THE Union Election Commission requested on Monday that political parties and candidates oversee their political campaigns and to follow the law in order to prevent conflicts.

The UEC announcement stated that as the 8 November election is drawing near, the increasing tempo of political campaigns might cause conflicts due to confrontations.

Political campaigns need to be kept under special supervision by political parties and candidates in order to prevent unnecessary events impacting members of the parties and their supporters, said the statement.

Sub-election commissions nationwide will ban campaigns that are not in conformity with the law and will take legal action against the personnel concerned if necessary.

The UEC and its sub-election commissions, which are obliged to hold the election freely and fairly, will effectively supervise the political campaigns in coordination with local authorities as a precaution to prevent conflicts.

Meanwhile, the UEC issued another statement on Monday denying the request of candidates and political parties to include people who have been living outside their constituencies for more than 180 days in the voter lists of their current constituencies, as the deadline for such an arrangement had already passed.

The announcement of the UEC on Monday stated that its announcement dated 10 July 2015 urged voters to apply to sub-election commissions in order to vote in the constituencies where they are currently living if they do not want to cast their votes for the election in their original constituencies.

The deadline to apply expired on 10 October 2015, according to the UEC.—GNLM

A Myanmar national casts his ballot for advance voting at Myanmar embassy in Egypt. Photo: mna

Traditional hand-made lanterns facing extinction

AS lanterns market are flooded with cheap foreign goods, Myanmar traditional hand-made lanterns are fading from markets during the light festival this season.

Decreasing orders from customers for Myanmar traditional lanterns made of bamboo sheets and colourful papers with candles have showed that the country’s handmade culture of lanterns may be facing extinction.

About 50 years ago, Bawga Ward in Kyimyindine Township was once famous for its production of hand-made lanterns with different designs.

Many lantern makers live in Bawga Ward, and lantern dolls were very popular among children,” said U Phyu Lay, a lantern maker from the ward.

The booming market of lanterns created job opportunities for nearly all residents in the ward about 50 years ago. Lantern makers got jobs and were busy for four months ahead of the light festivals, which started at the end of the four-month long Buddhist Lent.

U Phyu Lay still remembers the high orders placed by customers across the country at the time when the lantern makers also made doll-shaped lanterns with wheels to be pushed as carts, attracting children.

All lantern makers in the ward have noticed that the demand for Myanmar lanterns was spiralling downward when cheap electronic lanterns and decorative lights have increasingly flowed into the country.

“Now, what I am making are orders placed by companies connected with foreigners,” said U Phyu Lay while making lanterns at his home.

“The seasonal lantern market along Lower Kyimyindine Road is already extinct. Just one or two shops are still there to bring back our memories of the booming time,” the 55-year old lantern maker said.—Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)
Japan grants US$135,802 for two fire engines at airports

Mobile teams seize illegal satellite receiver materials

A MEETING on law enforcement cooperation for action against the trafficking and detent of people in Indonesia was held on 21 and 22 October in Bali, Indonesia. Led by Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun, the Myanmar delegation included officials from the Myanmar Police Force, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, the Department of Transnational Crime, the Myanmar Financial Intelligence Unit and the Union Attorney-General’s Office.

The latest anti-human trafficking measures implemented by authorities in Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia and further cooperation among the participating countries were discussed at the meeting. The attendees also discussed action against human trafficking-related cases, including murder, narcotics smuggling, sharing information about suspects in Thailand and the names and numbers of enslaved Myanmar fishermen who died in Indonesia. The Myanmar delegates discussed the progress of paying compensation for the remaining trafficking victims. Only 205 Myanmar victims out of 783 who returned to Myanmar were given compensation.—Myanmar News Agency

VANTAGE TOWER, a property being developed by Myint & Associates Construction Company Ltd., will be completed in Q4 2015 and is set to be Myanmar’s most technologically advanced building. The building boasts the highest levels of security, safety, fire prevention and evacuation systems available in the market as well as the country’s first United States based Uptime Institute Tier III Certified Data Centre (M&A Data Centre), offering 90 racks of server co-location storage space and world-class support services. M&A Data Centre is located on the 6th floor of Tower B of the property.

“M&A Data Centre intends to host external clients as well as Vantage Tower tenants and is attracting a significant number of inquiries from telecommunication companies, financial institutions, government and co-location tenants,” says Hugo Slade, Managing Director of Slade Property Services, official property agent of Vantage Tower.

M&A Data Centre has been designed to ensure 99.98% operational time on an annual basis with maximum downtime of no more than 1.6 hours per year. “In a market such as Myanmar, it is very challenging to develop and execute a data centre design which ensures constant reliable power and facilities which include multi-homing internet connectivity,” said U Thein Soe Htik, who is the Infra Team Leader and Head of the Data Centre team. “At Vantage Tower, we have installed 3 gen-sets, each of which is capable of providing 100% redundant back-up power. Three sources of UPS units utilizing Distributed Parallel Architecture, or DPA, eliminate downtime associated with the 30 second gen-set initialization period whereby back-up gen-sets also exist to ensure that M&A Data Centre and base building systems are continuously running,” he added.

M&A Data Centre is carrier neutral and also offers 3 backbone fibre optic lines within the building and guarantees download speed capabilities depending on the subscribed package.

Vantage Tower, a 236,144 sq ft (21,938 sqm) GFA mixed-use building, is located on the intersection of Inya Road and Pyay Road over-looking the western edge of Inya Lake. Yangon’s most scenic area. The building will consist of two joined components; Tower A, an 18 storey mixed-use tower with two base- ment levels that will provide approximately 100,000 sq ft (9,290 sqm) of prime office accommodation, ground floor and 1st floor café and high-end restaurant facilities, and a spectacular penthouse on the 16th floor, and; Tower B, offering 90 racks of server co-location storage space and world-class support services, and a 6 level multi-storey car park that (along with 52 visitor car parking spaces in the 1st Basement Level) will hold 144 vehicles.—GNL

THE Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has granted US$135,802 for a humanitarian assistance program “The Project for Strengthening of Fire Services Local Airports in Myanmar”. The handover ceremony of the project took place at the Yangon International Airport on 26 October 2015. U Han Sein, Deputy Director for Transport, Acting Director General U Tike Aung, Ministry of Transport, Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, and Mr. Ken HARUTA, Vice President, New Kansas International Airport Company, Ltd (NKAIC) attended the ceremony.

In cooperation with NKAIC, the project is aimed to improve the airport fire-fighting facilities of the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), Myanmar, which is one of the natural disaster-prone countries in South-East Asia, of which fire-breakouts are the most frequent. Through the project, 2 fire engines and spare tires were donated by NKAIC. The fire engines’ transportation, maintenance and maintenance training fees were covered by the GGP scheme.

It was urgently necessary to upgrade the standard of fire rescue capacity and safety in case of airport emergency at the Mawlamyine Airport in Mon State and the An Airport in Rakhine State, which have no fire engines at all. Under such conditions, the GGP scheme in cooperation with NKAIC, supported one fire engine with a 12,500-liter foam extinguishing tank to Mawlamyine Airport, and one fire engine with a 3,000-liter foam extinguishing tank to An Airport.—GNL
Vice President attends opening of YTU research centre

VICE President Dr Sai Mauk Kham made a speech at the opening ceremony of the technological research centre at the Yangon Technological University in Insein Township, Yangon, on Monday.

Also present were union ministers, the chief minister of the Yangon Region government, the chairman and members of leading committees of technological universities and students.

Six outstanding students formally opened the centre at the ceremony, and the vice president unveiled the signboard and stone plaque of the building before inspecting the facility.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo reported on facts about the centre to the vice president in the briefing hall of the building.

In the vice president’s speech, he said the technological university, a friendship gift from the former Soviet Union, was founded in 1961 as the Burma Institute of Technology, and it was renamed the Rangoon Institute of Technology in 1963 before it was transferred to the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1997.

It has educated over 30,000 engineers and some of them have performed nation-building tasks, the vice president said.

As research is important for any university, the research capacity of YTU will contribute to future technological education, the vice president added.

With the development of technology, the university needs new buildings, streets and water and electricity supplies, as well as competent faculty members, modern teaching aids, lab equipment, modern information technology and lab technicians, the vice president pointed out.

Although the government is providing assistance as much as it can, the university must partner with universities in ASEAN and other countries and technological organisations, the vice president said.

The university was also provided with lab equipment worth US$1 million from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, and it is conducting research in cooperation with universities in Japan, Finland, South Korea and Thailand, according to the vice president.

The vice president said he was proud of the 42 faculty members from the university who obtained their doctorate degrees in Japan and international recognition of all undergraduate courses at the university.

In conclusion, the vice president pointed out that the research centre is a contribution of the government for the development of research, and he urged all present to preserve the centre.

Then, an undergraduate student expressed his thanks for the centre.

The government built the six-storey building at a cost of K2,754 billion ($2,160,000). The construction was completed on 25 September 2015.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister attends ASEAN+3 Science Technology and Innovation Ministerial Forum

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attended the ASEAN+3 Science Technology and Innovation Ministerial Forum in Daejeon, South Korea, on 20 October.

The forum aimed to arrange cooperation in science and technology among ASEAN countries and Japan, Korea and China. Attendees at the forum discussed boosting innovation in science and technology and addressing global and regional challenges among ASEAN countries. Ministers and deputy ministers from South Korea, China, Japan and ASEAN countries attended the forum, as well as secretary generals of ASEAN and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

On 19 October, Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo met with Mr Choi Yanghee, minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea, and discussed setting up an ICT research centre and bilateral cooperation for science and technology.—Myanmar News Agency

Notice for foreign correspondents to cover 2015 general election

THE Ministry of Information is arranging one-month visa for foreign correspondents who are to cover multiparty democracy general election to be held on 8 November 2015. The foreign correspondents are to draw media accreditation cards issued by the Union Election Commission after their arrival. In that regard, they must contact Secretary of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents’ Club U Thitsa Hla Hwaw (Ph: 095012953; Gmail: kotith69@gmail.com).

The foreign correspondents with media accreditation cards will be able to cover the election processes throughout the country. And if they want to cover news in the compound of polling stations during the elections, they need to contact the respective district and township election commissions offices to be able to enter the compound.

The foreign correspondents need to bring along with them visa recommendation undertaken by the Ministry of Information for scrutiny. For further information on visa process, contact is to be made to Director U Myint Kyaw (Ph:067412002 or 095034508; Gmail: myintkyaw103@gmail.com).—Myanmar News Agency

UEC chairman inspects election preparations in Nay Pyi Taw

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye inspected preparations for voting in upcoming election. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Election Commission chairman U Tin Aye inspected preparations for the upcoming election in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He inspected the safeguarding and distribution of ballots in Lwe and Tatkon townships. During his inspection tour, U Tin Aye discussed the issuance of voter registration certificates, voter education programmes, the copying of voter list, works of the electoral affairs negotiation committee, advance voting processes and arrangements for voters in areas with poor transportation infrastructure.—Myanmar News Agency
Community clinic provides healthcare to Zabuthiri

THE Alyinlo rural community clinic, led by health assistant Daw Cherry Hlaing, provided health services to residents of Aungchantha village in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 26 October.

The health team, consisting of six members, including nurses, provided healthcare to children, pregnant women, mothers and elderly persons, according to the health assistant.—Township IPRD

Uniforms and application forms given for new members of Ottarathiri WAO

THE Nay Pyi Taw Women’s Affairs Organisation accepted application forms and provided uniforms to 50 new members of the Ottarathiri Township WAO at the township’s General Administration Department in Ottar District, Nay Pyi Taw, on 26 October.

Nay Pyi Taw WAO chairperson Daw Myat Myat Moe said at the occasion that the organisation is the country’s reserve force and that the members are to protect national identity and religion.

A member of the organisation spoke words of thanks for providing uniforms.—Shwe Ye Yint

Concrete school road opens in Ingapu

A VITAL concrete circular road for Ingapu Township’s Mezali-gon Basic Education High School was formally opened on 23 October. The opening ceremony was attended by Ayeyawady Region chief minister U Thein Aung.

The 1,800-foot road was funded by the Township Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.—Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)

Tourism to increase in Bagan this year

LAST year, about 250,000 tourists visited Bagan – one of Myanmar’s most significant ancient cultural sites.

About 200,000 tourists visited Bagan from January to September 2015. The authorities expect to receive about 300,000 tourists in Bagan by 2015.

Tourists and pilgrims can visit Bagan through seven domestic airlines, by train or by car. Shwezigon, Ananda, Gadawpalin, Htilo-Minlo, Lawkananda, Alodawpyae and other ancient pagodas attract visitors from all over the world.—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

Traffic rules explained in Myingyan

EDUCATIONAL talks on automobile and road rules were explained at the bus terminal in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, on 25 October.

Police Captain Hlaing Oo of the No. 95 Traffic Police Force explained automobile rules, drivers’ rules and road signals. He warned express bus lines not to accept extra passengers, truck drivers not to overload, and car drivers to have a clear conscience at wheel.

Drivers, their assistants and car gate officials from 35 express bus lines and 25 freight car lines attended the event, where they were given pamphlets on automobile and road rules.

The Automobile Law, which was passed on 7 September, includes new road rules. —Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Middle school teacher course concludes in Ottara District

AN efficiency course for middle school teachers in Ottara District ended on 25 October. Certificates were presented at Pobbathiri Township’s Kyi-thaungkan Basic Education High School.

Ottara District Education officer U Ba Tun urged the teachers to apply the teaching methods that they learned from the course. He encouraged them to develop the education sector.

The 164 teachers attended the course on a weekly basis in Ottarathiri, Pobbathiri and Tatkon townships. The course began on 4 October.—Ottara District (IPRD)

Pobbathiri offers lessons on environmental conservation

THE Ottara District Women’s Affairs Organisation (WAO) in Nay Pyi Taw conducted educational talks on environmental conservation at Pobbathiri Township’s Buddha-nagga-ha religious hall on 25 October.

District WAO chairperson Daw Kyi Kyi Yin made a speech, and township development administrator U Tun Tun Oo explained the status of ongoing environmental conservation efforts and urged locals to dispose of rubbish systematically.

He added that drainage must not be blocked by trash. WAO member Daw Thet Thet spoke about sustainable cooking in order to minimise waste. She urged all households to use plastic bags as infrequently as possible.—Ottara District (IPRD)
Cambodian opposition MPs said beaten as political truce falters

PHNOM PENH — Two opposition lawmakers were beaten outside Cambodia’s parliament on Monday during a demonstration in support of the ruling party, witnesses and the opposition said, in the first case of violence since a political truce broke down in July.

The witnesses said the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) lawmakers were attacked in their vehicles as they tried to leave the national assembly, where hundreds of protesters loyal to the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) were demanding the resignation of the legislature’s deputy president.

“The chaos is the latest flare-up since tensions between the two big parties started to wane in late July, when 11 CNRP members were jailed for insurrection, a ruling party lawmaker said, was politically motivated.

“They jumped into one of the cars and beat (the lawmaker) up until he fell to the ground and then they began to kick him,” said 34-year-old witness Em Sophak.

He said the attack involved about 50 men who were carrying scarves to cover their faces and fled in two pickup trucks.

A journalist told Reuters he saw lawmakers Ngoy Chanthoeurn and Kong Sophea covered in blood as they were taken for medical treatment inside the parliament. A amateur video posted on YouTube that purported to show the incident matched the accounts of the witness. It showed one of the CNRP lawmakers pulled from his car and kicked on the ground.

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the video.

“This is brutal and the perpetrators must be brought to justice,” said CNRP parliamentarian Lim Yim Sovann. “The protest this morning represented only a group of people, not the whole country.”

The government spokesman, Phay Siphan, said, “We don’t support violence and we appeal to all sides to be calm.”

The pro-CNRP rally was held to demand the resignation of CNRP leader Kem Sokha, whom the ruling party sees as a threat after the CNRP ended a political truce with Prime Minister Hun Sen, in exchange for the CNRP ending its year-long parliamentary boycott over a disputed 2013 election. Both parties have engaged in saber-rattling of late, with Hun Sen last week warning of civil war should CNRP win the next election in 2018.—Reuters

Indian girl who wandered into Pakistan arrives home after 13 years

KARACHI — A deaf-mute Indian girl stranded in Pakistan for 13 years after wandering over the border at a time of heightened tensions was able to finally communicate with a similar plot that was released in India in 2015.

The story of Geeta, a Hindu woman in her early 20s, has captivated the public as she tried to find her family.

Many people had camped outside the Indian High Commission in Pakistan for their role in Geeta’s repatriation. The anti-graft agency had charged that as much as 17 billion US dollars for the tax payer’s money had inquired under the populist government.—Xinhua

Deputy Thai premier warns red shirt-clad protesters

BANGKOK — Deputy Thai Premier Prawit Wongsuwon advised on Monday against members of the public intending to wear red shirts on the upcoming Sunday to express sympathy for deposed premier Yingluck Shinawatra.

His comments followed speculation that a large number of people will put on red shirts, especially those loyal to Red Shirt movement since the last several years, to signify their support for the former lady leader who has been legally detained.

“The authorities are not afraid of people wearing red shirts. But such action will only be useless,” commented the deputy premier, who is concurrently defence minister.

The military-led government will not tolerate the planned gathering en masse of red-shirt-clad protesters on Sunday or any other day and will take action against any leaders of those protesters, according to Gen Prawit. Yingluck, sister of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, invariably dismissed all corruption charges filed against her by the National Anti-Corruption Commission pertaining to the rice subsidy programme under which farmers had been given an average of 500 US dollars for a ton of their rice.

The anti-graft agency had charged that as much as 17 billion US dollars in loss of the taxpayer’s money had incurred under the populist government.—Xinhua

Protesters gather in front of the house of Kem Sokha, vice president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) and deputy house president, during a demonstration to demand his resignation in Phnom Penh on 28 October 2015. Photo: Reuters

An Indian girl who wandered into Pakistan arrives home after 13 years

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Local govt approves 3rd reactor restart under tougher rules

MATSUYAMA — The governor of Ehime Prefecture in western Japan gave approval Monday for the restart of a nuclear reactor that will be the third in the country to resume operations under tougher safety rules introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Ehime Gov. Tokihiro Nakamura conveyed his approval to restart the No. 3 unit at Shikoku Electric Power Co.’s Ikata plant in a meeting with the utility’s President Hayato Saeki at the prefectural office building.

“It would be better not to have (a nuclear plant). Still, we have no choice but to implement the most advanced safety measures and live with it until we find alternative energy to nuclear power,” Nakamura said at a press conference after the meeting. The No. 3 unit at Ikata is one of five reactors acknowledged by regulators as safe enough to restart in line with a set of tougher safety requirements introduced in the wake of the disaster at Tokyo Electric Power Co.’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Japan ended a nearly two-year period without nuclear power in August when one of the Sendai reactors run by Kyushu Electric Power Co in southwestern Japan was brought back online amid continuing public concerns about nuclear energy.

The Japanese government welcomed the decision by the Ehime governor, as it looks to generate about a fifth of the nation’s overall electricity with nuclear power plants in 2030, compared with roughly 30 percent before the Fukushima disaster, in an effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions and lower fuel costs.

“No change in the government’s policy of proceeding with the restart of reactors that meet the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s stringent regulations by gaining local understanding” of restarts, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a regular press conference.

About 30 protesters gathered in front of the prefectural office building, demanding the utility stop the resumption. “This is an important issue that affects the lives of local residents but the governor is not considering it seriously,” said Tsukasa Wada, 63, a member of a local group aiming to prevent the restart of the reactor.

The reactor had cleared the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s safety screening process in July, but the timing of the restart is expected to be January or later because some necessary procedures remain, including obtaining the authority’s approval for detailed designs of equipment at the facility.

The governor’s nod came as the final step in the process of securing local approval. The mayor of Ikata town as well as the prefectural and Ikata assemblies have already given their consent.

“Local govt approves 3rd reactor restart under tougher rules”

VIETNAMESE RAILWAY OFFICIALS STAND TRIAL FOR RECEIVING BRIBERY

HANOI — Six officials of Vietnam’s railway sector are standing trial for allegations of receiving some 11 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly 504,600 US dollars) in Hanoi’s urban railway construction project Line 1, involving a Japanese company.

The trial opened Monday in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi. The officials have been prosecuted for “abusing power while on duty” at Railway Project Management Unit (RPMU) under Vietnam Railways Corporation (VNR), reported Vietnam’s state-run radio Voice of Vietnam (VOV).

The six defendants include Tran Quoc Dong (former deputy general director of VNR, former RPMU director), Tran Van Luc (former RPMU director), Nguyen Van Hieu (former RPMU director), Pham Hai Bang (former RPMU deputy director), Pham Quang Duy (former RPMU deputy director), and Nguyen Nam Thai (former RPMU project manager).

According to the indictment, in 2009, VNR signed a consultation contract with Japan Transportation Consultants, Inc. (JTC) over a project on construction of number 1 urban railway route in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese officials received money from JTC during September 2009 to February 2014, reported VOV.

People line up to protest the restart of Shikoku Electric Power Co.’s nuclear reactor in front of the Ehime prefectural government building, on 26 October 2015. Photo: Kyodo News

Kyushu Electric’s Nos. 1 and 2 reactors at the Sendai complex in Kagoshima Prefecture resumed operations on 11 August and 15 October, respectively, becoming the first two reactors to return to operation among 26 reactors for which Japanese utilities have applied for regulatory safety reviews to restart.—Kyodo News

Vietnamese railway officials stand trial for receiving bribery

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Vietnamese railway officials stand trial for receiving bribery
A nuclear submarine is seen at the Royal Navy's submarine base at Faslane, Scotland. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — The overall cost of replacing and maintaining Britain's nuclear deterrent will reach 167 billion pounds ($256 billion), much more than expected, according to a lawmaker's and Reuters' calculations based on official figures.

The Scottish Nationalist Party, which wants Britain's Scotland-based nuclear-armed Trident submarines scrapped, called the sum "unthinkably and indefensible" at a time when deep cuts under the government's "austerity" policies mean "thousands of people across the UK are struggling to afford basics like food".

Some military officials also oppose investment in Trident, saying the money would be better spent on maintaining the army and on more conventional technology, which have also faced cuts.

Until now, Prime Minister David Cameron's government has said replacing the ageing fleet of four submarines which carry nuclear warheads to provide a continuous at-sea deterrent would cost 25 billion pounds.

He added that the in-service costs would be about 6 percent of the annual defence budget over their lifetime. The total defence budget for 2014/15 reached 33.8 billion pounds and rose to 34.1 billion pounds in 2015/16, according to the ministry.

"My office's calculation based on an in-service date of 2028 and a missile extension until 2060 ... the total cost is 167 billion pounds," Blunt told Reuters.

"The successor Trident programme is going to consume more than double the proportion of the defence budget of its predecessor ... The price required, both from the UK taxpayer and our conventional forces, is now too high to be rational or sensible."

His figure was based on a presumption that Britain will spend 2 percent of its annual gross domestic product (GDP) on defence, as Cameron's government has promised.

It also uses existing official government and International Monetary Fund figures, and an assumption of GDP growth of an annual average of 2.48 percent between 2020 and 2060.

Using the same figures, a Reuters calculation came to the same sum of 167 billion pounds.

Asked about the rising cost, a spokesperson for the British Ministry of Defence said the government had published an unclassified version of a review on alternatives to Trident which "demonstrated that no alternative system is as capable, or as cost-effective, as a Trident-based deterrent.

"At around 6 percent of the annual defence budget, the in-service costs of the UK's national deterrent ... are affordable and represent an investment in a capability which plays an important role in ensuring the UK's national security," the spokesperson said.

The deputy leader of the SNP, Stewart Hosie, took aim at the Conservatives, or 'Tories', saying the new figure showed "just how much more than expected, according to the group's MPs in the UK's national security," he said in a statement.

The leader of Poland's main opposition party Law and Justice (PiS) Jaroslaw Kaczynski, looked set to secure 8.7 percent of votes, which translates into 42 seats. Official results are due on Tuesday.

"If Kukiz decides otherwise, then we’d have to bet on a scenario of a minority government," Gwion, who PiS officials have said will likely be the country’s new defence minister, told Polsat News TV.

While Kukiz has claimed a pro-Kaczynski, supporters with one missing, rescued when the search for the missing ended, the search for the missing ended, and the search for the missing ended, the search for the missing ended. Reuters
‘Dynamic Plus’ marks 40 years of friendship between Korea, Myanmar

TO celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Myanmar, the Korean Embassy would like to invite all members of the community to the Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) in Yangon for the eclectic Korean arts performance ‘Dynamic Plus’.

The two-hour event is set to begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 2, and will offer some unique performance that harmonizes Korean traditional music with Western pop. The band has performed in many countries including Germany, Italy, India and Egypt. Lee Bo-kyung, a rising star best known for her heavenly voice, will sing the folk song “Arirang”—a beloved classic that is often said to be Korea’s un-official national anthem.

Last but not least, a world-class Korean b-boying team will take over the dance floor and demonstrate its brilliance by defying gravity as its members fly through the air and glide across the floor. The team has performed alongside K-pop superstars Psy and Big Bang.

Admission is free of charge and no ticket is required to enjoy this festive event.—ROK Embassy

As they sow, so do we reap. They deforest and we suffer from floods. Shxx....

TIN AUNG

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

It is a common practice in any office when one is about to use a rubber stamp, the person invariably tries it at least once on a separate piece of paper to see the print and gauge the result of his stamp.

At the general elections we will be required to use a rubber stamp to cast our votes. And a very large portion of the voters would never have used a rubber stamp before.

To have them get the feel of a rubber stamp and thereby gain confidence, providing spare blank sheets of paper in the voting booth, to enable them to try out the stamp, will help alleviate a large number of invalid votes.

May this be suggested to the Union Election Commission.

Sincerely

A Wellwisher

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.

Selfie contest promotes tolerance among youths

TO mark the International Day of Tolerance on 16 November, the My Friend Campaign launched a selfie photo contest with a focus on promoting friendship between diverse people, according to its organiser.

Campaign coordinator Thinza Shoon Lae Yi said the main goal of the My Friend Campaign is to encourage people to post selfies with their friends from different religious backgrounds.

The contest aims to educate people on the importance of diversity by honouring and symbolising affections and friendships between people from different faiths.

It also aims to reduce all forms of discrimination, hatred, hate speech and extreme racism based on religion, ethnicity, nationality, colour or gender.

The photos must depict amity and friendship between people, along with captions conveying the feelings of the friends, she said.

Contestants can enter the contest by posting selfies to the My Friend Campaign Facebook page no later than November 10.

The winner will be announced on 15 November and will receive a prize of K30,000 (US$23) and a My Friend t-shirt at the celebration event for the International Day for Tolerance.

The My Friend Campaign was founded in May this year by a group of peace-loving youths. They plan to extend their activities to rural villages.

All politicians agree that the country needs change, but there is disagreement over the appropriate pace of the change. The official results of the general election will decide the direction and pace of change in the country.

The general election is a great opportunity to vent feelings and to elect a new government. In the past, people could not enjoy such an opportunity and had to resort to mass protests against governments that ended in bloodshed. Now, people are able to cast their votes for the government they like, thanks to the recent transition in Myanmar.

It is clear that elections are meant to effect peaceful change. Therefore, it is necessary for all members of the public to prevent violent incidents from happening during the election and to enjoy the right to suffrage peacefully.

It is time for people to vent their feelings through voting.
PATTTHANA

Hla Maung, Senior Geologist (Retired), Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

PATTTHANA, or “Book of Origination” deals with the conditionality and dependent nature of all corporeal (body) and mental phenomena of existence, which in their combinations are known by conventional names of ‘I’, ‘person’, ‘world’, etc., but which in the ultimate sense are only passing phenomena, and nothing more. The Pattthana has been described as the most important work of the Abhidhamma, which is one of the main divisions of the Buddhist Canon (or Holy Books).

All phenomena are arranged or explained with respect to 24 ‘paccaya’ or conditions or modes of conditionality. PACCAYA : CONDITION is something on which something else depends, something without which something else cannot arise or happen. Buddhist monks, on special occasions, may chant non-stop the whole Book of Origination and Conditionality, a process which may take several days. Most devotees in Myanmar however commonly recite, perhaps daily, just the 24 “paccayas” or modes of conditionality or relationship, which are enumerated below.

The recitation is as follows: “Hetu paccaya Arammana, Arammana paccaya Adhipati, Adhipati paccaya Anantar, … (and so on until) … Athi paccaya Nathi, Nathi paccaya Vagita, Vagita paccaya Avigita paccaya ti.”

This short recitation may be translated as: “Roots are conditioned by (or interdependent with) Objects. Objects are conditioned by Predominance, Predominance is conditioned by Contiguity, and so on. It is however not just a simple case of “1 dependent on 2, 2 dependent on 3, 3 dependent on 4, …” and so on, but all 24 conditions are intricately related and inter-dependent.

The 24 conditions or groups are listed below, and a brief description of each group is given later.

1. HETU : ROOT condition
2. ARAMMANA : OBJECT
3. ADHIPATI : PREDOMINANCE
4. ANANTARA : CONTIGUITY
5. SAMANANTARA : IMMEDIACY
6. SAHAJATA : CO-NAASCENCE
7. ANNAMANNA : MUTUALITY
8. NISSAYA : FOUNDATION
9. UPANISSAYA : INDUCEMENT
10. PUREJATA : PRE-NAASCENCE
11. PACCHEJATA : POST-NAASCENCE
12. ASEVANA : REPEITION
13. KAMMA : KAMMA
14. VIPAKA : KAMMA-RESULT
15. AHARA : NUTRIMENT
16. INDRiya : FACULTY
17. JHANA : JHANA
18. MAGGA : PATH
19. SAMPAYUTTA : ASSOCIATION
20. VIPAYUTTA : DISASSOCIATION
21. ATHI : PRESENCE
22. NATHI : ABSENCE
23. VIGATA : DISAPPEARANCE
24. AVIGATA : NON-DISAPPEARANCE

1. HETU: paccaya : ROOT condition
   The six roots of all wholesome and unwholesome acts, speech, thoughts; lobha, dosa, moha, adosha, amoha.

2. ARAMMANA paccaya : OBJECT condition
   Any object or thing, including mind-object, which causes consciousness and mental phenomena.

3. ADHIPATI paccaya : PREDOMINANCE condition
   Intention : chanda
   Energy : viriya
   Consciousness : vinnana
   Reflection : vimamsa
   In any state of consciousness or mental phenomenon, only one of the above is predominant.
BRUSSELS — European leaders agreed to cooperate to manage migrants crossing the Balkans but offered no quick fix to a crisis that threatens to take more lives as winter sets in and to set Europe’s nations against one another.

Meeting in Brussels as another woman and two children died at sea off Turkey, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras met leaders of nine countries on the route from the Aegean to Germany taken this year by half a million people, defying EU borders and unfurling razor wire.

After talks throughout Sunday evening that began with what officials described as a round of leaders “venting” at each other’s conduct, the 11 governments issued a pledge to work together, along with a 17-point action plan that includes United Nations-aided accommodation for 100,000 people, half of them in Greece.

“Unilateral action may trigger a chain reaction,” the joint statement read — reflecting what is already fact, as states have variously sealed off borders or moved and deposited busloads of undocumented migrants at their neighbours’ frontiers.

“Countries affected should therefore talk to each other. Neighbours should work together along the route,” the statement said.

Meeting host Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Union executive, said: “We have made very clear that the policy of simply waving people through must be stopped.”

He said it was urgent to find a humane solution for tens of thousands of people stuck behind closing Balkan borders as autumn turns cold and wet.

“The pictures of the last few days are not in line with our values,” she told reporters after extracting agreement from her peers to provide shelter, food and care for people on the move, helped where needed by EU aid and cheap international loans.

“Europe must show it is a continent of values, a continent of solidarity,” she said. “This is a building block ... but we need to take many further steps.”

She also stressed the need to continue negotiations with Turkey, the main transit country to Europe for not only Syrian and Iraqi refugees but also large numbers of Afghans and Pakistanis viewed in the EU as unwanted economic migrants.—Reuters

Balkan, EU leaders agree to coordinate on migrants

German police use water cannon to stop clashes at far-right rally

BERLIN — German police in the western city of Cologne used water cannon on Sunday on left-wing radicals protesting against a rally held by about 600 supporters of the xenophobic “Hooligans Against Salafists” (HOGESA) group.

The roughly 10,000 counter-demonstrators vastly outnumbered those at the HOGESA rally itself, where speakers called for Germany’s borders to be closed and a ban on building mosques.

Germany is struggling to cope with the arrival of an expected 800,000 to 1 million refugees and migrants this year, many from war zones in the Middle East, and politicians have expressed concern about a potential rise in right-wing radicalism.

At the event in Cologne, scuffles broke out between police and left-wingers before water cannon were turned on to separate the two sides, said police.

After outbreaks of violence at a similar event last year which left several people injured, police stepped up their presence and sent some 3,500 officers to the western city. HOGESA is a group of self-styled football hooligans and includes right-wing militants and neo-Nazis. Security forces have warned about increased street violence between rival groups.

Last week, the anti-Islam grassroots PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West) group held its biggest rally in months in the eastern city of Dresden, spurred on by the refugee crisis.

Police have warned about an increased risk of racist attacks on politicians helping refugees and say some 285 offences against asylum seekers’ shelters had been reported in the third quarter alone, compared with 198 for the whole of last year.

The concerns about growing radicalism coincide with a drop in popular support for conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel for handling the crisis and with a rise in the popularity of the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD).—Reuters

Britain’s Blair says 2003 Iraq invasion played role in Islamic State rise

LONDON — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair acknowledged the 2003 invasion of Iraq played a part in the rise of the Islamic State militant group, and apologised for some mistakes in planning the war, in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

Blair’s decision to send troops to back the US-led invasion is still a live political issue in Britain, where a six-year public inquiry into the conflict is yet to publish its findings.

Asked whether the offensive was the principal cause of the rise of Islamic State, which now controls large areas of Iraq and neighbouring Syria, Blair said there were “elements of truth” in that.

“Of course, you can’t say that those of us who removed (former Iraqi dictator) Saddam Hussein in 2003 bear no responsibility for the situation in 2015,” Blair told US network CNN.

Critics say the US decision to disband Saddam Hussein’s army after the invasion created a huge security vacuum exploited by al Qaeda, which was eventually replaced by Islamic State.

Some former Iraqi army officers, members of the Sunni Muslim minority which says it has been marginalised by the Shi’ite-led government backed by Western powers, are senior strategists in Islamic State. The Iraqi government says it has not marginalised Sunnis.

Blair said the “Arab Spring” uprisings across the region also affected Iraq, and pointed out that Islamic State had risen out of a base in Syria, not Iraq. Blair apologised for what he described as mistakes in planning and intelligence before the war and in preparations for would happen once Saddam was removed, but said it had been the right decision.

“We have tried intervention and putting down troops in Iraq; we’ve tried intervention without putting in troops in Libya; and we’ve tried no intervention at all but demanding regime change in Syria. It’s not clear to me that, even if our policy did not work, subsequent policies would have worked better,” he said.

“I find it hard to apologise for removing Saddam. I think, even from today in 2015, it is better that he’s not there than that he is there.”—Reuters

A group of migrants waits to enter a makeshift camp at the Austrian Slovenian border near the village of Sentilj, Slovenia. Photo: Reuters

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Photo: Reuters
MERS, Ebola, bird flu: Science’s big missed opportunities

LONDON — Anyone who goes down with flu in Europe this winter could be asked to enroll in a randomized clinical trial in which they will either be given a drug, which may or may not work, or standard advice to take bed rest and paracetamol.

Those who agree could be helping the world prepare for the next potentially deadly disease pandemic as well as helping scientists who are now desperate to plug gaps in knowledge left by previous missed opportunities.

Scientists are largely in the dark about how to stop or treat the slew of never-seen-before global health problems of recent years, from the emergence of the deadly MERS virus in Saudi Arabia, to a new killer strain of bird flu in China and an unprecedented Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

They have been unable even to pin down where they came from.

That is because vital studies to analyze transmission routes and test experimental drugs or vaccines have simply not been done during epidemics, disease experts say.

“It is a failure of science, they say, that should not be allowed to happen again.

“Research in all of the epidemics we have faced over the past decade has been woeful,” said Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust global health foundation and an expert on infectious diseases. “The world is at risk because there are huge gaps in our knowledge base.

“We don’t now have a vaccine for SARS if it came back tomorrow; we don’t know how to treat MERS; it took us six to nine months before we started clinical trials of vaccines for Ebola and in the meantime almost 12,000 people lost their lives; and during the H1N1 pandemic, the number of people randomized into clinical studies was very close to zero.”

Bureaucracy, logistics and lack of forethought are the heart of the problem, according to Trudie Lang, professor of Global Health Research at Oxford University, who has been working on ways to lower such barriers.

During the Ebola outbreak that swept through Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Lang’s team, which specializes in planning and operating trials in vulnerable populations in difficult settings, was tasked with setting up a clinical study of a potential Ebola treatment called brincidofovir. “It normally takes 18 months to set up a trial, and we did it in 16 weeks,” she told Reuters.

“But the problem was we were still behind the curve.”

In the 2009 H1N1 “swine flu” pandemic, when many governments had stockpiled antiviral drugs such as Roche’s Tamiflu and GlaxoSmithKline’s Relenza and doctors prescribed them, often as a preventative measure without a confirmed diagnosis, no proper randomized clinical trials were conducted to find out for sure whether they helped.

This has left health officials with little or no concrete evidence on which to base treatment decisions when the next pandemic flu strain threatens the world.

“It is a huge pity we haven’t made the most of our opportunity to generate evidence,” said Chris Butler, a clinical professor at Cardiff University’s Institute of Primary Care & Public Health, who is now working on the European-wide winter flu trial he hopes will help plug the evidence gap.

There is little doubt that launching clinical trials in an outbreak is fraught with difficulty, partly because a new or rare strain of disease can infect so many and overwhelm health services and partly because there are many bureaucratic hurdles.—Reuters

Chinese scientists probe mystery of solar storms

BEIJING — An aurora dancing in the sky reminds scientist Liu Ying of the skirt of a ballerina. But this poetic image belies a potential source of disaster.

How does a super solar storm, which can cause the most magnifi- cent auroras, begin? Scientists are still trying to understand it.

Liu, a researcher at the State Key Laboratory of Space Weather of the National Space Science Centre under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), has made an outstanding contribution to research on solar storms, and was recently awarded the Zhao Juzhang Science Prize, named after China’s space science pioneer.

Delivering a report at the award presentation, Liu said a super solar storm could cause trillions of dollars in damage, from which it could take four to 10 years to recover. A super solar storm on 1 September, 1859 — the Carrington Event — first triggered research on solar storms. The Carrington Event caused colorful auroras that could be seen even in low latitude regions like Hawaii. It also caused the telegraph systems in northern America and Europe to break down.

The most recent solar storm happened on 15 March, 2015. Although not a super storm, it caused the biggest geomagnetic storm on earth in a decade.

“Our research shows that the geomagnetic storm was caused by the interaction of two coronal mass ejections,” Liu said.

Understanding solar storms is important to China’s space development. The high-energy particle radiation of a solar storm could be carcinogenic for astronauts and damage electronic devices on a spacecraft, Liu said.

If the solar storm hit earth’s magnetosphere, it could trigger a geomagnetic storm and damage power grids, and navigation and telecommunication systems, said Liu. In 2012, Japanese, European and Chinese scientists respectively found a remarkable increase of radioactive carbon-14 in tree rings and corals, which dated back to around 774 and 775 AD.

Scientists believe the phenomenon was caused by a super solar storm, after finding a record of splendid auroras on the night of 17 January in 775 in historical documents from China’s Tang Dynasty (618-907). According to the documents, the auroras covered most of the sky above the northern hemisphere, and lasted for about eight hours. Another super solar storm, on 23 July, 2012, was regarded as “perfect” by scientists.

“We call it a ‘perfect storm’, because all the conditions aligned to create such a big storm,” said Liu. He cooperated with scientists in the United States and Europe to observe the whole process of a super solar storm for the first time in history, and to identify the formation mechanism. Their research was published on the scientific journal, Nature Communications.—Xinhua

China makes world’s 1st 3D blood vessel bio-printer

CHENGDU — A Chinese biotechnological company announced on Sunday it has developed the world’s first 3D blood vessel bio-printer, which makes it possible to produce personalized functional organs.

Sichuan Revotek Co., Ltd. based in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, said the significant breakthrough has been achieved through its self-developed stem cell bio-ink technology, 3D bio-printer and cloud computing platform.

“The creative breakthrough in the 3D blood vessel bio-printing means we have mastered the stem cell-based 3D bio-printing technology,” said Yang Kang, chairman of Sichuan Languang Development Co., Ltd. Revotek is a subsidiary of Sichuan Languang.

Blood vessels that transport nutrients to organs are indispensable elements when creating any organs, according to James Kang, an expert who led the program.

Kang’s team has created a novel type of bio-ink — “Biosynsphere”, whose primary goal is the personalized stem cell bio-printing to pave the way for organ regeneration.

“We have successfully realized the blood vessel regeneration by relying on the 3D bio-printer, the biosynsphere technology and the data model based on cloud computing,” he said.

The company said it is willing to absorb more talent and seek international cooperation for the application of the achievements.—Xinhua
At least 100 dead after strong quake hits Afghanistan, Pakistan

A rescue worker carries a child who was injured during an earthquake, at a hospital in Jalalabad, Afghanistan on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

KABUL — A powerful earthquake struck a remote area of Afghanistan on Monday, shaking the capital Kabul and killing at least 24 people while 76 were killed in neighboring Pakistan, officials said. The death toll could climb in coming days because communications were down in much of the rugged Hindu Kush mountain range area where the quake was centered.

Reports of deaths had poured in from different areas of both countries by nightfall. In one of the worst incidents, at least 12 girls were killed in a stampede to get out of their school in the northeastern Afghan province of Takhar. "I fell under the feet of other students," said Abdul Razzaq Zinda, provincial head of the Afghan National Disaster Management Agency, who reported heavy damage in Takhar.

Shockwaves were felt in northern India and in Pakistan, where hundreds of people ran out of buildings as the ground rolled beneath them. "We were very scared ... We saw people leaving buildings, and we were remembering our God," Pakistani journalist Zubair Khan said by telephone from the Swat Valley northwest of the capital, Islamabad.

"I was in my car, and when I stopped my car, the car itself was shaking as if someone was pushing it from behind," said Scott Anderson, an American tourist who was in Peshawar with his family.

The quake was 213 km (132 miles) deep and centered 254 km (158 miles) northeast of Kabul in Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province.

The US Geological Survey initially measured the quake’s intensity at 7.7 but revised it down to 7.5. Just over a decade ago, a 7.6 magnitude quake in another part of northern Pakistan killed about 75,000 people.

In Afghanistan, a total of 24 were reported dead on Monday including the 12 schoolgirls, seven people were killed in a stampede and four others were killed in a building collapse.

In Pakistan, 38 deaths were reported by early evening, with another 12 in another province, officials said. In Pakistan, 38 deaths were reported by early evening, with another 12 in another province.

Further south, the city of Peshawar had one death but at least 150 injured people were being treated at the city’s main hospital, the provincial health chief said. In Afghanistan, international and local aid agencies working in northern areas reported that cell phone coverage in the affected areas remained down in the hours after the initial quake. "The problem is we just don’t know. A lot of the phone lines are still down," said Scott Anderson.

Palestinians, live beyond the barrier.— Reuters
About 100 people injured in Hong Kong ferry collision

HONG KONG — About 100 people were injured on Sunday when a ferry returning from Macau to Hong Kong collided with an unknown object, a police department official said.

The incident occurred around 1850 Hong Kong time (1050 GMT) on Sunday, near the island of Lantau, the official told Reuters, adding that the cause of the incident was being investigated. Hong Kong is one of the world’s busiest shipping channels. While serious accidents are rare, the waters have become increasingly crowded with leisure boats and vessels that ferry passengers to the nearby gambling hub of Macau. Macau is the only place in China where casino gambling is legal, making it popular with gamblers and tourists to the city.

In 2012, 39 people were killed in a ferry collision in Hong Kong’s worst maritime disaster in decades. In Sunday’s accident, the vessel was said to have taken in water and lost power after the collision, RTHK said. It said passengers described chaotic scenes as people stumbled in the dark, some bleeding and others to injuries to their arms and legs.—Reuters

Oklahoma parade crash suspect charged with four counts of murder

The incident occurred around 1850 Hong Kong time (1050 GMT) on Sunday, near the island of Lantau, the official told Reuters, adding that the cause of the incident was being investigated. Hong Kong is one of the world’s busiest shipping channels. While serious accidents are rare, the waters have become increasingly crowded with leisure boats and vessels that ferry passengers to the nearby gambling hub of Macau. Macau is the only place in China where casino gambling is legal, making it popular with gamblers and tourists to the city.

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Stillwater — An Oklahoma woman was charged on Sunday with four counts of second-degree murder a day after she allegedly crashed the car she was driving into a crowd at an Oklahoma State University homecoming parade, killing four people and injuring dozens, police said.

Adacia Avery Chambers, 23, allegedly drove a gray Hyundai Elantra into a crowd watching Saturday’s parade in Stillwater, about 65 miles (105 km) southwest of Oklahoma City.

Police said they suspected Chambers was intoxicated. Three adults and a toddler were killed and about four dozen people were injured, five of them critically.

Stillwater police said in a statement on Sunday the murder charges were filed in consultation with the Payne County District Attorney’s office. Police were still awaiting results of a blood test administered to Chambers after the crash.

Her lawyer, Tony Coleman, told The Oklahoman newspaper he believes his client is mentally ill and doubted she was drunk at the time of the crash.

“I don’t believe right now that she was intoxicated,” Coleman told the newspaper. “I have deep concerns about her competency at this point. I’m not a psychologist or psychiatrist, but I can tell you she’s suffering from mental illness,” Coleman said. Reuters could not reach Coleman immediately. Chambers was expected to make an initial appearance in Payne County District Court on Monday afternoon, police said. A man who was watching the parade with his family said the crash sounded like a bomb had gone off, transforming a festive mood into one of horror.

“All I remember was a gust of wind and then the sound,” Mark McNitt said at a news conference, recalling when the vehicle jumped the curb, mowing down dozens of men, women and children.

“The only thing I can relate it to is some type of bombing,” McNitt, whose father-in-law Leo Schmitz, 54, was critically injured, “The screaming ... and a lot of screaming,” Police said Chambers lives in Stillwater but did not appear to be an OSU student. She worked at Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers in Stillwater, her employer said. Her father, Floyd Chambers, 47, earlier told The Oklahoman his daughter lived with her boyfriend in Stillwater. He described her as timid and not an alcoholic. “They’re going to paint her into a horrible person but this is not her,” he told the paper. In a statement on Sunday, police identified the three adults who were killed as Nikita Prabhakar, 23, of Edmond, Oklahoma; Bonnie Jean Stone, 65; and Marvin Lyle Stone, 65, both of Stillwater. They were all pronounced dead at the scene.

A toddler died later Saturday, police said. Family members identified him as Nash Lucas, according to Oklahoma television station KOTV. Prabhakar, originally from Mumbai, India, was a graduate business student at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, the school said, identifying her as Nikita Nakal. The school could not be reached immediately to clarify the discrepancy. Stone was a professor of agricultural engineering at OSU, according to the school’s website. He retired in 2006 and founded the Marvin and Bonnie Stone Endowed Scholarship Fund with his wife the following year.—Reuters

Claims Day Notice

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV KOTA TAMPA VNO NO (665)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV KOTA TAMPA VNO NO (665)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myana Port Authority**

**Agent For:** MS Advance Container Lines

Phone No: 2301185

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV KULSUMUT VNO NO (11/15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV KULSUMUT VNO NO (11/15)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) 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.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myana Port Authority**

**Agent For:** MS Kulnatee Co

Phone No: 2301186

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV THAI BINH 039 VNO NO (03)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV THAI BINH 039 VNO NO (03)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.L.P.T-2 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.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myana Port Authority**

**Agent For:** MS G-Link Express Pte Ltd.

Phone No: 2301186

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**Weather Report**

**Bay Inference:** According to the observations at (15:30hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over South-west Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast Valid Until Evening of the 27th October, 2015:** Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Sagar, Mataland, Kolkata, and Chittagong, and rain or thundershowers will be isolated in the remaining regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the Sea:** Seas are moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for Subsequent Two Days:** Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon and Tamsui, Regions of Rakhae, Kayah and Mon States.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and Neighbouring Area for 27th October, 2015:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers, Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Yangon and Neighbouring Area for 27th October, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 27th October, 2015:** Partly cloudy.
Justin Bieber returns, triumphs at MTV Europe Music awards

MILAN — Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber made a triumphant return to the European stage at the MTV Europe Music Awards in Milan on Sunday, scooping five prizes at the major music event.

Bieber, who performed his “What Do You Mean?” hit to roaring cheers, was the biggest winner of the night, taking Best Male, Best Look, Worldwide Act: North America, Biggest Fans and Best collaboration for “Where Are U Now?” with Skrillex and Diplo.

The singer, who found fame at 13 and went on to become a global pop phenomenon, will next month release his third album in three years, during which bad behavior offstage risked damaging his family-friendly teen heart-throb image.

“We don’t take any of these moments for granted,” Bieber said at the show. “That’s where I belong, right there on that stage.”

However several big names, also winners on the night, were absent from the event, held at Milan’s Mediolanum Forum.

Paramount, which has the top grossing opening in franchise history with the latest “Paranormal Activity” elec...
Trick or Trump: The Donald, Pizza Rat among top Halloween costumes

NEW YORK — When a Donald Trump look-alike and a faux Caitlyn Jenner ring the doorbell on Halloween night, they may solicit a piece of candy but the treat they really seek is recognition.

Pop culture experts say these “ripped from the headlines” costumes to celebrate the 31 October holiday — such as “El Chapo” the fugitive Mexican cartel kingpin or “Left Shark” from pop star Katy Perry’s Super Bowl halftime show — are a way for adults to connect in a world splintered by a myriad of choices for information and entertainment.

While children typically dress up as witches and ghosts, the most popular costume this year among adults shopping on Yandy.com is The Optical Illusion Dress, the subject of an online debate that went viral over its colour. The hot seller is a compromise: half blue and black, half white and gold, said CEO Chad Horstman.

Also in high demand is Pizza Rat — a gray mini dress with a tall, hood, ears and two pepperoni pizza slice pockets — that is arguably sexier than the video of a New York City rat dragging a pizza slice down a subway step, shared more than 100,000 times on Twitter in the last month, according to Topsy.com.

The lion-slaying den- tist Walter Palmer of Min- nesota who gained noto- riety for his trophy kill of Cecil the Lion, considered a national treasure in Zim- babwe, inspired a $139.99 getup from Costumesish.com, complete with a blood spattered dental smock and mock lion head.

“It used to be we all watched the same TV shows, we all knew the same cultural references. Now the culture is really fragmented,” said Robert Thompson, who teaches pop culture at Syracuse University in upstate New York. “These news sto- ries, the ones that hit the big time, that cross that point of penetration, those are the things that everybody shares.”

Jim Von Schilling, the Pennsylvania-based area chairman of the Popular Culture Association, said when it comes to envisioning a Halloween costume, imaginations are sparked by current events.

“The world around us is our pop culture,” said Von Schilling. —Reuters

POMPEII — Years of neglect at the ancient Ro- man city of Pompeii are being dug and scrubbed away in a last-minute bid to keep money flowing from a huge European Union-backed renovation programme.

Workers in hard hats beaver away as tourists visiting the Italian World Heritage site peer through screens and wire fences at ruins of ancient hous- es where restorations are going into overdrive. Sub- merged under volcano ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, Pompeii is one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world, giving a unique glimpse into daily life un- der the Roman empire.

But years of misman- agement and corruption have exacerbated decay at the sprawling, 66 hectare site, which aims to rebuild col- onial-era structures and protect the area from water-logging.

Fast forward three years and only around 21 million euros out of the total 105 million euros on offer have been spent. Unless the site managers do the rest of the work by the original 31 December deadline, they risk losing access to this money to pay for it.

“But we are really working against the clock,” said superintendant Massimo Osanna, an ex-university superintendent who was chosen by the government to take over in early 2014 to make a break with the site’s scandal-ridden past. “If the timing had been respected more at the beginning we wouldn’t have this concentration of work that is causing prob- lems now,” Osanna said in a makeshift workshop where technicians are re- storing plaster casts of Ve- suvius’s victims. The pro- ject got bogged down in disputes over who should lead the work and extra checks and balances put in place to keep contracts from falling into the hands of the local mafia.

Osanna said the pace of work has almost doubled since late 2014, with around 30 technical interventions underway.—Reuters

Inventor aims to revolutionize waste removal with bio-toilet

Asahikawa — A dry bio-toilet invented in Ja- pan’s Hokkaido has created a solution for odor and san- itation problems in remote or disaster-hit areas where no suitable sewage system is available, and its creator hopes that the device might one day revolutionize human waste disposal world- wide.

Developer of the “Bio- Lux” toilet, Toshihiro Kitsui, 68, president of Seiwa Denko Co., says that with only sawdust and a screw mixing mechanism, the system can be almost a permanent personal waste solution, with little odor or upkeep. “The sawdust will remain dry even after use and the mixture can be used as fertilizer,” the Asahikawa-based Kitsui said. “Our toilet is as capable as a flush toilet.”

The bio-toilet can easily be set up almost anywhere, even amid inhos- pitable or emergency situations.

Despite employing only 10 people, Seiwa Denko has already won interna- tional acclaim for the Bio- Lux toilet.

It has taken part in overseas projects, specifi- cally contributing to clean- up efforts in Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site battling severe water pollution amid an increase in tourists.

Seiwa Denko was founded as a wholesaler of lighting equipment in 1974, but switched its focus to the toilet business after Kitsui was diagnosed with stom- ach cancer at 45.

Kitsui had most of his stomach removed as a re- sult of the cancer treatment and this drove him to be- come interested in ways to decompose leftovers and human waste.

Since most existing dry toilets fail to deal with the odor problem, Kitsui went through trial designs of various types of screws — a key mechanism in the decomposition and odor re- duction process — before rolling out the first bio-toi- let in 1995.

But Seiwa Denko struggled for sales in the five years after launching the product, putting the company in a difficult fi- nancial state.

“I guess most people were skeptical about our product,” Kitsui said.

But he added, “I was confident that the day would come when our toilet will be needed around the world.”

As Kitsui predicted, the Bio-Lux system gradu- ally started receiving rec- ognition from the industry and users, and now about 2,500 Bio-Lux toilets are being used in and outside of Japan.

Kitsui has also devel- oped portable bio-toilets that can be used for up to two weeks based on what he learned from people’s needs at evacuation centers in northeastern Japan fol- lowing the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster.

In April, his two-dec- ade efforts were officially acknowledged when he won the Medal with Yellow Ribbon, an award given by the Japanese government in recognition of dedication to one’s profession.

“When I was in Asahikawa, I want to revolutionize the world’s toilet industry, just like when the flush to- let was invented,” Kitsui said.—Kyodo News
Hamilton takes third F1 title after US thriller

LEWIS Hamilton joined the elite group of triple Formula One world champions on Sunday after winning a thrilling US Grand Prix that kept the crowd on tenterhooks right to the very end.

“That’s the greatest moment of my life,” he gazed over the team radio, choking back the tears, after crossing the line 2.8 seconds ahead of German team mate Nico Rosberg who had led before a late mistake.

The first British driver to win back-to-back titles, Hamilton realised a lifelong ambition to equal the tally of his boyhood idol Ayton Senna, the Brazilian triple champion who died in 1994.

Ferrari’s four-times champion Sebastian Vettel finished third, after starting 13th and fighting back to chase Rosberg nose-to-tail to the final lap with the crowd on the edge of their seats on a cold and blustery afternoon after morning rain. Had Vettel passed Rosberg, the celebrations for the ‘double double’ — with Mercedes retaining their constructors’ title two weeks ago in Russia — would have remained on hold.

“I’m just overwhemed,” said Hamilton, who had needed to beat Vettel by nine points and Rosberg by two to take the crown with three races to spare.

“There were so many times when I thought I had lost the race.” Interviewed on the podium by pop’s very own ‘rocket man’, British pop singer Elton John, Hamilton sprayed the champagne with shellshocked and barely reacted.

Before the podium ceremony, Hamilton tossed his team mate a cap to wear. The German threw it back in disgust. No words were necessary.

“I don’t know what happened,” he said later when asked about his slip. “It was my race to win, but with some strange mistake that has never happened to me that was really, really tough at the time, to lose the win.” —Reuters

Suarez treble gives Barca comeback win over Eibar

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LONDON — Manchester City returned to the top of the Premier League after a 0-0 draw with Manchester United on Sunday but the much-hyped meeting proved far less eventful than the day’s other derby.

Sunderland beat bitter rivals Newcastle United 3-0 to escape from the bottom of the table, condemning Aston Villa to 20th place just hours after they sacked manager Tim Sherwood.

Man City top after bore draw, Klopp still awaits win

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