South Korea helps Myanmar with rural development plans

Every nation needs to develop strategies to ensure higher socioeconomic status for its people, with the president calling for experts to do thorough research and all nationalities to pool their suggestions. The president stated that Myanmar has integrated its national sustainable development strategy into the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and ASEAN Development Policies, stressing that the ‘right mix’ has also been designed to reinforce the country’s forthcoming national comprehensive development plan, which he said includes equitable development among states and regions.

The plan is aimed at lifting the people out of poverty and enabling them to secure considerable income through projects of agricultural and industrial development, the president added.

President U Thein Sein pointed out the need to form a strong research body that will help strengthen government policies to ensure good governance and clean government, bringing the Myanmar Development Institute into sharp focus.

Over the past three years, the government has implemented these new policies and initiatives by laying foundations for national development and higher socioeconomic status for people, the president stated.

Regarding the implementation of the two projects, the president expressed his belief that the forum would support the correct prioritization and sequencing of the 20-year national comprehensive development plan, which is currently being formulated (See page 3)
Union FM sends message of felicitations to Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Myanmar scouts meet in Yangon

YANGON, 2 Dec—A collaboration meeting of Myanmar scouts was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Yangon University on Tuesday. The meeting discussed the plans of scouts to take part in the ceremony of the Independence Day on 4 January, the joint camping of Myanmar and Japanese women scouts in the last week of December in Nay Pyi Taw, and formations of scout teams in universities beginning this academic year.

Myanmar, Norway focus on financial cooperation in oil and gas sector

YANGON, 2 Dec—INT-SOK Oil and Natural Gas Company of Norway held a technical meeting at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday. Managing Director Mr Sjur E Bratland of INT-SOK extended greetings and Deputy Minister of Petroleum and Energy of Norway Mr Kare Fostervold explained the meeting to share technological experiences of petroleum and energy. They discussed oil and gas production of Myanmar and its challenges, exploration of deep sea oil and natural gas, advantages of applying broadband seismic technology, social security and management system in new oil exploration block in Southeast Asia, liquefied natural gas system of Myanmar, work development and technological application system in deep sea, capacity of Myanmar’s oil exploration, technological role in deep sea work development and financial cooperation of Norway in the works.—MNA

Norwegian King and Queen visit Telenor Head Office

His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja meet officials and staff at Telenor Head Office.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja visited Telenor Head Office on Sethmu-1 Road in Yankin Township on Tuesday.

Telenor Group CEO Baksaa and officials explained responsibility and accountability of the group to give services to the people and sales of SIM cards in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The king and queen viewed round the display of Telenor communication devices and communication services of the staff at the head office.

They visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening and donated cash to the fund.

MNA

SWRR Ministry, IOM discuss job opportunities for human trafficked victims

Accompanying the king and queen are also to meet civil society organizations, to participate in the opening of Excellence for Greening/ASEAN Institute for Green Productivity that receives funding from Norway to make a tour of Bagan.

They discussed reunification of human trafficked victims with their families, creating of job opportunities for them, standard operation procedures-SOP for human trafficked victims, duty and functions of the information center for trafficked victims in Yangon, the case management and case worker visits, reduction of natural disasters, cooperation in technology in opening of the Disaster Management School in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region and signing for the MoU.—MNA

Norway’s King applauds... (from page 1)

flourishing relations between the peoples of the two countries.

On Myanmar’s ongoing peace process, King Harald said, “It takes time to build lasting and sustainable peace” and stressed the need of the commitment of all the people to the realization of the vision of a sustainable democratic state.

Emphasizing Norway’s long involvement in Myanmar development, the king said Norway’s skills and technology will help Myanmar develop its economy, environmental conservation, rural electrification and increased access to sustainable energy. He also expressed his hope to expand business ties and economic cooperation between the two countries.

In conclusion, King Harald spotlighted the younger generation, saying the future of Myanmar is in their hands and announced the David Taw Scholarship Fund for students who demonstrate a commitment to the spirit and passion for peace to study history and humanities at the bachelor or master level.

King Harald V and Queen Sonja began their five-day state visit to Myanmar on Monday with meetings with President U Thein Sein, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and the Chair of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee on Rule of Law, Peace and Tranquility Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw.

During their stay in Myanmar until Friday, the King and Queen are also to meet civil society organizations, to participate in the opening of Excellence for Greening/ASEAN Institute for Green Productivity that receives funding from Norway and to make a tour of Bagan.

According to a press release, the main purpose of the visit is to highlight Norway’s longstanding support of the ongoing reform process in Myanmar.

Accompanying the king and queen are also 70 representatives from around 40 Norwegian companies with the focus to develop bilateral relations in the areas of development and business cooperation.

Norway was the first European country to relax sanctions on Myanmar in 2012 and cancelled all the $344 million owed to it in 2013.

GNLM
President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Vice Presidents send messages of felicitations to Laotian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2014, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Vice Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, have sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit, Vice President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw receives Dutch Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of the Netherlands Mr Johannes Boer at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Office.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends closing ceremony of AARM-24

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the 24th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet held at the Mieu Mon National Training Center in Hanoi, Vietnam on 28 November.

At 2:30 pm on the same day, the vice-senior general and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, together with army chiefs and their wives from ASEAN countries, visited exhibitions of military products before taking part in the novelty shoot of pistol and carbines.

In the afternoon, ASEAN senior military officers awarded the prizes to the winning teams in the ten days of competitions. The 25th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet will be held in Thailand.

In the afternoon, Senior Lieutenant General Do Ba Ty, Chief of the General Staff, Deputy Defence Minister, and his wife, served ASEAN senior military officers with dinner at the Mieu Mon Shooting Center.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party left Noi Bai Airport of Hanoi for home at 4:30 p.m. local time on 29 November.

South Korea helps...

Based on the framework of economic and social reform. The South Korea-assisted project, the Saemaul Undong, is an initiative that will vitalize the grassroots implementation of Myanmar’s ongoing rural development and poverty reduction plan, the president said, adding that the project serves as a model that accelerates the Third Wave Reform.

A majority of rural people live in poverty, which is why the government has paid priority to poverty reduction and rural development tasks, with a focus on increasing productivity in agriculture and livestock, developing small- and medium enterprises, creating more job opportunities to generate more incomes, providing easy access to education, health, drinking water and transportation, all of which the president said require both long- and short-term plans to achieve success.

The president promised his government’s further assistance to the emergence of successful villages, stressing that sustainable development depends on villagers to make decisions regarding their own lives.

He urged institutions, organizations, intellectuals, technicians and the public to join hands with the government in implementing the 2015 development programmes and preparing to lay down foundations for the post-2015 development agenda. He warned that no matter how good the policies are in place, failure to enhance the human capital will put success in dim light.—MNA
Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Dec — The Dhamma Schools’ annual general meeting took place at Sasana Beikman in Pyinmana on 30 November. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay and Vice Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw U Than Kyaw Htoo supplicated on religious affairs. Wellwishers donated cash to the fund of the Dhamma Schools.—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Villagers start consumption of electricity in ChaungU Township

ChaungU, 2 Dec—Inma Village in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region, got supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis as of 5 pm on 1 December.

Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and township level officials unveiled the signboard of launching the power line and officials switched on the supply of power. Township electrical engineer U Kyaw Lwin Oo switched on the main breaker.

The region minister and departmental officials shared knowledge about safety of electricity.

A local thanked the officials for their efforts in electrification tasks as the villagers now use modern electronic equipment.

Electricity Supply Enterprise in ChaungU Township undertakes self-reliant electrification for 12 villages of its area. At present, Kanze, Wayar and Inma villages are enjoying supply of electricity, and the remaining villages are trying hard to supply electricity to the local people as soon as possible.—Yu Yu Win (IPRD)

Students participate in poem recitation, extempore talks contests

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Information and Public Relations Department, Assistant Director U Soe Paing, staff and teachers.

Outstanding students will be selected to take part in the central level contest at BEHS No 14 on 10 December.

Shwe Ye Yint

Immigration officers give educative talks to locals in Dawei Tsp

Dawei, 2 Dec — Staff members of the Ministry of Immigration and Population are undertaking citizenship scrutiny under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, giving educative talks on citizenship and issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible people.

Deputy Director U Yin Htwe of Dawei District Immigration and National Registration Department together with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) gave educative talks to local people in Kyauktu, Thabyuchaung, Myomo, Letkhet, Kabaung, Pyathachuang and Hsinwechaung villages in Dawei Township from 27 to 29 November. At the talks, the head of district INRD and the in-charge of Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) replied to queries raised by locals in a transparent manner.

Po Shwe Thun-Dawei

Sittway dwellers to get 50-bed traditional medicine hospital

Sittway, 2 Dec—The government allowed to upgrade the 16-bed traditional medicine hospital to the 50-bed one in the 2014-15 fiscal year with the aim of providing health care to the locals in Sittway of Rakhine State with the use of Myanmar traditional medicines.

The government allotted K95 million for construction of a 144 feet long, 56 feet wide and 24 feet high building of the traditional medicine hospital. It will be two-storey building to admit 50 patients at ward.

A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the building was held in the compound of the 16-bed hospital in Sittway on 1 December.

Rakhine State Minister for Planning and Economic U Mra Aung drove stakes for construction of the hospital. The ceremony was also attended by departmental officials, tender scrutiny committee and members of the traditional medicine supervisory committee.

Rakhine State IPRD

Dawei, 2 Dec — Staff members of the Ministry of Immigration and Population are undertaking citizenship scrutiny under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, giving educative talks on citizenship and issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible people.
Dunlop Tennis Club in Myeik marks centennial ceremony

MYEIK, 2 Dec — The inter-district tennis tournament in commemoration of the Dunlop Tennis Club centennial ceremony was held at the court of the club in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 30 November. Taninthayi Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Thein Lwin and Myeik Township Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Moe Myint formally opened the centennial ceremony of the club.

The region minister gave a speech, and Chairman of the club U Tin Maung Zaw explained the purpose of the ceremony. The region minister presented championship trophy to first prize winner Myeik District team. Later, the players demonstrated skills of tennis to mark the centennial ceremony of the club.

Chin State IPRD

Township football tournament strengthens friendly relations among people

PALAW, 2 Dec — With the aim of turning out new generation outstanding players and strengthening relations among the national people, the Palaw Township Administrator’s Trophy U-23 Football Tournament was held at the sports ground in Palaw, Taninthayi Region, on 30 November. Taninthayi Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Win Swe, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and local people enjoyed the final football match in which Pyichar Village thrashed No 1 Ward 3-1.

The region minister awarded championship trophy to Pyichar Village team. The first prize winning team won K500,000, the second team K300,000 and the third team K200,000. Altogether 22 football teams participated in the tournament from 27 October to 30 November.

Palaw IPRD

New asphalt road to contribute towards development of village

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — The inauguration ceremony of the asphalt entrance road to Thahtaygon Village, Pobbathiri Township, on 1 December.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay explained development tasks for Pobbathiri Township. Director (Engineer) U Aung Moe of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee reported on construction of new asphalt road in the village. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htaw and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Kyaw Myint formally opened the 3,700 feet long new road.

The region minister presented championship trophy to first prize winner Myeik District team.

Palaw IPRD

Village library under construction in Myeik Township

MYEIK, 2 Dec — Myanmar Libraries Foundation funded K1 million for construction of the village library in Thityawa Village in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region. Assistant Director Daw Ni Ni Cho of Taninthayi Region Information and Public Relations Department and staff of Myeik District IPRD held a meeting with the village administrator and library committee members in the village on 1 December. They discussed timely completion of construction tasks, opening of new library building, durability of library, raising number of readers and books, and setting up of the fund for long-term development of the library. In addition to the fund of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, local people donated cash to the fund for construction of the building. The library will be 24 feet long and 16 feet wide one-storey building.

Khaing Htoo—Myeik District IPRD
Experts, Asia-Pacific ministers to discuss rural development in Cambodia

Siem Reap, (Cambodia) 2 Dec — Some 200 agricultural development experts and government ministers from across Asia and the Pacific gathered here on Tuesday to discuss plans to transform rural areas in the region.

The 2-day workshop on transforming rural areas in Asia and the Pacific was jointly organized by the Cambodian government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

“The experts and government ministers will discuss plans to transform impoverished rural areas and improve the lives of rural people,” said an IFAD’s press statement.

“The regional conference will set out a strategy to transform rural areas into vibrant and economically viable communities, and will conclude with a concrete plan of action for IFAD and its partners and member states,” Addressing the opening ceremony on Tuesday, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said investment in agriculture, especially in small-scale farmers, is an essential factor not only to ensure food security and nutrition, but also to create jobs for people.

“Such investment will provide a lot of benefits to rural peoples and drag millions of people out of poverty,” he said.

The prime minister said Cambodia saw agriculture and rural development as one of the top priorities to boost economic growth and poverty reduction.

He said poverty rate in Cambodia declined to 19.8 percent in 2011, down from 29.9 percent in 2008. John Murry McIntire, associate vice-president of IFAD, said in rural areas of the region, the agricultural sector is still the best option to generate income, and yet a chronic lack of access to improved technologies and sustainable investment opportunities make it hard for rural people to improve their living standards.

“By providing financing, engaging in policy discussions and forming pro-poor partnerships between the private and public sectors, we can assist rural people to create a viable future for themselves and their communities,” McIntire said.

According to the press statement, Asia and the Pacific is home to two thirds of the world’s poor, over 750 million people, and two thirds of the world’s 805 million undernourished and hungry people.

India, France approaching 15-bl notify dollar combat jet deal

NEW DELHI, 2 Dec — India and France have reportedly agreed to bury all differences and finalize a 15-billion-US dollars defense deal under which the latter would sell 125 combat jets to the former.

The decision was taken following a meeting between visiting French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in the national capital on Monday.

“Both sides agreed to take forward the strategic co-operation between the two countries. They discussed all issues including Rafale. It was decided that whatever differences still existed would be resolved in a fast-track manner,” a Defence Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying.

The defence deal, involving France’s Dassault Aviation, has been lying in a limbo over various issues ever since India selected the company over others foreign aircraft makers in 2012.

Thailand’s Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn (L) and Royal Consort Princess Srirasmi watch the royal ploughing ceremony in Bangkok on 9 May, 2008.

A diver dressed as a Santa Claus feeds marine animals inside an oceanarium in Manila, the Philippines, on 2 Dec, 2014. The Christmas-themed feeding activity served as a celebration of the coming Christmas.—Xinhua

Bangkok, 2 Dec — Two Thai army officers and a civilian have answered a police summons, police said, in a widening corruption probe that has also led to the arrest of high-ranking policemen and relatives of Princess Srirasmi, the wife of Thailand’s Crown Prince.

The investigation comes at a time of heightened sensitivity surrounding the palace. The revered but ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 86, was admitted to Bangkok’s Siriraj hospital in October and underwent an operation to remove his gallbladder.

Last week, some senior police officers and civilians were arrested in the crackdown into alleged police graft including charges ranging from bribery to defaming the monarchy.

Among them were three people with the Akrapongpreecha surname, the royal name bestowed on Srirasmi’s family when she married Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn in 2001, police said. Withaya Theshkhunthot, a civilian, and Royal Thai Army officers Sergeant Natchakorn Yasi and Sergeant Thipraphong Chochamp, were the latest suspects to surrender to authorities.

“Altogether three people turned themselves in,” Police Major General Chanthep Saesawet, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, told Reuters.

The two army officers were being detained by the army and one civilian surrendered to police on Monday night at a television broadcasting station.

The men turned themselves in three days after Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn asked the government to strip his wife Srirasmi’s family of the royal name.

Police said Lieutenant General Pongpat Chayaporn, a former head of Thailand’s Central Investigation Bureau, was the group’s ring-leader. Pongpat and several others were also charged under Thailand’s harsh lese-majeste laws for allegedly citing the monarchy for personal benefit.

The suspects held in the case have not been allowed to comment publicly on the charges.

The group face a slew of charges including money-laundering, oil smuggling and other crimes. Police last week displayed slides showing antique Buddha statues, gold bars, stacks of cash and cars seized at safehouses allegedly linked to some of the suspects. There is mounting concern over the health of King Bhumibol who is seen by many as the father of the nation — a unifying figure who has intervened in the past in times of political crisis. — Reuters

Seoul allows Christmas tree tower to be lit up on border for 2 weeks

SEOUL, 2 Dec — South Korea has approved a request by a Christian association to set up and light up a temporary Christmas tree tower near the tense western border area with North Korea, a Defence Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

“The Defence Ministry has permitted the Christian Council of Korea to set up a temporary Christmas tree tower near the Aegibong area and light up the tree,” Kim Min Seok said at a press briefing.

Kim said the approval was issued in consideration of the Christian group’s explanation the event is aimed at promoting peace between the two Koreas, and also to guarantee religious freedom.

The tower will be lit up from 23 December to 6 January, he said, without mentioning how tall it will be.

In October, South Korea dismantled an 18-metre steel Christmas tree tower at the Aegibong hill in Gimps, west of Seoul, which could be seen as far away as the North Korean border town of Kaesong.

The colourful lights from the tower had drawn fierce criticism from North Korea, which viewed it as provocative propaganda, demanded its demolition and even threatened to shell it.

The Defence Ministry said the dismantling was carried out after a safety check showed it may collapse, dismissing speculation the move was taken as a conciliatory gesture to improve strained ties with North Korea.

Since being built in early 1970s, the tower was lit annually during the Christmas season until the two Koreas’ military leaders agreed to stop propaganda activities at the border areas in 2004.

Seoul, however, resumed the practice in 2010 after the sinking of a South Korean warship in March the same year, which South Korea blamed on a North Korean submarine.

Kyodo News

Three turn themselves in as probe involving Thai princess’s kin widens

Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha (L) and former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) attend a cabinet meeting at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, 6 December 2014. 6 December 2014

Xinhua

The former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra are set to attend a meeting in the southern province of Narathiwat on Tuesday, 16 December 2014.

Xinhua
Japan election campaign starts with economy, security on agenda

Tokyo, 2 Dec — Official campaigning for Japan’s 14 December lower house election began on Tuesday with ruling and opposition parties locking horns over Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s policies, centring on the economy, security and nuclear power.

Abe is seeking a fresh mandate from voters for his economic policies, dubbed “Abenomics,” but the opposition camp has insisted they have created a wealth gap and benefited only major companies and big cities.

Abe, who heads the Liberal Democratic Party, and Banri Kaieda, head of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, made their first stump speeches in Fukushima Prefecture apparently aiming to emphasize the importance of the area’s recovery from the 2011 nuclear disaster.

“We need to strengthen the Japanese economy to make progress on recovery work,” Abe said in the city of Soma, about 50 kilometres north of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

“There is no doubt the economy is getting better,” he added. “Our next mission is to spread the positive effects to non-urban areas and smaller companies.”

Kaieda asked people in Iwaki if their daily lives have become better since Abe took office two years ago, saying, “The prime minister says the economy is getting stronger, but his policies are benefiting only a limited number of people.”

Abe has said that Abenomics, which consists of aggressive monetary easing, massive fiscal spending and growth-oriented reforms, is the only way to end deflation and revive the economy.

He has gone so far as to promise his resignation if the LDP and its junior coalition partner Komeito fail to secure a combined majority, under which the ruling bloc can control parliamentary debates by holding the chair posts of all standing committees.

The LDP, which was ousted from power in December 2012, has pledged to raise middle-class incomes through the stabilization of employment.

The opposition camp will try to stop one-party dominance by the LDP, which held nearly 300 of the 480 seats in the House of Representatives before it was dissolved two weeks ago halfway through its current four-year term.

While opposition parties appear incapable of forming a joint force against the LDP-led coalition, they are stepping up criticism of Abenomics since the Japanese economy has fallen back into recession following the April 1 consumption tax hike.

“We are the only ones who can carry out reforms,” Toru Hashimoto, who co-heads the Japan Innovation Party, said in Osaka. “We call for a 30 percent cut in national taxes.”

Abe, who made his Cabinet approval in July to enable Japan to defend its allies under armed attack even if the country itself is not, Social Democratic Party leader Tadatomo Yoshida said in Oita Prefecture, “We don’t accept the exercise of the right to collective self-defense. We are against altering [the (self-defence)] Article 9 of the Constitution. “We should flatly say no to a consumption tax hike to 10 percent,”

Japanese Communist Party chief Kazuo Shii in Tokyo, referring to Abe’s recent decision to postpone it by 18 months to April 2017. “We will stop any move to restart nuclear reactors.”

The disapproval rating of Abe’s Cabinet exceeded its approval rating in a Kyodo News poll for the first time since he returned as prime minister in December 2012, the latest survey showed on Saturday.

In the telephone survey conducted on Friday and Saturday, however, 28.0 percent said they will vote for the LDP in the proportional representation section, up 2.7 percentage points from the previous poll conducted 19-20 November. Some 10.3 percent said they will cast their ballots for the DPJ, up 0.9 point.

More than 1,180 people from nine political parties are expected to file their candidacies for 475 seats — 295 of them for single-seat districts and 180 for proportional representation constituencies. The total number of candidates will likely be down sharply from 1,504 in the previous 2012 contest.

On 14 December, voters will again review the five Supreme Court justices nominated after the previous lower house election in 2012.—Kyodo News

Ferguson protesters lawyer up after scores of arrests

Ferguson, 2 Dec — The young man and woman awaiting in the dark outside the St Louis county jail were bundled up in scarves and hats to ward off a light freezing rain, but still they were shivering. Every time someone emerged from the jail they would scurry with the person to a nearby car, which had the engine running and the heat blasting.

The pair were one of several teams working in shifts to help some of the more than 100 people who were arrested during last week’s sometimes violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri. Their job was to help the newly released individuals get legal aid for up-coming court appearances.

Each person received a flyer with numbers to call for lawyers and legal advice. They were also offered a ride home.

The volunteers, who will return to the jail again on Monday after the holiday weekend, are part of a centralized team of lawyers and law school students pitching in from around the United States.

They are tapping into a sophisticated network of legal experts established over the past decade in the wake of high-profile mass demonstrations, including protests at the Republican National Convention in 2004 and the Occupy Wall Street protests in 2011. The network includes seasoned lawyers who routinely handle cases stemming from protests and civil disobedience, and who say they have learned from each protest.

“Occupy Wall Street is the gift that keeps on giving,” said Wylie Stecklow, a New York-based lawyer. Stecklow’s firm, Stecklow, Cohen & Thompson (formerly Wylie Law), represented 200 people who were arrested during the Occupy protests in New York. He learned valuable lessons from the Occupy and RNC protests. For example, how best to centralize bail payouts and how to work together to represent large numbers of people.

Some of the volunteers deployed in Ferguson have acted as legal observers, who are tasked with documenting each arrest that is made at a protest and serving afterward as a witness to the events leading to charges.

But the job of the legal team working in Ferguson goes far beyond the duties of protest observers. Once people have been arrested and charged, lawyers from the same central network offer their services to each individual with a court case.

A protester is arrested in front of the Ferguson Police Department, in Ferguson, Missouri on 25 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

Winds reach 25-27 metres per second and waves are from five to six metres high in the area of the accident.—Itar-Tass

Four life rafts without people found after trawler sinks off Chukotka coast

Nikkor company. Its Director General Viktor Kiryushin told TASS that the survivors were three Philippinos and a Malay, crewmembers from the South Korean trawler Oryong 501, and a Russian, Alexander Storozhenkov, 27, who was aboard the Korean ship as an observer. All of them were in satisfactory condition. They were rescued by the Karolina on Monday.

Other two crewmembers from the Oryong 501 were rescued by the Magadan-registered trawler Zaliv Zhabinka. The Oryong crew numbered 62 people. The fate of 54 of them remained unknown after the trawler sank in the Bering Sea. The search is continuing.

The Oryong 501 was built in 1964 in a shipyard of the Japanese city of Hakodate, the International Marine Organization said.

Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) who is also leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), raises his fists with his party members and supporters during his official campaign kick-off for the 14 December lower house election, at the Soma Haragama fishing port in Soma, Fukushima prefecture, on 2 Dec, 2014. —Reuters

Japanese police search for 14 missing from alleged Russian trawler accident

A Russian fishing ship, which rescued four crewmembers and a Russian specialist from the Korean trawler on Monday, has reported about the four life rafts found in the sea.

The Russian trawler Karolina 77 also recovered the dead body of a Korean fisherman.

The Karolina belongs to the Sakhalin fleet of the
Perspectives

Wednesday, 3 December, 2014

Negotiation is more humane than confrontation

By Aung Khin

Problems and differences are natural occurrences in all groups. Strategies for dealing with the problems are important to settle the disputes and disagreements. Problems will heat up when one party forces another party to do something without its consent.

In this circumstance, negotiation is the best option to calm down the problems. Most issues will not present immediate solutions, and sometimes an impasse will be reached depending on the extent of differences. People feel stuck, frustrated, infuriated and disillusioned in the middle of an impasse. Both sides might either dig their heels in deeper, anchoring themselves in extreme and rigid positions.

Peace and unity should be established through negotiation. No one should “take their marbles and go home” without solving problems or settling disputes. Suspicion and distrust may lead to further doubt among groups. As such, an impasse should be viewed with calm, patience and respect, rather than bullying or dreading it. Efforts must be focused on the underlying needs, interests and concerns of both sides.

Power or superiority is not the only solution to wipe out hatred or dissatisfaction. Eternal peace can be reached through right understanding in both the mundane and the supra-mundane. Even in meditation practices, lasting peace can be attained only through wisdom and understanding about the natural phenomena. Absurd avoiding or oppressing any conditioned things of consequences cannot lead to a genuine tranquility.

Therefore, negotiation and understanding or wisdom is fundamental to a humane society.

Opinion

Harmonious Industrial Relations

Kyaw Win (Labour)

The parliament formed after the General Elections of 2010 enacted a landmark legislation regarding the right to form organizations of workers by the workers themselves. This had come after years of pointing out by the ILO since the early sixties, of non-compliance by Myanmar of the ILO Freedom of Association Convention which Myanmar had ratified in 1948.

The legislation referred to is "The Labour Organization Law of 2011". The law is to protect the rights of workers, to promote good relations among the workers or between the employer and the workers and to enable workers to form labour organizations independently and systematically. It replaces the Trade Unions Act of 1926. In the spirit of the Freedom of Association Convention which includes freedom of employers to form associations as well, the new law has provisions whereby employers may also form organizations of their own.

Another landmark piece of legislation relating to Industrial Relations is the "Settlement of Labour Disputes Law" enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in 2012. It replaces the Trade Disputes Act of 1929. The new law features a more effective mechanism for the settlement of labour disputes in that it includes collective bargaining and the drawing up of Collective Agreements between Employers’ and Workers’ representatives relating to the demands of the workers.

With the enactment of the "The Labour Organization Law of 2011", workers from various factories and establishments both in the private and public sectors, have been forming organizations of their own at enterprise levels. Some of the labour organizations are trying out their wings for making demands on employers for higher wages and better conditions of work.

At times these demands have led to strikes, which sometimes seem to be on the borderline of legality. Perhaps it’s because some of the labour organizations have yet to learn how to go about getting their demands in a more orderly fashion within the framework of the "Settlement of Labour Disputes Law of 2012". They have yet to learn the skills of collective bargaining with the Employers and their Organizations, so as to get their demands through negotiation and at the same time strive to maintain good relations with the Employers.

It may be recalled that beginning 2008, under the ASEAN-IILO-Japan Industrial Relations Project, National and Regional Tripartite Seminaron Industrial Relations were organized every year for several years. The Seminars were attended by Employers’ and Workers’ representatives from various enterprises both in the public and private sectors.

Asignificant development relating to Industrial Relations in the ASEAN context, was the adoption of the "ASEAN Guidelines on Good Industrial Relations Practices” by the ASEAN Labour Ministers.

As of now, Tripartite Industrial Relations Seminar based on the "Settlement of Labour Disputes Law”, other relevant labour laws and the “ASEAN Guidelines on Good Industrial Relations Practices” should continue to be organized for representatives of Employers’ and Workers’ Organizations and the Government Organizations concerned to promote harmonious relations between employers and workers maintaining industrial peace in Myanmar.

MWAF marks World AIDS Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Implementation of the HIV/AIDS combating national strategic plan (2011-15) in cooperation of partner organizations leads to emergence of the HIV free society, prevention of discrimination against AIDS patients and declining the dead rate of AIDS patients, Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung said at the ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day at the hall of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 December afternoon.

The Union Minister viewed round documentary photos on movements of MWAF and its activities in HIV/AIDS displayed at the hall.

Next, President of MWAF Prof Dr Khin Mar Tun delivered a speech on the occasion.

The Later, specialists from the Ministry of Health held a roundtable discussion with members of MWAF on prevention against HIV/AIDS.

Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung delivers an address at ceremony to mark World AIDS Day in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Seminar held to mark 60th anniversary of Myanmar-Japan relations

YANGON, 2 Dec—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Counsellor Mr Yasada of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar delivered speeches at the seminar on the role of education institution in promoting HRD and Myanmar-Japan cooperation held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of relations between the two country at the commerce training school in Yangon on Monday.

Also present at the seminar were President of Nishogakusha University Dr Kazunori Watanabe, Pro-rector of Yangon Institute of Economics Dr Tun Aung, advisors to union ministers Dr Maung Aung and departmental officials.

The Japanese university president, the pro-rector and the advisor held talks on the importance of academic study on economic development, current situation of formal education in Myanmar and the role of vocational training and HRD in emerging Myanmar respectively.—MNA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (4-12-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K659,000 per tical: Selling K660,000
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K648,300 per tical: Selling K649,300

FE RATE
USD Buying K 1030: Selling K ---
SGD Buying K 788: Selling K800
Euro Buying K1,270: Selling K1,300
Union Minister holds talks with UNDP Country director

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint opened the three-month technical and vocational course for the youth of Rakhine State at No 1 Industrial School in Hsinta, Padaung Township, Bago Region on 1 December.

The union minister inspected teaching aid provided by GIZ at the training school.

Altogether 76 youths from Rakhine State are attending the welding, plumbing, mechanics and wiring courses.

At Horse and Sheep Ranch (Yampe) in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region, the Union minister heard reports on breeding of horses and sheep presented by General Manager U Kyaw Soe.

In meeting with staff and officials, the union minister stressed the need to grow corn as raw materials for Corn Products Factory and coordinate with local authorities to extend sawn acreage of corns.

MNA

Rakhine youths get opportunity to attend vocational courses

UNCTAD’s Least Developed Countries Report 2014 released

By Ye Myint


The latest report of the UNCTAD finds 48 countries—nine in Asia, 34 in Africa, one in the Caribbean and four in the Pacific region—as “least developed countries”. According to the report, Myanmar is in the list with Laos and Cambodia, fellow ASEAN countries.

“it is very difficult to say which country—Myanmar or Laos or Cambodia—will be able to exit the LDC list as their economies, population and size of nation are different. It will be important to look at how each economies are able to translate growth and some of the achievements in sectors into transformation of their economies, thereby producing more jobs and greater labour productivity”, Igor Bosc, UNDP senior programme adviser, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The report shows Myanmar’s per capita gross national income is $996. According to the one of three criteria used for identifying countries as LDCs, the per capita GNI of an LDC eligible for graduation must be at a level at least double the graduation threshold of $1,190.

Myanmar is still a low income country with a human assets index of 68.8, an economic vulnerability index of 45.0 and a human development index of 150, it says.

Regarding LDC progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the report finds Myanmar is in medium progress to meet under-5 mortality rate, one MDG target while on the track to achieve MDG targets of maternal mortality rate, proportion of population using an improved drinking water source and proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities.

Asian LDCs perform better than African LDCs across selected MDG targets, but Laos is the only one on track on all criteria, the report says.

The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) based on recommendations of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP).

Forty-eight countries, including Myanmar, are designated by the United Nations as “least developed countries”, entitling them to aid, preferential market access and special technical assistance. — GNLM
Iran to turn uranium into reactor fuel under extended deal

VIENNA, 2 Dec — Iran will convert more of its higher-grade enriched uranium into reactor fuel under an extended nuclear deal with world powers, making the material less suitable for building atomic bombs, a diplomatic source and a US think-tank said on Monday.

Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China, and Russia failed to meet a 24 November deadline for resolving their dispute over Tehran’s nuclear programme. They gave themselves until the end of June for further negotiations. It was the second time this year they had missed a self-imposed target for a comprehensive agreement under which Iran would curb its nuclear programme in exchange for an end to sanctions hobbling Tehran’s economy.

As a result, a preliminary accord reached in late 2013 will remain in force. Under its terms, Iran halted its most sensitive nuclear activity in return for limited easing of sanctions. Accordingly, Iran earlier this year eliminated its stockpile of uranium gas enriched to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, a relatively short technical step away from weapons-grade material. A large part of it was processed into oxide.

When the deal was first extended in July, Iran undertook to move further away from potential weapons material by converting 25 kg of the uranium oxide — a quarter of the total — into nuclear fuel during the initial four-month extension.

The diplomatic source said Iran would now continue this work and be suggested around 5 kg would be converted per month.

The US-based Arms Control Association said 35 kg of uranium oxide would be turned into fuel over seven-month period. It said Iran had also made specific commitments limiting its development of advanced centrifuges to refine uranium.

Modern Europe needs new security system — Russian diplomat

SOFIA, 2 Dec — Modern Europe requires a new security system which could be built up based on the Helsinki Accords of 1975, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Alexey Meshkov said in an interview with TASS on Tuesday.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial Council in Basel, Switzerland, on 4-5 December could agree on a new deal tentatively called Helsinki +40 based on a key pact that launched a security process in Europe 40 years ago, he said.

“It is important to return to the origins and principles which were laid down in this document and try to boost a new system of European security. It should create convenient conditions for all the member-states and not build additional barriers,” the diplomat said.

“Today it is not a secret for anyone that certain countries and regional organizations are subject to rather serious influence with the goal of hindering relations with Russia. We do not accept such an approach,” Meshkov said, calling for adopting a fair and open policy that would encourage the development of economic cooperation.

The Russian diplomat said although some people already understand the essence of the current events, there are others for whom “what is happening today is a propaganda war in which partners should not be listened to.”

As the preparations are underway for the Basel summit, to be attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the effort is hampered as some Western delegations try to include “an unacceptable wording linked to the Ukrainian crisis” even in any absolutely neutral decisions, Meshkov said.

“Europe, in the broadest sense of the word, is waiting for a positive signal at this summit. So do the economic operators and the civil society,” he said, adding that if the sides manage to make progress towards implementing the idea this will be an important result.

“We are down-to-earth and we believe that the talks won’t be easy,” Meshkov stressed. “However, it is necessary to think about in what direction we are moving: towards further confrontation or starting mulling over a new system of European security,” he said.

Russia’s EU envoy, Vladimir Chizhov, told the Izvestia newspaper last week “this idea (signing of new agreement on security and cooperation in Europe — TASS) may take particular shapes” in Basel. “This is now being discussed as part of the OSCE,” he said.

The draft declaration of the Helsinki +40 was signed in December 2013 in Kiev by the foreign ministers of the OSCE member-states, including Russia. Its aim is to rebuild trust and improve efficiency of the international venue.

Lavrov then said the document laid the basis for the work on drafting a declaration by 2015, marking the 40th anniversary of the OSCE and the Helsinki Accords. However, the February coup in Ukraine and the civil war in the country’s east has led to a sharp deterioration in relations between Russia, the European Union and the United States, creating the threat of a new cold war.

UNSG’s message on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities — 3 December 2014

This year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities focuses on the theme, “sustainable development: the promise of technology”.

Technology has changed the world, bringing knowledge within reach and expanding a range of opportunities. Persons with disabilities can benefit enormously from such advances, yet too many lack access to these essential tools.

As the international community works to develop an ambitious and inspiring post-2015 development agenda that leaves no-one behind, we must harness the power of technology for development for all.

Through adaptive, assistive and inclusive technology, persons with disabilities can make the most of their potential in their communities and in the workplace. Employers can harness technology to create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to find productive employment and fully use their skills and capacities.

Technology can also help persons with disabilities caught up in natural disasters by making sure that critical information reaches them. Equally important, technology can help us include the particular needs of persons with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response.

Let us spare no effort to ensure that policies, programmes, guidelines and 21st century technologies are accessible to persons with disabilities, and sensitive to their perspectives and experiences. Together, let us work for a better future that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable for all.

It should create convenient conditions for all the OSCE member-states and not build additional barriers, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Alexey Meshkov says.—Itar-Tass
Islamic State followers say they were behind Riyadh shooting

RIYADH, 2 Dec — A group of supporters of Islamic State has released a video that it says shows its members carrying out a shooting in Saudi Arabia last week of a Danish national who survived the attack, SITE Monitoring reported.

The film could not be independently verified but Saudi Arabia said on 22 November a Dane had been shot in the shoulder as he left his work in Riyadh and was in a stable condition.

ISLAMIC STATE

Islamic State last month called on supporters in Saudi Arabia, which is participating in strikes against the group in Syria, to attack Shi‘ite Muslims, government officials and Westerners.

The Interior Ministry told Reuters last month it had identified at least 2,000 Saudis who had gone to fight in Syria and Iraq, but that 600 of them had returned to the kingdom and were in detention and others had died.

Authorities have frequently voiced concern that the conflict in Syria and Iraq and the emergence of Islamic State could spur domestic attacks. The last campaign by militants in Saudi Arabia killed hundreds between 2003-06.

In early November, Sunni militants, who the government said were linked to Islamic State, killed eight Shi‘ites in the Eastern Province. Authorities have since arrested more than 70 people suspected of links to the attack.

On Sunday, media reported that a Canadian had been injured in a stabbing by a Saudi in a shopping mall in Eastern Province, but a motive had not been identified.

In October, a US citizen was shot dead and one injured in a shooting at a petrol station in Riyadh. The authorities said a personal motive appeared likely because both men had worked for the same company.

Saudi authorities have said they are investigating the attack on the Dane. Reuters

Lebanese army detains a wife and son of Islamic State leader

BEIRUT, 2 Dec — The Lebanese army detained a wife and a son of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as they crossed from Syria in recent days, security officials said Tuesday.

The officials declined to give the name or nationality of the woman whom they described as one of his wives. The Lebanese newspaper As-Safir reported the army had detained her in coordination with “foreign intelligence agencies”. It said she had been travelling with a fake passport accompanied by one of her sons. Islamic State has seized wide areas of Iraq and Syria, Lebanon’s neighbour to the east, declaring a “caliphate” over the territory it controls.

Investigators were questioning her at the headquarters of the Lebanese defence ministry, As-Safir reported.

The Lebanese security forces have waged a crackdown on Islamic State sympathisers in Lebanon and the intelligence services have been extra vigilant on the border crossings.

They have arrested over the past few months a number of Islamic State suspects stung by attacks to expand Islamic State influence in the country neighbouring Syria.

A US-led alliance is seeking to roll back Islamic State’s territorial gains in Iraq and Syria. US President Barack Obama has vowed to “degrade and ultimately destroy” Baghdadi’s group, which is seeking to reshape the Middle East according to its radical vision of Islam.

Baghdadi, an Iraqi, called for attacks against the rulers of Saudi Arabia in a speech purported to be in his name last month.

He said his self-declared caliphate was expanding in Saudi Arabia and four other Arab countries and called for “volcanoes of jihad” to replace the oil industry.

US plays down idea of safe zone along Syria-Turkey border

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec — The United States on Monday played down the idea of creating a buffer zone along the Syria-Turkey border after a media report cited it as a possible concession to Turkey in return for use of bases to launch attacks on Islamic State militants in Syria.

Representatives at the White House, US State Department and the Pentagon all said US officials were considering a range of proposals with Turkey over security near its border with Syria but were not ready to implement a specific plan.

“Right now, we don’t believe a buffer zone is the best way to relieve the humanitarian crisis there in northern Syria,” Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said talks were going on about many proposals put forward by fellow NATO member Turkey, including on how to secure the Syria border, but there were still differences and no decisions had been made.

Ankara has long sought a no-fly zone or secure area and it has been the subject of frequent high-level talks.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed US and Turkish officials, said an agreement could include a safe zone along part of the Syrian border to protect refugees and certain opposition forces.

Such a move would risk dragging Western powers further into Syria’s three-year-old war, and anger President Bashar al-Assad’s allies, Russia and Iran.

Complicating matters, Assad is using the US air strikes as cover for his own air campaign against Syrian rebels, hitting the Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa in retaliation for the group’s killing of Syrian soldiers.

Gunmen kill 36 workers in a Kenyan quarry near Somalia border

NAROBI, 2 Dec — Gunmen killed 36 workers in an attack on a quarry in Kenya’s Mandera county, which borders Somalia, said the county governor on Tuesday who drew a parallel with another recent raid by al Shabaab militants.

Some 26 people were killed in the area last month when al Shabaab militants hijacked a Nairobi-bound bus, causing widespread anger. Kenya has suffered a string of gun and grenade attacks since it sent troops into Somalia to fight al Shabaab in late 2011.

“It is sad that we have another 36 people who were attacked and killed late last night in the same manner it happened on a bus recently. It happened at a quarry about 15 km (10 miles) from Mandera town,” Mandera county governor Ali Roba told Reuters by telephone.

A Reuters witness at the scene counted 36 bodies at the Korome quarry. All the victims had been shot in the head, except for four who had been beheaded.

The witness said the workers were attacked while sleeping in their tents at the quarry.

Israeli police and soldiers are seen on the site of an alleged stabbing attack outside the Jewish settlement of Efrat in Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem, on 1 Dec, 2014. A Palestinian woman was shot and seriously wounded by Israeli security forces after she stabbed an Israeli civilian with a knife in the West Bank on Monday morning, Israeli media and the military reported. —Xinhua
**LONDON, 2 Dec —** One of the world’s most wanted war criminals, the reputed top lieutenant of Nazi mastermind Adolf Eichmann, is presumed to have died at least four years ago in Syria, where he lived under government protection, a leading Nazi hunter said on Monday.

Alois Brunner, an Austrian SS officer found responsible for the World War Two deportation of 125,500 European Jews to Nazi death camps, escaped at the war’s end from Germany to Egypt and arrived in Syria in 1954, said Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre’s Israel office.

Brunner lived in Damascus under an alias and was employed by the late Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, father of Syria’s current ruler, as a terrorism and security expert, Zuroff told Reuters.

Brunner was reported seen alive as late as 2003 at a Damascus hotel, but a German intelligence service informed the Wiesenthal Centre four years ago that Brunner had since died and was buried in Syria, Zuroff said.

Although never brought to justice, Brunner was tried and sentenced to death in absentia in France in 1954 for crimes against humanity. He lost several fingers and an eye in two letter-bomb assassination attempts, attributed to Israeli agents.

Zuroff said the Wiesenthal Centre was never able to forensically verify Brunner’s death but had hoped to obtain corroborating information before announcing it, an effort stymied by Syria’s civil war. Were he alive, Brunner would now be 102, Zuroff said.

The Nazi-hunting centre decided this year to remove Brunner from its roster of fugitive war criminals on its website, www.operation-reachme.org. Zuroff said. He said he went public with details about Brunner’s presumed demise in recent days when asked about him during an interview with Britain’s Sunday Express newspaper. “He was a notorious, fanatical anti-Semite,” Zuroff said, citing a 1985 German magazine interview in which Brunner asked if he had any regrets, and was quoted as saying he regretted he hadn’t murdered more Jews. Zuroff said it was the last of the top-tier Nazi operatives responsible for planning and carrying out the genocide of European Jews “in a broad sense, as opposed to people involved in the murder of Jews in one specific place or operation.”

He was described as the right-hand man to Eichmann, a leading Holocaust architect who was captured in Argentina in 1960 and later hunted to his death in a highly publicized trial in Israel. — Reuters

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**Moscow Metro to be fully equipped with free Wi-Fi on 2 December**

**Moscow, 2 Dec —** All Moscow Metro lines will have free Wi-Fi connection on 2 December, the Metro press service said on Monday. All 12 Moscow Metro lines with the total length of more than 325 kilometres will be equipped with free Wi-Fi and “the number of underground train cars with access points will exceed 5,000.” Thus, the project for equipping the Moscow Metro with the wireless network will be completed one month ahead of schedule.

The press service said this project will be a first step in equipping the whole network in the world. “In some cities of the world there is Wi-Fi Internet access at underground railway lines, but no access in the tunnels,” the report says. In Moscow this service is provided to passengers only in train cars, and no connection is provided at stations and entrance areas. The data transfer rate exceeds 100 Mbits per train.

The project for equipping Moscow Metro trains with the wireless network was launched on 1 Sept. 2013. The Kakhovskaya and Circle Lines of the Moscow Metro were the first to be equipped with free wireless Internet connection. — Itar-Tass

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**US blames defect, lax safety checks for 787 battery fire last year**

**NEW YORK, 2 Dec —** The US National Transportation Safety Board said on Monday a battery defect and lax safety checks were the cause of an incident in which a fire broke out in January 2013 on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner that had arrived in Boston from Tokyo. In its full report on the incident, the NTSB said the lithium-ion battery manufactured by GS Yuasa Corp. was prone to an “uncontrollable increase in temperature and pressure” due to internal short circuiting, and that the Japanese battery maker failed to carry out sufficient tests to find the defect.

The NTSB also blamed the US Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing for not considering the possibility of such a problem occurring and thus failing to catch the defect during the safety certification process. In its safety recommendations, the NTSB instructed Yuasa to review its manufacturing process and ensure employees are trained to identify defects. It also told the FAA and Boeing to improve safety standards. Cabin cleaners found the 787 aircraft operated by Japan Airlines Co was filled with smoke shortly after arriving at Boston’s Logan International Airport and unloading nearly 200 passengers and crew members. The source was found to be a fire caused by an auxiliary power unit with the faulty battery located toward the aft cabin of the aircraft. No one was injured. The incident was one in a string of occurrences involving the safety of the Dreamliner. Later in the same month, one of the midsize jets operated by All Nippon Airways Co was forced to make an emergency landing at a western Japan airport due to smoke in the cockpit.

Japanese and US aviation authorities told airlines to ground 787s while investigations into the aircraft’s safety were made. The Dreamliner was approved to fly a few months later after Boeing made modifications to the battery system. — Kyodo News

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**Australia rules out open tender for new submarines, Japan in box seat**

**SYDNEY, 2 Dec —** Australia will not hold an open tender to replace its ageing Collins-class submarines, government officials said on Tuesday, a decision that bolsters Japan’s position as the likely builder of the new multibillion-dollar fleet.

Reuters reported in September that Australia was leaning towards buying as many as 12 off-the-shelf stealth submarines from Japan despite domestic pressure to build them at home.

Since then, several European defence contractors have said they would be price competitive with Japan and do the work in Australia in a bid to win a piece of the overall A$40 billion ($33.96 billion) submarine programme. But the Austral-ian government did not have time for an open bidding process, said Treasurer Joe Hockey. “We need to make decisions now and we don’t have time to go through a speculation process,” Hockey told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. A spokesman for Defence Minister David Johnston said no manufacturer had yet been chosen. Sources have said Australia is strongly considering a replacement for the Collins based on the 4,000-tonne Soryu-class ships built by Japan’s Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries.

They have said Canberra wanted a new lithium-ion battery propulsion system, which experts say will give submarines better underwa-ter range and speed compared to other diesel-electric vessels that use independent propulsion under the sea, a system which requires fuel to operate. Tokyo’s next generation of Soryu submarines will be the world’s first to be powered by the new technology. Swedish defence firm Saab, France’s state-controlled naval constructor DCNS and Germany’s ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems have all expressed interest in the Australian project. “I think Japan is the only option for Australia because neither Germany, France nor Sweden has built 4,000-tonne-class submarines,” a former senior Japanese navy commander told Reuters. — Reuters

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**The Nazis were responsible for the deaths of six million people during the Holocaust, here children are pictured behind a barbed wire fence at the infamous concentration camp at Auschwitz in southern Poland.**

**Moscow Metro with wireless network**

**The Royal Australian Navy’s newest Collins class submarine, HMAS Waller, leaves Sydney Harbour on 4 May.**

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**Nazi mastermind Adolf Eichmann**

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**dreamliner**

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**Wi-Fi**

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**Australian**

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**Wi-Fi**
30 years on and 1984 gas tragedy continues to rile India’s Bhopal

Bhopal, (India) 2 Dec — Three decades since India’s worst gas tragedy in Bhopal killed thousands of people and left tens of thousands more suffering from after-effects of chemical poisoning, the victims continue to clamour for adequate financial compensation.

The people still alive, particularly those born around the time of the deadly toxic gas release, still suffer from breathing problems and other physical ailments.

On the night of 2-3 Dec, 1984, a US-owned pesticide plant in Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh State, leaked deadly methyl-isocyanate gas and other chemicals that turned the city into a toxic cloud hovering over the region.

Union Carbide Corp, the owner of the plant, was sued by the government of India and agreed to an out-of-court settlement of $470 million in 1989.

But compensation and health issues still dog victims of this largest industrial tragedy in history.

And there remains confusion even about the number of deaths caused by the disaster.

The Indian government has confirmed 5,295 deaths related to the gas release, but social workers and nongovernmental organizations put the number of casualties at more than 50,000.

They say many of the bodies of many victims were buried, cremated, or simply tossed into a nearby river, as there was no one left to claim them.

Social workers and NGOs also dispute the official contention there are no health after-effects from the tragedy.

Doctors at the National Institute for Research in Environmental Health in Bhopal say they have been conducting regular surveys and research and repeatedly arrived at the conclusion aftereffects of the tragedy have ended.

Sanjay Yadav, 41, tells a very different story.

Yadav is a resident in a slum just across the road from the now-defunct Union Carbide plant, which is still guarded round-the-clock by police.

He has two teenage sons who both suffer from physical deformity and mental underdevelopment.

And Yadav says he and his wife still suffer from fatigue, breathlessness and itching eyes.

“I can say with confidence that I, my wife and our kids are suffering from the aftereffects of the gas tragedy,” Yadav said.

He said Dow Chemical Co, which acquired Union Carbide in 2001, should pay compensation to the second-generation victims as they suffer from physical and mental deformities because of genetic effects.

According to Yadav, two years ago the central government began providing a monthly pension for second-generation physically handicapped children, but payments have been irregular and the amount is too small to make a difference in their daily life.

“It initially the pension was quite regular, but now we don’t receive it for months altogether. We demand the government increase it and also make it regularly disbursed among the needy,” he said.

Victims with health problems similar to those faced by Yadav and his family abound in Bhopal, all waiting for adequate compensation and suitable medical facilities.

It has been three decades, but the fight still goes on.

Kyodo News

Another two new-born Koalas, together with forty-eight members, debuted at Chimelong Safari Park in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong province, on 1 Dec, 2014, making it the largest overseas koala family out of Australia. Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3rd December, 2014:
Isolated light rain is likely in Tanintharyi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagyag, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin 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:
Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

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6.3-magnitude quake hits 102km southwest of Sangay, Philippines

BEIING, 2 Dec — An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale jolted 102km southwest of Sangay, Philippines at 0511GMT on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 617.91 km, was initially determined to be at 6.1375 degrees north latitude and 123.1681 degrees east longitude. —Xinhua
Duncan Campbell wins Turner Prize 2014 with essay film

The Japanese female comic duo “Dameyo, Dame Dame” (No you must not, no no), the signature phrase of the Japanese female comic duo “Dameyo Erecturu Rengo,” has been selected as one of the top two buzzwords or phrases in Japan in 2014.

Kyodo News

New York, 2 Dec — Bruce Springsteen and Coldplay’s Chris Martin filled in for U2’s injured lead singer Bono on Monday evening and rocked a surprise World AIDS Day concert in New York’s Times Square with the Irish rock group.

They joined other U2 members, Adam Clayton, The Edge and Larry Mullen Jr., to perform the group’s songs as crowds packed the centre of Manhattan bundled in coats and hats and huddled under umbrellas as rain fell.

Former President Bill Clinton, opening the concert, said he received an email from Bono, who is recuperating in Ireland from a cycling accident in New York last month, asking Clinton to do the introduction.

“This year for the first time ever, more people were put on life-saving medicine than were diagnosed with AIDS,” Clinton told the cheering crowd.

“We can end AIDS but we all have to do our part,” he added.

Martin pranced on the plastic covered stage in the heart of Manhattan and kicked off the concert with U2 with the song “Beautiful Day” as the crowd raised smartphones to record the moment, followed by “With or Without You” from the group’s album, The Joshua Tree. Messages about the AIDS pandemic that began more than 30 years ago were broadcast to the crowd between sets.

United Nations data show that in 2013, 35 million people were living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, 2.1 million people were newly infected with the virus and some 1.5 million people had died of AIDS.

Singer Carrie Underwood sang two songs, followed by rapper Kanye West, performing a set to the delight of the crowd, before U2 returned with Springsteen, who led the group with “Where The Streets Have No Name.”

Bono, who has lobbied for a variety of causes including debt relief, world poverty and AIDS, earlier on Monday said on the group’s website that this year was a World AIDS Day like no other because 13 million people have access to life-saving drugs, up from 300,000 just over 10 years ago.

The Irish rocker was hurt while cycling in New York’s Central Park. He sustained injuries to his face, shoulder blade and arm, which required hours of surgery. Three metal plates and 18 screws were needed to repair the bone in his upper arm. He will have intensive therapy but is expected to make a full recovery.

—Reuters

“It’s easy to work with Amitabh Bachchan

Akhtar on Bachchan, his co-star in the upcoming film “Wazir.”

“It’s very easy to work with him. He has a positive personality and keeps the atmosphere easy on the sets. So, the minute you reach the set and start talking to him, you will feel comfortable automatically. It is amazing to work with him,” Farhan told PTI here.

“I am still shooting with him and the film is complete. It’s great to work with somebody like him and I am a huge admirer of his work.—PTI

Farhan Akhtar on Amitabh Bachchan: It’s great to work with somebody like him and I am a huge admirer of his work.—PTI

London, 2 Dec — Irish-born artist Duncan Campbell won Britain’s prestigious Turner Prize on Monday for an “essay film” which draws on an array of sources, including African art, the Irish Republican Army, dance and Marxism.

The annual award for contemporary art was presented to Campbell by actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, the star of ‘12 Years a Slave’, in a televised ceremony at Tate Britain, which oversees the often-controversial prize.

The Turner winner gets 25,000 pounds with 5,000 pounds for each of the three runners-up — James Richardson of Wales, Tris Vonna-Michell of England and Ciara Phillips, a Canadian living in Scotland.

Campbell, who also lives in Scotland, said winning was a “validation” of his work and added that the prize money would make a great difference to his life.

“The economics of what I do are not as great as say, a painter, so it does make a difference in terms of me being able to do what I do,” he said.

Campbell is known for works tackling power structures and other complex issues, such as the relationship between Britain and Ireland. His winning entry, “If For Others”, uses a series of old and new footage, including a 1971 image of Joe McCann, sometimes called “The Che Guevara of the IRA”, to show how images can be turned into commodities of mass culture.

The picture of McCann, who was shot dead by British soldiers less than a year after the photo was taken, became part of pop culture to the point where the image was emblazoned on T-shirts and Christmas stockings.

“He always takes serious questions... but then what he does is treat them in quite an unusual way and this film is even more unusual than some of his earlier works,” said Penelope Curtis, the director of Tate Britain, who chaired this year’s jury.

“It’s a work that really does repay sustained attention.” Past winners of the Turner Prize, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, include Damien Hurst, Anish Kapoor and last year’s laureate Laure Prouvost.

The award, named after 19th-century English landscape and seascape painter JW Turner, has often courted controversy for shortlisting unconvention al works tackling power structures and other complex issues.

The Turner Prize, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, includes a 13 million people have access to life-saving drugs, up from 300,000 just over 10 years ago.

The Irish rocker was hurt while cycling in New York’s Central Park. He sustained injuries to his face, shoulder blade and arm, which required hours of surgery. Three metal plates and 18 screws were needed to repair the bone in his upper arm. He will have intensive therapy but is expected to make a full recovery.—Reuters

“Dameyo, Dame Dame” among top winners of 2014 buzzword award

Kyodo News

Artist Duncan Campbell (R) reacts after winning the Turner Prize presented by actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (L) at the Tate Britain Gallery in London on 1 Dec, 2014.

Reuters
Once-lost letter of Beat era, found in California, to be sold at auction

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Dec — An 18-page letter by Beat-era icon Neal Cassady that transformed Jack Kerouac’s writing style will be auctioned off this month as the highlight of a collection of work that could fetch about $500,000 (£317,863). The 16,000-word, stream-of-consciousness missive, which was shown to reporters on Monday for the first time, was missing for decades until it was found among several unopened boxes in a garage in Northern California a few years ago. It will be sold at auction on 17 December, exactly six years after Cassady wrote it. The reserve price, at which serious bidding will begin, is set at $300,000 and $500,000, according to auction house Profiles in History.

The Beat Museum in San Francisco plans to bid on the letter and eventually display it publicly and publish it, museum founder Jerry Cimino said. The museum launched an online campaign to raise half a million dollars to buy the letter.

“We literally call it the holy grail of the Beat Generation,” Cimino said, noting that its release will generate a similar level of excitement that inspired Kerouac to write his novel “On the Road.”

A portion of the Cassady letter, beginning with the words “to see a spectre isn’t everything,” was preserved and widely published. But it has long been known that the vast majority of the so-called “Joan Anderson” letter was missing.

The auction house could not display the full text of the letter because of a copyright held by the Cassady family, spokeswoman Sabrina Propper said. A spokesman for the Cassady family estate could not be reached for comment.

Under current US law, work that has not been published remains in copyright for 70 years after the death of the author. Cassady died in 1968.

In the letter, Cassady describes a series of adventures, including climbing out of a window when a woman’s mother unexpectedly came home. He also drew a picture of the window in the letter shown to reporters. Allen Ginsberg, a seminal Beat poet who referenced Cassady’s antics in his poem “Howl,” sent the letter to a publishing company, Golden Goose. But the company folded and the letter went unread until Jean Spinoso, 41, came across the Golden Goose archives in her father’s garage after his death.

She said she is among a handful of people who have read the letter in full.

Financial Fair Play is a contradiction, says Mourinho

LONDON, 2 Dec — UEFA’s Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules are “a contradiction” and only serve to protect big clubs with a long history of success, according to Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Mourinho’s club spent heavily in the close season to sign Cesc Fabregas and Diego Costa but, after losing a number of players, has a substantially smaller net spend than rivals such as Manchester United and Barcelona. The Portuguese boss said it was a “big protection to the biggest teams. ‘The ‘new’ clubs, I call them ‘new’ clubs, those with new investment, they cannot put themselves quickly at the same level,’” he explained.

But the Portuguese said the rules have failed in their primary objective to create equal conditions for all.

“I think Financial Fair Play is a contradiction because when football decided to go for Financial Fair Play it was exactly to put teams in equal conditions to compete,” Mourinho said in an interview with Yahoo.

“Now what happened really with Financial Fair Play is a big protection to the historical, old, big clubs which have a financial structure, a commercial structure, everything in place based on historical success for years and years and years.”

Chelsea have been among the Premier League’s heaviest spenders since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich took over as owner in 2003. Mourinho, however, said the regulations were subsidies for clubs with new investment to help maintain what he perceives is the hierarchy of Europe’s biggest teams. “The ‘new’ clubs, I call them ‘new’ clubs, those with new investment, they cannot put themselves quickly at the same level,” he explained.

Spain to seek to banish ‘ultras’ after fan death

MADRID, 2 Dec — Spain will seek to banish groups of violent fans known as “ultras” from football following Sunday’s death of a Deportivo and died after suffering a cardiac arrest played and the surroundings. Deportivo and Madrid-based clubs Rayo Vallecano and Alcorcon.

It has been proposed to us that we draw up a list of ultras groups to expel them from stadiums and set a timeframe to carry it out,” Spain’s secretary of state of sport, Miguel Cardenal, told a news conference after a meeting of a government anti-violence commission.

“Is it a rule some clubs have already taken and the commitment is clear, forceful and I am convinced it will be effective,” he added. One measure under consideration would be to close off the areas inside stadiums where ultras gather, Cardenal said.

Efforts would be stepped up to identify groups with violent tendencies and prevent them from gathering near stadiums on match-days, he added. “We want to eliminate these radical elements from the places where football is played and the surroundings. They have no place either inside or outside stadiums.”

Real Madrid and Barcelona are among clubs to have barred ultras from attending games in recent years with some success. However, Francisco Martinez, a secretary of state for security, noted that the match had not been considered high-risk and there had been nothing to suggest trouble was likely.

The items seized showed a clear desire for confrontation,” Martinez told Monday’s news conference. “Those who arranged to meet yesterday wanted to generate violence and confront each other in a violent way,” he added.

Spanish police escort Deportivo Coruna fans upon leaving Vicente Calderon stadium after their Spanish first division soccer match against Atletico Madrid in Madrid, on 30 Nov, 2014.—Reuters
Melbourne, 2 Dec — Australian Open organizers have tweaked their “Extreme Heat Policy” for next year’s tournament after being accused of forcing players to perform in “inhumane” conditions during a heatwave in January.

Despite water bottles melting, ballboys collapsing and players vonorning and passing out when temperatures exceeded 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for four days at this year’s tournament, play was stopped for only four hours on the outer courts.

There was a groundswell of criticism from players, mainly over the lack of transparency about when the policy would be implemented, if it was even entirely at the discretion of the tournament referee and not triggered by temperatures reaching a certain level. Tournament director Craig Tiley said on Tuesday the addition of a roof over a third showcourt, the Margaret Court Arena, would mitigate the effects of hot weather and he hoped the changes to the policy would make matters clearer to players.

“The heat policy, as always, will be applied at the referee’s discretion,” Tiley told reporters. “The decision on implementing the heat policy will take into account the forecast once the ambient temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius, and the Wet Bulb Global Temperature (WBGOT) reading exceeds 32.5.”

“When conditions exceed these levels the referee is taking into account the forecast and state of play when making his discretionary call.”

Rather than use the raw Celsius readings to assess the heat, organizers prefer to use the WBGOT composite, which also gauges humidity and wind to identify the perceived conditions.

In another change, when the policy is enacted matches in progress will continue until the end of an even number games in that set or completion of tie break, limiting the exposure of players to the heat.

The loudest complaints in January came from Canadian player Frank Dancevic, who lamented having to collapse during his first round match on an uncovered outside court.

“I think it’s inhumane, I don’t think it’s fair to anybody, to the players, to the fans, to the sport, when you see players pulling out of matches, passing out,” he said.

“Having players with so many problems and complaining to the tournament that it’s too hot to play, until somebody dies, they’re just keep going on and putting matches on,” Dancevic said.

Meteorologist Bob Leighton said long-range forecasts indicated that there would be a similar heatwave this year at the 19 January – 1 February tournament at Melbourne Park.

Reuters

England must emulate Germany, says Hodgson

London, 2 Dec — England must emulate Germany’s emphasis on building a long-term team around young players if they are to maintain pace with the benchmark sides in world soccer, according to manager Roy Hodgson. In 2000, Germany finished bottom of their European Championship group and that embarrassment prompted a rethink to emphasise long-term success. After a series of consistently strong tournament showings, building around a core of players developed over an extended period of time — they beat Argentina to win their fourth World Cup earlier this year.

“Of course what they’ve also done so well is that they have developed a very strong and cohesive team unit,” Hodgson said in an interview with FIFA. “So, first we have to emulate that. ‘You’ve got to realise that their mentality and athleticism is because there’s no doubt that’s the way the game is going. When you watch a German team doing things extremely well, there’s nothing that should stop us, and other western European teams to say, ‘We can work in that way too’.

“The major difference between us and what we’re doing and what they actually do, will be based a lot on their decision making because they’ve been through things together.”

England were knocked out of this year’s World Cup in Brazil with just one point, but since then have been some initial signs their revamped youthful team, who remain unbeaten in their Euro 2016 qualifying group, are improving. But Hodgson believes the high intensity pressure of the Premier League is having detrimental effect on young English players becoming established and developing.

“We run the risk that their club teams have got more experienced players who take their place, and it’s happened to us. It is making it harder for the young player to get his chance because the stakes are so high,” he added.

“(Alex) Oxlade-Chamberlain, Danny Welbeck, all of these players. (Jack) Wilshere for a while. They’ve been players who we’ve counted on and worked on despite the fact that they haven’t been the first name on the team sheet. ‘The day when an England manager could pick and England team only from the first names on the team sheet, that’s long gone.’ — Reuters

An official attends to a ball boy who collapsed during the men’s singles match between Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain and Milos Raonic of Canada at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 14 Jan, 2014. —Reuters

Slump made me stronger, says world number one Park

Park In-bee of South Korea hits off the ninth fairway during the first round of the LPGA Canadian Women’s Open golf tournament at Coquiltam, British Columbia on 23 Aug, 2012. —Reuters

Park burst on the scene in 2008 when at 19 she became the youngest player to win the US Women’s Open, but she failed to build on that success.

Her next win on the US tour took four more years to arrive though she found some success on the Japanese Tour.

“I think everyone goes through that,” she said of her slump. “But I also think that I’ve been able to sustain this good run because I survived the difficult times. “I rose, then fell to the very bottom, but got back on top again and I think that has made me stronger.”

Reuters

Chelsea seek another Bridge of sighs for Spurs

Chelsea are six points ahead of second-placed Manchester City after 13 Premier League games and Courtois is hungry to keep chasing their old rivals.

“We don’t have to focus on clean sheets, the most important thing is to win at Stamford Bridge,” Courtois said.

“Obviously it’s nice to keep a clean sheet but I’d rather win a match 2-1. It’s good that we haven’t lost a match but we want to win rather than draw.”

Spurs are in seventh place, 13 points adrift of Chelsea, and will go to Stamford Bridge buoyed by their 2-1 comeback victory at home to Everton on Sunday. — Reuters