EU to give Myanmar financial support under development programme

**Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views documentary photos on activities of Shan New Year Day.——MNA**

Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys Shan New Year feast

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited a pagoda festival and a Shan New Year feast held at Hsenwi township, Shan State.

Shan State’s Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and ministers opened the festival and the feast.

At the ceremony, the vice president delivered a congratulatory speech on the occasion of Shan New Year.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that these events can be held due to the efforts of local people and the current peaceful situation, especially in the economic and administrative sectors.

He also said that some people have not fully appreciated the reform processes of the government in politics, the economy and administration which have been carried out since 2011.

The vice president noted that politics gives individuals or a party a clear mandate to implement policies and decisions for the welfare of the country.

He also suggested that people should elect parliamentarians sensibly, while the candidates themselves need to consider seriously whether they can work for the good of the country, and not for selfish reasons.

He also explained that state revenues are allocated by the parliament, and that the government spends the revenues on projects according to its budget, so there is a counter-balance between the parliament and the government.

The vice president reminded the locals to be cautious about which candidates they vote for.

After the pagoda festival and New Year feast, Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited the monument of the historic Shwe Nandaw residence and planted a tree marking the 100th anniversary of the grand building.

The vice president then paid homage at Maha Muni pagoda and donated offerings to the head monk of the township.

Sai Mauk Kham and party arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw from Lashio at 3 pm.

**EU ambassador to Myanmar Roland Kobia.**

**Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane.**

**Union Minister for NPED Dr Kan Zaw.**

Yangon, 24 Nov — The European Union and its partners will give Myanmar euro 250 million every year under a strategic cooperation in military affairs.

Myanmar, Thailand to promote cooperation in military affairs

Myanmar and Thai armed forces to maintain unchanged relationship

Yangon, 24 Nov — The European Union and its partners have agreed to give Myanmar euro 250 million every year under a development programme include Germany, Denmark, the UK, Sweden, Italy, Finland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Luxemburg, Netherlands and Poland.

U Soe Thane, Union minister at the President Office, said that the programme came online on 24 November, and euro 30 million will be used for peace-making efforts out of euro 250 million every year.

U Soe Thane said: “Euro 31 million will also be used for parliament, the 2015 election, the rule of law and the judicial system, management, and a census-taking project. This financial support will be useful for the peace-making effort as it is the most fundamental for the development of the country.”

Allotment of these funds includes euro 70 million each year for a rural development programme; 40 million for the health sector, euro 44 million for education; euro 14 million for trade and economic development; euro 5 million for human rights issues; euro 16 million for civil societies; and euro 1 million for environmental conservation.

The EU ambassador said that the assistance proves that the EU is very optimistic about the future of Myanmar, and sends a message that the EU will cooperate with Myanmar in major reform processes, including the 2015 election.

Ministers U Soe Thane and Dr Kan Zaw pose for documentary photo with participants in the ceremony of handing over 250 million euro to Myanmar. — PHOTO: KHIN YANDANA/TIN SOE-MYANMA ALINN

DRA abolishes registration fee for imported municipal buses

Yangon, 24 Nov — The Directorate of Road Administration under the Ministry of Transport has abolished a rule that levies a registration fee on imported passenger buses to be used for municipal transport effective from 17 November, according to the YOBA. Under the rule, the ministry collected five per cent of the original value of imported buses as a registration fee.

Only so-called city buses are now exempt from paying the registration fee, while other types of buses are not, the announcement stated. The move is aimed at increasing the number of modern buses in use in cities, the announcement said.

Second-hand passenger buses are mostly imported to Myanmar as they are cheaper than new buses. A brand new city bus costs around K40 million in Myanmar, and more than 3,000 such buses were imported from October 2011 to October 2014.

Aye Min Soe /GNLM
Debate on constitutional amendment continues at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Representatives continue debate on amendment of constitution on Tuesday’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on bill on discrimination against women, vehicle import policy

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on bill on discrimination against women, vehicle import policy

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Nov — The Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session on Monday raised questions on the enactment of a law prohibiting females from violence and the vehicle import policy.

Concerning the law prohibiting females from violence, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said that females are protected from physical, mental and sexual violence by their fundamental rights in accordance with the constitution.

Regarding the vehicle import policy, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said that while the ministry has permitted the import of vehicles regardless of whether they are left-hand drive or right-hand drive since 2009, it is taking measures to allow only the importation of left-hand drives of the previous model year in 2015.

The Ministry of Commerce issues import permits for vehicles while the Customs Department levies import duties and the Directorate of Road Administration registers the vehicles, according to the minister.

However, the union minister said the ministry has no plans to inspect imported cars as to whether they meet international standards.

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Nov — The bill committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw submitted the anti-dumping bill sent back with some changes to the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) session on Monday.

The differences between the two chambers will be discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw approved the constitution amendment bill and the second amendment bill of the Amyotha Hluttaw. It will be submitted to the Union Election Commission in the near future.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Ceremony held to reunite 80 former child soldiers with parents

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Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Nov — Under the arrangement of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and the Myanmar Watchdog Report Work Committee, a ceremony to hand over 80 former child soldiers to their parents was held at No 1 Transit Centre in Yangon on Monday.

Brig-Gen Taik Tun of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and Mr. Bertrand Bainvel, the UNICEF representative in Myanmar, made speeches. Official presentations of resignation certificates and citizenship certificates to the children and handed them over to their parents. Similar ceremonies were held in Yangon. Officials handed over 42 children to their parents on 3 September 2012, 24 children on 15 February 2013, 42 on 7 July 2013, 96 on 18 January 2014, 91 on 1 August 2014 and 109 on 25 September 2014.

Myanmar signed an 18-month plan with the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children (UNCT-PMR) on 27 June 2012 and ended the recruitment and use of children as child soldiers. The plan was extended by six months for the first time on 28 December 2013 and a second time on 28 June 2014. Action was taken against 48 officers and 271 servicemen for recruitment of children.—Myawady

More clashes occur in Kachin State

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Nov — Members of the Kachin Independent Army (KIA) attacked security camp of the Tatmadaw near Momauk Township in Bhamo district, Kachin State, on Saturday afternoon, according to a report by Myawady, the military mouthpiece, on Monday.

Another attack on the military by the same group also happened near Dawphoyang sub-township in Bhamo district Sunday afternoon.

Security forces later launched counterattacks, the report said.

The Tatmadaw has reportedly sent a letter to the KIA’s Conflict Negotiation Committee seeking to avoid more conflicts between the two forces.

Myawady

First-year university courses to kick off on 4 December

Yangon, 24 Nov — First-year courses at universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Ministry of Education will begin on 4 December.

The admission lists for the 2014-15 academic year of those who passed the matriculation examination in 2014 have already been announced at all universities, degree colleges and colleges.

The second year and above courses will begin on 1 December.
Myanmar, Thailand to promote cooperation in military affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Vice President U Nyan Tun held talks with Chief of Defence Forces General Worapong Sanganetra of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

They focused on formation of joint commission and the joint border committees for cooperation in promoting bilateral relations, arrangements for friendly relations and cooperation between two armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand, and cooperation in peace and stability, rule of law, drug elimination, combating terrorism and prevention of human trafficking at border regions between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Commodore Aung Thaw, U Thant Kyaw, U Han Sein and Daw Win Maw Tun, and the Thai Military Attaché.—MNA

Myanmar and Thai armed forces to maintain unchangeable relationship

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Myanmar and Thailand, members of ASEAN, have been maintaining friendly relations, diplomatic relations and military relations for sixty years, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with Chief of Defence Forces General Worapong Sanganetra of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The senior general thanked Thailand for its support in peace-making process of Myanmar for ensuring peace and stability of practising multiparty democracy system. He urged the Thai general to help all groups participate in eternal peace-making process. The senior general pointed out a key role of Thailand for ensuring peace and stability and democratization. The senior general confirmed Myanmar and Thai armed forces will maintain unchangeable relationship.

The Thai general claimed that he will try the best to further cement friendly ties between the two armed forces and promote cooperation between them in his tenure.

After that, they exchanged views on border affairs, effective elimination of narcotic drugs, close cooperation in exchange of information for combating terrorism.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner to the Thai general and party at Aureum Palace Hotel.

In the morning, the senior general welcomed the Thai general at Zeyathiri Beikman and took salute of the Guard of Honour. The senior general presented his entourage to the Thai general who introduced his delegation members to the senior general. —Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party left Yangon by air on Monday to attend the 15th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15) and the closing ceremony of the 24th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meeting (24th AARM) to be held in Vietnam.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win accompanied by officials of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and senior military officers.—Myawady

38th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting kicks off in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Emphasis is to be placed on implementation of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, the ASEAN Single Shipping Market, the ASEAN Highway Network Project and the Singapore-Kunming railroad project, Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw said at the opening ceremony of the 38th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting held at the Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Monday.

He urged all ASEAN member countries to strive for implementation of the Brunei Action Plan, the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan and the AEC Blueprint so as to facilitate the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Altogether 170 delegates from ASEAN countries discussed development of the transport sector and future plans.

The 37th meeting was hosted in Nay Pyi Taw from 3 to 5 June 2014.—MNA
**Local News**

**Merit shared for completion of home for the aged**

**Nyaunglebin, 24 Nov**

A ceremony to share merit for construction of Dhamma Yeiktha Home for the Aged was held in the precinct of Sasana Sobhanikayon monastery beside Yangon-Mandalay Road in Ward 3, Pyuntaza, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on 21 November.

The home has three one-storey halls. Ko Aung Soe Myat Ma Ei Mon Soe and family donated the hall for Mon Cetara grandfathers, U Tun Shwe-Daw Tin Mya and family of Pyuntaza, the hall for Shwe and Mya grandmothers, and U Myo Aung-Daw Khin Yi (Aung Yadana Rice Mill) and family of Pyuntaza, the Bawzana Thallu Aungyadana hall. Other well-wishers donated archways, power supplies, stairways, beds, chairs and other equipment, amounting to over K51 million.

*Nay Pyin (Nyaunglebin)*

**Talk on dental medicine given in Mandalay**

**Mandalay, 24 Nov**

The Mandalay Region Dentists Association of Myanmar Dentists Association organized a dental medicine talk at Oriental House at the corner of 64th and 27th streets in Mandalay on Sunday.

Association Chairman Dr Aung Kyawt Phone explained the purpose of holding the talks. Dr Aye Min (USA) gave a lecture on chemomechanical preparation and 3D obturation of the root-canal system and also replied to queries raised by dentists.

The chairman of the Mandalay region association presented a certificate of honour to the speaker. The talk was attended by over 90 dentists and executives of the association.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

**Outstanding students in English and mathematics receive awards**

**Myaung, 24 Nov**

The prize presentation for outstanding students in English and mathematics contests for the 2014-15 academic year was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Myaung, Ayeyawady Region, on Sunday.

Township Education Officer U Win Myint awarded 84 winners in the English and mathematics contests from grade 5 for matriculation from the basic education schools.

The education officer expressed thanks for donations from U Than Htaik-Daw Mya Min Min Htet and family and Min San Ein.—*Win Bo-Township IPRD*

**Dhamma School opened in Myaung Township**

**Myaung, 24 Nov**

The Dhamma School was opened at the Youth Development Parahita House of the Monastic Education Post-Primary School in Myaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 23 November.

Secretary-1 of the Dhamma School Foundation Sayadaw Dr Nanavamsa explained the purpose of opening the Dhamma School. U Thein Hsan of the school elaborated on disciplines of the school and timetables. Altogether 580 students are attending the Dhamma School every Sunday.

*Win Bo-Township IPRD*

**Departmental officials, entrepreneurs discuss national land utilization policy**

**Mandalay, 24 Nov**

A discussion on national land utilization policy (draft) of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at Mandalay’s city hall on Sunday.

Mandalay Region ministers, Director of Nay Pyi Taw Forest Department U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and towns’ elders participated in the discussions.

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Lwin made a speech.

Director U Kyaw Lwin reported on the national land utilization policy (draft) in brief. The region minister and officials replied to queries raised by entrepreneurs of crops plantations and departmental personnel.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*
Union information minister meets media persons

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut met the head of the Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department, district-level officials, chairmen of Mandalay Region Journalists Association and Mandalay District Journalists Association and executives, chief editors and editorial staff of Yadanabon and Mandalay dailies and journals. The union minister explained the duties and functions of the Ministry of Information. The media persons discussed the process of public service media, media law, prosecution of media, plans for development of media and tasks of the Myanmar Press Council (Interim).

Maung Psi Thu
(Mandalay)

Two artists show their works at gallery

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—The Together Friend arts show was opened at Thiri Art Gallery on Fine Arts Road in Mingala Housing of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, on 22 November morning.

Chairman of the Upper Myanmar Artists Association U Zaw Win formally opened the show.

The showing of the 55 paintings by art tutors U Zeyar Aye and U Nyan Tun of the Mandalay State School of Fine Arts began on 22 November and will continue until 26 November, 10 am to 5 pm daily.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Children enjoy festivities at Myodaw Park free of charge

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, festivities organized by Equality Myanmar were held at Myodaw Park on Strand Road in Chanayathazan Township, Mandalay, on 20 November.

About 900 children from philanthropic schools, the Thukha Yeikmyon orphanage, a school for the disabled, a school for deaf children and suburban areas enjoyed the festivities free of charge.

Children under 15 were allowed to participate in the modern playground, and well-wishers gave them refreshments.

Maung Psi Thu
(Mandalay)

New motorcycle brands seeing high demand in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—New motorcycle brands from China, Thailand and India are flowing into the Mandalay market.

Click 125cc and Scoop 110 motorcycles are particularly popular among youths. The motorcycles made in Thailand sell for between K1.4 million and K1.6 million, with good second-hand models available for K1.2 million.

The Chinese-made Click and Scoop motorcycles are priced at about K900,000 but demand for them is still low. Therefore, the motorbikes are being sold on installment plans.

Moreover, a sales promotion campaign is being held for Chinese-made Zongshen motorcycles through a lucky draw programme.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Tournament kicks off

Yadanabon FC Chairman Men’s Open Inter-Club Football Tournament kicks off

MANDALAY, 24 Nov—The first round matches of the 2014 Yadanabon FC Chairman Men’s Open Inter-Club Football Tournament kicked off at Shwe Mann Taung Ground, Aungmye Mandalay Sports Ground and Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on Sunday.

At Bahtoo Stadium, Galaxy beat Nan Myo Youth 1-0. Thamudaya Maung thrashed No Two 5-2 in Aungmye Mandalay Sports Ground.

A total of 27 football clubs including the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) are participating in nine groups.

The second-round knockout matches will be held from 7 to 17 December at the designated venues.

The teams are battling for the K1 million first prize and the K700,000 second prize. In addition, a best player award of K30,000 will be given to the best player in each place, while the player of the tournament will receive K50,000.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)

Talk given on prevention of crimes over land allotment

MYANNAING, 24 Nov—An educative talk on the prevention of crimes over farmlands organized by the Myanmar Township Police Force, was held in Ward 6 of Myanmaung, Ayeyawady Region, on Sunday.

Commander of Myoma police station Police Captain Maung Maung Tar explained legal affairs for prevention of crimes over allotment of alluvial lands in the Ayeyawady River.

Ward administrators and local people participated in the land allotment.

Win Bo-Township
IPRD
DPJ election platform seeks change in “Abenomics” to narrow wealth gap

Tokyo, 24 Nov — The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan will call for a turnaround in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policies in its policy platform for the upcoming election to narrow disparities in wealth and revive a “wealthy middle-class,” its outline showed on Sunday. According to party officials, the DPJ platform, to be announced Monday, will seek a “flexible” monetary policy that takes heed of people’s lives and a growth strategy that leads to a better future. By emphasizing the viewpoint of “ordinary citizens,” the party aims to court voters critical of the Abe administration, centering on unfuated voters, according to party officials. The platform will also seek to apply “every policy resource” to realizing a society without nuclear power in the 2030s and ditching the Cabinet’s decision in July to reinterpret the Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense. To deal with so-called gray-zone contingencies that have not developed to the level of necessitating the use of force, the party will propose legislating what it calls a territorial defense law. On the contentious issue of relocating a key US military in Okinawa, the DPJ will maintain its stance of complying with an existing accord with the United States to transfer the Marines’ Futenma Air Station within the southernmost prefecture, despite local opposition. The platform also features the party’s signature measures that it realized when in power between 2009 and 2012, such as income subsidies for farmers and a lump-sum subsidy system for local governments that was scrapped by the current administration. —Kyodo News

Indonesia moves to contain risk of inflation after fuel price rise

BoGOR, 24 Nov — The Indonesian government took measures to control the hikes of goods’ prices across the country following the raise of subsidized-fuel prices by nearly 31 percent last week. Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday told governors from all 34 provinces in a meeting at the Botanical garden Palace here to check the stockpiles and distribution of goods in their provinces as the president expected the price hikes contributed by the fuel price increase to be no more than 2 percent this year. “On inflation, I told (the governors) to monitor the stockpiles of goods and their distribution,” Jokowi, as Widodo is known, said after the meeting with the governor at the palace. “The additional inflation that we target is no more than 2 percent. It must not be over that,” he stressed. That was not in line with the central bank calculation which has said that the additional inflation from the fuel price hike may reach 3 percent. Jokowi disclosed that he considered the current goods’ price hikes remained in control. “We don’t need to worry about the information,” he said. The country’s central bank, Bank Indonesia, has forecast inflation at 3.5 to 5.5 percent at the end of year, but the fuel price rise may push up the inflation. The Indonesian government rose the fuel prices last Monday by nearly 31 percent to bolster government finances and help with the nation’s trade imbalance. The new policy gives certainty to investors that the Indonesian government plans to build massive infrastructures in the country, as President Jokowi aims to pursue over 7 percent GDP within 2 years, compared with this year’s 5.2 to 5.3 percent GDP expectation.

Philippine court convicts 9 Chinese fishermen

Manila, 24 Nov — Nine Chinese fishermen were convicted by a court in western Philippine province of Palawan for poaching on Monday. Provincial prosecutor Allen Ross Rodriguez said Puerto Princesa City Regional Trial Court Branch 51 Judge Ambrosio de Luna issued the sentence during the promulgation of the case. Rodriguez said the Chinese fishermen were convicted for violating Section 87 of Republic Act (RA) 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code for poaching and Section 97 of (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation Act for taking of rare, threatened or endangered species. “For violation of Section 87 or poaching, the court meted each of them a fine of 100,000 US dollars or in case of non-payment, a subsidiary imprisonment of six months,” he said. Rodriguez said in a phone interview that the fine was in dollars due to the fact that the “Philippines has adopted the provision of the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Seas or UNCLOS when it comes to poaching.” As for violation of Section 97 of RA 9147, the prosecutor said the court imposed a penalty of 120,000 pesos (2,700 US dollars) each and/or imprisonment ranging from 12 to 20 years. —Xinhua

Thai king meets PM, ministers easing health concerns

Bangkok, 24 Nov — Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej met the country’s prime minister and two other ministers on Sunday, helping to ease concern over his health after he was admitted to hospital last month. Bhumibol, 86, attended an official ceremony at Bangkok’s Siriraj Hospital where he is being treated following an operation to remove his gallbladder. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former army chief who led a May coup that helped remove the remnants of an elected government, attended the ceremo-

ny with the ministers. Photographs released by the Royal Household Bureau, which tightly controls information about the royal family, show Prayuth, dressed in a white uniform, bowing and the king sitting on a golden chair. The meeting was originally scheduled for Friday but the palace said doctors had advised the king to cancel the engagement, raising public concerns over the monarch’s health. The king is revered by many Thais and his portrait hangs in every government building and in many shops and homes. Bhumibol, a constitutional monarch, made several interventions in the 1970s and 1990s to call for calm during political upheaval. He was silent during the latest crisis, which began in November and culminated in the coup in May. Thailand has a strict law which makes it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, king’s heir to the throne or regent. A national police spokesman said on Sunday that two senior policemen face royal insult charges in the latest in a mounting number of these cases following the May coup. —Reuters

Well-wishers pray for the health of Thailand’s revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Siriraj hospital in Bangkok on 8 October, 2014. —Reuters

Delegations of SAARC countries attend the 41 st session of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) standing committee ahead of the 18 th SAARC summit in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 23 Nov, 2014. —Xinhua

Indigenous people attend a rally against the militarization in their communities near the Malacanan Palace in Manila, the Philippines, on 24 Nov, 2014. The protesters called for the end of mining activities and the presence of the US military in Mindanao. —Xinhua

Regions

Well-wishers pray for the health of Thailand’s revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Siriraj hospital in Bangkok on 8 October, 2014. —Reuters
Putin: world leadership determined by economic, defence capabilities, not ratings

MOSCOW, 24 Nov — World leadership is determined by a state's economic capabilities, not by ratings, which could be an element of internal political struggle, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview to the TASS special project Top Officials.

"World leadership is determined by a state’s economic and defence capabilities," Putin said while commenting on a recent Forbes ranking of the world’s most powerful people, which placed the Russian leader on top of the list, followed by US President Barack Obama.

"I don’t know how Forbes made these assessments, it is their business. Perhaps, they do this on purpose to exacerbate my relations with Barack Obama, placing him second," he said.

"The President of the United States and I know each other. I can’t say that we have quite close relationships, but he is a clever person and can evaluate all this. This could be a method of internal political struggle in the United States, especially on the eve of the elections to the Senate," Putin said.

"I don’t want now to give an assessment of the US President’s steps on the international scene, and we have a lot of contradictions and our views frequently diverge and, all the more so, I don’t want to assess his internal political initiatives as this is a separate theme but I know that Obama realistically assesses what is going on in his country," he said.

"I’m confident that he considers these ratings as an element of struggle aimed at causing him damage," the Russian president said.

Putin said he doubts that US media is independent.

"How can it be independent, if it works in pair with the political opponents of the head of the White House? There is no independence in this regard. This is full dependence and the servicing of certain forces," he said.

Italy’s Renzi wins regional polls, low turnout sends warning

ROME, 24 Nov — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi’s centre-left Democratic Party (PD) won regional elections in Calabria and Emilia Romagna on Sunday but an exceptionally low turnout suggested growing disillusion among many voters.

Renzi, who has chalked up two other regional election successes since taking office in February and won a record victory in European elections in May, claimed another win, but he acknowledged that large numbers of voters had stayed away.

"The turnout was bad, the results were good. A clear 2-0. 4 regions out of 4 taken from the centre right in 9 months," he said in a tweet on Monday.

However, after years of economic crisis that has created hardship among a growing number of Italians, there were clear warnings signs for Renzi, who is facing increased pressure to push through potentially unpopular economic reforms.

In the central region of Emilia Romagna, traditionally a stronghold of the left, the PD candidate Stefano Bonaccini won 49 percent of the vote with the support of the leftist Left Ecology Freedom (SEL) party. However, turnout was just 40 percent, down from some 65 percent at the previous election.

In the southern region of Calabria, where results in some areas were still being counted early on Monday, the PD candidate Mario Oliverio had a score of more than 61 percent with the support of smaller leftist parties.

Turnout was 44 percent against almost 60 percent last time.

In Emilia Romagna, the anti-immigrant, anti-euro Northern League party, which campaigned in a centre-right coalition including former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi’s Forza Italia, did better than expected, winning nearly 20 percent of the vote, while Forza Italia took 8 percent.

That was well ahead of the anti-establishment 5 Star Movement on 13 percent.

In Calabria, the centre-right coalition led by Forza Italia came second with almost 24 percent of the vote, while the 5-Star Movement took just under five percent.

Iran nuclear talks expected to reconvene next month

VIENNA, 24 Nov — Iran and six world powers are expected to adjourn nuclear negotiations on Monday and reconvene next month after the latest round of talks failed to clinch a final deal, a source close to the talks said.

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Details about the ad-
Be prepared for climate change

By Myint Win Thein

Myanmar is among the top-ten countries most severely affected by climate change, according to international research organizations. People in Ayeyawady and Yangon Regions still cannot forget the losses of life and property they suffered during and after Cyclone Nargis struck in 2008, the most lethal cyclone in the history of the country.

But cyclones are just one type of natural disaster that Myanmar has been suffering from. In fact, Myanmar is exposed to hazards such as floods, storms, earthquakes, tsunamis and land-slides, and the occurrence of these natural disasters has increased with the changing climate.

To make Myanmar safer and more resilient against natural hazards, thus protecting lives, livelihoods and development gains, we should integrate the four Rs into our daily lives and practices. Four Rs stand for reduction, readiness, response and recovery. For disaster risk reduction, we should reduce CO2 emissions and accelerate reforestation and the use of renewable energy, constructing disaster-resistant buildings and cooperating with the international community, local governments, government agencies and NGOs in reduction activities. For readiness, we must install early warning systems, build communication networks, raise public awareness and identify hazard-prone areas where buildings with standard designs that can withstand natural disasters should be constructed. Responses to natural disasters should be promptly conducted to prevent losses of life and property as much as possible by developing disaster response plans for each and every region. Recovery measures include hospitalizing the injured and providing food, clean drinking water, medical care, construction materials and even support for the livelihoods of victims.

Managing a natural disaster is efficient only when each and every one of the people participate in the reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities. So everyone in Myanmar should integrate the four Rs into their daily lives and practices as climate change has accelerated.

Write for us

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

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

Improving Labour Productivity

Kyaw Win

Productivity, putting it simply, is a measure of how efficiently and effectively resources are utilized for production of goods and provision of services. Technically it is the ratio of outputs to inputs. Labour productivity is the output per person (physical/ value units) over a period of time. Improving skills and attitudes of workers so that they can produce more goods or provide better service (of required quality and the repaving of Pakokku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw Road.

No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) during his inspection tour on Sunday. The union minister inspected the laying of gravel on a road section linking No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) and the repaving of Pakok-

Union construction minister inspects progress of roads, bridges in Magway Region

NAV PYI TW, 24 Nov — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin during his inspection tour looked into construction of No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) on Pakokku-Kamau-Pauk Road in Magway Region on Sunday.

The union minister inspected the laying of gravel on a road section linking No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) and the repaving of Pakok-

Union minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspects repaving of road during his tour of Magway Region.
Plan underway to vocational schools in regions and states

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attended the meeting 13/2014 of the technical skills and vocational education enhancement special task force at the Technical and Vocational Education Department on Natmauk Street in Yangon on Monday.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein stressed the need to discuss arrangements for opening more schools to turn out skillful workers and provide teaching aid.

Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo explained the plans to open vocational training schools and vocational high schools of respective ministries in regions and states.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat submitted a report on future tasks for opening the schools.

KIA soldier escapes from KIA troop

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—Pvt Khin Maung Win, 26 years, of No 4 Battalion of KIA (Kachin) returned to the legal fold at the military column at 3.40 pm on 22 November.

He was arrested by KIA (Kachin) for recruitment on Gwethaw Road to Myitkyina after resigning from Mashiyang gold mine in April 2014. He attended the two-month military training as of May at No 4 Battalion of KIA (Kachin). After completion of training, he was assigned duty of militia at the KIA (Kachin). After completion of training, he was assigned duty of militia at the battalion. As he no longer joined the KIA (Kachin), he tried to flee from the battalion several times. On arrival at 17th-Mile camp of No 4 Battalion, he fled to the Tatmadaw column.

Union minister carries out social welfare tasks in Ayeyawady Region

Notification on permanent residency system announced

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—The Ministry of Immigration and Population released notification No. 1/2014 on implementation of the permanent residency system in Myanmar. The notification states that the ministry issued the permanent residency rules under Section 16 of the 1947 Myanmar Immigration Act (current provisions).

The National Education Law has a Very Strong Focus on Quality Education for All (CESR and Education Development Partners, 21-11-2014)
Growing UK concern about ‘lone wolf’ terrorist attacks: top policeman

LONDON, 24 Nov — Law enforcement authorities in Britain are increasingly worried about the risk of a “lone wolf”-style militant attack and have foiled four or five plots this year, London’s top police officer said on Sunday.

The assertion, by Bernard Hogan-Howe, the commissioner of London’s Metropolitan Police, comes on the eve of a terrorism awareness campaign and as the government prepares to introduce a law that would make it easier for the police to identify who is using a computer or a mobile phone at any given time.

Britain has been considered a target for Islamist militants since the on 11 September, 2001, Al-Qaeda attacks on the United States, and 52 people were killed when four young Britons carried out suicide bombings in London in 2005.

Britain raised its terrorism alert to the second-highest level in August, saying militants in Syria and Iraq posed the biggest threat to its security. That meant an attack was deemed highly likely for the first time since mid-2011. When asked whether lone wolf attacks were now the biggest worry after the 2013 murder of Lee Rigby, a British soldier, by two machete-wielding Muslim converts, Hogan-Howe suggested the risk of further such attacks was increasing.

“We’ve certainly seen over the last few months a growing concern about exactly the type of attack you just described,” he said on BBC TV’s Andrew Marr Show. “It doesn’t take an awful lot of organizing, it doesn’t take too many people to conspire together, there’s no great complexity to it, so what that means is that we have a very short time to interdict, to actually intervene, and make sure that these people don’t get away with it.”

The authorities usually foil one terrorist plot a year, he said. But in 2014 they had thwarted “four or five” as the frequency and seriousness of such plots had escalated.

Reuters

Russia will do its best to promote intra-Syrian dialogue - Russian lawmaker

BEIRUT, 24 Nov — Russia will do its best to promote intra-Syrian dialogue, Ilyas Umakharov, a deputy speaker of the Russian Federation Council upper parliament house, told TASS on Sunday.

“It is the most pragmatic way for the Syrian s to reach accord,” he said, adding that this subject had been raised at the talks a Russian parliament delegation had had in Damascus on Saturday.

“At a meeting with us, Syrian President Bashar Assad said the government was ready for a dialogue in the name of the interests of the Syrian people,” he said. “We felt his confidence in his words and his commitment to begin a peaceful post-war development of the country as soon as possible.”

The Russian delegation paid a visit to Syria “as part of the programme of contacts with the Syrian leaders and was beyond the frames of an exchange of opposition law makers,” he noted, adding that such trips “make it possible not only to maintain the temperature in bilateral relations but also to coordinate efforts.”

Over the past three years, according to the Russian lawmaker, the Federation Council had sent four delegations to Syria. Apart from that, a mission of Russian observers monitored the presidential elections in June 2014. “In Moscow, we have received 12 Syrian friends. These were official delegations at various levels, public figures, religious leaders, including the patriarch and the patriarch of Antioch,” he added.

“The system of contacts that was built in the recent years has acquired a balanced character. We are received in Damascus as old friends,” Umakharov noted. “At a meeting with Bashar Assad, we were pushed to ensure the support to joint initiatives geared to promote bilateral partnership. We spoke about attracting Russian regional and North Caucasian republics to cooperation. The Syrian side is raising the issue of establishing air service and transport communication with Russia.”

Itar-Tass

Anxious Ferguson waits for grand jury’s decision

A St. Louis County Security Officer places police tape along a barricade outside Buzz Westfall Justice Centre in Clayton, Missouri on 23 Nov, 2014. — Reuters

FERGUSON, 24 Nov — After a fourth straight night of low-level protests in Ferguson, Missouri, anxious residents still did not know on Sunday when a grand jury would return a decision on whether to charge a white policeman who shot an unarmed black teen to death this summer.

It appeared that the St Louis suburb, which has become a flashpoint for US race relations since Officer Darren Wilson killed 18-year-old Michael Brown on 9 August, would have to wait until at least Monday and perhaps longer for an announcement.

The 12-member grand jury adjourned and was to resume meeting behind closed doors on Monday, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing an unidentified St Louis County official. Reuters could not confirm that report.

Preaching at the Great St Mark Family Church, the Rev Tommience Person urged the congregation to pull together as a community.

“You can’t come in and recommend charges right away based on the evidence? You alone know what the grand jury will do. You alone know what the marchers and demonstrators will do. We ask, oh God, for your protection.”

Media reports had suggested the 12-member grand jury panel would have to wait until at least Monday to make a decision by this weekend.

There have been nightly rallies and a high-profile law enforcement presence.

A lawyer for Michael Brown’s family criticized how prosecutors have handled the grand jury process, which has dragged on longer than many expected.

The attorney, Benjamin Crump, told ABC’s “This Week” programme on Sunday that his 20 years as an attorney that a prosecutor had not recommended charges to a grand jury hearing a case.

“You can’t come in and recommend charges right away based on the evidence?” Crump said, a reference to witnesses who said Brown had his hands up in the air, signaling surrender, when the officer shot him. Wilson’s supporters say he shot Brown in self-defence.

St. Louis County prosecutors have said the grand jury’s decision would be announced at a news conference, but the date, time and location remain unknown.

Crump said he expected to get about six hours notice before an announcement.

In anticipation of the announcement, barriers were erected over the weekend around the courthouse where the jury meets, and traffic restrictions were imposed in some nearby roads. The streets were largely empty of people on Sunday during torrential rain.

Two people were arrested outside Ferguson police headquarters late Saturday — an activist from Chicago who had been detained during protests three times since Wednesday and a man identified as a Washington, DC-based reporter.

Reuters

Afghan women excluded from peace talks with Taliban: aid agency

KABUL, 24 Nov — Afghan women are excluded from efforts to negotiate peace with the Taliban and hard-won rights could be bargained away unless more is done to include them in the process, aid agency Oxfam said in a report on Monday.

In 23 rounds of peace talks tracked by Oxfam since 2005, not one Afghan woman participated in discussions between the Taliban and international negotiators. In talks between the Taliban and the government, only one Afghan woman was present on two occasions, Oxfam said.

“Negotiations and peace talks to date have taken place predominantly behind closed doors and without Afghan women’s knowledge, input or involvement,” the report said.

Under the hardline, Islamicist Taliban government ousted by US-led forces in 2001, women were banned from education, employment and public life. Many had made over more than a decade of foreign intervention are now at risk or already been rolled back, Oxfam said, and the dialogue so far had missed the opportunity to stress the importance of protecting women’s rights.

“It is clear that women’s rights have been a low priority,” the report said. Just seven of 50 members of the Afghan High Peace Council are women, and their role is largely symbolic, according to Oxfam, which advocates a 30 percent minimum threshold for female inclusion.

The Taliban said on Sunday it was in favor of including women in both the talks and any future government, but only once all foreign troops had left Afghanistan. Under the current plan, US and other foreign forces will stay on throughout 2016.

“If invasion is over and Afghans have a chance to build their own system, then each and every individual, man and woman, in this country can play a role in it,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters.

While Afghans and foreign donors alike are optimistic that new president Ashraf Ghani will do more to protect women’s rights, there has been little obvious improvement so far.

Women made up only a small fraction of delegations accompanying Ghani on his first foreign trips to regional powers China and Pakistan, described as part of his effort to revive peace talks with the Taliban. Afghanistan’s president would not have to worry that the world will forget promises made to Afghan women and allow women’s rights to be negotiated away, Oxfam country director John Watt said in the report.— Reuters
Iraqi Kurds prepare Sinjar mountain offensive

Baghdad, 24 Nov — Iraqi forces said on Sunday they retook two towns north of Baghdad from Islamic State fighters, driving them from strongholds they had held for months and clearing a main road from the capital to Iran. There was no independent confirmation that the army, Shi’ite militia and Kurdish peshmerga forces had completely recaptured Jalawla and Saadiya, about 115 km (70 miles) northeast of Baghdad. Many residents fled the violence long ago.

At least 23 peshmerga and militia fighters were killed and dozens were wounded in Sunday’s fighting, medical and army sources said.

“We have liberated Jalawla and Saadiya,” said Mala Bakhtiar, a senior official in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party, speaking by phone from a nearby town. He estimated 50 Islamic State fighters may have been killed out of a force of 400.

Iraq’s Shi’ite-led government, backed by US-led air strikes, has been trying to push back the Islamic State since it swept through mainly Sunni Muslim provinces of northern Iraq in June, meeting virtually no resistance.

Last week the army broke a months-long siege of the country’s largest city under Islamic State control in northern Iraq, and allow them to gain positions for any future offensive to retake the city and nearby areas which have been the target of Iraqi and US air strikes.

“After that, we must coordinate with Baghdad and the coalition (of Western and Gulf Arab states) to get Islamic State out of Mosul,” said Hikmat.

Mosul has become the focus of the government’s military efforts because of both its size and its symbolic status after Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi delivered a public speech at the Grand Mosque there in July, Baghdadi, who sees himself as ‘caliph’ of an Islamic state he has declared in parts of Iraq and Syria, told his fighters they were victorious after years of patience and holy struggle.

Blast targets NATO convoy in Kabul, wounding bystander

Kabul, 24 Nov — At least one civilian was wounded after a bomb attack targeted a NATO-led forces convoy in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday, sources said.

“An improvised explosive device attached to a bicycle was detonated when the military vehicles were passing by Qabil Bay, an area along Pul-e-Charkhi road in eastern Kabul, injuring one bystander,” a security official told Xinhua anonymously.

No member of the convoy was hurt in the explosion which occurred at around 9:00 am local time (0430 GMT), the source noted.

No official source said one foreign soldier was also wounded in the blast.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, but Taliban insurgents routinely claim responsibility for such attacks. The Taliban has intensified attacks with a string of bombings over the past couple of months as the NATO and US forces are withdrawing from the country. The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from NATO-led troops by the end of the year.

On Sunday night, more than 45 civilians were killed and 60 others wounded after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a sport ground in eastern Paktika Province.

More than 1,560 civilians were killed and nearly 3,290 others wounded in conflicts and Taliban-led attacks in the first six months of 2014, according to a UN mission in the country.

In another development, eight militants were killed and three others wounded after security forces repelled a Taliban attack on security checkpoints in Musa Qala district of southern Helmand Province on Sunday night, provincial police spokesman Farid Ahmad Obid told Xinhua.

More than 34,000 NATO-led coalition troops, down from the peak of 130,000 in 2010, are stationed in Afghanistan. Nearly 24,000 of them are Americans and the United States plans to trim its forces to less than 10,000 next year.

Last week the army, backbone of the Anbar provincial capital Ramadi. On Sunday, Iraqi and foreign jets struck Islamic State fighters near central Ramadi, provincial council member Mahmoud Ahmed Khalaf told Reuters.

Clashes continued in the city, he said.

Jalawla and Saadiya are located in Diyala Province which is mainly under the control of the Baghdad government forces and Kurdish peshmerga.

Recapturing the towns would help secure the Kurdish-controlled towns of Kalar and Khanaqin to the north as well as nearby dams and oil fields, peshmerga Secretary-General Jabbar Yawar said. It would also allow the road to be reopened between Baghdad and Khanaqin, close to the Iranian border.

While the hardline Sunni Islamic State forces have not advanced into Baghdad, they hold a ring of towns around the mainly Shi’ite capital and have claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Shi’ite districts of the city.

A car bomb in the Shi’ite town of Yousufiyah, 30 km (20 miles) southeast of Baghdad, killed five people on Sunday, police and medics said. Two other bombs in towns near the capital killed four other people — Reuters.
**Increase in working mothers bringing changes to PTAs**

Tokyo, 24 Nov — An increase in working mothers is changing the way parent-teacher associations operate at schools in Japan.

“Nobody spoke and it was like a funeral rite,” a mother with a child at an elementary school in the Tokyo area said, recalling a board meeting of PTA executive members, all of them selected because of the need to come to the school three to four times a month for meetings and events held mostly in the daytime on weekdays, she said. PTAs, modeled on those in the United States, were introduced at schools in Japan after the end of World War II. Because they have assumed the participation of full-time housewives, whose number increased sharply during Japan’s rapid economic growth era from the mid-1950s through the early 1970s, working mothers have come under implicit pressure to take days off to participate in events.

Fathers, in contrast, are excused because of their jobs.

But an increase in two-income households and single-parent homes is placing the accepted wisdom of PTAs under review.

The PTA at Satsunae Elementary School in Sapporo, Hokkaido, changed a bylaw in February last year and allows parents to choose whether to join or quit the association. The review, proposed by Takaki Ueda, president of the PTA, was initially opposed by all other executive members fearing that the association would cease to exist. But they discussed the proposal for a year, analyzing a similar move introduced by Nishi Elementary School in the city of Okayama, and decided to continue time-consuming and costly work such as the publication of a journal.

The reform is bearing fruit as 95 percent of parents have joined the PTA at Satsunae. In addition, some 60 parents voluntarily worked for a school festival held in October.

But most PTAs tend to avoid reforms for fear of opposition by former executives who wish to adhere to tradition. Parents are also reluctant to oppose conventional activities due to concern that their children may be discriminated against.

The burden on working mothers can be eased if employers take necessary steps. Responding to requests from employees, for example, Seiko Epson Corp., an electronics company based in Sawai, Nagano Prefecture, has introduced a system allowing the accumulation of up to 60 paid holidays for parents’ visiting days and participation in PTA activities at schools.

A 36-year-old female employee with three children appreciates the paid holiday system as she has to take at least a day off per week for weekday PTA activities at her kids’ schools.

Seiko Epson adopted the system in line with its policy of creating working environments friendly to women, who work an average of 21.8 hours at the company compared with male workers’ 18.7 hours.

Many local activities, including those by PTAs and women’s societies, rely on housewives, according to Naoki Atsumi, director of the Research Department at Tokyo Corporate Business Research Inc.

While the government is encouraging more women to join the nation’s labor force, the goal will be difficult to attain because women are now assigned “too many roles” in society, Atsumi said.

Women’s social roles should be reviewed, including through “burden sharing with men,” he said.

**Dutch complete recovery of MH17 wreckage: government**

AMSTERDAM, 24 Nov — A week-long operation to clear the wreckage from the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine has been completed, the Dutch government said on Sunday.

A cargo train took pieces of the Boeing 777 aircraft to the eastern Ukrainian town of Kharkov. The wreckage will be transported to the Netherlands and reconstructed as part of the investigation into the cause of the disaster on 17 July.

“Despite the complex circumstances and local safety situation, the team was able to work as planned,” said a statement issued by Dutch authorities.

“A few parts of wreckage were too big for transport by train and arrived in Kharkov by truck yesterday,” the crash, believed to have been caused by a surface-to-air missile fired from a Russian rebel territory, killed all 298 passengers and crew, two-thirds of them from the Netherlands.

“Nobody spoke and it was like a funeral rite.”

Aviation

**US Army base in Texas lifts lockdown after suspicious vehicle found**

SAN ANTONIO, 24 Nov — A brief lockdown at a US Army base in San Antonio was lifted after officials detained a man on Sunday in what a military spokesman described as a “high-security incident,” while adding there was no threat. One person remained under arrest at Fort Sam Houston after a suspicious vehicle was found in the middle of the post, spokesman Alex Delgado said.

“There were no other passengers in the vehicle and emergency personnel report no other individuals are suspected of being involved,” Delgado said.

The base is the home of the US military’s medical operations and the centre of its operation to curb the spread of Ebola in West Africa. Two special teams have been trained at the base to be deployed to hospitals fighting the viral disease. Delgado said the driver of the car would remain in custody while base officials investigated. The spokesman said he was unaware what prompted officials to view the vehicle as suspicious.

No-one was injured during the incident, he added. The lockdown, which had stopped traffic from entering the base, was lifted at around 9 pm (CST), about an hour after it was ordered, and the base resumed normal operations, Delgado said. Fort Sam Houston is a highly secure facility with guards posted at all vehicle entrances. — Reuters

**UAE hypermarket chain shows interest in Serbian products**

BEOGRAD/ABU DHABI, 24 Nov — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic confirmed on Sunday in Abu Dhabi with Managing Director of the LuLu Group Yussuff Ali, who voiced interest in including Serbian food products in the offer of the UAE’s leading hypermarket chain.

Nikolic stressed that the traditional friendship between Serbia and the UAE secures a stable and reliable partner across the UAE. Serbia has a long tradition of food production, said Nikolic. “Our food products are of excellent quality and healthy.” the president stressed, adding that Serbian producers in cooperation with scientific institutes are able to produce top quality foods.

He suggested considering the possibility of LuLu Hypermarket investing in the production of foodstuffs requested by its customers, and invited Ali to visit Serbia and see for himself that it is the right place for food production.

Ali said that he would like to see Serbian food products, primarily fruit and vegetables, in his retail outlets.

LuLu Hypermarket is a retail chain of the multi-national LuLu Group International and a company that sets the standards of retail in the region. With over 110 retail and wholesale stores, it enjoys great popularity among buyers across the UAE.

Nikolic meets with Energeprojekt officials in UAE Nikolic is on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he met with the CEOs of branch offices of the Serbian company Energeprojekt on Sunday.

**Global New Light of Myanmar**
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SHIBA VOY NO ( ISCO059 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY NO ( ISCO059 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2014 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.

Damage 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (- )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (- ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.F.T (2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damage 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING 2 TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

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Buffalo, 24 Nov — Emergencies workers filled thousands of sandbags on Sunday as the area around Buffalo, New York braced for potential flooding as warming temperatures began to melt up to seven feet (2 metres) of snow.

Creeks appeared to be flowing smoothly and no flooding had been reported as the sun began to go down, county officials said.

More than 775 members of the New York National Guard were in Erie County and Buffalo to help with flood prevention after days of work to clear roads and dig homes and cars out of the record snow from a storm that killed 13 people.

Roofs collapsed and some people were stuck in their cars for more than 24 hours when the heaviest snow fall in memory hit areas of New York state along the Great Lakes. The November storm system, dubbed the “Knife Storm,” lasted for three days.

The National Weather Service said snow could quickly flow from snow melt since the storm blocked drains, and issued warnings for potential flooding of four rivers and creeks.

“We hope to get back to business on Monday. Government offices will be open. Schools will be open. We are sending teams of structural engineers in to inspect any school that might have the potential of a structural problem,” New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said at a news briefing.

Flood warnings were in effect as the NWS said higher temperatures — rising to 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 Celsius) on Sunday and 60 F on Monday — could rapidly unlock up to 6 inches (15 cm) of water.

As the dinner hour set in, no flooding had been reported, Erie County Emergency Services spokesman Peter Anderson said in an email.

“Resources are being staged for quick deployment and all eyes are on the creeks,” he said. “The weather is warmer and snow is melting, but creeks are flowing well.”

Cuomo said the state had prepared in case of widespread flooding, moving in hundreds of pumps, tens of thousands of sandbags and putting together a robust evacuation plan.

Three sandbagging machines and 176,500 sandbags were among the supplies taken to staging areas. Ellen Preppernau, spokeswoman for the Erie County emergency operations effort, said sandbags would be quickly deployed to cities and towns that report rising waters.

The state has provided seven million tons of sand to fill the bags, Anderson said.

Inmates from the Erie County Jail holding centre were filling sandbags in a parking lot, as New York city firefighters loaded boats into the backs of pick-ups and dump trucks.

National Guard deployed front-end loaders, dump trucks and air-field-grade snow-removal trucks for snow removal, as well as tractor-trailers, 20 high axle vehicles for driving through flood waters, and two helicopters.

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47 die in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, 24 Nov — Police and divers have so far recovered 47 bodies of victims of a bus crash earlier in the week in western Nepal, police said late on Sunday.

The bus believed to have been carrying around 65 passengers plunged into the Bheri River in the Janakpur district about 400 kilometres west of Kathmandu on Thursday morning. Police and divers recovered three bodies on Thursday, two on Saturday and 42 on Sunday from the bus that remains submerged in the river. Police officials Dambir Parajuli told Kyodo News by telephone from the district that more bodies are trapped in the bus and efforts will be made on Monday to pull them out. Police say the bus dropped into the ravine when trying to make room for a tractor coming from the opposite direction.

Eleven passengers jumped off the bus and survived with injuries.—Kyodo News

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China’s manned submersible Jiaolong surfaces during a drill in Jiangyin City, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 24 Nov, 2014. It is the last drill for Jiaolong before it starts a scientific research voyage in the southwest Indian Ocean on 25 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

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Tokyo, 24 Nov — A girl has been declared brain dead in the second such case for a child aged under 6 in Japan, a transplant coordination group said on Sunday, with her parents hoping her organs can save the lives of other children.

The girl suffering from a brain disorder was hospitalized at Juntendo University Hospital, with her organs planned to be harvested for transplantation following family consent, the Japan Organ Transplant Network said.

“It would be a great consolation for us who will be left behind if our daughter can save the lives of other children at the end of her short life,” the girl’s parents said in a statement.

The girl’s family agreed to provide her heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys and small intestine, the network said. The surgery to extract the organs is planned around Monday afternoon. The heart and lungs are expected to be transplanted to two boys under the age of 10 and the liver is planned to be transplanted to a teenage girl, the network said. According to the network, a doctor diagnosed on Friday that the child donor could be judged as brain dead.

After the hospital confirmed the girl’s condition was not connected to any abuse, her family members including her parents agreed to provide the organs, the network said.

Under the revised organ transplant law that took effect in 2010, organs can be taken from anyone regardless of their age with family consent, unless the individual in question has explicitly refused to do so. But tougher brain-death criteria are applied to children under 6.

The first case in June 2012 involved a boy who was declared brain dead at Toyama University Hospital.—Kyodo News
‘Game of Thrones’ to get a movie?

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov — British actor Charles Dance, who played Tywin Lannister on TV drama ‘Game of Thrones’, has hinted that the fantasy story by JRR Martin may get a movie. Dance said producers have been actively discussing a possible movie adaptation. “There’s talk of eventually trying to do a feature film,” the 68-year-old actor told The Daily Beast.

Boy bands top American Music Awards, ladies lead performances

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov — Boy bands bested pop’s leading women in the top award categories at the American Music Awards on Sunday, but the ladies delivered the most high-octane performances including a derriere-flaunting number by Jennifer Lopez and Iggy Azalea. British boy band One Direction won the top award of the night for artist of the year, and led the winners with three accolades in the fan-voted awards. “It’s amazing because we worked so hard on these last two albums,” band member Liam Payne said. The five-piece band performed its latest single “Night Changes” against a night-time forest backdrop.

Katy Perry also won three awards, but did not attend the awards show because she is on tour in Australia. Boy band power proved strong as Australian newcomers 5 Seconds of Summer won the coveted new artist of the year award. Azalea, the newcomer Australian rapper, won favourite rap/hop hop artist album for “The New Classic” and favourite rap/hop hop artist over Eminem and Drake in both categories. “As musicians, we receive so much critique and we really question what we’re doing, but I think this validates that I’m on the right path,” the 24-year-old Azalea said.

A sultry Taylor Swift performed “Blank Space” on stage and was awarded the first-ever Dick Clark Award for Excellence, in memory of the founder of the American Music Awards who died in 2012. She received the award from R&B diva Diana Ross. “I’m so blown away to have just received an award from Diana Ross, who over the course of her career stood up for herself so many times in a period when it wasn’t popular for women to stand up for themselves,” Swift said. Much of the three-hour awards show, aired on ABC, was dedicated to performances dominated by the ladies of pop music, including a racy rendition of “Booby” by Azalea and Lopez, with lots of rump-shaking. Pop stars Grande, Selena Gomez and Nicki Minaj opted for less audacious performances showcasing their vocal talents. Grande sang “One Less Problem” and “Break Free” with a jazz twist while an emotional Gomez sang “The Heart Want What It Wants,” rumoured to be about her on-off relationship with Justin Bieber. Minaj and Skylar Grey performed their duet “Bed of Lies.” Grande and Minaj later spiced up the stage with Jessie J with their upbeat “Bang Bang.”

Puerto Rican band “Calle 13” performs in concert of “Multiviral 2014” tour

London, 24 Nov — The new song, which sold over 200,000 copies in the last week to become the fastest-selling single of the year, has drawn criticism from some Africans and other recording artists who say it is patronising and perpetuates unhelpful myths about the continent’s problems.

The track’s organisers have strongly rejected those comments, saying it will raise much-needed funds to fight Ebola. It generated 1 million pounds within minutes of its launch, they say.

The single pushed last week’s number one, a celebrity cover version of Avicii’s “Wake Me Up”, in aid of charity Children in Need, into seventh place. In the album charts, a new release by boy band One Direction called “Four” dethroned British progressive rock group Pink Floyd’s new album “The Endless River” which fell to fourth place.
Liverpool misery goes on as Spurs bounce back to win

Rory McIlroy eyes green jacket after stellar 2014

McIlroy’s eye on US Open as well as the Masters

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his shot from the second tee during the final round of the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai on 23 Nov, 2014.

McIlroy said: “In seasons gone by, a bad week for me would have been middle of the pack or if there was a cut, maybe getting to make the cut.” — Reuters

Rejuvenated CSKA out to complete amazing comeback

Rejuvenated CSKA out to complete amazing comeback

“My mid-range putting was better than very good this year.” — Reuters

Liverpool’s Martin Skrtel (L) challenges Crystal Palace’s Marouane Chamakh during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park in London on 23 Nov, 2014. — Reuters

Liverpool back to win 2-1 at Hull City late on, they have started this term poorly and are looking to climb out of mid-table and back up the standings.

While Spurs moved from 12th to 10th, Liverpool dropped a place to 12th after again losing at Palace, where their hopes of winning the title were so spectacularly dashed last May when they let slip a 3-0 lead as Palace fought back to level.

This time they wasted a lead they took in the second minute when Rickie Lambert scored his first goal for the club following his move from Southampton in the close season.

Instead of building on it, they crashed to a third successive league defeat as Palace ended a run of five league games without a win.

Goals from Dwight Gayle after 17 minutes, then Joe Ledley and a superb curling free kick from skipper Mile Jedinak in the last 12 minutes, gave Palace the points which lifted them out of the bottom three and up to 15th on 12 points — two behind Liverpool.

Former Liver-pool and England defender Jamie Carragher, now a TV pundit, was scathing about the team’s performance.

“We created some great chances and tried to win the game by playing some good foot-

ball. But overall it was a terrific performance, it was a Neil Warnock performance,” he said on Sky Sports.

“We need to take full responsibil-

ity,” he told Sky Sports.

Palace manager Neil Warnock said: “It was like an old-fashioned cup tie. We created some great chances and tried to win the game by playing some good foot-

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Big guns sweat over Champions League progress

London, 24 Nov — There will be plenty of tension in the air in North London on Wednesday when out-of-sorts Arsenal face Borussia Dortmund seeking to qualify from the Champions League group stage for the 15th successive season.

There will be plenty of nerves elsewhere in Europe too as the opening phase of the competition draws to a close with Matchday Five providing the last chance for some clubs to keep alive their hopes of reaching the last 16.

Six teams have already qualified for the knockout rounds: reigning champions Real Madrid, Barcelona, Paris St Germain, Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Porto.

Others, like last season’s beaten finalists Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, AS Roma, Shakhtar Donetsk, Bayer Leverkusen and FC Basel have a realistic chance of joining them with a match to spare, while for others only a dramatic improvement will see them stay in contention.

The latter include big-spending English champions Manchester City who are bottom of Group E with two points from four games but will remain in contention if they beat Bayern at home on Tuesday or CSKA Moscow versus Roma ends in a draw.

Bayern have already clinched top spot but Roma (4 points), CSKA (4) and City (2), are all tightly bunched.

Roma, who beat CSKA 3-1 in the opening match, will go through if they beat the Russians again and City lose at home to Bayern, as they did in the group phase last year when the Munich side beat them 3-1 in Manchester.

While City look for a win over familiar German opposition in the north of England, Arsenal will do the same in the capital after blowing their chance of securing a last 16 spot on Matchday Four.

Arsenal were coasting to victory over Anderlecht, leading 3-0 with half an hour to play, before allowing the Belgian side to recover and seal a point in a 3-3 draw.

However, they should still qualify in second place and will do so if they get at least a draw against Dortmund and the other game between Anderlecht and Galatasaray is also drawn.

But if Arsenal slip up again — entirely possibly as Borussia beat them 2-1 at the Emirates in the group stage last season — and if Anderlecht or Galatasaray should win, then nothing will be decided until the final matchday on 9 December.

Arsenal though are not in the best of form going into Wednesday’s game, and their late capitulation to Anderlecht has been followed by successive league defeats to Swansea City and Manchester United.

Some of Europe’s traditionally stronger teams are, like Arsenal, also not yet certain of their survival, including five-time European champions Liverpool who are battling to stay alive in Group B.

European and current Champions League winners, kneeling down behind Federer, produced a vintage performance to crush Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 and seal Switzerland’s maiden Davis Cup title with a 3-1 win over hosts France on Sunday.

The 17-times grand slam champion shook off back problems during the weekend and recovered from Friday’s defeat by Gael Monfils to hand France a devastating 3-1 defeat in their last three finals. With Federer imperious on serve, there was a sense of inevitability in the air at the Pierre Mauroy stadium despite the support of a record 27,448 ravenous crowd and Gasquet’s decent level of play.

He was “very disappointed” to lose in straight sets, “It’s the first time Roger plays on grass in the last match and boost their chances with a win to lead the table.” — Reuters

Pellegrini feeling pressure ahead of Bayern clash

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini smiles before the start of their English Premier League soccer match against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road in London on 8 Nov 2014.—REUTERS

London, 24 Nov — Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini is feeling the pressure ahead of his side’s must-win match at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday but the Chilean says it is all self-inflicted.

The Premier League champions are bottom of Group E with just two points from four games and require victories from their remaining two matches to stand a chance of qualifying for the last 16.

After a disappointing start to their Premier League title defence and facing an early European exit, Pellegrini says he, more than anyone, understands the importance of winning the match.

“My own pressure to continue to the next round is an important pressure, more maybe than the owners,” he told reporters. “Of course, I think we must be in the next stage.”

If beating the 2013 European and current German champions Bayern wasn’t enough of a daunting task, City will be without suspended midfielder Yaya Toure and Fernandinho, while playmaker David Silva is still sidelined through injury.

The Manchester side did, however, receive a boost when captain Vincent Kompany returned from a calf problem in the side’s 2-1 home win against Swansea City on Saturday.

A City win on Tuesday would mean they visit AS Roma in the final group game with a chance of qualifying for the knockout stage.

Roma travel to CSKA Moscow on Tuesday with both teams level on four points.

Bayern are undefeated in all competitions this season, with Saturday’s 4-0 demolition of Hoffenheim further proof of their devastating power even when dealing with a string of injuries.

Captain Philipp Lahm is out for three months with a broken ankle and Bayern are still without Thiago Alcantara, Holger Badstuber, David Alaba and Javi Martinez.

But Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger celebrated his comeback from injury on Saturday by setting up Bayern’s fourth goal after coming on as a 77th minute substitute.

Bayern have already secured top spot in the group with two games to spare but promise no complacency in Manchester.

“We will not just go there and play relaxed and see what comes out,” said winger Arjen Robben. — Reuters

Switzerland’s Roger Federer (L) and teammates raise the trophy after winning the Davis Cup final at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d’Ascq, near Lille, on 23 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Vintage Federer seals first Davis Cup for Switzerland

LaLLE, 24 Nov — Roger Federer produced a vintage performance to crush Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 and seal Switzerland’s maiden Davis Cup title with a 3-1 win over hosts France on Sunday.

The 17-times grand slam champion shook off back problems during the weekend and recovered from Friday’s defeat by Gael Monfils to hand France a devastating 3-1 defeat in their last three finals. With Federer imperious on serve, there was a sense of inevitability in the air at the Pierre Mauroy stadium despite the support of a record 27,448 ravenous crowd and Gasquet’s decent level of play.

He was “very disappointed” to lose in straight sets, “It’s the first time Roger plays on grass in the last match and boost their chances with a win to lead the table.” — Reuters

"Right now I think we did everything right, me and the players. But Switzerland were better than us," he said. Frederer dropped only four points on serve in the opening set, which he sealed with a whopping first-hand winner after breaking Gasquet, the world number 26, in the sixth game.

Varying his shots to devastating effect, Federer toyed with his opponent, who dropped in the first set and then played with his back to the wall, which faded to the Swiss bagged the second set with a drop shot having not conceded a single break point before breaking to the clay court by captain Arnaud Clement in place of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who sustained an arm injury on Friday, looked slightly better at the beginning of the third set as Federer became careless but the Swiss, who withdrew from last Sunday’s ATP World Tour final with a back injury, was still struggling to pose a threat to the Swiss.

Federer broke on his first opportunity in the fifth game when Gasquet sent a backhand wide. Swiss captain Sven consistently gave them the first point by beat Tsonga in the first singles rubber before Monfils "dented” on Friday. Switzerland were 2-1 up going into Sunday’s reverse singles after Wawrinka and Federer teamed up to beat Gasquet and Julien Benneteau in the doubles on Saturday. The fifth match between Wawrinka and Monfils was cancelled. — Reuters