PRESIDENT U Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will hold talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy, after the electoral process of the Union Election Commission has concluded.

In statements released by the President’s Office and the Commander-in-Chief’s Office yesterday in response to a request by the NLD leader to hold talks on national reconciliation, they said they will coordinate with the NLD to hold the talks when the electoral process is complete and will cooperate with the party for the stability of the country in post-election period.

The president and the commander-in-chief also congratulated the National League for Democracy for its leading position in the 2015 election results, with the NLD enjoying a landslide victory at the polls.

The commander-in-chief congratulated the families of the Tatmadaw and the entire Myanmar people for their voting discipline in this historic general election.

In the statement of the President’s Office, the president promised a peaceful transfer of power within a set time frame and said he would respect the election results, which reflect the will of the people.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sent separate letters to President U Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thu Ra U Shwe Mann yesterday, requesting a meeting next week to address national reconciliation.

In her letters, she stressed the importance of the peaceful implementation of the desires of the people, which has been demonstrated in the election results.

Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said yesterday at a meeting of the Tatmadaw’s leading organising committee in Nay Pyi Taw that the army would assist in strengthening the country’s multi-party democratic system, according to a report from the army’s Myawady News Agency.—GNLM

President U Thein Sein promises a peaceful transfer of power. Photo MNA
## 2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Victorious candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw and results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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UEC announces 45.5 percent of election results

THE Union Election Commission announced at a press conference yesterday that 506 winners of a total of 1,121 seats in the lower house, upper house and state/region parliaments have been confirmed.

The country held democratic elections on 8 November with foreign observers from the European Union and representatives of the Carter Center and the President of France expressing words of praise for its success.

UFC Chairman U Tin Aye responded to queries raised by local and foreign correspondents about difficulties encountered in compiling the voter lists, the commission’s budgets and electoral disputes.

According to the UFC, 45.5 percent of the winners of country’s parliamentary seats have been announced. The commission has been announcing election results since 9 November.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Press Council formed

THE President’s Office yesterday announced the formation of the Myanmar Press Council with President U Thein Sein himself signing the announcement.

Disaster preparedness workshop focuses on landslide dams

A WORKSHOP on disaster preparedness took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday: the event began with an address by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

The minister cited weather records stating that the country has seen an increase in the number of disasters, stressing the recent landslides and floods in some parts of the country. Kalay township in Sagaing Region and Haka township in Chin State were the worst-hit by the disaster four months ago.

The workshop focused on how to deal with landslide dams and prevent their possible impact on surrounding areas. The union minister called for experts to coordinate approaches to disaster risk reduction.

The workshop drew rectors, environmentalists, departmental officials and interest groups.—Myanmar News Agency

UPR recognises Myanmar’s human rights efforts

THE 23rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review, conducted by the Human Rights Council, took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 November. Representatives of attending nations proposed 281 suggestions to address human rights issues in Myanmar.

Attorney General of the Union Dr Tun Shin said his country agreed with 124 points, denounced 69 and reconsidered 88. He went on to say that denials had to be made because the suggestions did not take into account the country’s ongoing contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Local and foreign observers were allowed access to the 8 November election, the attorney general said, adding that this reflected how much emphasis the country placed on human rights issues. He urged the international community to give constructive support to the country’s democratic reforms.

In a sideline meeting, the chair of the 23rd Session of the UPR met with Dr Tun Shin and praised the Myanmar government’s commitment to reforms over the past five years—Myanmar News Agency

2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Victorious candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw and results

| 185 | Rakhine | Pennagyun | U Oo Tun Maung | Arakan National Party | 32465 |
| 186 | Rakhine | Yathedaung | Daw Khin Saw Wai | Arakan National Party | 38751 |
| 187 | Rakhine | Kyunkpyu | U Ba Shein | Arakan National Party | 27138 |
| 188 | Rakhine | Thandwe | U Min Kyi | National League for Democracy | 23551 |
| 189 | Yangon | Thingangyin | U Shwe Hla (a) U Shwe Hla Win | National League for Democracy | 76970 |
| 190 | Yangon | Thanlyin | U Lwin Ko Latt | National League for Democracy | 70380 |
| 191 | Yangon | Kayan | Dr Aye Min | National League for Democracy | 46792 |
| 192 | Yangon | Mayangon | Dr May Win Myint | National League for Democracy | 69795 |
| 193 | Shan | Taunggyi | Dr Daw Than Ngwe | National League for Democracy | 65799 |
| 194 | Shan | Nyuangshwe | U Win Myint Oo (a) U Nay Myo | National League for Democracy | 49965 |
| 195 | Shan | Yawkyaw | U Khin Maung Myint | Union Solidarity and Development Party | 32638 |
| 196 | Shan | Pekhon | U Po Maung | National League for Democracy | 20475 |
| 197 | Shan | Loilem | U Khin Maung Thi | Union Solidarity and Development Party | 15925 |
| 198 | Shan | Kunbing | Daw Nang Khin Saw | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 7661 |
| 199 | Shan | Mongkai | U Sai Hsui Mong | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 12235 |

| 200 | Shan | Mongnai | U Sai San Thein | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 9642 |
| 201 | Shan | Maungma | U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein | Union Solidarity and Development Party | 5590 |
| 202 | Shan | Mongpan | U Sai Kyaw Moe | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 3453 |
| 203 | Shan | Hsenwi | U Sai Oo Kham | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 8483 |
| 204 | Shan | Tangyan | U Sai Maung Prwint (a) U Aung Prwint | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 19749 |
| 205 | Shan | Mongnai | U Sai Thida Kyaw | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 14402 |
| 206 | Shan | Namtu | Daw Nang Kham Aye | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 8180 |
| 207 | Shan | Morneik | U Toe Thaung | National League for Democracy | 14607 |
| 208 | Shan | Kunglon | U Yang Kyin Kan | Kokang Democracy and Unity Party | 5097 |
| 209 | Shan | Kongyan | U Li Kyn Pwint (a) Myint Swe | Shan Nationalities League for Democracy | 5206 |
| 210 | Shan | Meimang | U Tin Aye | Independent | 4308 |
| 211 | Ayeyawady | Pathein | U Wai Hlaing Tun | National League for Democracy | 96428 |
| 212 | Ayeyawady | Ngaputaw | U Thaung Aung | National League for Democracy | 68345 |
| 213 | Ayeyawady | Myamgmya | Dr Soe Moe Thu | National League for Democracy | 81147 |
| 214 | Ayeyawady | Wakema | U Zaw Thein | National League for Democracy | 67020 |
| 215 | Ayeyawady | Labutta | Dr Aye Kyu | National League for Democracy | 77165 |
| 216 | Ayeyawady | Mawlamyine- gyun | U Win Swe | National League for Democracy | 67066 |
2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Victorious Amyotha Hluttaw candidates and results

>> From page 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Victorious candidate</th>
<th>Party/Independent</th>
<th>Total vote</th>
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2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Victorious Region/State Hluttaw candidates and results

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<th>Constituency</th>
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<td>178950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.</td>
<td>Ayeawady</td>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>U Mahn Tun Kyaing</td>
<td>National League for Democracy</td>
<td>80785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.</td>
<td>Ayeawady</td>
<td>No. 10</td>
<td>U Thein Swe</td>
<td>National League for Democracy</td>
<td>135755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.</td>
<td>Ayeawady</td>
<td>No. 11</td>
<td>Daw May Than Nwe</td>
<td>National League for Democracy</td>
<td>120447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.</td>
<td>Ayeawady</td>
<td>No. 83</td>
<td>U Kyi Win</td>
<td>National League for Democracy</td>
<td>149869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Myanmar News Agency

232. Magway Sedoktara-2 | U Tun Tun Win | National League for Democracy | 8513
233. Magway Yesagyo-1 | U Tun Thaung | National League for Democracy | 42468
234. Magway Yesagyo-2 | U Min Han | National League for Democracy | 38590
235. Magway Myaing-1 | U Thet Naing | National League for Democracy | 47456
236. Magway Myaing-2 | U Win Huy | National League for Democracy | 47365
237. Mandalay Pyin Oo Lwin-1 | U Aung Min | National League for Democracy | 25546
238. Mandalay Pyin Oo Lwin-1 | Dr Khin Maung Htay | National League for Democracy | 33153
239. Mandalay Myinttha-1 | U Min Aung | National League for Democracy | 34875
240. Mandalay Myinttha-2 | Daw Thin Mya Thint | National League for Democracy | 32856
241. Mandalay Natogyi-1 | Daw Nyun Thet Nwe | National League for Democracy | 32072
242. Mandalay Natogyi-2 | U Sein Kyaw Moe | National League for Democracy | 27241
243. Mandalay Pyawbwe-1 | U Tin Soe | Union Solidarity and Development Party | 45521
244. Mandalay Pyawbwe-2 | U Myint Soe | Union Solidarity and Development Party | 39128
245. Mon Kyakto-1 | U Wunna Kyaw | National League for Democracy | 18843
246. Mon Kyakto-2 | Dr Aye Zan | National League for Democracy | 21112
247. Yangon Taikkyi-1 | U Tin Shein | National League for Democracy | 44148
248. Yangon Taikkyi-2 | U Lwin Soe Min | National League for Democracy | 41829
249. Yangon South Okkalapa-1 | Daw Thit Thit Myint | National League for Democracy | 32102
250. Yangon South Okkalapa-2 | U Moe Myint | National League for Democracy | 34303
251. Yangon Dagon Myothit (North)-1 | U Tin Tun Naing | National League for Democracy | 36279
252. Yangon Dagon Myothit (North)-2 | U Naing Zaw Lin | National League for Democracy | 37064
253. Yangon Dagon Myothit (South)-1 U Nyi Nyi National League for Democracy 44877
254. Yangon Dagon Myothit (South)-2 U Thein Naing National League for Democracy 46578
255. Yangon Kyauktan-1 U Zaw Moe Lwin National League for Democracy 26395
256. Yangon Kyauktan-1 Daw Thein Thein Mu National League for Democracy 20868
257. Yangon Twantay-1 Dr Kyaw Zin Oo National League for Democracy 33162
258. Yangon Twantay-2 U Nay Naing Oo National League for Democracy 35776
259. Yangon Kawhmu-1 Daw Thanda Aye National League for Democracy 27177
261. Shan Kyaukme-1 U Sai Tun Win (a) U Sai Naw Khamb Shan Nationalities League for Democracy 21136
262. Shan Kyaukme-2 U Sai Tun Nyan Shan Nationalities League for Democracy 19386
263. Shan Muse-1 U Sai Kyaw Thein Shan Nationalities League for Democracy 15522
264. Shan Muse-2 U Kein Maung Union Solidarity and Development Party 7288
265. Ayeyawady Hinthada-1 U Kyaw Soe National League for Democracy 59901
266. Ayeyawady Hinthada-2 U Aung Ko Ko Oo National League for Democracy 57346
267. Ayeyawady Einme-1 Daw Yi Yi Tun National League for Democracy 16655
268. Ayeyawady Einme-2 U Aung Kyaw Nyaying National League for Democracy 23678
269. Ayeyawady Pantanaw-1 U San Maung National League for Democracy 36817
270. Ayeyawady Pantanaw-2 U Thant Zin Tun National League for Democracy 29763
271. Ayeyawady Danyabin-1 U Aung Naing Tun National League for Democracy 30567
272. Ayeyawady Danyabin-2 U San Hwe National League for Democracy 32730
273. Ayeyawady Bogale-1 U Khin Bo (a) U Khin Bo National League for Democracy 32007
274. Ayeyawady Bogale-2 U San Min Aung National League for Democracy 33389
275. Kachin Chipwe-1 U Bi Hu Zawng Union Solidarity and Development Party 1895
276. Kachin Chipwe-2 U Zakhon Yein Saung Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State (Sa Da Kj) 2115
277. Kachin Mansi-1 U Min Min National League for Democracy 4446
278. Kachin Mansi-2 U Aye Min Shan Nationalities League for Democracy 4141
279. Kachin Sumprabum-1 Daw J Hwa Nau National League for Democracy 294
280. Kachin Sumprabum-2 U Zaw Dwe Kachin State Democratic Party 188
281. Kayin Hlaingbwe-1 Dr U Tin Win Kyaw National League for Democracy 20292
282. Kayin Hlaingbwe-2 U Saw Chit Khin National League for Democracy 11512
283. Kayin Myawady-1 U Aik Kyan Kham National League for Democracy 10676
284. Kayin Myawady-2 U Thant Zin Aung National League for Democracy 10037
285. Chin Haka-1 U Zo Bwe National League for Democracy 4885
286. Chin Haka-2 U Shwe Htih Oh National League for Democracy 5126
287. Chin Tonzang-1 U Hnaung Kho Maw National League for Democracy 2574
288. Chin Tonzang-2 U Paung Lun Mint Han Zomi Congress for Democracy 3210
289. Chin Mindat-1 U Aung Than National League for Democracy 3445
290. Chin Mindat-2 U Teik Htun National League for Democracy 3870
291. Sagaing Khin U-1 Daw Tin Thin Kyi National League for Democracy 29665
292. Sagaing Khin U-2 U Kyaw Min Tun National League for Democracy 26177
293. Sagaing Ye U-1 U Than Nyoet Win (a) U Than Nyoet National League for Democracy 22835
294. Sagaing Ye U-2 U Myint Hwe National League for Democracy 25211
295. Sagaing Dabarwin-1 Daw Min Hnin Khang Sa National League for Democracy 35639
296. Sagaing Dabarwin-2 U Moe Min Win National League for Democracy 27388
297. Sagaing Taza-1 U Kyaw Shwe National League for Democracy 36462
298. Sagaing Taza-2 U Min Lwin (a) U Myint Oo National League for Democracy 29871
299. Sagaing Pale-1 U Zaw Htet National League for Democracy 30799
300. Sagaing Pale-2 U Myint Kyi National League for Democracy 23634
301. Sagaing Indaw-1 U Bo Than Nyunt National League for Democracy 20812
302. Sagaing Indaw-2 U Than Win National League for Democracy 18206
303. Sagaing Wuntho-1 U Zaw Lin Oo National League for Democracy 14248
304. Sagaing Wuntho-2 Daw Kyaw Khin Win National League for Democracy 9748
305. Sagaing Mingin-1 U Kyaw Hsaw National League for Democracy 15877
306. Sagaing Mingin-2 Dr Kyaw Win Union Solidarity and Development Party 18329
307. Sagaing Tamu-1 U Myint Naing Oo National League for Democracy 15137
308. Sagaing Tamu-2 U Hnun Kho Hauk National League for Democracy 8720
309. Sagaing Hkamti-1 U Maung Tae National League for Democracy 4890
310. Sagaing Hkamti-2 U Thein Hlun Hm Win National League for Democracy 3779
311. Bago Htntabin-1 U Khin Maung Win National League for Democracy 16323
313. Bago Paukkaing-1 U Than Min Zaw National League for Democracy 22077
314. Bago Paukkaing-2 U Win Naing National League for Democracy 18141
315. Bago Thegon-1 U Zaw Naing Oo National League for Democracy 27121
316. Bago Thegon-2 U Zaw Lin Haik National League for Democracy 25094
317. Bago Zigor-1 U Nyan Win Union Solidarity and Development Party 12735
318. Bago Zigor-2 U Htoo Htay Union Solidarity and Development Party 11309
319. Magway Chauk-1 Daw San Win National League for Democracy 37557
320. Magway Chauk-2 U Soe Win National League for Democracy 35750
321. Magway Pakkkaw-1 U Han Zaw Win National League for Democracy 61245
322. Magway Pakkkaw-2 U Dinh Ni Ni Win National League for Democracy 59444
323. Magway Pauk-1 U Aung Than National League for Democracy 23908
324. Magway Pauk-2 Daw Myint San National League for Democracy 29721
325. Magway Gangaw-1 U Mynit Zaw National League for Democracy 30805
326. Magway Gangaw-2 U Aung San Win National League for Democracy 27036
327. Magway Htin-1 U Htaw Win National League for Democracy 9387
328. Magway Htin-2 Daw Yin Yin Aung National League for Democracy 10335

Union Election Commission continues announcement of electoral results

THE Pyithu Hluttaw (the Lower House) has so far been filled by 216 seats confirmed candidates, with the National League for Democracy (NLD) securing 179 seats and the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) 17.

The 83 candidates’ victories have been confirmed in the Amyotha Hluttaw, with the NLD securing 77 and the USDP switching 4.

Out of 328 candidates announced by the UEC so far for the State/Region Hluttaw, the NLD has secured more than 280, followed by the ruling party at 30.

The commission would try to announce the remaining results without delay, said the UEC’s Chairman U Tin Aye at the press conference yesterday.

He also said that the commission would take actions against 52 reported cases of irregularities for voting in the election.—GNLM
Indonesia will not require wealth repatriation in tax amnesty plan

JAKARTA — Indonesia will not require taxpayers to repatriate wealth back home as part of a tax amnesty initiative expected to be implemented by the end of this year, a senior cabinet minister said yesterday.

The comments by Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Luhut Panjaitan come after private bankers in Singapore, where the Indonesian tax office estimates around 3,000 trillion rupiah ($220.83 billion) of Indonesian assets are parked, said their clients were worried about the amnesty plan.

“This one is not only about collecting money from outside, but the very important one is to strengthen our database on tax so by next year we can see much more tax revenue,” Panjaitan told reporters.

Taxpayers disclosing their wealth in the first three months of the amnesty will be taxed at 2 percent, Panjaitan said, adding that the rate would rise to 4 percent in the following three months and go up to 6 percent at the end of 2016, when the amnesty programme finishes.

That compares to the current tax rate for individual income at 5-30 percent, and for company profits at 20-25 percent. Panjaitan said those set rates would be lowered after the tax amnesty period ends.

The government of Southeast Asia’s largest economy introduced the amnesty in a bid to counter dwindling revenues amid an economic slowdown and a sharp decline in demand for Indonesia’s main resources, such as palm oil and coal. The tax office expects the tax amnesty plan to help add 60 trillion rupiah to next year’s tax collection. The state budget is expected to run a fiscal deficit near the maximum limit permitted by law due to a large tax shortfall this year.

The amnesty plan is subject to parliament approval.—Reuters

Ousted Thai PM defends rice scheme in open letter to junta leader

BANGKOK — Ousted Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra sent an open letter to junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha on Wednesday defending her position in a case involving rice subsidies that hemorrhaged billions of dollars and could see her jailed for up to 10 years.

Thailand’s first woman prime minister faces criminal charges in the Supreme Court over her management of the rice scheme, a flagship election policy that helped sweep her to office in a landslide in 2011. She was banned from politics for five years in January after a military-appointed legislature found her guilty of mismanaging the scheme.

Yingluck, in a letter posted on Facebook, said that the attorney general was deliberately rushing the case against her and total losses caused by the rice scheme were still unknown.

“The military government says the scheme was riddled with graft and incurred losses of $16 billion dollars. It distorted global prices and saw Thailand lose its crown as the world’s number one exporter of the grain to India,” Yingluck, who has defended the scheme, said the case against her does not expire for another 15 years.

“I insist that I am innocent and am ready to prove it,” Yingluck Shinawatra.

“I insist that I am innocent and am ready to prove it,” Yingluck said. “Rushing the legal process limits my chance to defend my position to the best of my abilities, which goes against basic human rights.” The Supreme Court has said it will review evidence and witnesses in the Yingluck case until November 2016 and has not yet set a trial date. The rice subsidy scheme, which bought rice at above-market prices from farmers, left Thailand with around 13 million tonnes of rice in storage after which the government is still struggling to shift. Yingluck’s government was toppled in a May 2014 coup which followed protracted political unrest in Bangkok. Rivalry between the royalist-military establishment and the Shinawatra family, in particular Yingluck’s brother, ousted populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra, has been at the heart of a decade of political turmoil in Thailand.

In September, Yingluck filed a criminal case against the general alleging unfair handling of charges against her. The court threw the case last month, saying it found no evidence of abuse by prosecutors.—Reuters

Modi visits Britain, seeks to bounce back from election blow

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a mass rally on a visit to Britain this week that supporters hope will help him spring back from a humiliating election loss and reassert his authority on the global stage.

India and Britain could announce deals worth $12-18 billion during the visit, according to diplomats, with Modi keen to build on 20 more BAE Systems Hawk trainer aircraft to be made in Bengaluru.

Britain is home to an Indian diaspora of 1.5 million, and the two nations share the English language, historical ties and an obsession with cricket. Yet Modi has, in his first 18 months in power, made a priority of courting global powers like the United States and China.

“UK-India ties are economically significant, strategically weak,” said Shahshank Joshi, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

Seeking to regain the initiative after crashing to defeat in a big state election at the weekend, Modi faced foreign investment rules this week in 15 sectors, including mining, defence and civil aviation.

“By introducing these reforms the government is certainly spelling out why India is an attractive destination,” said Nailin Kohli, a spokesman for Modi’s Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

The general election of the 12-14 November trip will be a mass rally and firework display at Wembley Stadium on Friday for an estimated 60,000 supporters. The crowd will include hundreds of world leaders, Bollywood stars and a “divisive manipulator who charmed the world”. The Financial Times predicted his visit would be overshadowed by troubles at home including “a surge of sometimes violent Hindu chauvinism and a slowdown of economic reform.”

However, many in Britain’s Indian diaspora were eager to celebrate Modi, with a website called “UK welcomes Modi” promising to deliver “the loudest, greatest and most vibrant welcome he has seen outside of India” at the Wembley rally. Modi’s bilateral visit, the first by an Indian prime minister since 2006, follows a pomp-laden five-day tour of the British government gave China’s President Xi Jinping last month that yielded $62 billion of deals. Britain has gradually lost ground in negotiations in an effort to increase trade with its former colony. In 2000, it was India’s third-largest trading partner. Since then Britain has slipped to 18th behind Belgium and Kuwait.—Reuters

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Photo: Reuters

Yingluck Shinawatra. Photo: Reuters
Republican Jeb Bush survives debate with steady performance

MILWAUKEE — A steadfast performance by Bush in Tuesday’s Republican debate has halted the sense of desperation around his US presidential campaign and may buy him time to counter the rise of chief rival Marco Rubio.

The fourth Republican debate in the search for a a 2016 presidential nominee was characterised by a steady stream of attacks against front-runner Donald Trump and mistake-free performances by Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas, two up-and-coming US senators in the race.

But the most relieved candidate after the two-hour encounter inside the Milwaukee Theatre was Bush, the former Florida governor who was outclassed in the three previous debates and has suffered an erosion of support from Republican voters and a drop-off in financial donations.

Trump, a billionaire businessman who has led opinion polls in the Republican race for months, gave Bush an opening when he said it was okay with him if Russian President Vladimir Putin “wants to go and knock the hell out of ISIS” in Syria and Iraq, a reference to Islamic State militants in the two Middle East countries.

Bush, who mostly steered clear of attacking his rivals after previous attempts had fallen flat, quickly interjected.

“We’re not going to be the world’s policeman, but we sure as heck better be the world’s leader,” Bush said, saying Trump’s view of Putin and his policies in Syria were “like a board game. That’s like playing Monopoly or something. That’s not how the real world works.”

That Bush was able to stop the bleeding may give him time to regain his footing in the unpredictable Republican race with the next debate more than a month away, on 15 December in Las Vegas.

Bush is campaigning on Wednesday in Iowa, which on 1 February holds the first nominating contest of the November 2016 election.

“Jeb Bush was much improved. At a minimum, this buys him more time to reset and try to advance,” said Fergus Cullen, a former chairman of the New Hampshire Republican Party.

Bush officials, including finance chief Woody Johnson, owner of the New York Jets, offered an upbeat message in a conference call to donors immediately after the debate.

“This is a performance you can sell and help keep the fund-raising going,” Heather Mann, a top aide to Bush’s campaign, told the donors, according to one participant on the call.

“It is a critical time in the race for the Republican nomination, with retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and Trump fighting to hold their spots atop polls and Rubio trying to build on the momentum of his last strong debate performance.

Rubio, 44, who is competing with Bush, 62, for establishment Republican votes, found himself under fire from fellow Senator Rand Paul for promoting what Paul called a $1 trillion increase in military spending.

“Marco, how is it conserva-tive to add $1 trillion in expendi-tures to the federal government?” Paul said. —Reuters

German spy agency snooped on its own diplomat

BERLIN — Germany’s BND foreign intelligence service spied on a German diplomat, potentially breaching the constitution, and may buy him time to counter the rise of chief rival Marco Rubio.

The report by the Berlin-based rbb Inforadio is the latest twist in a growing scandal over the activities of Germany’s BND stemming from revelations in 2013 by US National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden.

Without identifying its sources, rbb said the BND had monitored German Hansjoerg Haber, from 2008-2011 head of the EU’s observer mission in Georgia and subsequently a senior diplomat in Brussels.

He is currently head of the EU’s mission in Turkey and married to a state secretary in the Interior Ministry.

The BND was not immediately available to react to the report and a parliamentary oversight committee does not comment on intelligence issues. But official reactions were expected later on Wednesday.

German citizens are protected by the country’s constitution and not allowed to be spied on. Privacy is a sensitive issue in Germany due to extensive surveillance by Communist East Germany’s Stasi secret police and by the Nazi era Gestapo.

Other targets have included France’s Fabius and individuals at the International Criminal Court in the Hague, the World Health Organisation, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and firms in the United States, rbb — which stands for Radio Berlin-Brandenburg — reported.

Snowden revealed widespread US surveillance in Germany, including bugging Chancellor Angela Merkel’s mobile phone. Since then a scandal has erupted over the BND’s own activities and how much it helped the NSA.

The parliamentary oversight committee is scrutinising BND activity, especially after revelations earlier this year that it inadvertently helped the US National Security Agency (NSA) spy on European firms such as Airbus.

Last month, Justice Minister Heiko Maas called for tighter oversight of the BND after reports that its spies had targeted embas-sies of allied countries without the government’s express permission. — Reuters

Slovenia prepares to erect fence to control migrants

VELIKI OBREZ — Trucks carrying wire fencing arrived in the Slovenian village of Veliki Obrez close to the border with Croatia yesterday, a day after the government said it would start to put up fences to help control large numbers of migrants.

The Court’s decision is an unprecedented case of evading the EU-brokered agreements and a major threat to regional stability, he said.

“The core of the Brussels agreement is the establishment of ZSO, and this move stands as Pristina’s major blow to the dialogue in Brussels, which thus loses its point,” said Dacic, a release by the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Pristina is mucking the international community and the EU because there is no possibility that someone suspends the Brussels agreement, said Dacic. — Tanjug

Dacic: Pristina’s move blow to Brussels dialogue

BELGRADE — Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said on Tuesday that any aggression against the Kosovo Constitutional Court by the Coalition of Serb municipalities (ZSO) is a blow to the Brussels dialogue and a threat to regional stability.

“The core of the Brussels agreement is the establishment of ZSO, and this move stands as Pristina’s major blow to the dialogue in Brussels, which thus loses its point,” said Dacic, a release by the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Pristina is mucking the international community and the EU because there is no possibility that someone suspends the Brussels agreement, said Dacic. — Tanjug

Fourteen dead after migrant boat sinks off Turkish coast

ANKARA — Fourteen people died and a further 27 were rescued by Turkish authorities after their boat sank on its way to the Greek island of Lesbos, Dogan news agency reported yesterday.

Tens of thousands of migrants have made the perilous journey from Turkey to Europe in recent months, many of them fleeing conflicts in the Middle East while others came from Af-rica. The onset of winter has so far done little to stem the flow.

Children were among those who died when the wood- en boat went down in the 8km (5 mile) stretch of water separating Lesbos from the Turkish coast, Dogan reported. Tur- key’s coastguard was not immediately available to com- ment.

European and African leaders are due to meet Wednes- day in Malta to discuss the migra-tion issue, with the EU hoping that pledges of cash to some of the world’s poorest countries will help discourage others from making the journey.

The European Union expects a battle at the summit of world leaders in Turkey on Sunday to have its migration agreement recognised as a global problem needing a global re- sponse, an EU official said on Tuesday. — Reuters

Kate strengths into hurricane: NHC

MIAMI — Kate, formerly a tropical storm, has strengthened into the fourth hurricane of the 2015 Atlantic season, the US National Hurricane Centre said yesterday.

Kate, now a category 1 hurricane, was located about 260 miles (420 km) north of Bermuda with maximum sustained winds of 75 miles per hour (120 kph), the Mi- ami-based weather forecaster added. — Reuters

Britain and EU can agree reform deal despite ‘difficult’ demands: Finland’s Rehn

LONDON — Britain should be able to reach a deal on reformation of the European Union which all sides can endorse, even though some of its demands are “difficult”, Finland’s European Commissioner Olli Rehn said yesterday.

British Prime Minister Da- vid Cameron wrote a letter on Tuesday setting out his four main objectives in renegotiating Britain’s EU ties before a mem- bership referendum due by the end of 2017.

“There are elements that could form a basis for an agree- ment ... there are elements that are more difficult to digest,” Rehn, a former European Commissi-oner, told BBC Radio. Britain will think a package of elements could be agreed that could be possible to endorse both in the UK and the rest of the European Union, he added.

Rehn said Britain was “es- sential” in strengthening the EU’s external voice, and Finland supported Cameron’s push for reform in areas such as boosting competitiveness and protecting the bloc’s single market.

“Definitely the European Union needs reform. That is why the UK has al- lies among other member states,” he said. — Reuters
Everyone is awaiting more good news from Myanmar

Myint Win Thein

Recent developments in Myanmar indicate a brighter future for the nation. The people cast their votes peacefully in the 2015 multiparty democratic general election on 8 November. All stakeholders said they would accept the people’s choice.

The Union Election Commission hailed the 2015 election a success. Although the process of the election is not completed, the international community has been praising the people and the election in Myanmar.

The international community was previously worried that the election would lead to violence in the streets, which has always been a source of concern to both observer nations and the people of Myanmar. The peaceful elections have shown that the people are ready to accept true democracy. The election was a rare opportunity for Myanmar to show that it is a politically mature nation.

The situation here has been stable, thanks to the cooperation of the people. For Myanmar, what is most important now is to help maintain peace and stability during the post-election period, which lasts until the new government takes office.

To strive to maintain peace and stability, the cooperation of the people is indispensable. We all must be vigilant to stop tensions and arguments from boiling over. Myanmar can even be a model for transition if it does not veer from its current course. Everyone in the international community is awaiting more good news from Myanmar.

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 thanhtunnaungdn@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.

Clash of the titans at the neighborhood of Myanmar

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

Dear Editor

N epal is stepping for a political misadventure due to her political immaturity and childish diplomacy with fears that it may return to the dark days of decade long civil unrest, anarchy, economic hardships and political violence rocking the nation. Recently, the centuries old Indo-Nepal mutual trust and relationship has been tarnished over strong political difference and due to promulgation of a non-inclusive constitution that has given rise to violent agitation in her southern borders adjoining India with numerous plains communities against serious racial prejudices. The country has always been ruled by the upper caste, hill elites of the Kathmandu valley negating the political ambitions of others with strong sectarian division for generations. The deep political and caste divisions between the hill elites and the plains communities cannot be resolved overnight. Nepal has been playing a dirty political game of putting her giant neighbours against one another to reap maximum possible benefits for the elite class. Hence the current Nepali political establishment has been working towards securing political support for protecting their long term political interests in the caste driven nation. Both her giant southern and northern neighbours have been fighting for dominance in the nation and the political establishment of Nepal has been making the grave mistake of following a pendulum diplomacy by swaying from one neighbour to another; and pitting giants to clash against one another within the nation for their fight for dominance. The political establishment, Nepalis intellectuals and civil rights societies active in the country does not speak about the involvement of the northern neighbour in the decade long Maoist insurgency that destroyed the economic backbone of the nation and cost the lives of over 15,000 innocent citizens. In spite of the positive diplomacy executed by the current Indian regime and numerous supports and financial aids, the Nepali counterpart deceived New Delhi with hollow promises of drafting an all inclusive constitution and promulgated the draft constitution suddenly breaking the mutual trust to secure their selfish political game of reserving the political rights of hill elites. Till date Kathmandu has done nothing for the plain’s communities other than applying brutal force to inhibit a genuine democratic movement. The agitation in the south has been growing strong with no attempt of political resolution by the Nepali establishment to cater to their selfish needs of keeping the plains communities subdued as result of socio-economic and socio-political prejudices that has found strong footing in the nation for centuries. Without a political resolution by sharing power equally with the plain communities and maintaining antagonistic relationship with a mighty southern neighbour, Nepal’s new political bosses will never be able to rule the landlocked nation in spite of greatest help from the newly found tender loving care of her northern neighbour that has an impressive track record of antagonistic footprint towards her immediate neighbours in the Far East as well as SE Asia. Nepal used as a proxy war zone to strike India will be a disaster as it will bring in super powers such as US and the NATO alliances more comprehensively in her backyard to be engaged in the region for strategic dominance in the future jeopardizing peace and stability of the region. No nation can survive in any form of democracy alienating more than half of her population from their genuine political rights and ambitions for short term political gains. This should be an important lesson for the future government of Myanmar, all the citizens, political parties, business enterprises and military establishment that the sovereign and independent nation must be careful in maintaining a highly balanced diplomacy with both her immensely powerful giant neighbors. Myanmar should have good cooperative, collaborative, strategic and diplomatic relationship with both giant neighbors without any specific tilt towards any one of them and avoid serving as proxy war state facing clashes between the two Asian giants in their fight for dominance in the continent. An independent and comprehensive foreign policy will be necessary for Myanmar to step out to the outside world that is currently going through geo-political turmoil and fight for dominance in her closest neighbourhood.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

Diwali Light festival celebrated in Mandalay

THE Diwali (Dipavali) Hindu Light Festival was held at the Hindu Temple on the corner of 81st and 27th Street in Mandalay’s city township of Chanayethazan on Tuesday. Nearby streets were draped in coloured lights in celebration of the festival. There were Hindu delicacy shops, entertainment shows and amusement rides for children in the yard of the temple.—Thitka Ko Ko-Mandalay

Mandalay Region Red Cross Society holds coordination meeting

THE Mandalay Region Red Cross Society held a coordination meeting on 10 November at the region’s Public Health Department office in Mandalay.

The meeting was attended by Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee chairman Region Public Health Department Head Dr Win Naing and Region Red Cross Society official Police Lt-Col Myint Oo, who called on members to use their new skills from training programmes to work efficiently. Also topics discussed included paperwork submitted to the 71st Myanmar Red Cross Society Central Council, sector-wise activities carried out by members, providing assistance to communities hit by natural disasters and assisting elderly and disabled citizens to cast their votes during last Sunday’s general election.

Attendees also discussed Red Cross development models, the expansion of Red Cross membership at local schools and the opening of more Red Cross training centres.—Thitka Ko Ko
A TOTAL of 4,717 villages in Sagaing Region now have access to electricity, using a variety of different technology.

The union and regional governments provided electric cables to 1,185 villages, generators to 1,851 villages, hydro-electric power to 204 villages, biogas and paddy husk burning fuel to 171 villages and solar energy to 1,306 villages.

Sagaing Region has a total of 6,006 villages.

Solar panels were previously provided to the region’s remote villages, with half of the total funding being provided by the regional government and the other half, from residents. During the 2012-13 fiscal year, 5,157 households in 82 villages received solar panels at a total cost of K150 million (US$177,233). In the 2013-14 fiscal year, 15,010 households on 295 villages received solar panels at a cost of K422 million ($326,000). In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 17,069 households in 398 villages received panels at a cost of K419 million ($324,000).—Po Chan

NAY PYI TAW Safari Zoo’s newest resident is a baby female giraffe, born on Sunday night.

The baby’s mother Tiza (also known as ‘Thesu’) and father Htonchaing arrived at the zoo in January 2011 after being donated by Thai Sawat Company of Thailand. Htonchaing was seven-and-a-half years old and Tiza was eight when they were transported to Myanmar.

The arrival of the baby giraffe brings the total number of giraffes at the zoo to five. The newborn will be doted on by zookeepers, said a zoo spokesperson.

The gestation period for giraffes is 15 months. An infant giraffe is typically 1.8 metres tall, with adults often reaching five metres in height.

Giraffes inhabit various parts of Africa, including Kenya, Zambia, Angola and Tanzania and have a typical life span of between 20 and 25 years.—Global New Light of Myanmar

THE Sheraton Hotel Yangon project, implemented in cooperation with US-based Star Wood Hotels and Resorts Company and the Family Business Group Hotel Ltd, has achieved 50 per cent completion, according to a project official. The construction of the rooms will begin in December.

The 14-story five-star hotel, the first Sheraton in Myanmar, is being constructed on a 1.23-acre plot of land with a construction budget of US$30 million. The 217-foot by 266-foot hotel is scheduled to open in February 2017. It will have 375 rooms and a two-story parking basement to hold up to 200 cars. The hotel will have a 700-person capacity ballroom and six restaurants, including one on the rooftop. The hotel will have all the facilities of a five-star hotel. Over 500 jobs will be offered at the hotel, and about 200 affiliated companies will do business with the Sheraton Yangon, said an official of the Family Business Group Hotel Ltd. The project started in March 2014, when it was approved by the Yangon City Development Committee. The project had already been submitted to the Myanmar Investment Commission, according to the project official. The volume of foreign tourists has grown every year in Myanmar for the last several years. Officials expect around 4.5 million tourists to visit the country this year.—Soe Win (SP)

THE Rural Development Department in Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region, assigned FH Innovative Inspiration Idea Co., Ltd. the contract to upgrade Launglon-Panyit Road using K38.95 million (US$30,241) in funding from the 2015-16 budget.

Head of Dawei District Rural Development Department U Ngwe Thein, Head of Launglon Township RDD U Kyaw Win Naing and Assistant Engineer Daw Soe Soe Thi inspected the placing of gravel and the digging of drains along the road.—District IPRD
Afghan Hazara step up protest after beheadings

KABUL — Thousands of members of Afghanistan’s Hazara ethnic minority demonstrated yesterday against government inaction over the killing of seven members of their community by Islamist militants who dumped their partially beheaded bodies.

The mainly Shia Hazara have long faced persecution in Afghanistan, with thousands massacred by the Taliban and al Qaeda in the 1990s, but a series of murders and kidnappings this year has stoked a mood of growing despair.

The demonstration in a mainly Hazara area in the west of Kabul was peaceful but there was an angry mood in the crowd that was directed both at the Islamist militants blamed for the killings and the government that failed to prevent them.

“The only way to prevent such crimes in the future is to take over all government offices until they wake up and make a decision,” said demonstrator Sayed Karim, 40, one of thousands who filled the whole of Mazari Square.

As well as adding to the daily toll of killings, the deaths of the seven Hazara, who included three women and two children, have heightened the risk that sectarian hatreds will further poison the climate in a country made up of different ethnicities.

Bearing the green-draped coffins of the dead and carrying banners with slogans like “The Taliban are committing crimes and the government is supporting them”, the crowd began to make its way to the presidential palace in central Kabul.

President Ashraf Ghani has condemned the killings and promised an investigation but the killings violated international law. “These senseless murders may amount to war crimes and the perpetrators must be held accountable,” he said.

The killings in the southern province of Zabul occurred amid fighting between rival Taliban factions and Islamic State militants that has underlined the risk of further fragmentation, complicating any reopening of the peace process and creating the risk of more generalised anarchy.

Demonstrators said Hazara people were being killed every day on the dangerous roads between Ghazni, Bamyan and Wardak provinces to the west of Kabul, where the Taliban have control of much of the countryside.

In addition to the Taliban and Islamic State, many Hazara have directed their anger more broadly against the Pashtun, the largest ethnic group from which the Islamist movements recruit most of their followers.

“We’re from this country. We have to have the same rights as other citizens,” said a demonstrator who gave her name only as Sohaila. “If the government doesn’t give us the right of citizenship, we will leave this country to the Pashtuns and other groups.” — Reuters

Eight soldiers killed in clashes in Afghanistan within day

KABUL — A total of eight army soldiers died throughout Afghanistan since early Tuesday, said the country’s Defence Ministry yesterday.

“During military operations and as a result of insurgents’ separate attacks, eight Afghan National Army personnel martyred within the last 24 hours,” the ministry said in a statement.

The Afghan security forces’ casualties have risen recently as they have assumed the full security charges from NATO and US forces since January this year.

“Several armed insurgents were killed and injured after Afghan security forces conducted joint cleanup operations in different provinces over the same period of time,” the statement said, without disclosing the exact number of the casualties on the militants.

The security forces also seized weapons and ammunition in addition to defusing dozens of roadside bombs and landmines during the raids, the statement noted. — Xinhua

Ex-South African police sentenced to 15 years for murder, torture of presioner

PRETORIA — A South African court yesterday sentenced eight former police officers to 15 years each for killing a Mozambican taxi driver by dragging him handcuffed to a police truck and assaulting him in custody.

The tormenting of Mido Macia, caught on video and broadcast around the world, further tarnished the reputation of the police in South Africa where about 1,000 people a year die in custody or as result of police action.

Macia died from head injuries and internal bleeding caused by being assaulted and dragged behind the vehicle through Johannesburg streets and further attacks in a holding cell.

Judge Bert Bam said the accused policemen, aged between 25 and 56, showed no remorse for their crime and did not deserve a more lenient verdict, such as a suspended sentence.

“The continuous conduct of the accused concerning the injuries on the deceased was barbaric and totally inexplicable,” Bam said in his ruling. “What made their conduct more reprehensible was their cowardly attack in the cell on a defenceless and already seriously injured man.”

Benny Ndaba, a lawyer for the police officers, said they would appeal their murder conviction.

The video of the incident, which rekindled images of apartheid era police brutality, was filmed by an onlooker and showed minibus taxi driver Macia scruffling with police after he illegally parked his vehicle. — Reuters
Japan's 1st passenger jet MRJ makes maiden flight

NAGOYA — Japan's first domestically produced passenger jet made its maiden flight yesterday, marking a critical step toward reviving the country's aviation industry and competing with foreign makers of small aircraft.

After suffering a series of delays in development, the Mitsubishi Regional Jet took off from Nagoya airport in central Japan at 9:35 am.

It landed at 11:01 am, welcomed by a cheering crowd of about 500 people, including personnel from the plane's developer Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp., a unit of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

"We have to conduct some checkups but I think (the flight) was enormously successful," Hideaki Omiya, chairman of Mitsubishi Heavy, told reporters.

The MRJ, a small narrow-body aircraft, has become the first domestically produced passenger airliner since the YS-11 turboprop was rolled out half a century ago.

"It's a dream come true. I've been hoping for this to happen someday at this airport," said 73-year-old Toshihiko Ito, who also witnessed the first flight of the YS-11. The MRJ is expected to compete with rivals such as Brazil's Embraer SA and Bombardier Inc. of Canada at a time when demand for regional jets is expected to grow further in coming years. Smaller jets are seen as a flexible alternative to airplanes to meet seasonal demand or service routes on which larger aircraft would be less economical.

In preparation for Wednesday's flight, the MRJ had made a successful test run at the airport in Aichi Prefecture at take-off speed on Saturday. The jet will conduct 2,500 hours of test flights.

The 35-metre-long twin-engine aircraft will have 70 to 90 seats, with its slim body design that reduces air resistance helping it consume around 20 percent less fuel than other aircraft of similar size. The jetliner has a range of around 3,800 kilometres, allowing it to cover the distance between Tokyo and Shanghai or Taipei.

The development of the MRJ, which began a decade ago, has boosted hopes for future growth of the country's manufacturing industries, as the airplane requires millions of parts. The government also lauded the maiden flight.

"It is the dawn of a new era for Japan's aviation industry," Motoo Hayashi, economy, trade and industry minister.

"It is the dawn of a new era for Japan's aviation industry," Motoo Hayashi, economy, trade and industry minister.

Sydney Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will be looking to reset a vital diplomatic and economic relationship badly strained under his predecessor when he visits Jakarta on Thursday to meet Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Australia and its giant neighbour have a history of diplomatic turbulence stretching back decades, but relations reached historic lows under Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who was ousted in a party coup in September.

Turnbull inherited ties strained by rows over spying, the execution of Australian citizens in Indonesia and Abbott's tough stance and sugar. They also cooperate closely on counter-terrorism, an area of growing concern as Islamic State militants seek footholds outside the Middle East, where Australia is bombing the group as part of a US-led military campaign.

But in recent years, perpetual crisis became the norm, said Vickers, adding that Abbott had been the "untouchable" in Indonesia.

"It matters because it sets the climate for meeting Abbott very much its public face in Indonesia. Just one month after he took office in September 2013, revelations that Canada had spied on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife set relations plummeting.

His policy of towing back to Australia vessels carrying asylum seekers, while popular at home, infuriated Jakarta, which sees it as an infringement on its sovereignty.

Tensions reached their peak in May when Indonesia executed two Australian members of the so-called "Bali Nine" drug trafficking ring, despite intense lobbying from Canberra.

Indonesia also found itself in the diplomatic confrontation with Indonesia in its latest test of diplomatic relations and economic growth.

The visit marks Turnbull's 11th official trip to the Southeast Asian country this year.

"It should be noted that Indonesia is the second largest economy in the region and the potential benefits of the economic relationship," Portuguese trade and industry minister.

"Indonesia is Australia's largest overall trading partner and is the largest export market for Australian wheat worth A$1.3 billion ($917 million) in 2014, as well as a major destination for live cattle and sugar. They also cooperate closely on counter-terrorism, an area of growing concern as Islamic State militants seek footholds outside the Middle East, where Australia is bombing the group as part of a US-led military campaign. But in recent years, perpetual crisis became the norm, said Vickers, adding that Abbott had been the "untouchable" in Indonesia. "It matters because it sets the climate for meeting Abbott very much its public face in Indonesia. Just one month after he took office in September 2013, revelations that Canada had spied on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife set relations plummeting. His policy of towing back to Australia vessels carrying asylum seekers, while popular at home, infuriated Jakarta, which sees it as an infringement on its sovereignty. Tensions reached their peak in May when Indonesia executed two Australian members of the so-called "Bali Nine" drug trafficking ring, despite intense lobbying from Canberra. Indonesia also found itself in the diplomatic confrontation with Indonesia in its latest test of diplomatic relations and economic growth. The visit marks Turnbull's 11th official trip to the Southeast Asian country this year. "It should be noted that Indonesia is the second largest economy in the region and the potential benefits of the economic relationship," Portuguese trade and industry minister.

Bangladesh hands top separatist leader over to India

GUWAHATI — Bangladesh handed the founder of a militant separatist group to India yesterday, intelligence sources said, a rebel leader that for years New Delhi had fought to extradite.

Anup Chetia founded the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) more than three decades ago and had been imprisoned in Bangladesh for the last 18 years after being charged with staying in the country illegally and unlawfully possessing foreign currencies.

He completed a seven-year sentence but was kept in jail on the outskirts of Dhubka, as India and Bangladesh, where he had applied for political asylum, struggled to agree to the terms for his extradition.

"He is in our custody and will be brought to India short- ly," said a senior Indian intelligence official, asking not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The ULFA is one of the largest of the many rebel groups active in India’s restive northeast, a remote and underdeveloped region that is home to dozens of ethnic groups, many of whom are campaigning for greater autonomy, statehood or even secession.

The group, which once ran several bases across the border inside Bangladesh, has demanded a separate state carved out of Assam and accuses New Delhi of plundering the region’s mineral and agricultural resources.

Fighting in the northeast has killed thousands over the last few decades and although violence has subsided as some groups lay down their arms, hundreds are still killed each year.

Chetia’s transfer comes amid improving ties between India and Bangladesh, with both keen to boost trade and security along the border and to fight human trafficking.

Earlier this year the two countries signed an historic land boundary agreement, more than four decades after the neighbours first tried to resolve the complex territorial disputes. —Reuters

The Mitsubishi Regional Jet, Japan’s first domestically produced commercial passenger jet, lands at Nagoya Airport, central Japan, on 11 November 2015, after its maiden flight. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
Steep learning curve for refugees in Germany

BERLIN — When Abdullah Yassouf, a Syrian from Homs, arrived in Germany one of his top priorities was to enrol his daughter Zena in a German university as soon as possible.

Twelve months have passed and 18-year-old Zena — who hopes to become a dentist or a medical engineer — is not yet enrolled in any higher education establishment.

Up on arrival in Germany, the Yassoufs had to wait nearly six months for their asylum claim to be processed. Zena was granted refugee status and a residence permit — a requirement to enrol in most academic institutions. Abdullah then spent months trying to track down certificates from schools Zena attended in Syria and Turkey, in order to be able to prove that she had completed her high school education. Abdullah paid hundreds of euros to get these documents and translate them from Arabic and Turkish into German. Finally, four weeks ago, Zena and Abdullah delivered the last of the required certificates to the German education ministry, according to Thomas Böhm, an official at the ministry’s office responsible for evaluating international school and university certificates. Now they must wait for a reply.

“The procedures take a long time in Germany,” a frustrated Abdullah Yassouf told IRIN from a refugee housing facility in Hamburg. “I thought in Syria we had complicated procedures, but actually in Germany it is more complicated than in Syria.”

The obstacles the Yassoufs are facing are a common experience for refugees in Germany, according to Norbert Trosien, a protection officer with the UN’s refugee agency, UNHCR, in Berlin. Trosien told IRIN that a lack of certificates — as well as language barriers and the incompatibility of education systems worldwide — cause major delays that undermine the motivation of refugees hoping to further their education in Germany.

“Refugees bring a lot of potential to their country of refuge,” Trosien said, pointing out that it is in host societies’ interest to offer refugees the chance to fulfill that potential. Germany’s labour market is short of 140,000 engineers, programmers and technicians, according to the Confederation of German Employers’ Associations (BDA) — an umbrella organisation representing interest groups in industry, trade and other sectors. Ulrich Grillo, head of the Federal Association of German Industry, recently told AFP that if Germany can integrate refugees quickly into the job market — “We’ll be helping the refugees, but also helping ourselves as well.” But many of the refugees will need to begin or complete studies interrupted by their flight from their home countries before they can start competing for jobs.

There are currently no reliable figures for how many refugees in Germany are enrolled in higher education, according to Thomas Böhm of the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK), an association representing the vast majority of the country’s higher education institutions. But Böhm said that hundreds of refugees had come to recent events held at university campuses seeking information about how to enrol.

The HRK has joined with the BDA and the Federal Association of German Industry (the BDI) to demand that the government quickly address the obstacles to refugees accessing higher education, such as the need for residence permits and financial assistance. Böhm told IRIN that German academic institutions feel a social responsibility to help integrate refugees, and are equipped to do so.

“At universities, we have language courses, we have free vocational courses, we have special study preparation courses,” he said. “So the real challenge is to support these existing structures financially. The universities need financial support to offer all these courses and all these programmes for the expected high number of refugee students.”

Tuition for universities in Germany is free — or very low cost — for refugees, as it is for all students. The additional funding from the state is needed in order to allow universities to create more language training and preparatory courses, according to HRK’s president Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler, who said in a recent press release that the cost of funding these courses for one refugee is approximately 4,000 euros per year.

The German government expects to spend roughly eight billion euros in 2016 on managing the record influx of asylum seekers. About half of that budget will be allocated to the country’s 16 federal states, to provide one-time domestic education for the 758,000 asylum seekers who have arrived in Germany since the beginning of the year. However, it is not yet clear how much of that funding will be used to make higher education more accessible to refugees and asylum seekers — like Kirollos and Andrew Mossa, twin brothers from Egypt who came to Germany in March 2014.

The Mousa twins fled their home country for political reasons. They are former students of Cairo University but cannot apply to continue their studies at a German university because they are still awaiting a decision on their asylum applications and lack the necessary long-term residence permits.

But even without residence permits, they have managed to become students. They recently registered with Kiron University, a new non-profit initiative that aims to provide refugees with the opportunity to study for a recognised degree free of charge. Kiron’s combination of online and offline courses.

Kiron has partnered with academic institutions throughout Germany as well as with American universities such as Harvard and Yale to offer courses in English to refugee students. Kiron students also have access to psychosocial support and mentoring through a network of volunteer organisations.

“We have lots of partners that give us full access to their facilities so our students can always go there, use the computer rooms, take workshops at that university,” explained Markus Kretirsch, a co-founder of Kiron University.

In contrast to other higher education institutions in Germany, the only requirement for acceptance to Kiron University is proof of being an asylum seeker or a recognised refugee.

So far, Kiron has crowdfunded scholarships for 197 refugees, including the Mousa twins. Kirollos will take online courses via Kiron University for the next two years and then study on-campus at a partner university during his third and final year. The enthusiastic 22-year-old has already succeeded in learning to speak German fluently, and intends to make the most of this new opportunity.

“At first I think I have to work on my English skills,” he said. “And then I would love to try a business degree program.”

“When you don’t go to university, you are kind of a nobody. When you go to university you have a chance to earn proper money to become someone.” — IRIN

TILE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-055(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Cummins KTA-2300 C-1050 Engine (8) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-056(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Mack Truck (6) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-057(15-16)</td>
<td>Assorted Sizes of Gate Valves (12) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB-058(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Blow Out Preventer (5) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>DMPL-010(15-16)</td>
<td>4 3/4” Insert Bit (12) Nos</td>
<td>KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>DMPL-011(15-16)</td>
<td>Mechanical Seals for Pumps (3) Items</td>
<td>KS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender Closing Date & Time - 8-12-2015, 16:30 1Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 11th November, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No/44 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

BEIJING — Top officials in a key northern Chinese Province have taken the unusual step of issuing a public promise not to engage in corrupt practices like taking bribes, after the top man there was felled in a graft probe.

Zhou Benshun had been Communist Party chief in Hebei Province — which surrounds capital city Beijing and is China’s most important steel producer — until he was accused of corruption earlier this year and sacked.

Zhou had previously worked with China’s disgraced security chief Zhou Yongkang, who was jailed for life in June after a secret trial in China’s most sensational graft scandal in 70 years. The two are not related.

On Wednesday, the provincial party’s Standing Committee, Hebei’s ruling body, issued a list of 10 public promises it was making to officials and the public about how they intended to “transform their work styles”.

“We will correctly use power, cautiously use power and cleanly use power,” reads the statement, carried on the provincial government’s website.

“We will not promise high posts and other favours, and not practice nepotism.”

They are also vowing not to interfere in legal cases, tenders for construction projects or mining permits, all sources of potential corruption. — Reuters
UN Secretary General calls on lifting obstruction on India-Nepal border without any delay

KATHMANDU — United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday called on all sides to lift the obstruction on the India-Nepal border without further delay on Wednesday.

The Secretary-General underlines Nepal’s rights of free transit as a landlocked nation as well as for humanitarian reasons, and calls on all sides to lift the obstructions without further delay,” Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary General said at a daily press briefing in New York.

The UN Secretary General’s remarks have come at a time when Nepal has been reeling under acute shortages of fuel and essential commodities due to blockade at the India-Nepal border subsequently after the Himalayan nation adopted a new constitution on 20 September. According to the UN Secretary General’s statements, Ban has reiterated his concern over the obstruction of essential supplies on the Nepal-India border.

Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, who is also Foreign Minister, had expressed deep concern last week that ongoing fuel shortage due to obstruction at the India-Nepal border points may cause a humanitarian crisis in the country very soon.

“As we are seeking to address political problem through dialogue, the continuous obstructions at border points under any pretext have severely impeded the exercise of rights and freedom that Nepal is entitled under the international law as a land-locked country,” the minister had said.

As tens of thousands of victims of the devastating earthquake are awaiting rehabilitation in Nepal on the eve of the winter season, the UN Secretary General has said that acute shortages in fuel supplies has continued to impede planned deliverables to earthquake-affected villages.

“Humanitarian organisations urgently need fuel to maintain operations and deliver food, warm clothing and shelter materials to high altitude areas that will soon be cut off by harsh winter weather,” the spokesman for the UN Secretary General told reporters in New York.

Earlier, on Monday, Nepal had asked India to remove the ongoing obstruction at the border between the two countries and resume the supply of fuel and essential commodities to Nepal. A meeting of the council of government ministers chaired by Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli had passed a special resolution and asked the Indian government to end the obstruction of medicine and gasoline supply at the Indo-Nepal border.

According to media reports, thousands of Nepal-bound cargo vehicles and tankers carrying medicines, basic commodities and fuel have been clogged at the Indian side of border. Nepal said the Indian government has imposed an embargo against it since 20 September after the promulgation of the new constitution.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JAN VOY NO (1318)

Consignees of cargo on MV JAN VOY NO (1318) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 12.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DA ZHONG VOY NO (131)

Consignees of cargo on MV DA ZHONG VOY NO (131) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 11.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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’ COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12th November, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in the Kachin State, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Shan and Chin States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Tannthayi Regions, Mon State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Mandalay Region and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th November, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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LOS ANGELES — Country singer Chris Stapleton soared straight to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday after sweeping the Country Music Awards last week with three wins and a live performance with Justin Timberlake.

“Traveller,” Stapleton’s debut album that was released in May this year, sold 153,000 albums, 218,000 songs and was streamed nearly 3 million times in the past week, totaling 177,000 units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

It caps a breakthrough year for Stapleton, 37, who won album, male vocalist and new artist of the year at the Country Music Awards.

His song “Tennessee Whiskey,” which he performed with Timberlake at the televised awards show, landed at No. 2 on this week’s Billboard Digital Songs chart with 131,000 downloads.

The awards show also boost ed albums by country artists Carrie Underwood, whose “Sto ries,” landed at No. 8, while the new self-titled from The Weeknd featuring artists The Weekend and Taylor Swift, at No. 4.

Another compilation, “We Love Disney” featuring classic Disney songs covered by artists like Ariana Grande, debuted at No. 8, while the new self-titled album from veteran rockers Def Leppard rounded out the top ten.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, songs (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other new entries this week included “Now S6,” the latest installment of the “Now That’s What I Call Music” compilation featuring artists The Weeknd and Taylor Swift, at No. 4.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online song downloads, Adele’s power ballad “Hello” held steady at the top with another 635,000 copies sold. Her much anticipated album, “25,” will be released later this month.

— Reuters

New Orleans pianist Allen Toussaint, 77, dies in Spain

MADRID — Allen Toussaint, one of the legendary names of New Orleans music, has died in Madrid at the age of 77.

The piano master, known for jazz, R&B and blues and who wrote hits such as “Working in a Coalmine” and produced Patti LaBelle’s famous cover of “Lady Marmalade,” died of a heart attack on Monday evening after giving a concert at the Spanish capital’s Teatro Lara, hospital officials said.

Fans posted videos of Toussaint’s final performance on YouTube, while the English singer and songwriter Billy Bragg said on Twitter: “The man was a genius.”

Toussaint, who began performing in his teens, collaborated with a wide range of artists, including John Mayall, Bonnie Raitt, Elvis Costello, Lee Dors ney, Paul McCartney and The Band. He did the horn arrangements for The Band’s famed final concert filmed by Martin Scorsese as “The Last Waltz.”

Many of his songs became famous in cover versions by The Rolling Stones, The Who, Robert Plant, Bo Diddley and others.

In addition to writing a string of hits, including “Southern Nights” and “Fortune Teller,” Toussaint also campaigned and raised funds to help New Orleans recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

President Obama praised Toussaint’s efforts in 2013 when the musician was awarded the American National Medal of Arts, saying: “After his hometown was battered by Katrina and Allen was forced to evacuate, he did something even more important for his city, he went back and since then Allen has devoted his musical talent to lifting up and building up a city.”

Toussaint said in an autobiographical item on his website that he began playing the piano when he was about six years old when an old upright piano was brought into the family home for his sister, who quickly gave it up.

— Reuters

British band Busted reunite 11 years after breakup

LONDON — British pop punk band Busted announced a reunion tour on Tuesday, nearly 11 years after Charlie Simpson left the group and forced it to break up.

The trio, made up of Simpson, James Bourne and Matt Willis, said they would also make new music for the first time since 2004.

The band, known for hits like “Year 3000” and “You Said No”, won two Brit Awards and sold more than 5 million records at the height of its success.

Simpson left to perform in a rock band and was later quoted as saying his time in Busted was “like torture”. Willis and Bourne went on to join forces with fellow boyband McFly in 2013 to form McBusted, but the trio said things changed when they recently went to a recording studio in Philadelphia. “This has been sort of building for the last couple of years now, with us getting back, rebuilding our friendship,” Simpson told Reuters in a joint interview with Willis and Bourne.

— Reuters

‘Spectre’ sets record for largest movie stunt explosion

LONDON — Nail-biting action scenes and blasts are a regular feature in James Bond movies but the franchise’s latest offering, “Spectre”, has scored a world record for the largest stunt explosion in a film.

Guinness World Records on Tuesday. Actor Daniel Craig, who reprises the 007 role for the fourth time, actress Lea Seydoux and producer Barbara Broccoli were presented with an official certificate confirming the feat while promoting “Spectre” in Beijing.

Guinness World Records said on its website that the official title holder was “Spectre” Special Effects and Miniature Effects Supervisor Chris Corbould who created the explosive scene. It said the blast, which lasted over 7.5 seconds and took place in Morocco, had a total yield of 68.47 tonnes of TNT equivalent. It resulted from detonating 8,418 liters of kerosene with 33 kilograms of powder explosives, it added. “Spectre”, the 24th James Bond film, broke records at the British box office upon opening late last month.

— Reuters
An employee poses with a cushion-shaped 16.08 carat vivid pink diamond at Christie’s auction house in Geneva, Switzerland. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hainan Airlines to launch direct flight from Xi’an to Rome

XI’AN — China’s Hainan Airlines will inaugurate a direct flight from Xi’an to Rome on 9 December to link the starting and end point of the ancient Silk Road by air, sources with the company said at a press conference in Xi’an on Tuesday.

This new route will connect Xi’an, the capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, with Rome, capital of Italy.

The route will run every Wednesday and Saturday with Airbus A330.

In 2014, Italy received over 1.5 million Chinese visitors, said Massimo Gaudiano, first secretary at the Embassy of Italy in China, at the conference.

The direct flight will provide a new chance for the exchanges between the two ancient civilizations, he said.

The new air route is one of several new flights by Hainan Airlines related to the “Belt and Road Initiative”, a China-proposed initiative to construct the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, said Hu Yi, chief marketing officer of the Hainan Airlines.

The Silk Road refers to the land trade route opened when Zhang Qian was sent west on a diplomatic mission more than 2,000 years ago. Starting from Xi’an, the ancient Silk Road ran through northwest China’s Gansu Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and Central and Western Asia, before reaching the Mediterranean.

Hainan Airlines will launch two more direct flights on 23 December from Xi’an to Sydney, and from Xi’an to Tokyo respectively, according to Hu. —Xinhua

Pink diamond nets $28.55 million in healthy stone market: Christie’s

GENEVA — A large diamond of a rare pink hue fetched 28.725 million Swiss francs ($28.55 million) on Tuesday, the star lot of Christie’s semi-annual jewellery sale in Geneva, where designer eye candy drew strong prices.

A Chinese client based in Hong Kong bought the cushion-shaped pink diamond weighing 16.08 carats and graded vivid fancy pink, which is set in a platinum and gold ring surrounded by a double row of pave-set white diamonds, the auction house said. Its pre-sale estimate was $23 million to $28 million.

The seller was not identified and the buyer, who has named the pink diamond “The Sweet Josephin,” wished to remain anonymous, Christie’s said. The diamond’s origin was not disclosed.

“It is absolutely a top price for a stone of this quality, because of its colour. There are few pink-pink, the way this one was,” said Francois Curiel, chairman of Christie’s Luxury Group and its veteran jewellery expert, who conducted part of the evening auction in a packed salesroom.

“It shows we are dealing with a very healthy stone market,” he told reporters. “There is lots of cash in the world right now. At the moment, works of art, diamonds and jewels are a safe haven.

In almost 250 years of auction history, only three pure vivid pink diamonds of over 10 carats have appeared for sale, according to Christie’s. A pear-shaped flawless white diamond weighing 50.48 carats fetched 7.89 million Swiss francs in heated bidding, the evening’s second-highest lot, selling to a dealer in the room.

Jewels by Harry Winston, Van Cleef & Arpels, Boucheron, Cartier and Bulgari soared above pre-sale estimates, including a Bulgarian coral onyx and diamond bracelet-watch designed as a coiled serpent. In all, some 80 percent of the 460 lots on offer sold for 110.26 million Swiss francs, Christie’s said, eclipsing expectations. Christie’s, founded in 1776, is now owned by French retail magnate Francois Pinault’s holding company Artemis SA.

A large blue diamond, one of the world’s rarest, could fetch $35 million to $55 million at auction on Wednesday, rival Sotheby’s said last week, as an industry group reported strong prices for color diamonds ahead of the holiday season.

A Modigliani nude painting was sold to an unnamed Chinese buyer at Christie’s on Monday for $170.4 million, the second-highest price ever for a work of art at auction, as deep-pocketed collectors continue to pay, and pay big, for some rare masterpieces up for sale in this year’s autumn auctions season.

“China has been very active yesterday in New York and tonight in Geneva,” Curiel said.—Reuters

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Cutting down on the spice, South Korea cheese imports soar as trade deals open door

SEOUL — South Koreans, who traditionally eat most meals with a generous dollop of the fiery local side dish kimchi, are gaining a growing taste for another import—fermented food: cheese.

While Japan is by far the biggest consumer of cheese in Asia, neighbouring South Korea is one of the fastest-growing markets, and top suppliers such as the United States and New Zealand hope to sell even more as free trade deals cut tariffs.

Cheese demand has been helped by increased exposure to western dishes such as pizza, but South Koreans also often incorporate it into local dishes ranging from noodle soup to kimchi-stir fried rice.

“Tartar Sauce

Pm

6:20 am

(12-11-2015 07:00 am~ 13-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Horse Cart Driver

07:37 Am Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lan Gwe

08:53 Am Garden: King Orange Plantation

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Products Of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar

10:42 Am A Chance to Change Their Future

10:53 Am Myanmar Traditional Toys

10:54 Am Yatana Thinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace

07:00 Am News

07:25 Am A Day In Bagan

07:46 Am Gardener: King Orange Plantation

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Let’s Cook (EP-9) Crispy Deep-Fried Calanari Rings with Tartar Sauce & Apple Matt Mojito & Blue Lagoon Mocktails

10:00 Am - 11:00 pm Toda - Today Repeat

11:00 Pm - 03:00 Am Wed - Yesterday Repeat (07:00 Am - 11:00 Am)

03:00 Am - 07:00 Am Toda - Today Repeat (07:00 Am - 11:00 Am)

For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule
Murray multi-tasking with eye on London and Ghent

LONDON — Andy Murray is performing a delicate balancing act as he prepares for a claycourt Davis Cup final and the ATP World Tour Finals on an indoor hardcourt at the o2 Arena.

The Scot, who has prioritised helping Britain win the Davis Cup for the first time since 1936 when they face Belgium in Ghent later this month, will spend most of this week practising on clay in London.

The Tour Finals, where Murray can clinch the year-end number two ranking for the first time, begin on Sunday, meaning a testing few days for the 28-year-old.

The transition to the specific movements of claycourt tennis have proved problematic in the past for Murray who has often suffered back pain as a consequence.

“I’ve tried to juggle the two so that I don’t have to miss the (Tour Finals) but also give myself a good chance of playing well in the Davis Cup,” said Murray who was beaten in the Paris Masters final on Sunday by Novak Djokovic.

“It’s important I’m not too hard on myself and don’t just expect to play great tennis at the start at the o2 as soon as I switch back to hardcourts.

“I need to respect what the change to the clay can do to my body and also what it can do to your game because it’s a completely different movement.”

When Britain beat Australia in September to reach the final for the first time since 1978, Murray winning all his three matches, the Scot indicated he might miss the ATP finale that features the world’s top eight players.

He now says he could still pull out if he is worried about his fitness for the Davis Cup final that starts on 27 November.

“It’s going to be tricky,” added Murray. “If I get injured in the next couple of days or something happens to my back then obviously I won’t play (at the o2).

“But if I’m fit and healthy and the next three days go well then I’ll be practising at the o2 from Friday.”

Twice grand slam champion Murray has never won the ATP’s season-ender.—Reuters

Aguero targets Liverpool game for return from injury

LONDON — Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero believes he will be fit to return after the international break, targeting Liverpool as his comeback game from injury.

Aguero has been out since early October with a hamstring injury sustained while playing for Argentina.

“I don’t think I’m too far away now,” Aguero told City’s website (www.mcfc.com).—Reuters

Yangon United FC appoints Emerson Alcântara as head coach

KO MOE

YANGON — Yangon United FC, which will take part in the Toyota Me-kong Club Championship 2015, signed a one-year contract yesterday with Emerson Alcântara, who hails from Brazil.

The new coach said he was proud of joining hands with Yangon United. He said he will do his utmost to achieve success in regional tournaments, which the club targets.

The Brazilian coach said he will hire foreign players on whom the club can rely, while defending the domestic championship.

Yangon United sacked Serbian coach Miodrag Jesic in September.

The club plans to sign contracts with one new striker.

Alcântara started his career as a football coach in 1999 and has coached several Brazilian clubs.

He coached the Timor-Leste national team in 2012 and Myanmar’s Manaw Myay FC in 2014.

Yangon United FC’s new Brazilian coach Emerson Alcântara (R) poses for a photograph with Yangon United’ jersey with an official. PHOTO: Tun Aung Kyaw

Maracana to host Olympic football finals: FIFA

RIO DE JANEIRO — The men’s and women’s Olympic football finals will be played at the Maracana stadium, FIFA announced on Tuesday.

The opening game will be a women’s group match on 3 August at the Olympic Stadium in host city Rio de Janeiro, FIFA added. The tournament officially kicks off two days later.—Reuters

Injured Tevez out of Argentina World Cup qualifiers

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina striker Carlos Tevez has pulled out of their squad for the World Cup qualifiers against Brazil on Thursday and Colombia next Tuesday, the Argentine FA said on Tuesday.

Tevez, who helped Boca Juniors win the Argentine first division championship and Copa Argentina knockout competition this month, joins Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero, Pablo Zabaleta and Ezequiel Garay on coach Gerardo Martino’s injury list.—Reuters

Chelsea fined 50,000 pounds and West Ham 40,000

LONDON — Chelsea and West Ham United have been fined 50,000 ($75,535) and 40,000 pounds respectively after both clubs admitted FA misconduct charges following their bad-tempered Premier League clash last month.

“The charge was for failing to ensure their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion,” the FA said in a statement on Tuesday.—Reuters