President U Thein Sein welcomes Norwegian king with ceremony

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec — President U Thein Sein welcomed Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V with a ceremony on the lawn at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president and the king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.

They then introduced senior government officials of the two sides to each other, including Myanmar union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay.

U Thein Sein and His Majesty Harald V, together with their spouses, held a private conservation at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At a meeting of government officials from both sides, officials from both countries discussed matters of mutual concern.

The Norwegian king took the salute of the guard of honour at the ceremony, at which students also greeted the two leaders.
Locals participate in combating drug resistant malaria

THATON, 1 Dec — World Concern Myanmar (Mon Project Office) organized the community movement in combating the drug resistant malaria disease.

At the monastery in Kyungale Village of Thaton Township, Mon State held the health educative knowledge talks, songs, play and quiz on 30 November, with participation of the local people.

“The health project has been carried out in respective villages. Now, we organized the ceremony for all villages on a wider scale,” in-charge of World Concern Myanmar (Mon Project office) Dr Aung Kaung Khant said.

Medical officers and staff gave malaria test to the attendees free of charge. The paintings and posters were displayed for public observation on drug resistant malaria disease.

Dr Win Hlaing launched the sports meet.

In the final match of high school level football event, Saya Zaw team emerged champion with a 2-1 win over Pyinnya San-yain.

Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin, Secretary of the Organizing Committee U Khun Maung Cho and founders of the private schools presented prizes to the winners in the table tennis and football tournament.

Region Education Officer Dr Soe Myint Tun gave the championship trophy to Pyinnya Sanein private school.

Region Minister Dr Win Hlaing presented championship shield to Saya Zaw team in the high school level football tournament.

Pregnant women get prenatal health knowledge

NAV PYI TAW, 1 Dec — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized a talk on community health at Basic Education Middle School Branch in Phayataung Village, Ottarathiri Township, on 30 November.

Secretary of MMCWA Daw Tin Tin Win and doctor-in-charge of Myittha Sanyay clinic Dr Daw San San Hlaing explained purposes of operating the mobile clinic.

Medical officers and staff gave prenatal health knowledge talks, songs, play and quiz to 385 people from Phayataung and Potet villages, health care on pregnant women and health care of the local people.

Of them, 10 patients were referred to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed).—Shwe ye Tint

Mohnyin to get new town hall

MOHNYIN, 1 Dec — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of new Mohnyin City Hall was held in the designated plot, west of Technological College in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, on 29 November.

Kachin State Minister for Finance Mohnyin Township Hluttaw representative U Nyunt Aung and officials drove stakes in the designated places.

Manaw Ayeya Company will construct the 99.6 feet long and 121 feet wide two-storey RC hall, spending K978.9 million allotted by Kachin State Government. The construction is expected to complete in 2015.

Seinle Yadana Hall in Mohnyin where the departmental personnel and local people attended the commemorative ceremonies was built in 1990s.
President U Thein Sein . . .

(from page 1)

sides, they discussed the improvement of bilateral ties, peace-making efforts, rehabilitation tasks during the post-conflict period, the reform process of the Southeast Asian country, environmental conservation and management of natural resources, the education sector, the energy sector, poverty alleviation programmes, the tourism industry, trade and investment and the general election.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende signed a memorandum of understanding at the presence of the two leaders for cooperation in development programmes between the two countries.

President U Thein Sein and the first lady then had a luncheon with the king and the queen.

The Norwegian government wrote off US$534 million of Myanmar’s debt to the northern European country, and also prioritized Myanmar for its international development programmes.

Union Minister meets Chinese Transport Minister

(Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin received Minister of Transport Mr Yang Chuan Tang and party of China at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Sunday.

They discussed construction of infrastructures for silk road project and Rui-Kyaukpyu road.

The union minister inspected progress of Kok-kowa Bridge on Htanta-bin-Lamudan-Hleseik road in Htantabin Township and Shwepakkan Bridge linking Dagon Myothit (East) Township and Shwepakkan Township.—MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann meets Norwegian King

(Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja at the Hluttaw building on Monday.

During his welcome speech, Thura U Shwe Mann said that the visit of His Majesty is an evidence of good relations between the two countries, and it is believed as an appreciation of Norway for the democratic reforms and peace-making processes in Myanmar.

The speaker noted that while Myanmar is striving for these steps, the country and people hope the continuous supports of Norway in these efforts. King Harald V also thanked for warmly welcome of Myanmar officials, saying that his visit was aimed to promote ties between the two countries.

The king then pledged the support of their country in the transitional period of Myanmar, in which some reform processes should be done immediately, while some steps may take time.

He also said his expectation on free and fair elections in Myanmar. The meeting was attended by the union ministers, members of Hluttaw affairs committees and the ambassadors to both countries.—MNA

President U Thein Sein holds discussions with Norwegian His Majesty King Harald V at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Norwegian King His Majesty Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja seen with Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann.—MNA

Agerwood saplings seen at a nursery.

Norwegian Minister and Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw sign MoU in the presence of President U Thein Sein and Norwegian King Harald V.—MNA

GNLM

Tax for agarwood to be . . .

(from page 1)
in the list of potentially threatened species by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

GNLM
Chinese judge and party visit Mandalay Hill, Taungthaman Bridge

Mandalay, 1 Dec — Chief Justice of Mandalay Region High Court U Soe Thein held a talk with a delegation led by Mr Zhang Jiannan, Judge of Supreme People’s Court (SPC) in China in Mandalay on 28 November.

In the evening, Chief Justice U Soe Thein hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests at Rupar Mandalar Resort. On 29 November, the Chinese guests visited Mandalay Hill and paid homage to Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on the hill and visited Taungthaman Bridge.

In the evening, they left Mandalay International Airport for China.  

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Free clinic opens Charity Haemodialysis Center in Mandalay

Mandalay, 1 Dec — A ceremony to open the Charity Haemodialysis Center was held at Myint Phyusin free clinic on 74th street between 36th and 37th streets in Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay, on Sunday morning.  

Chairman of the Clinic Management Committee Police Col Hla Myint (Rtd) made a speech, and Renal Specialist Dr Khin Maung Kyaw explained the purpose of opening the Charity Haemodialysis Center.

Secretary of the committee Mandalar U Soe Myint briefed all the attendees on tasks of the clinic and future plans.  

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Chief Minister on inspection tour of Gwa, Kyeventali in Rakhine State

Sittway, 1 Dec — Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn on 27 November inspected medical store, labour room and patient wards at Gwa People’s Hospital and presented cash assistance to patients.

At Gwa Basic Education High School, the chief minister instructed teachers to improve education standard of the students. He also met township level officials and social organizations at the hall in Gwa.

In the afternoon, the chief minister viewed allotment of land plots released by the Tatmadaw along Gwa-Kyeventali road and Thandwe-Kyeventali road.

At Kyeventali BEHS, the chief minister fulfilled the requirements of water supply and presented solar lamps and stationery to them.  

Rakhine State IPRD

Clinic gives free health care services to locals

Myaung, 1 Dec — A mobile medical team provided health care services to local people in Tagwa Village, Myaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 29 November.

In commemoration of the first anniversary of Po Yar Zar Library in Tagwa Village, three doctors, nurses and traditional medicine practitioners gave health care to the people free of charge. They had given medical treatment to the locals at the opening ceremony of the library.

Library wellwisher U Nay Lin, wife Daw Aye Aye Thwe and family donated the cost of medical treatments.

Myat Dana clinic is kept open at the Dhammayon of Chanthay Pyi Pagoda in Kyangin to give medical treatment to the people. About 150 people receive treatment at the clinic every Sunday.  

Nay Win Zaw (Myaung)

Meiktila District secures championship trophy in inter-basic education school sports meet

Mandalay, 1 Dec — The final match of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Trophy inter-basic education school football tournament was held at Mandalar Thin Stadium in Mandalay on 29 November.

Meiktila District clinched the title with a 3-2 victory over Mandalay District in the final match.  

Mandalay Region Education Officer Dr Soe Myint Tun presented best player awards in respective places, Director of Basic Education Department No 2 U Khin Maung Myint, individual medals and cash awards to the players of Meiktila District team, and Director U Myint of No 2 BED, individual medals and cash awards to players of Meiktila District team.

On behalf of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing awarded championship trophy to Meiktila District team. — Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Judicial officers discuss courts and media relations in Sittway

Sittway, 1 Dec — The Supreme Court of the Union held a coordination meeting on courts and media relations with region and state high courts at the hall of Rakhine State High Court in Sittway on 30 November.

Chief Justice of Rakhine State High Court U Kyauk said that information teams have been formed at region and state high courts so as to give information to the people and reply to queries raised by media. The media teams are to abide by the rules, regulations and directives of media ethics.

Head of Rakhine State Judicial Officer U Khin Maung explained directives from the courts and media relations coordination meeting between the supreme court of the union and region and state high courts.

Rakhine State IPRD
Japan, Laos unveil cherry-elephant logo for 60th anniversary of ties

The logo, designed by a Japanese designer based in Kagawa Prefecture in western Japan, will be used in a series of commemorative events in Japan and Laos, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The event came after Laos presented four elephant cubs to Kyoto City Zoo on 17 November for public viewing in March next year. In return, Japan plans to plant about 220 cherry trees in Laos in February, according to a ministry official.

With Laos registering real economic growth of around 8 percent in recent years, the number of Japanese investors in the country has doubled from about 60 in 2012 to 122 as of November this year, according to Japanese government data.

The latest investors include Nikon Corp and Toyota Boshoku Corp, a group company of Toyota Motor Corp.

To strengthen information gathering, and assist members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which have pledged to advance connectivity for further development as the 10-member bloc prepares to establish a more integrated ASEAN Community in 2015.—Kyodo News

KEPCO begins special checks seeking to keep old nuclear units

The government has sought to promote shutdowns of old facilities. Kansai Electric has judged that keeping the two reactors would contribute to improving its earnings that have deteriorated due to a surge in fossil fuel costs in the absence of nuclear power, despite massive costs for upgrading equipment and enhancing the safety of the plant. Currently, all the reactors in Japan remain offline.

Under the special checks, which are expected to take up to four months, the utility serving Osaka and surrounding areas will scrutinize the state of reactor pressure vessels — which contain the nuclear fuel — and other key equipment.

But the company will then need to apply for the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s safety screening based on the new regulations and obtain approval to continue the units’ operations, a process necessary for any reactor before being allowed to go back online.

Kansai Electric plans to finish the special checks and apply for the NRA screening as early as next spring.

The Takahama No 1 unit became 40 years old in November, and the No 2 unit will be 40 years old November next year. The pro-nuclear government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has urged utilities to quickly decide on whether to scrap their aging reactors, apparently in an attempt to ease concerns over the safety of nuclear power by promoting the shutdown of old facilities and bringing relatively new reactors back online.

Kyodo News

Malaysia’s court orders MAS to enter defence

MAS has been ordered to file their statement of defence before 15 December.

According to a report by the local English Daily “the Star,” High Court deputy registrar K Pavani ordered all defendants to file their defence before 15 December.

Pavani has set 12 January for the matter to be heard before a trial judge, said the children’s lead counsel Dr Arunan Selvaraj. Arunan said they were now in the midst of identifying witnesses, adding that they want answers to various queries over the missing plane.

“The plane is said to have landed at the Indian Ocean, so what is the conclusion?” Arunan said. “We are interested to know what transpired when the plane went missing on March 8,” he added.

In the suit, the plaintiffs have also named the civil aviation director-general, the immigration director-general, the air force chief and the government as defendants.

The two boys, aged 13 and 11, had on 31 October filed the civil claim through their mother Ng Pearl Ming, 38. Their father, Jee Jing Hang, 41, was a businessman on board of the Beijing-bound flight.

In the statement of claim, the boys said their father had entered into an agreement with MAS for safe passage to Beijing when he paid the airfare.

They claimed that MAS had breached the agreement when the plane failed to land in Beijing at 6:30 am on 8 March.
Russia’s lower house speaker to discuss bilateral ties in Vietnam

Sergey Naryshkin

Russia’s Defence Ministry establishes Arctic Strategic Command

Ivor-Tass

Abe says his Liberal Democratic Party, adding, “It’s time to turn the tide.” “The economy will expand through the stabilization of employment and the promotion of a child-rearing programme,” Kaieda said. Abe dissolved the House of Representatives on 21 November and called the election to seek a fresh mandate for his “Abenomics” policy mix of aggressive monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and growth-oriented reforms. The leaders of the eight political parties also discussed Abe’s recent decision to postpone a planned consumption tax hike by 18 months to April 2017, its impact on Japan’s management of swelling social security costs and the exercise of the right to collective self-defence, or defending allies under armed attack even if Japan itself is not.—Kyodo News

Russia’s Defence Ministry establishes Arctic Strategic Command

Arctic coast

A delegation from Russia’s lower house of parliament, the State Duma, led by Speaker Sergey Naryshkin, is due to discuss cooperation between Moscow and Hanoi during the official visit to Vietnam on 2–3 December. The Russian lawmakers are expected to meet with Vietnam’s top government officials “to discuss topical issues of bilateral cooperation,” the Russian lower house of parliament said. Naryshkin is also scheduled to make a speech before the students of the Hanoi University.

The visit comes as Russia and Vietnam prepare to mark important dates in the history of bilateral relations: the 65th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations in late January 2015, the 40th anniversary since the liberation of southern Vietnam and unification of the country; the 70th anniversary since Vietnam proclaimed independence and the 70th anniversary since the victory in WWII.

Tokyo, 1 Dec — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday in a televised debate with the leaders of seven other political parties that his economic policies have given Japan the opportunity to pull out of deflation. “We have seized the chance to break out of 15 years of deflation,” Abe said in the debate hosted by the Japan National Press Club a day before official campaigning begins for the 14 December lower house election.

“The employment situation is improving, and salaries are starting to go up,” Abe said as he wrote his campaign slogan on a board: This (Abenomics) is the only way.

Banri Kaieda, head of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, said he cannot put up with another four years of rule by Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, adding, “It’s time to turn the tide.” “The economy will expand through the stabilization of employment and the promotion of a child-rearing programme,” Kaieda said. Abe dissolved the House of Representatives on 21 November and called the election to seek a fresh mandate for his “Abenomics” policy mix of aggressive monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and growth-oriented reforms. The leaders of the eight political parties also discussed Abe’s recent decision to postpone a planned consumption tax hike by 18 months to April 2017, its impact on Japan’s management of swelling social security costs and the exercise of the right to collective self-defence, or defending allies under armed attack even if Japan itself is not.—Kyodo News

Strong first year raises doubts Australian PM will last full term

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has surged ahead to lead the government by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent in the latest Newspoll released on 18 November.

A cabinet reshuffle is likely after the Victorian election, Hughes said, but a leadership swap may already be unavoidable.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, who has performed well this year, is seen as a possible leader. “If those numbers don’t budge, they’re going to have to consider it. They’ve got no choice,” Hughes said. Australia, by far the world’s biggest exporter of iron ore and coal, has been battered by a worldwide fall in commodity prices. Iron prices have plunged 44 percent so far this year to under $76 a tonne. Abbott warned about ballooning deficits in May when he released an unpopular budget packed with deregulation moves, new levies and spending cuts, but the public has never accepted his performance in the past week as “ragged”. That included defense minister Johnston saying he would not trust a government-owned submarine firm “to build a canoe”, which led to calls for his sacking. “Obviously I take responsibility for everything in the end. I mean, the buck stops here,” Abbott told reporters. Treasurer Hockey, once considered a successor for Abbott, has been hurt by the budget impasse and will be a likely target in any reshuffle. Opposition leader Bill Shorten said on Monday he expected that a scheduled mid-year fiscal update this month would confirm that budget as Hockey’s first — and last.—Reuters

Sergey Naryshkin

Russia’s lower house speaker to discuss bilateral ties in Vietnam

Leader of Japan’s eight political parties, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (4th from L), shake hands before their debate session at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on 1 Dec, 2014. It was held prior to the 14 Dec general election.

KYODO NEWS

Tycoon of the last decade is ending, not with a bang, but with a whimper,” Deloitte said. On Monday, Abbott described the government’s performance in the past week as “ragged”. That included defense minister Johnston saying he would not trust a government-owned submarine firm “to build a canoe”, which led to calls for his sacking. “Obviously I take responsibility for everything in the end. I mean, the buck stops here,” Abbott told reporters. Treasurer Hockey, once considered a successor for Abbott, has been hurt by the budget impasse and will be a likely target in any reshuffle. Opposition leader Bill Shorten said on Monday he expected that a scheduled mid-year fiscal update this month would confirm that budget as Hockey’s first — and last.—Reuters

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

To mark important dates in the history of bilateral relations: the 65th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations in late January 2015, the 40th anniversary since the liberation of southern Vietnam and unification of the country; the 70th anniversary since Vietnam proclaimed independence and the 70th anniversary since the victory in WWII.

Iar-Tass

Tough first year raises doubts Australian PM will last full term

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

Russia’s lower house speaker to discuss bilateral ties in Vietnam

Sergey Naryshkin

Russia’s lower house speaker to discuss bilateral ties in Vietnam

Sergey Naryshkin

Russia’s lower house speaker to discuss bilateral ties in Vietnam

Sergey Naryshkin
Pope Francis says mankind has not learned lesson on nukes

Pope Francis meets with reporters on 30 Nov, 2014, during a flight returning from a visit to Turkey.

Kyodo News

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE, 1 Dec — Pope Francis on Sunday expressed concern over the continued threat posed by nuclear weapons nearly 70 years after the end of World War II, saying “mankind has learned nothing” from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Speaking to reporters aboard a flight returning from a visit to Turkey, Pope Francis said nuclear energy has benefited mankind greatly but has also been used to “destroy humanity.”

If nuclear weapons were used today, “we would be forced to start from zero just like Hiroshima and Nagasaki,” he said in Italian.

The pope, who leads 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, also said the current prevalence of conflict across the world is tantamount to a third world war. He said a system of money worship was behind this, adding that the trafficking of weapons is “one of the strongest businesses” right now.

Regarding terrorism in the Middle East and Africa, the pope said such acts are the work of Islamic fundamentalists and should not be seen as representative of the religion as a whole.

He called on academic, religious and political leaders within Islam to speak up against terrorism.

Kyodo News

Colombian rebels free army general and two other hostages

Colombia’s Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon (L) speaks with General Ruben Dario Alzate (R) in an army base in Rionegro Antioquia Province on 30 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

BOGOTA, 1 Dec — Colombia’s Marxist guerrillas freed an army general and two other captives on Sunday, paving the way for peace negotiations in Cuba to resume in the quest to end five decades of war.

President Juan Manuel Santos halted the talks two weeks ago after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) seized five hostages, including General Ruben Dario Alzate.

Santos insisted there would be no more negotiations until all five hostages were freed.

The rebels released two soldiers last week and the other three — Alzate, a soldier and a civilian lawyer — were set free on Sunday in a jungle area of Choco Province on Colombia’s Pacific coast. The government said they were in good health.

“It’s clear this decision contributes to returning to a favourable climate for continuing the talks (and) shows the maturity of the process,” Santos said in a statement.

His chief negotiator, Humberto de la Calle, said late on Sunday that members of the government team would return to Havana for a two-day meeting with FARC leaders, although he stopped short of saying it marked a full resumption of talks.

Confirming the hostages’ release, the FARC’s team in Havana reiterated its demand for a ceasefire during peace talks, a request Santos has repeatedly said is out of the question.

The FARC said the two sides need “to redesign the rules of the game” without clarifying what that meant. FARC leader Rodrigo Londono, known as “Timochenko”, said Santos violated an agreement governing the talks by bringing them to a halt.

Alzate, 55, and his fellow captives were seized as they disembarked from a boat in a violent and impoverished jungle region of Choco. The FARC declared him a prisoner of war.

The two soldiers freed on Tuesday were taken during combat in the eastern province of Arauca three weeks ago.

At the talks in Havana, the government and the FARC have reached partial agreement on land reform, ending the illegal drugs trade and political participation for demobilized rebels. Alvaro Uribe, a still-popular former president who is now a senator, has slammed the talks, claiming the rebels are seeking impunity and had milked the hostage-taking for media coverage.

Around 200,000 people have been killed in Colombia’s 50-year conflict. The last peace effort ended in a shambles in 2002 when the FARC used a demilitarized zone to expand its fighting force and take hostages.

—Reuters

Mubarak verdict fuels protests, mockery in Egypt

CAIRO, 1 Dec — Protests erupted at universities across Egypt on Sunday, condemning a court decision to drop criminal charges against Hosni Mubarak, the president whose ouster in the 2011 uprising raised hopes of a new era of political openness.

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered at Cairo University, waving pictures of Mubarak behind bars and demanding the “fall of the regime”, the rallying cry of the Arab Spring uprisings that shook governments from Tunisia to Egypt in 2011.

Police stood ready at the gates to bar students that sought to take their demonstration into the streets.

An Egyptian court on Saturday dropped its case against Mubarak over his role in a 2011 uprising that ended his 30-year rule.

The ruling was seen by activists as the latest sign that the rights won during the revolt are being eroded.

While the decision could be met with a rebuke from Washington, it is unlikely to upset a relationship that has strengthened since the US-led campaign against Islamic State. Cairo’s strong public support for the campaign demonstrates how far Egypt has come in restoring its place as a premier US partner in the Arab world since last year’s authoritarian crackdown in Egypt and military takeover.

Although the United States was a proponent of the Arab Spring, Washington in June renewed ties with Cairo and its current government, led by another strongman, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.—Reuters

Anti-Mubarak protesters gesture after former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s verdict, in front of barred wire, soldiers with armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and police vehicles as they close one of the entrances which lead to Tahrir square in downtown Cairo on 29 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

The frigate HMS Argyll of the United Kingdom’s Royal Navy, arrives at Havana, Cuba, on 30 Nov, 2014. The frigate HMS Argyll of the United Kingdom’s Royal Navy, is on a friendly visit in Havana.—Xinhua
Stop using children for political gain

By Kyaw Thura

It is shocking that children get used in the vanguard of recent demonstrations in some parts of Myanmar. From a logical point of view, children are unable to even spell ‘politics’, let alone know what it means to them. There must be unscrupulous politicians behind the curtain orchestrating the demonstrations as a means to voice their demands. True politicians will however denounce the use of children for political purposes as a scandalous way of manipulating public opinion.

As a signatory to the Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC), Myanmar should exercise its prerogative to warn all of its political parties to refrain from using children in political activities. The CRC states that children have to be protected “from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation.”

Every society will find it intolerable to have the underage become lured into or compelled to be involved in political activities. Bearing that in mind, the government, as well as all political parties, should provide a safe haven for children so that they can continue their routines such as going to school, playing sports and enjoying other childhood activities with friends and families.

Let alone the act, even the thought of using children for political gain is aberrant by itself. The onus is therefore on all of us to keep children out of any kind of political movement. So, it is imperative that all politicians should leave them alone and let them finish their schooling. Otherwise, it would be hypocritical of them to maltreat children, who are innocent in every sense of the word.

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.

Malversation and red tape

By TOMMY PAUK

Both malversation and red tape are detrimental to a certain country’s prestige and development. These practices prevail in many countries in the world irrespective of whether they are rich or poor. Malversation is the corrupt administration and red tape is the bureaucratic routine. Ordinary people in these countries are reluctant to go to public offices as there are lots of paper work and bureaucracy. When people need to take official documents, recommendation or permits from public offices, they have to go there and deal with civil servants or government employees. In this situation, inevitably people encounter the practices of malversation and red tape committed by some officials. The office work and procedures are always surrounded by red tape. Even then, they do not perform their duties properly. So, the people usually get annoyed, confused and frustrated with the misconduct of the authorities concerned. The worst thing is that the bureaucrats and civil servants in the administration behave haughtily to the public concerned. Even though they are paid to the public concerned, administration behave haughtily civil servants in the administration.

When people need to take some important documents or permits or approval through red tape. The corrupt officials ask for bribe from the people. Subsequently, the people unwillingly bribe the officials concerned to get their job done properly, correctly, timely and smoothly. Otherwise, the service will take a long time and red tape is utilized by corrupt officials intentionally. When we study this case, the people are coerced by the corrupt officials to give bribe. The use of coercion is the tactic of the corrupt personnel. The ordinary people are scared to complain about it because the corrupt personnel can cause so much trouble when they need to apply for public services next time.

The corrupt officials may be graduates or holders of many degrees from Institutes, but their bad character and misconduct ruin their reputation badly. They do not serve the people’s affairs and interests with their knowledge, skill and capacity effectively. Thus, they do not become outstanding and model government officials. The corrupt officials usually neglect morals, code of conduct for civil services and ethical values. If a certain society is corrupt the other clean societies will dissociate with it for anything. They are totally not worthy of their higher or lower positions they are assigned to serve for the interests of the public services dutifully and honestly.

For their disgusting misconduct, they lose public confidence and trust. The people cautiously deal with them to gain official documents or permits or approval through red tape. The corrupt officials ask for bribe from the people. Subsequently, the people unwillingly bribe the officials concerned to get their job done properly, correctly, timely and smoothly. Otherwise, the service will take a long time and red tape is utilized by corrupt officials intentionally. When we study this case, the people are coerced by the corrupt officials to give bribe. The use of coercion is the tactic of the corrupt personnel. The ordinary people are scared to complain about it because the corrupt personnel can cause so much trouble when they need to apply for public services next time.

The corrupt officials may be graduates or holders of many degrees from Institutes, but their bad character and misconduct ruin their reputation badly. They do not serve the people’s affairs and interests with their knowledge, skill and capacity effectively. Thus, they do not become outstanding and model government officials. The corrupt officials usually neglect morals, code of conduct for civil services and ethical values. If a certain society is corrupt the other clean societies will dissociate with it for anything. They are totally not worthy of their higher or lower positions they are assigned to serve for the interests of the public services dutifully and honestly.

Their low mentality, selfishness, misconduct, horst-toy manner tarnish the image of the government and the nation concerned. Such practices should not be existent in any civilized and humane society across the world. Otherwise, such a country cannot develop and people will be unhappy. If the corrupt officials change their mindset and quit from malpractices, they will be welcomed by the people due respect from the public concerned. As for the dutiful, model, honest and outstanding officials, every citizen honors them for their prestige and human dignity. Concerning a bribery case, the person who takes and the person who gives bribe are equally involved and guilty. Punitive actions must be taken against them. If the malversation and red tape still prevail in a certain country, the foreign investors are reluctant to invest in that country. Naturally, the foreign investors think that they might encounter a series of inconveniences, uncertainties, difficulties and losses of investment in that particular country. Nowadays, public wish to have good government and clean government which could guarantee the comfort and convenience of their daily life in any society or country in the world.

To eliminate the scourge of malversation and the face of the Earth, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 31 October, 2003. The assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-corruption Day, to raise awareness of corruption and the role of the Convention in combatting and preventing it. The Convention entered into force in December 2005. It opens to all countries and regional economic organizations.

The number of signatories reached 140 (as of 1 November 2007) and the number of ratifications / Accessions reached 125 (as of 29 September, 2008).

Myanmar became the 160th State Party to the UN Convention against Corruption framework on 20 December 2012 by ratifying the UNCAC. The Convention entered into force for Myanmar on 19 January 2013.

Nowadays, the governments in some countries carry out the tasks for elimination of corruption as their national task. For example, the mainland Chinese government has launched the operation ‘Fox Hunt’ to crack down on corruption over the past year. The operation has already brought charges against 50 high-ranking officials. The Chinese government has also cracked down on corruption that was practiced by both high and low ranking officials. The mainland Chinese government takes punitive actions against the corrupt officials (even death penalty was given). The actions reveal that corruption must be eliminated in order to protect a wide range of corrosive effects on any socities. On the other hand, public servants must be able to act as model of dignity and honesty so that public trust can be built. The global governments realize that such immoral practices corrode their own identities and cultures so they ought to combat the red tape and malversation in their countries and regions. Majority peoples are the victims targeted by the corrupt officials those who are assigned to perform public affairs or public services. The misconduct, malpractice, misappropriation and corruption are totally unacceptable and unpardonable in the civilized societies. Severe punishment must be given to those who are found guilty for corruption in public services. Their shameless behavior and notoriety make their own people frustrated. Therefore, we do not consider those corrupt government officials gentlewomen or ladies. Despite receiving the monthly salaries, they grab public money and public property for their illicit prosperity. In fact, they are perpetrators. The public prefers to see and deal with the honest and virtuous government officials all the time so that they will not encounter malversation and red tape.

Actually, UNCAC appeared on the world stage out of the desire and demand for eliminating the corruption and bribery by the entire world people. So elimination of bribery and corruption becomes a global concern or issue. All state parties which ratified UNCAC are obliged to comply or cooperate with the principles and activities laid down by UNCAC. Likewise, we all are responsible for combating the corruption and bribery in our respective societies in order to avoid exploitation and injustice. May all the governments in the world be clean, honest and kind to their fellow-countrymen!!!!

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

Global New Light of Myanmar
Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Defence Minister of Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, together with army chiefs of ASEAN countries, met with Vietnamese Defence Minister General Phung Quang Thanh at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Defence of Vietnam in Hanoi on 26 November.

Also present were Myanmar Military Attaché to Vietnam Brig-Gen Nyunt Swe, Deputy Chief of People’s Army of Vietnam Lt-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh and General Director of Training Li-Gen Nguyen Duc Thanh.

At the meeting, the Vietnamese defence minister greeted the army chiefs of the ASEAN and held discussions on cooperation among armed forces of the ASEAN, mutual understanding and role of armed forces in the integration of the region.

Then, the army chief of Thailand, which will host the meeting in 2015, expressed his thanks on behalf of the army chiefs.

After the meeting, the Vietnamese defence minister and ASEAN army chiefs exchange gifts and posed for a documentary photo.

The vice senior general and ASEAN army chiefs also visited No 102 Regiment and No 308 Division in Sontay Province in the afternoon. The commander of the regiment greeted ASEAN army chiefs and conducted them round the regiment.

Then, the army chiefs were welcomed at No 308 Division by the commander of the division who briefed them on the history of the division.

In the evening, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe and ASEAN army chiefs attended the dinner hosted by Deputy Chief of the People’s Army of Vietnam Li-Gen Nguyen Quoc Khanh and wife at the Melia Hotel in Hanoi.

Also present at the dinner were ASEAN army chiefs and wives who attended the 15th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting and their delegations.

After the dinner, the army chiefs and wives exchanged gifts.—MNA

Appointment of Luxembourg ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Robert Lauer as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Robert Lauer was born in Luxembourg in 1971. He obtained the Bachelor of Arts in Politics & International Relations from the University of Lancaster, UK, in 1993 and the Master of Arts in Slavonic & East European Studies from the University of London, UK, in 1995. He joined the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000. He then served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassies of Luxembourg in Brussels and Vienna. At present, he has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Kingdom of Thailand. He is married and has three children.—MNA

Norwegian King and Queen arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and Her Majesty Queen Sonja arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on Monday morning.

They were welcomed by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife, Union Minister for Rail Transport U Than Htay and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Norway U Kyaw Zwar Min and officials together with the Guard of Honour.

National races and students welcomed the Norwegian King and Queen along both sides of the airport road by waving miniature flags.—MNA

Appointment of Greek Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Pericles Boutos as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Greece to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Pericles Boutos was born in Athens, Greece in 1958. He graduated in Economics from the London School of Economics, University of London, and also obtained the Master of Science in Monetary Economics at the same school. In 1986, he joined the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He then served in his various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greek Embassies and Consulate-General in Vienna, Venice, Helsinki and Novorossyisk, Russian Federation. He has been serving as the Director of the Directorate for Telecommunications and Information Technologies since 2012. He is married and has two children.—MNA

Staff under training of basic English proficiency course

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—With the aim of enhancing English proficiency of staff from departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Information and US Embassy jointly conducted the basic English proficiency course at the hall of Information and Public Relations Department on Monday, with an address by Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut.

It was also attended by Professor Ms Kelly Vassar of the US and officials of the Ministry of Information from the Ministry, Myanmar Radio and Television, IPRD, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Department.

Twenty trainees are attending the three-week course.—MNA

Professor Ms Kelly Vassar of the US speaking at opening ceremony of basic English proficiency course.—MNA
Afghan forces ill equipped to fight Taleban without NATO

Jerusalem, 1 Dec — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will decide in the next few days whether he can heal his fractured coalition government, or call an early election, one of his advisers said on Monday.

The government is split on a range of issues, including the 2015 budget, high living costs, policy to- including the 2015 budget, and most of their sophisticated arms and equipment, head for the exit. Washington appears to be hedging its bets.

As most foreign combat troops prepare to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014 after 13 years of war, the experiences of Anwari and other police chiefs and army commanders across the country are NATO’s biggest worry.

The United States, which provides the bulk of NATO troops in Afghani- stan, has ponited some $61 billion into training a nascent 350,000-strong secu- rity force, seeing it as the linchpin of a plan to exit its longest war.

US and Afghan com- manders have praised the bravery and effectiveness of local soldiers, police and others in the face of a Taleban onslaught that has killed more than 4,600 Afgh- an security force members already this year.

And, despite increas- ingly deadly suicide bomb- ings and assaults on mil- itary and civilian targets, most of the country is under government control, al- beit loosely in some areas.

“The Afghan national security forces are win- ning, and this is a hugely capable fighting force who have been holding their ground against the enemy,” Lt Gen Hafizullah Ans Jesus, second-in-command for coalition forces, told a re- cent press briefing.

Yet, one of the threats posed by the Taleban as thousands of troops, and most of their sophisticated arms and equipment, head for the exit. Washington appears to be hedging its bets.

President Barack Oba- ma, recently freed those few thousand US soldiers remaining post-2014 as part of a 12,000-strong NATO force to engage the Taleban in combat if neces- sary. Incidents in recent days illustrate how Afghan forces will struggle with reduced Western support, particularly from the air, however much they may have progressed.

They also underline how fragile stability re- mains in Afghanistan, where the West is desperate to prevent the hardline Is- lamist Taleban movement from returning to power 13 years after it was toppled for protecting al-Qaeda.

When insurgents at- tacked a foreign guest house in central Kabul last Thursday, Afghan com- mandos killed the attack- ers, but international heli- copters were held back to help in the mop-up oper- ation that lasted hours.

Taleban fighters also entered Camp Bastion, a large base in the south, a Helmand province handed over to Afghan troops a month ago by withdrawing US and British forces. It took Afghan soldiers three days to drive the insurgents out.

Gen John Campbell, commander of internation- al forces in Afghanistan, said the US would provide limited close air support next year and new aircraft to allow the Afghan Air Force to attack the enemy and evacuate the wounded.

But that takes time. It will be at least three or four years before a home-grown air force can replace US planes and helicopters, said Maj Gen John McMullen, the US officer in charge of developing Afghan air ca- pabilities.

The prospect of less frequent intervention by fighter jets and attack heli- copters across the country’s often hostile terrain is a daunting one.

“If we had air support, we could very easily defeat the Taleban and we would not face a big number of enemies,” Mohammad Sheh- lah, police chief of Baraki Barak district in the eastern province of Logar.

In August, hundreds of Taleban mounted one of its most brazen attacks in recent years in Logar, just south of Kabul, and Moshulullah, who goes by one name, said his men were fighting bravely but complained of being out- numbered. Officers are armed with AK-47 rifles and a few rocket-propelled gre- nade launchers, but he said insurgents had mortars and machine guns.—Reuters

Canada says citizen may have been captured in Syria

OTTAWA, 1 Dec — Canada is trying to confirm reports that a Canadian cit-izen has been captured in Syria, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

“Canada is pursuing all appropriate channels to seek further information and is in touch with local authorities, the spokesman said in a statement.

Israeli media reports, including Haaretz newspa- per quoting a website asso- ciated with Islamic State, a Canadian-Israeli woman, Gil Rosenberg, has been captured. The reports cited jihadist websites and have not been confirmed by Israeli officials.

“I cannot confirm that and I hope that it isn’t true,” Israeli Defence Min- ister Moshe Ya’alon told an Israeli television chan- nel when asked about the reports. Rosenberg, 31, told Reuters that she was in Syria in November. A source linked to the YPG, the Kurds’ dominant fight- ing force in northern Syria, said earlier this month that she was their first female foreign recruit and had crossed into Syria to fight Islamic State militants.Reuters

Israel PM to decide soon whether to call early election

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

scheduled until 2017. Netanyahu is expected to meet leaders of parties in his coalition on Monday and Tuesday, political officials said, to assess whether the policy differences can be smoothed over.

“The coming days, Netanyahu is going to find out whether he can gov- ern within the current co- alition,” the adviser, Nir Hefetz, said on Army Ra- dio.

“If he reaches the con- clusion he can run Israel the way he sees fit in this government, then he will continue. If not, he will return the mandate to the voter because that is his re- sponsibility,” Hefetz said.

On Monday, Netanya- hu plans to hold talks with Economy Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads the far- right, Jewish Home party, and also with Finance Min- ister Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid, the political officials said.

He intends to meet Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, head of the centrist Hatnuah party, on Tuesday. An opinion poll pub- lished by the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper on Sun- day showed that, although Netanyahu’s popularity was declining, he was still very likely to win a fourth term as prime minister if an election were held today.

The poll showed that Netanyahu’s approval rating had slipped to 35 percent, compared with 42 percent at the end of the July-August war against Hamas Islamists in the Gaza Strip, but he still led the race against other potential con- tenders.

Suicide attack kills seven, wounds ten in N Afghanistan

Taj Mohammad Taqwa

KABUL, 1 Dec — A suicide bomber targeted a funeral ceremony in Burka district of Afghan northern Baghlan province with Pul-e-Khunm as its capi- tal. 160 km north of Kabul, on Monday, leaving seven persons dead and injuring 10 others, district governor, Taj Mohammad Taqwa said. “A terrorist strapped an explosive device on his body blew himself up among hundreds of people who were offering funeral prayer on a ground in Burka district at 11:30 am local time leaving seven people dead and injuring 10 oth- ers,” Taqwa told Xinhua.

Two police personnel are among those killed in the blast, the official said, add- ing the injured include two police personnel and eight civilians.

The official also said that the number of casual- ties could go higher as some people are said to have already taken home their dead and injured rel- atives. Taqwa also put the attack on Taleban mili- tants, saying the armed outfit as part of malicious design to terrorize people has resorted to any kind of barbaric acts. Taleban militants spare no one including children and wom- en, Taqwa said, adding the Taleban insurgents target innocent people, detonate inside mosques, at- tack funeral ceremony and do whatever they can to terrorize people. Taleban militants who are fighting the government largely re- lying on suicide and road- side bombings have yet to claim responsibility for the deadly attack.—Reuters
AbbVie adds children’s AIDS drugs to shared patent pool

LONDON, 1 Dec — US drugmaker AbbVie has added two HIV medicines for children to a shared patent pool in an initiative that should speed the development of cheap new pediatric formulations for use in poor countries.

It is the latest win for the nonprofit Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), which aims to persuade leading drug companies to share rights to their products with generic manufacturers in India and elsewhere.

Until now, AbbVie has not participated in the scheme, although the MPP has signed HIV drug agreements with Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead Sciences, Roche and ViiV Healthcare, which is majority-owned by GlaxoSmithKline.

Despite major advances in treating HIV/AIDS, only a quarter of the 3.2 million children with the virus - 90 percent of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa - currently receive drugs.

One major obstacle is the fact that existing syrup-based formulations need refrigeration, making them unsuitable for much of Africa, and their unpleasant taste is an added problem.

The licensing agreement for AbbVie’s lopinavir and ritonavir drugs, both of which are specifically recommended for children, gives a green light to other players to develop improved treatment options. The license also allows for the development of fixed-dose combinations using different drugs already covered by MPP deals with other companies. The MPP-AbbVie agreement covers 102 countries and also permits distribution in areas where AbbVie does not hold patents, such as in India where the company has withdrawn its patent applications for lopinavir and ritonavir.

“We’ve passed the tipping point in the AIDS fight at the global level, but not all countries are there yet, and the gains made can easily stall or unravel,” said Erin Hohlfelder, one of the scheme’s architects.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS is spread via blood, semen and breast milk. There is no cure for the infection, but AIDS can be kept at bay for many years with cocktails of antiretroviral drugs. United Nations data show that in 2013, 35 million people were living with HIV, 2.1 million people were newly infected with the virus and some 1.5 million people died of AIDS. By far the greatest part of the HIV/AIDS burden is in sub-Saharan Africa.

The AIDS pandemic began more than 30 years ago and has killed up to 40 million people worldwide.

The United Nations AIDS agency, UNAIDS, says that, by June 2014, some 13.6 million people globally had access to AIDS drugs, a dramatic improvement on the 5 million who were getting treatment in 2010.

“Despite the good news, we should not take a victory lap yet,” said Hohlfelder.

She highlighted several threats to current progress, including a $3 billion shortfall in the funds needed each year to control HIV around the world.

“We want to see bold new funding from a more diversified base, including more from African domestic budgets,” she said.

ONE also noted that HIV is increasingly concentrated among hard-to-reach populations such as injecting drug users, gay men and sex workers who are often stigmatized and have trouble accessing treatment and prevention services.

Gold tumbles after Swiss referendum, oil hits five-year low

Tokyo, 1 Dec — Gold prices tumbled on Monday after Swiss voters overwhelmingly rejected proposals to boost gold reserves in a referendum, joining the broad rout in commodities that sent oil prices to five-year lows and copper to four-year lows.

Sinking oil and commodity prices are causing massive realignments in markets, hurting assets tied to the resource sector, from Australian mining shares to the Malaysian ringgit, while benefiting importers such as Japan and China.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 1.0 percent, with resource-heavy Australian shares hitting a six-week low.

Gold fell more than two percent at one point to $1,142.90 per ounce, its lowest level in more than three weeks, while silver also took a hit, falling more than six percent to a five-year low below $14.50 per ounce.

The Swiss measure, had it been approved, would have compelled the Swiss National Bank (SNB) to more than double its gold reserves and banned it from ever selling the metal, threatening its ability to defend a floor of the New York gold market.

US crude fell more than two percent to a five-year low of $64.10 per barrel, with the fall from June exceeding 40 percent.

Copper also fell to as low as $6.230.75, piercing below its March low to hit its lowest levels since mid-2010.

The Australian dollar fell more than one percent to a four-year low, of $0.8417, and so did the Malaysian ringgit, which fell to 3.424 to the dollar.

Adding salt to commodity wounds, Chinese official manufacturing data suggested growth is slowing in China, demand from which has supported commodity prices for years.

Sliding oil and raw material prices have stirred deflation fears in the euro zone and Japan, cementing expectations that the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan will take more steps to support their respective economies.

The dollar, taking advantage of such concerns, attracted bids against the euro and yen.

The euro was slightly weaker at $1.2437 after having fallen on Friday on data showing annual inflation in the euro zone cooled to five-year lows of 0.3 percent in November.

Many traders expect the ECB may signal further action later this week to ward off deflation.

The dollar also hit a seven-year high of 119.03 yen and the dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of major currencies, rose to 88.45, a four-year high.

“Given that the Fed is going to raise rates next year, the monetary policy divergence should support the dollar,” said Osao Iizuka, the head of FX trading at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank.

The yen’s fall and lower commodity prices helped Japanese shares, with the Nikkei rising to seven-year highs. Mainland Chinese shares also gained, with Shanghai Composite Index hitting a three-year high.
Vucic: Good relations with Israel, trade should increase

JERUSALEM, 1 Dec — Serbia and Israel share good bilateral ties, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic stated on Sunday upon arriving in Israel for an official visit, and expressed the expectation that the visit would produce significant results on the political and economic levels.

We have a relatively low exchange of goods with Israel and we want it to increase substantially, Vucic told reporters in Jerusalem ahead of the talks with Israeli top officials.

Speaking about the political aspect of the two-day visit, the Serbian prime minister said that he will ask Israel for support in the US and other countries where Israel has major importance and influence.

The Serbian prime minister underscored that he expects the visit to produce important results in the political and economic terms.

We will discuss our bilateral political relations, which are positive and on the right track, the prime minister said.

When it comes to economy, Vucic noted that Serbia can learn a lot from Israel, especially in terms of the investments in agriculture and real estate. Vucic said that the meeting with Israel’s top officials represents major recognition for Serbia.

This is a major recognition for Serbia and a matter of great importance for the country, the prime minister said and added that he will do all he can to ensure that Serbia is presented in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in the best way.

Vucic will begin his two-day stay in Israel by visiting the Yad Vashem Memorial Complex in Jerusalem and meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Serbian government Office for cooperation with the media released.

The prime minister will also meet with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, after which he will attend the ceremony of tree planting in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

On the second day of his visit to Israel, Vucic will confer with Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Lieberman and former president Shimon Peres.

Test run for new bullet train service in Hokkaido starts

HAKODA, 1 Dec — Test runs for train cars to be used by a new bullet train service in Japan’s northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido started on Monday, Hokkaido Railway Co and the Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency said.

The trial run of a 50-car so-called “H5 series” train is being conducted ahead of the spring 2016 launch of the Hokkaido Shinkansen, which seeks to connect southern Hokkaido and Tokyo in about 4 hours and 10 minutes.

On Monday, the train cars will spend 3 hours to make a 4-kilometre round trip between a car base in the town of Nanae and the city of Hakodate. Workers will check whether electric power for the bullet train is properly supplied to train cars. The train cars will also be tested in areas including a tunnel connecting Hakodate and the main island of Honshu. The new bullet train will run at a maximum speed of about 260 km per hour when in service in Hokkaido. The train cars will also be tested at speed, gradually increasing from 30 km per hour.

The trial for the current fiscal year will continue through March.

New S-400 air defence systems regiment to go on combat duty in Moscow Region by year-end

MOSCOW, 1 Dec — Another regiment of S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems will be put on combat duty to protect Moscow by the year-end, Russian Aerospace Defence Forces (ADF) Commander Alexander Golovko told journalists on Monday.

“Another Moscow Region air defence missile regiment of the ADF has already received the regimental set of the S-400 Triumph air defence missile system and will go on air defence combat duty by the end of the year,” Golovko said. Russia marks the Day of Aerospace Defence Forces on 1 December.

Singapore’s NETS, Chinese Alipay launch transport card for overseas tourists

SINGAPORE, 1 Dec — Oversea tourists now have an option to buy the Flashpay card, a card that can be used on public transportation in Singapore, via Alipay before leaving home, thanks to a partnership between Singapore’s NETS and China’s Alipay, according a statement announced on Monday.

To make outbound travel more seamless for Chinese tourists planning a trip to the Lion City, NETS and Alipay launched the first overseas transport card that can be purchased right off Alipay’s mobile wallet, which has 190 million active users across China.

Those who’d like to purchase the card could simply log into their registered account via Alipay Wallet. An e-voucher will be sent to their account, with which they can collect their Flashpay card at designated “Changi Recommends” counters at Changi Airport upon touchdown.

The cobrand Alipay Flashpay card costs 50 Singapore dollars (about 38.45 US dollars), comprising a card cost of 5 Singapore dollars and a stored value of 45 Singapore dollars. Customers are allowed to purchase up to five Alipay Flashpay Cards. Those who buy the card between 27 November and 31 March, 2015 will receive a 20-Singapore dollar voucher to use at Changi Airport.

Ang Sok Hong, Senior Vice President of NETS said, “The availability of our cobrand transit card on Alipay will, we hope, boost the ease of trip planning and outbound travel for tourists coming to Singapore.”

According to the World Tourism Cities Federation, Chinese tourists are most concerned about transportation when travelling abroad and tend to prefer taking public transportation overseas.

Added to that is an increase in online travel transactions amongst Chinese travellers. The same report notes that the Chinese travelers are becoming more comfortable with making travel arrangements online as opposed to going to a travel agency. In 2013, Chinese Online Travel Agents’ revenue was 11.76 billion Yuan (191.3 million US dollars), an increase of 26.2 percent over the previous year.

This is not the first time Alipay joined hands with NETS. In June this year, the two collaborated on a project to allow Singapore consumers to make direct debit payments for purchases from Taobao Marketplaces and Tmall.com, two of China’s most popular online shopping websites. “We are excited to work with NETS again in this effort to respond to the growing needs of China’s outbound travellers,” said Wendy Sun, head of Business Development for Alipay in Southeast Asia. “This transportation card will provide Chinese tourists a hassle-free travel experience and we look forward to making this collaboration a great success.” —Xinhua
Security agency seeks renewal of 3-yr surveillance of 2 AUM successors

Tokyo, 1 Dec — The Justice Ministry’s Public Security Intelligence Agency on Monday filed a request with the Public Security Examination Commission seeking the renewal of a three-year surveillance of two successor groups to the AUM Shinrikyo cult, whose members staged the sarin attacks on the Tokyo subway system in 1995 that killed 13 people and injured thousands.

The two groups are Aleph with a membership of some 1,450 and Hikarinowa, or the Circle of Rainbow Light, with a membership of about 200, both as of the end of September. The current surveillance term is scheduled to expire at the end of January.

The two groups possess 32 facilities in 15 of the country’s 47 prefectures, including Tokyo, Osaka and Hokkaido, agency officials said.

The seven-member examination panel is expected to make its decision after listening to the two groups. If the surveillance term is renewed, the Public Security Intelligence Agency is able to raid the two groups’ facilities. AUM’s founder Shoko Asahara, 59, whose real name is Chuzio Matsumoto, has been sentenced to death and remains on death row. Aleph was named as such in 2000. Hikarinowa was established in 2007 by Fumihoro Joya, 51, who was formerly the de facto spokesman of the AUM Shinrikyo cult.

Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 2nd December, 2014:
Isolated light rain is likely in Tanintharyi Region and Mon State, weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Kayin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and State. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (20/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-100(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for Nissan PE-6 Diesel Engine</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-102(14-15)</td>
<td>Mechanical Spares for ZJ 70L.ZJ 50D &amp; EMSCO Drilling Rigs</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-102(14-15)</td>
<td>Annular Blow Out Preventers and Hydrill</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>DPI/029(14-15)</td>
<td>Drilling Rigs</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender Closing Date & Time - 30-12-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. + 95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Phone No: 2301185

14 women file damages suit over Kanebo’s skin-whitening cosmetics

NAGOYA, 1 Dec — Fourteen women in central Japan filed a suit on Monday with the Nagoya District Court seeking about 190 million yen in damages from Kanebo Cosmetics Inc, saying their skin broke out in white blotches after using the company’s skin-whitening products.

Their lawyer said around 19,370 people nationwide had reportedly developed skin-whitening symptoms as of late October. Similar lawsuits have already been filed with the Sendai, Shizinoka and Hiroshima district courts. The plaintiffs in Aichi and Gifu prefectures, in their 30s to 70s, have developed marks on their faces and necks after using products containing a skin-whitening substance dubbed “Rho-dendelon,” according to the latest lawsuit.

They said there is no prospect of any improve ment in their symptoms.

Kanebo declined to comment on the suit, saying it has yet to receive a written complaint.

A woman in her 70s, one of the plaintiffs, said at a Press conference on Monday, “I wish to recover quickly from the skin condition and I hope Kanebo will work on the issue before it produces any new products.” —Kyodo News

Phone No: 2301185

Advertise with us!

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM,
Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com
(+95) (01) 8604532

Chinese border soldiers march on a snow mountain during the winter military training in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 30 Nov, 2014. Soldiers went through harsh environment as the local temperature dropped to minus 25 degrees Celsius here.—XINHUA
Shantanu Moitra ‘very happy’ with ‘PK’ music

“Fran Drescher and I have both lived in Los Angeles and I think that’s why the show is so real,” said Drescher. “We have had to deal with our own insecurities and struggles and it’s been a real journey for us.” Drescher, who is known for her roles in ‘The Nanny’ and ‘Fraiser’, has been living in Los Angeles for the last 15 years. “I love L.A. It’s a great city and I’m so happy to be here,” she said.

London, 1 Dec — Tom Stoppard was given a special award as “the greatest living playwright” on Sunday at the 60th London Evening Standard Theatre Awards in recognition of more than a half century of work that has won him an Academy Award and four Tony Awards.

The 77-year-old Czech-born author, whose plays include “Arcadia”, “The Real Thing” and “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead”, also wrote the screenplays for the movies “Shakespeare in Love”, “Brazil” and “The Russia House”.

“The James Plays”, a seven-and-a-half hour trilogy by Rona Munro based on the lives of the first three King Jameses of Scotland, was named best play. A collaboration between the National Theatre in London and the National Theatre of Scotland, the trilogy starred Jamie Sives as “Game of Thrones” fame and Sofie Grabol, star of the Danish TV thriller “The Killing”, and took on added relevance for being staged in the same year as the failed Scottish independence referendum.

British playwright Tom Stoppard (R) speaks as British director David Hare watches during the annual Literature Festival in Jaipur, capital of India’s desert state of Rajasthan on 22 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS


Actress Laura Jane Matthewson won the Emerging Talent award for her performance in “Dogfight”, a misogyny drama presented at the Southwark Playhouse about US Marines vying to pick up the ugliest woman.

The Best Design award went to Es Devlin for her stage design for “American Psycho” at the Almeida Theatre, while the award for most promising playwright went to Beth Steel for “Wonderland” at the Hampstead Theatre.

Singer Kate Bush received the Editor’s Award for her “Before the Dawn” comeback concerts in London, staged 35 years after her last previous live performance.

London, 1 Dec — Retired English football star David Beckham and his teenage son Brooklyn were involved in a car crash outside Arsenal’s training ground in Hertfordshire, north of London, but did not suffer any injuries, according to a source close to Beckham.

David and Brooklyn did not suffer any injuries and as I understand it both passengers in the other vehicle were unharmed. David and Brooklyn were shaken by the accident but thankfully OK, added the source, who declined to be named.

The Telegraph newspaper said Beckham, 39, the former England captain, was picking up his 15-year-old son when his Audi RS6 was involved in a collision with another car but were saved by the deployment of the car’s airbags.

Brooklyn, who plays for Arsenal under-16s, had just finished a match against Brighton’s under-16s, the Telegraph said in its online edition.

Los Angeles, 1 Dec — Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake are reportedly planning to move to his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee because they don’t want to raise their baby in Los Angeles. The couple are said to be expecting their first child together and are eager to raise their family away from the spotlight so want to leave Los Angeles, reported OK! magazine.

“Justin and Jessica want their kids to have a hometown and a family base, and they definitely don’t want to raise them in Los Angeles,” a source said. “Being near Justin’s hometown is ideal because his mom, Lynn, is even more excited about this baby than they are — and Justin’s grandmother Sadie is on cloud nine. Justin’s used to living in a small town and says he had a great childhood because of it.” —PTI

Fans bid farewell to beloved Mexican comic ‘Chespirito’

The coffin with the remains of the late screenwriter Roberto Gomez Bolanos is seen next to a giant picture of him before a mass held in his honour at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City on 30 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

Robertito Gomez Bolanos, known as “Chespirito,” a word play on ‘Little Shakespeare’ for his diminutive stature and his prolific scripts, died at his home in Cancun on Friday age 88. Fans, many of them young children, brought white flowers and balloons to a mass held at the Azteca national football stadium where for hours they sang tributes to him and performed Mexican waves.

 Entire families dressed up in the costumes of his most enduring comic characters, such as “El Chapulin Colorado” (The Red Grasshopper) who inspired Bumblebee Man, the Spanish-speaking character from the US animated sitcom The Simpsons. Gomez Bolanos, whose shows are still aired regularly although he stopped recording material in the 1980s, was on Saturday honoured at the offices of broadcaster Grupo Televisa, for which he had worked most of his career.—Reuters
Barça win as Depor fan death shocks La Liga

MADRD, 1 Dec — Barcelona left it late to snatch a 1-0 win at Valencia on Sunday after Atlético Madrid’s 2-0 victory at home to Deportivo La Coruña was overshadowed by the death of a visiting fan hours before kickoff.

A 43-year-old Deporivo supporter had to be pulled out of the freezing Manzanares river near Atlético’s Calderón stadium after dozens of rival fans, who police said belonged to radical “ultras” groups, battled in the streets.

The man, who was identified by Deporito as Francisco Javier Romero Taboada, suffered cardiac arrest, hypothermia and head injuries and died shortly after 2 pm local time (1300 GMT) when he failed to respond to efforts to revive him in hospital.

“It’s disgusting, such scum have no place in football,” Atlético chief executive Miguel Angel Gil Marin said on the club’s website (www.clubatleticodemadrid.com).

“I just hope that they identify those responsible so they can’t repeat actions as regrettable as these,” he added, just one voice in widespread condemnation of the violence.

Barca and Valencia each had plenty of chances in a scrappy game at the Mestalla that was settled when a late header by Alvaro Negredo gave the visitors a 2-1 win on Saturday.

The ugly side of La Liga was on display when Lionel Messi, who had a quiet night after setting a La Liga scoring record last weekend, appeared to be struck on the head by a plastic bottle thrown from the crowd during the goal celebrations.

The Argentina captain did not look to have been hurt and gave the thumb’s up as he left the pitch.

Barca’s victory trimmed the gap to Real Madrid back to two points after the leaders set a club record of 16 straight victories in all competitions when they won 2-1 at Malaga on Saturday.

Real have 33 points from 13 matches, with Barça on 31 and champions Atletico on 29 in third. Valencia dropped to fifth on 24 points, two behind Sevilla who thrashed visiting Andalusian rivals Granada 5-1.

Barca should have been ahead in the 14th minute when Valencia goalkeeper Diego Alves produced a superb save to deny Luis Suarez, who is yet to open his account in La Liga since his ban for biting expired at the end of October.

The Uruguayan international, who joined from Liverpool in the close season, then had a goal wrongly ruled out for offside in the 69th minute.

Barca keeper Claudio Bravo was also on fine form and conjured brilliant stops against second-half efforts from Sofiane Feghouli and Alvaro Negredo.

“We are never satisfied with the results,” said Ezequiel Lavezzi, who earned rest to his captain Lucas Leiva in the anchor midfield position that Ger-

rard has recently occupied as he sought to help plug holes in a leaky defence, as well as handing a well-earned rest to his captain who had been a virtual ever-present.

Gerrard’s role had come under scrutiny from fans and pundits this season as teams sought to nullify his influence and curb his ability to pull strings from a deep midfield position.

Without the incisive running of strikers Luis Suárez, who joined Barcelona in the close season, and the injured Daniel Sturridge, Gerrard’s trademark long passes have often lacked a target, reducing his influence in the quarter-back role.

The introduction of Lucas, as well as Kolo Toure at centre back, seemed to shore up Liverpool’s rearguard, and both drew praise from Rodgers in the wake of Saturday’s clash.

“Lucas Leiva has come into the team and been outstanding in his two games — very tenacious, aggressive and can pass the ball. Kolo Toure’s experience coming into the team has been good for us,” the manager told reporters.

REPORTERS

Reuters

Tuesday, 2 December, 2014

Barcelona's Steven Gerrard sits on the bench before their English Premier League soccer match against Stoke City at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 29 Nov, 2014. — Reuters

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard rubbishes talk of Rodgers rift

LONDON, 1 Dec — Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard has dismissed as “nonsense” talk of a falling out with manager Brendan Rodgers after he was dropped from the starting line-up for Saturday’s victory over Stoke City.

Gerrard was left out of the first 11 for the match at Anfield, as Liverpool arrested a run of three consecutive Premier League defeats with a nervy and hard-fought 1-0 victory that arrived courtesy of a late goal from Glen Johnson.

It was the 16th anniversary of the 34-year-old midfielder’s debut for the Merseyside club and he was keen to play down a reported rift.

“Just to set the record straight media talk of a fall-out between us is NONSENSE…have a nice Sunday,” he wrote on Instagram, accompanying a picture of him and Rodgers in training.

Gerrard came on as a late substitute in a more attacking role as Liverpool went in search of the opening goal, having largely dominated the match without finding a breakthrough.

Liverpool manager Rodgers had preferred Lu-

cas Leiva in the anchor midfield position that Ger-
rard has recently occupied as he sought to help plug holes in a leaky defence, as well as handing a well-

earned rest to his captain who had been a virtual ever-present.

Gerrard’s role had come under scrutiny from fans and pundits this season as teams sought to nullify his influence and curb his ability to pull strings from a deep midfield position.

Without the incisive running of strikers Luis Suá-
zee, who joined Barcelona in the close season, and the injured Daniel Sturridge, Gerrard’s trademark long passes have often lacked a target, reducing his influence in the quarter-back role.

The introduction of Lucas, as well as Kolo Toure at centre back, seemed to shore up Liverpool’s rearguard, and both drew praise from Rodgers in the wake of Saturday’s clash.

“Lucas Leiva has come into the team and been outstanding in his two games — very tenacious, aggressive and can pass the ball. Kolo Toure’s experience coming into the team has been good for us,” the manager told reporters.

REPORTERS

Reuters
Clinical City crush Southampton, Spurs beat Everton

LONDON, 1 Dec — Champions Manchester City galvanized their pursuit of Premier League leaders Chelsea on Sunday with an emphatic 3-0 victory over a Southampton side who have surprisingly come between the leading title protagonists.

With table-topping Chelsea held to a 0-0 draw against Sunderland on Saturday, victory for City at fortress St Mary’s took them above Southampton into second place with 27 points from 13 matches, six behind Jose Mourinho’s pace setters.

Tottenham Hotspur came from a goal down to beat Everton 2-1 with goals from Christian Eriksen and Roberto Soldado moving Spurs up to seventh with 20 points.

After a less than convincing start to the attempted defence of their title, City’s display against Southampton saw them back to their free-flowing best as goals from Yaya Toure, Frank Lampard and Gael Clichy condemned Ronald Koeman’s high-flying side to a first home defeat of the season.

“We beat a very good team,” City manager Manuel Pellegrini, speaking to Sky Sports, said.

“They were second in the table and deserved that position.”

“It was important to have a clean sheet again, they had just one chance in the 90 minutes and that is important for the trust in our team.”

“It was close in the first 45 minutes and we continued working as a team in defence and attack until we scored.”

City screamed for a penalty for a foul on Aguero in a goalless first half when Jose Fonte’s hefty challenge wiped the Argentine out in the box. Incredibly Aguero, making his 100th Premier League appearance, was booked for diving.

But Ivoirian midfielder Toure, so often City’s go-to man in their way to the title last season, put his side in front after 51 minutes when his low shot from the edge of the area flicked off Saints defender Toby Alderweireld and past Fraser Forster.

When French defender Eliaquim Mangala received a second yellow for a foul on Shane Long it seemed Southampton had a lifetime but that was snatched away when Lampard ghosted through into space and buried his shot low into the corner after being picked out by James Milner.

Clichy hammered the final nail into Southampton’s coffin when he turned the ball home in the 88th minute.

“I’m disappointed because in the second half the beginning was a bit better than the start of the game,” Koeman told Sky Sports after his side dropped to third.

“You know that if you do some mistakes you are punished for that. It was not good enough today and we have to realise that. The difference was the quality.”

Everton’s Kevin Mirallas produced a stunning strike from 20 metres to open the scoring at White Hart Lane in Sunday’s clash between the two Europa League representatives.

Tottenham equalized six minutes later when Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard palmed Harry Kane’s shot into the path of Eriksen, who kept his composure to score.

In first half stoppage time, Soldado scored his first league goal since March when he raced on to Aaron Lennon’s astute pass and powered a shot past Howard.

Everton applied pressure late on but Spurs stayed strong to avoid their third consecutive league defeat at home.