Myanmar, Belarus to cooperate in fight against terrorism and narcotic drug

At the meeting, the senior general said that Myanmar has been practicing multi-party democracy system and market-oriented economic system since 2011 to enhance living standard of the people. He expressed his belief that the two countries in same background will cooperate in all aspects, especially in fight against terrorism and narcotic drug issues, adding that cooperation will continue studies of military technology and pursuing education between the two countries.

The state secretary said that Belarus and Myanmar are in same tradition to preserve their culture. The two countries can exchange culture affairs based on military technology, he said. He recognized the endeavours of Myanmar in peace and stability and development tasks, and success will be achieved in cooperation between the two nations, he said.

(See page 3)

Local banks show no interest in buying credit guarantee insurance

The state-owned insurer started selling credit guarantee insurance four months ago for the development of the country’s small and medium businesses.

“Up to now, Myanmar Insurance sees no application for credit guarantee insurance that was launched last July”, U Aye Min Thein, managing director of Myanmar Insurance, told The Global New Light of Myanmar during a recent interview at a conference in Yangon.

Regarding why the insurance is a hard-sell, he said banks seem to be hesitant in taking the risk of lending SMEs without appropriate collateral and providing the lenders with a loan rate higher than the prescribed percentage of loan for the value of the collateral.

The aim of the insurance service is to enable small and medium businesses who want loans from the banks but are without collateral to have financial access and for lenders to mitigate risks, said Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein at a press conference on Wednesday, after receiving no queries from local media at the Credit Guarantee Insurance announcement ceremony at the Myanmar Insurance Building in Yangon on 28 June.

(See page 3)

MRTV refreshes agreements with private broadcasters

The previous agreements would not be in harmony with MRTV when the state-owned media is transited to a public service broadcaster when the Broadcasting Law is enacted in the country, he added.

Myanmar’s first ever Broadcasting Bill has been approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw and it will be put forward to the Pyithu Hluttaw in an upcoming parliamentary meeting.

In his reply to a query on whether the law would create an unfair ground for competition between state-owned and private broadcasters, U Tint Swe said when the Broadcast Law comes into effect, all media can fairly compete each other and the law would also guarantee preventing any one firm from “commercially monopolizing” the media market.

The two TV broadcasters signed with MRTV are Forever Group Co Ltd, a joint venture with the Ministry of Information and Shwe Than Lwin Media, which also runs Shwe FM and Skyenet, a subscriber-based satellite television service.

Mandalay FM Radio, run by the Forever Group Co Ltd, will have to pay K9 million per month for using three MRTV stations.

The remaining five FM radio stations—Pinsawady FM run by Myanmar Online Co Ltd, Padamyar FM run by Thein Kyaw Kyaw Co Ltd, Cherry FM run by Myanmar Album Media Group, Shwe FM run by Golden Wave Co Ltd and Bagan FM run by Htoo Trading Co Ltd signed 32-year contracts with MRTV in July 2010 to use MRTV infrastructure, paying K 4.2 million per month to the ministry.

INSIDE

Cooperatives Ministry conducts refresher course for cooperative officials

Deputy Minister receives ESC award for Yangon

The Auspicious Occasion of Tazaungmon: the Kathina Festival

MNHRC launches investigation into death of Pa Gyi (a)

Aung Naing during skirmishes between Tatmadaw and KKO

Media Handbook on websites

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Nov—The 25th ASEAN Summit and related summits will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 and 13 November.

The Media Handbook on facts about the summits has been posted at websites www.asean2014.gov.mm and www.moi.gov.mm as of today for local and foreign media who will cover the news of the summits.
NATIONAL

Cooperatives Ministry conducts refresher course for cooperative officials

YANGON, 5 Nov.—Cooperative societies have disbursed over K200 billion to the people, said Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan at the opening ceremony of Cooperative Refresher Course at University of Cooperative (Thanylin) in Yangon on 3 November morning.

Microfinance tasks are to ease borrowing of loans at high interest rate and to stand on their own after four or five years, he said.

As the ministry has sold machinery to the people in installment, they own 793 machinery worth K252 million in their works, he said.

A total of 320 staff of Cooperative Department and Small-scale Industries Department, faculty members of University of Cooperative (Thanylin) and Cooperative College (Phaunggyi) and executives of region and state cooperative societies attended the course.—MNA

MWEA team to attend Regional Policy Dialogue

YANGON, 5 Nov.—Executives of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association Daw Hla Hla Myo and Daw Soe Amy Kyaw and member Daw Ei Phyu Phyu Tun left Yangon International Airport on Tuesday morning to attend the Regional Policy Dialogue on Empowering Women Entrepreneurs to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 November.—MWEA

Public notice

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—During the ASEAN Summit, such security measures as scrutinizing, asking and searching will be taken as a security duty for the sake of security, stability and law enforcement.

In this regard, people are requested to bring along National Scrutiny Card or the respective countries citizen cards, civil service cards or movement orders, other firm documents, and vehicles licenses with them without fail.

The people are also requested to take the security measures conducted by officials willingly and make cooperation with them.—MNA

MNHRC launches investigation into death of Pa Gyi (a) Aung Naing during skirmishes between Tatmadaw and KKO

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Nov.—A team led by Vice Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Sit Myaing arrived in Mawlamyine on 1 November. On 2 November, the team went to the jetty in Shin Saw Pu Ward 1 in Kyakmaraw together with the township administrator, the township police officer, village and ward administrators and leaders of people militia in the areas where the skirmishes broke out and made investigation and took photos of scene.

Then, the team continued to the place near the basic education middle school in Kayin Taw (Upper) Village in Kalai Kanai Village-Ttract where the skirmishes broke out, the place stationed by Nai Balai Suen of Mon Peace Defence Force (Nai Shaun) and the jetty in Niton Village in Kyakmaraw Township.

The team met with officials and local people there and took photographs of the surroundings and put on record the findings on the ground and of investigations.

In the afternoon, the team returned to Kyakmaraw and met with officers of Myanmar Police Force, village administrators of the villages and heads of 100-household groups at Kyakmaraw Township General Administration Department and made detailed investigations into the movements of Tatmadaw columns and KKO troops.

On 3 November, the team briefed the commander of the local light infantry division and officials on the tasks of the commission and interrogated the officers and patrol soldiers from the regional command and the regiment concerned and took their witness accounts at the guest house of Mon State Police Force in Mawlamyine.

On 4 November, the team interrogated some members of Mon Peace Defence Force (Nai Shaun), the leader of People Militia of Shin Saw Pu Ward, the village administrator of Kalai Kanai Village, officials of Katonsi village and those who related to Pa Gyi (a) Aung Naing at the Shweitha Hall of Kyakmaraw Township GAD.

The team, together with officials and the widows of Pa Gyi (a) Aung Naing, Daw Thanda, left Kyakmaraw at about 8 am on 5 November and arrived at the Shwewar Chaung Monastery, where the skirmishes started, at 11.20 am and investigated along the places where the skirmishes continued.

Afterwards, the team continued to the place where the body of Pa Gyi was buried and exhumed the body. The exhumation of the body completed at 1.40 pm and it was sent to Mawlamyine People’s Hospital for autopsy and arrived at the hospital at 5 pm. The autopsy will be performed at the hospital.

Myawaddy

Myanmar journalists study US mid-term elections

About 50 journalists from 48 countries were invited to observe the 2012 US elections. ICFJ selected Myanmar journalists from various media platforms — TV, radio, online and print media — after making an announcement with the help of the US Embassy in Myanmar.

ICFJ will also send a trainer to Myanmar in early 2015 to assess the results of the programme and to give additional training on election coverage.

Myat Thanda Maung

Myanmar journalist takes photo on voting of people at mid-term elections in the United States of America.

PHOTO: MYAT THANDA MAUNG

MYANMAR

Local authorities and officials check graveyard of late Ko Pa Gyi in Kyakmaraw Township.—MYAWADDY
Myanmar, Belarus to cooperate in . . .

(from page 1)
The state secretary hosted a dinner to the senior general and party.
The senior general and party held a talk with Minister of Defence of Belarus Lt-Gen Yuri Zhadobin and party the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday, focusing on cooperation in further friendly relations between two armed forces and peoples, assignment of military attaches as liaison officers for ensuring better relationship between two armed forces and ministries of defence and cooperation in combating against global terrorism.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Minister of Defence of Belarus Lt-Gen Yuri Zhadobin and party.

MYAWADY

Libel suit against EMG adjourned for fourth hearing

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Nov — The third court hearing of the libel suit against the Eleven Media Group operated by plaintiff Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information continued at the Pobbathiri Township Court on Wednesday. Township Judge U Khin Win had summoned the plaintiff and the defendants to appear at the court.

Plaintiff U Kyaw Soe and defendants Dr Than Htut Aung, Dr Thein Myint, U Wai Phyo and U Nay Tun Naing appeared at the court with the lawyer of the plaintiff Township Law Officer U Ko Ko Maung. However, one of the defendants U Myat Thit had applied for the leave of absence as he and his lawyer were not able to appear at the court and the hearing could not be started.

The court hearing was adjourned until 19 November for the fourth hearing so that the plaintiff can be questioned and all the plaintiffs may appear at the court.—MNA

Defendants Dr Than Htut Aung and party seen outside Pobbathiri Township Court.—MNA

Deputy Minister receives ESC award for Yangon

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Nov — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Thet Thet Zin attended the 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Related Meetings held from 27 to 31 October in Vientiane, Laos.

Deputy Minister Dr Thet Thet Zin attended the 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Related Meetings with ASEAN Ministers.—MNA

ASEAN countries approved the establishing of ASEAN Institute for Green Economy in Myanmar at the meeting.

The deputy minister also received the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City Award for Yangon during the meeting.

The deputy minister met minister for natural resources and environment of Laos and explained measures being taken by Myanmar for environmental conservation. The delegation arrived back in Yangon on 1 November.—MNA

Local banks . . .

(from page 1)

is positive for SMEs wanting to get loans from financial institutions and banks seeking risk sharing, but in Myanmar, where there are thought to be more than 80,000 businesses in still in a situation where it is hard to get a small business loan without putting up property or something else as collateral, the idea has yet to take off. Although no banks have shown interest in credit guarantee insurance, Myanmar Insurance is still planning to introduce two new products, health insurance and weather index insurance, during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

GNNM

Roads to be closed temporarily

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Nov — With the aim of ensuring security and traffic safety during the ASEAN Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Yazathingha Road from Thabeygon roundabout to Gangaw flower roundabout, Yazawin Yadana Road from Shwekyabin traffic light to Yazawin Yadana Junction (Tungapuri traffic light) and Shwekyabin Road from Shwekyabin traffic light to Yazawingha—ha Road junction will be closed temporarily from 8 to 15 November.

Highway buses, trucks and heavy machinery are to use Nay Pyi Taw Council Road turning from Siibhi Guest house and Shwekyabin traffic lights and from Zizawa flower roundabout to Yangon-Mandalay expressway and Pyinma-Taungnyo road.

Security Committee

Matho Robes weaving contest held at Shwedagon Pagoda

Yangon, 5 Nov — The Matho Robes weaving contest was took place at Shwedagon Pagoda, a prominent pagoda of Myanmar, on Wednesday (14th Waxing day of Tazaungmone) to offer the robes to Buddha images at the Pagoda including Padanma Myath shin Buddha image.

Female devotees from nine religious teams of the pagoda participated in the contest. The contest was annually held at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and most significant cities. At the dawn of full moon day, pagoda board of trustees will lead a procession of carrying the Matho Robes to the Buddha Images on the platform of the pagoda.—MNA

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Discussions focus on implementation of rural emerald project

Nyaunglebin, 5 Nov — A meeting on rural emerald project was held in Thantada Village of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region on 3 November.

The meeting was aimed at implementing the rural emerald project so as to develop the rural areas under the arrangement of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

Head of Township Rural Development Department U Than Lwin stressed the need to set up the emerald rural fund supervisory committee for the first phase to implement the project, adding that only when the committee has been formed, will they control the project systematically.

Head of Nyaunglebin Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Than Htut explained aims of the project and ways to implement it.

Townsenders participated in the discussions.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Expressway police station, fire station put into service in Natogyi Tsp

Naty Pyi Taw, 5 Nov — Yedwingyi expressway police station has been opened on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Natogyi Township section of Mandalay Region, said the head of Pyinsi expressway police station.

Two expressway police stations namely Pyinsi and Yedwingyi have been opened along the 14-mile Yangon-Mandalay Expressway section in Natogyi Township so as to give a helping hand to needy persons and prevent traffic accidents.

Servicemen of the police stations must discharge duties of traffic accidents and expressway security. Meanwhile, an expressway fire station has been opened near the expressway police station for preventing natural disasters and outbreak of fires at vehicles on the expressway.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Delivery kits issued to midwives in Myaunang

Myaunang, 5 Nov — The midwifery course 1/2014 conducted by Township Health Department of Myaunang Township in Ayeyawady Region concluded at the hall of Township People’s Hospital on 4 November.

Township Administrator U Min Min Tun urged trainees to effectively give health care services to the people and Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Chit explained rules and regulations of the midwives.

They presented certificates and delivery kits to the trainees.

The course was opened on 5 May, attended by 26 trainees from village-tracts.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Mandalay Region High Court donates Kathina robes to Buddhist monks

Mandalay, 5 Nov — The fourth communal Kathina robe offering ceremony of Mandalay Region High Court families was held at Maha Thundanda-ma monastery in Pyaygyadaw Township of Mandalay on Monday.

Chief Justice of the region U Soe Thein and wife and judges, the region judicial officers, judicial officers of the region high court and district and towns, staff and guests.

They offered Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Towers erected in Natogyi Township for better communications

Natogyi, 5 Nov — With the aim of ensuring smooth communications for local mobile phone users, Telenor (Myanmar) made preparations for erection of one communication tower near Kyaungthit monastery in Ward 5 of Natogyi in Mandalay Region on 3 November.

Likewise, MPT has erected one tower in Ward 5 of the town. So far, MPT has erected two towers, Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd one tower, Telenor one tower and Ooredoo one tower in urban of Natogyi.

Likewise, MPT has put up three towers, Ooredoo four towers, Telenor five towers and MEHL two towers in rural area of the township.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)
Foreigners allowed to visit Mogok under permissions of ministries concerned

Mogok, 5 Nov — As Mogok region in Mandalay Region is a restricted area for foreigners, they will be allowed to visit there under permissions of the relevant ministries and local authorities.

The departments in cooperation with foreign experts make field trips to Mogok for undertaking regional development tasks. The departments concerned must hold coordination with Region Immigration and National Registration Department for ensuring smooth process of the visits of foreigners to do respective departmental tasks in Mogok region. As such, the foreigners can easily pass the checkpoints in the region.

“Mogok region has been restricted in successive governments. At present, the government has eased many restrictions in various parts of the country, except Mogok. So, we have sent information letters to departments concerned and hotels for smooth process of foreigners’ visits organized by departments in Mogok region,” said director of Mandalay Region INRD.

The region INRD sent information letters to the departments concerned quoting the notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs that announced restricted areas for foreigners on lists of local tourist destinations.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Monsoon paddy harvested in Loikaw, Dimawhso Tps

Loikaw, 5 Nov — The government is striving for transform of manual to mechanized farming system across the nation. Monsoon paddy plantations are ripening in the second week of October in Kayah State.

With a view to minimizing loss and waste and possessing quality paddy, the local farmers use combine harvesters in harvest ing their farms. In Loikaw and Dimawhso townships of the state, local farmers manage harvesting of their paddy plantations with the use of 12 combine harvesters.—Township IPRD

Health staff give medical care to people at Kathina robe offering ceremony

Tatkon, 5 Nov — Health staff Daw Than Thin Hlaing and party assigned at the clinic at the 48th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony in Tatkon are giving health care services to the local people and checking inappropriate foods at the food shops with the aim of preventing outbreak of any diseases.

Under the instructions of the head of Township Health Department, the health personnel gave talks on disadvantages of inappropriate foods for the people to the vendors. The health staff and head of Township Traditional Medicine Department Daw Phyo Nanda and party gave health care services to 28 people who enjoyed the Kathina robe offering ceremony.—Tin Soe Lwin
Bangkok, 5 Nov — Thais releasing paper lanterns skyward to usher in good luck have been warned by police: anyone found releasing them near an airport could face the death penalty.

This week’s annual Loy Krathong festival — which is sometimes translated as “to float a basket” — is seen as a time to literally float a basket of water. Many Thais believe it is a time to literally “float away” bad luck.

Families gather near lakes, rivers and canals around the country to float rafts decorated with candles, incense and flowers. Celebrated at the end of the so-called “rainy season”, it also marks the end of the main rice harvest season.

Some festival-goers also believe that flying floating lanterns during the festival will help to get rid of bad luck. But past incidents involving floating lanterns impacting air travel and causing delays have resulted in police threatening to invoke the ultimate penalty.

“Releasing paper lanterns near airports can be very dangerous to the safety of aircraft and it is a criminal offence,” Police Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshhide Suga said at a press conference.

The prime minister is also scheduled to attend events involving the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Myanmar’s capital of Nay Pyi Taw and those of the Group of 20 major economies in Brisbane, Australia.

Asked about the prospect of a summit between Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the APEC conference, Suga said, “Nothing has been decided yet.”

Abe and Xi have held no summit talks — a rare situation for the two Asian neighbours — as Japan and China remain at odds over territorial and historical issues.—Kyodo News

Japan’s Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko (R) send off former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 5 Nov, 2014, after having lunch together. Singh received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Pau-lownia Flowers from Emperor Akihito.

**Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**

**Police officers patrol on boats on 4 Nov, 2014, in an area near the venue for an upcoming APEC summit in Beijing. —Kyodo News**

Beijing on high alert during APEC meetings

**Tokyo, 5 Nov —** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit China, Myanmar and Australia between Sunday and 17 November to attend a series of international meetings, the government said on Wednesday.

At a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing, Abe plans to explain Japan’s efforts to contribute to sustainable growth in the region and strengthen economic cooperation, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference.

The prime minister is also scheduled to attend events involving the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Myanmar’s capital of Nay Pyi Taw and those of the Group of 20 major economies in Brisbane, Australia.

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Police officers patrol on boats on 4 Nov, 2014, in an area near the venue for an upcoming APEC summit in Beijing. —Kyodo News

The series of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meetings starting on 5 November will culminate in a two-day summit from 10 November. According to a Chinese newspaper, 1 million volunteers have been engaged for 24-hour patrols of the city. All construction work in central Beijing ceased on 3 November as part of efforts to prevent air pollution. In Hebei Province adjacent to the capital, more than 800 construction projects will be halted during the period of the APEC meetings.—Kyodo News

Cambodia kicks off boat race suspended since deadly stampede in 2010

Phnom Penh, 5 Nov — Cambodia kicked off its annual boat race in front of the Royal Palace on Wednesday, after it was suspended for three consecutive years following a deadly stampede in 2010.

A total of 248 boats with 17,062 oarsmen are joining this year’s race on the waterfront where the Tonle Sap and Mekong rivers intersect, less than in 2010 when there were 429 boats. Kirt Chantharith, spokesman of Cambodian National Police said more than 10,000 security personnel, including police and military police, will be deployed during the three-day water festival.

Authorities anticipate that more than 2 million people, mostly from rural areas, will flock to Phnom Penh to enjoy the celebrations, despite some fears of a repeat of what happened in 2010. On 22 Nov, 2010, on the last day of festival, 355 people were trampled to death and nearly 395 others injured in a bridge stampede. Prime Minister Hun Sen then called it Cambodia’s biggest tragedy in more than three decades since the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime, referring to the mass killings between 1975 and 1979.—Kyodo News

Vietnamese, Slovak FMs discuss bilateral ties

HANOI, 5 Nov — Vietnem and Slovakia agreed to maintain high-level visits and continue close coordination in regional and international forums, said Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on Tuesday. Minh made the remarks at a press briefing in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Tuesday after holding talks with Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak.

Minh said the slow recovery of global economy, Vietnam-Slovakia economic and trade relations have witnessed positive developments, said Minh.

Affirming that Vietnam welcomes and creates favourable conditions for Slovak enterprises to carry out business activities in Vietnam, Minh urges Slovak companies to boost investment in areas that his country has demands such as infrastructure, renewable energy, environmental technologies and equipment, food processing, banking and health care among others. For his part, Lajcak said Slovakia is currently the second largest trade partner of Vietnam in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) as well as an important investor of the country.

On the occasion, Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Ministry of Environment of Slovakia signed a memorandum of understanding on environmental protection and water resources management.

On the same day, the Slovak minister met with Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang and attended the Vietnam-Slovakia business forum, said a press release by Vietnam’s foreign ministry.—Xinhua

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Preparations for hosting 25th ASEAN Summit and related summits in Nay Pyi Taw

Preparations have been made to host 12th ASEAN-India Summit on 12 November at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA

Modern devices installed at the gate to MICC to check vehicles for security measures of ASEAN Summit. MNA

Preparations have been completed for Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) at MICC in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA

Security personnel check personal equipment of staff and guests at X-ray machine in taking security measures for ASEAN Summit and related meetings at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA

Traffic police rehearse for piloting motorcade of ASEAN delegates to the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA
The Hluttaw, CSOs and the media

By Myint Win Thein

Hluttaw representatives are required to communicate effectively among themselves as well as with other major players in the country as information sharing among these players can enhance the performance of parliamentary functions. Therefore, strong mechanisms are needed for communication not only among representatives themselves but also with other players including civil society organizations and the media.

Internal communication among the representatives will strengthen the functions of the Hluttaw such as law making, oversight and representation while the external communication with other players served for the representative function of the Hluttaw.

The relations between the Hluttaw and the public is essential as the representatives are elected by the public. For the relations between the Hluttaw and the public, there are two sectors that can contribute to the functions of the Hluttaw, the civil society organizations and the media. The Hluttaw has a responsibility to incorporate the voices of the public into the decision making process. In this regard, CSOs can help the Hluttaw by providing the representatives with facts, documents and opinions of the public.

The media can serve as an effective channel for the relations between the Hluttaw and the public. The media can disseminate knowledge about the Hluttaw among the public and how it influences their lives. Therefore, it is important to establish good relations between the Hluttaw and CSOs and the media.

Write for us

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Perspectives

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The Auspicious Occasion of Tazaungmon: the Kathina Festival

Tun Myint Aung

Tazaungmon, corresponding to November, is the 8th month of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is the time to give a benefit service to the merciful Buddha. The teachings of Buddhism have been spread throughout the world through the merry-making songs and music accompanied with the Myanmar orchestra consisting of drums, gongs, oboe, clappers, etc are echoing in the sky throughout the country; all the people are celebrating the Kathina Festivals. The nearer the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon is coming, the louder the echo bee-shaped melodies become. It is during only 29 days between the first waning day of Thadingyut and the full moon-day of Tazaungmon that the Kathina festivals are held in accordance with the set period and strict rules governed by the Vinaya of the Buddha. All the people without any distinction of age, sex, wealth, status, etc have opportunities to take part in the celebration process of the festival by their own bits. The essence of the Kathina festival is the offering of new sets of robes to the monks, for most of their wearing may be drenched and worn out during the monsoon as they have to go on daily rounds every morning, rainy or sunny, to receive alms from the devout lay persons and give blessings for their donation. In fact, it is a good idea that the donors anonymously offer the Kathina robes to all monks as Sangi-kka or Sangha in the Buddhist Order, not to individual monk personally, in consonance with the Buddhist canonical law.

The pious groups are formed apropos, with their free consent, and set their separate official duties according to their own desire to collect some contributions from their acquaintance and kindred in various social communities. Such groups are mushroom-everywhere; almost every junction, ward, market, school, office and so on. It is really a daunting task to collect charity money or other offerings or the requisites for the monks. They have to assist and urge people to contribute pocket money as much as they can, by using loud-speakers or sound-boxes. The assistants may announce the names of the donors and the amount of their contribution in detail. It is funny that a boy can contribute some pocket money to the charity-box by putting in reckless. As a result, the names of the donors as spouses by using the names of girls he likes. If the girls know the truth about the boy and reprove him for the matter, he can say that sometimes names are common and may be identical. Sometimes, the assistants may announce many times the name of the donor, but the donor has no wish to give. Sometimes, var- ious announcements and cacophonous blaring music amplified through loudspeakers and modern hi-tech sound-boxes may be unbearable to ear-rending deci-bels. It is amusing to listen to some traditional songs rhyming choruses which can reflect the social life of the Myanmar. However, popular songs concerning the Kathina festivals are not very many. Instead, the hit nat-songs are favourable to the youths. The most common nat-song can be ‘Ko Gyi Kyaw’, which can always be heard in the streets and have a huge potency to make people dance at once to the song and music at any time. However, it has nothing at all to do with the Kathina Festival.

In addition, various forms of dance can be seen at every Kathina, as a rehearsal for going round. The special one can be the performance of pairing U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe. Each may have been wid-owed at an early age. The former is an old gangling wearing a suit of checked longyi and black Myanmar jacket as well as a nice Myanmar turban in a gentle manner. The latter is short and worm an dressed in out-dated spruce fashion. Their courtship manner to the rhythmic beat of Myanmar music can be so funny that the audience watching them can’t help smiling or laughing nonstop all the way. Sometimes, huge toys caricatured in the figure of a hermit or a lay attendant to a monastery can be found in some groups collecting charity offerings. They can be used for the purpose of drawing the attention of the public, especially of the children who may insist upon watching the toys moving to the lively music. Sometimes, the col- umn of the contribution and the names of the donors are hung full of different notes of Myanmar currency money and the requisites for the monks and other offerings needed for the monastery, accompanied by orchestral bands of Myanmar music and dance until they get to the monastery where all the offerings are to be left of. Of course, a small amount of pocket money or a piece of offerings donated by individual person can make a series of trees of plenty. The Kathina robe offer- ing ceremony cannot be done by individual but only the collective effort of the public. Everyone has no set price to give, but can take part in it and make contributions of his or her own as he or she desires, taking social responsibility. This type of donation shows a sign of unity of the social communi- ties consisting of the Myanmar people.

In fact, the Kathina festival is based on religious rites but largely blended with social customs and mar- rying-spirit of the people. Actually, it can be easily known to all that Myanmar is a heaven of fun-seekers because they can have something enjoyable in various ways in every part of the country in any circumstance all the year round, the twelve months of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is taken for granted that the genuine spirit embodied in such sorts of beautiful tradition and culture will exist in the blood of the Myanmar people, marking as public memory or an aspect of making our history in perpetuity.

Never-never Land or...

(from page 8)

We all do not want to see the world being destroyed. If there are conflicts, ten- sions, disputes, quarrel- ling, fighting and destroy- ing each other, the miserable, desperate and weary conditions will pre- vail in the world. These conditions are caused by the lack of political justice among the human so- cieties. People must have strong will to overcome burners and obstacles to attain better human societ- ies. Blessings and pros- perities lie in the hearts of human beings. If they are aggressive and crooked, they will certainly en- counter man-made disas- ters. Man has imagined do- ing things for better society and more pleasant conditions. Consequently, human societies are responsible for main- taining sustainable peace and sound justice. Other- wise, we humans will see the sad and terrible events in the world. Instead of saying a single word ‘im- possible’, we humans ought to find the possible ways to build the society with concerted efforts. We must transform the virtu- ally perfect human society into a real perfect human societ- y on earth. It is a sort of transformation from ‘dream’ to ‘reality’. We human beings must be obligated to nurture or cultivate the talent of subsequent generation to be able to practically create a real utopian world. The implementation of an idealistic scheme for politi- cal or social perfection is undoubtedly led by the passion or burning- desire of the certain people or community. Thus, perfect government, perfect laws and perfect social condi- tions can be visualized or materialized. Why not the best? We human beings have already landed on the moon and Information Technology has made nu- merous achievements for mankind. Since human be- ings have reached highly- civilized stage, there must be possible ways and means to attain a utopian world. We must get rid of despondent-nature or de- spondent- mindset, if we really wish to gain the standard of perfection for human societies in the world. Despondency hinders any attempts and ef- forts in human life. Some despondent people might say that a utopian world is impossible. That saying seems to be agreeable to some degree.

However, we must make an attempt to reach human- paradise flawless- ly. On the other hand, we humans can enjoy our life peacefully and happily. Basically, we humans must hold our burning- de- sire for creating a utopian world. In world history, human dignity and achievements in sciences, technology, space-explo- ration, medicine, politics, industries are recorded or archived. As we see and witness, many humanists, philosophers, philan- thropists, well-wishers have been trying to create or work for the benefits of humanity worldwide regard- less of race and faiths.

Actually, they are not doing for their fame, glory and power, but doing for the great achievement for all mankind. We have to assist them in doing meri- tious tasks, willingly and sup- portively. As we all know that “Man is a so- cial animal”, so the tasks of social welfare are in- born-duties of humans. Absolutely, it is an obliga- tion for all mankind to up- grade and safeguard hu- man societies. Man should not hesi- tate to save and help hu- man lives and human cri- ses wherever he is. To be able to tackle challenges and struggle, we humans must have solidarity so that we could gain free- dom and prosperous so- ciety. A utopian world is possible only when there are ideal persons in the governments, in the politi- cal parties, in the civil soci- eties and in the legal professions. Similarly, people’s morale and mo- rality must be perfect. Good governance, clean government and very moral citizens are essential to build a utopian nation in- deed.

We all are human be- ings so we want to live in humane society with hu- man rights, freedom, com- fort, equity, security and humanity. We look for a better world like a utopia. It is time to idealize our societies with much effort. Also, we must bear in mind that misappropria- tion, corruption and brib- ery disrupt our noble goal.

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.I. degrees holder. He has English experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers’ college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.
Republicans seize control of Senate in US midterm elections

WASHINGTON, 5 Nov — Republicans rode a wave of voter discontent to sweeping midterm election wins on Tuesday, seizing control of the US Senate in a punishing blow to President Barack Obama that will limit his political influence and curb his legislative agenda in his last two years in office.

Democrats won in places where Democrats were favored, like a Senate race in North Carolina, pulled out victories where the going was tough, like a Senate battle in Kansas, and swept a number of governors’ races in states where Democrats were favored, like Obama’s home state of Illinois.

They also strengthened their grip on the House of Representatives and when the new Congress takes power in January, will be in charge of both chambers of Congress for the first time since elections in 2006. Obama, first elected in 2008 and again in 2012, called Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress to the White House on Friday to take stock of the new political landscape.

He watched election returns from the White House, and saw little to warm his spirits.

Republican Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who won a tough re-election battle against Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, will replace Democrat Harry Reid as Senate majority leader.

“The election results,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a meeting of the Interpol General Assembly, held to mark the 100th anniversary of the organization.

He stressed the significance of cooperation between Interpol, supporting this by listing several successfully solved tough cases in Serbia.

“The job of the Serbian police is to work better with other police forces in the region, but also at Interpol level, and that is what the Serbian police will do, because crime knows no borders,” Stefanovic noted, adding that criminals were joining together and that strict cooperation for the people was required.

Serbia’s police chief Milorad Veljovic and head of the department for international police cooperation Milan Dimitrijevic accompanied Stefancic at the meeting.

Japan-US ties remain strong regardless of election results

“Tonight was a terrific night for Republicans. It was a powerful repudiation of the Obama agenda, and the Obama economy, which isn’t working,” Republican Senator Ted Cruz, a conservative firebrand, told CNN.

“The American people, they’re frustrated with what’s happening in Washington, but now the responsibility falls on us to lead,” he said.

Partisan battles could erupt over immigration reform, with Obama poised to issue executive actions by year’s end to defer deportations of some undocumented immigrants, and over energy policy, as Republicans press the president to approve the Keystone XL pipeline (TRP, TO) carrying oil from Canada.

The Republican victory had been widely predicted ahead of Tuesday’s voting to elect 36 senators, 36 state governors and all 435 members of the House of Representatives.

CIS security, intelligence chiefs set for talks on terrorism threat from Afghanistan

MOSCOW, 5 Nov — Heads of security and intelligence services from the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will gather for a session on Wednesday in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, to gather for a session on Wednesday in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, to discuss global anti-terrorism cooperation.

“The election results will not have a (negative) effect on Japan-US relations,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a morning press conference on Wednesday.

“The cornerstone of our diplomacy is the Japan-US alliance,” Suga said.

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“The session will focus on the issues of cooperation development between security and intelligence services of the CIS member states in the fight against the threat of terrorism posed by international terrorist organizations, which are active on the territory of Afghanistan,” the FSB press service said.

The session will in particular focus “on joint measures against the possible expansion of terrorism-related activities on the territory of the CIS member states after the complete withdrawal (from Afghanistan) of troops from the International Security Assistance Force in 2014.”

The US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have been fighting Taleban militants in the Central Asian state since 2001 and was scheduled to pull out from Afghanistan by the end of this year, passing the responsibility for the security provision in the country to local Afghan military and police forces.

Upon an initiative from Russia’s FSB, participants in the session will also discuss measures of providing security at transportation infrastructure facilities and their protection from possible terrorist attacks.

Afghanistan remains the world’s main heroin producer and the drugs produced in the Central Asian country are considered to be the major source for financing international terrorist organizations.

Russia is one of the largest destinations for drugs from Afghanistan. The drugs from Afghanistan are smuggled to Russia and Europe via neighboring Tajikistan, which also borders Kyrgyzstan.

Last year, Russia seized 2.6 metric tons of Afghan heroin, which was a 20% increase on the previous year.

Speaking earlier in the day, Viktor Ivanov, the chief of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service, said that the scale of poppy plantations in Afghanistan reached its historic maximum in 2013 and, according to UN estimations, spanned a record of 209,000 hectares.

Russia

Serbia among Interpol’s top 10 partners

Belgrade, 5 Nov — Serbia’s Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic has said at a meeting of the Interpol General Assembly in Monaco that Interpol data indicates that Serbia is among that organization’s 10 most desirable partners, the Interior Ministry has stated.

Partner countries have said the same thing, each of the 190 countries, which is an indication of how serious Serbia is and of the efforts the Serbian police makes in international relations, Stefanovic said on Monday, during the first day of the 83rd session of the Interpol General Assembly, held to mark the 100th anniversary of the organization.

He stressed the significance of cooperation between Interpol, supporting this by listing several successfully solved tough cases in Serbia.

“The job of the Serbian police is to work better with other police forces in the region, but also at Interpol level, and that is what the Serbian police will do, because crime knows no borders,” Stefanovic noted, adding that criminals were joining together and that strict cooperation for the people was required.

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Tanjug

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Taleban group threatens to attack India following border blast

Islamabad, 5 Nov — A Pakistani Taleban group behind this week’s devastating suicide bombing on the Pakistani-Indian border has said the attack was as much aimed at India as Pakistan, suggesting that Indian targets might be next.

At least 57 Pakistanis were killed during a popular flag-lowering ceremony on Sunday when a bomber tried to get as close as possible to the border in a possible attempt to cause casualties on the Indian side as well.

In a tweet issued after the attack, the splinter group, Tehreek-e-Taleban Pakistan Jamaat Ahzab (TTP-JA), said it was determined to attack both sides.

“This attack is an open message to both governments across the border,” TTP-JA spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said in an Urdu-language message.

“If we can attack this side, the other side could also be attacked.”

He also tweeted in English: “You (Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi) are the killer of hundreds of Muslims. We will take the revenge of innocent people of Kashmir and Gorgan” (sic).

Kashmir is a disputed Himalayan territory over which India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars. Gujarat — misspelt in the tweet — is a western Indian state where more than 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, were killed in inter-religious rioting in 2002, when Modi was its chief minister.

The authenticity of the tweets could not be immediately verified and then did not show on Ehsan’s Twitter page as of Wednesday morning.

India has long accused Pakistani militants of trying to attack its targets, particularly after the 2008 Mumbai attacks in which 166 people were killed when Pakistani gunmen went on a three-day rampage in India’s financial capital.

India’s navy withdrew two warships from the eastern port of Kolkata after intelligence agencies warned of an attack on the port and the city. — Reuters

New Zealand vows to stop citizens joining Islamic State

Wellington, 5 Nov — New Zealand will beef up steps to monitor and prevent its citizens from joining Islamic State (IS) fighting in Iraq and Syria, but has ruled out any military involvement in the conflict, Prime Minister John Key said on Wednesday.

Key said the country had to acknowledge that the risks it faced from the rise of IS have increased, with New Zealand citizens involved directly in the fighting, raising funds, or promoting the militants.

Key said the government would extend powers to suspend or cancel passports, while the security service would be given added funding and powers of surveillance of suspected IS supporters.

He said between 30 and 40 New Zealanders were “of concern in a foreign fighter context” and were on a watch list compiled by government agencies.

“These are people in, or from New Zealand who are in various ways participating in extremist behaviour,” Key said in a speech, adding that as many as another 40 people would be investigated further.

He said there were individuals who might “turn their minds to terrorist acts at home”.

New Zealand would increase its humanitarian aid to those displaced by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. However, he said the country would not be involved in fighting in the region.

“I’m ruling out sending SAS (Special Air Squadron) or any troops into combat roles in Iraq, though our military can and may well help with building capacity and capability of Iraqi forces,” Key said.

Military planners would be sent to the Middle East to gather information and assess training options.

New Zealand was part of the NATO-led coalition in Afghanistan, sending special forces and a reconstruction team, but refused to be directly involved in combat in the US-led war in Iraq, instead sending engineers to help with reconstruction.

The new group’s first major attack was a botched attempt in September to hijack a Pakistani warship and attack a US navy vessel at a base near the port city of Karachi. On Tuesday, India’s navy withdrew two warships from the eastern port of Kolkata after intelligence agencies warned of an attack on the port and the city. — Reuters

Britain, France, US ask UN to blacklist Libya’s Ansar al-Sharia

United Nations, 5 Nov — Britain, the United States and France have proposed that Islamist extremist group Ansar al-Sharia in Libya be blacklisted by the United Nations al-Qaeda sanctions regime, diplomats said on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“One of the issues is sanctions,” Quinlan said after a council discussion on Libya and other issues.

He added that the idea was to possibly extend the scope of already existing measures “to take into account people who might want to spoil the political transition.”

Ansar al-Sharia is blamed by Washington for a 2012 attack on the US consulate in the city of Benghazi that killed the American ambassador.

Western powers worry that Libya is heading toward civil war as authorities are too weak to control former rebels who helped oust Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 but now defy state authority to grab power and a share of oil revenues.

Libya is divided between rival tribes and political factions with two governments vying for legitimacy since an armed group from the western city of Misrata seized Tripoli in August, forcing the internationally recognized Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni to move east.

The UN Security Council has had an arms embargo and other sanctions measures in place since 2011, when Gaddafi was toppled and killed during a UN-backed NATO intervention in the same year. — Reuters

Demonstrators celebrate after burning a car they say was full of ammunition as they stormed the headquarters of the Islamist Ansar al-Sharia militia group in Benghazi on 21 Sept, 2012. — Reuters

Indian paramilitary troopers stand guard during curfew like restrictions in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, on 4 Nov, 2014. Authorities imposed curfew-like restrictions in most parts of Srinagar to prevent protest and clashes after two youth were killed and two others wounded on Monday evening after Indian army troopers fired on a car at Chattergam in Budgam district, about 14 km south of Srinagar, officials said. — Xinhua

New Zealand’s National Party leader John Key and Prime Minister-elect celebrates a landslide victory at the National election party during New Zealand’s general election in Auckland, on 20 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

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Australian warplanes strike 14 IS targets

CANBERRA, 5 Nov — The Australian Defence Force confirmed on Wednesday that its fighter jets have hit 14 facilities of the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq since their deployment last month, destroying 11 targets. The targets are believed to include IS logistic bases and equipment storage facilities. RAAF strikes against IS militants were sanctioned in early October, with the chief of joint operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston, updating figures on Australia’s involvement. Australia has six Super Hornets based in the United Arab Emirates, carrying out missions throughout Iraq, in addition to 200 Special Forces members and 400 air force personnel.

On 8 October, the F/A-18P Super Hornets launched their first combat mission in northern Iraq, launched their first combat. Forces members and 400 Arab Emirates, carrying out Australia has six Super Hornets for the pilots. Susan Ouzts, vice-president of international programmes at Lockheed Martin, confirmed that the US has sanctioned IS logistic facilities, believed to include IS logistic facilities, assessed as damage.

Loi, (Israel), 5 Nov — Israel and the United States used the inauguration of a joint warplane project on Tuesday to stress it was business as usual in an alliance hit by acrimony over Israeli settlement building and strategy against Iran. At a ceremony at the Israeli manufacturer of wings for Lockheed Martin Corp’s F-35 jet fighter, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon described his country’s participation in the project as evidence that bilateral ties were bulletproof.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Barack Obama have often been at odds over how to respond to Palestinian statehood demands or balance diplomacy and the threat of force in curbing Iran’s disputed nuclear programme. Those tensions have boiled over at times, most recently with vigorous US condemnation of a surge in Israeli settlement building in occupied East Jerusalem and, last week, an anonymous Obama aide’s report of an intelligence plan for Palestinian peace talks has raised hackles in Washington. In a sign of the US displeasure, Israeli media reported that when Yaalon visited the United States last month, he was denied meetings with Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry and national security adviser Susan Rice.

Israel is scheduled to make more than 800 sets of F-35s wings, while another Israeli company, Elbit Systems Ltd, will produce helmets for the pilots. Susan Ouzts, vice-president of international programmes at Lockheed Martin, confirmed that the US has sanctioned IS logistic facilities, assessed as damage.

Israel, US say it’s business as usual as warplane plant unveiled

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Senior al-Qaeda operative killed in US strike in Yemen

SANAA, 5 Nov — A senior al-Qaeda official wanted by the United States and a local leader of the militant group’s affiliate, Ansar al-Sharia, were killed in a drone strike in central Yemen overnight, tribal sources said on Wednesday.

Nabil al-Dahab, leader of Ansar al-Sharia in Yemen’s al-Bayda province, was killed along with four other al-Qaeda members, including Shawki al-Badani, the sources said. Badani is a leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula who is wanted by the United States.

The US State Department has designated Badani as a “global terrorist”, saying he was linked to at least two plots against the US embassy in Sanaa and a 2012 suicide bombing in the Yemeni capital that killed more than 100 soldiers.

A 17 June, 2014, post on the State Department website says the Yemeni government had offered a $100,000 reward for information about Badani. It also reports Yemeni authorities describing him as one of “the most dangerous terrorists affiliated with al-Qaeda”.

The United States acknowledges using drones in Yemen but does not comment publicly on the practice. Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda and its affiliates in Yemen are among the most active wings of the network founded by Osama bin Laden.

US drone strikes killed at least 10 suspected al-Qaeda militants on Tuesday in central Yemen, where fighting between members of Ansar al-Sharia and rebel Shi’ite Muslim Houthi fighters also killed 10 people, tribesmen said.

Fighting has flared in different parts of Yemen since the Houthis rose to dominance in recent months, threatening the fragile stability of a country that borders Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest oil exporter.

Houthi forces took over Sanaa in September and fanned out into central and western Yemen. That antagonised Sunni tribesmen and al-Qaeda militants, who regard the Houthis as heretics.

Blast wounds five Afghan children

TAULAN, (Afghanistan), 5 Nov — Five Afghan children sustained injuries as a bomb went off in Rustaq district of the northern Takhar Province on Wednesday, police said.

“A number of children were busy on a ground in Rustaq district this morning when an explosive device went off injuring five innocent children,” provincial police spokesman, Abdul Khalil Asir told Xinhua.

He also said that the device might have been left from the past wars.

Millions of mines and unexploded ordinances had been left from the past three decades of war and conflicts which still claim the lives of people including children.

The relatively peaceful Takhar Province with TaLuqan as its capital 245 km north of Kabul had been the scene of bloody conflicts between warring sides some 15 years ago.—Xinhua

Damages caused by the battle between Iraqi and Kurdish security forces and so-called Islamic State militants is seen on the Mosul Dam on the Tigris River, about 70 km north of the city of Mosul, northern Iraq on 3 Nov, 2014. Iraqi and Kurdish security forces in August jointly took control of Mosul Dam, Iraq’s largest dam, in the country’s northern province of Nineveh after battles with so-called Islamic State militants who have been trying to regain the control of this important strategic location.—Xinhua

Israel Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon

And there is no dispute on the gratitude that the people of Israel owe the United States for supporting our strength and security,” said Yaalon, whose scorn for Palestinian peace talks has raised hackles in Washington.

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Victims of an aerial bombardment that hit a residential neighborhood, on Wednesday.

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Reuters
Egypt bus accident kills 16

Cairo, 5 Nov — A total of 16 people were killed and 18 others injured on Wednesday in a bus accident in Egypt’s Beheira province, the state-run media MENA reported.

The accident took place when a bus collided with a truck and a private vehicle while running on Cairo-Al-Minufiya road, causing a big fire. The ambulances rushed to the scene and firefighters put out the fire.

On Sunday, a total of 10 university students were killed and four others injured in a car accident in Upper Egypt’s Sohag governorate.

Since mid-August, over 110 Egyptians were killed and more than 120 others injured in road accidents across the country.

Lack of highway monitoring systems, poor road maintenance and negligence of traffic rules are behind the high rate of traffic accidents in the most populous Arab country — Xinhua

Cuba sentences seven to jail for selling college entrance exam papers

HAVANA, 5 Nov — A Cuban court sentenced six teachers and an employee of the Higher Education Ministry to prison terms ranging from 18 months to eight years for stealing and selling university entrance exam papers, state daily Granma reported on Tuesday.

The case, originally reported in early June, forced education authorities to cancel the results of a 6 May entrance exam in mathematics for students in Havana province and hold new exams, and to modify Spanish and History tests.

The cheating scandal cost the Ministry of Higher Education more than 28,000 convertible Cuban pesos (CUCs) and the University of Havana more than 1,000 CUCs, Granma said.

During the process of printing and packaging the exams, the investigation showed, an employee of the printing house run by the ministry stole copies of the tests and sold them to the teachers for 180 CUCs each. The teachers, in turn, charged students between 40 and 50 CUCs for access to the exams.

The court handed down the stiffest eight-year sentence to the employee of the printing house. Two university teachers were sentenced to four years in jail, and the rest, including one professor who used the information to secure an advantage for his own children, to shorter jail terms.

The court also ruled that the defendants had to compensate the ministry and the University of Havana for the incurred costs of around 30,000 CUCs, and barred them from teaching. The defendants’ actions “undermined the prestige of our educational system,” Granma said.

Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERIENCE: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs MST today, a low pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th November, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagra Region, Kachin and Chin States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagra, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMAR RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Japanese Yen (JPY):

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<th>Tender No</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>1/MR/Rail Bus (M)</td>
<td>In-Service Rail Buses(RBE) with Roof Mounted Air Condition</td>
<td>20 Nos</td>
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<td>Closing Date &amp; Time</td>
<td>26.12.2014 (Friday) (12:30) Hour.</td>
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2. Tender documents are available at our office starting form 10.11.2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Thibulys Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon, Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994.

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Richard Gere ends business partnership with estranged wife?

**Hollywood superstar Richard Gere**

**LOS ANGELES, 5 NOV** — Hollywood superstar Richard Gere and his estranged wife Carey Lowell are reportedly separating in term of business too. The pair who co-own their the Bedford Post, are no longer working together.

Gere, 65, and Lowell, alongside developer Russell Hernandez, opened the inn, restaurant and yoga studio in 2009. Chef Michael White, who has been managing the food service since March, apparently only mentioned Gere’s name as the owner of the Bedford Post when announcing the opening of Italian eatery Campagna earlier this week.

Gere’s camp has not responded to request for comment. The ‘Time Out of Mind’ star and Lowell, who have been married for 11 years and share a son named Homer, divorced in late October.

Anne Hathaway believes aliens exist

**LONDON, 5 NOV** — Oscar-winning actress Anne Hathaway has revealed that she starred in new science fiction film ‘Interstellar’ because she loves astronomy.

The ‘The Devil Wears Prada’ star said she believes there are other life forms in the universe, but is unsure of what they ‘look like, or what set of values they might imagine what these other life forms might look like, or what set of values they might hold or knowledge they might understand,’ she said. The 31-year-old actress features in new science fiction film as one of four astronauts, and revealed that while she dreamed of exploring the solar system as a youngster.

“I did want very much to go into space when I was little, but I was very bad at both maths and science when I was at school so I could never even dream about making that journey. “Then, when I was older, I started to watch a lot of nature documentaries, which later led to documentaries about science, about physics, about the universe,” she said.—PTI

Supreme Court says Bollywood must allow female make-up artists — paper

India’s $2-billion film industry is the largest in world by ticket sales. It produces between 300 to 325 movies a year and, although there are no official figures, trade analysts say the Hindi-language industry alone employs more than 250,000 people, most of them contract workers.

While women work in most areas including as technicians and hairdressers, the industry does not allow women to work as make-up artists. Trade unions say this is to ensure men are not deprived of work. But in a court case brought by a group of female make-up artists against the Cine Costume Make-up Artists and Hair Dressers Association (CCMAA), a two-judge bench said on Monday it would not permit this type of discrimination, the newspaper reported.

“Why should only a male artist be allowed to put make-up? How can it be said that only men can be make-up artists and women can be hairdressers? We don’t see a reason to prohibit a woman from becoming a make-up artist if she is qualified,” the Indian Express quoted Justices Dipak Misra and UU Lalit as saying.

“You better delete this clause on your own. Remove this immediately. We are in 2014, not in 1935. Such things cannot continue even for a day,” they told the CCMAA. The Indian Express said the petition was brought by make-up artist Charu Khurana and other qualified female artists whose applications for make-up artist identification cards were rejected by the CCMAA because they are women.

Beyonce highest paid woman in music in 2014 with $115 million

**NEW YORK, 5 NOV** — Beyonce is the highest paid woman in music in 2014, with estimated earnings of $115 million (71.87 million pounds), more than double what she pulled in last year, Forbes magazine said on Tuesday.

The huge sum, most of which was from her world tour, propelled Beyonce, 33, from fourth place last year to No 2. Pop singer Pink, 35, climbed up from No 8 in 2013 to third with $52 million. “Beyonce played 95 shows during our scoring period, bringing in an average of $2.4 million per city,” said Forbes, citing data from the Pollstar trade magazine. The R&B singer’s self-titled album released last December and endorsement deals pushed her earnings up further assuring her the top spot. Barbados-born Rihanna, 26, with $48 million and Katy Perry, 30, who earned an estimated $40 million, rounded out the top five on the annual list.

Madonna, 56, ranked No 1 last year, failed to make the top 10 in 2014. Lady Gaga, 28, slumped from No 2 in 2013 to ninth place this year with estimated earnings of $33 million. Forbes compiled the list after estimating pre-tax income calculated for the 12 months from June 2013 to 2014 based on record sales, concert tickets, touring information merchandise sales and interviews with concert promoters, lawyers and managers. It also looked at data from the Pollstar, the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) and tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.—Reuters

I am bipolar: Amanda Bynes

**LONDON, 5 NOV** — Actress Amanda Bynes says she has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Bynes, 28, was released from a psychiatric hospital last week after being committed involuntarily for 17 days, reported Contactmusic.

The revelation comes after 16 months of erratic behaviour, several stays in hospital, and even a denial from her own mother that the actress was suffering any kind of mental illness. “I was diagnosed bi-polar and manic depressive (sic) so I’m on medication and I’m seeing my psychologist and psychiatrist (sic) weekly so I’m fine,” Bynes posted on Twitter.

The star’s troubles began last year, when she was arrested in New York on a drugs charge and was subsequently placed on a psychiatric hold in July same year after starting a fire on the driveway of a neighbour’s home in California.

She was later moved to a rehab unit until her release in December, and in April this year her mother issued a statement insisting, “Amanda has no mental illness whatsoever” and blaming the actress’ problems on smoking marijuana.

Bynes returned to a psychiatric hospital last month after accusing her parents of abusing her, and she was freed last week after officially filed she was fit for release providing her parents maintain their legal conservatorship over her finances.—PTI

*>Forbes, the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) and tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.*
US soccer star Hope Solo’s domestic violence trial delayed

PARIS 2024 bid could be boosted by public funding

Paris 2024 bid could be boosted by public funding

KIRKLAND, 5 Nov — The domestic violence trial of US women’s soccer star Hope Solo was delayed on Tuesday after a judge in Washington state ruled that her attorney had not had adequate interview access to the two family members she is accused of assaulting.

Solo, a goalkeeper for the US women’s soccer team, has pleaded not guilty to assault charges after she allegedly struck her 17-year-old nephew and sister during a domestic dispute at her home in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland.

Her trial, scheduled to begin this month, was continued until 20 January after a judge found that her attorney should be allowed to interview the family members with a court stenographer present. Solo’s sister and nephew had refused to be questioned if a court stenographer was there.

Prosecutors maintained the “highly emotional” nature of the case necessitated some limits on how the interviews were recorded.

Solo, 33, said nothing during the brief hearing. She was accompanied in court by her husband, Jerramy Stevens, who played nine seasons for the National Football League’s Seattle Seahawks and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Solo has been able to continue playing on the US women’s national soccer team and with her professional Seattle team, Reign FC, while the legal proceedings continue.

Both organizations have defended their decisions not to bench Solo, even as prominent players with the NFL have been suspended amid domestic violence allegations.

Solo’s attorney, Todd Maybrown, says Solo was the victim in the June altercation and that she was hit over the head with a broom handle by a family member.

Police said that during incident Solo appeared to be upset and intoxicated, while her adult sister and her 17-year-old nephew had visible injuries.

Officers present when Solo was booked into jail have been subpoenaed to testify at her trial on two counts of fourth-degree domestic violence, gross misdemeanors.

She faces up to six months in jail if convicted.

Solo has appeared as a contestant on ABC television’s popular “Dancing with the Stars” and has played on two women’s soccer teams that won Olympic gold medals.

France’s Isabelle Yacoubou is seen during the women’s preliminary round Group B basketball match against Canada at the Basketball Arena during the 2012 London Olympic Games on 1 Aug, 2012.

There are strong possibilities (that we want to run),” CNOSF president Denis Masseglia told reporters Tuesday.

It will, however, be the government that decides if Paris is to be a candidate.

Whether the United States bids could also be a factor but Masseglia believes the key is to secure the support of the French people. “We’ll listen to the conclusions of the (CFSI) study in January and then we’ll have about five months until the end of June to trigger the excitement of the French people,” Masseglia said, adding that a televised fund-raising program could help. “We can imagine that over 24 hours … all the sports friendly people in France contribute to the dream,” he said.

Whether the public funding operation helped secure the estimated 50-80 million euros ($63-100 million) that a bid would cost is not essential, according to Masseglia.

South Korean children finish last in happiness survey

SEOUL, 5 Nov — South Korean children are the least happy in study among developed countries, the government said on Tuesday, citing the stress of the country’s educational pressure cooker.

South Korea ranked at the bottom among 30 countries in terms of children’s satisfaction with their lives, the country’s health ministry said, followed by Romania.

“There is no one’s educational system puts a heavy burden on children, with its focus on competition and long hours of work. South Korea’s survey results were measured against those of 27 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) grouping of 34 wealthy countries, plus Romania, Latvia and Lithuania.

The survey, the first such exercise by the South Korean government, comes as around 600,000 students gear up for the annual college entrance exam, with places in prestigious schools and a pathway to a secure job at a top corporation on the line. When the test is held on 13 November, the country’s stock market will open an hour later, office openings will be delayed to ensure students don’t get stuck in traffic, and the central bank will delay its interest rate-setting meeting by one hour.

Students retaking the college entrance exams use a public computer during recess at a school in Kwangju, some 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Seoul in this 30 Oct, 2012 file photo. — Reuters

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Weather Report

Festival

News / Weather Report

Dreams of the players

Local News

Second Year

World News

Dhamma Puja Song

News

Introduction

Tazaungmone

Local News

Myitta Pawana By

Local News

The Beautiful

Myanmar Handicrafts

Local News

Handicrafts

Local News

Kyi Phyu Shin

Local News

Distance Education

Weather Report

Kyi Phyu Shin

Local News

Dreams of the players

Local News

Tazaungmone

World News

Image 174x435 to 404x590

Image 294x734 to 405x930

Image 418x69 to 766x311

Image 680x969 to 741x1032

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-11-14 07:00 am~
7-11-14 07:00 am) MST

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2. World News
3. Art Students :Theatrical Art
4. Local News
5. Tazaungdaing Festival: Tazaungmone
6. World News
7. Art Students :Their Dream
8. Local News
9. Myanmar Handicrafts
10. World News
11. Short Cut: U Pein Bridge
12. Local News
13. Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
14. In The Studio “Ying”
15. Local News
16. Chine lone & The Dreams of the players
17. World News
18. Independent Filmmaker
19. Local News
20. The Beautiful Month of Myanmar, Tazaungmone
21. World News
22. Today Myanmar “Rice Export”
23. Local News
24. Chef Life “Oliver E Soe Thet”
25. World News
26. Entrepreneur: Dr Thin Nwe Win
27. Local News
28. A Lucky Boy
29. World News
30. In The Studio “Swel Lan Phyu”

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**Real down Liverpool 1-0 to reach knockout round**

Real Madrid’s Sergio Ramos (top) heads the ball during their Champions League Group B soccer match against Liverpool at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 4 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

**Anderlecht stage thrilling escape act at Arsenal**

Arsenal’s Per Mertesacker (R) is challenged by Anderlecht’s Cyriac during their Champions League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 4 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

**Scott, Kaymer ready to pounce in absence of McIlroy in Shanghai**

Shanghai, 5 Nov — World number two Adam Scott is ready to take advantage of the absence of Rory McIlroy at the $8.5 million WGC-HSBC Champions tournament starting here on Thursday.

Scott, who was surpassed at the top of the world rankings last week, has his sights set on a fourth title at the tournament and the chance to become the first golfer to win the event in consecutive years.

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