National land resource management committee holds first collaboration meeting

Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers address at meeting of National Land Resource Management Central Committee.—MNA

The National Land Resource Management Central Committee held its first collaboration meeting here Tuesday, with an opening speech by Vice President U Nyan Tun.

The event happened at the headquarters of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry attended by ministers from states and regions.

The vice president noted, quoting the speech of President U Thein Sein in August, that the importance of conservation of forests, the environment and water resources to meet higher demand resulting from the increasing population.

U Nyan Tun also acknowledged that lacking land policies have some flaws, which have complicated the process of land management and led to disputes on land utilization.

He remarked that these problems have caused the property market to rise unreasonably depriving (See page 1)

A Shared Vision for the Future of Korea and ASEAN—Partnership for Trust and Happiness—

Yangon, 10 Dec.—The following is an article sent from (See page 2)

The 2014 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit will be held from December 11 for two days in Busan, Korea. It will be an opportunity for me to get together with the heads of state or government from the 10 ASEAN member states, looking back over the past 25 years of friendship and laying out a blueprint for the promotion of forward-looking relations.

Over these long 25 years, Korea and ASEAN have written an invaluable history. In 1989, Korea became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner with ASEAN, the first developing country to do so. Korea and the ASEAN members, as developing nations, were able to better understand one another, and building on this common denominator, relations have developed markedly.

Cooperation between the two sides began with trade, investment and tourism. In just 25 years, ASEAN has become Korea’s second largest trading partner, the third biggest investment destination, and the number one destination for Korean travelers, attracting approximately 4.6 million visitors each year. Since Korea was accorded full Dialogue Partner status in 1991, development cooperation with ASEAN has gone into full swing. From that point on, Korea has steadily concentrated 30 percent of its total official development assistance in the ASEAN region.

Korea has also continued to share with the ASEAN members its experience with Saemaul Undong, a comprehensive rural development campaign that played a great role in Korea’s achievement of the “Miracle on the Han River,” contributing to its rise from one of the poorest countries. Today, Korea and ASEAN are envisioning together a “Miracle on the Mekong River.”

In addition, Korea and ASEAN member states have the common historic memory of the suffering inflicted by imperialist colonial rule and the ideological confrontation of the Cold War era. Still not unified, Korea will mark the 70th year of division next year.

As ASEAN member states have well understood such wounds of history suffered by the Korean people and are maintaining diplomatic relations with both Koreas, they will be of great help in bringing about peace on the Korean Peninsula and eventual reunification.

As of now, the Korean government is making continued efforts to ease tensions, settle peace and lay the groundwork for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula. Peace on the Korean Peninsula and ultimate reunification are important stepping stones as well as prerequisites for realizing peace throughout the East Asian region as well. I look forward to a greater role by ASEAN in ensuring that the North abandons its nuclear program and becomes a responsible member of the international community, which will help peace take a firm root on the Korean Peninsula and unification be realized.

The affinity between Korea and ASEAN further deepened with Korea’s pop culture spreading throughout ASEAN starting in the late 1990s. Interest in Korea increased in the region thanks to Hallyu, or the Korean Wave, and thus mutual understanding has been enhanced, which has led to the further promotion of people-to-people exchanges.

As of now, there are about 80,000 immigrants from ASEAN, who have married Koreans and are making their home in Korea, playing the role of a bridge that links people from both sides together. Korea and some ASEAN nations are nurturing close ties comparable to those between reliable family members so that these relationships are often (See page 2)

Myanmar, 3 other GMS countries to get assistance from ADB-Australia fund of USD 10.5 million for private sector development

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 9 Dec.—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is looking to equally distribute a private sector development fund of $10.5 million to four Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries including Myanmar.

ADB’s principal country specialist, Peter Brimble, told the press Saturday that the ADB announced last week that its technical assistance grant of $500,000 and co-financing of $10 million from the Australian government will support the Mekong Business Initiative for private sector development in four GMS countries, which also in Myanmar, said Tuesday.

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Photo shows a group of rural woman peeling betel nut. The Asian Development Bank and Government of Australia pledge to provide combined assistance of $10.5 million to promote private sector development in four Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries including Myanmar. —Photo Provided/ADB MYANMAR

Parliamentary delegation headed by speaker heads for the Philippines

Page-3

European Union to provide USD 900 million to Myanmar over 7 years

Page-8
Union FM attends high-level roundtable for Myanmar’s graduation from LDC category

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin speaking at high-level roundtable for Myanmar’s graduation from LDC category.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — A high-level roundtable for Myanmar’s graduation from LDC category was held at Kampinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 December 2014 morning chaired by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Chairman of the United Nations and International Organizations Relations Sub-committee.

Present at the meeting were the Directors-General of National Planning and Economic Development and Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States and UNDP. The discussion was focused on how Myanmar could speed up progress towards sustainable development and reach the criteria for graduation and what external support will be needed for rapid progress.

MNA

More training schools planned to satisfy demand

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — A meeting took place at the Ministry of Science and Technology here on Tuesday to discuss matters related to the opening of more technical and vocational training schools as part of an attempt to satisfy rising demand in regions and states.

U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister at the President Office, told the meeting that the need to produce more technicians and skilled workers has become central to coping with the fast pace of development in all the sectors of the country.

According to him, Myanmar, like other countries, has witnessed a rise in the number of people turning to vocational training despite free education at primary and middle school. The union minister urged officials to work on plans for the development of human resources for national development.

MNA

Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. (43/2014)
3rd Waning Day of Nadaw, 1376 ME
(9 December, 2014)

Myanmar Peasant, Worker, People’s Party allowed to register as political party

The Myanmar Peasant, Worker, People’s Party allowed to register as political party that headquarters at No 2 on Tagaung Pagoda Road in Ward 4, Pathemy, Ayeyarwady Region, was allowed the Union Election Commission under the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law as of 9 December 2014. Its registration number is 79.

By order,
(Tin Tun) Secretary
Union Election Commission

Israeli Orto-Da Theatre Group: Stones

NGN

YANGON, 9 Dec — As part of the cooperation in the framework of culture agreement between Israel and Myanmar: the Embassy of Israel in Yangon will organize the following two events: (1) Workshop with students and teachers and Myanmar, 3 other GMS countries . . .

(2) performance, fill of strong imagination for life, heroic myth and what external support will be needed for rapid progress.

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National land resource...

(from page 1) small and medium scale entrepreneurs of opportunities to expand their businesses. He then suggested the land resource management process be clear and effective, focusing on easy accessibility to the public.

The vice president confirmed that challenges in land resource management include lack of statistics, funds and experts at the respective committees in this sector, as well as in effective technologies and systems to collect data and information.

He also suggested the committee should prioritize on effective utilization of land for all citizens, ensure legal protection of land ownership rights, and promote investment that encourages the sustainable use of natural resources.

Union Minister U Win Tun for Environmental Conservation and Forestry said that in drawing the national land utilization policy, the committee is working closely with relevant departments, as well as experts and consultants from USAID, EU—International Management Group (IMG) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Vice President U Nyan Tun received Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) at the Central Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed technical assistance for Myanmar to graduate from Least Developed Countries status. Also present at the call were deputy ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Tin Ngwe, Dr Zaw Min Aung and Daw Lei Lei Thein.—MNA

U Soe Nwe presents credentials to Estonian President

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union to Myanmar to the republic of Estonia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia, on 4 December 2014 in Tallinn.—MNA

Sri Kestra inscribed on World Heritage List

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec—A pillar was erected in Pyay, Bago Region, on Tuesday to mark the inclusion of Sri Kestra on the World Heritage List, sources said.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, Bagon Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, Mr Sandar Umar Alam of UNESCO (Myanmar), and members of social organizations.

Speaking at the ceremony, U Nyan Win said that three of Pyu’s city states—Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Kestra—were inscribed on the World Heritage List in June this year, calling for officials and locals to join hands with the ministry for preservation of the cultural heritage. MNA

Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein received a Japanese delegation led by Mr Aikyo Masanori, a vice president of Nagoya University of Japan, at the hall of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union here on Tuesday.

They exchanged views on a submission decided by the tribunal, amendments of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law, and cooperation in legal affairs between Myanmar and Japan.

Also present at the call were tribunal members Daw Hla Myo Nwe, U Mya Thein, U Myo Chit and officials.—MNA

YANGON, 9 Dec—YANGON region Hluttaw to debate proposal for 12-party talks

YANGON, 9 Dec—YANGON region Hluttaw will debate a proposal for a 12-party talks to proceed to the Union Government Wednesday.

U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Kayin National Race Affairs Minister in Yangon Region, submitted the proposal to the regional Hluttaw session Tuesday. His proposal said that instead of ethnic representatives in the six-party talks approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, each representative from the ethnicities of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan should include in the talks, leading to the 12-party talks.

He also requested his proposal to the Union Government through Yangon region government.

U Saw Tun Aung Myint said: “I do not mean to object the approval for the six-party talks, but to reveal my idea which I believed is also the expectation of ethnic groups. I am very hopeful it would be a very supportive scenario for the peace-making plans in the country.”

Ye Khantung Nyunt, Myat Thanda Maung

Parliamentary delegation headed by speaker heads for the Philippines

YANGON, 9 Dec—Myanmar’s Hluttaw speaker Thura U Shwe Mann departed for the Philippines on Tuesday morning to pay a visit.

Thura U Shwe Mann, who is speaker of the bicameral Pyidaungsu and lower house, the Pyithu Hluttaw, was seen off at Yangon International Airport by various officials as well as the ambassador of the Philippines.

His delegation includes Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Race Affairs, Rural Living Standard Enhancement and Internal Peace Working Committee U Thein Zaw, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Os, Chairman of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee U Soe Naing and Defence Services Personnel Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw Brig-Gen Than Htut Thein.—MNA

Constitutional Tribunal chairman holds talks with Japanese university’s vice president

Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein poses for documentary photo with Mr Aikyo Masanori, a vice president of Nagoya University of Japan and party.—MNA
Voter list computerization course kicks off in Mandalay

Mandalay, 9 Dec — Mandalay Region Election Sub-commission kicked off a voter list computerization course at the hall of the Mandalay Region government office on 8 December.

U Aung Htut, the sub-commission’s chairman, delivered a speech and an official explained the duty of staff in listing voters.

Officials demonstrated the use of the voter list system through a computerization process.

Officials of the sub-commission gave lectures to the trainees in the two-day course on 9 and 10 December. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Chin damsels attend midwifery course

Haka, 9 Dec — With the assistance of the Chin State government, a midwifery course, jointly organized by the Health Department and the Chin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, kicked off at the hall of Chin State General Hospital in Haka on 8 December.

On behalf of the state’s chief minister, state minister for finance U Nan Zamon delivered an address. The head of the state’s Health Department, Dr Soe Oo, explained the purpose of conducting the training course, while the chairperson of Chin State MCWSC, Daw Ohnma Swe, detailed her committee’s plans to provide necessary assistance for the training.

A total of 17 trainees are attending the six-month course.

Chin State IPRD

Kyaunggon to get rural gravel road

Kyaunggon, 9 Dec — Kyaunggon Township Rural Development Department in Ayeyawady Region has assigned Lab Moe The Company to construct a rural road in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The company has been placing gravel along the three-mile rural road linking Kyaunggon urban area and Yaykhaloke village.

On 7 December, U Myint Aung, head of the township’s Rural Development Department, and other officials inspected progress of construction tasks.

Thanks to the rural road, local people in Kyaunggon will have easy access to Yangon-Pathein Road and Pathein, Emme and Myaungmaya townships. —David Kyaunggon

Enthusiasts attend fruit-based foodstuff production course

Mandalay, 9 Dec — The Mandalay Region’s Trade Promotion Department and Small-scale Industries Department jointly organized the opening of a fruit-based foodstuff production course at the Trade Promotion Department’s hall at the corner of 35th and 65th streets in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 8 December.

The head of Small-scale Industries Department, U Htay Lwin, explained about the training course.

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Typhoon Hagupit weakens as Philippines clear up operation begins

DOLORES, 9 Dec— Typhoon Hagupit weakened further on Tuesday as the storm crawled across the central Philippines, while rescue workers struggled in its aftermath to reach towns in central provinces where thousands of homes were wrecked and at least 27 people killed.

Nearly 13,000 houses were crushed and more than 22,300 were partially damaged in Eastern Samar province, where Hagupit first hit land as a category 3 typhoon on Saturday, local officials said.

“Access is very difficult, roads are spotty. There are landslides, some are one-lane roads. In the inner barangays (villages), many of them are washed out by flash floods,” Richard Gordon, chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, told Reuters.

The typhoon weakened to a tropical depression on Tuesday with maximum winds of 60 kph (37 mph) near its centre, as it made a fifth landfall over the Luangan islands, 150 km (93 miles) southwest of capital Manila. It is now moving west towards the South China Sea at 13 kph (8 mph).

More than 2 million people so far have felt the impact of Hagupit, which is Filipino for lash, with nearly 1.7 million fleeing to relatives’ homes on safer ground or packing in to evacuation centres across the central Philippines and south of the main Luzon island, the national disaster agency said. The 27 people reported killed died in Iloilo province and on Samar island, including 12 residents in Borongan town in Eastern Samar who were swept away by raging waters and flash floods, the Red Cross’ Gordon said, citing initial reports from his field staff.

“A detailed assessment is now ongoing...It’s a long trek (to the villages), it’s like Yolanda all over again,” Gordon said, referring to the local name of super typhoon Haiyan, which last year killed thousands of people in the same areas of central Philippines.

The death toll monitored by the Red Cross is way above the official count of the national disaster agency which counted three dead so far. Bank employee Analyn Bula told Reuters how bowing winds had pounded the walls of her aunt’s two-storey concrete home in Dolores town in Eastern Samar, where her family sought shelter. “Our kitchen was wrecked. Around us, our neighbours’ homes were flattened like folded paper,” said Bula, 27.

The privately run National Grid Corp, which operates the country’s main transmission lines, said nearly 2 million homes across central Philippines and southern Luzon remain without power. —Reuters

Tycoon Sultan Agung (TAS) is not giving any indications of its involvement in the matter.

**Talks on for foreign ministers’ meeting with Japan, China: S Korea**

SEOUL, 9 Dec — South Korea said on Tuesday discussions are ongoing to arrange trilateral foreign ministers’ talks with China and Japan.

“Talks with related countries are under way to hold the foreign ministers’ talks with South Korea, Japan and China at an earliest possible date,” South Korea’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said at a press briefing.

He made the remarks when asked if a trilateral meeting could be held this month.

Japan, China and South Korea have agreed to hold foreign ministerial talks in Seoul by the end of the year.

The meeting, which would be the first since April 2012, is expected to set the stage for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Park Geun Hye to meet in the first half of next year, diplomatic sources said.

Since taking office in December 2012, Abe has not held a trilateral summit with the leaders of China and South Korea as Tokyo remains at odds with Beijing over the sovereignty of the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea that are claimed by China, which calls them Diaoyu. Tokyo and Seoul are involved in a dispute over the sovereignty of the Dokdo islets, which are controlled by South Korea.

Japan refers to the islets as Takeshima.—Kyodo News
**Russian-US relations see rerun of Cold War — lawmaker**

MOSCOW, 9 Dec — A senior Russian lawmaker has described the current state of affairs in Russian-US relations as a rerun of the Cold War. “The way I see it, it would be appropriate to describe these relations as another edition of the Cold War,” Alexey Pushkov, chairman of the State Duma’s International Affairs Committee, said in Monday’s parliamentary hearings. “The more so, since a far higher emotional strain is a characteristic feature of the current situation, and that strain, to my mind, is greater than it was during the Cold War years,” he said.

Pushkov pointed to the complete freeze in inter-parliamentary ties between the two countries. “I can confirm that inter-parliamentary contacts are totally absent,” he said. “Back six months ago, when we proposed a trip for a discussion of the Syrian crisis, the US Congress in fact declared that it was not interested in cooperation with Russia,” Pushkov recalled. “The usual meetings that have been taking place — on the sidelines of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) or elsewhere — do not change the situation,” Pushkov said.

**New York / Berkeley, 9 Dec — Protesters blocked a freeway in California and basketball stars in New York wore shirts invoking the last words of Eric Garner, a black man who died after a police chokehold, amid racially charged protests on Monday over a grand jury’s failure to indict the white officer involved. Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James and other players wore T-shirts emblazoned with the words “I CAN’T BREATHE” in pre-game warmups at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, where Prince William and his wife Kate were among thousands who came to see the team play the Brooklyn Nets.

Also on Monday, New York State’s top prosecutor sought the power to probe all police killings of unarmed civilians in his state, following sometimes violent US protests after two grand juries declined to indict police officers in the deaths of unarmed black men.

“I think as long as they’re peaceful, I think they’re necessary,” Obama said. “But when they turn violent, then they’re counterproductive.”

Pushkov said the issue was not just personal for him and his family, but for the whole country. “I consider this to be one of the most important issues we face. Because America works when everybody feels as if they are being treated fairly and that they’ve got a fair shot,” he said.

**Obama says peaceful protests vital in bringing change**

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — President Barack Obama defended the importance of peaceful protests during an interview broadcast on Monday, saying they were necessary to help bring about social change.

Obama’s comments on BET, a black-oriented television network, came as protests continued across the country following decisions by grand juries in Missouri and New York not to indict white police officers in the deaths of unarmed black men.

“The horrible events surrounding the death of Eric Garner have revealed a deep crisis of confidence in some of the fundamental elements of our criminal justice system,” New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said in a statement. “Nothing could be more critical for both the public and the police officers who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe than acting immediately to restore trust.”

Cities across the United States have seen large protests in recent nights following the failure to indict anyone over the death in July of Garner, an unarmed black father of six, who was killed after police put him in a banned chokehold.

The decision in the Garner case came little more than a week after a Missouri grand jury cleared an officer in the fatal August shooting of an unarmed black man, Michael Brown.

In the California college town of Berkeley, near San Francisco, businesses closed early and officials at the University of California urged calm a day after protesters hurled rocks and other objects at police who responded with tear gas. The student advocate’s office at the University of California, Berkeley, said on Twitter it would distribute kits including water, disinfectant wipes, masks and gauze in advance of more protests scheduled for Monday night.

Several hundred protesters roamed Berkeley streets on Monday night, intermittently blocking roads and a freeway.

Outside Barclays Centre, a group of about 300 protesters blocked streets and chanted, “I can’t breathe,” in memory of Garner, and “Hands up, don’t shoot,” a reference to Brown’s death in the St Louis suburb of Ferguson.

Some in the crowd rushed to the barricades in front of Barclays Centre as ticket-holders waited to go in. A small group entered a Target store, but left after police officers moved in.

It remained unclear whether New York Governor Andrew Cuomo would grant Schneiderman the powers he is seeking. Like the Democratic mayor of New York, Cuomo has tried to walk a fine line between expressing concern about a grand jury’s decision not to charge a police officer in the death of Garner without alienating police.

“We are reviewing the attorney general’s proposal,” said Cuomo spokeswoman Melissa DeRosa, adding that the governor plans a “top to bottom review” of the system. The order, if signed, would only affect new cases of unarmed civilians killed by police, not Garner or Akai Gurley, 28, whom a police officer shot dead in the dark stairway of a Brooklyn apartment building last month.

US Attorney General Eric Holder, whose office is investigating the Garner case, on Monday unveiled a set of changes to federal law enforcement guidelines intended to set an example for local police, according to a Justice Department official.

**Protests stage a “Die-In” as they gather outside the Barclays Centre where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and his wife Catherine, are attending a basketball game between the Brooklyn Nets and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the Brooklyn Borough of New York on 8 Dec, 2014.—Reuters**

**Protesters block streets and advance of more protests scheduled for Monday night.**

**US President Barack Obama (L) appears on The Colbert Report with Stephen Colbert at the Warner Theater Auditorium at George Washington University in Washington on 8 Dec, 2014.—Reuters**

Saying that change took time, Obama said attention of others issues “and change doesn’t really occur.”

“The value of peaceful protests, activism, organizing in return to the society is not yet done,” he said.

America’s first black president said the issue was not just personal for him and his family, but for the whole country. “I consider this to be one of the most important issues we face. Because America works when everybody feels as if they are being treated fairly and that they’ve got a fair shot.”

**Vucic, Medvedev discuss South Stream**

BELGRADE, 9 Dec — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic discussed the South Stream gas pipeline project with Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev over the phone on Monday.

Vucic told the Russian prime minister that Serbia had taken the news about the decision to drop the project very hard. Medvedev said the reason behind the decision was insufficient cooperation on the part of European Union countries, the Serbian government’s media relations office said in a release.

Vucic and Medvedev talked about ways to improve the chemical and agro-food production in Serbia and opportunities to promote trade between the two countries, the release said.—Tanjug

Several members of the New York City Council joined in the protests on Monday, when they staged a “die-in” on the steps of City Hall, over the decision not to indict Garner. In Cleveland, where the US Justice Department last week said it would probe police routinely using excessive force, Samaria Rice, the mother of a 12-year-old African-American boy shot dead by police in November, spoke to the media on Monday for the first time since her son’s death.

Rice’s son, Tamir Rice, was shot near a recreation centre while carrying a pellet gun that was a replica of a real gun. The boy’s family has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city and the two officers involved, one who shot Rice on 22 November and one who was driving the police car.

“Tamir was a bright child, he had a promising future and he was very talented in all sports: soccer, basketball, football. He was my baby,”—Reuters
Merkel suffers dizzy spell but recovers for TV interviews

Cologne (Germany), 9 Dec — Chancellor Angela Merkel suffered a dizzy spell and had to interrupt a television interview on Monday evening but later carried on to finish that and other interviews, her spokesman said.

Merkel was in the midst of an interview with ZDF television, one of a series of media interviews held before Tuesday’s congress of her conservative party, when she suddenly felt unwell and needed a break, spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

“The chancellor was feeling unwell for a moment — then had something to eat and drink before continuing with the interview after that,” Seibert said in response to a report in the Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung.

Merkel, 60 and in her 10th year as chancellor, later took part in the annual get-together with the media after finishing her series of interviews.—Reuters

Japan, Russia eye vice minister-level talks in February

Moscow, 9 Dec — Japan and Russia are planning vice-ministerial talks in February, RIA Novosti news agency quoted Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as saying on Monday.

According to Andrey Tatarinov, director of the Third Asian Department of Russia’s Foreign Ministry, a vice ministerial meeting on political issues is being planned in Moscow, and an economic dialogue in Tokyo, the report said.

Russia had put off vice ministerial talks after Japan imposed sanctions on Russia following its annexation of Crimea in March.

Foreign ministry officials from the two countries are expected to explore the possibility of a visit to Russia by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida that has been postponed by Japan after Moscow’s Crimea annexation. Monday’s director-level bilateral talks were held as part of efforts to realize a visit to Japan by Russian President Vladimir Putin next year.

Hajime Hayashi, director general of the European Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, took part in the meeting.

The director-level officials also discussed a range of other issues including the Ukraine situation and economic cooperation, the news agency said.

In a meeting on 9 November in Beijing, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Putin agreed to start preparations for a visit to Japan by Putin at “an appropriate time next year.”—Kyodo News

Israel’s parliament votes to dissolve itself and set 17 March election

Though his Likud party is expected to win the most seats, Netanyahu would need to align with other parties to form a government with majority support in the 120-member parliament.

Netanyahu launched his re-election campaign on Monday with a promise to cancel value added tax on basic foods, at a business conference in Tel Aviv.

He called the plan a “blueprint for “social justice”, in what was seen as a critical nod to middle-class Israelis and ultra-Orthodox parties whose support he may need to head the next government.

Just before the dissolution vote, lawmakers voted 47 to 23 to pass a government-backed amendment to keep open a detention centre for African migrants despite a high court order to shut it by 22 December.

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a Likud party meeting at parliament in Jerusalem on 8 Dec, 2014.

The court found in September that holding some 2,000 migrants, under a law passed in 2013 that permitted them to be held without trial, violated rights to freedom and dignity.

The amendment passed on Tuesday set a 20-month limit to detentions at the Holot facility.

More than 40,000 Eritreans and Sudanese are in Israel, human rights groups say. Many entered illegally across the border with Egypt.

“In a democracy you cannot jail people without trial. The court will reject it, again,” lawmaker Nitzan Horovitz of the left-wing Meretz party said, in protest against the vote.

Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, an advocacy group for the migrants, said it would appeal again to the court, saying parliament had voted “to waste taxpayers’ money on wrong solutions.”—Reuters

Russia calls for UN sanctions on Israel over air strikes

United Nations, 9 Dec — Syria asked the United Nations Security Council on Monday to impose sanctions on neighbouring Israel, a day after accusing the Jewish state of bombing areas near Damascus international airport and in the town of Dimas, near the border with Lebanon.

Israel has struck Syria several times since the start of the three-year conflict, mostly destroying weaponry such as missiles that Israeli officials said were destined for their long-time foe Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Chao, Security Council president for December, Syria said that “such aggressions will not stop it from fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestation across the entire territory of Syria.”

“At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community and the Security Council to shoulder their responsibility and forcefully condemn this brutal attack and to cease covering it up under any pretext,” the letter read.

“Syria also calls for the imposition of stern sanctions against Israel and requests that all messages prescribed under the Charter of the United Nations should be taken to prevent Israel from again committing such aggressions,” it said.

Israel has avoided taking sides in Syria’s civil war and does not publicly confirm bombing missions, a policy it sees as aimed at avoiding provoking reprisals.

Syria also accused Israel of carrying out the air strikes to “cover up internal Israeli divisions and draw attention away from the collapse of the Israeli coalition Government and Israel’s extreme policies, particularly its continued occupation of Arab territory.”

A US-led coalition is also bombing in Syria to target the Islamic State militant group, one of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s biggest foes.

Syria’s war started with a pro-democracy movement which grew into an armed uprising and has inflamed regional confrontations. Some 200,000 people have died, the United Nations said.—Reuters

Russia condemns terrorist act in Jammu and Kashmir — Foreign Ministry

Moscow, 9 Dec — India and Pakistan should coordinate efforts to fight international terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

“Moscow condemns the terrorist act, which was committed in the town of Uri, the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, on 8 December. Servicemen, policemen and civilians were killed as a result of the terrorist act,” the ministry said.

“It is evident that the crime is aimed at undermining the upcoming elections to the state’s legislative assembly and the efforts by India and local authorities to establish peace and calm,” it said.—Iitar-Tass
European Union to provide USD 900 million to Myanmar over 7 years

Photo shows the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 9 Dec — The European Union announced on Monday it will provide EUR 688 million (USD 900) to Myanmar over the period 2014-2020 to reinforce its support to the country’s multiple transition.

The EU said in a press release that the funds will help to develop rural areas and agriculture, improve food and nutrition security, governance and the rule of law, support education and contribute to peacebuilding, reflecting the new partnership the EU and Myanmar have been building since 2011.

According to the press release that underlines the EU’s full commitment to boost the four focal areas of its cooperation, Myanmar will receive EUR 241 million each in the education sector and the area of rural development, agriculture and food and nutrition security. In support of democrat-ic and institutional reforms, the EU plans to provide the country’s sector of governance, rule of law and state capacity-building with EUR 96 million. Up to EUR 103 million has been allocated for helping promote lasting peace, security and stability in Myanmar, it said.

Delegate participate in ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Entrepreneurs need to reduce damages to the eco-system in the fishery sector and heed up seeking aquaculture feed formulation to substitute fish meal, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Develop-ment U Ohn Myint said at a meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredi-ents or Fish Meal Substit-utes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation on 9 December.

The General Secretary of SEA Fisheries Development Centre discussed substitution of ingredients in the meal to be used in fish breeding sector.

Delegates from Myan-mar Aquafeed Producers Association and FAO office, SEAFDEC, ASEAN countries and Japan participated in the discussions on improvement of ingredi-ents in aquaculture feed formulation in respective countries.

The consultation will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Envy and pride blind us to reality

By Kyaw Thura

Institutions fail for many reasons, especially the one that are too stubborn to change with the times. Their first illusion is that they think everything is going fine with their choices only soon to find themselves incapable of getting out of their own way.

All leaders have advisors to help them with their responsibilities. It would not be far wrong to say that what has made most leaders go astray is mainly the people around them. The number one cause of leadership failure results from mistaking flatterers for advisors. Leaders are supposed to do right things rather than making things right.

Dave Anderson, president of the Dave Anderson’s Learn To Lead training and consulting company and LearnToLead.com, blames pride for all causes for management failure, stressing that pride is so devastating that it inflates our sense of self-worth and distorts our perspective of reality. Similarly, famous American self-help author John Maxwell points out that envy is the deadly sin that comes from feelings of inferiority while the deadly sin of pride comes from feelings of superiority.

Envy and pride lead us to a loss of desire to learn and an unwillingness to change. In addition, the two sins not only prevent us from admitting mistakes but also blind us to new ideas and feedback.

As Stephen Covey, an American author, comments, “It takes humility to seek feedback. It takes wisdom to understand it, analyze it and appropriately act on it.”

What matters most to all of us is to adapt ourselves to learnability and teachability. It is worth remembering that the greatest enemy of learning is that we think we know better. All in all, the goal of all learning is action rather than knowledge. It is time for us to give a second thought to the destruction of envy and pride of our own.

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 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.

GNLM

MCWA provides assistance to pregnant women

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Daw Khin Sanda Tun, wife of the Union Minister for Information and Daw Khin Myo Hui, wife of the Deputy Minister, who are pa-trons of the Ministry of In-fornation Maternal and Child Welfare Association, presented nutritious foods to pregnant women at Myit- symay clinic and babies to pregnant women at Myit- sana clinic on 8 December.

Officials of the association also gave the nutri-tious foods to the patients at the clinic.

“The association has been providing nutritious foods to both pregnant women and babies’ moth- ers for over one year. We give medical checkups to patients every Monday and Tuesday. Moreover, we share health knowledge with the patients so they can give birth of healthy ba-bies,” Dr San San Hlaing of the clinic told the reporter. So far, the association has provided assistance to 80 patients at the clinic.

MNA

In 2013, EU sanctions against Myanmar were lifted and the EU representative office opened here following the historic visits of President U Thein Sein to five EU member countries: Norway, Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy. — Entrepreneurs need to reduce damages to the eco-system in the fishery sector and heed up seeking aquaculture feed formulation to substitute fish meal, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Develop-ment U Ohn Myint said at a meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredi-ents or Fish Meal Substit-utes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation on 9 December.

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The consultation will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Delegates participate in ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation
Students take part in school library development and reading skill activities

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — With the assistance of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Information and Public Relations Department and Education Department jointly organized the school libraries development and raising reading skill festival at No 14 Basic Education High School in Zabuthuri Township on Monday. Deputy Director-General and Deputy Commissioner of the district U Zaw Lwin Oo explained the advantages of reading.

After the opening ceremony, officials viewed round books donated by MLF and a wall magazine displayed by Nay Pyi Taw IPRD. —Shwe Kokko

Buddhist cultural instructor course wraps up in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 9 Dec — Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) MP U Sai Tin Aung of Kachin State Constituency No 5 attended the concluding ceremony of a Buddhist cultural instructor course at Htilin Sasan Beikman in Mohnyin, Kachin State, on 4 December and donated K100,000 to the training course’s fund.

A total of 600 trainees from townships in Mohnyin District attended the five-day course. The Buddhist cultural courses were conducted at monasteries every Sunday. But the cultural instructor course lectured by Buddhist monks of Yedaguntataung Dhamma Monastery in Mandalay was conducted for the first time in Mohnyin. —GNLM-001

Thriving tobacco plantations contribute to livelihoods of local farmers

MYINGYAN, 9 Dec — Farmers in Hsimeekhon Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, are engaged in cultivation of tobacco on plantations.

“Tobacco plants can be grown in September and harvested in February and March. The leaves must be dried up for sale in June and July. Farmers can earn about K200,000 per 100 viss (160 kilos),” said a local farmer.

“Over 7,000 plants per acre can be cultivated on the farmland. One acre plot of plantation can yield over 700 viss (840 kilos) of tobacco. Dried tobacco leaves are transported to the market in Mandalay. Sometimes, brokers from Shwebo arrive in the village to purchase the tobacco leaves. Yield and quality depend on species of tobacco and growing technique. Quality tobacco leaves can fetch K200,000 per 1.6 kilos,” he added.

Over 200 farmers are residing in Hsimeekhon Village. They put 600 acres of farmland under tobacco plantations to earn family income.

“Local people grow tobacco on plantations as their traditional farming works. The tobacco leaves produced from Hsimeekhon Village are marketable. Thanks to tobacco plantations, I supported four sons and daughters to graduate from university,” said local farmer U Myint. Despite residing in rural areas, the local farmers have adequate knowledge about the Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) French photographer Christophe Loviny explains photography skills.

Mandalarians get opportunities to study advanced photographic course

MANDALAY, 9 Dec — The advanced photographic course was opened at the French Centre Hall on 80th street between 24th and 25th streets in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 8 December.

French photographer Christophe Loviny shared his experiences on taking photographs, organizing photo galleries and technology for photo essay works.

French photographer Christophe Loviny explains photography skills.
UN to widen Libya peace talks by including rival parliament

Tripoli, 9 Dec — The United Nations will widen a new round of talks aimed at ending Libya’s escalating political crisis by including a rival assembly challenging the recognized government, its special envoy said on Monday.

Libya has had two governments and parliaments competing for legitimacy since a group called Libya Dawn seized Tripoli in August, installing its cabinet and forcing the recognized Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni to the east.

World powers fear the conflict will lead to civil war as former rebel groups that helped oust Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 now fight for power and a share of the vast oil reserves.

The United Nations had launched a first round of talks in September bringing together the elected House of Representatives and members from the city of Misrata linked to Libya Dawn who had boycotted the assembly.

A second round of talks was meant to start on Tuesday after the first produced no progress. UN Special Envoy Bernardino Leon said during a visit to Tripoli that they would be postponed until the beginning of next week to give more time to work out details.

Leon said the dialogue would include members of a rival assembly in Tripoli, the General National Congress (GNC), the country’s previous assembly reinstated by the new rulers in the capital.

“So this dialogue should be based on respect. And we have agreed tonight that this respect will mean that the representatives from this house will be attending the dialogue considering themselves representatives of the GNC,” Leon said after meeting GNC President Nouri Abu Sahmain.

“But they will accept that these talks will have different views,” he said, standing in a GNC building behind a banner saying “State of Libya. Presidency of the General National Congress.”

Leon might find it hard to sell the inclusion of the GNC to the House or Representatives when he visits its members based in the remote eastern city of Tobruk on Tuesday.

He dodged a question whether his plans means the UN drops its position that the house is the sole legitimate assembly, a view shared so far also by global powers.

Leon said a recent Supreme Court ruling invalidating the House of Representatives had changed the situation though some critics say the judges were hardly free since they are based in Tripoli.

“We all agreed that the ruling of the court implied changes in the country,” he said. “What is important is to have a dialogue where each one has its view and they accept the views of the others,” he said. He said talks were focusing on forming eventually a national unity government but reaching smaller steps such as local ceasefire were key to start a broader dialogue.—Reuters

US allies to send about 1,500 troops to Iraq commander

Kuwait City, 9 Dec — US allies have committed to send about 1,500 forces to Iraq to help train and advise Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers battling the Islamic State, which increasingly appears on the defensive, the top US commander guiding the coalition effort said on Monday.

Lieutenant General James Terry, commander of Operation Inherent Resolve targeting the militants in Iraq and Syria, said the forces would come on top of the up to 3,100 troops US President Barack Obama has authorized to deploy to Iraq.

The allies’ commitments were made during a conference among coalition members on 2-3 December.

“When you start now to balance the different capabilities out across the coalition, I think we’re doing pretty well in terms of boots on the ground,” Terry told reporters travelling with Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel in Kuwait.

Since Islamic State’s June offensive, the Sunni militants have had little success breaking beyond the solidly Sunni Muslim provinces of Anbar in the west and Salahuddin north of Baghdad, as well as the strongly Sunni province of Nineveh, home to the city of Mosul which the Islamsists overran in June.

At the same time, the Iraqi and Kurdish forces have been able to tout important gains, including securing Mosul dam.

Although the Islamic State still conducted limited attacks, the group appeared broadly “on the defence, trying to hold what they have gained,” Terry said.

“When you look at some places out in Anbar, it’s a little bit stalemated out there. And we’ve got some work to do. And I think it’s do-able,” Terry said.

Hagel, speaking to reporters after the Pentagon chief visited US troops in Kuwait, said he wasn’t ready to say the Islamic State was “on the ropes.” But he noted recent gains had given Iraqi and Kurdish forces new momentum.

Terry declined to say which countries would contribute the roughly 1,500 troops — the final number was still being determined — but added most would be involved with training.

He said the troops would represent a broad mix from a anti-Islamic State coalition that, on the military side, now included nearly 40 countries. The US-led coalition has also carried out air strikes in Iraq since August.

Asked about Obama’s critics in Washington who say more US forces are needed, Terry said: “I’m comfortable with the boots on the ground that I have right now.”—Reuters

US troops stand at attention next to an Abrams tank as they wait for the arrival of US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel at Camp Buehring, Kuwait on 8 Dec, 2014.—Reuters

Suicide attacks kill five in eastern Yemen army base

Aden, 9 Dec — Two suicide car bombs exploded at an army headquarters in eastern Yemen on Tuesday, killing five people, security sources said.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which operates in eastern Yemen, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying on its Twitter account that it had killed and wounded dozens. Gunshots rang out amid the blasts at the compound in Seyoun, the second largest city in Hadramout province, said officials. Witnesses saw plumes of smoke rising into the air.

Security officials said the bombers’ cars detonated hand assessments,” he told reporters on Monday before his visit.—Reuters

Hagel arrives in Baghdad as US touts momentum against Islamic State

Baghdad, 9 Dec — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel arrived in Baghdad on an unannounced visit on Tuesday, as the United States expands its presence and touts momentum against Islamic State militants four months after starting a campaign of air strikes in Iraq.

“This is a long term effort. It’s difficult. There will be setbacks. There will be victories. So I think that’s where we are and it will take time to get to the point,” he said.

Hagel, speaking to reporters after the Pentagon chief visited US troops in Kuwait, said he wasn’t ready to say the Islamic State was “on the ropes.” But he noted recent gains had given Iraqi and Kurdish forces new momentum.

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Nouri Abusahmain, the head of Libya’s General National Congress (GNC) (R) meets with Bernardino Leon (L) Special Representative United Nations (UN) for Libya in Tripoli on 9 Dec, 2014.—Reuters

Islamic State

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks to members of the media after visiting with US troops at Camp Buehring, Kuwait on 8 Dec, 2014. (Reuters)

Hand assessments,” he told reporters on Monday before his visit.—Reuters
Oil reaches new depths, rush to safety rescues yen

SYDNEY, 9 Dec — Oil prices skidded to fresh five-year lows on Tuesday, pressuring commod-
ity-linked currencies and most Asian shares as a bout of risk aversion rippled
through world markets.

The urge for safety gave a rare boost to the Jap-

anese yen which notched up particularly large gains on the beleaguered Aus-

tralian and New Zealand dollars.

Much of the action was in oil where a glut of supply has seen prices fall for almost six months now, so pressuring energy stocks and commodity-related as-

sets globally.

Brent crude shed 70 cents to $65.49 a barrel, while US crude futures lost another 46 cents to $62.59. Both had already tumbled more than 4 percent on Monday on expectations that a deepening oil glut would keep prices under pressure into the new year.

Prices are likely to re-
amain around $65 a barrel for the next six to seven

months until the glob-
al economy recovers or OPEC changes its produc-
tion policy, the head of Kuwait's state oil company said.

While falling energy prices are a boon for con-
sumer spending power in much of the world, it was bad news for resource stocks like Australia's San-
tos which shed almost 8 percent.

The pain spread across the main Australian share

index which skidded 1.7 percent, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pa-
cific shares outside Japan fell 0.8 percent to a sev-

en-week trough.

Spread betters predict-
ted the FTSE, DAX and CAC 40 would all open around 0.4 percent lower.

Japan's Nikkei eased 0.8 percent, but that fol-
lows a run of hefty gains which took it to the highest

since mid-2007.

Chinese shares have

also been on a tear and

Tuesday was no excep-
tion as the CSI300 index powered up another 3 per-
cent to peaks last visited in April 2011. It has now

climbed by a third in just three weeks.

In currency markets, the yen benefited as nerv-
ous speculators cut back on short positions. The dollar

daded to 120.15 yen, and away from Monday's high of 121.86, while the euro

retreated to 148.00.

The Australian dollar was a major loser, reflect-
ing the country's position as a major commodity ex-
porter, and slid a full yen to

99.04.

The selling spread to

the Chinese yuan which was heading for its largest one-day drop since 2008 as corporates bailed out on expectations of further monetary easing.

Spot yuan slid nearly half a percent to 6.2007 per
dollar, accelerating a de-

cline that began when Chi-

na's central bank surprised markets last month by cut-

ting interest rates.

Not helping risk appe-

tite was a Wall Street Jour-

nal report that Fed official were seriously considering dropping an assurance that short-term interest rates will stay near zero for a “considerable time”.

Such a move would be taken as a sign the central bank was on target to start raising interest rates around the middle of next year, a view that has gained great traction since last week’s surprisingly strong payrolls report.

Yields on two-year Treasury debt has spiked to highs not seen since

2011 while the whole yield curve has flattened marked-
ly as investors wager Fed action will keep inflation low over the long run.

The lack of inflation-

ary pressure combined with a rising US dollar kept prices on the back foot. Spot price-
es were stuck at $1.20 on Tuesday after shedding a couple of bucks the previ-

ous session.

Shoppers queue
to purchase retail items on
“Black Friday”
at an Asda
superstore in Wembley, north
London on 28

Reuters

‘Black Friday’ discounts boost retail sales in November

LONDON, 9 Dec — A “Black Friday” shopping spree
pushed British retail sales growth to a three-

month high in November as shoppers splashed out on household goods and furni-
ture, according to an indus-
try survey on Tuesday.

The British Retail

Council (BRC) said total retail spending was 2.2 percent higher in No-

vember compared with the same month a year ago and compared with 1.4 percent

growth in the year to Octo-

ber.

On a like-for-like basis — a measure that strips out
changes in floor space and

is preferred by equity ana-

lysts — retail sales rose 0.9 percent, after no change in October.

Britain’s economic

recovery has been driven

mostly by spending by consumers. Wages have grown slowly since the fi-

nancial crisis, but a fall in infla-
tion to its lowest levels in five years has helped re-

store some lost purchasing power.

For the first time, most

British retailers fully em-

braced US-style Black Fri-

day promotions this year, helping to kick off spending early in the key Christmas period.

BRC Director General

Helen Dickinson said even retailers that didn’t dis-

count for Black Friday saw

sales increase last month.

“These are encourag-

ing signs in the run-up to Christmas, when consum-

ers will likely want to push

the boat out even more,”

Dickinson said. Spending on food again fell dur-

ing November, albeit at a slower pace — down 1.2 percent year-on-year com-

pared with a 1.4 percent decline in October.

British supermarkets are in the midst of a price

war as established retailers

such as Tesco TSCO.L and

Wal-Mart’s Asda WMT.N

try to fend off German discount chains Aldi and Lidl, which have increased their market share recently. A survey commis-

sioned by Barclays found that 65 percent of British retailers that sell both on

line and in stores planned Black Friday promotions.

Police were called in
to control crowds that had gathered overnight in Lon-

don, Manchester, Cardiff and Glasgow, drawn by

cheap televisions, kitchen

facilities is a fraction of rates

during the mid-eighties and 90s.

Globally, 54 percent in Afri-

can countries are infected

every year.

The next few years

are going to be critical to show that we can main-

tain momentum and build on the gains,” said Pedro

Alonso, director of the WHO’s global malaria pro-

gramme. In West Africa, the report said, the deadly

ebola outbreak has had a “devastating impact” on

care and the roll-out of malaria control

programmes.

“Several years of

progress against malaria’s impact across

sub-Saharan Africa, it also

found that despite a 43 per-

cent increase in population, fewer people in the region

are infected every year.

Yet progress against

ebola — all severely hit by

the Ebola epidemic — many inpa-
tient clinics are closed and

there is a resurgence of malaria, the WHO said.

In an analysis of malaria’s impact across

West African countries

most affected by the 2014

ebola epidemic, a major

component in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustain-

able Development, it was

stressed that in many settings

the impact of malaria remains

significant. Yet progress against malaria’s impact across

sub-Saharan Africa, it also

found that despite a 43 per-

cent increase in population, fewer people in the region

are infected every year.

The next few years

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tain momentum and build on the gains,” said Pedro

Alonso, director of the WHO’s global malaria pro-

gramme. In West Africa, the report said, the deadly

ebola outbreak has had a “devastating impact” on malaria treatment and the roll-out of malaria control

programmes.
Lava flows toward Hawaii village, threatens major intersection

By TASS

Last month, the river of lava incinerated a house, the only home drowned by the stream of molten rock.

Officials declared the new outbreak to be the leading edge of the flow on 1 December and have been monitoring it closely as it moves 100-400 yards in a northerly direction each day.

If lava reaches the intersection, where a grocery store and dozens of other businesses line the road, it will sever the main thoroughfare for nearly 10,000 residents who live in the southern district of the island.

County officials moved quickly this summer to ready two roads further east of the highway, although they won’t be open to the public until the views of the community.

Instead the government will cut the rebate it pays to doctors, he said, encouraging them to charge adults a A$5 fee at the discretion while chil- dren, the elderly and those on state allowances would be exempt.

The government said that the changes would save A$3.5 billion over four years — A$100 million less than originally proposed in the budget.

Abbott is nearing the end of his first full year in office hobbled by mis- steps and a souring econ- omy.

Faced with a collapse in prices for commodities, produced by Australia, and an unruly upper house Senate that has held Ab- bott’s first budget hostage since May, voters have abandoned his conserva- tive government more quickly than any other in three decades.

Australia, by far the world’s biggest exporter of iron ore and coal, has been battered by a world- wide fall in commodity prices. Iron prices have plunged 44 percent so far this year to under $76 a tonne.

Abbott warned about ballooning deficits when he released a budget packed with deregulation moves, new levies and spending cuts, but the public has never accepted his plan.

Last week Educa- tion Minister Christopher Pyne sealed the government’s wish to deregulate university fees after failing to garner enough votes to push it through parliament.

On Sunday Ab- bott succumbed to pres- sure and radically pared back his signature land- mark paid parental leave scheme, which had up- set big business and many in his own party.

China’s stealth fighter could ‘take down’ foreign rival

By TASS

Beijing, 9 Dec — Chi- na’s new stealth fighter could certainly “take down” its opponent in the sky, the president of China’s top aircraft maker said on Tues- day, referring to its US- made counterpart.

Lin Zuoming, president of Aviation Industry Corp of China (Avic), which developed the J-31 stealth fighter, made the remarks in an interview on state broad- castor China Central Televi- sion (CCTV).

"When it comes to the sky, it can definitely take it down," he said, in a reference to the US-made F-35. "That’s a certainty." Lin also emphasised the company’s desire to compete with the United States in new markets, par- ticularly countries that the US will not sell military equip- ment to as well as countries that cannot afford the prici- er F-35.

"The next-generation air forces that are unable to buy the F-35 have no way to build themselves up. We don’t believe the situation should be that way," he said. "This world should be balanced," Lin added.

"Good things shouldn’t all be pushed to one party.”

China unveiled the highly anticipated twin-engi- ne fighter jet at an air show last month, a show of muscle during a visit to the country by US President Barack Obama.

Stealth aircraft are key to China developing the ability to carry out both off-ensive and defensive oper-ations, the Pentagon said in a report about developments in China’s military.

The J-31 is China’s second domestically pro-duced stealth fighter jet.

President Xi Jinping has pushed to toughen the country’s 2.3 million-strong armed forces as China takes a more assertive stance in the region, particularly in the South China and East China seas.

Australian government drops universal healthcare changes

By Reuters

SYDNEY, 9 Dec — Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Tuesday aban- doned a plan to radically reshape Australia’s uni- versal healthcare system by charging patients a fee to see their doctor, a major backflip for his struggling conser- vative government.

The A$7 (£5) “co-payment” fee, which had been included in an unpopular May budget, was heavily criticised by the opposition and many in the healthcare sphere as a sign that Australia was moving toward a US health- care model.

The policy reversal is the latest in a string for Abbott, whose Lib- eral-National coalition government has hit record low approval ratings.

The $7 Medicare co-payment measure was an- nounced in the 2014-15 Budget will no longer proceed,” Abbott said in a Press release. “The gov- ernment has listened to the views of the commu- nity.”

Instead the govern- ment will cut the rebate it pays to doctors, he said, encouraging them to charge adults a A$5 fee at the discretion while chil- dren, the elderly and those on state allowances would be exempt.

The government said that the changes would save A$3.5 billion over four years — A$100 million less than originally proposed in the budget.

Abbott is nearing the end of his first full year in office hobbled by mis- steps and a souring econ- omy.

Faced with a collapse in prices for commodities, produced by Australia, and an unruly upper house Senate that has held Ab- bott’s first budget hostage since May, voters have abandoned his conserva- tive government more quickly than any other in three decades.

Australia, by far the world’s biggest exporter of iron ore and coal, has been battered by a world- wide fall in commodity prices. Iron prices have plunged 44 percent so far this year to under $76 a tonne.

Abbott warned about ballooning deficits when he released a budget packed with deregulation moves, new levies and spending cuts, but the public has never accepted his plan.

Last week Educa- tion Minister Christopher Pyne sealed the government’s wish to deregulate university fees after failing to garner enough votes to push it through parliament.

On Sunday Ab- bott succumbed to pres- sure and radically pared back his signature land- mark paid parental leave scheme, which had up- set big business and many in his own party.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

Despite significant accomplishments this year — concluding free trade deals with Japan, South Korea and Chi- na, and hosting the G20 leaders summit — the La- bour Party opposition has surged ahead of the gov- ernment by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent in the latest Newspoll re- leased on 18 Novem- ber.

A J-31 stealth fighter of Chinese People’s Liber- ation Army Air Force is seen during a test flight ahead of the 10th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, on 10 Nov, 2014.
### Weather Report

**BAY INERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th December, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State, weather will be generally fair in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions, Shan State and partly cloudy 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:** Increase of night temperature in the Southern Myanmar Areas.

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### Claims Day Notice

**MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (131)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (131) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7JO20R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7JO20R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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### Executive plane crashes into Maryland house, kills six

**GAITHERSBURG, (Maryland), 9 Dec — An executive jet crashed into a Maryland house on Monday, killing all three people aboard the plane and a mother and two children inside the house, a fire official said.**

The pilot of the jet who died in the crash had previously crashed a plane destined for the same airport in 2010, according to records.

The Embraer SA twin-engine Phenom 100 crashed into a home about one mile (1.6 km) from the Montgomery County Airpark in Gaithersburg, a Washington suburb.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the plane was registered to Michael Rosenberg, an adjunct professor of epidemiology at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and CEO of clinical research company Health Decisions, Inc.

In 2010, Rosenberg crashed another airplane near Monday’s wreck site, although there were no injuries in that crash, according to the Transportation Safety Board records. The 2010 accident occurred at the Montgomery County Airpark, also Rosenberg’s destination on Monday, when he lost control while landing and crashed into trees, according to records.

Monday’s crash killed Rosenberg who was piloting the aircraft and the two other people on board, as well as a mother and two children in the home, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue spokesman Peter Piringer said on Twitter.

“The crash sparked a fire that destroyed two homes, and three others were damaged,” Piringer said. “There were no injuries in this crash, as far as we know.”

The plane had departed from an airport on the Chapel Hill campus at 9:30 am, an NTSB spokesman told a news conference on Monday night.

Investigators, who were expected to be on the scene for up to seven days, will examine the experience and training of the pilot, weather factors, engine condition and interview the aircraft controller who handled the attempted landing, NTSA spokesman Robert Sumwalt said.

“They will also look into a possible bird strike.”

“Our mission is to find out what happened and why it happened so it will never happen again,” Sumwalt told the news conference.

Witnesses told local media that the plane had been circling with the wheels down, and looked as if it was struggling for control. — Reuters

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**Executive plane crashes into Maryland house, kills six**

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### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (21/2014)

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>IFB-116(14-15)</td>
<td>Choke and Manifold (2) Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>IFB-117(14-15)</td>
<td>2.38” &amp; 2 7/8” Tubing (2) Items</td>
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**Tender Closing Date & Time**

- IFB-117(14-15): 7-1-2015, 16:30 Hr

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**Global New Light of Myanmar**
Minami Takahashi says to leave all-girl pop group AKB48 next year

TOKYO, 9 Dec — Minami Takahashi, one of the best-known members of Japanese all-girl pop group AKB48, said on Monday she is planning to leave the group in one year on 8 Dec, 2015, the 10th anniversary of the group’s formation.

Takahashi, 23, made the announcement during an anniversary show in Tokyo, according to its management. The group debuted on stage on 8 Dec, 2005.

Takahashi was one of the group’s original members along with Atsuko Maeda, 23, who left in 2012.

Kyodo News

Peter Jackson honoured with star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec — Filmmaker Peter Jackson was awarded with the 2,538th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The 53-year-old movie director was supported by his wife Fran Walsh and “The Hobbit” stars like Andy Serks, Evangeline Lilly, Orlando Bloom, Elijah Wood, Lee Pace and Richard Armitage at the unveiling which took place at the Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles, reported Ace Showbiz.

“This street here — the first time I ever saw it was when I was 12 years old in 1974 when my mum and dad brought me here on a trip. I had been making movies in New Zealand on my Super 8 camera for three or four years and I walked down the street and I looked at these stars and I never ever in my wildest dreams thought I’d be here today,” he said after accepting the honour. Jackson’s upcoming movie “The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies”, which is the third and final instalment of “The Hobbit” trilogy, is scheduled to hit theaters on 17 December.—PTI

‘Birdman,’ ‘Boyhood’ ‘Unbroken’ among AFI’s top 2014 films

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec — From “Birdman” to “Unbroken,” the American Film Institute (AFI) selected an eclectic range of films already gaining momentum in the Hollywood awards race as its top picks for 2014, the organization said on Monday.

Breaking the traditional selection of 10 films for the first time, the annual AFI list compiled 11 picks, including “American Sniper,” “Boyhood,” “Foxcatcher,” “The Imitation Game,” “Interstellar,” “Into the Woods,” “Nightcrawler,” “Selma” and “Whiplash.”

“Unbroken,” based on the life of Olympian Louis Zamperini and directed by Angelina Jolie, earned its first notable awards mention, as well as Disney’s upcoming musical “Into the Woods” and Christopher Nolan’s space fantasy “Interstellar.”

Richard Linklater’s “Boyhood,” filmed over 12 years and following a boy’s coming-of-age tale, was awarded best picture by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association over the weekend and won best film, director and supporting actress at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards last week.

The AFI selections, made by a jury of AFI members, scholars, TV and film artists and critics, come ahead of the Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe nominations this week.

The three sets of picks often indicate the frontrunners for February’s Oscars top categories.

The 2015 Oscar nominations will be announced on 15 January.

Peter Jackson (front C) attends the ceremony honouring him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in Hollywood, California, the United States, on 8 Dec, 2014. Oscar-winning New Zealand director Peter Jackson was honoured with the 2,538th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Monday.—Reuters

Sam Smith celebrates Grammy nominations with sparkling water

LONDON, 9 Dec — “Stay With Me” singer Sam Smith celebrated his Grammy-award nominations with a bottle of fizzy water along with his fellow singer and nominated pal, Ed Sheeran.

The 22-year-old singer did not go wild after discovering he had been put forward for six awards, reported Contactmusic. “I was with Ed on the day it happened. We went for lunch and had sushi. But no drink was involved so it wasn’t a proper celebration,” he said.

The ‘In The Lonely Hour’ hitmaker said, later he grabbed a bottle of champagne and celebrated the nods in solitude. “I had one glass of champagne in bed, by myself. It really was ‘in the lonely hour’. There was no one with me. I had to make the most of my three hours’ sleep. But tonight I’ll have a bottle of wine in my room with my make-up artist,” Smith said.

Smith is nominated for Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best New Artist, Best Pop Vocal Album and Best Pop Solo Performance.

The 57th Annual Grammy Awards will be held on 8 February, 2015 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.—PTI
General view of Albert Einstein Hospital where Brazilian soccer legend Pele is in the intensive care unit in Sao Paulo on 28 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

**Brazil football legend Pele to leave hospital on Tuesday**

**Sao Paulo, 9 Dec —** Brazilian football legend Pele has overcome a urinary tract infection and will be discharged from the hospital where he had kidney stones removed three weeks ago, his doctors said on Monday.

“Considering his good recovery, the medical team programmed his release for tomorrow,” the doctors at Sao Paulo’s Albert Einstein hospital said in a statement.

The three-time World Cup champion underwent surgery to remove kidney stones on 13 November, but was readmitted 10 days later with a urinary tract infection that required dialysis. At one point, he was moved into a hospital wing used for more intensive care.

The 74-year-old Pele, who is often called the greatest football player in history, assured fans that he had recovered in a video released on Friday that showed him smiling and strumming a guitar with family members by his side.

**Rio 2016 late swimming final plans come under fire**

**London, 9 Dec —** Plans to hold late night swimming finals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics are “outrageous”, says England swimming’s head coach Jon Rudd, joining a growing campaign opposing the plan.

A final competition schedule has yet to be officially approved by the International Olympic Committee but they said on Friday that a proposal to hold later medal races to fit mainly with American television had been accepted.

The plans, which would see some finals start as late as 2200 local time to maximise audiences in the United States, have already drawn criticism from Australia Olympic Committee President John Coates, who said it would place an “unreasonable demand” on athletes.

Rudd has now added his voice to the ‘Say No to Night Swimming’ campaign that is gathering pace among competitors and coaches across the world.

“It’s outrageous. The best way to describe it is disrespectful to athletes, disrespectful to the event and what the Olympics means,” he told website swimvortex.com.

Rudd, who also mentors Lithuania’s Ruta Meilutytė, the Olympic 100 metres breaststroke champion, said there would be serious issues caused by the late night finals because swimmers would not finish until the early hours of the morning after they had warmed down and faced the media.

“If you are asking me is it the right decision and were the swimmers consulted and were the swimmers’ performances thought about in that decision then, no,” Rudd said.

“Now we’ll get on with it but it’s a shame that that is the decision we’ve come to as a sport.

“It’s a really disappointing outcome. There also seems to be a lot of smoke and mirrors: IOC saying it’s FINA, FINA saying it’s IOC and then both saying the athletes are fine with it when they are clearly not. It’s a shame.

“For a lot of guys it will be the pinnacle of their career and they don’t get the right environment to maybe produce the performances you’d hope they’d produce,” he added.

This is not the first time the timing of the swimming finals at the Olympics has been criticised, with the Beijing 2008 Games switching finals to the morning to coincide with prime-time viewing in the US despite some complaints from athletes.

Medal races at the 2012 Games in London started no later than 2100 local time.

**Delhi to ban all internet taxi firms after Uber rape claim**

**New Delhi, 9 Dec —** India’s capital has decided to ban all internet-based taxi firms after a female passenger reported she was raped by a driver contracted to US online cab company Uber, a government official said on Tuesday.

The Delhi transport department issued a public notice in a national newspaper stating that only six registered radio taxi companies are allowed to operate in New Delhi.

“We have banned Uber. Another public notice will be issued tomorrow for banning all non-registered cab service providers. It’s almost done,” said Kuldeep Singh Gargar, spokesman of the transport department.

Uber was blacklisted in New Delhi on Monday after police said it had failed to run background checks on the driver, who was arrested three years ago in a similar case but later acquitted.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh may issue a statement to parliament calling on India’s federal states and union territories to ban Uber, the Indian Express newspaper reported.

The company operates in around 10 Indian cities. A representative for Uber said the company had not been officially notified of any ban in New Delhi and would issue a statement later on Tuesday.

It was still possible to hail an Uber taxi in the Indian capital using the company’s smartphone application on Tuesday.

**Deforestation cuts into climate change goals: TRFN**

**Rome, 9 Dec —** Mines, palm oil plantations, large farms and mining projects are contributing to an alarming pace of forest destruction, a new report has found, hampering efforts to curb global warming.

Satellite imagery indicates that more than 30,000 hectares of forest are lost daily, said the report, “Securing Forests, Securing Rights”, launched in Peru on Monday by a coalition of rights groups during international climate change talks.

“Forests play a key role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; chopping them down worsens global warming.

Over the last decade an average total of 13 million hectares of forest have been cleared annually, with tropical forests particularly affected.

“The expansion of industries like mining, palm oil and agribusiness are the hidden drivers of deforestation,” Helen Tungendant, a coordinator with the Forest Peoples Programme, one of the groups who researched the report, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“The report aims to show that indigenous communities who live in the world’s forests are often the custodians of the land for maintaining trees and slowing climate change.

But governments looking to spur economic growth are keen to exploit resources from forested areas, Tungendant said, often triggering the displacement of indigenous communities.

**Pele has overcome a urinary tract infection**

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Members of the media visit the Maria Lenk Aquatic Centre, which will undergo renovation to stage diving and synchronised swimming competitions during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, during the 2nd world press briefing for the games in Rio de Janeiro on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

A visitor observes monarch butterflies in a sacred fir forest, in Morelia, of Michoacan State, Mexico, on 7 Dec, 2014.—Xinhua

**Policemen escort driver Shiv Kumar Yadav (C in black jacket) who is accused of a rape outside a court in New Delhi on 8 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS**
Van Persie brace lifts United to third

LONDON, 9 Dec — Robin van Persie, who joined Manchester United from Arsenal in 2012, scored twice in front of the Old Trafford faithful as United defeated West Ham 2-1 to move seven points clear of fourth-placed Southampton. The game was United’s first Premier League victory of the season.

New Delhi, 9 Dec — With a crop of talented young players such as Kei Nishikori and Milos Raonic, the recent Davis Cup final and the Davis Cup. The new crop threatens ‘Big Four’ hegemony, says Djokovic

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Manchester United’s Robin van Persie (R) scores his team’s second goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Southampton at St Mary’s Stadium in Southampton, southern England on 8 Dec, 2014.—Reuters

Calculators out for Roma-City decider

ROME, 9 Dec — The calculators will be out in force as AS Roma and Manchester City clash for a place in the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday with outsiders CSKA Moscow lurking in the background.

New crop threatens ‘Big Four’ hegemony, says Djokovic

Tomas Berdych (R) takes a ‘selfie’ with fellow tennis players (L to R) Roger Federer, Stan Wawrinka, Novak Djokovic, Kei Nishikori, Andy Murray, Milos Raonic and Marin Cilic at the O2 Arena in London 7 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

Chinese footballer Zhang Xie expected to sign with Wolfsburg, report

Beijing, 9 Dec — China’s rising football star Zhang Xie is expected to sign German Bundesliga club Wolfsburg in about a week’s time, according to reports here on Tuesday.

The Beijing Guo’an midfielder Zhang Xie will be transferred to the German club in mid-December, Chinese portal Sina.com said.

It said if Zhang spends too much time on the bench in Wolfsburg, Guo’an will welcome the 23-year-old back to the Chinese Super League powerhouse.

If Zhang inks the deal, he will become the fourth Chinese player in the Bundesliga after Yang Chen, Shao Juyi and Hao Junmin.

Zhang was named the Best New Football Player of Chinese Super League in 2012. But he did not make the 31-man roster for Asian Cup recently unveiled by national team coach Alain Perrin.

Tatsuo Kikuchi/Reuters

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