across the country have turned to new media to receive information, read news and keep in contact with their friends and relatives afar.

It is therefore necessary for the print media in this country to take steps to establish a link between their traditional media and the new social media. Simply put, our country is at a point where the traditional media is gaining speed and the new media is taking off.

At a time when the developed world is faced

with a quick surge in the number of social media users and the traditional media is left in critical condition, all the media persons here are responsible for finding new ways to achieve a significant breakthrough in harmonising these two media forms. We don't want to lose either one.

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.

FAO RELEASES 51,200 FISH FINGERLINGS INTO DELTA TO SUPPORT FISHING LIVELIHOODS

Giuseppe Romalli

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has released more than 51,000 fish fingerlings in Ayeyawady region as part of efforts to help ensure a sustainable future for fishing in the Delta.

The release of fish stocks is one activity under the FAO project 'Sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods in coastal mangrove ecosystems', which is designed to promote sustainable management of fisheries in the region.

Through the project, funded by the Government of Italy, FAO has been working with the regional government and fishing communities to plan and co-manage these activities within mangrove ecosystems.

The striped catfish fingerlings were released last week into the Set Su Creek, Bogale River, in front of Kant Ma Lar Chaung village in Bogale Township.

Staff from the Bogale Township Fisheries Office participated in the fish restocking, along with members of the Village Fisheries Management Committees and Village Fisheries Societies and FAO staff.

Children from local primary schools helped to release the fingerlings and

were taught about the importance of sustainable management of fisheries resources to provide long-term food security.

The fingerlings are expected to grow to around 1 kilogramme in about six months.

Once caught, the fish will be used for home consumption and sold to local traders as fresh or processed (salted) fish.

The benefits of FAO's project included more income for fishermen, stronger fishing rights, reduced pressure on natural resources and more equal fishing opportunities for local communities.

FAO works with local communities to build resilient fishing livelihoods that provide food, nutrition and money for families and ensure communities are better able to withstand natural disasters and other shocks.

A key to the success of this project is that it brings fishers, governments and other partners together to jointly manage fisheries resources using local or traditional practices.

There has been a decline in the volume and size of fish caught in the Delta due to over-fishing and the destruction of mangroves, which provide breeding and nursery grounds for fish.

The FAO fisheries project is a pilot and is expected to lead to a set of guidelines for fisheries



Post-harvest fisheries training. PHOTO: FAO

co-management. The successful model is also likely to be expanded to other fishing communities in Myanmar.

Around 3,000 fishing households in around 20 villages are involved in the project. Nearly one in four people in these villages are full-time fishers and 41 percent are involved in casual labour connected to the fishing sector.

Under the project, FAO has also established and trained 20 Village

Fisheries Societies with their Management Committees and transferred to them the right to fish in specific fishing grounds (tender lots) along the Bogale River. Before the project, small-scale fishermen had to buy access to these fishing grounds from brokers at very high prices and give the catch to the brokers to cover the debt. Now the Village Fisheries Societies can manage their own resources, leading to a substantial increase in income for fishermen and

more sustainable fisheries management.

It has also delivered more than 130 training events to 4,000 participants, including post-harvest fisheries training for women's groups; built or repaired fish ponds, stocked with fish; distributed multi-purpose wooden boats; improved fishing gear; post-harvest tools and equipment; styrofoam boxes to keep the fish chilled from capture to landing; efficient fuel stoves to reduce use of

firewood; and small livestock.

The project has also established model farms to demonstrate supplementary livelihoods in fish culture, horticulture and livestock; built six landing jetties and three fully-equipped fish collection centres; and planted 96,200 mangrove saplings and 40,000 terrestrial plants and conducted awareness-building and training programmes on mangrove restoration and protection.

Residents set oil lamps adrift into Sittoung River



Officials formally open a ceremony to float 10,000 lamps in the Sittoung River. PHOTO: NAY LIN (NYAUNGLEBIN)

A CEREMONY to set oil lamps adrift into the Sittoung River was held in Madauk town, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on Friday.

Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan cut the ribbon to unveil the signboard of the 43rd Tazaungdine lighting festival.

Tactical Operations Commander Col Han Thu, Commander of Nyaunglebin Township Police Force Police Major Ko Ko Kyi and Shwekyin Township Administrator U Kyaw Swe Win formally opened the ceremony.

A total of 12 troupes participated in the event. There was

dancing, boat racing and volleyball contests in celebration of the lighting festival.

Township level officials presented prizes to the winners.

Local people set 10,000 oil lights adrift into the river to pay homage to Shin Upagutta. —Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Pottery courses held in villages of Sinkaing Township

THE Sinkaing Township Rural Development Department of Mandalay Region has recently been opening basic pottery courses across the township in order to provide vocational training to the community.

A total of four courses were

held with 40 trainees in each class. The first course was held for Nangni (Ta) and Nangni (Ma) villages. The second was for Myautinn and Konetha villages and the third was for Ownletkauk and Kathekon villages. The fourth course was for Thetee, Myetaw and Naypu vil-

lages. Township RDD head Daw Khin Mar San said making clay pots as a profession for the villagers would be efficient as the raw materials are available, such as sand and specific mud, were abundant in the area.—(Tin Tin Htwe-Sinkaing)



Local women in Sinkaing Township learn traditional clay pot making technique. PHOTO: TIN TIN HTWE

Local women attend domestic life courses

BASIC domestic science course No 14 and advanced tailoring course No 13 concluded at the Women's Vocational Training School in Hkamti, Sagaing Region, on Friday.

Chairman of the District Management Committee U Toe Lwin spoke at the

event and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Township Administrator U Min Soe, who chairs the School Supervisory Committee, gave completion certificates to the trainees.

The training school has turned out 70 graduates so far.—Nweni (Hkamti)



Township Administrator U Min Soe awards a trainee of Domestic science course No 14. PHOTO: NWENI (HKAMTI)

Vocational welding completed in Otharathiri Township

BASIC Welding Course No 2/2015, conducted in TadaOo village of Otharathiri Township and which was opened by the Othara District Rural Development Department, was completed on Friday. The course was aimed at providing vocational training to local villagers.

The course is part of

RDD's plan, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Livestock and Rural Development, to develop and raise the socio-economic status of rural areas.

The 30 trainees were given certificates of completion by the Othara District RDD head U Win Myint. A trainee spoke words of appreciation on behalf of the class.—(Shwe Yeyint)



Young men receive welding skills in Otharathiri Township. PHOTO: SHWE YEYINT

Human trafficking hotlines change numbers

NAY PYI TAW, Yangon, Mandalay and Muse regions have kept their human trafficking hotline phone numbers to allow to public to call in tips. Emergency numbers were changed for Nay Pyi Taw -

0949555666, 0949555777, 0949555888, and 0949555999 enable people to inform the authorities of possible human trafficking crimes, said anti-human trafficking police. —Myanmar News Agency

Israel to open representative office in Abu Dhabi, first in UAE

JERUSALEM — Israel plans to open a diplomatic-level mission to the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi, its first openly established representative office in the United Arab Emirates, Israeli diplomats said on Friday.

The office will not be a full mission, but will consist of a diplomat assigned to the renewable energy agency. Nevertheless, it will be the first time an Israeli foreign ministry official is permanently stationed in the Gulf state.

Foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon confirmed details first reported in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz and three diplomatic officials told Reuters the move was underway. Israel does not have formal diplomatic ties with most states in the Middle East because of the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its only formal relations are with neighbours Egypt and Jordan.

But the nuclear agreement between world powers and Shi'ite Muslim power Iran has caused disquiet in Israel and Sunni Arab states alike. Common ground has emerged between the two sides, even if they are cautious about drawing attention to the links.

In recent years, Israeli officials have met counterparts from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf at nuclear non-proliferation talks in Switzerland, gatherings that the Israelis say have helped melt the ice and lead to increased dialogue.

A delegation from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited IRENA's offices in Abu Dhabi and met with its director-general earlier in the week, a spokesperson for IRENA said in a written statement.

Under the terms of IRENA's "headquarters agreement", which establishes its base in Abu Dhabi, all members have the right to send permanent missions accredited to the organisation, the statement added. The UAE, as host country, must facilitate. The director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, Dore Gold, visited Abu Dhabi this month, the first time someone of his diplomatic rank has publicly made such a trip. Israeli ministers have visited the Gulf.

While the Abu Dhabi mission is seen as a positive step, both Israeli and UAE officials voiced caution.

An agreement between IRENA and Israel would not represent "any change in the position of the UAE or its relations with Israel," said a spokesperson for the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement carried on state news agency WAM.

Likewise, an Israeli official noted that while the mission was "half a step out the door", it was still a long way from being a full diplomatic posting.

"This is accreditation to the International Renewable Energy Agency, nothing else. It is in Abu Dhabi, not a mission to Abu Dhabi," he said.—Reuters

Syrian army advances against Islamic State east of Aleppo: Syria state TV

BEIRUT — The Syrian army captured territory from Islamic State east of Aleppo including several kilometres (miles) of highway linking the city with the jihadists' de facto capital of Raqqa, Syrian state TV reported yesterday.

The areas reported captured are east of the Kweires, air base seized from Islamic State control on 10 November in one of several offensives

being waged by the Syrian army with support from Russian air strikes, Iranian forces, and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters.

Reuters could not independently confirm the report.

A headline flashed on state TV said the army had captured the two villages of Kaskis and Akula and wide areas of agricultural land, seizing tunnels and fortifications

built by the jihadists, and were demining areas mined by the group.

The villages are about 60 km (40 miles) east of Aleppo.

The highway mentioned in the report runs southeast from Akula to the west of the Euphrates river.

The road passes through Islamic State-held Tabqa on its way to Raqqa, which is 150 km (90 miles) from Akula.

The Syrian government and its allies have also made gains against Islamic State to the southeast of Homs.

They are also waging offensives against non-Islamic State insurgents in western regions of Syria, gaining ground in the northwestern province of Latakia and to the south of Aleppo, while losing territory in Hama Province.—Reuters

Suicide bomber targets Afghan election official in Kabul



Afghan security personnel keep watch at the site of a suicide blast that targeted a senior member of Afghanistan's election commission in Kabul on 28 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

KABUL — A suicide bomber targeted a senior member of Afghanistan's election commission during the morning rush hour in the capital Kabul yesterday, killing his driver and

wounding several passersby.

Abdul Rahman Rodwal, regional director at the country's Independent Election Commission, survived the attack in the Shah Shaheed area of eastern

Kabul, police said. No group has claimed responsibility but Taliban insurgents who are fighting to topple the foreign-backed Kabul government frequently carry out suicide and roadside bombings

across the country. Saturday's incident comes after a lull of more than a month in Taliban attacks in heavily-guarded Kabul following a series of bombings in the city in August.—Reuters

Attack on UN base in northern Mali causes casualties

KIDAL — Gunmen attacked and fired rockets at a UN peacekeeping base in Kidal in northern Mali on Saturday, causing an unspecified number of casualties, a spokesman for the UN force in Mali (MINUSMA) said.

"The attack happened at around 4 am (0400 GMT). Four or five rockets landed inside the base. Quite a few people were

wounded but it's too early for a precise number," MINUSMA spokesman Olivier Salgado told Reuters.

French troops and the UN force are struggling to stabilise the former French colony where Islamist militants attacked a hotel in the capital on 20 November and killed 20 people.

Three Islamist militant

groups — al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI), its splinter group al Mourabitoun and Massina Liberation Front (MLF) — claimed the attack on the Radisson Blu hotel. Security analysts say they could be collaborating.

Northern Mali was occupied by Islamist fighters, some with links to al Qaeda, for most

of 2012. They were driven out by a French-led military operation, but violence has continued.

Other West African governments are also battling Islamist militants. Boko Haram, the leading such group in the region, has this year extended its attacks from Nigeria to neighbouring states of Niger, Cameroon and Chad.—Reuters

NSA to shut down bulk phone surveillance programme by Sunday

WASHINGTON — The US National Security Agency will end its daily vacuuming of millions of Americans' phone records by Sunday and replace the practice with more tightly targeted surveillance methods, the Obama administration said on Friday.

As required by law, the NSA will end its wide-ranging surveillance programme by 11:59 pm EST Saturday (4:59 am GMT Sunday) and expects to have the new, scaled-back system in place by then, the White House said.

The transition is a long-awaited victory for privacy advocates and tech companies wary of broad government surveillance at a time when national security concerns are heightened in the wake of the Paris attacks earlier this month.

It comes two and a half years after the controversial programme was exposed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. The move, mandated by a law passed six months ago, represents the greatest reduction of US spying capabilities since they expanded dramatically after the 11 September, 2001 attacks.

Under the Freedom Act, the NSA and law enforcement agencies can no longer collect telephone calling records in bulk in an effort to sniff out suspicious activity. Such records, known as "metadata," reveal which numbers Americans are calling and what time

they place those calls, but not the content of the conversations.

Instead analysts must now get a court order to ask telecommunications companies like Verizon Communications to enable monitoring of call records of specific people or groups for up to six months.

"The act struck a reasonable compromise which allows us to continue to protect the country while implementing various reforms," National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said.

Some Republican lawmakers want to preserve bulk collection until 2017, citing the 13 November Paris attacks in which 130 people died. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the killings.

But any new surveillance measures are unlikely to become law ahead of the November 2016 presidential elections.

A presidential review committee concluded the surveillance regime did not lead to a single clear counter terrorism breakthrough that could be directly attributed to the programme.

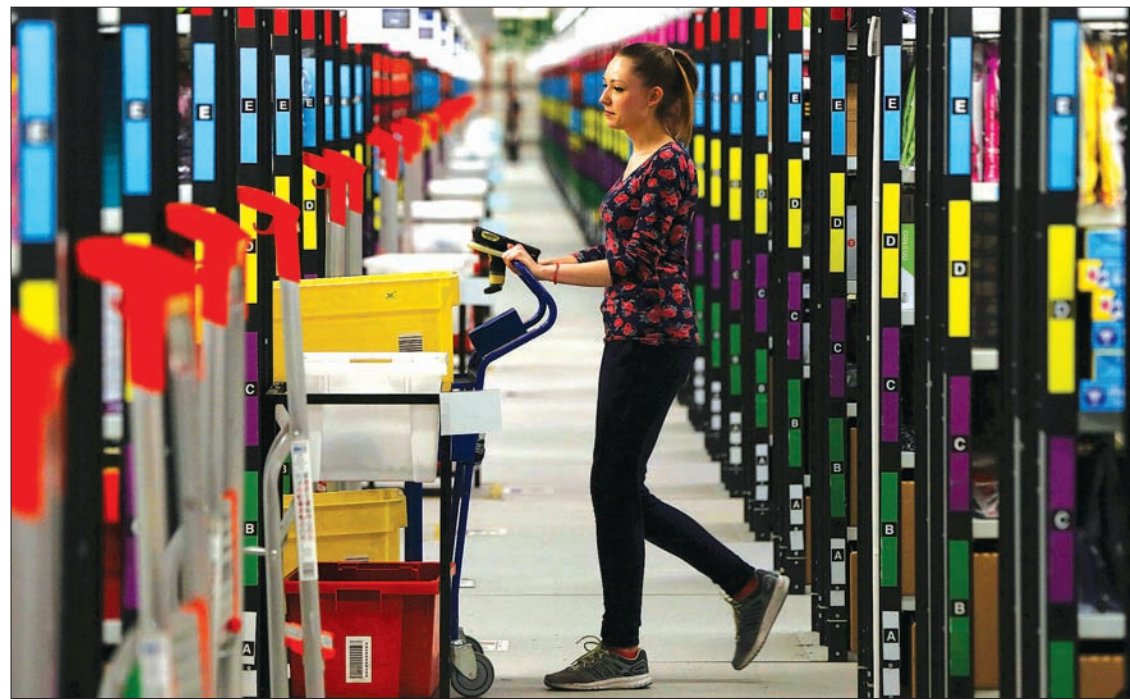
Metadata collected by the NSA over the past five years will be preserved for "data integrity purposes" through 29 February, the White House said.

After that the NSA will purge all of its historic records once pending litigation is resolved.—Reuters



An illustration picture shows the logo of the US National Security Agency on the display of a phone in Berlin. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britons head online in hunt for Black Friday bargains



A worker collects customer orders during Black Friday deals week at an Amazon fulfilment centre in Hemel Hempstead, Britain, on 25 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Britons splashed out on "Black Friday" bargains on Friday but many opted to go online rather than head to the shops for an event imported from the United States that has become a key feature of the UK retail calendar.

With many shoppers having received their last pay packet before Christmas, retailers are hoping the promotions will kick-start festive trading after a weak November.

Researcher Conlumino is forecasting the event will generate UK sales, both in stores and online, of 1.6 billion pounds, up 20 percent on 2014. It forecast online spending would jump 32 percent to 1.1 billion pounds.

"There's been plenty of anecdotal evidence around...to suggest that Black Friday, in terms of store-based retail, has been something of a damp squib in the UK this year," said Bryan Roberts of researcher Kantar Retail.

"It seems certain that Black Friday will largely be an online event this year."

Last year's Black Friday was marred by long queues and brawls in stores. A typical mixture of strong winds and heavy rain across Britain and memories of last year's scuffles were likely to have encouraged more Britons to shop online this year.

British retailers are anxious to avoid a repeat of last year's trading pattern when the surge in low-

margin sales was followed by disappointing demand as shoppers held back in the hope of further discounts.

This year several retailers — including Amazon, Argos, Marks & Spencer and Dixons Carphone — have stretched "Black Friday" discounts over several days to smooth demand.

Social media indicated stores across the country were quieter than last year and shoppers better behaved.

Researcher FootFall estimates Black Friday in-store shopper numbers will be down by up to 4 percent from 2014.

Supermarket Asda, which is owned by Wal-Mart and was one of the UK's Black Friday pioneers, stepped back from the event this year, blaming "shopper fatigue".

At the huge Westfield shopping centre in east London, close to the London 2012 Olympic stadium, trading was lively rather than frenzied.

Shaquille Simon, a 21 year-old McDonald's manager, said he bought two TVs online from Tesco at midnight: "I bought one for me and one for my mum. Why not?"

He then headed to Westfield, where he picked up speakers and headphones. "If I see something I like I'll buy it. Simple as that," he said.

In the US Black Friday, the day after the Thanksgiving holiday, was so named because spend-

ing would pick up and retailers would begin to turn a profit for the year and move into the black.

Introduced into Britain in 2010 by US online retailer Amazon, its popularity forced store groups to join the fray and this year, according to a survey by Barclays, 77 percent of them are participating.

There was a similar trend in the United States where crowds were relatively thin but online sales appeared strong.

Dixons Retail's Currys PC World chain reported unprecedented online demand, with a 53 percent increase in hourly web traffic compared to last year. The firm's CEO Seb James tweeted: "Website holding up really well after big investment this year."

Social media reported that both Argos and Tesco's websites were struggling to keep up with demand.

Argos said its site had so far seen over 7.2 million visits but had not crashed or seen any outages. It apologised if some customers were experiencing delays as a result of demand.

Previous Black Friday winners in Britain have been those retailers, such as Dixons Retail, who buy specifically for the event, enabling them to maintain profit margins. Losers tend to be those who simply slash prices on existing stock or react to rivals' promotions.—Reuters

Sharp mulls providing TV panel technology to Indian firm

OSAKA — Embattled Sharp Corp. is studying the feasibility of providing its technology to produce liquid crystal panels for TV screens to India's Sterlite Technologies Ltd., sources familiar with the matter said yesterday.

With about 7 billion yen (\$57 million) anticipated for the licensing, the Japanese electronics maker hopes to improve its financial condition, which has worsened with a slump in its business, the sources said.

Sterlite Technologies, a major optical fiber producer and supplier based in Pune, Maharashtra, is considering launching a production line with support from Sharp to enter into the liquid crystal TV business, they said.

Sharp has provided its "Igo" LCD panel technology for smartphones to China Electronics Corp.

The company has been taking a series of restructuring steps that include cutting jobs and selling its headquarters building in

Osaka, western Japan.

It has lost money over three of the past four business years. For the first half of the current year to March 2016, Sharp reported a group net loss of 83.61 billion yen.—Kyodo News

Lebanon PM urges presidential vote after new push to find candidate

BEIRUT — Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam made a new appeal on Friday for the country to choose a president after an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad this week emerged as a strong candidate.

The post has been vacant for 18 months, contributing to a political deadlock that has paralysed state institutions.

With politicians pushing with renewed urgency for the election of a head of state, local media touted lawmaker Suleiman Franjeh as a candidate.

Franjeh heads the Christian Marada party and has ties with Assad, who is backed by Iran and Lebanese Shi'ite movement Hezbollah. He is also expected to win the endorsement of Saad al-Hariri, whose Fu-

ture Movement is backed by Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia, after the two men met in Paris this week, local media reported.

Two suicide bomb blasts killed 44 people in Beirut on 12 November, showing the country remains vulnerable to a spillover of violence from the Syrian civil war across the border. Prime Minister Salam said condemnation of the bomb-

ings from across the political spectrum showed there was "a possibility to build on these positions in order to find the best way out of this political crisis."

Parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri has called at least 30 sessions to elect a new president but, in the absence of a consensus, none has been elected.

The unity government headed by Salam is barely

functioning either. It includes both Hezbollah and the Future Movement.

Meetings between rival factions were the best way to "end the state of deadlock," Salam said, quoted by Lebanon's National News Agency. "We declare our support for any rapprochement or opening between political powers, and confirm that the priority in any discussion or settlement must be to elect

a president." So far rivals Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea have been vying for the presidency but neither has been able to muster the cross-party support required. Aoun is an ally of Hezbollah and Geagea of the Future Movement.

The presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian according to the country's sectarian power-sharing system.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (120N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (120N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2015 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Three killed, 9 injured in attack on Colorado abortion clinic

COLORADO SPRINGS — Police arrested a gunman who stormed a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Colorado Springs on Friday and opened fire with a rifle in an attack that left three people dead and nine others injured, authorities said.

The dead included one police officer and two civilians, Colorado Springs Police Chief Peter Carey told reporters about an hour after the suspect had been captured.

All nine surviving victims — five police officers and four civilians — were listed in good condition at area hospitals, Carney said.

Europe needs US-style bureau to tackle guns

PARIS — If you're not a hunter or a target shooter, it's nearly impossible to buy a gun legally in France. But the country's strict gun control laws are not enough to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of Islamist militants.

Gaps in the current laws, light sentences, and the absence of a European agency like the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), with its billion-dollar budget and thousands of agents, are the main problems facing France and its neighbors as they focus on tackling gun trafficking in the wake of the 13 November attacks in Paris, experts said.

The coordinated attacks, which killed 130 people, had a cross-border dimension. Two of the suicide bombers lived in Belgium and German police arrested a man who, according to a newspaper, may have sold the militants their guns.

"We need a European

The suspect first engaged in a protracted gun battle with police but ultimately surrendered to officers inside the building about five hours after the start of the violence, which played out under a steady snowfall in Colorado's second-largest city.

A Reuters photographer at the scene saw a man in a white T-shirt, with his hands cuffed behind his back, being taken out of an armored police vehicle and placed in an unmarked squad car. Authorities said they did not know the suspect's identity but believed he acted alone.

The slain lawman was



A suspect is taken into custody outside a Planned Parenthood center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. PHOTO: REUTERS

a campus police officer for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs who joined city police in responding to the first reports of shots fired, authorities said.

The Colorado Springs clinic has been the target of repeated protests by anti-abortion activists, and in recent years moved to new quarters on the city's north-

west side — a facility derided as a "fortress" by critics of Planned Parenthood.

The national non-profit group, devoted to providing a range of reproductive health services, including abortions, has come under renewed pressure in recent months from conservatives in Congress seeking to cut off federal support for the organisation.—Reuters

ATF," said Jean-Charles Antoine, a researcher at the French Institute of Geopolitics and author of two books on arms trafficking. "Gun trafficking always turns on the need for guns. And right now terrorists need guns."

France already has some of the strictest gun laws in the world. Automatic weapons are banned, while many other guns require government authorization and a medical exam, along with a permit from a hunting or sport shooting federation.

The public is generally supportive of the laws, although their attitudes having changed dramatically over the decades, said Paris lawyer Laurent-Franck Lienard. "Thirty years ago, France was a country where everyone had guns and it was considered normal," he said.

The problem with tough laws, Lienard said, is that "they only apply to those who follow them." Illegal weapons are another matter. Lienard said that Balkan gangsters used to manage the flow of guns in

France in the 1990s. Today, there is a big trade in the theft of legally-held guns.

There are an estimated 15 million legal and illegal guns circulating in France, according to Antoine of the French Institute of Geopolitics. Of those he said up to 15,000 may be "weapons of war."

But with relatively few gun crimes compared to countries like the United States, European authorities have paid gun trafficking scant attention. "For the last 20 years we have worked mainly on drugs," Antoine said.

In a striking coincidence, France's answer to the problem came on the very day of the 13 November attacks.

That morning, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve announced a national plan to counter illegal guns, citing worsening gang violence and terrorism. "Terrorists are more easily getting the guns they need to carry out their planned attacks," he said.—Reuters



A visitor looks at a Smith & Wesson gun at MILIPOL International State Security Exhibition in Paris. PHOTO: REUTERS

Carbon prices — work in progress, not panacea, for rich and poor

BRUSSELS — It was supposed to be the way the market would cut greenhouse gases by itself: governments selling companies permits-to-pollute, which they could trade among themselves. Over time, the number of permits would be reduced, and the cost to companies of failing to cut emissions would rise.

Yet, 10 years after the EU launched the world's biggest carbon trading scheme, the effectiveness of the concept is in question and climate activists are disenchanted or hostile.

While there is still support for national or regional markets, not least in China, which plans to launch the world's biggest scheme in 2017, any hopes of creating a global carbon market at next week's UN climate conference in Paris look wildly optimistic.

Major corporations, in particular, back the concept because its costs are more predictable than those of prospective future regulations. In June, a group of European energy companies led by Royal Dutch Shell wrote to the United Nations to call for a global carbon price that would "discourage high carbon options and reduce uncertainty".

UN climate chief Christiana Figueres told them to do more and to spell out price levels, something they have yet to do.

Climate activists say the corporations' enthusiasm can be explained as a desire to dodge more aggressive measures, such as targets for renewable energy.

"The call for a carbon price is a shield with which to defend themselves from calls for faster change," says Tom Burke, chairman of the environmental cam-



A pedestrian walks past power lines in east Sydney 12 October 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

paign group E3G. Even with the jury out, nearly half of the more than 170 national pledges for reducing greenhouse gas emissions include some form of carbon pricing to meet their targets, officials say.

They range from the top emitter, China, to the tiny Pacific nation of Kiribati, imperilled by rising sea levels. The best test case, for now, is the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme, which raised 8.9 billion euros (\$9.4 billion) in the three years to June 2015, according to European Commission figures.

Jos Delbeke, director general of the Commission's climate action department and one of the chief architects of the ETS, says it has shown, crucially, that reducing carbon emissions is compatible with economic growth.

He says the EU's gross domestic product has risen 46 percent since 1990, while greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 23 percent, and that the ETS is still central to EU efforts to tackle climate change.

The scheme sets a cap on how much big emitters, chiefly power plants and

factories, can pollute.

Mostly they have to buy the emissions credits at auction. Those who emit less than their cap can sell the surplus credits to companies that exceed their limits, which are progressively reduced over time.

So far, from the more than 11,000 industrial and energy plants covered by the EU ETS, emissions have fallen by almost 15 percent since 2008, Thomson Reuters Point Carbon figures show.

But critics say it is unclear how much of this was a direct result of the ETS, as opposed to Europe's economic slowdown.

They also say the revenues generated have merely boosted general government coffers rather than being spent on the environment, let alone on the poorer countries that pollute least but are set to suffer most from climate change. "The carbon market promised the world lots of things it has failed to deliver. The ETS is riddled with loopholes and in thrall to vested interest," said Tim Gore, Oxfam's international policy adviser on climate change.

Most critically, the activists say the polluters have been given an easy ride.

Point Carbon figures show that industry, which lobbied hard for help in dealing with extra energy costs, was given free carbon permits with a tradable value of 77 billion euros in the years to 2014.

Alongside this, the market price of EU ETS permits, and therefore the cost of pollution, has at times fallen to near zero as economic recession and miscalculations led to a surplus of credits.

The allocation system has now been reformed, but the total of free permits is still expected to hit 325 billion euros by 2030.

At the same time, in the absence of a global carbon pricing system, industry continues to complain that the cost of permits is driving it to leave Europe for cheaper regulatory environments.

ETS prices have risen back to 8.5 euros per tonne of CO₂ produced, but are still far below peaks of above 30 euros, and too low to encourage investment in lower-carbon fuel. EU regulators are working on further reforms.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HERBILAN SUCCESS

VOY NO (HS 006)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HERBILAN SUCCESS VOY NO (HS 006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HERBILAN SHIPPING LINES.
Phone No: 2301185

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

UN Security Council slams deadly attack in border town between South Sudan, Sudan

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council on Friday "condemned in the strongest terms" the attack by unknown assailants on the residence of a local chief in Abyei Town bordering South Sudan and Sudan, which killed a peacekeeper from Ethiopia and a young girl.

"The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms all attacks and provocations against UNISFA

(the United Nations Interim Force for Abyei) by armed actors," the 15-nation UN body said in a statement issued to the press here.

"They called on the governments of Sudan and South Sudan to swiftly investigate this attack, with the assistance of UNISFA, and bring the perpetrators to justice," the statement said. "They stressed that those responsible for the attack must be held accountable."

The members of the

Security Council expressed their deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of the killed peacekeeper and to the government of Ethiopia, as well as to the family of the killed young girl, the statement said.

The members of the Security Council reiterated their full support for UNISFA, and reiterated that, in accordance with relevant resolutions, the Abyei Area shall be demilitarized from any forces except UNISFA

and the Abyei Police Service, the statement added.

Earlier Friday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also strongly condemned the attack on the residence of the Ngok Dinka paramount chief in Abyei.

The ownership of the oil-rich Abyei, which straddles the border between Sudan and South Sudan, was left undecided when South Sudan declared independence from Sudan in 2011.—Xinhua

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Johnny Depp's awkward meeting with Prince Charles



PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Superstar Johnny Depp has revealed he had an awkward meeting with Charles, Prince Of Wales.

The 52-year-old actor was introduced to the heir to the throne at the UK premiere of his 2004 movie "Finding Neverland", but said he could not make out what the prince was saying.

"I end up here quite a lot.

I'm after the 'Sir' thing... I met Prince Charles.

"He came to the premiere of Finding Neverland, I shook his hand but I didn't understand a word he said and I don't think he understood a word I said so it wasn't very meaningful necessarily, but he seemed nice!" Depp told UK talk show host Graham Norton.—PTI

Jennifer Aniston, Robert De Niro team up for 'The Comedian'



Jennifer Aniston. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Jennifer Aniston is collaborating with Robert De Niro to make the movie veteran's longtime passion project a reality.

The two stars will team up for "The Comedian" next year with the producers behind 46-year-old Aniston's 2014 movie "Cake", reported Sun online.

In the film, De Niro, 72, will play an insult comic, who falls for Aniston's character at a wedding.

It's not the first time De Niro has tackled stand-up comedy onscreen — he played obsessed fan Rupert Pupkin opposite Jerry Lewis in 1982's "The King of Comedy".

Reports suggest the actor has been trying to make the film for years.—PTI

Taylor Swift's crew denies harming endangered birds

LOS ANGELES — A crew working with Taylor Swift on her new music video has responded to allegations that they breached the terms of their shooting permit while filming at Bethells Beach in New Zealand.

Kiwi production company Cherokee Films recently issued a statement in attempt to resolve bad blood with conservationists and locals who were concerned with endangered dotterel birds nesting there, reported Ace Showbiz.

"Taylor Swift and her management team were in no way at fault and did not do anything that violated permits or ordinances."

"Cherokee Films has a long history of responsible film shoots across Auckland, including Bethells Beach, where we have filmed many times," they continued.

"Our shoots have always been with the guidance and support of the relevant local authority — most recently Screen Auckland and Parks — and landowners."

They also claimed that their



PHOTO: REUTERS

filming location was nowhere close to the dotterels' nesting spot.

"At all times the film crew adhered to the Dotterel protocol in guidelines provided about the dotterel nesting sites, and at no time were the film crew close to

that habitat. No Dotterel were harmed."

There's no official word on which song the video was shot for, though there's been rumor claiming Swift is releasing "Out of the Woods" as the next single off her 1989 album.—PTI

Live Shakespeare tops British cinema box office

LONDON — A live broadcast of Judi Dench and Kenneth Branagh starring in Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" was the biggest cinema box office draw in Britain on the night of the screening, the show's publicists said on Friday.

The three-hour-long play, broadcast from London to 520 cinemas across Britain on Thursday night, took in 1.1 million pounds (\$1.65 million), which put it ahead of the blockbuster "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2" and other more mainstream fare, they said.

US audiences will get their chance on Monday. "To be able to celebrate our production of 'The Winter's Tale' with cinema audiences is a true privilege," Branagh, who directed the production, said in the statement.

The play, one of the Bard's later and less well-known works, tells the tale of King Leontes (Branagh) who manages to destroy his family as a result of insane jealousy only to be treated to perhaps undeserved redemption at the end.



Director Kenneth Branagh arrives for the screening of the movie 'Cinderella' at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany. PHOTO: REUTERS

Among those sharing the stage in the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company performance, is Dench, one of Britain's most beloved actors. She plays Paulina, Leontes' sharpest critic but at the same time a vehicle for his redemption.

The broadcast also was beamed to more than 100 cinemas across Europe and in Cana-

da, but the box office from those locations was not immediately known.

The play, which is sold out for the duration of its run in London's theater district, will be broadcast in a delayed transmission to the United States on Monday, and also will be shown in Australia and northern Europe.—Reuters

Acclaimed Palestinian theatre in Jerusalem risks closure

JERUSALEM

The Palestinian National Theatre, for three decades the leading performing arts and cultural centre for Arabs in Jerusalem, is facing potential closure after running up large municipal debts, its director said on Friday.

Known as "Al Hakawati" (The Storyteller), the theatre has amassed unpaid bills of \$150,000 over the past five years, with money owed to city hall, to the national insurance fund and to the local Israeli electricity company. Opened in 1984 in predominantly Arab East Jerusalem, Al Hakawati has received international acclaim for its performances and its training of young actors. It often puts on productions with groups from the United States, Britain and France.

"We are the only professional theatre in East Jerusalem," director Amer Khalil told Reuters. "I hope we can manage to get at least half the money we owe by Sunday or Monday, otherwise we will be closed down."

Adnan Al-Husseini, the Palestinian Authority governor of Jerusalem told Reuters he expected Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas would step in and prevent the theatre's closure. "The President has given orders and the money needed will be given. On Monday the issue will be resolved and over," he said.

The theatre operates as an NGO and has received donations from Europe, the United States and others in the past. Khalil said donors and friends had been calling and he hoped they would pledge enough to pay off the

debts. There has been friction between Al Hakawati and Israel in the past.

In 2008, Israeli police deployed at the theatre to stop it holding a festival entitled "Jerusalem, the Arab Cultural Capital for 2009". Israel refers to Jerusalem as its "eternal and indivisible" capital and regards the city as a leading centre of Jewish culture and tradition.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem — captured and occupied by Israel in 1967 — as the capital of an independent Palestinian state. Some Palestinian commentators described the squeeze on Al Hakawati as part of a wider push by Israel to marginalise Arabic cultural and arts institutions. But Khalil said he didn't think that was the case in this instance.

"In this case, we are just facing the problem of debts," he said. "In general, there has been a problem with us using this building in the past and having a Palestinian cultural centre in Jerusalem, but now it is just about the money."

In June this year, Israel's culture minister froze funding to an Arab theatre after it performed a play about Palestinians jailed by Israel. She also threatened to cut funding to an Arab-Israeli theatre that refused to perform in a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli artists have even protested against the culture minister, Miri Regev, a former army spokeswoman from the right-wing Likud party, saying she has no understanding or appreciation for the arts.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A staff holds an ancient provincial principal ingot during a press conference of the December 2015 Auction of Stack and Bowers on 25 November 2015. Stack's Bowers and Ponterio will hold Hong Kong Auction of Chinese and Asian coins and currency on 8 December through 15 December at the Mira Hong Kong. PHOTO: XINHUA

Austrian tourism industry sees best summer season in over 20 years

VIENNA — The Austrian tourism industry has seen its best summer season since 1994 with 69.4 million overnight stays recorded, Statistics Austria revealed in preliminary results on Friday.

The figures come in 2.2 million, or 3.3 percent, higher than the same season in 2014, as recorded from May to October.

The majority of the overnight stays were recorded in the main holiday months of July and August, during which a 4.5 percent year-on-year increase was seen.

The overall number of visi-

tors also increased 6.3 percent to a record 21.85 million, almost 1.3 million more than in 2014. This was marked by an increase in both foreign and domestic tourists, with increases of 7.5 percent and 3.9 percent respectively.

Germans were once again the most important source country of foreign guests, making up about 25 million overnight stays both for business and leisure, and marking a 0.4 percent increase over 2014.

Other strong source countries with improved visitor rates were the Netherlands (3.7 million overnight stays), Switzerland

(2.7 million), Italy (1.8 million) and Britain (1.3 million).

Statistics Austria said from the beginning of the year until October, 120.1 million overnight stays have been recorded, an increase over 2014 of 3.4 million and just below the record of 120.38 million over the same period of time in 1992.

Minister of economy Reinhold Mitterlehner said the results are good news for the wider business community, for which tourism is an important mood indicator, and that he is also expecting a successful winter season.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(29-11-2015 07:00 am~ 30-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Exquisite Myanmar Silk
07:44	Am	Mahar Thakya Atula Man Aung - Nga Htat Kyee
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Visit To Ye
08:46	Am	Pet Fish Biz
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Day Tour On A Cart (Bagan Trip)
09:38	Am	ABU Song Festival
09:50	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	U Kyaw Thu: from Artist to Philanthropist (Part II)
10:43	Am	Gold from Garbage
10:54	Am	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-12) Tapas: Ham & Peach Nibbles, Smoked Salmon & Quail Egg, Crunchy Baked Mussels and Colourful Fruit Punch
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Fish Feed Production
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (EP-2)
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(29-11-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am	• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
6:35 am	• Physical Exercises
6:45 am	• Documentary
7:00 am	• News / Weather Report
8:00 am	• News/ International News
8:35 am	• Meet The Successful
9:00 am	• News/ International News
9:35 am	• Weekly Entertainment

10:35 am	• Poem For Children
11:35 am	• Amazing World
12:00 noon	• News / International News/ Weather Report
12:35 pm	• Round up of The Week's International News
12:50 pm	• Myanmar Movies
3:00 pm	• News / International News
3:30 pm	• Head Line News
4:00 pm	• News/ Weather Report

5:00 pm	• News
5:35 pm	• People's Talks
6:00 pm	• News/ Weather Report
6:20 pm	• Documentary
6:35 pm	• Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
7:00 pm	• News
7:15 pm	• Radio Drama (Part-1)
7:35 pm	• Radio Drama (Part-2)
8:00 pm	• News / International News / Weather Report
9:00 pm	• News
	• Tasty Trip
	• Sing & Enjoy

LOCAL NEWS

YUFC concludes its soccer courses

Ko Moe

THE Yangon United Football Club concluded a course on soccer training at its School of Football in Yangon yesterday with the technical director urging trainees to continue to sharpen their skills so that they can become first-class players.

There were 51 trainees at Level 1, with 18 passes. Two trainees were granted scholarship and allowed to continue Level 2.

At Level 2, 13 of 29 trainees successfully completed the course, while all 44 trainees at Level 3 successfully completed the course.

New courses at all levels will start on 2 December at the school.

Myanmar citizen wins championship at Chess Tournament 2015

Ko Moe

A MYANMAR citizen was named champion at the Myanmar Open Chess Tournament 2015 after defeating international grand masters.

Win Zaw Tun told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that his calmness and cautiousness earned him the championship title in his showdowns with international grand masters.

The competition saw the participation of eight international grand masters including Mr Komarov Dimitri of Ukraine, Mr Schebler Gerhard of Germany and Mr Nguyen Duc Hoa of Vietnam.

The tournament took place at the Central Hotel in Yangon from 23 to 27 November, attracting 66 players from nine countries including Myanmar.

In last year's event, which drew 137 players from 18 countries, Nigel Short of England and Belous Valadimir of Russia shared the championship award.

Murray levels Davis Cup final as Goffin survives scare

GHENT — A fired-up Andy Murray showed his class to draw Britain level with Belgium on day one of the Davis Cup final after David Goffin's escape act from a two-set deficit had given the hosts the lead in Ghent on Friday.

The 28-year-old world number two Murray, who has almost single-handedly put Britain on the brink of their first title since 1936, duly delivered another point, beating 108th-ranked Ruben Bemelmans 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 on the indoor claycourt.

Murray's hunger to capture the team trophy has been evident all year with inspirational displays against the US, France and Australia and he wore his heart on his sleeve again as he withstood a Bemelmans fightback to clinch victory.

At 2-2 in the third set and the noise levels deafening inside the 13,000-seat arena built within a charmless warehouse on the edge of medieval Ghent, Murray was even docked a point for an audible obscenity.

He then slipped 4-2 behind and fought off a Bemelmans set point at 4-5 before clinching a straight-sets victory that enabled him a little more recovery time for Saturday's doubles rubber with older brother Jamie, most

likely against Steve Darcis and Kimmer Coppejans.

"I had no idea about either of the warnings because you can't hear anything on the court," Murray said of the raucous atmosphere produced by a sell-out crowd. "So I'm surprised (the umpire) could hear what I was saying."

Murray's seventh singles win in Davis Cup this year left the final evenly-poised, although Britain would already be virtually home and dry had debutant 20-year-old Kyle Edmund finished off world number 16 Goffin.

The opening singles of the tie, which was regarded as a "must-win" rubber for Belgium as they try to land their first title, was turning into a humiliation for Goffin when he trailed the world number 100 by two sets.

However, lifted by the chants of the home fans, the 24-year-old recovered from two sets down for the first time in his career to win 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0.

The match began with a 12-minute game in which Goffin wasted two break points, shanking one forehand into the roof girders, then saw him completely overwhelmed for more than an hour by a free-swinging Edmund

with a thunderbolt forehand.

When the Briton won the opening game of the third set he looked poised to become the first debutant to win a live rubber in the Davis Cup final, but Goffin recovered his senses in the nick of time to put a tiring Edmund in his place.

"The pressure was more on my shoulders because we needed this point against Kyle," Goffin told reporters. "I was a little bit worried because Kyle was playing unbelievable. He just had nothing to lose."

Belgium captain Johan Van Herck said he had feared the worst as Edmund blazed away on the clay.

"I was very worried," he told reporters. "Didn't expect to be there. But we knew if David could find his game, he could win three sets in a row.—Reuters"

"But he had to get the tension off and he had to get his feet moving. Luckily for us he did."

Defeat for Goffin would have left Belgium's dreams in tatters and the pressure seemed to freeze the 24-year-old as his game disintegrated in the face of Edmund's withering power. Edmund was in complete control for more than an hour and took the second set in 25 minutes on a Goffin double fault.



Great Britain's Andy Murray.

PHOTO: REUTERS

A stunned Goffin finally got a foothold when he broke the Edmund serve to open a 3-1 lead in the third set and the momentum quickly swung his way.

With the spring back in his legs, that had seemed set in concrete earlier, and his shoulders released, Goffin began to feed off the energy of the crowd as Edmund wilted.

"The experience of David and also the environment at some point did take a toll," British captain Leon Smith said. "He probably had to win it in straight sets or even in four."—Reuters

Hanyu rewrites world record score to lead NHK Trophy

NAGANO — Japan's reigning world and Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu rewrote his world record short programme score to storm into the lead Friday at the NHK Trophy, the sixth and last event of the ISU Grand Prix Series.

Skating to Ballade No. 1 op. 23 in G minor by Chopin, Hanyu mesmerized the home crowd at Big Hat in Nagano, producing a flawless skate to earn a whopping 106.33 points.

He landed all of his jumps including a quad salchow and a quad toe-loop, triple toe-loop combination.

Hanyu, who struggled to sixth in the short skate before placing second at Skate Canada last month, finished over 10 points clear of China's Jin Boyang, who was second with 95.64. Japan's Takahito Mura was third with 88.29, while Keiji Tanaka was ninth with 73.74.

"I don't know if I was jinxed by this song but I could finally show what I hadn't been able to in the short programme," said Hanyu, whose previous world score of 101.45 came en route to the gold medal at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

"This proves that I've been practicing hard on the right things. I feel relieved rather than surprised or pleased."

Hanyu is aiming to become the first skater to win the Grand Prix Final three times in succession. He will qualify for next month's Final in Barcelona by finishing in the top three at this

event. Mura, a disappointing 10th at Skate America, rewrote his personal best score by 2.01 points.

"My aim was to perform without making any mistakes.



Yuzuru Hanyu performs during the men's singles short program at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Nagano. PHOTO: REUTERS

I finished feeling I can do even better."

In the women's programme, world silver medalist Satoko Miyahara nailed all of her jumps including a triple lutz-triple toe loop en route to top spot with 69.53 points ahead of American's Courtney Hicks (65.60) and Ashley Wagner (63.71).

"That is the best job I have done with my jumps this season," said Miyahara, who was third at Skate America last month.

"My form has been getting better and mentally I could really go for it."

"I had confidence. The real battle will be the free skate. I want to be composed and do even better than the short programme."

Three-time world champion Mao Asada botched her trademark triple axel and was fourth with 62.50 points.

"I am really disappointed," said Asada, who won the Cup of China earlier this month on her comeback after sitting out the 2014-15 season. "Depending on the day I have ups and downs with my jumps."

"With my triple axel and other jumps, I have realised how difficult it is in competition if you are not jumping 100 percent in practice."

Also for Japan, Mariko Kihara came 10th.—Kyodo News

Editorial Section — (+95) (01) 8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
 Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
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