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

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw holds talks with Danish delegation

Shandong businessmen explore market opportunities in Myanmar

Participants of SSEAYP scheduled to enjoy homestay in Myanmar

Japan grants US$241,710 for two high schools in Ayeyawady Region
11th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes

NAV PI TAW, 28 Nov — The 11th regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw successfully concluded in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday afternoon.

Today’s session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record the bills that are to be assumed as approved by the Hluttaw including amendment bills for the laws on emoluments, allowances and insignias of chairmen and executive committee members of self-administered divisions and zones, the chairman and members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and region/state level officials and for budget allocation proposal for the union.

Then, representatives approved the report on findings of the joint bill committee on amendment bills divided between the two chambers for the laws on emoluments, allowances and insignias of representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and members of leading bodies of self-administered divisions and zones. Afterwards, the proposal and discussions on the report of the joint bill committee on the bill amending the Myanmar Mining Law were adjourned. Then, the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw explained the selection of a representative for national race group and parliament affairs. The 11th session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw successfully concluded in the afternoon.

SWRR Ministry emphasizes care of children, women, the disabled and the aged

Pyithu Hluttaw

NAV PI TAW, 28 Nov — At the 37th-day session of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on Friday, Daw Khin Hnwe Lwin of Mungin Constituency asked she would like to know the plan of the ministries concerned to take care of women, older persons, the disabled and treated drug addicts.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe replied that the ministry emphasized care of children, women, the disabled and the aged. The ministry opened the vocational school for the women, community-based care for the aged, improvement of the life of disabled persons and rehabilitation of the treated drug addicts in cooperation with local authorities and people across the nation.

U Then Tun of Kyaunggon Constituency asked a question on farm land registration, permission for procurement of registered farmlands and registration of cultivable lands. In his response, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than said that the ministry gives priority to the registration of farmlands and the issuance of permission certificates to the farmers. The ministry has issued permissions for 8.80 million plots to farmers, accounting for 96.76 percent. Issuance of permissions for remaining farmlands depends on the transport difficulty and farmland disputes.

Farmland owners are allowed to pawn their farmlands for investment, and officials still discuss designation of banks concerned for pawning farmlands. The cultivable lands on pasture land and on the road will not be allowed for registration. After necessary arrangements for farmlands have been completed, farming rights certificates will be issued to farmers.

The Speaker of the Hluttaw said that a total of 117 asterisk questions and non-asterisk questions were replied in the regular session. Six proposals and four emergency proposals were submitted to the Hluttaw. Twenty bills were sent to Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw session came to an end in the morning.

Heavy machinery for road construction in Kayin State handed over

NAV PI TAW, 28 Nov — A handover of heavy machinery donated by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) to the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction took place in Hpa-an on Thursday.

First, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tatsushi Higuchi exchanged greetings. Next, the Japanese ambassador handed over documents related to heavy machinery to Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works.

A total of 63 heavy machinery handed over to the Public Works were donated by JICA for road construction in Kayin State.

Japanese grants US$241,710 for... (from page 1)

programs for construction of Ah Htet Paykone Village Basic Education Branch High School in Nyaunggu Township, Ayeyawady Region, US$120,955 and the project for construction of Nyaunggu Village Basic Education High School in Nyaunggu Township, Ayeyawady Region, US$120,755.

Atogether 1,467 students at Ah Htet Paykone Village Basic Education Branch High School and 850 students at Nyaunggu Village Basic Education High School in Nyaunggu Township, Ayeyawady Region will directly benefit from the improved learning environment including new school buildings with necessary furniture provided by the Japanese Government’s GEF scheme.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw regular session to resume in January 2015

NAV PI TAW, 28 Nov — Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) approved the Fire Brigade Bill at its 37th-day session on Friday.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw said that in the 11th regular session of the Hluttaw, union level organization members replied to 153 asterisk questions and 239 non-asterisk questions. The Hluttaw approved six of nine proposals and put two proposals on records.

Enhancement of administrative structure discussed

NAV PI TAW, 28 Nov — Mr. Toly Kurbanov, UNDP resident director, on Friday made a call on Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein to explain key findings on administrative structure of regions and states.

The study was conducted by the UNDP in cooperation with the government in region and states. According to the findings, three committees were compiled for ensuring development in respective townships.

Announcement of the Ministry of Information on measures taken to issue rules for the Media Law

Myanmar Press Council (Interim) submitted the Media Bill to the Amyotha Hluttaw through Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw from Yangon Region Constituency-3 U Phone Myint Aung on 19-8-2013 and the bill was approved as law No.12 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 14-3-2013.

After the law was approved, the Ministry of Information consulted with Myanmar Press Council (Interim) to draft rules for the law and the press council submitted the rules for the law (first draft) to the ministry on 28-6-2014. The ministry and the press council negotiated several times for the rules and the union minister for information consulted with members of the press council for the rules for the last time on 20-9-2014. Then, both sides renegotiated and approved the necessary points and the rules were submitted to the Office of Attorney-General for the Union for its legal advice and recommendations on 16-10-2014. After advice and recommendations of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union have been received, the rules will be amended as required in accordance with the rules and regulations and will be issued.

The Ministry of Information
Shandong businessmen explore...

(from page 1)

firms are interested to do business with Myanmar partners in the areas of rubber, heavy machinery for mining, logistics and construction, he added.

Chen Guang, vice chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committee of Shandong, pointed out Myanmar would benefit from exporting rubber to Shandong, which imported 170,000 tons of natural rubber for its tire manufacturers. Shandong businessmen see opportunities in investing overseas, he added.

He also suggested a plan to establish an industrial zone of international standards in Yangon in cooperation with Shandong businessmen.

Shandong is one of the richer provinces of China, producing a variety of products and its GDP growth study their interested majors, urging Myanmar students to study their interested majors that play a vital role in developing the country.

This year’s SSEAYP ports of call are in Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia. One of the officials of the programme said that the programme will conclude on 17 December.

The government of Japan has carried out the programme since 1974 and Myanmar has joined it since 1998.—GNLM

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends 15th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15)

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the 15th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-15) at Melia Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 26 November.

It was also attended by chief of armies of ASEAN countries. They exchanged views on the topic “Enhance the interoperability of ASEAN armies in response to non-traditional challenges.” Next, they held the information discussion.

Leader of the Vietnamese delegation Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People’s Army Lt-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh handed over the duty to Commander-in-Chief (Army) Gen Udomdej Sitabutr of the Royal Thai Army to host the 16th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM-16), the 25th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (25th AARM) and the 5th ASEAN Sergeant Major Annual Meeting (5th AS-MAM) in Thailand.

On 25 November evening, the Vice-Senior General met Commander-in-Chief (Army) Gen Udomdej Sitabutr of the Royal Thai Army, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnamese People’s Army Li-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Chief of Army Staff of the Philippines Li-Gen Hernandez DCA Iriberri AFP, Chief of Royal Land Forces of Brunei Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Yussof Bin Haji Abd Rahman, Vice Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Meas Sophena of Cambodia, Chief of Army Staff of Laos Brigadier General Khamlieng Outhakasone and Chief of Staff (General Staff) Maj-Gen Perry Lim Cheng Yew of Singapore at Melia Hotel in Hano. They discussed strengthening friendly relations, participation in training and exchange of visits. The Vice-Senior General and wife attended the dinner hosted by Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People’s Army Lt-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh and wife at the hotel.

Myawady

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and . . .

(from page 1)

Committee, U Htay Myint, Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee, U Win Than, Secretary of Economic and Trade Development Committee, and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Office also attended the meeting.

The delegation was accompanied by Danish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Peter Lys Holt Hasen.

Both sides discussed matters related to mutual cooperation and trade relations between the two countries. — MNA

The guests donated 2,205 copies of nine genres including the book entitled Parliamentary Ethics and Etiquettes translated by the Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network) into Myanmar language for Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and for the library of the Hluttaw. — MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker receives Director of Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network)

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Director David Allan of Myanmar-based Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network) at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The guests donated 2,205 copies of nine genres including the book entitled Parliamentary Ethics and Etiquettes translated by the Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network) into Myanmar language for Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and for the library of the Hluttaw. — MNA

Participants of SSEAYP scheduled...

(from page 1)

on Saturday and other significant places including the Shwedagon Pagoda and Bogoke Market on Sunday.

More than 100 Myanmar families will have an opportunity to take part in the homestay programme, which is a popular form of studying abroad in other countries. A host family can allow three students to stay at its home where the participating youths-YPs will observe the tradition and culture of people in Myanmar.

Shandong businessmen explore...

(from page 1)

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Shandong is one of the richer provinces of China, producing a variety of products and its GDP growth

Saturday, 29 November, 2014

3

Myanmar
**Myanmar journalists visit China-Myanmar cultural museum**


The museum with 13 booths showcases combat equipment of the Chinese Army and military equipment used in fighting against fascists Japanese troops at China-Myanmar border and attended the talks about displays of museum given by the curator.

The museum also displays equipment of Myanmar nationals in independence struggles and documentary photos of leaders of two countries on friendly relations between Myanmar and China.—Htay Myint Maung

**Thaton Township Health Department to vaccinate locals to be free from elephantiasis**

Training will be given to community health staff and health knowledge to local people to be free from elephantiasis disease in Thaton Township, Mon State, said Head of District Health Department Dr Daw Khan Win at the meeting on vaccination at the Thuwunna Hall in Thaton, Mon State, on Friday. “Taking lessons from the last year’s problems, we will try hard to achieve success in implementation of the project. Uniforms and expense will be delivered to the vaccination team members,” she said.

Township Administration U Tun Tun Naing delivered a speech at the meeting. The head of District Health Department replied to queries on vaccination process raised by officials.

A plan is underway to give vaccination to locals in Thaton Township, Mon State, through door to door system from 15 to 21 December this year.

**Chief Minister inspects regional development tasks in Sittway**

The Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn, State Minister for Forestry and Mining, State Minister for Development Affairs, State Minister for Chin National Races and departmental officials visited Nandawun Park in Sittway on 22 November.

The Chief Minister gave instructions on keeping the park lush and green and inspected construction of the environmental conservation department office and officers housing.

Senior Minister U Thein Sein and party met victims at the Sittway-3 camp and presented cash assistance to them.

After visiting Khaing Thazin Park in Sittway, they gave necessary instructions to the officials.

**Health staff give medical treatment to locals free of charge**

A medical team of the Pobbatiri Township Health Department made a trip to villages of the township for giving health care services to the local people. On 27 November, the medical team of the department provided health care services to the local people in Aungthiri village and Thabyesan village.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Nang Kyawt Khaing, Health Officer Dr Thiba Than, dentist Dr Thit Thit performed medical check-up at the local people and gave health care to them free of charge.

On 24 November, they gave talks on youth health and birth-spacing health to the locals in Yanaung village and presented pamphlets to them.
Specialists give health care to locals in Thaton Township

Thaton, 28 Nov—Specialists and health staff from Thaton District Health Department gave health care services to the locals at the Dhammayon of Peinnedaw Monastery in Thaton Township, Mon State, on Thursday. “While providing health care to the locals on the field trips, we give training to the doctors and nurses in practical works. If necessary, we will perform surgical operations on about 500 patients at the District General Hospital,” said Head of District Health Department Dr Daw Khan Win. The medical team comprising over specialists, traditional medicine practitioners and health staff provided health care to the local people from 7 am to 3 pm. The medical health care service given by specialists was provided assistance by District Deputy Commissioner U Tun Tun Naing, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye Nwe and members. Thet Oo (Thaton)

New school building under construction in rural area of Thaton Tsp

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Thaton, 28 Nov—A one-storey RC building is under construction in Ka wkalo-Payitko village in Thaton Township, Mon State with the donations of UNHCR and Myanmar Red Cross Society. “The exiting building of Basic Education Primary School cannot give adequate accommodation to the increasing number of students. I thank the well-wishers for their donations in building new school building,” said a local. Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing and officials inspected the progress of construction on 27 November. The 60 feet long and 30 feet wide building was constructed as of 20 October, and a plan is underway to complete it in coming December, engineer in-charge Ko Kyaw Myint Htoo of MRCS said. Thet Oo (Thaton)

Electric safety carried out in Aungmyethazan Township

Mandalay, 28 Nov—Electricians from Aungmyethazan Township Electrical Engineer Office carried out electric safety for the people and minimizing loss of electricity in the township, Mandalay, on 22 November. Under the supervision of the Mandalay Region electrical engineer, electricians of the township substituted the insulators at the power lines, cutting of branches from trees and installation of link connection at 400 volt power line after supply of power has been shut down at Myaukpyin-Nyaungwe-Mayanchan power line. The Ministry of Electric Power arranges tasks of carrying out electric safety across the nation. Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to locals in Mongyai Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov—Mongyai Township Immigration and National Registration Department, Shan State (North) issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens in the grassroots areas. On 22 November, Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Khin Maung Phyu and staff delivered the cards to 108 students at the office of Monghamonmu village-tract through a one-stop service. Township IPRD

Daily wage workers earn income at farming works

Tatkon, 28 Nov—As now is cold season, beans and pulses, various species of edible oil crops, potato, onion, cabbage, cauliflower and ester flowers plants are being nurtured in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The villages in the township grow cold season crops plantations in the croplands and along the banks of Hsinthe Creek. Now is busy time for farming works. So, we invite farming workers with payment at K1,500 per day each for the morning session and afternoon session,” said an ester flower plantation owner. “Men workers can earn K1,500 per morning and women, K1,000. We can fetch K3,000 per day. Farming works are very hard. But, we have to work it to earn family income,” a farming worker said. Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

Farming workers at crop plantations in alluvial lands of Hsinthe village, Tatkon Township.
South Asia leaders agree to cooperate on energy

KATHMANDU, 28 Nov — A two-day summit of eight South Asian nations concluded on Thursday with an agreement on regional energy cooperation, but without signing expected agreements on two key proposals for enhancing regional connectivity.

Nepal’s Prime Minister Sushil Koirala declared the summit closed and announced a Kathmandu declaration that includes a pledge to set up an Environment and Disaster Management Centre to minimize the impacts of climate change.

The energy cooperation agreement seeks to liberalize the energy sector at the regional level through identification of regional and sub-regional projects for generation, transmission and trade of hydropower, natural gas, solar, wind and bio-fuel.

"Authorised entities of member states can now buy and sell electricity. Governments will build transmission links for this," Nepal’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Khadga Adhikari said. But the South Asian leaders failed to agree on deepening regional connectivity through the building of regional railways and roads.

The member states left responsibility for taking up the proposals to transport ministers who will meet within three months to discuss them.

The proposed agreements for upgrading roads, railways, waterways and air links to ensure the smooth cross-border flow of goods and people were viewed as important for their potential to boost trade and tourism in one of the world’s least integrated regions.

Hailed by seven member states as key for strengthening regional integration, the agreements were rejected by Pakistan on grounds that its internal processes were not ready.

Adhikari said incomplete internal procedures of “some member states” resulted in the failure to sign the agreements that, according to sources, were pushed mainly by India.

The Asian leaders met informally at a retreat on Thursday in a last-ditch effort to break the impasse but came up short.

The Kathmandu Post daily described the deadlock as a “spillover effect” of strained India-Pakistan relations.

Leaders decided to hold the next SAARC summit in Pakistan.

“We look forward to welcome you in Islamabad for the 19th SAARC summit in 2016,” Sharif said at the concluding session of the summit.

SAARC, founded in 1985, has achieved little mainly because of bitter relations between India and Pakistan, the biggest and most powerful members of the bloc.

Modi acknowledged this during the summit saying, “As SAARC, we have failed to move with the speed that our people expect and want.”

Evidently referring to Pakistan, Modi warned that cooperation in the region will grow with or without a consensus.

“The bonds will grow. Through SAARC or outside it, among us all or some of us,” he said.

SAARC groups Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from Japan, Australia, China, Iran, South Korea, Mauritius, Myanmar, the United States and the European Union attended the summit as observers.

Kyodo News

Can man-of-the-people Widodo micromanage 240 million Indonesians?

Indonesian President Joko Widodo (C) greets sago farmers during his visit to Sungai Tohor in Meranti Island, Riau Province, Sumatra, on 27 Nov, 2014 in this photo taken by Antara Foto.—Reuters

JAKARTA, 28 Nov — From flying economy class to making surprise visits to street markets and poor neighbourhoods, the leadership style of new Indonesian President Joko Widodo is proving very different to his predeces- sors, who were often seen as stiff and aloof.

On a recent visit to cocoa plantations in eastern Sulawesi, Widodo if his bodyguards appear flustered when he breaks away and starts talking to ordinary people.

His mantra of “getting down to work” could also be what is needed to tackle bureaucratic inertia and endemic corruption in Southeast Asia’s biggest economy, although some experts believe the 53-year-old former furniture business owner is still enjoying a honeymoon after only five weeks in office.

“People will look for results.”

Widodo has already tackled some sensitive policies.

Last week he raised subsidised fuel prices by more than 30 percent, a move expected to save the government more than $8 billion next year.

He also plans to tighten control over a potentially unruly cabinet stacked with political appointees, there to appease the par- ties in his coalition, with the creation of a “kitchen cabinet” of trusted aides to help him push through reforms.

Widodo’s initial decisions have impressed investors at a time when Indonesia’s economy is growing at its slowest pace in five years.

The early signs are that he is bringing a new philosophy into the govern- ment of Indonesia,” Richard Adkerson, chief executive of miner and oil producer Freeport-McMoRan Inc, a major investor in Indonesia, told a confer- ence in New York last week.

As he did when Jakar- ta governor, Widodo has made clear he is not afraid to ruffle feathers.

“If told my ministers that if they fail to reach their targets, then sorry, but there are thousands queuing up to replace them,” Widodo said this month at a business confer- ence, according to local media.—Reuters

Cambodian police burn 5.1 tons of fake medicines

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov — About 5.1 tons of counterfeited medicines were burned down on Friday at a dumpsite on the outskirts of capital Phnom Penh by Cambodian economic po- licies.

The drugs with foreign language labels had been seized at border checkpoints, pharmacies and drug stores since 2012 by joint operations of eco- nomic police and health of- ficials, said Brigadier Gen- eral Long Sreng, deputy chief of the anti-economic crimes department of the interior ministry.

“Some 62 types of fake medicines were burned down,” he told re- porters. “Those medicines had been imported from Vietnam and packaged in Cambodia.”

The destruction of the medicines aimed to prevent the trafficking of fake medicines and to im- prove the well-being of the Cambodian people.

Xinhua

Brigadier General Long Sreng (R, front), deputy chief of the anti-economic crimes department of the Cambodian interior ministry, shows fake medicines to the media in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 28 Nov, 2014. About 5.1 tonnes of counterfeit medicines were burned down on Friday at a dumpsite on the outskirts of capital Phnom Penh by the economic police.—Xinhua
Obama plan to ‘Power Africa’ gets off to a dim start

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Nov — Barack Obama last year told a cheering crowd in Cape Town that a $7 billion (4.4 billion pounds) plan to “Power Africa” would double electricity output on the world’s poorest continent and bring “light where currently there is darkness.”

A year later, the US president’s flagship project for Africa has already achieved 25 percent of its goal to deliver 10,000 megawatts of electricity and bring light to 20 million households and businesses, according to its annual report.

But the five-year plan has not yet delivered the power.

Power Africa has not measured its progress by counting actual megawatts added to the grid but promises of additional power made in deals it says it helped negotiate, according to sources inside the project and documents seen by Reuters.

Some projects facilitated by Power Africa — a programme operated by the US aid agency USAID — were under way years before the scheme’s inception, others are still in the planning stage.

It is unclear how much of the $7 billion Obama pledged has actually been spent or if a further $20 billion in private sector investment commitments will materialize.

“Saying you’ve met targets on projects that might never happen or taking the credit for projects that have been worked on for years makes us uncomfortable,” a source working on Power Africa told Reuters. “It’s misleading.”

Obama’s pledge to double power generation in Africa within five years looked highly ambitious from the start. Per capita electricity output in Italy and Belgium under a disciplinary procedure before the EU executive before the scheme’s inception, others are still in the planning stage.

Thankful to arrive on snowy US holiday with power out, travel delays

NEW YORK, 28 Nov — Millions of Americans were thankful just to arrive at their Thanksgiving feasts on Thursday after a snowstorm bumped up to 20 inches of snow on Eastern states, causing flight delays and power outages.

Snow flurries drifted over Thomas the Tank Engine, Snoopy and other giant helium balloons in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, where police reported 403 delayed on Thursday, 56 flights cancelled and tens of thousands of power outages were under way.

The delay gives them more time to adjust policy before the EU executive must decide whether to fine France for missing targets or put Italy and Belgium under a disciplinary procedure because of their debt levels.

“Overall, the Commission is of the opinion that the Draft Budgetary Plan of France, which is currently under the corrective arm, is at risk of non-compliance with the provisions of the Stability and Growth Pact,” said a draft document.

“The Commission will examine in early March 2015 its position vis-a-vis France’s obligations under the Stability and Growth Pact in the light of the finalisation of the budget law and of the expected specification of the structural reform programme announced by the authorities,” it said.

The wording for Italy and Belgium is the same.

Reactions to the news, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin told Reuters: “I can clearly say that for 2014 France will respect the conditions that allow us to be in line with the application of the rules. The adherence to its obligations in March is not a hypothesis but with real data,” he said.— Reuters

France, Italy, Belgium may break budget rules, EU to revisit in March

BRUSSELS, 28 Nov — The European Commission will tell France, Italy and Belgium on Friday their 2015 budgets risk breaking EU rules, but it will defer decisions on any action until early March.

At that point, France could face a multi-billion euro fine. Italy and Belgium may put on a disciplinary flagship project for Africa has already achieved 25 percent of its goal to deliver 10,000 megawatts of electricity and bring light to 20 million households and businesses, according to its annual report.

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The Garbage Disposal Problem

Khin Maung Myint

Mountains of rotting, smelly garbage, the presence of which were once not only visible by eyes, but also smelted by the nose, everywhere in the city were gone. In their places, expensive looking blue fiber glass garbage bins were taken upon positions, heralding the new era of garbage collection in Yangon since about a year ago. Recently, the colours of the garbage bins had changed to bright orange, which are visible from quite a distance. Whether they are blue or orange do not matter as long as they serve their purposes, and the garbage regularly and systematically collected. Anyhow, it is a vast leap towards keeping Yangon, the gateway city to Myanmar, clean and tidy to enhance the image of our country and impress the foreign visitors.

The garbage disposal problem is not only confined to our country alone. It is a nightmare for every country in the world including the developed ones. In some countries, especially in developing countries, garbage pits or rather garbage piles, can be seen in the outings areas of the cities. As the growing populations in big cities, mainly due to urban migrations, necessitates the expansion of the city limits, the garbage piles are located well outside the residential areas in some neighbouring countries. The stench of the rotting garbage and the gases expelled from the incinerators are causing problems. In fact, the garbage pits that are causing controversy between the residents and the concerned authorities, are located well outside the city limits in the beginning, until encroached by the residential areas.

I’m not really sure where our garbage are dumped or how they are disposed off. However, I would like to make some general suggestions in regards to that process. The authorities should promulgate their instructions to reach the public, how to dispose their household garbages in different colored garbage bags, separating the kitchen wastes and leftover foods in one and the recyclable garbages in another. They should follow up by educating the public and also make random checks, not to take action but to see whether they understand the purpose, and to install the procedure of garbage disposal into their minds. It may take some times as most households are reluctant to spend money on garbage bags and are accustomed to random garbage disposal. The authorities on the other hand should provide more garbage bins for the convenience of the public. At present, I had noticed garbage bins only along the main roads and none in the side roads on our block, the Kyaukmyaung Quarters. I must admit I don’t know about other places. Also, the garbage collectors should be strictly warned not to scavenge the garbage bags for recyclable items, by tearing them and leaving the contents of the garbage bins. I know this for sure as I had to take the garbage bag when I went for my morning walks, to be disposed at the garbage bin at the entrance to our side street. The stench was so strong, I had to cover my nose while approaching the bin. The soil around the bins are always sodden with those rotting fluids, makes it difficult to tread on to reach them without getting the walking shoes swamped with the disgusting fluids. By placing different bins for different types of garbage, with clear markings or signs to distinguish them, and insisting the public to use the relevant bins for different types of garbage should solve the problem of scavenging for recyclable items.

The bins will also need ventilation holes near the top to release the foul odours that are trapped inside, waiting to ambush anyone who dares to open the lid to throw the garbage bag in. By having vents near the top would not affect the bins in any way, I hope. One would not be able to imagine how awful the surprise attack of the foul odour is, until one had experienced it. The presence of multitudes of germs and bacteria incubating and multiplying in and around the bins are quite inevitable. Recently, on some mornings, I noticed a very fine layer of quick lime powder sprinkled here and there around the garbage bins in some locations. I wonder whether those actions would be effective enough to rid the germs and bacteria. As far as I know the quick lime powder is used to rid the maggots in open latrine holes, where they usually infest.

Another point, which I would like to get the attention of the authorities is the placing of the bins. In many locations they are placed at the old garbage dumps, at road junctions where small mounds were formed, thanks to the ever present horde of rodents who burrowed the ground in the vicinity of the garbage dumps. As the grounds become filled with garbage piles, the bins wobble whenever someone tries to open the lids. The bins are fitted with swivelled wheels, so they need to be placed on level surfaces for steadiness. The ground should be leveled and paved with concrete to provide clean and firm bases for the bins.

For disaster response measures, each city in Myanmar should have the response plan for earthquakes in place. Emergency services such as health workers, fire services, the police and so on should be trained to respond during and after an earthquake. People in cities, especially children, women and senior citizens, should also be educated on how to respond during an earthquake.

The YYIM 2015 race categories and registration fees are as captured in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Local (Kyats)</th>
<th>International (USD)</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Marathon</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>12+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Marathon</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10km Challenge</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3km Fun Run/Walk</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants may be aged 16 years and older as of 31 December 2015 to participate in the Full Marathon and Half Marathon categories. Participants must be 12 years and older as of 31 December 2015 to participate in the 10km Challenge category. There are no age restrictions for the 3km Fun Run/ Walk category.

Further details regarding race kit collection and event day proceedings will be announced in the coming weeks.

To stay up to date with the latest YYIM 2015 announcements, please find out more about fundraising around the event to support underprivileged children in Myanmar, please visit the event website www.yoma-yangon-international-marathon.com/index.php?page=charity-landing#content and Facebook page www.facebook.com/YomaYangonInternational-Marathon.
**Global New Light Of Myanmar**

**Saturday, 29 November, 2014 | 9**

**NATIONAL**

**UEC Chairman meets Indonesian Election Commission member, head of mission of International IDEA**

_Thomas Cormier, head of the Election Commission_—_MNA_

**Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received Mr. Hadar S Gunay, member of the Election Commission of Indonesia, and Mr. Thomas Cormier, head of mission (Myanmar) of International IDEA, at a hall of the commission office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday._

The UEC Chairman briefed about the commission’s task of holding a constitutional referendum which is vested in the commission. The Indonesian Election Commission member explained the formation of the commission and its functions and duties. He also answered the questions requested by the UEC Chairman on advance voting, a system of appointing sub-commission members and their terms and privileges and electoral management.

Also present at the meeting were UEC members and secretary and officials of the UEC office.

In the afternoon, the UEC Chairman and foreign guests had a discussion with responsible persons of some civil society organizations on greater participation of CSOs in election monitoring, compilation for the lists of voters and campaigns to educate voters.—MNA

**Union Ministers on inspection tour of Kengtung Township**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov—Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat met township level officials from Kengtung and Tachileik districts at the hall in Kengtung on Thursday._

Union Minister U Hla Tun stressed the need to fulfill the requirements of the people in practising the people centre administration.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win explained mission and vision of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The Chief Minister reported on progress of tasks in regional development.

The Union Ministers and party viewed land reclamation in Kengtung Township.—MNA

**Attorney-General of the Union receives Chinese Judge**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov—Judge of Supreme People’s Court Mr Zhang Jiannan of China.—MNA_

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin exchanged gifts with Judge of Supreme People’s Court Mr Zhang Jiannan of China.—MNA

**ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting continues for final day**

_Mandalay, 28 Nov—The 20th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting continued for the second day at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Friday._

The meeting included the 13th ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting, the 12th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting and the 5th ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers Meeting.

The 13th ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting discussed the ASEAN-China aviation agreement, the ASEAN-China maritime agreement, the ASEAN-China maritime coordination procedure and the future cooperation in 2015.

The 12th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting focused on ASEAN-Japan cooperation in transport sector and ministerial level statement.

The 5th ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers Meeting reviewed the minutes of the meeting of 6th ASEAN-Korea Senior Transport Officials Meeting and approved the ministerial statement.—MNA

**Myanmar, Japan discuss transport sector**

_Mandalay, 28 Nov—The Myanmar-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting took place at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Thursday evening._

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and party held a talk with Deputy Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Mr Kazuhiro Aoki of Japan and officials, focusing on cooperation in transport sector between the two countries and more cooperation of Japan.—MNA

**Myanmar’s trade deficit from April to Oct hits US$2,716.49 million**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Nov—Myanmar’s trade deficit from April to October in 2014-2015 reached US$2,716.49 million with exports worth US$6,872.34 million and imports worth US$9,588.83 million, the Central Statistical Organization said Wednesday._

General exports in the fiscal year were worth US$4,499.67 million, while simple cross-border exports totaled US$2,372.67 million. Imports from simple cross-border trade topped US$1,282.35 million and general imports, reached US$8,306.48 million.

In October 2014 alone, Myanmar’s general export volume was US$699.23 million and cross-border exports were US$327.22 million. General imports were worth US$1,134.35 million and cross-border imports topped US$208.91 million for an overall trade deficit in October of US$316.81 million.—MNA

16-day campaigns for elimination of violence against women being held nationwide

**Yangon, 28 Nov—More than 20 women’s organizations and NGOs have organized 16-day campaigns for eliminating violence against women across the nation from 25 November to 10 December with the aim of promoting public awareness as well as creating more channels linked to the government, sources said.**

“Men’s involvement plays a vital role in preventing and reducing violence against women,” said May Sabei Phyu, a director from the Gender Equali- ty Network. An official added that nowadays, the country sees a lot of men’s participation in such public awareness campaigns. The campaign has been held in Myanmar since 2011.

As part of their activities, a series of educative programmes have been broadcast on television and radio. Also, a photo contest has been launched on Facebook in which people may send their photos related to the prevention of violence against women to www.facebook.com/16daysactivism2014. Other move- ments are scheduled to be held in 20 townships in 11 regions and states.

Currently, the Gender Equality Network, one of the women’s groups, is conducting research on women’s experience of abuse, aiming to develop evidence-based policies and programmes in the country. The report is estimated to be published in early 2015.

Women say that they need more effective laws to take action against thugs as the country sees an increasing number of incidents of violence against women, especially in suburban townships in Yangon as well as rural areas. The majority of such women are hesitant to complain about the difficulties they face.—GNLM
Two civilians killed in shelling in east Ukraine rebel city

DONETSK, 28 Nov — A 12-year-old boy and a 55-year-old woman were killed by shelling in the eastern Ukrainian separatist stronghold of Donetsk on Thursday, the city administration reported, despite a 5 September ceasefire.

According to UN data an average of 13 soldiers, rebels, and civilians have died every day since a formal ceasefire agreed by Ukraine, Russia and the rebels, with Ukrainian government forces and the separatists accusing each other of violating the terms of the truce.

Donetsk city admin-

istration, which is aligned with Kiev, said the child was killed in the street and the woman when a shell hit her flat in an area pummeled by artillery fire in recent days.

“A shell hit her direct-

ly,” her son Aleksander said, standing outside the building. “I don’t know why I was not hit. I was standing right next to her. Only my neck is slightly burnt.”

A Reuters witness saw a puddle of blood and a crater at the scene where the 12-year-old was struck down in Kuybyelevsky district. Residents said he had been running to a bomb shelter when he was hit.

Many buildings in the district bear witness to the intensity of the recent shelling: some are burning and others have been damaged by rockets.

More than 4,300 combatants and civilians have been killed in eastern Ukraine since fighting began in mid-April.

In Syria, desperate residents see little hope in UN Aleppo truce plan

BEIRUT/GAZIANTEP, 28 Nov — As winter sets in along the front lines of Aleppo, residents are desperate for the sort of relief United Nations officials hope a new ceasefire will bring to the war-battered Syrian city.

The plan, led by the UN peace envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, would push will soon bring to the city its rebel-held eastern districts and maintain links to the Turkish border.

They have been able to do so, rebels say, partly because of deals that have prevented the fighting that hobbled them elsewhere, as well as incremental increases in military aid from states opposed to Assad.

“Now it’s winter and there are no barrel bombs, so we’ve started to work, but tomorrow when summer comes and the barrel bombs return, we’ll go back to being displaced,” said Mohammad Helwani, member of a local council in Aleppo.

De Mistura has taken a different approach to easing this type of suffering than his two predecessors, who quit in frustration after failing to bring the warring sides anywhere close to a deal. The envoy has said the proposed “freeze zones” are intended to deliver something tangible to Syrians.

The Syrian government has voiced guarded support for the plan. Assad said it was “worth studying” and Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin this week that they agreed on the need to support the initiative without saying whether either side will accept a deal. Before de Mistura’s visit to Damascus this month, diplomats said government forces could use ceasefires to force surrenderers and round up local men as they have in the past. —Reuters

A man fixes windows at a building after it was damaged by recent shelling in the western part of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on 27 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

In much of Aleppo, however, there is little left to save. Rebel districts have been devastated by months of government bombardment using “barrel bombs,” explosives packed with shrapnel and nails.

Residents say those attacks have eased in recent weeks, but it is unclear why, and hardly anyone expects the lull to last.

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Army splits that let Yemen’s capital fall augur new risks

SANAA, 28 Nov — As fighting raged at the First Armoured Division’s base in Sanaa, General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar arrived in a motorcade at the general staff headquarters and entered the building shouting “Treason! Treason!”

He grabbed some documents from a desk and left in a hurry, a defence ministry official said. Half an hour later, the commander of the Fourth Brigade President’s Security turned up, collected his car and sped away.

“I knew then that Sanaa had fallen and that it was over,” the officer, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. “General al-Ahmar was angry and felt utterly betrayed.”

While many details of the surrender of Yemen’s capital by 100,000 Republican Guards to some 5,000 Houthi fighters on 21 September remain murky, the nature of the capitulation bodes ill for President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi’s fragile grip on power.

Home to an al-Qaeda branch held responsible for three attempted bombings of air- craft in the United States, Yemen is close to becoming a failed state, thanks in part to covert manoeuvring by Washington for three years, and falling.” Saleh created a rival power base when he put General Ahmar, a close ally of the Sunni Islamist Islah party, Yemen’s Mus- lim Brotherhood branch, in charge of his 2004-10 vice president, said the delay was a result of undermining the essence of the Yemeni state during Saleh’s rule over the past 20 years,” Yemeni analyst Abdellah al-Yaeeni said, referring to the fall of Sanaa.

“A Yemeni state is now at risk of unravelling and falling.” Saleh created a rival power base when he put General Ahmar, a close ally of the Sunni Islamist Islah party, Yemen’s Mus- lim Brotherhood branch, in charge of his 2004-10 vice president, said the delay was a result of undermining the essence of the Yemeni state during Saleh’s rule over the past 20 years,” Yemeni analyst Abdellah al-Yaeeni said, referring to the fall of Sanaa.

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**Flu vaccine lots blocked in Italy after suspicious deaths**

Rome, 28 Nov — The Italian competent authority for drugs (AIFA) on Thursday blocked the use of two lots of a flu vaccine after three people died for reasons potentially linked to the drugs.

AIFA prohibited the use of lots of FLUAD vaccine numbered 142701 and 143301 after four “serious and deadly cases”, including three deaths, were reported which might have been caused by the drugs.

“The three fatalities occurred within 48 hours of the administration of doses from two lots,” AIFA said in a statement published on its website.

The statement said that the move was carried out only “for precaution” while waiting for results of the tests carried out on the suspicious lots, which were produced at a plant of Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis in the city of Siena.

Two of the three deaths occurred in Sicily, while the other was in Molise, two regions in southern Italy, according to sources from ANSA news agency.

Tokyo, 28 Nov — Honda Motor and Mazda Motor may have to recall another 200,000 cars in Japan to replace Takata Corp air bags if Takata complies with a US order to recall air bags across the United States rather than just in humid regions.

Several automakers in the US have issued regional recalls of certain models to investigate what is causing some Takata air bags to explode with excessive force.

US safety regulators have ordered Takata to have those recalls expanded nationwide.

Takata has so far resisted a wider US recall, saying that could divert replacement parts away from the high-humidity regions thought to need them most — due to moisture possibly breaking down the air bag inflator’s chemical mix.

Takata has until Tuesday to respond to the US regulator’s order.

Takata and regulators still don’t know exactly why some air bags have proved lethal, with the inflators exploding and shooting metal shards at car occupants. At least five deaths have been linked to such incidents — all in Honda cars.

States rather than the US investigations progress, an expanded recall can have a knock-on impact in other markets where cars use air bag inflators from the same potentially problematic batches.

An official at Japan’s transport ministry said a US-wide recall could add 200,000 Honda and Mazda cars to the 2.6 million cars fitted with Takata air bags already under recall in Japan.

Transport Minister Akihiro Ohta said the repeated recalls involving Takata air bags could undermine trust in Japan’s entire auto industry.

“This is an extremely important issue for automobile safety,” Ohta told reporters on Friday. “Japan’s manufacturing enjoys a high level of trust so I am worried this situation will shake that confidence.”

He said he instructed Takata to move towards a recall in Japan if piece-meal recalls in hot and humid regions in the United States are expanded nationwide. Ohta has asked Takata to report on how it plans to respond to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s order for a nationwide recall.

Japan may yet see more recalls for a separate problem reported this month of “unusual deployment” of a Takata-made air bag in a scrapped car. The inflator was manufactured in January 2003 at Takata’s Monclova factory in Mexico, and had not been subject to previous recalls.

**Ebola cases near 16,000, Sierra Leone to overtake Liberia soon with most cases: WHO**

Geneva, 28 Nov — The death toll in the world’s worst Ebola epidemic has risen to 5,689 out of 15,935 cases reported in eight countries by 23 November, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday.

Almost all cases and all but 15 deaths have been in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the three hardest-hit countries, which reported 600 new cases in the past week, the WHO said in its latest update.

“The total number of cases reported in Sierra Leone since the outbreak began will soon eclipse the number reported from Liberia,” it said.

The former British colony has reported 6,599 cases against 7,168 in Liberia.

Transmission of the virus remains intense in Sierra Leone, especially in the west and north, with the capital Freetown still the worst affected area, it said.

Sierra Leone appealed to the United States on Wednesday to send military aid to help it battle Ebola as it falls behind its West African neighbours Guinea and Liberia in the fight against the virus.

“Liberia and Sierra Leone report fewer than 70 percent of patients are isolated, though there is wide variation among districts,” the WHO said, referring to an international target set for 1 December. However, some data is out of date, it said.

Isolation is required to halt further spread of the viral hemorrhagic disease, and the aim is to isolate 100 percent of patients by 1 January, it added.

Contacts of people known to be infected should be monitored for symptoms including fever, but relatively low numbers being reported “suggest that in districts with high case incidence fewer contacts are currently registered in connection with each new case than is necessary to accurately monitor chains of transmission”, the WHO warned.

Mali has reported 8 Ebola cases, six of them fatal, and 285 contacts exposed to the virus there are being checked, it said. WHO teams are evaluating the preparedness of neighbouring countries to combat Ebola, and visits are planned to the Central African Republic, Niger, and Ethiopia next week, it said.

Peter Piot, a leading specialist on the disease, said on Wednesday that West Africa’s Ebola epidemic could worsen further before abating, but that new infections should start to decline in all affected countries by the end of the year.

The first Cuban doctor infected with Ebola, evacuated from Sierra Leone to Geneva last week, is improving and responding to treatment, the University Hospital of Geneva said in a statement late on Tuesday. His medical team is “reasonably optimistic”.

**Japan may expand air bag recalls; worried about impact on industry**

A woman using her mobile phone walks past a logo of Honda Motor Co outside the company’s dealership in Tokyo on 28 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

OPEC to maintain oil production at 30 mln barrels per day

VIENNA, 28 Nov — The ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided here on Thursday to maintain its output level despite crude oil price fell to a four-year low level, a statement released after the OPEC conference said.

The decision to maintain oil production at the level of 30 million barrels a day agreed upon in December 2011 was made in the interests of restoring market equilibrium on the back of the recent rapid decline in oil prices, the statement said.

The organization has “no target price,” OPEC’s Secretary-General Abudullah al-Badri told a Press conference, referring to his previous aspirations of 100 dollars per barrel.

Crude oil prices fell to below 74 dollars per barrel after OPEC’s decision on Thursday, the lowest level since September 2010.
Prince William to make first UK royal visit to China in 30 years

LONDON, 28 Nov — Prince William will go to China early next year in the first visit to the mainland by a member of the British royal family in almost three decades, Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday. William, Queen Elizabeth’s grandson and second-in-line to the throne, will leave for a three-day trip to Japan in late February before heading to China.

Fukushima workers still in murky labour contracts

VIENINANE, 28 Nov — The number of workers at Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant on false contracts has increased in the last year, the station operator said, highlighting murky labour conditions at the site despite a pledge to improve the work environment.

The survey results released by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) late on Thursday showed that around 30 percent of plant workers polled said that they were paid by a different company from the contractor that normally directs them at the work site, which is illegal under Japan’s labour laws.

A Reuters report in October found widespread confusion among plant workers at the Fukushima facility over their employment contracts and their promised hazard pay increase.

Many workers asked TEPCO in the survey forms whether they were supposed to receive an equivalent of about $180 a day in hazard pay, the company said, adding that it did not mean each worker would necessarily see a pay increase of that amount.

TEPCO said last November it would double the allocation for hazard pay to workers at Fukushima.

The company’s latest survey showed that more than 70 percent of workers did receive some explanation about a pay rise in the past year, while some 1,400 workers out of 2,400 that responded to the question said they did receive an increase in pay. Workers were not asked to detail their reasons or when they received it.

The Japanese government and TEPCO vowed last year to improve workers’ conditions at the plant, where sub-contractors supply the bulk of workers conducting a cleanup after the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

Tokyo Electric, known as TEPCO, said a questionnaire sent to thousands of workers at the plant indicated 30 percent of them were on false contracts, an increase of 10 percentage points since it carried out a similar survey in 2013.

The utility survey covered 6,567 contract workers at the station north of Tokyo and about 70 percent of them responded.

It did not question its own employees, who form a small part of the huge workforce on the clean up that is expected to take decades and cost tens of billions of dollars. —Reuters

Japan to use SDF aircraft for 1st time in fight against Ebola

TORINO, 28 Nov — Japan will fly Air Self-Defense Force transport aircraft to Ghana to supply Ebola-hit West Africa with 20,000 sets of personal protective equipment, the government said on Friday.

It is the first time that Self-Defence Forces aircraft will go abroad as part of Japan’s contribution to the international fight against the deadly virus.

“We will newly provide 70,000 sets of personal protective equipment, and 20,000 will be transported to the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response headquarters in Accra, Ghana,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference.

“The timing of the dispatch is “still under discussion, but it won’t take long,” the top government spokesman said. The plan is part of the $40 million in aid Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged in his address to the UN General Assembly in September. The disease has hit West African countries such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. —Kyodo News

Tropical depression leaves two dead, one hurt in Philippines

MANILA, 28 Nov — At least two people were killed and another was injured after tropical depression Chabi (local name Queenie) barrelled through central and southern Philippines, the local disaster management agency said on Friday. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said nine others were reported missing. NDRRMC said the two fatalities were from the central Philippine province of Cebu. The agency said most of those who were reported missing were swept by big waves and strong winds while at sea. The tropical depression also displaced 1,617 families and damaged 500 houses in two provinces. At 10:00 am local time, the state weather forecasting agency said Queenie has intensified into a tropical storm, packing maximum sustained winds of 65 knots per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph. —Xinhua

Weather, incorrect procedure, probable causes of Lao Airlines QV 301 crash

VIENGIANE, 28 Nov — A sudden change in weather conditions and the flight crew’s failure to properly execute procedure had been identified as the probable causes of the crash of Lao Airlines flight QV 301, according to a final report on the accident released on Friday.

The report, released by the Lao Ministry of Public Works and Transport, was the product of an investigation by officials from Laos, France’s civil aviation authority BEA (appointed by aircraft manufacturer ATR) and AAIB (Air Accidents Investigation Branch) Singapore. The report states that QV 301 crashed in bad weather while attempting a go-around after a failed landing attempt.

The flight data recorders recovered from the crash revealed that the flight crew set an altitude of 600 feet as the aircraft’s minima, or altitude at which visual references with the ground are analyzed as sufficient or insufficient for landing.

The flight crew’s minima of 600 feet was lower than the published minima of 990 feet and the incorrect height of 645 feet as published in the IEPPESEN Chart at that time. After aborting the aircraft’s approach at an altitude of around 595 feet, the flight crew executed a right turn instead of a nominal climb as dictated by the airport’s VOR/DME missed approach procedure.

When the flight crew realized that the aircraft’s altitude was too low, the Pilot Flying overreacted, leading to a high pitch attitude of 33. When the plane’s altitude reached the minimum value of 60 feet, the aircraft’s roll had reached approximately 37 to the right. During the plane’s flight, there was a local thunderstorm approaching the airport from the Southwest. According to the report, the sound of heavy rain striking the plane was audible on the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). —Xinhua

A Russian woman (R) tries a Japanese cosmetic product on 27 Nov, 2014, at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow. Pola Inc and Kanebo Cosmetics Inc, Japanese cosmetics makers already operating in Russia, jointly held an event at the embassy to introduce their products under the Japanese government’s “Cool Japan Initiative” to boost popularity of Japanese products and culture overseas.—KYODO NEWS

Britain’s Prince William arrives for the Royal Variety Performance in London on 13 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

Workers wearing radiation protective gear stand outside of the No 4 reactor building at TEPCO’s tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture, on 12 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

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The flight data recorders recovered from the crash revealed that the flight crew set an altitude of 600 feet as the aircraft’s minima, or altitude at which visual references with the ground are analyzed as sufficient or insufficient for landing.

The flight crew’s minima of 600 feet was lower than the published minima of 990 feet and the incorrect height of 645 feet as published in the IEPPESEN Chart at that time. After aborting the aircraft’s approach at an altitude of around 595 feet, the flight crew executed a right turn instead of a nominal climb as dictated by the airport’s VOR/DME missed approach procedure.

When the flight crew realized that the aircraft’s altitude was too low, the Pilot Flying overreacted, leading to a high pitch attitude of 33. When the plane’s altitude reached the minimum value of 60 feet, the aircraft’s roll had reached approximately 37 to the right. During the plane’s flight, there was a local thunderstorm approaching the airport from the Southwest. According to the report, the sound of heavy rain striking the plane was audible on the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). —Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (041W)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (041W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2014 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 and 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES.
Phone No: 2301185

POLICE RAID HOME OF FORMER BES CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LUZON, 28 Nov — Portuguese police on Thursday raided the home of Ricardo Salgado, former chief executive of the bank Banco Espirito Santo (BES), amid an ongoing investigation into a scandal. The police also searched another 34 homes which are related to the investigation, according to a statement by the prosecutor’s office.

Portugal’s central government is investigating the former management of BES for alleged fraud, money laundering and falsification of documents.

Salgado stepped down in July after the 150-year-old banking dynasty reported a loss of 3.6 billion euros (4.49 billion US dollars) and was rescued by the Portuguese government. He was detained in July but freed after paying 3 million euros. He will be questioned at parliament on 3 December, according to Portuguese media reports.

The BES crisis has been referred to by analysts as one of the country’s biggest financial scandals, ruining the country’s reputation in less than four months after it exited a 78-billion-euro bailout programme without a credit line. The bank was split into a “bad bank” with toxic assets and liabilities, and a “good bank” housing viable assets like branches, employees and senior debtors. The good bank is now called “Novo Banco” (New Bank). The Portuguese government has maintained an optimistic stance throughout the turmoil, saying that bailing out BES was the “best solution” amid backlash by the opposition parties.—Xinhua

ATR, Indonesia’s Lion Air sign deal for 40 aircraft
ROME, 28 Nov — A 1-billion-US dollar contract by aircraft manufacturer ATR, a French-Italian joint-venture between Finmeccanica and the Airbus Group, and Indonesia’s Lion Air airline was signed in Rome on Thursday. The contract, which was signed by ATR’s CEO Patrick de Meuron and President of Lion group Rusdi Kirana, was for the provision of 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft, to meet the growing demand for short and medium haul air transport in the Indonesian and Southeastern Asia region. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and Finmeccanica’s CEO and General Manager, Mauro Moretti, attended the signing, which was the largest order of ATR aircraft in the last 20 years, a statement by Finmeccanica said.

According to the agreement, deliveries will start from January 2016 and will continue until December 2018. The new aircraft will be added to the 60 ATR 72 already ordered by Lion Air from 2008.

“The ATR joint-venture is a clear example of how synergy between the European aerospace industry leads to the development of leading-edge products and technological systems, ready to successfully meet the challenges posed at international level by increasingly fierce competitors,” Moretti said.

Finmeccanica is Italy’s leading manufacturer in the high technology sector and ranks among the top 10 global players in aerospace, defence and security.

In 2013 Finmeccanica, which is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, generated revenues of 16 billion euros (20 billion US dollars), with about 64,000 employees operating in 22 countries worldwide.

POLICE RAID HOME OF FORMER BES CHIEF EXECUTIVE

WHO LIMITS STAFF, CONTRACTORS’ EXPOSURE IN PAKISTAN OVER SECURITY CONCERNS
ISLAMABAD, 28 Nov — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that it has restricted its staff and contractors’ exposure in Pakistan over security situation.

Michel Thieren, WHO Representative in Pakistan, however denied local media reports that the organization has suspended operations in the country.

Pakistan TV channels earlier reported that the WHO suspended operations in Balochistan Province a day after unidentified gunmen shot dead four polo workers including three women.

The gunmen sprayed bullets at a van, which carried a team of nine women polo workers near Quetta, the provincial capital, on Wednesday.

The WHO representative in Pakistan said the organization has not stopped its operation in Pakistan.

“WHO would like to categorically dispel the notion of closing down or withdrawing its operations in Balochista nor anywhere else in Pakistan,” he said.

He said in a statement that WHO has applied a standard and routine measure to limit its staff and contractor’s exposure to any unsettled security situation.

Thieren said such measure intends to take the needed time to analyze in depth the event and its aftermath, and to explore working environment ahead of a prompt reversal of the measure taken.

He said WHO extends its grievance and sympathy to the families of the victims and whoever reiterate its continued support towards polio eradication in Pakistan. —Xinhua

India says its 39 nationals missing in Iraq not killed
NEW DELHI, 28 Nov — India on Friday said that its 39 nationals missing in Iraq since June this year were not killed by Islamic State militants.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said “there is no evidence to support media reports that the 39 nationals missing in Iraq not killed.”

Some 39 Indians, who worked with a construction company, were kidnapped in Iraq’s second largest city of Mosul after it fell to the Islamic State in June. However, later one of them managed to escape.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th November, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Tanintharyi Region and Kayin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagain, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of isolated light rain or thundershower are likely in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

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Yangon, 30 November 2014
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Speakers
2. Dr U Myint, President’s Chief Economic Advisor
3. Dr Yin Yin Hwe, President’s Chief Education Advisor
4. U Tin Htut Oo, Chairman, National Economic and Social Advisory Council
5. Dr Tin Maung Maung Tha, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
6. Assoc. Prof. Sean Turnell, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
7. U Than Tun a.k.a. Ahok Nath, Chairman, Excise Events
Organized by —
88th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade held in New York

People attend the 88th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, the United States on 27 Nov, 2014.—Xinhua

Kanye West ditching music for fashion?

New York, 28 Nov — Rapper Kanye West is reportedly planning to quit his music career in order to pursue the fashion world. The 37-year-old singer feels that there are bigger bucks in fashion than in music, reported New York Post.

“After his next collaboration with Paul McCartney comes out, he is going to step away from music and concentrate on clothing,” a source said. The sneakers West designed for Nike have become collectibles, selling for thousands of dollars, but the rapper left Nike because he wasn’t making enough money.

“He got a USD 15 million signing bonus from Adidas, but his line has been pushed back four times because he hasn’t had enough time to work on it,” the source added. West is married to reality TV star Kim Kardashian and has a daughter named North.—PTI

Karan Johar requested Imtiaz Ali to cast Alia Bhatt in ‘Highway’


Karan Johar, who launched Alia in his 2012 college drama ‘Student of Year’ along with Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra, says he did not work much to sharpen the acting skills of these newcomers as he wanted them to be raw.

“I am glad that Imtiaz took Alia for ‘Highway’, which is considered one of the best performances of her. But I had to vouch for her to Imtiaz. When I had told him about Alia and requested him to take her in his film, he was not at all sure about her acting prowess after ‘Student of the Year’. But I had assured him that she has the capacity to be the lead for his film,” Karan said at an event on the sidelines of the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here.

The ‘Koffee With Karan’ host recalled how excitedly Alia had called him after getting the script of ‘Highway’, which also starred Randeep Hooda opposite her.

“Alia had called me to tell that she got a script from Imtiaz for his next project. She told me she is there in every page of the script and she is playing the main lead. I told her to do it,” he said.

Post ‘Highway’, Alia scaled new career heights with back-to-back hits ‘2 States’ and ‘Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania’, both produced by Karan and helmed by two new filmmakers.

Karan said collaboration is the way forward in Bollywood to have a good business at the box-office.

“Collaboration is the way forward. I collaborat—everybody,” he said.

Johnny Depp: I don’t like to be in social situations — it’s fine for me in a weird way, having to run and hide. PTI

I’m living like a fugitive: Johnny Depp

Los Angeles, 28 Nov — Actor Johnny Depp, who loved transforming himself to portray out-of-the-box characters on-screen, says the intense focus on his life makes him feel like a fugitive. The actor, 51, is game to try anything when it comes to his acting but Depp does not like being observed, reported Detail magazine.

“I’m living, in a sense, like a fugitive. I don’t like to be in social situations — it’s fine for me in a weird way, having to run and hide. Less and less, I have the opportunity to observe, because I’m the one being observed,” he said.

Depp’s last two outings — ‘Transcendence’ and ‘The Lone Ranger’ did not do well at the box office but the actor does not want to think much about the outcomes. The actor said Marlon Brando once told him ‘Life is a birdsong’. “That’s stuck with me. For everybody, the clock’s ticking. The main thing is whether you sit there and stare at the clock in fear of your ultimate demise — which is pointless — or you just live,” the actor said.—PTI

Jennifer Hudson to appear on ‘A Home for the Holidays’

Los Angeles, 28 Nov — Jennifer Hudson and Katharine McPhee are among the stars who will appear on the CBS special ‘A Home for the Holidays’. The annual telecast highlights heart-warming tales about child hood adoption by presenting stories of kids who have found happy homes, reported The Wrap. Rixton, Earth Wind & Fire, Train, Dan + Shay and country music sensation Ashley Monroe will be performing during ‘A Home for the Holidays’.

Jennifer’s ‘Scorpion’ actress McPhee will be among the presenters for the show.

CBS is producing ‘A Home for the Holidays’ in association with the Children’s Miracle Network and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.—PTI

Natalie Portman to join Steve Jobs biopic

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Sony Pictures had been working on developing the project, written by Aaron Sorkin, before Universal picked up the film. Many stars including Christian Bale and Leonardo DiCaprio were attached to play Jobs at various phases but the role finally went to Fassbender.

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China down to 99 in the latest FIFA rankings

BEIJING, 28 Nov — China dropped to 99th position on the November edition of the overall FIFA world rankings, 11 places lower than last month, according to the FIFA website.

Despite the sudden
slide, China maintains its ninth position in the continental table, with Japan as the top one in Asia followed by Iran and South Korea.

China played two warm-up games in November and both ended in a tie.

China drew with New Zealand 1-1 a fortnight ago as captain Zheng Zhi scored a sensational goal at the first half.

Four days later, China and Honduras played to goalless draw in Xi’nan, and the North American team not only made into the 2014 Brazil World Cup, but also as China’s highest-ranking opponent this year.

Germany is still No 1 with Argentina second and Columbia third on the world ranking table.— Xinhua

Australia to launch safety review after Hughes’ death

LONDON, 28 Nov — Manchester United defender Jonny Evans has played 60 minutes in a reserve match and could return to manager Louis van Gaal’s injury-hit back line against Hull City on Saturday.

The Northern Ireland international has struggled with a succession of niggling injuries this season, giving Van Gaal a major headache with Phil Jones, Rafael, Chris Smalling, Luke Shaw and Marcos Rojo also sidelined for long spells.

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Argentine Rojo has also started training again after a fortnight during a visit to Fogo.

The eruption on the island of Fogo — whose name means fire — is the first since 1951.

“In the last few hours, there was an increase in volcanic activity and the lava is flowing towards Portela and this community may be completely engulfed by lava,” Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves said on Thursday during a visit to Fogo.

“The potential is for the total destruction of Cha das Caldeiras, one of the most fertile regions of Cape Verde,” he added, calling on international aid for the country.

Experts from Portugal and the Canary Islands have already arrived to evaluate the seismic activity.

The arid, former Portuguese colony is located about 600 km (400 miles) off the coast of Senegal. Fogo’s volcanic peak, surrounded by vineyards, is a favorite hiking destination.— Reuters

Lava from Cape Verde volcano threatens to engulf town

PRAIA, 28 Nov — Molten lava from a volcano in the Cape Verde archipelago slid towards the town of Cha das Caldeiras on Thursday, threatening to destroy it and a nearby village four days after an initial eruption.

Television images showed a huge lake of steaming black lava just meters away from houses in the village of Portela. The village is close to Cha das Caldeiras, whose 1,200-strong population has been evacuated to emergency shelters.

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Manchester United’s Jonny Evans (L) celebrates after scoring against Sunderland during their English League Cup semi-final second leg soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 22 Jun, 2014.— Reuters

United defender Evans close to return

Cricket Australia Chief Executive James Sutherland pauses at a news conference, about the death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes, at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney, on 27 Nov, 2014.— Reuters

Cricket Australia will “immediately” launch a review into safety protocols and protection for players after the death of batsman Phillip Hughes, the organization’s chief executive James Sutherland said on Friday.

This is clearly says it is clearly a freak incident, but one of the things that is clearly a freak incident too many, so that of course puts us in a position of looking into that,” Sutherland said.

Evans has played 60 minutes in a reserve match and could return to manager Louis van Gaal’s injury-hit back line against Hull City on Saturday.

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Chambers leads with McIlroy lurking, Scott revived in Sydney

SYDNEY, 28 Nov — Australian Greg Chalmers held a one-shot lead at the halfway stage of the Australian Open on Friday but defending champion Rory McIlroy was well-positioned for the weekend in a share of second place.

Chalmers, twice a former winner of his national open, needed his seventh birdie on the last green for a five-under-par 66 to edge ahead of a congested leading pack at five-under for the tournament.

The 41-year-old was not getting too carried away with his early lead, however, with the world number one on his heels after a second 69 and Adam Scott having re-vived his tournament with a sparkling 66.

“I think it’s very early to be talking about winning given who’s right behind me and who’s playing very well,” he told reporters.

“Very early to be thinking about what’s going to happen on Sunday night.”

Northern Irishman McIlroy had an up and down round with an eagle, six birdies and six bogies for a share of second with American Conrad Schindler as well as Australians Adam Crawford and Todd Sinnott on four-under.

“I felt like I had an opportunity today to shoot a good one and put a little bit of space between myself and the rest of the field but it didn’t really turn out that way,” McIlroy said.

“A few too many mistakes and it was pretty tricky out there to be honest. Swirling quite a bit, which made it hard for club selection. Misjudged a few wedged shots and got bogies from those.

“I was happy with how I finished, picked up shots in four of the last five holes and I’m still in a good position heading into tomorrow.”

Overnight leader Jordan Spieth had a day to forget, bogeying two of his first four holes and finishing with a 72 to drop to a share of sixth with three others.

“It was a struggle, big time struggle,” he said. “I wasn’t hitting it well. If I wasn’t putting well I may have shot 45 on the back nine.”

Scott was in a group of six players sharing ninth on two-under having soared back into contention with a blemish-free 66 that was also fired by an eagle at the 14th.

The 34-year-old former US Masters champion, an early starter, held the course record on the newly-reconfigured layout at The Australian Golf Club for half an hour until Jamie Lovemark completed a round of 65.

“We had a good morning for it, so I had to take advantage just for the sake of getting back in the tournament,” Scott said.

Reuters

Tottenham’s clash with Partizan halted by pitch invaders

LONDON, 28 Nov — Tottenham Hotspur could be facing a UEFA punishment after their Europa League game against Partizan Belgrade on Thursday was suspended for several minutes after three separate pitch invasions.

The referee took the players off the field after 38 minutes of the Group C game with the teams drawing 0-0. The players returned to the field about 10 minutes later and Tottenham won the match 1-0.

The pitch invaders appeared to be wearing identical branded t-shirts and British media reported that it could have been part of a marketing stunt.

“Three pitch invaders at tonight’s match have been arrested and are assisting police with their enquirers,” Tottenham said in a statement. “We shall provide an update as soon as we have established the full facts.”

“We apologize to fans for the disruptions caused by this totally unacceptable behaviour.” — Reuters

Arsenal’s Wilshere ruled out for three months

LONDON, 28 Nov — Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere will be out of action for three months after undergoing ankle surgery, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The 22-year-old English international damaged ligaments during the league match against Manchester United on Saturday.

“Everyone at the club wishes Jack a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on the pitch as soon as possible,” Arsenal said on their website.

Wilshere’s career has been plagued by injuries, mainly to his ankles, and he has played fewer than 100 league games since making his debut in 2008.

He missed the entire 2011-12 campaign after suffering a stress fracture to his ankle which ruled him out for 17 months.

“Ankle needed surgery in the end, went well thanks to the main man James Calder! Work hard for what you want because it won’t come to you without a fight,” Wilshere said on Instagram.

“You have to be strong and courageous and know that you can do anything you put your mind to. If somebody puts you down or criticises you, just keep on believing in yourself and turn it into something positive.”

It was another blow for Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger who has been badly hampered by injuries during a poor start to the season in which Arsenal have slipped to eighth in the table.

Reuters