**All national races coming together to turn Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and prosperous democracy, are a matter of utmost importance**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Dec** — The following is unofficial translation of the message sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day.

**Esteemed national people in Rakhine State,**

I am honoured to extend my warmest greetings to all the brethren residing in Rakhine State on this auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of Rakhine State Day, which falls on 15 December.

It was on 15 December 1975 that the Rakhine State People’s Council held a referendum on the approval of the State Constitution of 1974, which designated Rakhine as a state. Rakhine State has since celebrated its birthday without missing a single year.

Rakhine boasts the Rakhine mountain ranges stretching from the north to the south, the Bay of Bengal, the pleasant Ngapali beach, the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port and the fertile terrain in the north, all of which are rich in aboveground and underground natural resources. Mrauk-U, a medieval town and archaeological site, is regarded as a repository of invaluable cultural heritage.

In Rakhine State, the government has done everything in its capacity to develop human resources by opening universities, colleges, technical high schools and basic education schools, and to provide proper health care by opening hospitals and clinics. In addition, steps are being taken to develop the region’s electricity grid in a bid to light every part of Rakhine State. Transport facilities, such as highways, internal roads and railroads are being extended to ensure better links with other states and regions. Natural resources, human resources, the Kyaukpyu special economic zone project, the Ponnagyun industrial zone project and the Kaladan River Basin development project all show great promise of infrastructural development in the region.

The violence that broke out between the two communities in Rakhine State has now remained stable. It is therefore imperative that the people of Rakhine State, while maintaining the stability that has been achieved, should work in tandem with both the union government and the regional government for the all-round development of the region.

All national races coming together to turn the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and prosperous democracy, are a matter of the utmost importance. In doing so, all national people of the Rakhine State are urged to join hands in unity and amity.

**Myanmar attempts to find new markets for its handicrafts and hand-woven textiles**

**By Khaiing Thanda Lwin**

YANGON, 14 Dec — “Made in Myanmar 2”, the second art exhibition of traditional textile and crafts, has been launched at the River Ayeyawady Gallery here on Saturday, with the aim of introducing the arts of Myanmar to foreigners and encouraging the development of social enterprises in the country.

The event is being organized by Sunflowers Group from 13 to 19 December in partnership with 13 producers of traditional handicrafts and hand-woven textiles. High quality products of the arts made from waste materials are on sale at fair prices at the exhibition, where visitors can view how textiles are woven in a traditional way, the River Ayeyawady Gallery told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

An American visitor stated that she found all handmade crafts on display enchanting, especially textiles made from lotus, and described the exhibition as a ‘wonderful event’.

According to event organizers, lotus textiles are rarer and more expensive than silk ones.

The Sunflowers Group said that it has plans to organize similar exhibitions on a large scale every year, adding that the group aims to expand the market for traditional hand-woven textiles in cooperation with local weaving schools.

Currently, the group has established trade links with four weaving schools in the country in a bid to improve the quality of Myanmar traditional handicrafts.

Japan and America are major importers of Myanmar traditional handicrafts, according to the Sunflowers Group.

The River Ayeyawady Gallery noted that the traditional textile industry generated more profits this year than last year, expecting to witness a further boom in the future.

**MFF donates 1,000 footballs to Shan State**

TAUNGGYI, 14 Dec — President U Zaw Zaw of Myanmar Football Federation presented 1,000 footballs to Shan State Minister for Finance U Khin Thein Maung on behalf of the Shan State government and Shan State Education Officer U Chit Swe on behalf of the union government.

The violence that broke out between the two communities in Rakhine State has now remained stable. It is therefore imperative that the people of Rakhine State, while maintaining the stability that has been achieved, should work in tandem with both the union government and the regional government for the all-round development of the region.

Tourists are enchanted by the sights of handmade textiles on display at the art exhibition “Made in Myanmar 2”, which takes place at River Ayeyawady Gallery on 35th Street (Middle) in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

President U Zaw Zaw of Myanmar Football Federation hands over footballs to an official for development of the game in Shan State.—MFF

Japanese Ambassador hosts reception to mark 60th Anniversary of establishment of Japan-Myanmar ties

Laws are to protect every citizen

**Better public-private partnership critical for success of national economic goals**

**Union A&I Minister views round thriving plantations in Nay Pyi Taw**

**SWRR provides financial assistance to philanthropic organizations in Shan State**

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**Horizon School organizes Streetball Tournament in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 14 Dec — The awarding of 10th Horizon Streetball Tournament 2014 was held at the basketball hall of Horizon School in Chanayethazan Township on 13 December. Altogether 40 teams from basic education schools participated in the tournament. Warriors team stood first, Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) (B) team, second and SPEI (C), third in the men’s U-16 event. In the women’s U-16 event, A, B and C teams of SPEI (Mandalay) secured the first, second and third prizes. In the men’s open event, Fox team won the first prize, Streak team the second and Future Kids team the third.

Ma Yadana Oo of SPEI (Mandalay) (B) and Kyaw Zin Myo of Streak team secured the best player awards.

Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department, SPEI (Mandalay) and the principal of Horizon School awarded the winners.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

**Kyemon, Myana Alinn dailies to publish Mandalay’s pages in 2015**

Mandalay, 14 Dec — A ceremony to introduce special pages of Myana Alinn and Kyemon dailies was held at the hall of Horizon School under the Ministry of Information and Public Relations Department in Aungmyethazan, Mandalay, on 11 December.

Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of News and Periodicals Enterprise explained to journalists.

U Nyunt Zaw of Mandalay Sub-Printing House also explained topics to be inserted into the pages for Mandalay news and plans to give honorarium to journalists.

Writers and journalists from Mandalay participated in discussions.

Four pages for Mandalay news will be published in both dailies every Wednesday and Saturday in 2015. In the future, Mandalay’s pages will be extended to 16 for daily publication.

Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**Tourist arrival in Mandalay in 2014 higher than 2013 tourism season**


In 2014 tourism season from September to November, the number of tourists scored 132,667 in Mandalay, exceeding over 30,000 tourists than the amount of last year.

A total of 109,195 tourists visited Mandalay last year’s tourism period from September to November, according to the statistics from Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department.

Most of the tourists visit Mandalay by bicycle. Using bicycles, they have more opportunities to visit various parts of the ancient city, said a couple of Australians.

“We can visit the destination by car but miss the chances to enjoy scenes and sites along the route. Now, we can visit various sites along the route by bicycle, minimizing travel cost. We do not need to be afraid of traffic accidents. Actually, Mandalayans give priority to tourists on the traffic ways,” an Australian tourist told media.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

**MASS WALK ACTIVITIES**

**Myawady dwellers join mass walk activity**

Myawady, 14 Dec — The mass walk activity for the second week of December was held in Myawady, Kayin State, on 13 December morning.

District and township level officials, members of social organizations and people, totalling over 1,500 participated in the mass walk activity. They started walking along Bayintnaung Road from the office of Township General Administration Department to the People’s Sports Ground where they took physical exercises.

Hsan Myo Ajung Company served participants of the mass walk activity with traditional foods and organized the lucky draw programme for the participants.

Thidar (Myawady)

**Region Minister views round production of factories, industries in Mandalay Industrial Zone**

Mandalay, 14 Dec — Mandalay Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Kyaw Myint together with departmental officials visited factories and industries in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 12 December.

The region minister observed production of factories and industries, purchase of raw materials, manufacturing of goods, payment of overtime charges for workers, social security, welfare tasks, tax payment, participation in social tasks, measures of fire prevention and worksite safety.

Officials of factories and industries reported on maintenance of roads in the industrial zone, and supply of power at full capacity. The minister fulfilled the requirements. —Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Better public-private partnership critical for success of national economic goals

YANGON, 14 Dec — A special task force responsible for promotion of trade and economy had a meeting with private organizations at the Ministry of Commerce here on Sunday, with an address by U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister at the President Office, sources said.

In his speech, the union minister stressed the need to continue cooperation and coordination between the government and private organizations for the development of the private sector, urging departmental officials to ask the special task force for advice on dealing with complex issues.

U Win Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, told the meeting that his ministry is reviewing rules and regulations necessary for the smooth conduct of bilateral trade between partner countries, noting that the country’s economic goals will yield fruitful results only through better public-private partnership.

The assigned responsibility of the special task force is to ensure that the accelerated measures of Myanmar’s Third Wave Reform are on a par with rules and regulations of the international community.

Union A&I Minister views round thriving plantations in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing on Saturday attended a reception to mark the 60th Anniversary of establishment of Japan-Myanmar relations at the resident of Japanese Ambassador on Natmauk Street here.

On the occasion, the union minister wished strengthening the existing relations between Japan and Myanmar. The Japanese Ambassador recognized efforts of Myanmar government during the tenure of ASEAN chairmanship.

AUN J Classic Orchestra, an eight-member Japanese group, entertained the audience with traditional music.

Union I&P minister views issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to students

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi viewed issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to students at Basic Education High School No 1 in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, recently.

The union minister, wife and family donated one set of computer and sports equipment and officials, one set of Sky Net receiver to the school. At Myaungmya BEHS No 6, the union minister explained issuance of the cards to the eligible citizens across the nation in implementation of the Moe Pyant Plan (7) and salient points of the cards.

Officials presented the cards for students to representatives from basic education schools.—MNA

Remnant Kokang insurgents ambush Tatmadaw columns

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Remnant Kokang insurgent groups launched an ambush on and sieged the Tatmadaw camp and the military column carrying out security duty in Namkyun, Wawchon, Monsi and Mongawlay, 10 miles north of Kunlong on 10 December afternoon.

The Tatmadaw troops were reinforced by other Tatmadaw columns and people’s militias near the area and were able to penetrate the siege and withdraw properly to Namkyun Operation Camp on 12 December.

During the siege, a total of 7 members of the Tatmadaw sacrificed their lives for the nation and 20 others were injured.

The remnant Kokang insurgent group launched unprovoked attacks on Tatmadaw camps and columns while the government is implementing the peace process and the Tatmadaw is determined to effectively counter the attacks in cooperation with the local people to protect the lives and property of them.—Myawady

Japanese Ambassador hosts reception to mark 60th Anniversary of establishment of Japan-Myanmar ties

YANGON, 14 Dec — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and song composers of Myanmar Music Association (central) discussed scrutiny of songs for the song contest in honour of farmers at the 900-organic vegetable farm in Ottarathiri Township on Sunday morning.

They viewed thriving vegetable and seasonal crops plantations. The union minister presented fruits from the plantations to musicians.

The union minister viewed progress of Vegetable and Fruit Modern Cold Storage project and gave instructions on timely completion of the project to be able to store quality seeds.

SWRR provides financial assistance to philanthropic organizations in Shan State

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presents cash to fund of social organizations.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided financial assistance to philanthropic organizations of seven districts in Shan State on 11 December, sources said.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin attended the opening of a training course on social protection and disaster risk reduction for voluntary youths in Lashio.

Speaking on the occasion, the union minister said that financial support is part of the efforts to undertake measures for poverty reduction and rural development and stop the country from being classified as least developed countries. She quoted the president as saying that the opening of such courses amounts to making investment in youths.

The union minister, local authorities and departmental officials provided K86.7 million for philanthropic organizations, nursery schools, primary schools and homes for the aged.—MNA
Region officials view progress of library renovation

Mandalay, 14 Dec
— The speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw and Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing inspected renovation of Alinyaung Library in East Amarayakani Village in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region, recently.

On 12 December, the speaker donated K500,000 and the region minister, K3 million to the library’s fund. They also donated sprayers for prevention of dengue hemorrhagic fever to ward authorities.

The library officials invite well-wishers to donate cash to the fund, dialing 09-2011470 of U Thein Aung, 09-402602914 of U Myint Thein and 09-33118519 of U Ko Ko Gyi.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Youth Development School accepts donations from Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Dec
— Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee provides rice, edible oil, gram and salt to Sama Hill Youth Development School in Lewe Township monthly.

The 32nd donation to the school took place at Aungzabu Hall of the school. Officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, families of staff and well-wishers donated foods to the school.

As of May 2012, the committee donates 50 bags of rice, 48 kilos of edible oil, 80 kilos of gram and 48 kilos of salt to the school monthly. So far, the committee has provided foods and edible oil worth over K30 million for 32 times.

The school is located on Sama Hill, four miles from Thawutti Town of Lewe Township. The school is looking after over 400 orphans from regions and states. The committee has donated uniforms for students, accommodation, school building, kitchen, furniture and stationery worth K226,463 million to the school.

NPT Development Committee

Basic education students get citizenship scrutiny cards in Myawady

Myawady, 14 Dec
— The issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards took place in Myitta Linmyaing Village, Myawady Township, Kayin State, sharing border with Thailand, on 13 December.

The council viewed keeping ancient Buddha images in the village Dhammayon, preparation for installation of a transformer for village electrification and placing of asphalt on the village road.

He also inspected progress of library in Letpankha village funded by the government and gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks.—Shwe Kokko

Thazar
(Myawady Town)

Nay Pyi Taw Council member oversees development tasks in Zabuthiri Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Dec
— Member of Nay Pi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt together with local authorities and departmental officials inspected reclamation of modern farmland being jointly undertaken by Korea International Cooperation Agency-KOICA and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 244.53 acres of farmland of 97 farmers in Yegyigon Village, Zabuthiri Township, on 13 December.

The council member explained improvement of farmlands of locals for uplift of their living standard.

In Alyinlo Village, the school viewed keeping ancient Buddha images in the village Dhammayon, preparation for installation of a transformer for village electrification and placing of asphalt on the village road.

He also inspected progress of library in Letpankha village funded by the government and gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks.—Shwe Kokko
Indian PM urges people to end “dynastic rule” in the region

Srinagar, (Indi-an-controlled Kashmir), 14 Dec — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed an election rally in Indian-controlled Kashmir, urging people to vote for Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and put an end to “dynastic rule” in the region. Modi addressed the rally in Kathua, about 332 km south of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir. Modi, senior leader of the right-wing Hindu nationalist BJP, launched an attack on India’s Congress party and the region’s two main parties ruling National Conference and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

“Non BJP governments are responsible for the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (Indian-controlled Kashmir) where people are still deprived of the basic necessities,” Modi told the rally. “If you punish them once, they will realize their mistake and would end on 20 December.”

Bangkok, 14 Dec — Thailand might not have a new general election until mid-2016, given the like-lihood of a referendum to be held after the drafting of a permanent constitution is completed, a renowned Thai academic said on Sunday. The possible referendum on the new constitution, which is expected to take shape by mid-2015, could take at least three months. Then, the re-viewing of issues that arise during the referendum and modification of the draft charter would require three or four more months, Pornchai Trakulwaranont, vice rector for administra-tion of Thammasat University, told Xinhua. Thailand might have a new permanent constitution in place by the end of 2015, Pornchai said, adding that it would then take about another four months to prepare a general election.

For the new constitu-tion to have “legitimacy from the people”, it is nec-essary to hold a referen-dum and the approval rate should stand at 70 percent or more, Pornchai said. The academic also voiced opposition against a much-debated proposal of having the prime min-ister and cabinet members directly elected rather than picked from among elected legislators as in the past. “It would be very dangerous, if you split the House of Representatives from the administration, You cannot expect any other source of power to balance the administrative body,” he added.

Previously, if the gov-ernment grew too powerful, the House of the parliament could do something about it, but once direct election is adopted for future heads of the government, they could “claim legitimacy to do whatever they want to do because they are elected by the people,” he said.

The proposal, endor-sed by the Political Re-form Committee under the National Reform Council, is yet to be considered by the Constitution Drafting Committee. —Xinhua

Indonesia rescuers use earth-movers in landslide rescue as toll rises to 24

Jakarta, 14 Dec — Indonesian rescuers on Sunday used heavy-lifting equipment for the first time to clear roads leading to the site of a landslide that destroyed a village and killed at least 24 people, officials said, with scores still missing. Police, soldiers and volun-teers had used their bare hands and makeshift tools to search for survivors who were trapped in mud but clear the area on Saturday after the disaster struck on Friday night.

Hundreds have been evacuated from around Jem-blung village in the Ban-jarnegara district of central Java, about 450 km (280 miles) from the capital, Ja-karta, where media pictures showed a flood of mud and water cascading down a wooded mountainside. Sutopo Purwo Nugro-ho, spokesman for the Na-tional Disaster Mitigation Agency, said 24 people had been killed, 84 were missing and 577 people from the surrounding area had been taken to temporary shelters. There were 2,000 rescuers involved in the operation on Sunday, he said.

“We hope we can op-erate all of the heavy equipment today.” Nugroho told Reuters. “We could not op-erate the equipment soon after the landslide. We had to be very careful about the stability of the ground.”

President Joko Widodo was headed for the site where he said he would assess whether more heavy-lifting equipment was needed.

“We’re going to the field to understand the sit-uation,” Widodo, who was sworn in as president in October, told reporters.

“Aid is not a problem, what’s important is the speed of the evacuation.”

Mudslides are common in Indonesia during the mon-soon season, which usually runs from October until April.

Despite a history of similar disasters in the area, there was no heavy equip-ment specifically set aside for Banjarnegara, Nugroho said. There had been a fatal landslide in 2007 but people still chose to live there, he said. —Reuters

21st Century Maritime Silk Road to benefit ASEAN

Hong Kong, 14 Dec — The Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASE-AN) will benefit a lot from the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, experts said here on Saturday.

The maritime silk road, which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping last year, runs through the Straight of Malacca to India, the Middle East and East Asia, Abdul Maji Ah-

mam Khan, president of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, said at the first ASEAN Development Foru-m that maritime cooper-ation between some regions in China constitute a vital link-age in connectivity between the two. “China’s proposal to build a 21st Century Mar-titime Silk Road could be a potential boost and catalyst for infrastructure develop-ment in the ASEAN region.

It fits into ASEAN’s own integration and connectivity strategies,” he said. Sunet Oungkittakul, research direc-tor for Transportation and Logistics Policy of the Thai-land Development Research Institute, said regional trade has been growing rapidly in Asia, especially after the ASEAN Free Trade Area was established in 1992. Bi-lateral trade between ASE-AN and China grew five

folds from 78 billion US Dollars in 2003 to 443.6 bil-lion dollars in 2013. Regional-\n
connectivity will become stronger with the fast-de-veloping transport network and several commendable proposals initiated by Chi-na such as the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, he add-ed. Sun Xiaoqing, researcher of the Southeast Asia Re-search Institute of Guangxi Academy of Social Scienc-es, said how the 21st Cen-tury Maritime Silk Road will benefit grassroots people in countries along the road calls for the wisdom of the region, the ability of scholars to do in-depth research. The forum, hosted by Xinhua News Agency Asia-Pacific Regional Bu-reau, had discussions on four major topics: building com-mon destiny with strategic mutual trust, deepening eco-nomic and trade cooperation with upgraded China-ASE-AN free trade area, enhanc-ing connectivity with the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and working toward an ASEAN community with practical cooperation.

Government officials, experts and business leaders from the 10 ASEAN counTRIES, China’s mainland and China’s Hong Kong attend-ed the forum.—Xinhua
Over 13 million cast early votes in lower house poll, up 9% 

Seoul, 14 Dec — A US citizen who illegally entered North Korea delivered a lengthy denunciation of US domestic and foreign policy on Sunday and said he was seeking political asylum in Venezuela, the North’s official media said.

The man identified himself as Arturo Pierre Martinez, 29, from El Paso, Texas, in video footage of a press conference released by the North’s KCNA news agency and said he had taken "a risky journey to reach the (North) so that I could pass along some very valuable and disturbing information."

Martinez spoke of human rights violations committed by the US government and its attempt at forcing imperialist influence and domination on other countries, KCNA said in an article released with the footage.

Reclusive and impoverished North Korea is under international sanctions for its nuclear and missile programmes. It regularly threatens war on democratic South Korea and the South’s major ally, the United States.

Martinez’s mother told CNN her son was mentally unstable and has bipolar disorder, and had previously tried to enter North Korea from the South by swimming across a river. He was captured and sent back to the United States where he was committed to a psychiatric hospital in California, she said according to CNN.

“He is very smart and he got the court to let him out and instead of coming home to us, he bought a ticket and left for China,” the television news channel quoted Patricia Eugenia Martinez as saying.

In September, South Korean media reported that a man in his late 20s had been arrested by South Korean marines for swimming in a river that flows towards North Korea. The man had been trying to go to the North to meet its leader, local media reported at the time.

Martinez said in the KCNA article that he had been staying in a nice hotel and was being treated well by the North Korean government and that he would seek political asylum in Venezuela. Martinez said he chose to come to North Korea to talk about US policy because it has successfully defied US influence by maintaining a “very powerful military”.

It was not immediately clear how Martinez entered North Korea. CNN cited a North Korean statement as saying Martinez entered the country two days after US intelligence chief James Clapper arrived in Pyongyang to negotiate the release of detained Americans Matthew Miller and Kenneth Bae.

Miller and Bae had both been serving hard labour sentences in North Korea for breaking local laws, but were released in November during Clapper’s visit. A third detained US citizen, Jeffrey Fowle, was released in October.

“(I am) extremely grateful for having been pardoned from the punishment given to violators of these laws, and for the most generous reception I have received,” CNN reported Martinez as saying in a statement at the news conference.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has hailed against the US Senate for passing a bill that would impose sanctions on government officials found to have violated protesters’ rights during demonstrations earlier this year.

Critics of Maduro say he blasts the United States to distract Venezuelans from the cash-strapped country’s ballooning economic crisis.

Reuters
WASHINGTON / NEW YORK, 14 Dec — Thousands of demonstrators marched in Washington, New York and Boston on Saturday to protest killings of unarmed black men by police officers. Organizers said the marches were among the largest in the recent wave of protests against the killings of black males by police in Ferguson, Missouri, New York, Cleveland and elsewhere.

The protests were mainly peaceful, although police in Boston said they arrested 23 people who tried to block a highway.

One person was arrested in New York after two officers were assaulted by protesters, prompting a condemnation from Mayor Bill de Blasio who said the alleged assault marked “an ugly and unacceptable departure from the demonstrations thus far.” “Those who reject peaceful protest and provoke violence can expect immediate arrest and prosecution,” warned de Blasio, who has been sharply criticized by the police union for not supporting the department.

“Police in Oakland, California, ordered hundreds of demonstrators to disperse on Saturday night after a grocery store was looted. Decisions by grand juries to return no indictments against the officers involved in the deaths of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York have put police treatment of minorities back on the national agenda.

“We’re going to keep the light on,” said Mike Brown on all of the victims. “The only way you make roaches run is to keep the light on,” said civil rights leader the Rev Al Sharpton, whose National Action Network organized the Washington rally. Sharpton urged Congress to pass legislation that would allow federal prosecutors to take over cases involving police violence.

Protesters from around the country gathered at Freedom Plaza, a few blocks from the White House, then marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to rally near the white-domed US Capitol.

Marchers, who included many parents with children, chanted “No justice, no peace, no racist police” and “Hands up, don’t shoot.” Protesters carried signs that said “All men are created equal” and “Black lives matter.”

The Washington protest included relatives of Eric Garner and Akai Gurley, killed by New York police; Trayvon Martin, slain by a Florida neighborhood watchman in 2012; Brown and others.

“What a sea of people,” said Brown’s mother, Lesley McSpadden. “If they don’t see this and make a change, I don’t know what we’re going to do.”

In Missouri, a prosecutor on Saturday made public documents related to the probe into Brown’s killing, saying his office had inadvertently held them back.

Protesters gathered in a one-block section of Pennsylvania Avenue and nearby public space, although organizers estimated the crowd at 40,000 to 50,000 people. A police spokesman declined to provide a crowd estimate, citing department policy, and said there had been no arrests.

After the rally, some protesters marched through downtown Washington, briefly closing some streets, police said.

In Boston, a march with hundreds of protesters passed by at the Suffolk County jail near an entrance to Interstate 93. Inmates cheered and banged on cell windows as protesters passed.

Protesters tried to push through police lines near the highway entrance. Massachusetts State Police said 23 people were arrested for disorderly conduct.

The New York march drew a mostly young, ethnically diverse crowd that was loud and peaceful and headed north up Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue from Washington Square Park.

Protestors chanted “How do you spell racist? NYPD” and some taunted police guarding the march route. At the end of the march, protestors raised their hands in mock surrender outside police headquarters in lower Manhattan.

Observers estimated the march size at 20,000 to 30,000 protesters. Police gave no estimate and reported no arrests.

The culture in America is embedded in slavery, in the courts and the politics, and the culture has to change,” said marcher Kayode Leonard, 33, from Manhattan. In Berkeley, California, scene of ongoing protests, body-sized cardboard effigies of lynching victims were seen hanging by nooses on Saturday at the University of California, Berkeley.

Spokeswoman Claire Holmes said all were taken down. “It has been unclear to us whether this was racially motivated or part of the protests,” said Holmes, adding there were no suspects. — Reuters

Turkish police raid media outlets close to Gulen, detain some people

ISTANBUL, 14 Dec — Turkish police raided a television station and a newspaper close to US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen on Sunday, detaining some people, media reports said, two days after President Tayyip Erdogan signalled a fresh campaign against Gulen’s supporters.

Police launched simultaneous operations at various addresses in Istanbul and provinces across Turkey, detaining people including a top executive of a television channel close to Gulen, state broadcaster TRT Haber reported.

Gulen and Erdogan are bitter rivals.

Media reports said arrest warrants were issued for 32 people. “The free press cannot be silenced,” a crowd chanted at the Istanbul office of newspaper Zaman as editor Ekrem Dumanli made a speech to them broadcast live on television, defiantly calling on police to detain him.

The raids came a year after the emergence of corruption investigations targeting Erdogan’s inner circle, which he said were a plot to topple him orchestrated by a “parallel structure” of supporters of Gulen. The cleric, a former ally of Erdogan, denies the charge.

The investigation, which became public with police raids on 17 December last year, led to the resignation of three ministers and prompted Erdogan to purge the state apparatus, reassigning thousands of police and hundreds of judges and prosecutors. — Reuters

Ryabkov says Palestinian-Israeli situation demands emergency settlement

WORLD

MOSCOW, 14 Dec — Palestinian-Israeli situation demand emergency settlement and that is why the meeting between the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, and the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, that is due to take place in Rome on Sunday was coordinated literally within hours, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told TASS on Saturday.

“We think the situation is quite alarming again,” he said. “The surge of violence that took away hundreds of human lives this summer became a tragic reminder of the fact one should care for peace settlement all the time and intensively.”

“Russia has never re- jected fruitful participation in appropriate efforts,” he said. “We bear a due share of responsibility for furthering the peaceful settlement with an acceptable solution.”

“I will refrain from sur- mising about the kind of agreements and decisions that can be reached in Rome,” Ryabkov said when the reporter asked him about it. “Still there is a feeling of urgency and that’s why the meeting was coordinated literally over several hours.”

Lavrov and Kerry discussed Palestinian-Israeli settlement in a telephone conversation on Friday. They stressed the importance of “coordinat- ing measures for facilita- tion of an earliest possible resumption of peace talks that would comply with the commonly accepted norms of law.”

Sunday’s meeting in Rome between Lavrov and Kerry will be the fourteenth this year.—Itar-Tass
Laws are to protect every citizen

By Myint Win Thein

Every country has its own laws to protect all its citizens including farmers, workers, children, women, the disabled and the elderly and so on. Even soldiers who are the strongest in society and capable of not just defending themselves but also warding off dangers to other vulnerable groups such as children, women, the disabled and the elderly are even protected by laws. If there are no such laws or they cannot be enforced, everyone is exposed to abuses by other stronger groups in their societies. Children and women are abused and the disabled and the elderly are neglected by the society in which they live. The disabled and the elderly are left to beg for their lives on streets. Children are recruited at battlefields while women are sexually abused there. Now, these incidents are not restricted to battlefields as women are sexually harassed at ever-increasing illegal karaoke lounges, massage parlours and so on in largest cities while children are used as child labourers at cafes, restaurants and shops in urban areas. Are these just what their fates have in store for them?

However, every citizen is entitled to the same rights and protection of law regardless of sex, age and ability. Such laws should be enacted or enforced as soon as possible but laws protecting women in the sex trade, karaoke lounges and massage parlours were repeatedly rejected by legislatures on cultural grounds. It is also evident that protecting the weak is also our cultural tradition, which we should preserve by legally protecting them.

Write for us

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

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

Firefighters, shop family members join fire drill

NOWEHSAUNG, 14 Dec — As an activity of fire prevention, a fire drill was organized at Myoma market in Ngwehsaung, Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 12 December.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Nay Aung Naing, firefighters of auxiliary fire brigades and families of the market attended the ceremony.

Executive Officer U Hlaing Win Han of Ngwehsaung Town Development Affairs Committee explained the use of fire extinguishers and fire safety to the attendees.

Members of auxiliary fire brigade, staff of Township DAC and shop family members participated in the fire drill.

Myo Min Thein

(IPRD)
Jumping the Queue
By Khin Maung Myint

During our younger days we were abiding by the rules, but as the goods get scarce and in the black markets began to thrive, jobless people and low income family members turned to black marketing. The morals and manners of the people degenerated. Now as our country has started on our journey of development, all the qualities that contribute to that effort need nurturing and enhancement. One of those qualities that needs priority is the discipline of the people. So we should start with the most basic and simplest thing, such as the queuing. It would also enhance the image of the country and our countrymen, can, again, take pride of being citizens of a disciplined nation. There are many places where the queuing is necessary, but I will cite only the three most important places that need to be addressed.

The Bus Stop. The first place concerned all walks of life and hopes everyone will agree, is the bus stop. I must say there are no queues at the bus stops at present as far as I can observe. The commuters would scramble — pushing and elbowing their way to get onto a bus, whenever one came along. As there are no regular schedule or timetables of the different bus lines displayed at the stops, like elsewhere in the world, people are not sure when the next one will come. I can say there are scrumbling at the bus stops. If only the authorities can regulate the bus schedules to suit the requirements of the commuters and the bus drivers strictly comply with the timetables, the queuing system could be introduced and maintained easily.

The Shopping Center. Many of you may have experienced the ignoring of the queue and went straight to the cashier to get his or her purchases settled ahead of those in the queue. If there was no one to object, they would get through. Though such incidents may be rare, they are very irritable and undesirable. The worst incident I encountered was the time when a security personnel at a shopping center approached the cashier from the exit side, got some items cashed out. He was doing a favour for a customer who I assumed was his acquaintance. As I was at the head of the queue at that moment, I deemed it my duty to object and I did so accordingly. I told the cashier not to oblige him, but my objection fell on deaf ears. I reported the matter to the in charge on that floor, but he neither said he would look into the matter nor apologized for the conduct of his staffs, but gave me a surprised look as though I was an alien from outer space. Though angry and frustrated, I left before I lose my anger, which would put me in an embarrassing situation.

The Bank. At almost all the banks I had been to, I had observed customers crowding at the counters and vying to get the notice of the staff to attend them. On one occasion, though I arrived early at the counter, as I cannot attract the attention of the bank employee, I was not served first. That was very embarrassing. From what I had observed at banks in foreign countries, there are dispensing machines placed immediately inside the bank that dispense token slips. The customers took one token each from the machines as they entered and sat down at the seats available and waited for their turn, with dignity. There are digital displays above each counter and when a counter is free, a number would be displayed above that counter and the customer holding that token number would approach it to be served. This is a decent or dignified form of queuing, without unnecessary line of people shuffling along as the queue progressed. These procedures can be seen at the airline ticketing offices and hospital dispensaries too.

Some people used to boast that we Myanmars are civilized and cultured, however, in my view the above mentioned behavior is a deterrent to our claims. Cultured and civilized people should have decency and dignity and act accordingly. As we are living in the global village that the world has become today, we need to change our mind sets and get ourselves in stride with, and be part of that village society. It may take time to achieve that status, but we should start right now to educate and train our people to be disciplined and civilized citizens of a cultured and civilized nation, if we wished to be recognized as such.

Lately, I had been mentioning the civic duties in some of my articles. However, I presume there are only a few who are my contemporaries and those of a generation later, know what that meant. During my schooling days, we were taught the civic duties and, in some schools, morals and manners starting from the kindergarten. These subjects were intended to make us disciplined, well behaved, laws abiding and dutiful citizens. The civic duties can be generally defined as the obligations for the citizens I think, in return for the privileges and rights accorded to them by the state. The morals and manners taught us to be well behaved and to be dutiful and responsible persons. In fact both the subjects have the same objectives—to breed good citizens. So I would like to urge the educators to consider introducing either one or both of these subjects in the primary and middle school syllabuses as extra curriculum subjects. I am sure they would greatly assist in revitalizing the national character and also in the nation building process.

Looking forward to a well behaved and disciplined society

The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dept; Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

2nd Housing and Living Exhibition 2014 attracts city dwellers

Yangon, 14 Dec—The 2nd Housing and Living Exhibition 2014 was opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township on 13 December. Yangon Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint, Managing Director U Thura Aung of Aung Myin Pyae Son Construction Company and Director U Aung Aung of Dagon Exhibitions Ltd formally opened the exhibition.

A total of 70 companies showcase household decorations, electronics and electrical equipment, construction materials, cosmetics and personal goods, textile and fashion equipment, sanitation and kitchen equipment, automobile and related parts, small-scale machinery and parts, food equipment, and modern furniture at 120 booths. The exhibition lasts up to 16 December and is open from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Temporary Myanmar Scout Committee chairman presents medals to scouts

Yangon, 14 Dec—Scouts from No 3 Basic Education High School took oaths at their school in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, on 13 December, attended by members of Temporary Myanmar Scout Committee U Tha Sein, U Tin Maung Latt and U Aye Kyaw.

Thida Scout U Aye Kyaw explained formation of scouts and activities and handed over the scouts to Chairman of the committee U Tin Nyo.

The scouts took oaths on the occasion. The chairman decorated the scouts with medals. Headmaster U Myat Wai Toe of Shwepyitha BEHS No 3 presented the scouts to the tuag squad. After the ceremony, Chairman U Tin Nyo and party viewed the camping demonstration of scouts.

Temporary Myanmar Scout Committee Chairman U Tin Nyo decorates medal on scouts.
UK to send hundreds of troops to Iraq

LONDON, 14 Dec — Britain will send hundreds of troops to train Iraqi and Kurdish forces in Iraq. Defence Secretary Michael Fallon told The Daily Telegraph newspaper on Saturday in a bid to step up the battle against Islamic State fighters.

US President Barack Obama has already authorised the deployment of over 3,000 troops to the country and the top US commander guiding the coalition effort said earlier this week that allies would send about 1,500 additional troops.

Fallon said troops in the “very low hundreds” would be sent next month.

He said that following air strikes by US-led forces including Britain, Islamic State had changed its methods, moving away from use of large formations in open space.

“They are increasingly tucked away in towns and villages. That means they have got to be rooted out by ground troops.”

“This has to be done by an own-grown army, not by western groups.”

On Saturday, Islamic State fighters killed at least 19 policemen in a town in Western Iraq, as the group continues to seize territory.

Islamic State storms town in western Iraq, kills 19 police

BAGHDAD, 14 Dec — Islamic State fighters stormed a town in Iraq’s western Anbar Province on Saturday, killing at least 19 policemen, according to officials.

Fallon said the town of al-Wafa was taken in a surprise attack that drew fresh attention to the Iraqi government’s struggle to arm Sunni tribes in western Iraq who are fighting Islamic State.

“Police forces have been fighting Islamic State fighters since Friday, but lack of ammunition forced it to retreat and losing the town. I’m frustrated because we were left alone without support,” said Hussain Kassar, the town’s mayor. Police forces backed by few members of government-paid Sunni tribal fighters tried to prevent the militants from crossing the sand barrier surrounding the town, but were overwhelmed when sleeper cells from inside opened fire on them, the mayor and a police officer said.

Police forces and the pro-government Sunni fighters were forced to retreat to a nearby police-barracks, the mayor said.

“We are trapped inside the police 18th brigade. Islamic State managed to surround us today. If no government forces were sent to help us then we will be exterminated,” the mayor, who was with the police forces that withdrew from al-Wafa, said by telephone.

Elsewhere in western Anbar, Islamic State militants executed at least 21 Sunni tribal fighters on Friday after capturing them near al-Baghdadi town on Wednesday, local officials said.

Islamic State has been seizing town after town in Anbar, Iraq’s largest province and former heartland of the Islamic State group, as it continues its offensive to seize territory from western Anbar, Ramadi and al-Waha, said by telephone.

The Islamic State group is waging a war against a variety of groups in the region, despite US-led coalition air strikes.

Fallon told the newspaper that the exact number of Britons to be sent had not been finalised but that one of four teams would provide training in a Kurdish area and the remaining three in locations nearer to Baghdad.

“A key skill we are going to be helping with is counter-IED (improvised explosive devices), particularly vehicle explosive devices which the Iraqi army hasn’t come across for some time,” Fallon was quoted as saying.

Dozens killed in Afghan fighting as foreign troops head home

KABUL, 14 Dec — The Afghan Taleban killed a Supreme Court official, a dozen mine clearers and several national and foreign soldiers but also suffered heavy losses from intensifying violence ahead of the withdrawal of most international troops in the next two weeks.

In Kabul on Saturday, a bomb ripped through a bus carrying soldiers in Kabul, killing at least seven of them, mangling the vehicle and sending a column of black smoke over the capital.

“A suicide bomber on foot detonated his explosives at the door of a bus carrying army soldiers,” said Hashmat Stanekzai, a spokesman for Kabul police chief.

Afghan police have been killed, and more than 1,500 civilians were killed in the first half of the year. A rump of about 13,000 foreign soldiers will remain in Afghanistan next year, down from a peak of more than 130,000.

Fighting has extended long beyond the traditional summer season, with the Afghan government also inflicting heavy casualties on the Taleban. The army and police say they killed more than 50 militants nationwide in the past 48 hours.

The Taleban have been fighting a guerrilla war ever since their 5-year regime was toppled. They now have a strong presence in most of the provinces surrounding Kabul.

Afghan security forces inspect at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on 13 Dec, 2014. — Reuters

Al-Qaeda senior leader killed in Libya

ALGIERS, 14 Dec — An al-Qaeda senior member in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was killed in Libya by troops of Gen. Khalifa Haftar, an Algerian security source told Xinhua.

Djilali Mansour, alias Abu Younes, was killed with five other al-Qaeda-linked militants, including two Algerians, in an area near Benghazi, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The source said that Abu Younes is originated from Algeria’s western province of Sidi Belabes. He was wanted by the Algerian justice since he joined the fiefs of the dismantled Islamic Armed Group (GIA) in 1996.

He was probably killed on 2 December during bombardment by troops of General Haftar. His dead body was discovered near the city of Benghazi and then identified according to the documents he was carrying with him, the source said — Xinhua
Apple pacts in Canada may have raised prices — court filing

OTTAWA / TORONTO, 14 Dec — Canadian consumers may have ended up paying higher prices for cellphones and wireless services because of contracts between Apple Inc’s Canadian unit and domestic carriers, the Canadian Competition Bureau said in a court filing this week.

The iPhone has given Apple extraordinary bargaining power with mobile carriers around the world, and the Canadian watchdog wants to know if it used that leverage to force domestic operators to sell rival devices at a higher price than they otherwise would.

The Competition Bureau is seeking details on volume commitment, minimum order quantities, and any special treatment that Apple may have sought from the carriers, the filing showed. “Of course it is natural for them to want to push in that regard, and let’s see if they pushed too hard,” said Colin Gil-lis, a technology analyst at BG Partners in New York.

The affidavit filed on Tuesday by Vincent Millette, who is heading the Competition Bureau’s investiga-tion, and obtained by Reuters on Friday listed several ways the agreements with the phone companies may have prevented or lessened competition.

It formed part of the agency’s filings with the Federal Court on Tuesday seeking documents from Apple as part of an investigation into possible anti-competitive behav-ior by the company. The bureau said on Thursday it had not reached a conclusion of wrongdoing at this time.

Millette affirmed that the Apple Canada contracts may have:

- discouraged wire-less carriers from reduc-ing the price of other handsets, or offering other enhancements
- discouraged them from offering other hand-sets
- encouraged them to maintain or boost the price of wireless services for competing handsets
- dampened upstream competition between handset suppliers.

“The contractual obli-gations (with the carriers) may therefore increase the price Canadian consumers have paid, are paying or will pay for handset de-vices and wireless servic-es,” he said in his affida-vit.

The Competition Bu-reau is looking for docu-ments as far back as July 2008, when the iPhone first was introduced in Canada.

The agency informed Apple in April that it was investigating the contracts with the phone compa-nies. Apple has provided some records already, and wireless carriers have sent over 2,500 records in re-sponse to requests from the bureau made between June and August.

An Apple spokes-woman was not available to comment.

Sony ‘spooked’ over possibility of more attacks — US government source

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — Sony Pictures Enter-tainment representatives have advised US authori-ties they are deeply con-cerned the studio might fall victim to more cyber-attacks after it releases the film “The Interview” on 25 December, a US na-tional security source said on Friday.

They are “spooked,” said the official, who was not authorized to publicly comment on government discussions with the Sony Corp unit, which is still rebuilding some computer systems as it seeks to re-pair its public image after a devastating two-pronged attack was revealed last month.

Sony Pictures spokes-woman Jean Guerin de-clined comment on the US official’s remark ahead of the Christmas Day release of “The Interview” in the United States and Canada.

People familiar with probes by both the US government and Sony have previously told Reu-ters that Pyongyng is the primary suspect. They believe the attack was retribution for backing of “The Interview,” a com-eedy about a CIA assassina-tion attempt on North Ko-rean leader Kim Jong Un.

A second US govern-ment official told Reuters the National Security Di-

vision of the Department of Justice is involved in the hacking probe, which is a signal that the author-ities are actively investi-gating whether “state ac-tors” could be behind the attack.

To be sure, US offi-cials say that while North Korea is a leading sus-pect, they are continuing to investigate the case and have reached no final con-clusion.

John Carlin, assistant attorney general for the National Security Divi-sion, said on Tuesday at an event sponsored by on-line subscription service Bloomberg Government, that Sony was closely co-operating with the Justice Department investigation. “It has our full atten-tion and we’ll continue to work, cooperatively, with Sony,” he said.

Hackers infected the studio’s network with software that wiped hard drives of Windows com-puters, preventing them from booting up.

They also stole vast quantities of data, then leaked sensitive docu-ments on the Internet. Those documents includ-ed private emails in which executives made irreverent comments about cele-brities and US President Barack Obama, prompting the studio to issue public apologies.

Feathered friends: researchers unveil bird ‘family tree’

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — Scientists have unveiled the most comprehensive picture of how the modern bird lineages arose and flourished after the age of dinosaurs. The earliest known bird, Archaeopteryx, lived 150 million years ago.

The scientists said the bird family tree from the age of dinosaurs disap-pearred during the mass extinc-tion roughly 65 million years ago thought to have resulted from an asteroid striking Earth.

“Birds are dinosaurs. They’re the one lineage of dinosaurs that made it through the mass extinc-tion,” University of Florida biology professor Ed Cran said.

The analysis focused on a group called Neovia that includes nearly all of today’s 10,000-plus bird species. Its evolutionary explosion spanned 10 to 15 million years following the mass extinction, which opened numerous ecolog-ical niches previously oc-cupied by other dinosaurs and flying reptiles called pterosaurs.

This “big bang” diver-sification of species gave rise to 95 percent of today’s birds, Duke University Medical School neurobiol-ogist Erich Jarvis said.

The large flightless birds like the ostrich were confirmed as the family tree’s oldest branch. The scientists said the chick-en genome is probably the closest of any species to the ancestor of birds.

The research found singing evolved inde-pendently in songbirds, parrots and hummingbirds and showed that the set of about 50 genes involved in birdsinging is similar to those involved in human speech, and in partnership were found to be birds’ closest living relatives, with a common ancestor 240 million years ago.

The research was pub-lished on Thursday in the journal Science and other publications.

A general view of an Apple store in the Manhattan borough of New York on 7 Sept, 2014. —Reuters

Flamingos are seen in a nature reserve park in Panyu district south of Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, in this 30 Nov, 2014 file photo. — Reuters

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Korean Air Air chief steward in nut row says insulted, forced to kneel

SEOUL, 14 Dec — The head of cabin crew who was kicked off a Korean Air Lines (003490.KS) flight after a company executive raged over the way she was served macadamia nuts said he was insulted and forced to kneel down to apologize to the executive.

In a case that sparked public outrage, a stewardess over her treatment of flight crew, Heather Cho, the daughter of the airline’s chairman and head of in-flight service, reprimanded the cabin crew chief and one of his flight attendants who brought nuts to her in a bag, not a dish.

In a situation where she said “Make contacts right now to stop the plane. I won’t let the plane go,” I dared not object to her, the owner’s daughter,” Park Chang-jin, the chief steward, told state-run TV network KBS late on Friday.

Park said that Cho swore at him, jabbed the back of his hand with a file case several times, and pointed her finger at him while he kneeled. The incident that was first reported on Monday has stoked both mirth and anger in South Korea, whose economy is dominated by powerful family-run conglomerates known as chaebol.

Cho has been stripped of all titles at the airline and its affiliates, and faces investigation by the government and prosecutors to determine whether she breached aviation laws.

Cho bowed and offered a public apology before being questioned for the transport ministry in Seoul on Friday. Speaking to reporters hours after being questioned, Cho declined to respond to the cabin crew chief’s account of the incident.

“I have no idea... I have never heard of it,” Cho told reporters, slightly shaking her head.

The chief steward said that, after the incident was first reported, he was visited several times at home by the airline’s officials, who tried to persuade him to lie to authorities by saying that Cho had not sworn and that he had left the plane voluntarily.

Korean Air Lines declined to comment.—Reuters

US fails to pass spending legislation necessary for IMF reforms

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — The US Congress on Saturday passed spending legislation that does not include funding necessary for International Monetary Fund reforms aimed at giving emerging economies greater voting rights at the institution.

The move is certain to make it more difficult for the IMF’s Quota and Governance Reform plan to be implemented by the deadline set at the end of this year, possibly sparking criticism of the United States from IMF member countries.

The spending legislation includes funding for US government agencies through September next year. Future debate on the IMF reform plan may take place without the United States.

To carry out the reforms, the Congress of the United States — the largest stakeholder in the Washington-based institution with 17 percent of voting rights — needs to shift $63 billion from an IMF special crisis fund to a general account.

Some Republican lawmakers, however, have opposed the budget change, arguing it would effectively ask the world’s biggest economy to spend more despite budgetary constraints.

“I have expressed my disappointment to the US authorities and informed them that they continue to work toward speedy ratification,” IMF head Christine Lagarde said in a statement Friday.

Managing Director Lagarde said the IMF will discuss “alternative options for advancing quota and governance reforms” during an Executive Board meeting in January.

The IMF earlier this year urged the United States “to ratify these reforms at the earliest opportunity.”

But it is uncertain how IMF members can move ahead with the reforms without the United States. In 2010, the IMF member economies agreed to shift 6 percent of voting rights to developing economies — such as China, Brazil and India — in a symbolic redistribution of quotas and the number of board members, given the growing clout of these nations in the global economy.

The agreement of the US government is indispensable to achieve the reforms because the IMF needs to secure more than 85 percent of the total voting rights among its member economies, Kyodo News.

Let nature play a role in climate adaptation, experts urge

LIMA, 14 Dec — When the rainy season comes and floods the fields, poor families in northwest Bangladesh once cut trees to survive or went hungry.

Now, however, they are raising fish in the floodplains — a change that has helped protect the region’s forests and improved their own resilience to more extreme weather.

Such “ecosystem-based adaptation”, which protects both communities and the environment, will be vital to helping a growing world population survive climate change impacts without destroying the natural world, experts said at the UN climate talks in Lima.

It “holds a promising potential,” said Virgilio Viana, chief executive of the Brazil-based Amazonas Sustainable Foundation.

Such adaptation is cost-effective, he said, and can be implemented with local people, rather than relying on engineering solutions that sometimes can damage ecosystems, he said.

“For example, instead of using heavy construction material and machinery to tackle land erosion or landslides, ecosystem-based adaptation techniques such as increasing vegetation cover and planting (more) trees can help address these problems with local communities’ involvement and at lower cost,” he explained.

Kit Vaughn, environment and climate change director for CARE International, said many governments consider dams the only means of effectively managing flooding. But forests and wetlands, lakes and riverside floodplains can also act as natural sponges, he said.

They absorb large amounts of water and slowly and safely release it downstream later, or into groundwater, he said.

Saleemul Huq, an advisor at the Lima talks for the Least Developed Countries group, representing nearly 50 of the world’s poorest countries, said the northwest Bangladesh communities who have begun farming fish in the wet season to raise their incomes are also benefiting from better-protected floodplain forests.

The riverside forests absorb large amounts of water in flood periods, helping protect livestock and families who might otherwise find themselves underwater, he said.

“Such systems have ‘great potential for replication and up-scaling in developing countries, like Pakistan’s Indus river floodplains,” Huq said.

Heavy rains in the main river basins and upstream catchments of India, along with rainfall in northwest and northeastern Bangladesh, now frequently trigger flooding in low-lying and heavily populated areas of Bangladesh during the July to September monsoon season.

Bangladesh considers flooding a grave issue in many districts in the northwest part of the country, where many communities are classified as “extremely poor.”

Xiantao Lu, an adaptation expert with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said ecosystem-based adaptation should be used in other developing countries in Africa and Asia where floods are a worsening problem.

Russia, Germany to talk role of youth public organisations in broader ties

SOCHI, 14 Dec — The Petersburg Dialogue youth forum will open with a legal debate on international law and challenges of the twenty-first century in Russia’s Black Sea resort city of Sochi on Sunday.

The forum which will be held on 14 to 17 December will focus on the world of young people from Russia and Germany in building trust in an epoch of transformations, the Russian secretariat of the forum told TASS.

Politicians, scientists, cultural personalities and media people from Germany and Russia will participate in round-table meetings and discussions. Deputy chairman of German-Russian public forum board Wilfried Bergmann is expected to deliver a speech at the forum from Germany, professor of the faculty of international relations at St Petersburg State University Stanislav Tkachenko and dean of the faculty of international journalism at Moscow State University of International Relations Yaroslav Skvortsov will lay out Russia’s position on the issues of international law.

On 15 December, a meeting will be held with former German minister and member of the coordinating committee of the Petersburg Dialogue forum Manfred Stolpe and chairman of the German-Russian forum presidium Matthias Platzcek. The forum programme also includes meetings of workshops on science and education as well as media.
UN talks agree building blocks for new-style climate deal in 2015

LIMA, 14 Dec — About 190 nations agreed on Sunday the building blocks of a new-style global deal due in 2015 to combat climate change amid warnings that far tougher action will be needed to limit rising world temperatures.

Under the Lima deal, governments will submit national plans for rein in greenhouse gas emissions by an informal deadline of 31 March, 2015 to form the basis of a global agreement due at a summit in Paris in a year’s time.

The texts, breaking deadlock among weary delegates almost two days into overtime after two weeks of talks, appeased developing countries led by China and India, concerned that previous drafts imposed too heavy a burden on emerging economies compared to the rich.

“We’ve got what we wanted,” said Indian Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, who said the text preserved the notion enthused in a 1992 climate convention that the rich have to lead the way in making cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

It also satisfied rich nations led by the United States who say it is time for fast-growing emerging economies to rein in fast-rising emissions. China is now the biggest greenhouse gas emitter ahead of the United States, the EU and India. “This is a good document to pave the way to Paris,” EU Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete told Reuters at the end of two weeks of talks about limiting more floods, desertification, heat waves and rising sea levels.

Some environmental groups, however, said the deal, reached at a tent city on a military base in Lima, was far too weak. “We went from weak to weaker to weakest,” Samantha Smith of the WWF conservation group said of successive drafts at the Lima talks. “This leaves a huge amount for governments and everyone else to do in the next 12 months.”— Reuters

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Geminid meteor shower to be seen over Moscow if clouds disperse

Moscow, 14 Dec — Overnight to Sunday Moscow residents can watch one of the most spectacular meteor showers in the Earth’s northern hemisphere — the Geminids when nearly 120 shooting stars an hour will be visible in the sky.

Rogsdromet weathermen forecasted that over the coming night the sky will be partially covered with clouds and there will not be rain or snow. At the moments when clouds will disperse, a row of small particles can be seen left by a trail of 3200 Phaeton asteroid.

Geminids were named after the constellation Gemini, in which the radiant of the flow is located, and the meteor shower lights up the sky on 4 to 17 December. Gemini can be seen over the whole night in December. The peak of the Geminid meteor shower falls on 14 December. Thus, the best time to begin watching the meteors will be on Sunday night when the moon rises after midnight and is at the third quarter phase.

The Geminids are likely to display lots of bright meteors, with some of them crossing the whole sky.

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INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(TENDER NO.6(T) MPE/ CONDENSATE (2) / 2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yetagun Condensate 0.7 Mbls (±5%) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlwin).
2. Tender Closing Date : 15-1-2015 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 15-1-2015 at (13:00) hrs.
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 22-12-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.

Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Hackers vs James Bond: ‘SPECTRE’ script stolen in Sony attack

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec — Early villains have emerged in the next James Bond film “SPECTRE” hackers who stole a version of the screenplay as part of a devastating cyberattack.

Producers of the James Bond films said they learned on Saturday morning that an early version of the “SPECTRE” script was among material stolen and made public by hackers who infiltrated computers at the Sony studio.

“Eon Productions is concerned that third parties who have received the stolen screenplay may seek to publish it or its contents,” Eon said in a statement, while warning that the script is protected by UK copyright laws.

“SPECTRE,” starring Daniel Craig as 007, is set among material stolen and made public by hackers who infiltrated computers at the Sony studio.

The Bond franchise is one of the most lucrative for Sony Pictures and the last instalment “Skyfall” brought in $1.1 billion (699.97 million pounds) worldwide, more than any other Bond film.

A Sony spokesman said news reports that the cyberattack forced the studio to stop production on films, including “SPECTRE,” were wrong.

“Productions are still moving forward,” Robert Lawson told Reuters.

Hackers launched an attack on the Sony Corp. entertainment arm on 24 November, disabling the computer network and stealing a trove of sensitive information in the most severe cyberattack on a company on US soil.

The identity of the hackers has yet to be determined.—PTI

Pawl Pawlikowski’s ‘Ida’ sweeps European Film Awards

RIGA, 14 Dec — Polish director Pawlikowski’s “Ida”, a drama about a young novitiate nun who discovers her parents were Jewish and perished in the Holocaust, dominated the European Film Awards on Saturday, winning five prizes, including best film, best director and people’s choice.

“Ida” also won the Special Presentations award at 2013 Toronto film festival. It has been nominated for the best foreign language film at the 72nd Golden Globe Awards and for the foreign-language Academy Award.

Pawliskowski is best known for the British films “Last Resort” and “My Summer of Love”, both of which won BAFTAs.

“It was fantastic night for us and also it has been a great year for Poland. We won in volleyball, we beat Germany in football, first time in 80 years, and tonight — crowning glory,” Pawlikowski said as he received the award for the best film.

The annual awards, held this year in the Latvian capital of Riga, also honoured the British director Steve McQueen, who won an award for European achievement in world cinema. With only three feature films - “Hunger”, “Shame” and the most recent “12 Years A Slave”, which won an Oscar earlier this year as Best Picture, McQueen has become legendary, said director Win Wenders, who presented the award.

The French film director Agnés Varda was given a lifetime achievement award.

The awards were voted on by more than 3,000 members of the European Film Academy.—Reuters

Jennifer Aniston humbled by Golden Globes nomination

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec — Actress Jennifer Aniston has admitted that she is humbled by her Golden Globes nomination for ‘Cake’. The 45-year-old actress made the shortlist for Best Actress in a Motion Picture — Drama alongside Felicity Jones (The Theory of Everything), Julianne Moore (Still Alice), Rosamund Pike (Gone Girl) and Reese Witherspoon (Wild), reported Entertainment Weekly.

“J’ve just humbled. It’s just all happening so fast and so beautifully. The Globes are a big fun party, and it’s so fun to celebrate with your peers,” Aniston said. Aniston, who plays a woman who becomes obsessed by the suicide of a member of her chronic pain support group, added of her character: “We were focused on portraying her as honestly and truthfully as it possibly could be told. Making it bulletproof.”

“And for me, as an actor, it was such a great exercise in my craft — being able to sort of mine a character and unearth her.”—PTI

Beyonce to have biggest selling celebrity fragrance of 2014

LONDON, 14 Dec — Singer Beyoncé’s “Rise” perfume is expected to sell over 750,000 units in the UK, which will net her 1.5 million pounds, becoming the biggest selling celebrity fragrance of the year. Bay band One Direction’s new perfume, ‘That Moment’, is second on the list, with retailer escentual.com, expecting the band’s fans to buy approximately 450,000 units, reported Contactmusic.com.

The ‘Steal My Girl’ hitmakers’ “You & I” perfume is fifth on the list and will also see them bag another 240,000 units, giving them a combined total of 1.34 million pounds.

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry’s perfumes also made the top six of the best-selling list with Rihanna, Victoria Beckham, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga making the top 10.

“It’s been a very strong year for celebrity fragrances and it’s all about the pop stars. Their perfume sales have put them up there with the big players in the market — the designer fragrances — and Beyoncé is the ninth top selling fragrance of all categories which is remarkable,” Fragrance expert Rakesh Aggarwal of online beauty retailer escentual.com said.—PTI
Good weekend for Wenger loyalists as Arsenal dazzle

LONDON, 14 Dec — From the perspective of the overwhelmingly pro-Wenger majority Arsenal’s dazzling 4-1 victory over Newcas-
tle United in the Premier League on Saturday was em-
phatic proof of their mantra “In Arsene We Trust”.

Everywhere you looked at a chilly Emirates Stadi-
um, whether at the artistry of Alexis Sanchez, the mag-
netic ball control of Santi Cazorla or the old-fashioned
striking prowess of Olivier Giroud, there was something
to marvel at. Giroud scored twice, as did Cazorla on his
30th birthday, and the Gun-
ners could have had plenty
more against an obliging
Newcastle side unrecognis-
able from the one which inflicted
a first defeat of the season on
Arsenal’s nerves were a little
frayed.—

Arsenal’s Santi Cazorla celebrates his goal after scoring a
delay on 15 Dec 2014.— Reuters

side, going 3-0 down before
rallying to lose 3-2 — a de-
feat that led to anti-Wenger
banners being displayed and
the long-serving Frenchman
verbally abusing the game.
Who is there to take
his place?” Harris said as he
walked towards the magnif-
scent stadium now virtually
paid for courtesy of Wenger
guiding his side into the la-
crative Champions League
cypher after year since taking
over in 1996. “The trouble
is a lot of the younger fans
have only been used to a lot
of success. I went 19 years
before I saw us lift a trophy.—Re-
ers

page spread on his time at
the club. With partner David
Furnish and sons Elijah and
Zachary watching, the em-
tional music was a special
occasion for the 62-year-old
writer, his greatest moment
coming when he met Sir Elton
John for the first time in 1976.

Sir Elton John performs
at the Elton John AIDS
Foundation’s 13th annual
An Enduring Vision
Benefit in New York on 28
Oct, 2014.— Reuters

Elton John opens stand in his honour at Watford

6:00 pm
Paritta by Hilly
Region Missionary
Sayadaw
6:35 am
Nice & Sweet Songs
7:00 am
News / Weather
Report
7:20 am
People Talks
8:35 am
Documentary
(ASEAN)
9:30 am
Teleplay
10:20 am
* Documentary (Road to
Academy 2013 Part
5 & 6)
10:40 am
Weekly
Entertainment
News
11:15 am
Song Variety
12:00 noon
News/ International News / Weather Report
12:30 pm
Myanmar Movies
3:15 pm
* Documentary
(Women in Myanmar Society)
4:30 pm
* University of
Distance Education
(TV Lectures) — First Year
(Home Economic)
5:15 pm
* TV Drama Series
6:40 pm
Traditional Boxing
7:20 pm
* Teleplay
8:00 pm
News/ International News / Weather Report
8:35 pm
People Talks
9:00 pm
News
International News
/ Weather Report
* Socio Economic
Scenes

MYANMAR TV
(15-12-2014, Monday)

MITV
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(15-12-14 07:00 am–
16-12-14 07:00 am) MST
* Local News
* The Sphinx of Egypt
And The Manoushia
of Myanmar
* World News
* Sticky Shan Snack
* Local News
* Taung Byane Nat
Festival (Ep-I)
* World News
* School for the Blind
* Local News
* Taste of Myanmar
(Thin Egg Noodle Soup)
* World News
* Inspiration
* Local News
* Youth Film
Maker(Sai Aung Tun)
* World News
* Snake Dancer
* Local News
* Today Myanmar
“Gold letter”
* World News
* Wholesale Fish
* Local News
* A Novitation
Ceremony in a Rural
Towship
* World News
* Culture Shows:
Theatrical Art
* Local News
* To The Land of
Countless Temples
* World News
* Trishaw Man
* Local News
* Kayah Style
* World News
* In The Studio:
Lann Sa (Part – II)

Barca held to goalless stalemate at rainy Getafe

MADRID, 14 Dec — Bar-
celona lost ground on title
rivals Real Madrid with an
unsurpassed performance in
a 0-0 draw at rain-lashed
Getafe on Saturday that left
them four points behind the
La Liga leaders.

Real jetted off to the
Club World Cup in Morocco
after a 4-1 win at Almeria on
Friday extended their Spanish
la Liga leaders.

Friday extended their Spanish
leaders.

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi (L) controls the ball during
their Spanish first division soccer match against Getafe
at Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe, near
Madrid, on 13 Dec, 2014.— Reuters

frustrating night and has still
not opened his account in La
Liga in seven appearances
since his ban for biting an
opponent at the World Cup
expired at the end of October.

Goalkeeper Claudio
Bravo had little to do apart
from leaping superbly to his
left to palm a shot from
Getafe forward Angel Lafita
around the post in the 33rd
minute. “There is a long way
to go but it’s a step back-
wards,” Barca playmaker
Xavi told Spanish television.

“It was the kind of game
we usually cope with but if
we don’t break the deadlock
things get tricky,” added the
former Spain midfielder.

There have been a lot of
good goalkeepers up front but
today the ball didn’t want to go in.”

Real have won the La
Liga title nine of the last 11
times they have led going into
the New Year. Champions
Atlético Madrid, sitting third,
can draw level with Barca on 35
points with a home win over
Villarreal on Sunday.

Their fifth and final match this
season was the last chance
for a draw to keep them
Mathieu’s partner at
right-back Lionel Messi was unable
to convert the few chances
he had and he saw his side
lost 4-0 in the halfway line, 
need to find the net.

 удалить багажный мешок.
LONDON, 14 Dec — Chelsea and Manchester City tightened their stranglehold on the Premier League title race on Saturday, recording victories over struggling clubs to stretch further clear of their increasingly forlorn pursuers.

Normal service was resumed at Stamford Bridge as Chelsea maintained their three-point lead over City at the top with goals from Eden Hazard and Diego Costa sinking 10-man Hull City 2-0. Champions City maintained their ever more convincing chase, sealing their convincing three-point lead over struggling clubs to tighten their stranglehold on the Premier League title race on Saturday, recording victories over struggling clubs to stretch further clear of their increasingly forlorn pursuers.

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