President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Latvian President, PM

YANGON, 17 Nov — President U Thein Sein, together with his delegation arrived at Yangon International Airport on Monday after attending the G-20 Summit in the eastern Australian city of Brisbane.

The president was welcomed back at the airport by Union Ministers, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region and officials.

The president and his delegation were seen off by Myanmar Ambassador to Australia U Min Thein and embassy staff at Brisbane International Airport on Monday morning.

On arrival at Changi International Airport in Singapore, the president was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Htay Aung and officials. The president and his party left Changi International Airport by a special flight and arrived at Yangon International Airport at night.

The delegation included Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo.

The G-20 was formed in 1999 in response to the financial crises of the late 1990s with the participation of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, Britain, the US and the European Union. The group represents 80 percent of the world economy and two-thirds of the global population.

Due to the world economic slowdown in 2008, the leaders of the G-20 member countries have held a summit annually to adjust the international economic policies so as to avoid a global financial crisis.

President U Thein Sein attended the G-20 Summit as a special guest on behalf of the ASEAN countries.

Myanmar, India to cooperate more closely in border affairs

YANGON, 17 Nov — Myanmar and India will cooperate more closely based on mutual understanding and the cooperation will surely promote friendship between the two countries, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said on Monday, adding that he was glad to have frank discussions with a visiting Indian delegation based on mutual interests.

Sharing a border of about 1,000 miles, Myanmar and India have to hold negotiations on border affairs based on friendship. A national level meeting was underway at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon on Monday morning.

The Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint while the Indian delegation was led by Deputy Secretary Mr Sh Anil Goswami of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of India. Monday’s meeting between the two delegations was a regular meeting held alternatively at both countries, according to the deputy minister.

Regional and national level meetings between civilian border officials (See page 3)

Resolutions made at the G-20 Summit in Brisbane

* The G-20 leaders set a goal to lift the G-20’s GDP by 2.1 per cent by 2018.
* To plug a US$70 trillion infrastructure investment gap by 2030.
* To create job opportunities for 100 million women.
* To set a goal and carry out reforms to ensure the fairness of the international tax system.
* G-20 countries will actively work together to address climate change.
* G-20 countries support the urgent coordinated international response to the Ebola outbreak.
**Education ministry unveils initiatives to tackle student protest**

**Yangon 17 Nov —** The Education Promotion Implementation Committee, under the Ministry of Education, unveiled initiatives to combat student protests on Monday.

The committee pointed out that the National Education Law, which was enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 September 2014, has provided for the establishment of academic and students for bylaws and charters.

Representative Thura U Shwe Mann met outstanding basic education students from Kanyutkwin township of Pyu Township and a total of 183 teachers who visited on the 27th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, at Zaibahuri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The speaker pointed out that the formation of unions should be discussed when the charters are drawn up for each university, while some points are to be submitted to the legislative parliament by the protesting students.

**Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw meets students of Pyu Township**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Nov —** Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann met outstanding basic education students from Kanyutkwin town of Pyu Township and a total of 183 teachers who visited on the 27th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, at Zaibahuri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The speaker cordially greeted the students.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials.

**Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets students of Kanyutkwin town, Pyu Township at the hall of Hluttaw Complex.** —MNA

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**

**Constitutional amendment debate continues at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Nov —** Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives on Monday held a debate on the report of the Constitutional Reform Implementation Committee.

The committee met with protesting students and some points will be included in the upcoming bylaws while some others will need further discussions.

The EPIC invited the cooperation of protesting students in solving this problem through dialogue. The committee also concluded that most of these six points do not seriously contradict the existing education law, and the controversial terms can be discussed during the enactment of bylaws.

The committee pointed out that the National Education Law has guaranteed freedom of teaching and learning as well as independent management at universities, saying the charter can be drawn up with the agreement of the management, academics and students of respective universities.

The statement of EPIC also said that the formation of unions should be discussed when the charters are drawn up for each university, while some points are to be submitted to the legislative parliament by the protesting students.

The committee promised to facilitate discussions between the students and Hluttaw committees, inviting ideas and opinions of the public, academics and students for bylaws and charters.

The EPIC also instructed the universities to select student representatives from different majors and academic years, and to invite interested students to hear explanations on education policies, rules and goals of the existing law.

Under the new initiatives, the results of discussions will be reviewed, in cooperation with the student representatives, in relation to consistency, contradictions, common consent and pragmatism before they are incorporated into the future bylaws of the National Education Law and charters of universities.

**Myanmar striving to control hepatitis C disease**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Nov —** Some 9 million people are suffering from hepatitis C in four countries of Southeast Asia, Union Minister for Health Dr. Than Aung said at the National Consultative Meeting on Hepatitis at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

He urged experts to draw up work plans and tactics for combating Hepatitis C in the nation.

Departmental officials, responsible persons from the WHO, Myanmar Liver Disease Foundation and CHAI group participated in discussions on prevention and control of hepatitis disease.
Myanmar, Laos hold talks on cooperation between armed forces

They held talks about cooperation between the armed forces of Myanmar and Laos. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt and U Thant Kyaw, Laotian Ambassador Mr. Nilahat Xayalate and officials.—MNA

Myanmar, India to cooperate . . .

Alternatively held at each country will not only strengthen the friendship but also create opportunities for officials to study development, social affairs and living standards of each other, the deputy minister explained.

The meeting was focused on matters related to border posts, security, narcotics, insurgents at the border of the two countries and transnational crimes, according to sources.

The deputy minister was confident that the meeting will generate good outcomes for development and stability of the people in the border region.

An agreement is scheduled to be signed after the meeting, sources said.

Maung Maung Myint Swe

Union FM sends message of felicitation to Latvian counterpart

The secretary instructed officials to efficiently spend the fund and use auditable expenditure, allot the budget for implementation of the development plan and submit the capital expenditure from 2011-12 to 2014-15 fiscal year for development of Rakhine State.

Members of work committee reported on distribution of quality paddy seeds, fuel and fertilizers and fishery equipment to farmers and fisherwomen, ploughing of farmlands, sinking tube-wells, and undertaking of education and health care sectors.

The secretary said that fund will be allotted to respective ministries for development of Rakhine State and expenditure must be reported back to the committee.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief receives Laotian defence minister

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also said that Myanmar’s military is making efforts for the government’s implementation of democratization processes and transition to a market-oriented economy, as well as the initiatives of peace and unity in the region.

The participants then discussed and exchanged views on expanded ties between the two militaries.

Diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Laos began on 12 July 1955. Both sides have targeted completion of the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge in March 2015.

Myawady

Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary phor with Laotian delegation.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Laotian Defence Minister Lieutenant General Sengnuan Saiyalath take salute of the Guard of Honour.—Myawady

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

Fund to be allotted to ministries for development of Rakhine State
120 paintings by 33 women artists showcased in Mandalay

Mandalay, 17 Nov — The Colourful Flowers photo gallery presented by 33 women artists of Mandalay is being showcased at the Mandalay Hill Gallery in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, from 14 to 18 November.

Chairman of Upper Myanmar Artists Association (Mandalay) Thiha praised the women artists for their excellent works at the show. The artists displayed 120 works in water colour, oil colour and acrylics attracting foreigners who visited Mandalay Hill to enjoy the scenic beauty of Mandalay from a bird’s eye view as well as Buddhological works on the hill.

Gold industry course opens for enthusiasts free of charge

Mandalay, 17 Nov — The Aungthaunyi Gold Industry Course No 16 was opened at its hall on Yanikin Street in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 14 November.

Chairman of the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Win Khang and Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Minerals Entrepreneurs Association U Khin Maung Han extended greetings. Course instructor U Khin Maung Myint explained the course disciplines and introduced the instructors to the trainees. Economy Adviser to the President Dr Aung Tun Thet and economist U Tin Zan Kyaw will give lectures on entrepreneurship, geologist U Tommy Thein on facts about diamonds, U Maw, the gold market, U Aung, his experience and writers Kyaw Yin Myint, Hsu Hntet, Nyi Pu Lay and Nyo Tun Lu, social relations and literary affairs. The training course will last from 14 to 23 November. Admission is free of charge.

Health talks on World Diabetes Day given to people in Magway Region

Yenangyoung, 17 Nov — Health talks on World Diabetes Day were given in Bukyun Village of Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, on 16 November.

After the talks, Chairwoman of the Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Wai Wai Lwin and party provided healthcare services with traditional medicines to the local people free of charge. Secretary of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Matron Daw Tin Mar Hlay and Head of Township Traditional Medicine Department Daw Myint Myint Swe gave lectures on diabetes, TB, malaria, breast cancer, prenatal health care and human trafficking to 150 people and distributed pamphlets on health knowledge to them. A traditional medicine practitioner performed medical checkups on local people and presented iodized salt and eggs to them.

Nyein Nyein Ei (IPRD)

MANA holds talk on HIV prevention, danger of narcotics

Mandalay, 17 Nov — The Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Mandalay) held an educative talk on prevention of HIV/AIDS and the danger of narcotics at the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force on 66th street in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 15 November.

Chairman of the region association Police Col Hla Myint (Rtd) and Township Administrator U Myint Oo delivered a speech while UNFPA/ManA National Program Officer Dr Khin Aye Myint outlined the program for drug elimination.

Head of District Health Department Dr Kyaw Soe gave a lecture on control of the HIV virus, Dr Myat Nway Mon Kyaw of Chanayethazan Township Health Department, on reproductive health, executive of MANA Dr Maung Maung Lwin, on sex workers and related law, teacher Daw Khin Thein, on drugs and advantages, Dr Yi Yi Myint on gender issues.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
One person killed, 17 others wounded in S Philippine bomb blast

DAVAO CITY, 17 Nov — One person was killed and 17 others were wounded in a bomb explosion in southern Philippines on Sunday night, police said on Monday.

An improvised explosive device (IED) went off near a public elementary school in Poblacion village, Kabacan town, in Mindanao’s North Cotabato province around 6:50 pm local time, according to Senior Supt. Danilo Peralta, provincial police chief.

He said most of the victims were hit by shrapnel and were rushed to a local hospital for treatment. Peralta said the lone fatality was a student who was at the gate of Kabacan Elementary School when the bomb went off.

Peralta told local radio do two other improvised bombs were recovered and safely disabled by police and army bomb experts.

The police official said an investigation into the suspects and motive behind the explosion was now underway. —Xinhua

Americans suspected of trying to ship baby body parts flee Thailand — police

BANGKOK, 17 Nov — Thai police said on Monday two Americans suspected of trying to send infant and adult body parts in parcels to the United States had fled the country. A baby’s head, a baby’s foot sliced into three parts, a heart and a “sheet of skin” with tattoo markings were found in parcels on Saturday after staff at a shipping office in Bangkok scanned the packages, police said.

The parts were stored in plastic containers filled with formaldehyde and the packages were destined for an address in Las Vegas.

“X-rays showed there were contents similar to human body parts. From our investigation of three parcels we found human body parts in five plastic containers,” Police Lieutenant General Ruangsak Jaritake, assistant to the National Police Commissioner, told reporters. “The packages were marked ‘children’s toys’ but x-rays showed they were not children’s toys.”

Police named the two suspects, aged 31 and 33, and said they were being “monitored”, but did not say how.

Both men fled Thailand on Sunday through a checkpoint in the east of the country, Ruangsak said.

He said the heart had stab marks and belonged to an adult while the sheet of skin with tattoo markings also belonged to an adult.

“As soon as we have results, we will contact the FBI,” he said.

In 2012, Thai police arrested a British citizen of Taiwanese origin after discovering six human foetuses which had been roasted and covered in gold leaf stuffed into travel bags at a hotel room in Bangkok’s Chinatown. Thai detectives said they believed the corpses were due to be sent to Taiwan to be used as part of a black magic ritual. —Reuters

Singapore supports Abe’s “proactive contribution to peace” policy

Brisbane, 17 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told his Singapore counterpart on Monday that Japan will play a role in promoting regional stability, explaining his policy of making a “proactive contribution to peace,” a Foreign Ministry official said. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said his country supports Abe’s eagerness to contribute more actively to ensuring the peace and stability of the region, the official said.

During their 45-minute talks in Brisbane, Abe also briefed Lee about recent developments in Japan-China ties, saying he wants to “create stable relations with China,” according to the official.

Lee welcomed Abe’s summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing earlier this month, the first direct talks between the two nations’ leaders in more than two years, the official said.

Abe, meanwhile, pitched Japan’s shinkansen high-speed bullet train technology for a train network that Singapore and Malaysia plan to build between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Lee was quoted as saying he regards Japan’s shinkansen technology very highly.

The two leaders, meanwhile, agreed that they will work together toward early conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership regional free trade initiative.

About a week ago, Japan, Singapore and the 10 other participating countries gave up on striking a deal welcomed by Abe. The end of this year was the wide gap that remained during ministerial talks in Beijing. —Kyodo News

Okinawa governor-elect vows to block base transfer as Tokyo stays calm

Naha, (Japan), 17 Nov — Okinawa governor-elect Takeshi Onaga pledged on Monday to deliver on his campaign promise to block the transfer of a key US military base within the southern Japanese prefecture, a day after he secured a landslide victory in a local gubernatorial election.

“I will seek to rescind the approval (given by Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima) for landfill. I’m determined to exercise my authority as governor,” Onaga told reporters in Naha. In Sunday’s closely watched race, seen as a referendum on Nakaima’s decision last December to give the go-ahead for the landfill work, voters delivered a decisive victory for the Okinawa government’s approval is necessary to build a replacement facility in an offshore area in the Henoko district of Nago from a densely populated location in Ginowan.

Onaga’s victory is widely expected to deal a blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s efforts to promote the transfer of the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station to achieve a reduction in the base-hosting burden on Okinawa and maintain the US deterrence. The former Naha mayor, who will assume the governor’s post in December, said he will set up a panel of experts soon to review Nakaima’s decision on the landfill. Government officials said there will be no change in Tokyo’s stance to complete the long-stalled relocation to remove the danger of keeping the Futenma airstrip in a crowded residential area.

“I still believe that the current plan to relocate the base to Henoko is the only solution,” Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a House of Councillors committee, adding that the government will try to gain local support after Okinawa Finance Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the top government spokesman, dismissed the idea that the gubernatorial election was a referendum on the relocation issue. “The government will carry it out according to law,” Suga said at a press briefing, when asked about the construction of a new base. The Futenma relocation, first agreed on between Japan and the United States in 1996, has been a sensitive issue in Okinawa. The prefecture, which was under US control between 1945 and 1972 following Japan’s defeat in World War II, hosts the bulk of US military installations in Japan. —Kyodo News
G20 pledges lift Green Climate Fund towards $10 billion UN goal

OSLO, 17 Nov — A promise by Japan on Sunday to give up to $1.5 billion to a UN fund to help poor nations cope with global warming puts the fund within sight of a $10 billion goal and brightens prospects for a UN climate pact next year.

Japan’s pledge, at the G20 meeting of world leaders in Australia, raises the total promised to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to $7.5 billion, including up to $3 billion by US President Barack Obama on Saturday.

The Seoul-based GCF Secretariat in a statement hailed the pledges as a turning point before a first donors’ conference in Berlin on Thursday. The United Nations has set an informal target of raising $10 billion this year.

The cash, to help emerging economies curb their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changes such as heatwaves, mudslides and rising sea levels, is widely seen as vital to unlock a UN climate deal meant to be agreed in late 2015 in Paris.

Australia, China announce conclusion of FTA negotiations

SYDNEY, 17 Nov — Australia and China are almost ready to sign a landmark free trade agreement, after more than 20 rounds of negotiations over the last nine years, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Monday.

“I am pleased to announce the completion of negotiations for a China-Australia free trade agreement,” Abbott said after meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Canberra. He said Australian Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb and Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng would later in the day sign a “declaration of intent,” undertaking to prepare the legal texts in both languages for signature.

Reaching a bilateral FTA will be of great significance to the two countries’ economic relations, Chinese Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao said on the sidelines of the just-concluded Group of 20 summit in Brisbane, according to China’s official Xinhua News Agency. Xi is paying a state visit to Australia after attending the G-20 summit.

The complex FTA negotiations, which began in 2005, covered an array of issues, including agricultural tariffs and quotas, manufactured goods, services, temporary entry of people and foreign investment.

Putin: Russia, Germany formed good basis for relations over past decade

MOسكو, 17 Nov — The friendly atmosphere of relations established between Russia and Germany over the past decade must be treated with care and should not be wasted, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with German TV channel ARD.

“Look at the friendship that has been established between Russia and Germany in the past 10-15 years,” Putin said. “I don’t know if we had ever enjoyed such relations before. I don’t think so.”

Asked whether he had made mistakes, the Russian president said that all people make mistakes, but they should be the issues of correction and analysis instead of the dead-end.

“We should understand, correct them and move on towards the solution of problems rather than an impasse,” Putin said. “It seemed to me that this is the way we acted in our relations with Europe as a whole and the Federal Republic of Germany in particular over the past decade.”

Putin said that he saw the recent atmosphere in relations between Russia and Germany “as a very good base, a good foundation for the development of relations not only between our two states, but also between Russia and Europe as a whole, for the harmonization of relations in the world.”

“It will be a pity if we let it go to waste,” he added.

Bird flu found at British duck farm, restriction zone set up

LONDON, 17 Nov — A case of bird flu has been found on a duck-breeding farm in northern England, the government said on Monday, though the case was not the deadly H5N1 strain, officials told the BBC. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said it had set up a restriction zone around the farm in Yorkshire and was culling all poultry on the facility to prevent any spread of infection.

On Sunday, Dutch authorities said they had found a highly contagious strain of bird flu at a poultry farm in the centre of the country and had begun destroying 150,000 chickens.

Russian President said that he saw the recent atmosphere in relations between Russia and Germany. — Itar-Tass

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Hagel says US military accelerating mission to train Iraqi troops

US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel (L) and visiting German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier attend a Press conference at the Prime Minister’s office in Jerusalem, on 16 Nov, 2014.  REUTERS

Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain end rift with Qatar, return ambassadors

Riyadh, 17 Nov — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain agreed on Sunday to return their ambassadors to Qatar, signaling an end to an eight-month rift over Doha’s support for Islamist groups.

The announcement was made by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and came after an emergency meeting in the Saudi capital Riyadh to discuss the dispute, which was threatening an annual summit set to be held in Qatar’s capital Doha in December.

In an unprecedented move, the three countries withdrew their ambassadors from fellow GCC member Qatar in March, accusing it of undermining their domestic security through its support of the Islamist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood.

The GCC statement said that Sunday’s meeting had reached what it described as an understanding meant to turn over a new leaf in relations between the six members of the Gulf organization, which also includes Kuwait and Oman.

“Based on that, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the kingdom of Bahrain decided to return their ambassadors to the state of Qatar,” the statement said.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar have used their oil and gas revenues to influence events in other Middle Eastern countries and any resolution of their differences could alter the political environment in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia have both listed the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization and see political Islam as a challenge to their own systems of dynastic rule. Kuwait has attempted to mediate between its fellow GCC members.

Qatar is seen to have been supportive of the Brotherhood in Egypt and the UAE, and more recently in Libya. It has given sanctuary to some Brotherhood members and extended citizenship to Sheikh Yussef al-Qaradawi, a cleric with ties to the group.

Riyadh and the United Arab Emirates also see the Doha-based Al Jazeera news channel as being a Muslim Brotherhood mouthpiece — something Qatar denies.

Diplomats in Doha said that amongst other things, Qatar had promised the UAE that the Brotherhood would not be allowed to operate from the country. There was no immediate confirmation of this.

Qatar holds the revolving presidency of the GCC and the country’s Emir on Tuesday publicly invited his fellow GCC rulers to Doha for the group’s annual summit. But diplomats had said some of them wanted to move the meeting elsewhere to protest at what they saw as continued Qatari support for Islamists.

Hagel says US military accelerating mission to train Iraqi troops

Fort Irwin (California), 17 Nov — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Sunday the Pentagon will accelerate its mission to train Iraqi forces to combat Islamic State militants, using troops already in Iraq to establish sites to train nine Iraqi brigades and set up two more centres to advise military commands.

Obama also sought $5.6 billion in funding from Congress for the initiative, including $1.6 billion to train and equip Iraqi forces. Officials initially said the funding would have to be approved by Congress before the new effort could begin.

However, Reuters reported on Saturday that the US military already had a team of troops at Ain al-Asad working on the mission in Iraq, adding 1,500 military personnel to the effort.

Hagel said some of the special operations forces that he has in Iraq and give them some early missions with the Iraqi security forces starting the mission “just to kind of continue the mission, accelerate the effort.”

Hagel said some of them wanted to move the meeting elsewhere to protest at what they saw as continued Qatari support for Islamists.

Russia and Poland have expelled some diplomats, Moscow says

Moscow, 17 Nov — Russia said on Monday several of its diplomats had been expelled from Poland and that a number of Polish diplomats had left Russia after Moscow took “adequate” measures in return.

It was unclear why the Russian diplomats had been expelled and no more details were immediately available.

“The Polish authorities have taken an unfriendly and unfounded step,” Russia’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“In connection with that, Russia has undertaken adequate measures in response and a number of Polish diplomats have already left the territory of our country for activities incompatible with their status.”

Germany said on Saturday one of its diplomats had been expelled from Moscow after a Russian diplomat working in Bonn was expelled amid media reports he was a spy. Relations between Moscow and European Union member states have been strained by the crisis in Ukraine and by EU sanctions imposed after Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine.—Reuters

Residents take part in a rally in support of the 43 students of the Normal Rural School of Ayotzinapa that went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, in the forecourt of the Palace of Fine Arts, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 16 Nov, 2014.  XINHUA

Residents take part in a rally in support of the 43 students of the Normal Rural School of Ayotzinapa that went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, in the forecourt of the Palace of Fine Arts, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 16 Nov, 2014.  XINHUA

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**Child Labour**

*Win Sein*

We have seen quite a lot of child labour activities around down-town Yangon in most of the Tea shops and dining shops, where children of under-age taking up the jobs of the grown – up adults, serving customers with not up to the mark service from them. We have also seen under-age children buzz away individually at his or her goldsmith table on different sizes of gold-chains in order to finish the entrusted articles in time around down-town Yangon in shady not frequently use part of the street. Every now and then, because of the bad service they rendered, to the annoyance on the employers, these children are often being scolded and sometime even beaten physically. On account of they are being children of under-age, so they are under paid, he or she is in some way has been harmed or exploited physically, morally or even blocking the very access of his or her future education. All these are brought about by the chief reason of poverty, that children are not able to speak and understand the spoken language. This is because they learn only what is in their textbooks and they do not have the opportunity to use the spoken language in their classrooms.

English is one of the major languages that students need to master in order to participate in academic, business, and cultural exchanges. It has been over a decade since international schools were permitted to set up branches or local entrepreneurs were allowed to open schools with curricula from countries such as the US, Britain, Australia, Singapore and the like. Students who study English are more fluent than those at government schools because the former have the opportunity to study English as a language.

For Myanmar, English was once considered by linguists to be a second language about 50 years ago but it has been a foreign language for decades.

Now, teachers are being trained at education colleges and institutes of educations across the country to teach English effectively with the assistance of the British Council. Taking advantage of this programme, teachers should try to teach English to students as a language again. Such training programmes should also be expanded with the help of other countries.

**Letter to the Editor**

*Dear Editor,*

After reading the perspective by U Kyaw Thura’s on November 10, “Will we win to fight against the child labour?”, I felt very satisfied that he had written about it which has been pending in my mind since a few months ago. His writing is quite complete but I would like to add only one thing which will be found in the later part of my letter.

First of all, the meaning of child labour in our country is still simple: girls working as house maids; boys working as waiters at the tea shops; some, selling flowers/journals/secular-soul that is sold at traffic junctions; some, picking up the plastic bags at backstreets (of course sometimes begging), etc. By the Grace of God, ‘the worst form’ of child labour such as prostitution, trafficking, use of children in armed conflicts or drugs dealing are rarely seen in our country.

Nowadays, the government is striving to lessen the child labour by offering free education and other practical good deeds. Not only the government but also International and private associations (also monks) are giving a helping hand in this project in their own ways by building the Orphanage schools, and offering Vocational Training Course, etc. Yet the whole society is emphasizing on, why those poor children are still on the road? Everything has cause and effect and we should observe first, “Where did those children come from?” When we trace the root, we simply find out that they are mostly from the poor families who have so many siblings.

In outskirts and rural areas, most of the mothers own around a dozen of children like in our grandparents’ time. Maybe because of their lack of knowledge about health, they just take all the children as granted after they get married in their young age. As a result, the mother needs her elder children to babysit their younger broods, to help her in kitchen works and to find small income instead of sending them to school.

As ‘Prevention is better than cure’, the relevant associations like Health-care practitioners (maybe Women Association, too) are requested to put more effort to educate them in birth control and provide them free contraceptive medicine/injection (let me be frank) so that they can have time to take care of their own families in better ways. It will be more effective to give treatment, and at the same time, to give advice about preventive measures too.

From my personal point of view, I do not want the mothers to be bowed down by the overload of maternity burdens and yearly suffering in the delivery chamber. I sincerely believe that this idea will be supportive in fighting the child labour in one corner. To see all our children happily going to school (instead of straying at road side) is one of our cherished dreams. After realising that dream, the mothers will be happier and the world will be more beautiful…

* A Mother

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**Kanbawza Bank celebrates successful opening of 300 branches**

*Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Nov –* In commemoration of the opening of 300 branches of Kanbawza Bank Ltd., a golf tournament was held at Famous Parami Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday, attended by Union ministers, deputy ministers and responsible persons of Kanbawza Bank.

Senior Managing Director U Nyo Myint of the bank spoke about the successful opening of the 300 branches and presented prizes to the golfers. The guests were served with dinner, during which they were entertained by the Marshal Band.

MNA
Chanayethazan Township marks 94th anniversary of National Day

Mandalay, 17 Nov — A ceremony to mark the 94th anniversary of National Day was held at No 2 Basic Education High School (former National School) in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on Sunday.

Students of No 16 BEHS sang a song in commemoration of National Day.

Township Administrator U Khun Soe Lwin read a message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of National Day.

Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) MP U Win Maung and township level officials awarded winners in the essay and poetry contests at different levels. Later, the students performed a song entitled “Nationalistic Spirit”.

Visitor numbers up at Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay

Mandalay, 17 Nov — The number of visitors to the Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay has hit a new record in 2014.

From January to October, 3,638,641 local people visited the Buddha image, more than double the 1,282,281 who visited from January to October last year. Likewise, a total of 53,952 foreigners visited the image from January to October 2014, up 6,799 from the 49,153 who visited in the same period last year. Thanks to the rising number of visitors, the pagoda board of trustees could sell a larger number of gold foils, with about 4,300 pieces of gold per month being sold so far this year. The board of trustees accepted K1.5 million donations per day from visitors last year. This year, daily donation rose to over K2 million.

Runway at Kalay Airport being extended

Kalay, 17 Nov — The runway of Kalay Airport in Kalay, a town in the northwestern area of the Sagaing Region, is being extended to allow the takeoff and landing of medium-size Y-8 aircraft. At present, Kalay Airport has one runway measuring 5,500 feet long, 100 feet wide and 18 feet thick that can accommodate 73,000 lb F28 Fokker airplanes. The runway is to be extended by 3,000 feet, with a 1,500-feet long section currently being added in the first phase of the extension.

Mingin Township upgrades BEMS, opens new school building

Mingin, 17 Nov — A ceremony to upgrade a Basic Education Middle School branch to BEMS was held in Thindaw Village, Mingin Township, Sagaing Region, on 17 November.

Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint, Sagaing Region Minister for Transport U Aung Zaw Oo and officials formally opened the new school building.

The Union minister and party explained the purpose of upgrading the school and enrolment of school-age children.

Chairman of the construction committee U Myint Lwin handed over the documents related to the new school building to the township education officer.

The new school building is 120 feet long and 30 feet wide. It costs K16 million provided by the government and over K10 million by the people.

Upon completion, Kalay Airport will be able to offer improved services to the people.

Myanma Airways, Air Bagan and Kanbawza airlines offer services from Kalay to Mandalay and Mandalay cities daily except Sunday. —Ju Nine
Suicide attack in Nigerian market kills at least 12

Abuja, 17 Nov — A female suicide bomber blew herself up on Sunday, killing at least a dozen people in a cellphone market in Azare, a town in Nigeria’s Bauchi State where a similar attack at a bank last week killed seven, witnesses said.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for Sunday’s blast, but Boko Haram, which has waged a bloody five-year campaign to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, is suspected of having carried out the attack.

The group has also seized two towns and occupied a third in the country’s northeast region since it rejected a ceasefire announced last month by the government. “I was near the market when I heard a loud sound inside. After a while we rushed to the scene of the blast. I saw lots of people in the ground and blood all over the place,” said local resident Ibrahim Ahmed, adding that he had counted at least 12 bodies.

The state’s government and police officials were not immediately available to comment.

At least seven people were killed on 7 November by a blast outside a branch of the First Bank of Nigeria in Azare. Police said at the time that they believed a female suicide bomber was responsible for the explosion.

Azare is about 100 km (60 miles) west of Potiskum, where a suicide bomber blew himself at a school in Monday, killing 48.

Nigeria’s President Goodluck Jonathan, who is seeking a second term in a February 2015 election, has vowed to defeat the Islamist militants, who are seen as the biggest security threat to Africa’s largest economy and top oil producing nation.

Boko Haram, whose name means “Western education is sinful”, has attacked schools, abducted hundreds of students and killed thousands in its fight for an Islamic state.—Reuters

Roadside bomb wounds three police in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Nov — Three local police personnel were injured as a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Marawara district of Kunar province on Monday, provincial police chief Abdul Habib SayedKhlil said.

“A mine planted by militants on a road in Marawara District struck a vehicle of local police injuring three personnel,” SayedKhlil told reporters.

The violent incident took place at 10:00 am local time, he said.

He also blamed Taleban militants for organizing the attack. However, the armed outfit has yet to make comment.

The mountainous Kunar Province along the border with Pakistan’s lawless tribal areas has been the scene of Taleban-led militancy over the past few years.—Xinhua

US hostage Peter Kassig is killed by Islamic State

ABUJU, 17 Nov — Israeli State militants have beheaded another American hostage, Peter Kassig, issuing a video claiming the killing on Sunday and warning the United States they would kill other US citizens “on your streets.”

US President Barack Obama confirmed the death of the aid worker in what he called “an act of pure evil” by a terrorist group that the world rightly associates with inhumanity.” The announcement of Kassig’s death, the fifth such killing of a Western captive by the group, formed part of a 15-minute video posted online in which Islamic State showed the beheadings of at least 14 men it said were pilots and officers loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Kassig, 26, from Indiana, was also known as Abdul-Rahman, a name he took after converting to Islam in captivity. His family has said he was taken captive on his way to the Syrian city of Deir al-Zor on 1 Oct., 2013.

“We are heartbroken to learn that our son, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig, has lost his life as a result of his love for the Syrian people and his desire to ease their suffering,” Ed and Paula Kassig said in a statement.

“Our heart also goes out to the families of the Syrians who lost their lives, along with our son.”

The video did not show the beheading of Kassig, who previously served in the US Army, but showed a masked man standing with a decapitated head covered in blood at his feet. Speaking in English in a British accent, the man says: “This is Peter Edward Kassig, a US citizen.”

The video appeared on a jihadist website and on Twitter feeds used by Islamic State.

In a statement to reporters on Air Force One on his way home from a G20 summit in Brisbane, Australia, Obama praised Kassig’s humanitarian work and offered condolences to his family.

“The man in the video spoke with the same southern British accent as the killer of previous hostages, dubbed “Jihadi John” by British media. He was believed to have been wounded in an air attack on an IS leaders’ meeting in Iraq near the Syrian border earlier this month, some media reports have said.

French daily Le Figaro said on its website that the French Interior Ministry was studying the possibility of the presence of a French national among the Islamic State militants involved in the beheadings shown in the video. In the video, a masked militant says: “To Obama, the dog of Rome, today we are slaughtering the soldiers of Bashar and tomorrow we will be slaughtering your soldiers,” in a prediction that Washington would send more troops to the region to fight Islamic State.

And with Allah’s permission, the Islamic State will soon… begin to slaughter your people in your streets.” The format of the video was different from previous such announcements, showing other beheadings in graphic detail, and also showing most of the killers unmasked. The purported location also was disclosed as the northern Syrian town of Dabiq.

An Islamic State supporter in Syria contacted by Reuters said: “The message is very clear. This is what the West understands. They think they can scare us with their planes and their bombs. No, not us. We are out to impose the religion of God, by his will, we will.”

Kassig was doing humanitarian work through a wave of attacks this week.

“The severed head of the female suicide bomber was later found, and a crowd of boys took it to the front of the Emir’s palace and set it on fire,” he said. An official at the town’s hospital said six bodies were brought in and four other people had later died there of their injuries.

Another witness at the market, Shehu Aminu, said: “I got to the scene immediately after the blast. I saw about 20 bodies just lying in blood. Only one person I noticed was still alive.”

“The state’s government and police officers were not immediately available to comment.

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Libyan court postpones trial of Gaddafi-era officials to 30 November

Tripoli, 17 Nov — A Libyan court on Sunday postponed the trial of Muammar Gaddafi-era officials to 30 November at the request of the defence lawyers.

Local channel Al-Nabaa on Sunday aired the ninth session of the trial which was attended by 31 out of 37 defendants. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, detained in Zintan, was absent due to the security situation that prevented linking him to a closed circuit.

The judge decided to postpone the trial to 30 November at the request of defence attorneys to complete the rest of the evidence procedures.

The defendants face several charges, mainly genocide during the 2011 uprising, formation of armed battalions to suppress civilians, creating rivalry between Libyans and tearing the social fabric, along with supporting and funding the former administration and financial and administrative corruption.

A number of Gaddafi-era officials, including his two sons Saadi and Seif al-Islam, are in Libyan prisons for several charges, including killing, suppression of demonstrations, embezzlement of public money and forming armed battalions to suppress demonstrators of February 2011.
Japan slips into surprise recession, paves way for tax delay, snap poll

TOKYO, 17 Nov — Japan’s economy unexpectedly slipped into recession in the third quarter, setting the stage for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to delay an unpopular sales tax hike and call a snap election half-way through his term.

A growth-oriented product (GDP) fell at an annualised 1.6 percent pace in July-September, after it plunged 7.1 percent in the second quarter following a rise in the national sales tax, which clobbered consumer spending.

The world’s third-largest economy had been forecast to rebound by 2.1 percent in the third quarter, but consumption remained weak, saddling companies with huge inventories to work off.

Abe had said he would look at the data when deciding whether to press ahead with a second increase in the sales tax to 10 percent in October next year, as part of a plan to curb Japan’s huge public debt, the worst among advanced nations.

Japanese media have said the prime minister, who returns from an Asia tour on Monday, could announce the tax hike for 18 months and call a hike for 18 months and call a snap election in December.

Abe is expected to tell officials to start work on an economic package when he announces the tax hike delay.

Officials have already signalled a package was coming, but it said it would not require fresh government bond issuance.

“TOKYO, 17 Nov — Toray Industries Inc is set to win orders worth 1 trillion yen ($8.7 billion) this year to supply carbon fiber for Boeing Co’s jets and will spend about 100 billion yen to build a new plant in the United States, beginning production in 2021.

The order is the first major contract for the US aircraft maker for the medium to long-term. The 787 Dreamliner and 777X planes use carbon fiber in high-performance composite materials, which are increasingly being used in the aerospace, automotive and sporting goods industries.

The order will start in the second quarter of 2021 and will be for 20 years, the US newspaper cited a company source as saying.

The new order is in line with the company’s strategy to expand its carbon fiber business in the US, where it has two plants.

Global News

Japan slips into surprise recession, paves way for tax delay, snap poll

The yen slipped on the poor GDP reading, with the dollar briefly pushing to a seven-year high above 117 yen. The benchmark Nikkei stock average fell 2.6 percent.

Sizable growth and downward pressure on inflation due to sliding global oil prices prompted the Bank of Japan to unexpectedly expand its massive monetary stimulus last month.

Abe inherited the sales tax plan when he took power in December 2012, pledging to revive the economy with his “Abenomics” mix of ultra-easy monetary policy, spending and reforms.

The LDP, its small Liberal Democratic Party enacted the legislation requiring the tax to be raised unless economic conditions were judged too weak.

Economy Minister Akira Amari said the GDP showed the April hike to 8 percent from 5 percent had made it harder than anticipated for the public to shake off their deflationary mindset.

Household spending is stagnating, with housing investment and corporate capital spending down, Amari said, while finding a bright spot in strong corporate profits.

Private consumption, accounting for about 60 percent of the economy, rose 0.4 percent from the previous quarter, half as much as expected. Wage growth has not kept pace with price rises, so a key mechanism of Abenomics is not working yet.

Some economists, however, said growth could improve in the October-December quarter.

Reuters

Tory to win 1 trillion yen carbon fiber supply order from Boeing

TOKYO, 17 Nov — Toray Industries Inc is set to win orders worth 1 trillion yen (about $8.7 billion) this year to supply carbon fiber for Boeing Co’s jets and will spend about 100 billion yen to build a new plant in the United States, beginning production in 2021.

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Reuters
**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**

(Tender No. 5(T)/MPE/JET A1(1)/2014-2015)

1. **Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Jet A1 (94,000 Bbl /10%).**
2. **Tender Closing Date : 9-12-2014 at (12:00) noon.**
3. **Tender Opening Date: 9-12-2014 at (13:00) hrs.**
4. **Delivery Time : end of January 2015**
5. **Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 18-11-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.**
6. **Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.**

**Managing Director**
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (118N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (118N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2014 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 Claims 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**

**MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ANAN BHUM SHIPPING CO., LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV HUA MING VOY NO (26)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA MING VOY NO (26) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 Claims 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**

**MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S HUA MING SHIPPING CO., LTD.**

Phone No: 2301170/2301178

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MANDARIN NOBLE VOY NO (26)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MANDARIN NOBLE VOY NO (26) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

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**172 fall ill on Carnival’s Crown Princess cruise from California**

**New Orleans, 17 Nov** — A cruise ship with 172 passengers and crew members suffering from a gastrointestinal ailment caused by norovirus was met by public health officials when it docked in California Sunday on its next voyage Sunday night, Lomax said.

The ship is next set to cruise the Mexican Riviera, she said.

Those set to board ship for its next cruise will be notified of the virus outbreak, with a CDC official on the vessel to conduct an inspection of its departure, a CDC spokesman said.

Outbreaks of norovirus have been reported by nearly a dozen cruise lines sailing from US ports in recent years. The outbreaks are unpleasant but usually mild and typically stem from many people confined to a small area, lackluster hand-washing and buffet-style dining, experts have said.

Norovirus is the most common cause of contagious gastrointestinal illnesses, causing nausea, vomiting and diarrhea the typical symptoms.

The CDC estimates that there are about 20 million cases of norovirus in the United States each year, resulting in 570 to 800 deaths. The virus usually clears up in one to three days, the CDC says.

Carnival Corp is the parent company of several cruise lines, including Princess Cruises and Carnival Cruise Lines.—Reuters

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**Man imprisoned for smuggling tiger bones, ivory**

**Jinan, 17 Nov** — A court in east China’s Shandong Province confirmed on Monday that in October it had sentenced a man to six-years’ imprisonment for trafficking rare animal parts.

Customs officers on 21 March discovered wild animal parts, worth an estimated 700,000 yuan (114,211 US dollars) in three suitcases belonging to the convict, identified only by the surname Zhang, at Jinan International Airport in Shandong, according to the Jian Intermedi-

ate People's Court.

Zhang, a resident of Zhejiang Province, flew from Hong Kong to Jinan with the controlled item he had smuggled from Indonesia, including a tiger’s skull that has a street value of 480,000 yuan, ivory products worth 200,000 yuan and other animal parts. The verdict was given on 23 October, Zhang was also fined 50,000 yuan, the court said.

Xinhua

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**Two clowns wave to the crowds during the 110th Annual Toronto Santa Claus Parade in Toronto, Canada, on 16 Nov, 2014. With 21 bands, 31 floats and more than 3,000 volunteers, the Parade kicked off at Toronto on Sunday,—Xinhua**

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**Norovirus is the most common cause of contagious gastrointestinal illnesses, caused by norovirus,” said company spokeswoman Susan Lomax. “In response, we have enacted our stringent disinfecting protocols developed in conjunction with the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.**

**The ship, which docked in San Pedro early in the day, will undergo a deep-cleaning before embarking on its next voyage Sunday night, Lomax said.**

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Xinhua

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For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM, Advertise with us!
Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com

WEATHER REPORT
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 18th November, 2014:
Likelihood of rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Shan States, weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Sydney, 17 Nov — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 struck off the east coast of New Zealand’s North Island on Monday, but there have been no reports of casualties or damage.

The quake, which was centred 182 kilometres northeast of the town of Gisborne, struck at 11:33 am local time, at a depth of 22 km, according to the US Geological Survey, which monitors global seismic activity.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii said there is no tsunami threat.—Kyodo News

M6.7 earthquake strikes off NZ

Tuesday, 18 November, 2014 | 13
Pink Floyd top British album charts for first time since 1995

London, 17 Nov — British progressive rock group Pink Floyd topped the album charts for the first time in nearly 20 years on Sunday with “The Endless River”, the Official Charts Company said. The newly-released album, which the band says will be their last, became the third fastest-selling by a single group or artist this year after shifting more than 139,000 copies during the last week. A tribute to the band’s keyboardist Rick Wright who died in 2008, it is their sixth British number one album and their first since “Pulse” in 1995.

Foo Fighters were also a new entry at number two with “Sonic Highways”, while last week’s chart topper “X” by Ed Sheeran slid two places to number three.

Sheeran also featured in the singles chart, where his track “Thinking Out Loud” stayed in second place, ahead of One Direction’s “Steal My Girl”, which climbed six places to third.

Topping the singles chart was a celebrity cover version of Newton-John’s “Wake Me Up”, recorded by Gareth Malone’s All Star Choir in aid of charity Children in Need.

‘Dumb and Dumber’ sequel outs muscles ‘Hero’ to win weekend box office

Los Angeles/New York, 17 Nov — “Dumb and Dumber To”, the sequel to the 1994 comedy that raised stupidity to an art form, led the US and Canadian box office this weekend, taking in $38.1 million and outselling last week’s winner, “Big Hero 6”.

“Hero”, Walt Disney Co’s animated story of a boy and his robot, settled for a close second with $36 million, according to estimates provided by tracking firm Rentrak.

Director Christopher Nolan’s space adventure “Interstellar” collected $29.2 million for third place. “Dumb and Dumber To” stars Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels as dimwitted friends searching for the long-lost daughter of one of the buddies. The original film, Dumb and Dumber, was among 1994’s biggest hits, with $127.2 million in domestic ticket sales.

“We felt it was going to do over $30 million, but this is bordering on $40 million,” said Nikki Rocco, president for domestic distribution at Universal Pictures, the Comcast Corp unit that released the film.

“The timing was right for a comedy of this nature, one with broad appeal,” Rocco added, noting the studio successfully broadened the film’s appeal to ethnic audiences, with Hispanics making up 38 percent of ticket buyers.

“Big Hero 6”, which features the voices of Damon Wayans Jr, James Cromwell and Maya Rudolph, has collected $111.7 million in the United States and Canada since opening on 7 November, for a global total of $148 million. Disney said the film helped propel the studio’s strong year at the box office. On Friday it surpassed $4 billion in global sales for the second time in its history.

New release “Beyond the Lights,” the story of a pop star struggling with the pressures of fame who falls in love with a police man, took fourth place with $6.5 million. Director Gina Prince-Bythewood’s third film follows well-received titles “Love & Basketball” and “The Secret Life of Bees.”

Leonardo DiCaprio in ‘Joy’ with Jennifer Lawrence

Los Angeles, 17 Nov — “The Wolf of Wall Street” star Leonardo DiCaprio may join Jennifer Lawrence in David O Russell’s upcoming film “Joy”.

The director is reportedly revising the script for DiCaprio, who has express fleeting interest in the true-story inspired drama, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Russell is also expanding the small role of a QVC executive for his frequent collaborator Bradley Cooper. On top of that, Russell wants to bring in Robert De Niro after working with the actor in “Silver Linings Playbook”.

De Niro has reportedly entered negotiations to play the father to Lawrence’s character.

Lawrence won the best actress Oscar for her role in “Silver Linings Playbook” and earned a nomination for “American Hustle”, also directed by Russell.

The director is reportedly revising the script for DiCaprio, who has express fleeting interest in the true-story inspired drama.

U2’s Bono injured while cycling, “Tonight Show” gig delayed

New York, 17 Nov — U2 frontman Bono was injured while cycling in New York’s Central Park, forcing a delay in the Irish rocker’s return to “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” the band said on Sunday.

U2 was scheduled to perform on “The Tonight Show” from Monday to Friday. The band helped Fallon launch the late-night show in February as his first musical guest.

“It looks like we will have to do our Tonight Show residency another time — we’re one man down,” the band said on its website in a message signed by members The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr.

Bono, 54, “has injured his arm in a cycling spill in Central Park and requires some surgery to repair it. We’re sure he’ll make a full recovery soon, so we’ll be back!” the band said. The website did not give details about the incident or the injury.

Bono suffered a spinal injury in 2010 while preparing for a tour and underwent emergency surgery in Germany. The injury delayed part of the tour.

Actors Jim Carrey (L) and Jeff Daniels arrive in a van decorated as a dog at the world premiere of the film “Dumb and Dumber To” in Los Angeles, on 3 Nov, 2014. Reuters

Reporting

Reuters
South Korean throws hat in ring for trademark Napoleon headgear

PARIS, 17 Nov — A two-cornered hat that belonged to French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was sold to a South Korean bidder for €1.9 million ($2.4 million) at auction near Paris on Sunday.

Jean-Pierre Osenan of the Osenan auction house in Fontainebleau said the buyer acquired the black “bicorne” felt hat in a sale of Napoleon-era items from the collections of the Prince of Monaco.

The bicorne hat was a trademark of Napoleon, who wore it athwart, the two points aligned with his shoulders.

“Everybody at the time wore that kind of hat one way, but Napoleon wore it the other way so that everybody would recognize his silhouette on the battlefield,” said the auction official.

During the 15 years of his reign at the start of the 19th century, Napoleon went through about 120 hats. Osenan said only around 20 surviving items had been authenticated as belonging to the emperor, most of which are in museums.

The hat went for nearly five times the 400,000 euros it had been expected to fetch at the auction, where about 1,000 other pieces of Napoleon memorabilia from the Monaco collection were sold over three days. Five years ago, the same auction house sold a sabre that had belonged to Napoleon for 4.8 million euros, Osenan said. — Reuters

KATHMANDU, 17 Nov — The Hollywood movie sold has partnered with Childreach Nepal to launch the anti-trafficking campaign “Taught not Trafficked” in Nepal.

“I wanted to create a film that could foster change and serve as a vehicle to raise funds for children that would make a substantial difference in their lives,” Director of Sold Jeffrey D Brown said at a Press conference held in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Sold, a film about a young girl who has been trafficked from her home in Nepal to a brothel in India will be screened on Tuesday in Nepal. The “Taught Not Trafficked” campaign aims to shine a light on human trafficking internationally and to keep children safe through targeted education on upcoming projects in high risks areas across Nepal.

“Imagine if your sister or daughter was trafficked — it is simply the worst thing that could happen to a child. Our research shows that keeping girls in school is the best way to prevent them from being trafficked,” Tshering Lama, Director of Childreach Nepal, said. Jane Charles, Producer of the movie, said that we need to work on tackling the causes of trafficking and preventing it from happening in the first place.

“We met hundreds of survivors of child sex trafficking in India and Nepal while doing research for our film. Once you witness the issue of human trafficking first hand it is impossible to turn away,” she said. The thought-provoking movie has already received international attention and secured trafficking internationally and to keep children safe through targeted education on upcoming projects in high risks areas across Nepal.

“My daughter came to me and told me that she and her friends had been harassed by men. I told her to never go out alone,” said a mother.

Organisers have already screened the film to parents, teachers, and other community members to raise awareness about child trafficking. The “Taught Not Trafficked” campaign aims to prevent them from being engaged in such activities.

“Showing the evil and dark side of human beings was very painful,” Seema Biswas, a famous Indian film and theater actress, who plays the role of a brothel owner in the movie, told Xinhua.

The number of children trafficked out of Nepal is as high as 12,000 each year, but some reports indicate that the number is even higher. According to Childreach Nepal, the majority of trafficked children have dropped out or have been attending school infrequently.

Sunita Danawar, a child trafficking survivor, believes that with the right education, the “Taught not Trafficked” campaign has the potential to reduce child trafficking in the country. — Xinhua

HAIIFA, (Israel), 17 Nov — Surprise side Israel kept up their perfect start to their European Championship qualifying campaign on Sunday after a 3-0 win over Bosnia Herzegovina, going top in Group B in the process.

Goals by Gil Vermouth in the 36th minute, Omer Damari (45) and Eran Zahavi (70) secured the win as Bosnia played most of the second half with 10 men after Toni Sunjic was sent off in the 48th minute for bringing down Damari. Israeli have never qualified for the European Championship but are now top on nine points from three games after Wales drew 0-0 in Belgium. Their defeat at Haifa’s new Sammy Ofer Stadium could barely have been more positive, as coach Eli Guttman’s men dominated from the start and struck at the right time to shut out the Bosnians, who were without injured Manchester City forward Edin Dzeko.

The Bosnians were second best for most of the match and when they looked like getting on level terms, Israel struck to dampen their spirits. Vermouth, of Hapoel Tel Aviv, was perfectly set up by striker Tal Ben Haim for the first goal and Damari added the second just before halftime after being put through by Vermouth. Once Sunjic was sent off, with Damari hurtling goalwards, the match was all but over and Macabbi Tel Aviv’s Zahavi earned the plaudits of the ecstatic crowd.

“I am very happy but I am keeping my feet on the ground and am maintaining a modest outlook. The road to qualification is still a very long one,” Guttman said.

The defeat is likely to pile more pressure on Bosnia’s underfire coach Safet Susic, criticised for his tactics and team selection during an early World Cup exit as well as in the opening three Euro 2016 qualifiers. Bosnia have two points. — Reuters

Hollywood film to launch anti-trafficking campaign in Nepal

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Israel still perfect in Group B after 3-0 win over Bosnia

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Crocked Federer hands Djokovic year-end title by default

LONDON, 17 Nov — A mouth-watering finale to the season ended before it even began on Sunday when Roger Federer was forced to pull out through injury prior to his ATP World Tour Final showdown with world number one Novak Djokovic.

The 33-year-old Swiss, who spent two hours 48 minutes defeating compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka in a brutal semi-final the previous night, announced his decision on court as the 17,000-seat O2 Arena filled up.

It meant Djokovic became the first man to win the title three years in succession since Ivan Lendl in 1987.

World number two Federer, who was bidding for a seventh title at the year-end event, apologised but told the crowd he was not “match-fit” after developing a back problem.

Looking as stylish as ever as he stood on the blue indoor surface wearing a red and grey cardigan, Federer apologised, saying: “I hope you understand I wanted to come out personally and excuse myself for not playing... I can’t compete without a back at this level.”

Despite the huge anti-climax for the crowd, some of whom had forked out thousands of pounds for a courtside ticket, there was no booing, with applause breaking out as seven-times Wimbledon champion Federer spoke.

Explaining how the injury arose, Federer said later: “I was feeling great until yesterday’s tiebreaker. I felt all of a sudden the back was feeling funny.

“I tried to have treatment on it, medication, just tried to turn around as quick as possible really, but didn’t really feel much of an improvement overnight.”

It was only the third time in a career spanning nearly 1,000 matches that Federer has withdrawn because of injury.

Djokovic was not really in the mood for celebrating when he collected the trophy and a $1.92 million cheque.

“Obviously not the way I’d like to win this,” said the 27-year-old, who clinched the year-end world number one ranking for the third time in four years this week.

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“Federer said on their website that it looked like a 17-000 seat O2 Arena filled up.

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“I feel sorry for Roger. I’ve been in tennis 10 years and I know Roger and Rafael (Nadal) have been the biggest competitors and always give their 100 per cent. If Roger could have come out and played he would have played.

“I’m not the kind of player to celebrate these wins, but I have to celebrate the whole season and this trophy is the crown on the season,” he added.

To appease disappointed fans, home favourite Andy Murray, thrashed by Federer in the week, agreed to play Djokovic in a one-set exhibition match, before partnering John McEnroe in a doubles game against Tim Henman and Pat Cash.

Federer now faces an anxious week as he tries to recover for the Davis Cup final against France in Lille next weekend.

Along with the Olympic singles title, the Davis Cup is the major honour which still eludes the 17-times grand slam champion, with Switzerland’s hopes resting on the shoulders of him and Wawrinka.

“The way I feel right now there’s no way I can compete at any level really,” Federer said. “Probably in a few days it’s going to be better.”

Daley adds to United’s woes after injury with Dutch

OLD TRAFFORD, 17 Nov — Manchester United midfielder Daley Blind could be out for a lengthy period after coming off after 20 minutes of the Netherlands’ 6-0 win over Latvia in a Euro 2016 qualifier on Sunday.

United said on their website that it looked like a knee injury, with some media reports speculating he could be out for six weeks.

“T’m not a doctor, but it doesn’t look good. It looks like he twisted his medial ligament, but it could be a rupture as well.”

Blind had made a decent start to his Old Trafford career as a defensive midfielder, also being employed by Van Gaal as an emergency centre back.

United, currently seventh in the Premier League, will again have to reshuffle their pack as they prepare to visit Arsenal on Saturday.

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