VOTES SWIFTLY TALLIED

NLD dominates the first round of election results

THE Union Election Commission announced the results of Sunday’s general election for almost a third of townships in Yangon Region yesterday, with the opposition party polling strongly.

Among the 28 Pyithu Hluttaw [Lower House] seats included in the commission’s 9 pm announcement, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won 25 seats, while the ruling Union Solidarity and Development party won two, and the Wa Democratic Party, one.

Out of 24 seats in the Yangon Region parliament included in the announcement, the NLD won 23, and the ruling party won one.

The Union Election Commission (UEC) will continue to announce official results from the country’s historic election at 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm over the coming days. The UEC will hold daily press conferences at 4 pm at its office in Nay Pyi Taw. The commission’s chairman U Tin Aye said during a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that 48 cases of voting irregularities were reported nationwide on election day.

He described the general election as peaceful and a success. It was the first held inclusive election in Myanmar in a quarter of a century.—Myanmar News Agency

A family in Yangon excitedly watches an official election announcement following Sunday’s historic general election. Photo: Aye Min Soe
Union Minister visits two tech universities in Yangon

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo visited two technological universities in Yangon yesterday.

He met with faculty members at Yangon Western Technological University and urged them to continually upgrade their teaching skills and research at the university, which was previously under a system of ministerial centralisation.

Dr Ko Ko Oo also met with bachelor students to discuss their needs and progress before inspecting laboratories and workshops.

He then went to the Technological University in Hmawby and met with faculty members and students.—Myanmar News Agency

Parami Roundtable Series Group wins ASEAN People’s Award

PARAMI Roundtable Series Group was chosen as the winner of the ASEAN People’s Award, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The award honours individuals and organisations for their active participation in the establishment of the ASEAN community.

Parami Roundtable Series Group has its headquarters at Sakura Tower on Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon and delegates will travel to Malaysia to receive the award on 21 November. The awards ceremony will be held during the launch of the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Myanmar’s security committee invited application submissions through the local newspapers Myanmar Alinn and Kyemon on 11 September. Three individuals and five organisations submitted applications by the deadline of 30 September.—Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Minister discusses climate change in Singapore

A DELEGATION led by Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Thet Thet Zin attended the Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development in Singapore last week.

The deputy minister gave a presentation titled ‘Myanmar Perspectives on Climate Change Strategy’ to forum participants.

In the Dialogue on Climate Change Panel, Professor Dr Howard Barney from Australia National University, Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thein Thein Zin, Chief Coordinator of India’s Climate Change Mr Shyam Saran, Indonesian President’s Special Envoy on Climate Change Mr Rachmat Witoelar and Mr. Nerus Acosta, Adviser at the President Office of the Environmental Conservation of the Republic of Indonesia.

The forum was held from 2 to 4 November at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre in Singapore.—Myanmar News Agency

Midwifery training aims to reduce maternal mortality

According to a 2005 survey, one in 10 pregnant women die during abortion procedures in Myanmar.

Khant Thandar Lwin

THE Ministry of Health has started offering a foundation course in midwifery in an effort to reduce the number of fatal pregnancies, fatal abortion procedures and fatal birthings.

The World Bank provided a loan for the project implemented by the health ministry in cooperation with partner organisations this year, said Dr Theingi Myint, Director of the Maternal and Reproductive Health Unit of the Public Health Department.

The project will continue into next year. It aims to train midwives from every region and state. There are around 12,000 midwives in the country.

Abortion is the third leading cause of maternal mortality in Myanmar. According to a 2005 study into the matter one in 10 pregnant mothers dies during abortion procedures, mostly in the Ayeyawady and Magway regions. The health ministry aims to reduce the rate of abortions performed in those areas.

Myanmar is included on the list of developing nations with a high mortality rate for pregnant women and children under five.

According to the World Health Organisation, over 20 million women experience an unsafe abortion worldwide each year.

There is no exact data in Myanmar but doctors say many poor, uneducated women undergo dangerous abortion procedures to avoid increasing the burden on their families.
UEC hails election a success, announces first results

Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye announced official results of the election. PHOTO: MNA

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye described Myanmar’s general election of November 8 as a success and thanked all those involved during a press conference yesterday. His announcement coincided with the first election results to be formally issued by the Union Election Commission (UEC).

In the Yangon Region Parliament, 23 seats were won by the opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), while the incumbent Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won one seat.

In the Pyithu Hluttaw [Lower House], the NLD won 25 till 9 pm announcement seats, U Tin Aye said.

At more than 40,000 polling stations across the country on Sunday, just 48 irregularities were reported. The overwhelming majority of voters and candidates did not encounter any obstacles on the day of the historic vote, the UEC chairman said.

He gave the speech during the formal opening of a media centre in Nay Pyi Taw, whose function is to convey election results to foreign and international journalists.

An information centre at the UEC’s branch office in Yangon will also announce the results to the media, while the commission in Nay Pyi Taw will hold a daily press conference at 4 pm.

First of such press conferences was held yesterday, UEC member U Myint Naing responded to questions from local and foreign media about the timing of election results announcements, advance voting, the voting rights of ethnic candidates, illegal campaign activities, invalid votes and campaign spending.

The media centres will announce election results at 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm everyday, provided new information is sent from region and state election sub-commissions to the UEC.

The UEC chairman received delegations of election commissions from ASEAN member states as well as from Russia and India at UEC’s headquarters yesterday and discussed the process of communicating election results to the public and the media.—Myanmar News Agency

2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and results

>> From page 1

8. Yangon Pazundaung U Myint Lwin National League for Democracy 19129
10. Yangon Lamtaw U Khin Muang Win National League for Democracy 17177
11. Yangon Kamayut U Kyaw Min National League for Democracy 29418
12. Yangon Dagon Dr. Thet Thet Khaing National League for Democracy 8431
14. Mandalay Amarapura U Soe Myint (a) U Aung Zaw Myint National League for Democracy 87535
15. Mandalay Madaya U Zaw Min Lwin National League for Democracy 94369
16. Mandalay Singu Dr Zaw Min Myint National League for Democracy 54364
17. Mandalay Kyaukse Dr Tin Aung National League for Democracy 79256
18. Mandalay Meiktila Dr Maung Thin Union Development and Solidarity Party 96314
19. Mandalay Mahlaing U Hla Tun Aung National League for Democracy 41674
20. Yangon Mingaladon U Aung Hlaing Win National League for Democracy 69141
21. Yangon Thongwa Daw Su Su Lwin National League for Democracy 49616
22. Yangon Dala Dr Sein Mya Aye National League for Democracy 54144
23. Yangon Kyauktada U Nay Myo Htet National League for Democracy 13136
25. Yangon Hlne U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo National League for Democracy 61674
26. Shan Hopan U Kyin Wan Wa Democratic Party 6039
27. Shan Mongyang U Sai Sam Union Development and Solidarity Party 2113
28. Ayeyawady Nyaungdon U Ohn Lwin National League for Democracy 73777

2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Victorious Region/State Hluttaw representatives and results

>> From page 1

8. Yangon Yankin-2 U Thein Zaw National League for Democracy 13183
10. Yangon Thakata-2 Daw Thet Htar Nwe Win National League for Democracy 38321
11. Yangon Dawbon-1 U Han Soe National League for Democracy 10431
12. Yangon Dawbon-2 U Thant Zin National League for Democracy 12008
13. Yangon Tamway-1 U Hla Thein National League for Democracy 29317
14. Yangon Tamway-2 U Thein Myint National League for Democracy 30971
15. Yangon Pazundaung-1 U Khin Maung Win National League for Democracy 9311
17. Yangon Ablon-1 Daw Yin Yin Myint National League for Democracy 9298
18. Yangon Ablon-2 Daw Nwe Nwe Win National League for Democracy 10700
20. Yangon-2 Lamtaw-2 U Kyaw Tun National League for Democracy 8485
23. Yangon Dagon-1 U Tin Maung Tun National League for Democracy 4549
24. Yangon Dagon-2 U Kyaw Zeya National League for Democracy 3912

Myanmar News Agency

16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for S&T

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Kyaw Myat attended the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Science and Technology and the 70th ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, from 2 to 6 November. Delegates at the meeting approved the ASEAN Action Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation 2016-2025, and cooperation in ASEAN science and technology sector among partner countries. —Myanmar News Agency
MANILA — The Philippine Supreme Court is expected to decide that a new US-Philippine security agreement is constitutional and will announce its ruling before President Barack Obama visits Manila next week for an Asia-Pacific summit, a source said.

The deal gives US troops wide access to Philippine military bases and approval to build facilities to store fuel and equipment for maritime security, but it was effectively frozen after left-wing politicians and other opponents challenged its constitutionality last year.

The expected ruling comes amid growing tension between the United States and China over Beijing’s island-building in the disputed South China Sea.

“If I have seen the draft ruling, I am very confident the Supreme Court will favour us,” said the official.

Last week the court source said the decision would likely come next year, but one Philippine political expert, Rommel Banlaoi, said the court probably acted to avoid political complications due to Philippine elections next May. “The court is probably worried politicians will use EDCA as an election issue, so it made the decision now,” said Banlaoi. “If the court decides the agreement is constitutional, it will be a big victory for President (Benigno) Aquino.”

It cements the strong security alliance between the US and the Philippines. US-Philippine military ties are already robust. Philippine military officials say there has been an increase in US exercises, training and ship and aircraft visits in the past year under Obama’s “rebalancing” to Asia. But the EDCA would take the relationship a step further, partly by giving US forces broad access to the Philippines.—Reuters

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Thai trafficking investigator quits raising questions over probe

BANGKOK — The resignation of a senior Thai policeman in charge of a sweeping human trafficking investigation raises serious questions over the country’s commitment to end the illegal trade and protect its citizens, a rights group said yesterday.

Major General Pauwin Pongsirin, whose team led arrests made since May, quit at the weekend saying an order to transfer him to Thailand’s south would expose him to revenge by members of trafficking syndicates still at large.

Thailand has indicted 88 people suspected of involvement in human trafficking since launching a nationwide investigation into gangs following the discovery in May of 30 bodies in graves buried near the Thailand-Malaysian border, which prompted an international outcry.

One soldier and four police officers were among those arrested.

The clampdown triggered a regional migrant crisis when traffickers abandoned boats crammed with thousands of migrants at sea, rather than risk landing on Thai shores. Despite that crackdown, the US kept Thailand for a second year on Tier 3 — the lowest tier — in its annual Trafficking in Persons report in July for failing to comply with the minimum US standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Sarai Phakul, Thailand researcher at Human Rights Watch, said lack of protection for investigators and witnesses would impact the effectiveness of the trafficking trials. National police chief Jakthip Chaijinda told reporters Praween could have asked for protection but chose to resign instead.

“This is a shame, Praween is someone with knowledge,” he said. Reuters could not reach Praween immediately.

On Tuesday, the 88 suspects will be moved from the south, where many of them were arrested, to Bangkok where a criminal court division set up in July specifically to handle trafficking cases will begin examining witnesses. But the trials could prove lengthy and convictions are far from certain.

Investigations have been exacerbated by at least three cases of witness intimidation. A Reuters report in July underscored how key witnesses felt traffickers could target them, raising questions about the long-term effectiveness of the crackdown.—Reuters

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Adani coal mine in Australia faces fresh legal challenge

SYDNEY — Indian conglomerate Adani Enterprises is facing possible further delays in constructing a giant coal mine in Australia after an environmental group lodged a fresh legal challenge on the grounds the project would harm the Great Barrier Reef and contribute to climate change.

Australia’s Environment Minister on 15 October issued an environmental permit for construction of the mine, costing an estimated $7 billion, after clearing concerns raised in an earlier legal challenge over two rare outback species that set the project back by several months.

On Monday, lawyers for the Environmental Defenders Office acting for the Australian Conservation Foundation launched a review of that approval.

“This case is about whether the minister correctly applied the law when considering the impacts of the project on the Great Barrier Reef and endangered Black-throated finch,” said Sean Ryan, the principal EDO solicitor for the foundation.

Adani, which originally aimed to ship 40 million tonnes of coal a year in the mine’s first phase starting in late 2017, could not be reached for immediate comment.

“Our question is has the Environment Minister properly applied this legal obligation when considering the impacts of burning coal from this mine on the Great Barrier Reef?” Ryan said.

The grounds for the review included one in relation to the

China’s Xi calls for reforms

BEIJING — China must strengthen its reforms and modernise its system of governance over the next five years, President Xi Jinping told a meeting of a key Communist Party body yesterday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The government will push forward reforms in its free trade zones where it will provide more support for financial experimentation, including loosening market access and further opening the services sector, Xi said at the meeting.

“Further development needs to be based on reforms while progress in reforms gives a strong impetus for development,” Xi was quoted saying.

The government will also push forward the construction of financial infrastructure and work on building advanced think tanks, Xinhua reported.

The meeting was held nearly two weeks after the ruling Communist Party’s key plenum meeting, at which Party leaders discussed the next five-year plan, the blueprint for the country’s social and economic development in the 2016-2020 period.

Xi said last week that China needed to maintain annual economic growth of at least 6.5 percent over the next five years to realise the country’s goal of doubling 2010 GDP and per capita income by 2020. The economy grew 6.9 percent between July and September from a year earlier, dipping below 7 percent for the first time since the global financial crisis, though some market watchers believe real growth rates are much weaker than government figures suggest.

—Reuters

Sediment can be seen in the water as ships and boats sail past the coastal town of Hervey Bay, north of Brisbane in Queensland, Australia. PHOTO: REUTERS

Second suspect in Thai royal insult case dies

BANGKOK — A man arrested as part of a high-profile royal insult investigation in Thailand has died, the justice ministry said yesterday, the second suspect in as many weeks to die in police custody.

Suriyan Sucharitpolwong, a well-known fortune teller and former aide to Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, was admitted to hospital on Thursday and died of natural causes on Saturday, the Department of Corrections said in a statement.

Suriyan died of a “blood infection,” the department said.

Suriyan was charged with lese-majesty, which in Thailand is one of the strictest such laws in the world, along with two other people involved in an alleged conspiracy to exploit the name of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn.

Thailand’s royal insult laws carry up to 15 years in prison for each count for anyone convicted of insulting the king, queen, heir or regent.

Until his arrest, Suriyan had been seen frequently with top officials. He was also the chief organiser of a cycling event in August which the prince took part in, in honour of his mother, Queen Sirikit.

Another suspect, Prakrom Warunprapa, a prominent policeman, died in custody last month. Police say he hanged himself using his shirt but refused to do an autopsy.

The investigation is part of a crackdown on perceived royal insults launched by the junta, which took power in a coup last year.

Ultra royalist Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has vowed to stamp out critics of the monarchy but some say the crackdown is aimed at ensuring an orderly succession.

King Bhumibol, 87, is convalescing at a Bangkok hospital after being treated by doctors for ‘water on the brain’.

His frail health has added to the political uncertainty surrounding Thailand since the 2014 coup.

“This is a very sensitive time for Thailand and part of the reason that the military is in power is to ensure a smooth royal succession when the time comes,” said a Bangkok-based political analyst who declined to be named because of the sensitive nature of the issue.

Nervousness over the succession has formed the backdrop to a decade of political crisis in the country. The lese-majeste law prevents any open discussion of the succession.

National police chief Jakthip Chaijinda said police were waiting to issue more arrest warrants, including for military officers, in connection with the investigation.—Reuters

Sri Lanka minister resigns amid ‘floating armoury’ probe

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka’s law and order minister quit yesterday to avert a possible split in the ruling coalition government after he defended a security firm amid a probe into allegations of a “floating armoury”.

Tilak Marapana, an ex-attorney general handpicked by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, last week defended private security firm Avant Garde in parliament.

Police this year seized more than 3,000 weapons in 20 containers from the armoury, run by Avant Garde and docked in the southern port of Galle. Marapana represented Avant Garde before he was appointed minister in September. A faction of Wickremesinghe’s ruling United National Party (UNP) along with some civil society groups had demanded Marapana’s resignation after his speech. The ongoing probes are conducted by the police, which come under Marapana’s ministry.

“Some members of the government and public suspect that my position as the law and order minister could have an impact on the ongoing investigations conducted by the police. So I have decided to resign,” Marapana told reporters.

The investigations are part of a wide probe of alleged corruption deals during the administration of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe’s centre-right UNP and President Maithripala Sirisena’s centre-left Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) formed a coalition government after 17 August polls and pledged to ensure good governance and probe past corrupt deals under Rajapaksa.—Reuters

Black-throated finch and three concerning climate change and the Great Barrier Reef, according to Ryan.

Environmentalists are fighting the mine on numerous fronts, lobbying banks not to provide loans and urging the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to designate the Great Barrier Reef “in-danger”, citing potential damage from the dredging, shipping and climate change stoked by coal from the mine.

Adani has battled environmental opposition since work on the project started five years ago. Progress on the mine was blocked in August after a claim Adani failed to take into account the welfare of the veluxa skink and ornamental snake.

While a push in India to rely more on solar and wind power and domestic sources of coal has raised questions over the viability of the project, Adani has said the majority of Carmichael production had been pre-sold, guaranteeing revenue.—Reuters
UNESCO to vote on Kosovo’s bid, Serbia seeks postponement

PARIS — The UNESCO General Conference will discuss and decide on Kosovo’s bid to join the organization in Paris on Monday, and Serbia will do everything in its power to postpone the discussion on this point of the agenda and ensure it is addressed in Brussels.

Serbia’s Ambassador to UNESCO Darko Tanaskovic told Tanjug that it would probably be a tight gap between votes “in favour” and “against”.

“Serbia will propose that the debate on this controversial point of the agenda be postponed, at least until the next session of the General Conference in 2017,” he said, noting that the decision required a simple majority.

In order to join UNESCO, a UN non-member state needs to secure two-thirds of the total number of votes cast, excluding abstentions. — Tanjug

Obama, Netanyahu set for first talks since Iran deal

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet yesterday for the first time since the Israeli leader lost his battle against the Iran nuclear deal, with Washington seeking his re-commitment to a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu, who infuriated the White House by urging Congress in March at the Republican leadership’s invitation, to reject an emerging accord with Iran, hopes the talks will help outline a new 10-year military aid package for his country.

While that issue will be on the agenda of Netanyahu’s talks with Obama, US officials said the president would also press Netanyahu for steps to keep alive the possibility of a future Palestinian state alongside Israel.

US-sponsored peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014. The eruption of a wave of violence between the two sides last month has made an end to that bloodshed a more immediate priority.

In public remarks to his cabinet on Sunday about his Washington visit, Netanyahu spoke only in general terms about “possible progress with the Palestinians, or at least, stabilising the situation when it comes to them”.

He said the Syrian crisis and US military aid for Israel would also be discussed in his first meeting in 13 months with Obama. The Democratic president and the conservative Israeli leader have little personal chemistry and have clashed often over the Iranian and Palestinian issues.

In a conference call with reporters last week, Rob Malley, the US National Security Council’s coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf region, reiterated Obama’s view that he would leave office without an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Given that reality, Malley said, US officials wanted to hear ideas from Netanyahu on how to stabilize the current situation and sought a signal from both sides that “they are still committed to and moving towards a two-state solution”.

During Netanyahu’s re-election campaign earlier this year, the right-wing Likud party leader vowed there would be no Palestinian state on his watch. Even when Netanyahu backed off and insisted he was not reneging on long-term policy, the White House was unconvinced.

Seeking a boost in US defence aid, Israel argues that sanctions relief agreed by world powers under the July deal that curbs Iran’s nuclear programme will allow its economy to invest more heavily in its missile development, while redoubling funding for Hezbollah and Hamas guerrilla allies on its borders.

Israel now receives $3.1 billion from the United States annually and wants $5 billion per year for 10 years, for a total of $50 billion, Congressional officials have told Reuters.

One US official predicted the sides would settle for an annual sum of $4 billion to $5 billion. — Reuters

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said in an interview with ARD television.

“The pace and scale of the influx has put pressure on local communities and opened a rift among the ruling coalition parties over the best way to handle the crisis.

The divisions re-opened over the weekend, after Interior Minister Thomas de Maziere said in future Syrian refugees would receive modified refugee status and be barred from having family members join them, a statement he later retracted.

The Social Democrats (SPD), who share power with Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives, rejected that proposal.

Schaeuble, however, spoke out in favour of the measure and said it was a proposal that the government was examining in detail.

“I think it’s a necessary decision and I’m very much in favour that we agree on this in the coalition,” he said.

Horst Seehofer, the leader of Merkel’s Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU), also backed de Maziere’s suggestion, telling the Süddeutsche Zeitung that the refugee status of Syrians should be individually checked.

The latest row comes after the coalition ended weeks of infighting on Thursday evening on how to speed up the deportation of asylum seekers who have little chance of being allowed to stay.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, who is also leader of the SPD, said it was important that the government first implement the measures it had agreed to rather than coming up with new ones on a daily basis. “This creates the impression that in the German government the left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing,” he said. — Reuters

Israeli officers shoot dead knife-wielding Palestinian woman

JERUSALEM — Israeli security officers shot dead a Palestinian woman who tried to stab them yesterday, official sources said, the latest episode in an outbreak of violence that Israel’s prime minister will discuss in talks in the White House.

The woman had approached an Israeli checkpoint in the occupied West Bank in the early morning while holding a knife, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said in a statement.

“The security guards called to her to stop. When she didn’t stop, they opened fire,” the statement said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed the woman had been killed. — Reuters

Germany’s capacity to take in refugees is limited: Finance Minister

BERLIN — Germany needs to send a message to the world that it’s reaching the limit of its capacities to help Europe’s flood of migrants, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said on Sunday, as he advocated restricting family reunions for Syrian refugees.

Germany has become a magnet for people fleeing war and violence in the Middle East. It expects as many as 800,000 to a million refugees and migrants to arrive this year, twice as many as in any prior year.

“We need to send a clear message to the world: we are very much prepared to help, we’ve shown that we are, but our possibilities are also limited,” Schaeuble, who is also leader of the Social Democrats (SPD), who share power with Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives, told Tanjug that it would probably be a tight gap between votes “in favour” and “against”.

“We are very much prepared to help, we’ve shown that we are, but our possibilities are also limited.”

— Wolfgang Schaeuble

Germany Finance Minister

Members of the Miao ethnic group wear ceremonial costumes take part in a parade during the traditional Lusheng (reed-pipe wind instrument) Festival in Guulong, Guizhou Province, on 8 November 2015. During the festival, Miao people make friends through singing and dancing. Photo: Reuters

Washington Post

PARIS — The UNESCO General Conference will discuss and decide on Kosovo’s bid to join the organization in Paris on Monday, according to the G7 summit’s Organizing Committee. Kosovo is seeking to be addressed in Brussels.

Serbia’s Ambassador to UNESCO Darko Tanaskovic told Tanjug that it would probably be a tight gap between votes “in favour” and “against”.

“Serbia will propose that the debate on this controversial point of the agenda be postponed, at least until the next session of the General Conference in 2017,” he said, noting that the decision required a simple majority.

In order to join UNESCO, a UN non-member state needs to secure two-thirds of the total number of votes cast, excluding abstentions. — Tanjug
Australia’s Christmas Island ‘in meltdown’ says opposition

SYDNEY — Australian opposition politicians on Monday demanded that the government disclose the extent of destruction caused by ongoing riots at a controversial immigration detention centre following the death of an asylum seeker.

Fences at the facility on the remote Australian outpost of Christmas Island were torn down and fires were lit, forcing guards to abandon the facility and allowing access to vulnerable inmates by other detainees, according to reports.

Christmas Island segregates detainees seeking political asylum, many of whom have fled from war-torn regions in the Middle East and Asia, from foreigners facing deportation for a variety of crimes.

But opposition Greens Party Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, who said that the centre was “in meltdown”, demanded that the government disclose the extent of the unrest and exercise restraint in responding to it.

“I have spoken with people who are locked up in the centre and they say that there is widespread unrest and fires across the facility,” she said in a statement.

Asylum seekers are a hot political issue in Australia. Successive governments have vowed to stop them reaching the mainland, sending those intercepted on unsafe boats to camps on Christmas Island, and more recently Manus island in Papua New Guinea and Nauru in the South Pacific.

Many detainees on Christmas Island are from neighbouring New Zealand and are awaiting appeals after having been convicted of crimes. Some have lived in Australia for decades and the number of such deportations is a sore point in the relationship.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key urged his citizens not to take part in any rioting, as it may further damage their legal standing.

“My concerns would be that, like a riot at any correctional facility, there can and may well be consequences as a result of that.” Key told reporters.—Reuters

Merkel backs her interior minister after refugee row

BERLIN — German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere retains the confidence of Chancellor Angela Merkel, a government spokesman said on Monday, after a spat within her cabinet over whether to limit the asylum rights of refugees from Syria.

The government was forced to clarify on Friday that its asylum policy for refugees from Syria remained unchanged after de Maiziere said their applications would be handled differently in the future and that they would be barred from having family members join them.

Asked if de Maiziere retained Merkel’s confidence, government spokesman Steffen Seibert told a news conference: “Of course he does.”—Reuters

Roadside bomb kills 16 Yemeni soldiers

CAIRO — At least 16 Yemeni government soldiers have been killed by a roadside bomb in the province of Marib east of the capital Sanana, military sources told Reuters late on Sunday.

The sources said the bomb, which also wounded six soldiers, appeared aimed at a patrol near an army camp in Marib. They said it was not clear who was behind the attack.

At least 5,600 people have been killed in seven months of war in Yemen, the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula.

The conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthis and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh against armed groups who support exiled President Abed-Rabbu Mansour Hadi alongside a Saudi-led Arab coalition.

The coalition has gained ground in the south, but Houthi forces remain in control of much of the country despite the almost daily air strikes.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NEW LUCKY VOY NO (13)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW LUCKY VOY NO (13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws 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 Claim’s 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS GSS (S’PORE) PTE LTD. Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/I.H.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 Claim’s 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING LINES Phone No: 2301185

A girl holds a banner during a protest against war in Yemen’s southwestern city of Taiz. PHOTO: REUTERS

A migrant boy sits on a beach moments after arriving on the Greek island of Lesbos, on 9 November 2015. Since the start of the year, over 590,000 people have crossed into Greece, the frontline of a massive westward population shift from war-ravaged Syria and beyond. PHOTO: REUTERS
Myint Win Thein

It is vital for every stakeholder in Myanmar politics to make wise decisions during this important juncture in the country’s history. Veering away from what we know to be the best course of action may see the people of the country descend into confusion and chaos.

Tourism was set up in 1992, as a separate entity in its own right, following the transition of the former Union of Burma to Myanmar. The country could benefit in getting a taste of the tourism road that has been traveled up stream to other neighboring countries such as Thailand and Singapore.

The need to make wise decisions during this important juncture in the country’s history. Veering away from what we know to be the best course of action may see the people of the country descend into confusion and chaos.

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The need to make wise decisions during this important juncture in the country’s history. Veering away from what we know to be the best course of action may see the people of the country descend into confusion and chaos.
General Elections held successfully in Kyaukme

THE 2015 multi-party general election was held successfully in Kyaukme Township, Shan State, on 8 November. All of the township’s ballot booths were open from 6 am to 4 pm. After closing, booth officials tallied the votes, recorded them and announced the winning candidates.

Kyaukme Township has two constituencies. Constituency No. 1 had nine wards, 23 village tracts and 45 ballot booths. There were 11 wards, 48 village tracts and 64 ballot booths in Constituency No. 2. The whole township, including Mongngaw and Monglon wards, had 128,281 eligible voters.

According to a township election sub-commission member, the voter turn-out on Sunday was 52.42 percent, with 67,249 voters casting their votes.


People of Bama, Kachin and Lesu ethnicities are among the residents of Kyaukme Township.

Voter turnout in the whole of Kyaukme District was 61.63 percent, with 227,617 voters casting their votes. There were a total of 369,335 eligible voters in the district.—Myint Aung

Village-to-village gravel road being built in Pobbathiri Tsp

A VITAL rural road connecting Ngasninn village to Zalotagkyee village is under construction in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The project is funded by the Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, under its 2015-2016 budget.

Construction is being implemented by private contractor Swanyaungchi Construction Company. Ottara District Rural Development Department head U Win Myint and township officials went to the construction site and urged the contractors to build a standardised road and to complete the project on time.—Shwe Ye Yint

Mandalay takes measures against dengue fever, malaria

THE Mandalay City Development Committee and Mandalay Region Public Health Department toured the city’s wards on Friday to take measures against dengue haemorrhage fever and malaria.

The route was part of a weekly programme aimed at fighting the diseases.

On 7 November, Mayor U Aung Maung, along with other officials and members of civic organisations went to Aungpunae ward in Channayathazi Township and showed residents how to on cover, drain, change and fill stored water in containers in their homes.

The mayor and his party also observed municipal workers cleaning roadside drains by, soaking mosquito nets with anti-mosquito solution, dilluting “Abate” solution in water containers and wells, distributing pamphlets on health education and spraying anti-mosquito repellents around the ward.—Maung Pyithu

HIV prevention, reproductive health booths open at pagoda festivals

THE Buddha Puja festival is being held at the ancient Kyaiktawgyi and Sandamuni pagodas, with several booths set up to promote HIV prevention, as well as a booth on reproductive health near the Thudhammad rest-houses at the foot of Mandalay Hill.

Representatives of the organisations performed medical check-ups for couples at the booths.

The Mandalay Region Anti-Human Trafficking Committee also had booths at the festivals, showcasing documentary photos on trafficked Myanmar women.—Maung Pyithu
Asia shared stock, dollar strong after US jobs data boosts case for Fed hike

TOKYO — Asian stocks were mixed, with Japanese and Chinese shares up, while the dollar stood at a 7-month high against its peers yesterday after robust US jobs data bolstered expectations of an imminent Federal Reserve interest rate hike.

The stronger dollar in turn knocked commodities like crude oil and copper, but was supported by a rebound in the Japanese yen.

With the US jobs release out of the way, street betters are forecasting a slightly higher open for Britain’s FTSE, Germany’s DAX and France’s CAC.

Data on Friday showed nonfarm payrolls increased 271,000 in October, the largest gain since last December 2014. The US unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent, the lowest since April 2008.

However, the prospects of the Fed hiking rates for the first time in almost a decade and sending seven-year bond yields soaring on Friday in the wake of the strong jobs data, with the 2-year yield reaching a 5-1/2-year high.

The dollar’s strength is likely to extend ahead of a likely Fed rate hike in December, and could drag on prices of oil and other commodities, said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at OptionsXpress in Sydney.

Crude rebounded 0.8 percent to $47.81 a barrel after shedding 1.2 percent on Friday.

Spot gold struggled near a $1,084.90 an ounce struck on Friday.—Reuters

Brent crude regains ground after slide

MANILA — Brent crude rose on Monday, recovering from a three-day decline, as the dollar moved away from last week’s peak that was spurred by expectations the US Federal Reserve was on track to raise interest rates this year after robust employment data.

The dollar eased about 0.2 percent versus a basket of currencies, after hitting its loastest in almost seven months on Friday following data showing US nonfarm payrolls jumped 271,000 in October, far exceeding the 199,000 increase that economists polled by Reuters had predicted.

But the dollar’s strength is likely to persist ahead of a likely rate increase by the Federal Reserve in December, and could be a key drag on prices of oil and other commodities, said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at OptionsXpress in Sydney.

A stronger greenback makes dollar-priced assets more costly for buyers using other currencies.

On the other hand, “the US economy is running on its own steam now and in a position where the Federal Reserve deems that a small interest rate hike is not going to damage confidence in the economy,” said Le Brun.

“That should be a positive in terms of demand for crude.”

Brent crude for December delivery was up 59 cents to $47.91 a barrel by 0623 GMT, after falling more than 1 percent on Friday.

December US crude gained 42 cents to $44.71 a barrel after touching a 1-1/2-week low of $43.83. Hedge funds raised their bullish wagers on US crude last week by the most in six months, data showed on Friday, as speculators bought into oil contracts in forward months on bets that market fundamentals will take time to improve.

Weekend data from China, the world’s No.2 oil consumer, showed in recent months China’s crude oil imports fell 5.7 percent from the previous month to 26.35 million tonnes in October.

While but China’s crude imports dropped to 8.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from 6.8 million bpd from September, the volume was still up 9.4 percent from a year ago and 8.9 percent higher in January-October.

“Chinese demand for crude oil will counter the downturn in demand as refineries in the northern hemisphere go through a summer maintenance and reduce their crude purchases,” BMI Research said in a note.—Reuters

Snapchat’s daily video views triple to 6 billion

NEW YORK — The number of videos viewed each day on Snapchat has tripled since May to 6 billion as the messaging app closes the gap with social media giant Facebook Inc, according to a report in the Financial Times that cites people close to the company.

The Financial Times said that Snapchat confirmed the 6 billion figure but had declined to comment further.

Facebook said last week that it had doubled daily video views to 8 billion from 4 billion in April, according to the report, which notes that social networking groups are vying for eyeballs in the fast-growing video segment. Snapchat's daily video viewing number is made up of both desktop and mobile views while Snapchat's is entirely made up of smartphone users, the report notes.—Reuters

Nestle says Maggi noodles back on sale in India

ZURICH — Nestle India has resumed selling its popular Maggi noodles again after getting the green light to do so from government laboratories, Nestle said yesterday.

The Indian unit of the Swiss food giant Nestle SA has been grappling with its worst public relations crisis after local regulators reported in May that some packets of the Maggi noodles contained unsafe levels of lead. “Following tests by government accredited labs in India showing Maggi noodles are safe to eat, Nestle India has announced that it has started selling the product again,” the company said in a statement.—Reuters
Science’s ‘Breakthrough’ winners earn over $21 million in prizes

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Academia just turned a little more gritty for a select group of scientists.

Russian billionaire Yuri Milner on Sunday handed out seven Breakthrough Prizes, the award for scientific accomplishment he created three years ago alongside technology giants including Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, 23andme founder Anne Wojcicki and Google co-founder Sergey Brin. The prizes are worth $3 million, around three times the sum a Nobel Prize winner receives.

For one group of Breakthrough recipients, the honor will carry more prestige than cash. Some 137 physicians are being honored as part of a single $3 million prize for their work confirming the theory of neutrino oscillation, a phenomenon in quantum physics.

Seven team leaders will split two-thirds of the prize. That leaves $1 million to split among the others, or around $700,000 to each physicist. “I would love to give $3 million to each one, but we’re not there yet,” Milner said in an interview on Friday. Increasingly, he added, breakthroughs are made through vast consortiums rather than a handful of scientists working in relative isolation, raising the chances of such shared prizes in future.

Five prizes went to researchers in life sciences for advances in areas ranging from optogenetics to sequencing of ancient genomes. A prize in mathematics went to a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, for work in low dimensional topology and geometric group theory.

Eight scientists early in their mathematics and physics careers won awards of $100,000.

Milner has set his sights on giving the sciences the same cultural resonance as sports or entertainment, but on Friday, he said it was too early to see if his work was having any effect. He pointed to the ceremony’s broadcast on a major U.S. network, Fox, for the first time as a sign things were moving in the right direction.

A one-time physics PhD student in Moscow who dropped out to move to the United States in 1990, Milner has backed some of the world’s biggest technology companies, including Facebook, Amazon and Alphabet, owner of Google.

Academia just turned a little more gritty for a select group of scientists.

Russian entrepreneur and venture capitalist Yuri Milner arrives on the red carpet during the second annual Breakthrough Prize Awards at the NASA Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cytokinetics, Amgen drug shows promise in heart failure study

ORLANDO — An experimental heart failure drug being developed by Cytokinetics Inc and Amgen Inc demonstrated several beneficial cardiac function effects in a midstage clinical trial, according to data presented on Sunday.

The trial of 448 patients with chronic heart failure already receiving optimal care tested a twice-a-day oral version of the drug, omecamtiv mecarbil, against a placebo over 20 weeks. After two weeks of treatment, a group of patients had the drug dose doubled to 50 milligrams from 25 mg.

Statistically significant improvements were seen in those patients compared to those taking a placebo, including increased volume and percentage of blood pumped with each heartbeat, a reduction in heart rate and a decrease in the size of the heart, known as remodeling.

As heart failure progresses and the heart has to work harder to pump blood, it tends to become enlarged, so size reduction is viewed as an important effect in potentially slowing disease progression.

There was also a significant reduction in a biomarker associated with heart disease known as NT-proBNP in patients who received the drug, researchers said.

“The magnitude of cardiac effects observed are impressive. These may translate into improvements in long-term cardiac outcomes,” said Dr. John Teerlink, who presented the data at the American Heart Association scientific meeting in Orlando.

Rates of serious adverse events, including deaths, heart attacks and chest pain, were similar for the drug and placebo groups, researchers said. Heart failure, in which the heart becomes unable to pump enough blood, affects more than 23 million people worldwide and is the leading cause of hospital admissions in people 65 and older.

Teerlink, from the University of California, San Francisco, said finding an agent that provides improvement in heart failure patients “is the Holy Grail,” adding that we’re not there yet.

Larger trials are needed to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of omecamtiv mecarbil, he said. Cytokinetics, which discovered the drug, said it and Amgen will analyze the data from this and previous studies before making a decision to move into much larger Phase III trials that would be used to seek regulatory approval.

Novo Nordisk diabetes drug fails to help heart failure

ORLANDO — The Novo Nordisk diabetes drug Victoza failed to improve clinical stability or delay death in patients suffering from advanced heart failure, researchers reported at a medical meeting on Sunday.

The injectable drug, known chemically as liraglutide, was tested in 300 patients with and without type 2 diabetes who had advanced heart failure and a recent hospitalization. Researchers had hoped that the medicine’s effect on blood sugar could mitigate some of the metabolic effects of heart failure.

However, they found no significant difference between a placebo and Victoza in terms of survival or other measures of health.

“Furthermore, we also found no significant difference between a placebo and Victoza in terms of survival,” said Dr. Adrian Hernandez, professor of medicine at Duke Clinical Research Institute and one of the study’s lead researchers, said in an interview.

Heart failure, in which the heart becomes unable to pump enough blood, is among the many serious health problems associated with diabetes, and a leading cause of hospitalizations and death. Novo Nordisk was not involved with the trial called FIGHT, which was independently undertaken by researchers from the government-funded Heart Failure Clinical Research Network.

Homemade meals reduce risk of Type 2 diabetes

WASHINGTON — Home-cooked meals make us healthier than eating out and reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, said a US study Sunday.

Those who ate 11 to 14 lunches or dinners a week — or about two homemade meals each day — had a 13 percent lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes compared to those who ate less than six homemade lunches or dinners a week, according to the study presented at the American Heart Association’s annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The researchers did not have enough information to include breakfasts in their analysis.

The findings were based on data from nearly 58,000 women who took part in a national nurse health study and more than 41,000 men in another study of male health professionals followed for up to 36 years.

None of the participants had diabetes, cardiovascular disease or cancer at the beginning of the study. The trend for eating commercially prepared meals in restaurants or as take-out in the United States has increased significantly over the last 50 years,” study author Geng Zong, a research fellow at Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said in a statement.

At the same time, he said, the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes has also increased.

Accumulating studies have suggested that eating out, especially in fast food chain restaurants, is associated with lower diet quality and higher body weight in children and young adults.

In the current study, the researchers demonstrated that eating homemade meals was associated with less weight gain over eight years in these middle-aged and older health professionals.

What’s more, the study does not provide a specific number of homemade meals people should eat each week, Zong said “more could be better.” —Xinhua

Eight scientists early in their careers were honored Sunday with Breakthrough Prizes, which were launched by technology billionaire Yuri Milner in 2013.

Russian entrepreneur and venture capitalist Yuri Milner arrives on the red carpet during the second annual Breakthrough Prize Awards at the NASA Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sergey Brin. The prizes are worth $3 million each for advances in life sciences for advances in areas ranging from optogenetics to sequencing of ancient genomes. A prize in mathematics went to a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, for work in low dimensional topology and geometric group theory.

Eight scientists early in their mathematics and physics careers won awards of $100,000.

Milner has set his sights on giving the sciences the same cultural resonance as sports or entertainment, but on Friday, he said it was too early to see if his work was having any effect. He pointed to the ceremony’s broadcast on a major U.S. network, Fox, for the first time as a sign things were moving in the right direction.

A one-time physics PhD student in Moscow who dropped out to move to the United States in 1990, Milner has backed some of the world’s biggest technology companies, including Facebook, Amazon and Alphabet, owner of Google.
Russian artist arrested after starting fire at security HQ

MOSCOW — One of Russia’s most radical political performance artists was detained in Moscow early on Monday after briefly setting fire to the entrance of the headquarters of the FSB security service, the successor to the Soviet KGB.

Video footage showed Pyotr Pavlensky standing on Moscow’s storied Lubyanka Square in front of the building where political prisoners were interrogated in the Soviet era as flames licked around its entrance, scorching parts of two heavy wooden doors.

Pavlensky, 31, was shown holding a petrol can and staring out onto the darkened square before a policeman grabbed him. His lawyer later told the Interfax news agency that Pavlensky was being held in a Moscow police station and might be charged with arson.

Unnamed law enforcement sources confirmed Pavlensky’s detention, saying he could be charged with petty hooliganism, an offence that usually carries a fine and a jail term of up to 15 days. Two journalists filming his actions said they were briefly detained before being released.

In a script accompanying the video of the incident, which was released from one of his own social media accounts despite his detention, Pavlensky said his action was called “Threat” and meant to draw attention to what he called the terror tactics employed by the security agency.

“Fear turns free people into a sticky mass of uncoordinated bodies,” he said.

“The threat of inevitable reprisal hangs over everyone who can be tracked with devices, have their conversations listened to, and who faces borders with passport control,” he wrote.

Pavlensky has attracted attention before, carrying out extreme acts which he says are designed to poke holes in the Kremlin’s propaganda machine and draw attention to society’s problems. In 2012, he sewed his lips together to protest against the jailing of anti-Kremlin punk band Pussy Riot, and the following year he wrapped himself in barbed wire in front of a government building to show his opposition to laws he deemed repressive.

In his most shocking act, in November 2013, he nailed his scrotum to Moscow’s Red Square, a gesture he described as a metaphor for the political apathy of Russian society.

He was briefly detained in October 2014 after slicing off his earlobe while sitting naked on the roof of an infamous state psychiatry clinic to protest against what he said was the political abuse of psychiatry. Doctors have declared Pavlensky, who has in the past been ordered to undergo psychiatric tests, as sane.—Reuters

Greece wants political solution on bad debt dispute blocking review

Greek Economy Minister George Stathakis (L) and Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos.

ATHENS — Greece said yesterday it would take a political decision to overcome a dispute with international lenders over the treatment of non-performing loans at Greek banks, while it will lie at the conscience’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 from claims day until final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority Agent for: M/S Regional Container Lines

Phone No: 2301185

Iran criticises Saudi Arabia over execution of its citizens

DUBAI — Iran summoned the Saudi charge d’affaires in Tehran on Sunday to protest over the execution of three Iranians in Saudi Arabia for drug trafficking, according to the Fars news agency.

The regional adversaries are at loggerheads over crises in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, as well as the disaster at the haj in September in which 465 Iranians died in a crush of pilgrims near Mecca.

According to Iranian state media, the death sentences of the three men, who had been convicted of smuggling large amounts of hashish to the kingdom, were carried out in the city of Dammam earlier in the day.

“Countries refrain from executing such sentences by respecting bilateral relations and keeping in mind that implementing such sentences will not bear a positive effect on ties,” Iran’s deputy foreign minister Hassan Qassemi was quoted as saying by Press TV on Sunday.

Last year, Saudi Arabia executed more people than any country except China and Iran. Most executions in Saudi Arabia are by public beheading.

International monitoring groups Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch say weaknesses in the Saudi justice system make convictions unsafe, and they have also criticised the frequent use of execution for non-violent offences.

The conservative kingdom, which uses sharia law, or Islamic law, and whose judiciary is composed of clerics, denies that its trials are unfair.—Reuters
Cambodia celebrates 62nd anniversary of Independence Day

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia celebrated the 62nd anniversary of its Independence Day on Monday, with the participation of about 10,000 people from all walks of life.

King Norodom Sihamoni, along with Prime Minister Hun Sen, members of the armed forces, civil servants, residents and students.

The victory flame was kept burning for three days. Broadcast live on state-run National Television of Cambodia (TVK), the celebration was attended by senior officials, diplomatic corps, members of the armed forces, civil servants, residents and students.

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In the evening, there will be a fireworks show over the Tonle Sap River in front of the Royal Palace.

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO (12/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 on Claim’s 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.

U.S. and Iran have signed a contract for Moscow to supply Tehran with S-300 surface-to-air missile systems, Sergei Chemezov, the chief executive of Russian state-owned defence conglomerate Rosoboronexport, was quoted by the RIA news agency as saying yesterday.

“The S-300, the air defence system, the contract has already been signed,” Chemezov was quoted as saying at the Dubai Airshow. — Reuters

Russia, Iran sign contract for missile system delivery

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia celebrated the 62nd anniversary of its Independence Day on Monday, with the participation of about 10,000 people from all walks of life.

King Norodom Sihamoni, along with Prime Minister Hun Sen, national Assembly President Heng Samrin and Senate President Say Chhum, laid a wreath and lit the victory torch inside the Independence Monument to symbolise the country’s independence from colonial rule.

The victory flame will be kept burning for three days. Broadcast live on state-run National Television of Cambodia (TVK), the celebration was attended by senior officials, diplomatic corps, members of the armed forces, civil servants, residents and students.

In the evening, there will be a fireworks show over the Tonle Sap River in front of the Royal Palace.

Doves and balloons were released into the sky at the end of the event as a sign of independence and freedom.

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In the evening, there will be a fireworks show over the Tonle Sap River in front of the Royal Palace.
MONFORTE — Shades of Oscar-winning classic "Cinema Paradiso" run through the life of Antonio Feliciano, a sprightly 75-year-old who fears he may be the last of Portugal's traveling film projectionists.

"If I'm not the last one, I'm close," Feliciano said. "This is a legacy that is going to end. When I'm gone, traveling cinema will be mentioned in articles, but only as a memory." After six decades traveling four million km (2.5 million miles) to screen 4,000 films in Portugal's far-flung villages, Feliciano does not plan to retire just yet. But he is resigned to the fact that the Internet, digital TV and distribution monopolies have made his craft obsolete. Like Toto, the boy who befriended projectionist Alfredo in the 1988 Italian hit film, Feliciano also started as a youngster, in the 1950s, helping a traveling projectionist announce the weekend's bill on a loudspeaker from there. "The plan is to go wide at the Trump show," said the NBC television network's chief marketing officer, Jon Lieb. "The Trump show was the most watched show of the week, and we expect to keep the series, other suitors, to keep the series alive, on NBC."

NEW YORK — Donald Trump’s appearance as guest host of "Saturday Night Live" helped the TV comedy sketch show earn its highest viewership ratings since 2012, the NBC television network said on Sunday.

The show, which came under fire from Latino groups for inviting the blunt-spoken Republican presidential hopeful as a guest host, garnered a 6.6 rating in the 56 US markets measured by Nielsen Media Research, NBC said in a statement.

"The Trump show was the highest rating for SNL since Jan. 7, 2012, when an episode hosted by retired basketball star Charles Barkley pulled in a 7.0 rating," said the Comcast Corp-owned network.

Saturday's rating was about 50 percent higher than the season premiere on 3 October when Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton made a cameo appearance, according to CNNMoney.com.

"Saturday Night Live' with Trump earns best ratings in years

Bachchan apologises to South African fan for not meeting her

LOS ANGELES — James Bond and Charlie Brown brought the box office roaring back to life, as "Spectre" and "The Peanuts Movie" attracted big crowds over their opening weekends.

"Spectre," the latest 007 adventure, took first place, debuting to $73 million from 3,929 theaters — a hefty figure and the second highest in series history, but one that nevertheless trails the launch of "Skyfall." The previous film in the long-running franchise bowed to $88.4 million, but had better reviews and benefited from being the only new wide-release in its opening weekend. Going into the weekend, tracking suggested that the film would debut to $80 million, but the strength of "The Peanuts Movie" and some critical gushing may have depressed ticket sales slightly.

Internationally, however, "Spectre" remains a juggernaut, pulling in $200 million and pushing its worldwide total to more than $300 million after two weeks in release. With a production budget of $250 million and millions more in marketing costs, "Spectre" has to pull in $650 million globally to break even.

It's a time of transition for Bond. Daniel Craig, who was praised by critics for injecting an emotional depth and danger to the character, has hinted this is his last time playing the role.

The search for a replacement comes weeks after a show "The Apprentice" outraged Americans in June when he described Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug smugglers. While he made a crackdown on illegal immigration a main campaign theme, Trump has also said many of his employees are Hispanics and that they love him.

The show made reference to that earlier on "Saturday Night Live" when comedian Larry David, in an obvious send-up, called out "Donald Trump is a racist!" to an apparently unfazed Trump. David then told the host that he was seeking a $5,000 bounty that a website called DeportRacism.com promised to pay for on-air heckling.

Trump told CNN on Sunday that he vetoed some of the more risque skits, and earlier in the week he told Fox News it was because he didn’t want to alienate voters in Iowa, home of the first event in the 2016 presidential nominating contest.

Raymond John

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MUMBAI — Amitabh Bachchan is feeling sorry for not being able to meet a wheelchair-bound female fan, who has come from South Africa to catch a glimpse of the megastar.

Bachchan, 73, regularly addresses his fans every Sunday at his residence Jalsa in Mumbai.

Though the "Piku" star extended his sincere apologies to his admirer, but he said he will try his level best to meet her some other time.

"My sincere apologies to this lovely lady for not being able to meet her in the crowd... But will try..." he tweeted.

The actor said his fans play an important role in his life. "My love and my affection to all that make life existing for me..." Bachchan wrote along with some pictures of the gathering outside his house. — PTI

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The search for a replacement has already triggered frenzied speculation about who can take over the series. And Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Eon Productions are weighing distribution offers. Sony’s deal to distribute the Bond films expires with "Spectre," and though the studio is expected to make a bid to keep the series, other suitors, such as Warner Bros. and Paramount, will aggressively pursue the rights to the franchise.

While older audiences flocked to see the martini-swallowing spy, Fox’s "The Peanuts Movie" appealed to families. The adaptation of Charles Schulz’s beloved comic strip racked up $45 million across 3,897 screens. It cost $100 million to make and was propelled by Sky, the creative force behind the "Ice Age" series.

On the limited release front, Open Road capitalized on Oscar buzz for "Spotlight." The look at the Boston Globe's investigation of the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal picked up $302,776 from five theaters. That’s a healthy per-screen average of $60,455.

The film will gradually expand in the coming weeks and hopes to be in more than 500 theaters heading into Thanksgiving.

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Baseball club removes banners after complaints from indigenous people

SAPPORO — A Japanese professional baseball club said Monday it will remove its huge banners from the departure lobby of New Chitose Airport on Japan’s northernmost main island of Hokkaido in response to protests that a message one of them bears is offensive to the local indigenous people.

“Hokkaido is a land of its settlers,” says one of the banners advertising the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters, along with a photo of its manager Hideki Kurya, drawing flak from the Ainu Association of Hokkaido, an organization of the Ainu indigenous people who live in Hokkaido.

The settlement of Hokkaido by the Japanese, which began in earnest in and after the Edo period (1603-1868), deprived the Ainu of their ancestral lands.

The Pacific League baseball club put up four types of 5.5 meters by 2 meters banners, including one in question, in June, for a display scheduled to continue until January. Although the three other banners do not use the phrase, the Fighters said it will withdraw all four banners.

“We decided we should quickly take them down because we lacked consideration for Ainu people and we should apologise,” the team said. —Kyodo News

Japan mulls expanding local flights to aim for 30m visitors

TOPY — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe indicated yesterday the government plans to increase flight services at local airports and speed up immigration procedures to accommodate an expected increase in the number of foreign visitors, as the country aims to welcome 30 million visitors annually by 2030.

Speaking at the first meeting of ministers and tourism experts on transformation of Japan as a tourist-oriented country, Abe referred to the government’s plan to attract 20 million visitors a year by 2020. “The 20 million visitors (mark) is just a passing point,” Abe added he plans to bring more tourists to various areas in addition to major tourist-attracting cities like Tokyo and Kyoto by “tying up world needs with the allure of regional Japan.”

Specific measures for accommodating an increase in visitors are expected to be compiled within this fiscal year ending in March.

“Our country has abundant environmental resources and has the potential to become a tourist-oriented country, but it has many problems like difficulties in reserving hotels and using trains and buses,” he said, adding, “We must welcome fresh visitors by improving such problems and increase repeat visitors.”

The members of the meeting will discuss topics including deregulation for allowing members of the public to let out their residences to visitors, increasing reserved buses and boosting the number of interpreters. As of 9 October, the number of foreign visitors to Japan this year surpassed 15 million. Deeming the target of 20 million visitors is already within reach, the government has decided to compile strategies for achieving the greater target for 2030. —Kyodo News

Britain’s war memorials to be protected for future generations

LONDON — Millions of Britons remembered Sunday the victims of two world wars and people killed in other conflicts with a traditional two-minute silence in every town, city and village. Cultural custodians at Historic England announced all 44 war memorials created by celebrated architect Sir Edwin Lutyens have from today been declared protected structures to preserve them for future generations.

Lutyens, who died in 1944, is regarded as the greatest British architect since Sir Christopher Wren, whose most famous work is London’s iconic St Paul’s Cathedral.

Today Queen Elizabeth led the commemorations at Lutyens is most famous work, the Cenotaph in London’s Whitehall. The striking design of the Cenotaph brought his skills to the attention of the world.

A spokesman for Historic England said: “They all remind passers-by that every name is a human story, a loss, a grieving family.”

Today, 14 of his war memorials have been honored by the government’s Department for Culture, Media and Sport as “a higher listing status, with a further unusual memorial added to the list for the first time, the Gerdaua Cross Memorial Building in Buckinghamshire. As of today, all 44 First World War memorials by the architect of the Whitehall Cenotaph are now protected, creating a previously unrecognised national collection by Lutyens. Tracey Crouch, Parliament’s Under-Secretary for Heritage, said: “The commemoration of the First World War Centenary has inspired people all over England to remember our shared history. Our war memorials provide a lasting legacy for those who sacrificed so much.”

Roger Bowdler, Director of Listing at Historic England, said: “Lutyens was a key figure in determining how the dead and missing should be commemorated. His designs are admired for the universality of their message. His architectural forms are mute symbols of grief, the simple inscriptions weighted with sorrow. These are enduring memorials, which show the power of classical architecture to convey meaning and dignity.”

The listing of all of the Lutyens memorials is part of Historic England’s pledge to list 2,500 war memorials by 2018, during the centenary of the First World War. —Xinhua

Trove of wood, bamboo slips unearthed in Chinese tomb

NANCHANG — Nearly 3,000 wooden tablets and bamboo slips were discovered in a tomb in Jiangxi Province on Monday, revealing details of life of ancient people 2,000 years ago.

Lead archaeologist Yang Jun said, the written records unearthed in the main tomb of the Haihunhou, or Marquis of Hainan, were copies of reports submitted to the emperor and the empress dowager, as well as medical and agricultural books dating back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD).

Two teams have been set up to preserve and decipher the precious documents, the provincial archaeology institute said.

Haihun was the ancient name of a tiny vassal in north Jiangxi. Located in the now provincial capital of Nanchang, the Haihunhou’s cemetery covers 40,000 square meters with eight tombs and a chariot burial site, with walls that stretch for almost 900 meters.

The team discovered on Sunday five well-preserved horse-drawn vehicles, each with four sacrificed horses in the corridor of the main tomb. More than 3,000 accessories embellished with gold and silver were found at the same time.

The archaeologists suspected that the main tomb might be that of Liu He, grandson of Emperor Wu, the greatest ruler of the Han Dynasty, which witnessed a fairly long period of social stability and prosperity.

Liu was given the title Haihunhou after he was deposed as emperor after only 27 days, de-throned by the royal clan due to, allegedly, his lack of talent and morals.

The excavation began in 2011. The next stage of the archaeological work, the institute said, will look for items locked in the coffin of the central mausoleum. —Xinhua
Arsenal earn late point against Spurs, City stay top

LONDON — Arsenal’s hopes of leapfrogging Premier League leaders Manchester City were frustrated on Sunday when they drew 1-1 with London rivals Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates Stadium. Manchester City, who hit the bar late on against a resolute Villa side, under the command of new boss Remi Garde, for the first time, have 26 points from 12 matches, the same as Arsenal, but have a better goal difference.

Arsenal, unbeaten in the league since an opening day defeat by Manchester United, have 21. Liverpool have 17 points in 10th with Crystal Palace two points better off in eighth.

The Premier League now takes a two-week breather for a raft of international matches. Injury-hit Arsenal, without the likes of Theo Walcott and Aaron Ramsey, had a gilt-edged chance to go into that break top, especially after City’s stalemate at Villa Park in the day’s early kickoff, but in the end were relieved to avoid only a second home league defeat by Tottenham in the last 23 meetings.

“I was a very intense game,” Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. “In the second half we had a great mental response and we were determined not to lose.

“We’re 1-0 down it’s a mixture of relief and regret because if we were really clinical in the last 15 minutes we could have won, but 1-1 was probably a fair result.

“City dropped points, we dropped points, Liverpool lost it, it just shows what a hard league this is.”

Arsenal started brightly but Tottenham responded and took a deserved lead after 32 minutes when Kane raced on to Danny Rose’s long pass and beat Petr Cech with a cool finish.

The Gunners improved after the break, having taken off a “dizzy” Santi Cazorla, and Olivier Giroud headed a chance against the top of the crossbar and an even better one wide.

Tottenham, though, remained dangerous, threatening a second goal with Christian Eriksen, Kane and Toby Alderweireld all denied by the impressive Czech.

Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris made a great save from Costa Rica striker Joel Campbell but would have been disappointed not to keep out Arsenal’s equaliser when Gibbs crept in at the back post to meet Mesut Ozil’s delivery and bounced the ball past the Frenchman who seemed to have it covered.

“We should have won but I feel very proud of the players. We played very well. You need to kill the game. When we were 1-0 up we had chances to score again,” Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino said. — Reuters

Arsenal’s Kieran Gibbs scores their first goal against Tottenham Hotspur during Barclays Premier League at Emirates Stadium, London, on 8 November. Photo: Reuters

Impressive Djokovic prevails in Paris again

PARIS — Novak Djokovic’s already brilliant season took on another dimension on Sunday when the world number one became the first man to win six Masters titles in a calendar year by dismissing Andy Murray 6-2, 6-4 in Paris.

The Serb won three of the four grand slam titles — Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open — and has already made sure he will finish 2015 as number one in the ATP rankings. His heads into the 15-22 November World Tour finals in London beaming with confidence, having won his last 22 matches.

“I am obviously very proud and very happy to win this title again, it’s a great tournament and all the best players in the world were here,” Djokovic said at the court side.

Djokovic, the first man with four major titles and also the first to win three in succession, was in another league against a sorry Murray, the second seed.

The Serb struggled to find his range early on, sending a few shots long and Djokovic broke to love for 2-1. Murray had a few tricks up his sleeve, trying to mix it up with drop shots, but Djokovic had too much poise and pace and he stole his opponent’s serve again as he took advantage of some sloppy errors.

Murray raised his game in the second set after dropping his serve early on. He went to the net to level for 2-2 and in the sixth game he managed to lead 30-0 on Djokovic’s serve.

That was as close as he came to an upset as Djokovic won the game and put the Olympic champion on the back foot again in the following game, breaking for 4-3 when Murray sent a forehand long.

Djokovic ended a quick final on his first match point when Murray returned wide.

Djokovic played in all the Masters finals this season, winning the first three in Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo, then prevailing in Rome and Shanghai.

He faltered at the last hurdle in Cincinnati and Montreal, where he was defeated by Murray. He did not take part in the Madrid Masters. — Reuters

Misfiring Real need quick response ahead of Barca visit

MADRID — Real Madrid coach Rafa Benitez needs to get his misfiring side back on track quickly for the visit of Barcelona’s ruthless attack in ‘El Clasico’ following another lacklustre display in a 3-2 defeat by Sevilla.

The pressure is growing on the well-travelled Benitez with Real again lacking creativity going forward while they were also fragile defensively.

There were whistles over their sluggish play in the narrow 1-0 victory over Paris Saint Germain in the Champions League last Tuesday and the criticism will only increase following their first defeat of the season.

Real’s next game following the international break is against Barca at the Bernabeu on 21 November with the Catalan side having moved three points clear at the top of the La Liga table while looking ominous in a 3-0 win over Villarreal on Sunday.

“We now have time for the injured players to return. These are unusual types of games (against Barca) and I expect the team to come back well from the defeat,” Benitez told a news conference.

Statistics showed that Crisitano Ronaldo did not touch the ball inside the penalty area against PSG and he again offered little, while Gareth Bale lacked sharpness on his return from injury as Real were second best for long spells against Sevilla.

Benitez’s tactical strength and discipline were reasons why president Florentino Perez brought him in this season but they were overwhelmingly opened up at the back.

“We were unable to manage the game and we thought we were in control when we weren’t,” said Benitez.

“We played well for the first 30 minutes but after that we allowed Seville to equalise and then we committed other errors. After that it was a case of who was willing to battle the most but this will serve as a lesson for us.” — Reuters

Kagawa on target as Dortmund win derby thriller

DORTMUND — Japanese midfielder Shinji Kagawa scored his third goal of the season as Borussia Dortmund beat Schalke 3-2 in a pulsating derby in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Kagawa got on the end of a delicious cross from Matthias Ginter to open the scoring with a rare header after 30 minutes.

“I have no memory of scoring (with my head) before,” said Kagawa. “I was just focused on connecting with the cross.”

Dortmund’s lead did not last long though as Klaus-Jan Huntelaar levelled for the visitors in the 33rd after being teed up by Leroy Sané.

Ginter headed in a corner from Henrik Mkhitarayan to restore Dortmund’s lead two minutes before the interval and the home side went further ahead in the 47th when Dahlia Castro put the third on a plate for Pierre-Emmerick Aubameyang.

Huntelaar reduced the arrears when he pounced on an error by Mats Hummels to score with 18 minutes left but Dortmund hung on to take the three points.

“We were wobbling towards the end,” said Kagawa, who singled out Ralf Fährmann for praise after the Schalke keeper had kept his side in the game with a number of key saves. — Kyodo News