PARLIAMENT RESUMES
Priority to be given to passing important bills

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw will work towards having the additional budget bill for the fiscal year 2015-16 approved during its final regular session. Priority will be given to approving important bills out of the remaining bills being discussed in parliament, said Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

He made the comments during the 13th regular session of the parliament, which resumed Monday following a recess period that included the general election of 8 November.

The Speaker also expressed his delight about Myanmar’s smooth and peaceful general election, saying that he believed that the first general election in the country’s transition period brings pride to Myanmar. He praised the Union Election Commission and the Union Government as well.

He also pledged on behalf of parliament, for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to cooperate with the government and the Tatmadaw [army] to carry out the remaining tasks during the post-election period.

During the same session of parliament, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein, on behalf of the government, clarified the additional budget bill for the fiscal year 2015-16.

Parliamentary bill committees held a coordination meeting over finalising the remaining bills.—Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Ministers sign agreements with Korean bank for Dala bridge, new rail coaches

THE signing ceremony for agreements between the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Korea Exim Bank took place at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Lwin and U Nyan Tun Aung.

The agreements cover the construction of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Dala Bridge and the purchase of 100 new rail coaches using a loan from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea.

The bridge will be built across the Yangon River to link local roads in downtown Yangon with No 1 Highway in Yangon Region.

According to the agreement, the EDCF will provide US$45 million for the purchase of 20 new rail coaches, equipped with air-conditioning, 20 coaches without air-conditioning and 60 new ordinary coaches for the Ministry of Rail Transportation of Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Win Myint and Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein signed the agreements along with the chairman of Korea Exim Bank, Dr Lee Duk-Hoon. Yangon-Dala bridge will take five years to build and will be 6,144 ft in length.

Dala is on the Southern bank of the Yangon River across from downtown Yangon. The area has not seen much development. Access has only been via a ferry. The new bridge will link Phone Gyi Road, Landmadaw to Bo Min Yaung Road, Dala.—Myanmar News Agency

Representatives attend 13th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

Scale model of Yangon-Dala bridge. PHOTO: MYANMARCS.FOCUSCOREGROUP.COM

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein signs the agreements along with the chairman of Korea Exim Bank, Dr Lee Duk-Hoon. Yangon-Dala bridge will take five years to build and will be 6,144 ft in length. Dala is on the Southern bank of the Yangon River across from downtown Yangon. The area has not seen much development. Access has only been via a ferry. The new bridge will link Phone Gyi Road, Landmadaw to Bo Min Yaung Road, Dala.—Myanmar News Agency
MPs urged to complete bill discussions

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urges personnel to protect three national causes

Chinese consul general donates to city development, Wushu subcommittee

Students, faculty members complete study tour in Australia
President offers Kathina robes to senior monks

A WORK coordination meeting attended by the Central Bank of Myanmar, ministries and private banks was held at the CBM on Monday.

Present were Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Zeyar Aung, Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Dr Maung Maung Thein, vice governor of the CBM Dr Pwint Hsan and officials from private banks.

The purpose of the meeting was to increase the efficiency of the Central Bank of Myanmar by coordinating with ministries that lay down financial, trade and economic policies, according to Union Minister U Soe Thane. He also pointed out the need to improve banking services for the public.

He added that Myanmar has been gaining progress in Ease of Doing Business Index, Corruption Perception Index and Per Capita Income by year issued by international community. The union ministers, deputy minister and central bank officials discussed foreign investment, reducing budget deficits and spending, the need to increase revenue, export and import strategies, the revocation of foreign exchange licences and the reserve requirement for private banks.

Officials of private banks reported on difficulties in providing services at the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency

Central Bank of Myanmar members discuss coordination with relevant ministries

Residents of Namkham receive free medical treatment

A MEDICAL team from No 88 Light Infantry Division was joined by health staff from the Namkham People’s Hospital in providing medical treatment to 262 residents of Phalin village, Namkham Township, in northern Shan State yesterday.

The light infantry division opened a free clinic at the entrance of Namkham. The commander of the division and departmental officials supervised healthcare services for the residents and gave them nutritious food items.—L. Soe (Muse)
Protests feared as wanted Cambodia opposition leader set to return

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy is expected to fly home to his own arrest yesterday and the United States warned of the danger of political protests as tension comes to a head between Sam Rainsy’s supporters and those of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The Southeast Asian nation is still three years away from a general election, but acrimony between the two as they jockey for position is threatening to plunge the country back into political conflict.

A Cambodian court on Friday issued an arrest warrant related to an old defamation case for which Sam Rainsy had already received a royal pardon. The opposition party denounced the warrant as politically motivated. Parliament stripped Sam Rainsy of the immunity that comes with his position in parliament on Monday.

Sam Rainsy is due to arrive in Phnom Penh from South Korea late in the day. He would be arrested on arrival, said government spokesman Phay Siphan.

“There won’t be any political compromise because he has lost all political status,” Phay Siphan said.

The US Embassy warned in a statement of the “heightened possibility of political demonstrations” near the airport on Monday and Tuesday.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, Sam Rainsy was defiant.

“Cambodia is my birthplace and homeland,” he said. “I must go back, absolutely. I go back to rescue the nation.”

The warrant for his arrest was issued a day after self-styled strongman Hun Sen, in power for more than 30 years, threatened a lawsuit against Sam Rainsy for comments he made abroad about the election.

Sam Rainsy called on the international community to ensure that Hun Sen sticks to the election timetable and not use the deteriorating political situation to delay the vote.

Hun Sen has warned that an election victory for the opposition in 2018 would see a return to civil war.

Robust economic growth, jobs creation and sustained peace are expected to fly home to his own late in the day. He would be arrested on arrival, said government spokesman Phay Siphan.

The Philippines is the South China Sea, sources said.

Tokyo, Manila to agree framework for Japanese military aid

Tokyo — The Japanese and Philippine leaders will agree this week on a deal paving the way for Tokyo to supply Manila with used military equipment, possibly including aircraft that could be deployed to patrol the disputed South China Sea, sources said.

The deal will mark the first time Japan has agreed to directly donate military equipment to another country, and is the latest example of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s more muscular security agenda.

The agreement in principle on military technology will be announced after Abe and President Benigno Aquino meet on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Manila, said three sources in Tokyo who are familiar with the issue.

It will commit Tokyo and Manila to discuss the type and scale of Japanese military aid, added the sources, who declined to be identified because they were not authorised to talk to the media.

The Philippines is the Southeast Asian country most at odds with Beijing over the South China Sea, Japan is building the military capacity of friendly nations in the region that have claims to parts of the waterway such as the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Japanese lawmakers will either go against the existing rule that allows foreign investor to hold up to a maximum of 49 percent equity stake in the energy sector.

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Japan, Thailand agree to fight terrorism after Paris attacks

MANILA — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Thai counterpart Don Pramudwinai agreed yesterday to cooperate with the international community to combat terrorism in the wake of deadly attacks in Paris on Friday as well as a bombing in Bangkok in August.

“The international community should be united to resolutely condemn the terrorist acts,” Kishida was quoted by Japan’s Foreign Ministry as telling Don when they met on the sidelines of ministerial talks for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum starting in Manila.

The two ministers vowed to “closely cooperate” in fighting terrorism, according to the ministry.

With Thailand home to many Japanese residents and companies, Kishida called for Thailand to help ensure the safety of Japanese nationals there and support efforts to create a more good investment environment for Japanese companies in the Southeast Asian country, the ministry said.

More than 60,000 Japanese people live in Thailand and about 4,500 Japanese firms operate there, according to Japanese government data.

The ministry said Kishida also reiterated Japan’s support for railway and other infrastructure development projects in Thailand.

Touching on tensions in the South China Sea, where territorial claims by some Southeast Asian countries and China have overlapped, Kishida said ensuring stability in the sea is vital to regional peace, and Japan has called for the rule of law to be upheld at sea, the ministry said.

“ASEAN as a whole should send a strong message when it convenes its annual meeting this coming summit,” Kishida also told Don, who assumed his post in August and held his first talks with Kishida.

Kishida was referring to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ summit scheduled for later this week in Kuala Lumpur.

Thailand is not a claimant in territorial rows in the South China Sea, while Japan is not directly involved in the dispute but regards the sea as a shipping lane crucial for its oil and other imports.

Kishida also expressed his hope for Thailand’s early restoration of democracy following a coup in 2014. Don said Thai land wants to learn from Japan’s experience in implementing democracy, according to the ministry.—Kyodo News

Sri Lanka likely to re-start China funded mega port city project

COLOMBO — The Sri Lankan government is likely to give its nod to re-start a stalled multi billion dollar China funded port city project in the island nation by early next year, one top official of Sri Lankan government told Xinhua yesterday.

The official said that currently the Sri Lankan government was conducting high level discussions with the Chinese government over the status of the Chinese projects in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan government is likely to give its approval for the Port City project by February.

The 1.4 billion US dollars Colombo port city project funded by the China Communications Construction Company Limited was suspended by Sri Lanka government in March after concerns were raised over some aspects of the project.

The construction of the project began in September last year and is set to attract billions of dollars as investments once completed.

The official said that the necessary documents including the Environmental Management Plan have already been submitted to the Sri Lankan government and the documents are currently under review.

“All the necessary documents have been submitted and the government is likely to start the project by February,” the official said.

Sri Lanka’s Cabinet Spokesperson Rajitha Senaratne last month said that following a recommendation by Ports and Shipping Minister Arjuna Ranatunga, the cabinet had agreed to appoint a new committee to address the issues of the Port City project so that the project could continue.

“We want to overcome these issues so that we can continue with the project. We hope to sort all these issues within the coming six months,” Senaratne said.

The new unity government has already stated that it hoped to include the Colombo Port City under its megapolis development plan in order to develop capital Colombo.—Xinhua

APEC ministers discuss free trade zone, antiterrorism

MANILA — Ministers of the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum discussed at a meeting Monday antiterrorism in the wake of Friday’s attacks in Paris and a region-wide free trade initiative following the deal for a Pacific free trade pact.

The ministers started the two-day gathering in Manila with a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks.

The Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility for the massacre which left 132 people dead with 349 wounded.

During the meeting, participants said that there is never a justification for terrorism no matter what the reason countries, officials said.

The TPP nations concluded years of negotiations on 5 October, establishing a free trade zone covering 40 percent of the world’s economy. The US-led framework has been considered as a basis of a more ambitious Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific framework.

APEC members aim to establish “as early as possible.”

“We are expanding APEC’s trade and investment goals to include a development dimension,” said Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, co-chair of the ministerial meeting along with fellow Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, at the outset of the meeting, which was open to the media.

“We look at the role of services as an engine of growth for the 21st century,” he added.

Lowering lifetime costs of infrastructure by building quality facilities was also discussed among other agenda items, the officials said.

Aside from the Philippines, the host this year’s forum, — APEC members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.—Kyodo News

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“Japanese trade minister Motoo Hayashi told reporters afterward.

“Negative world events will not be an impediment to growth, the 21 member economies are considering expressing their joint response to the assault in a leaders’ declaration that is issued later this week, an APEC source said. Talks at the meeting also centered on how the APEC economies can work together to move forward on their goal of creating a region-wide free trade zone in light of the recent Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement struck by 12 of its member economies as an engine of growth for the 21st century.”

Albert del Rosario
Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary

Senior Beijing, Shanghai officials sacked after graft probe

BEIJING — A deputy Communist Party boss in Beijing and the vice mayor of Shanghai in charge of its experimental free trade zone have been sacked following corruption probes, state news agency Xinhua said yesterday.

Xinhua released the news, without giving further details, in two separate, brief reports on one of its official microblogs. Officials are always removed from office following the beginning of graft probes.

Both the Beijing official, Lu Xiwen, and the Shanghai official, Ai Baojun, were accused by the ruling Communist Party last week of suspected “serious breaches of discipline,” the usu-
French police make arrests in overnight raids

PARIS — French police made 23 arrests and seized assault rifles and drugs in a nationwide overnight sweep on suspected Islamist militants following Friday’s attacks, the government said.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said 168 homes were raided in France’s major cities and elsewhere, and 104 people had been put under house arrest in the last 48 hours.

Police seized 31 firearms as well as computer hard drives and telephones, and illegal drugs were found in 18 of the raids, Cazeneuve told journalists.

One Islamist militant suspect-ed of arms and drugs dealing was found to have Kalashnikov assault rifles, automatic handguns and bullet proof vests.

In one raid on the house of the parents of a suspect, police found military fatigues and a rocket launcher in addition to more bullet proof vests and automatic handguns.

“We know that more attacks are being prepared, not just against France but also against other European countries,” Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on RTL radio.

Cazeneuve said police were making rapid progress in their in- vestigation into a wave of shoot- ings and suicide bombings in Paris which left 129 people dead.

“We are making use of the legal framework of the state of emergency to question people who are part of the radical jihadist movement ... and all those who advocate hate of the repub- lic,” Valls said.— Reuters

Belgian police stage a raid, in search of suspected muslim fundamentalists linked to the deadly attacks in Paris, in the Brussels suburb of Molenbeek, on 16 November. Photo: Reuters

UK to boost funding for intelligence agencies, aviation security

BELEK — Britain will boost its intelligence agency staff by 15 per cent and more than double spend- ing on aviation security to counter the increasing threat from Islamist militants, Prime Minister David Cameron said yesterday.

The government said it had decided to increase resources in the wake of the growing number of plots against Britain and recent militant attacks, including those in Paris and Tunisia. “I am deter- mined to prioritise the resources we need to combat the terror- ist threat because protecting the Brit- ish people is my number one duty,” Cameron said in a statement. “This is a generational struggle that demands we provide more manpower to combat those who would destroy us and our values.”

The government said that as part of a broader five-year defence and security review, due to be pub- lished on 23 November, it would fund an extra 1,900 officers at its MI5 and MI6 spy agencies and GCHQ intelligence agency.

It also plans a “step change” in aviation security following the crash of a Russian airliner in Egypt last month, which Britain has said it believes was brought down by a bomb. Cameron is due to discuss aviation security with other world leaders at the G20 summit in Tur- key on Monday, including during a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Brit- ish leader has also ordered a rapid review of security at several air- ports around the world, in particu- lar in the Middle East and North Africa and airports through which high numbers of British citizens travel. The assessments, due to be conducted over the next two months, will focus on measures such as passenger screening, physical security at the airport, hold baggage and freight screening.

Additional security measures put in place at potentially vulnera- ble airports over the past year will also be reviewed, and the National Security Council will on Tuesday dis- cuss British aviation security policy, the government said. Cam- eron said he planned to more than double government spending on aviation security, currently around €9 million pounds ($13.70 million) a year, over the next 5 years. This new funding will provide extra avi- nation security experts to regularly assess security at airports around the world as well as advice, train- ing and equipment for other coun- tries to help them increase security at airports. It will also fund re- search into screening technology and to detect new threats, the gov- ernment said.— Reuters

El Al Israel flight makes emergency landing in Montana

BILLINGS — An El Al Israel Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Los Angeles made an emer- gency landing in Montana on Sun- day after the pilot received an automated alert that the air- craft’s engine was on fire, transportation officials said.

The Boeing 777 aircraft, carrying 279 passengers and 20 crew members, landed on the runway of Billings Logan In- ternational Airport about 6 am local time, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting supervisor Mike Glancy said.

The pilot grounded the plane after a cockpit warning light switched on, indicating a fire in the right engine, Glancy said. After the plane landed, first and transportation officials examined it but found no sign of smoke or fire.

No one was injured in the incident, Glancy said. Passen- gers were taken to the airport terminal building. An alternat- ive plane was being flown in from Newark, New Jersey, to fly passengers to Los Angeles.

The original El Al aircraft will remain in Billings for ad- ditional examination and re- pairs, Glancy said.

El Al, Israel’s flag carrier, was not immediately available for comment.— Reuters

UN chief ready to help Korean peace, no comment on Pyongyang visit

NEW YORK — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has always said he is ready to play a role to help dia- logue and peace on the Korean peninsula, the UN spokesman’s office said in a statement yesterday.

Putin says Russia, UK should combine efforts in fighting terrorism

BELEK — Russia and Britain should combine efforts in fight- ing terrorism, Russian President Vladimir Putin told British Prime Minister David Cameron on the sidelines of the G20 sum-

mit in Turkey, in comments re- lated to attacks in Paris.

“We should work together. I am sure we can discuss that and Syria this morning,” Cameron told Putin.— Reuters

Pentagon says five Guantanamo detainees transferred to United Arab Emirates

WASHINGTON — Five detainees at the US military prison at Guantnamo Bay, Cuba, were transferred to the government of the United Arab Emirates, the US Defence De- partment said on Sunday.

The transferred detainees were identified by the Penta- gon as Ali Ahmad Muhammad al-Razghi, Khalid Abd-al-Jab-
French jets target Islamic State camps

BEIRUT — Heavy air strikes believed to have been carried out by French jets hit two Islamic State training camps and a suspected arms depot in and around the jihadist-held city of Raqqa in Syria overnight, a group monitoring the war said yesterday.

There were more than 30 explosions heard in the Raqqa city area, said Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict using a network of sources on the ground.

It was not immediate-ly clear if all the blasts were caused by air strikes or other weaponry.

Islamic State, which uses Raqqa as its de facto capital of its self-declared caliphate, is restricting movement inside the city, making it difficult to collect information on any casual-ties, Abdurrahman said.

France’s Defence Ministry said on Sunday 10 French fighter jets dropped 20 bombs on Syria targeting Islamic State, the ultra hardline group which has claimed responsibility for attacks in Paris that killed more than 130 people.

An anti-Islamic State activist group, Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently, said the French strikes hit “Division 17” and “Avant-garde camp” in Raqqa and provided maps of their locations on its Twitter feed. It said there were no re-port of casualties so far.

The group said one strike hit an area where Kayla Mueller, a US hostage, had been held in Raqqa before being killed earlier this year. It posted a video with audio of the rumble of jets overhead which it said was from inside Raqqa city.—Reuters

Islamic State threatens attack on Washington

CAIRO — Islamic State warned in a new video yesterday that countries taking part in air strikes against Syria would suffer the same fate as France, and threatened to attack in Washington.

The video, which appeared on a site used by Islamic State to post its messages, begins with news footage of the aftermath of Friday’s Paris shootings in which at least 129 people were killed.

The message to countries involved in what it called the “crusader campaign” was de-livered by a man dressed in fa-tigues and a turban, and identi-fied in subtitles as Al Ghareeb the Algerian.

“We say to the states that take part in the crusader cam-paign that, by God, you will have a day, God willing, like France’s and by God, as we struck France in the centre of its abode in Paris, then we swear that we will strike America at its centre in Washington,” the man said.

It was not immediately possible to verify the authentic-ity of the video, which purports to be the work of Islamic State fighters in the Iraqi province of Salahuddin, north of Baghdad.

The French government has called the Paris attacks an act of war and said it would not end its air strikes against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. French fight-er jets launched their biggest raids in Syria to date on Sun-day targeting the Islamic State’s stronghold in the city of Raqqa.

The operation was carried out in coordination with US forces.

Police raided homes of sus-pected Islamist militants across France overnight following the Paris attacks.

“Al Ghareeb the Algerian” also warned Europe in the video that more attacks were coming.

“I say to the European countries that we are coming, coming with booby traps and explosives, coming with explo-sive belts and (gun) silencers and you will be unable to stop us because today we are much stronger than before,” he said.

Apparently referring to international talks to end the Syrian war, another man iden-tified in the video as Al Karrar the Iraqi tells French President Francois Hollande “we have de-cided to negotiate with you in the trenches and not in the ho-tels.”—Reuters

Bahrain jails 12 convicted bombers for life

DUBAI — A Bahraini criminal court sentenced 12 people for life and revoked their citizenship after finding them guilty of carrying out bomb attacks on police, a senior judicial official said in a statement late on Sunday.

Evidence showed that the de-fendants, tried at the High Crimi-nal Court, were “directly linked” to six bombings carried out between 2013 and 2014, advocate gener-al Ahmed Al-Harari said in a statement carried by Bahrain News Agency.

The official said formal charges were made against the de-fendants after evidence gathered including fingerprints, “which di-recly matched five of the suspects to explosives and bomb-mak-ing materials found in a house in Saar,” the statement said.

The defendants had full and legal rights to appeal, the statement added.

The Sunni Muslim-led island kingdom is home to US Fifth Fleet in the Gulf, has experienced sporadic unrest since mass protests in 2011 led by majority Shi’ites de-manding reforms and a bigger role in government. The government denies opposition charges it dis-criminates against Shi’ites.

Bahrain says the oppo-sition has a sectarian agenda and is backed by Shi’ite pow-er Iran, a charge Shi’ite groups deny.—Reuters

Shootings in Burundi capital kill 4

NAIROBI — At least four people died in shootings and explosions in various neighbourhoods in Burundi’s capital on Sunday, while the government-supporting mayor’s house was attacked during a night of violence, witnesses and local administration said.

Burundi has been shaken by months of violence and rebelled when President Pierre Nkurunziza de-cided in April to run for a third term. He won a disputed election in July.

Last week, the United Na-tions Security Council asked Sec-retary-General Ban Ki-moon to report within 15 days on options for boosting the UN presence in Burundi amid growing concern that the violence could spiral into an ethnic conflict. Memories are still raw in the region of the 1994 genocide in neighbouring Rwanda.

Attackers targeted a police post in the south of the capital, killing one police officer and in-juring another, said a police of-ficer who witnessed the incident and did not wish to be named.

Shootings started at around 9:00 p.m. local time in areas like Mutakura, where three people were wounded. The gunfire inten-sified at midnight and was heard across Bujumbura for several hours, another police officer who did not wish to be named said.

Dieudonné Nduwayo, ad-ministrative secretary of Bujum-bura’s Bwiza zone, said three people had been killed in different places within the capital’s Mukaza district.

Bujumbura Mayor Freddy Mbonimpa, a member of Nkuru-nizza’s CNDD-FDD party said his home and vehicles parked there were seriously damaged when about 10 people attacked the house in Rohero, a part of the city that has seen little violence.

“Around 10 assailants ... shot and threw grenades at my house. We fortunately registered no death because my guard respond-ed,” Mbonimpa told Reuters.

Scores have died in protests and killings and hundreds of thou-sands have fled Burundi since Nkurunziza said he would seek a third term, a move the opposition said violated the constitution and a peace treaty that ended fighting in 2005.—Reuters

Iraq replaces nine grain board officials in reform push

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s acting trade minister replaced nine of-ficials at the country’s powerful grain board, a statement said on Monday, in an apparent bid to push through reforms.

The statement did not accuse the unnamed department and silo managers of graft, but said the changes were made “to appoint competent professionals... and exclude elements that were not able to succeed in their past re-sponsibilities.”

The grain board is responsi-ble for procuring grain interna-tionally and from Iraqi farmers, making it one of the world’s biggest importers of wheat and rice.—Reuters
**OPINION**

### Does Myanmar suffer from party politics?

**Myint Win Thein**

RECENTLY, an influential politician said it is completely wrong to classify national politics in terms of party politics. The greater national interest must be the focus of our politicians. Everyone seems to be in favour of the idea of the federal union, after all. But can it be that perfect?

Politics has been looked at cynically in Myanmar for decades. However, this does not seem so true lately. Some political parties may enjoy a grand honeymoon of public love and support at some time, but this will fade somewhat over time. There are periods of trouble—the occasional government shake-up, economic stagnation and other typical political obstacles that can prove insurmountable to even the best-run and most popular governments.

Whether or not this politician’s thoughts on the nature of democracy are to be given any weight, his words do merit consideration. Can political parties truly be independent of wealthy business interests? Can voters trust an entire political party, right down to the last member? In all parties in the world would respond, yet it is only political to do so. That is how the game is played. We know as human beings that nothing perfect exists – but is it any way better and so do we? We would like to hold that warm thought and take a political party into our hearts.

Politics is actually a complicated network in which some players (individual politicians as well as parties) display honesty and some do not. Some have the concerns of the people at heart, while some prioritise personal or financial goals. Many players change over the course of a lifetime, sometimes many times. Can we call what happens in Myanmar ‘party politics’? Should we make such sweeping statements about the nature of politics? Our friend the politician’s comments are a wonderful basis for discussion, but one should be careful to apply blanket statements to such an intricate and ever-evolving system.

### 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 thanttunaukhn@gmail.com with your name and for whom?

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 it will be edited.
Mawlaik Township provides paddy seeds to farmers

A CEREMONY to provide quality paddy seeds to local farmers who faced damages of farmlands in the recent severe flood in Mawlaik Township was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department, Sagaing Region, on 12 November.

Township Administrator U Thein Zaw who chairs the township management committee, spoke on the occasion while Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Khin Win Sein spoke about providing quality paddy seeds by Sagaing Region government to the local farmers.

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Township Administrator U Thein Zaw who chairs the township management committee, spoke on the occasion while Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Khin Win Sein spoke about providing quality paddy seeds by Sagaing Region government to the local farmers.

It was also attended by departmental officials, ward administrators and staff of the Township Agriculture Department.—Mawlaik Thargalay

Kyunhla to get new asphalt road

SAGAING Region Government allotted K18.686 million to construction of a two-furlong-long and 12-foot-wide road in Kyunhla Township in 2015-16 fiscal year.

Township Development Affairs Committee placed asphalt on No 5 road in Pyinmamyaing Ward, Kyunhla, said engineer Daw May Zaw Ko. “The road links Thit-yamyaing ward and development market,” said a local resident, “thanks to the road, local people and students will have better access to school and market in the raining season.”—Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

Asphalt road construction in progress in Kyunhla.

Photo: Myo Win Nyo

Mobile team in Kawthaung checks trawlers, cargo vessels

A MOBILE team that discharges duty on consumer protection and prevention of illegal trading on 12 November inspected trawlers and cargo ships at the Parchan sea mouth before their departure from Kawthaung to other countries.

Officials of the mobile team checked custom duty for export goods and fish and imported commodities, prevention of trading prohibited goods on board trawlers and cargo vessels.—Kyaw Soe (IPRD)

Puppeteers begin classes in art form

THE Myanmar Puppeteers Association and the Myanmar Upper Land Culture Foundation kicked off the Myanmar puppet course with the assistance of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation at the Mya Mandalasar Hotel in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on Sunday.

Patron of the Myanmar Puppeteers Association U Shweinnann Tin gave talks on the preservation of the art of puppets, while U Sein Myint spoke about pagoda festivals and the presentation of traditional puppet shows. Chairperson of the association Daw Ma Ma Naing spoke about plans for the development of Myanmar puppetry this fiscal year with the assistance of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Project Coordinator U Kyaw Myo Ko explained the programme of the course. A total of 24 trainees are attending the course from 16 to 28 November.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

One person dies of suffocation in restaurant fire

A FIRE broke at the Ayeyawady Restaurant on 16th Street in Aungmyitta (A) Ward, Magway Region, on Saturday.

The fire was caused by an electrical problem in an air-conditioner installed inside the restaurant’s DJ booth.

Musician Ka Ka (aka Aung Myint), 40, died of suffocation during the fire. The fire engulfed sound boards, a TV, four air-conditioners and other sound equipment, causing K3 million (US$2,320) worth of damage in total. The Magway Township Police Station filed a lawsuit against restaurant manager U Than Zaw, 45, under articles 285/304-A of the criminal code.—Myaw Nyo Nyo (Myaylatt)

Officials of Mobile Team check commodities on board cargo vessel in Kawthaung.

Photo: Kyaw Soe (IPRD)

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Photos: htein Lin Aung (iPRD)

Departmental personnel and volunteers led by Myawady District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Oo and Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw carrying out sanitation at Maha Kanaka Pagoda on Thihathana Hill in Myawady, Kayin State, on 14 November. Photo: Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)
Asian shares, currencies slide after Paris attacks

HONG KONG — Asian stocks fell to six-week lows on Monday and emerging market currencies wilted as investors sought the safety of the greenback in the wake of Friday’s attacks in Paris and downbeat economic data.

Financial spreadbetters expect Britain’s FTSE 100 .FTSE to open around 1.3 percent, and France’s CAC 40 .FCHI to open 2.2-2.3 percent down.

French financial markets will be open as usual on Monday, with extra security measures taken for staff, stock and derivatives exchange Euronext said.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan MIAPO00000S fell by 0.35 percent — its biggest daily fall since 29 September. It racketed up a 3 percent loss last week.

Leading the losers were the Nikkei stock index .N225 which tumbled nearly 1.1 percent, nearly wiping out last week’s 1.7 percent gain as latest economic data undershot expectations.

Data released before the Tokyo market opened showed that Japan’s economy slipped back into recession in the July to September quarter, contracting at a 0.8 percent annualised rate, compared with the median estimate for a 0.2 percent contraction.

The widely tracked CBOE Volatility index or “fear gauge” VIX was at its highest level since 2 October.

“Risk aversion is on the rise and we are seeing broad-based US dollar strength across the board and this may continue until the year end as recent economic data has also disappointed,” said Mitul Kotecha, head of Asian FX and rates strategy at Barclays in Singapore.

Recent economic data from China, where stock markets have recovered some of their poise after a summer collapse, has disappointed global investors.

Credit activity in China’s financial system dropped to its lowest level in 15 months in October, while data last week showed steel consumption, a key measure of economic activity, slowed further.

Stock futures were pointing to another weak start on Wall Street after main indexes shed about 1 percent in light volume in late trade on Friday. News of the attacks by gunmen and bombers that killed 132 people in the French capital came after US markets closed.

Losses for equity punters translated into gains for bond investors.

Yields on 2-year US Treasury debt, the part of the yield curve most sensitive to rapid changes in investor positioning, edged lower to 0.83 percent from 0.86 percent on Thursday, retracing part of its impressive rise from late October.

In currency markets, the euro EUR=EBS dropped about 0.5 percent to $1.07205, after logging a flat performance last week. It was down 0.5 percent against the yen at 131.24 yen EUR=JPY.

Losses were particularly acute for Asian currencies with the Korean won KRW= and the Indonesian rupiah IDR=IDR among the leaders.

“The spike of terrorist attacks added to USD strength,” said Andy Ji, Asia currency strategist for Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Singapore, expecting emerging Asian currencies to stay weaker though the US Federal Reserve may not consider the attacks in Paris at its policy meeting in December.

The dollar slipped about 0.1 percent against the safe-haven yen JPY= to 122.43, while the dollar index .DXY, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major rivals, was broadly flat at 99.082.

In sign of some stability for the euro zone, Greece and its euro zone creditors reached an agreement on many issues in the reform program that Athens is implementing in return for loans, the head of euro zone finance ministers Jeroen Dijsselbloem said on Sunday. Markets in the Middle East, which trade on Sunday, were hit hard, though part of that decline was due to last week’s drop in oil prices.— Reuters

Automakers battle for high-tech dominance on the road to self-driving car

TOKYO — At the recent Frankfurt Auto Show, Ford Motor Co unveiled a new feature that lets drivers pre-set their car to go at or just above the speed limit. In-car cameras and software read and react to road signs, speeding the car up or slowing it down.

Active Speed Limiter is available on select models in Europe, but not, ironically, in the United States, Ford’s home country, where road signs come in different shapes and sizes, and are often obscured by shrubbery.

So it goes on the road to the self-driving, or autonomous, car — a journey of, well, stops and starts that most experts say will take a couple decades to complete.

Meantime, advances in “semi-autonomy” — features that help handle tricky or tiring some driving situations but still require a driver’s oversight — have sparked a high-tech automotive arms race, with car companies vying to launch the most advanced features.

Automakers hope semi-autonomous features will, over time, help drivers and regulators get over fears of riding in vehicles that accelerate, steer and stop themselves, making potentially life-or-death judgments.

Shorter term, car companies want these features to make driving more convenient — and cars more profitable.

“People like features that make driving easier, safer and more fun,” says Joseph Vitale Jr., who heads global automotive consulting for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. “The question is what customers will pay for them.”

Ford’s Active Speed Limiter comes at 560 euros ($602.78), and it’s too soon to tell how popular it will be.

Among the biggest winners for now are the companies that produce electronic sensors, cameras and software that make self-driving features possible.

The growing list includes the high-tech units of traditional automotive suppliers such as Germany’s Continental AG, Israel’s Mobileye Vision Technologies, and consumer-technology giants Google, Apple, Samsung Electronics Co, Sony Corp and more.

At Silicon Valley’s Nvidia Corp, for example, video games remain the biggest market, but automotive revenue is the fastest-growing segment.

“We’re in well over 8 million cars on the road today and will be in more than 30 million in the next three to four years,” says Jen-Hsun Huang, Nvidia’s president and CEO. “Future cars will sense and understand the world moving around them.”

A big step in that direction was the traffic-jam assistance feature on the 2014 Mercedes-Benz S-Class. Now available on more Mercedes models, the Intelligent Drive system allows the car itself, but Tesla warns drivers not to relinquish control entirely.

On a recent investor call, Tesla CEO Elon Musk said he had seen some “fairly crazy videos on YouTube” of Tesla owners driving hands-free with autopilot, and added: “This is not good. We will be putting some additional constraints on when autopilot can be activated, to minimize the possibility of people doing crazy things with it.”

For consumers, getting their first car with semi-automated features can be both exciting and daunting, especially those who haven’t bought a new car in years. “I had no idea this sort of thing was out there,” says Mark Goldsmith, a Tokyo-area TV news writer. “I’d been driving a 15-year-old Jeep, which only had cruise control that you constantly had to adjust, so all these new features are a novelty.”— Reuters

China’s Tsinghua Unigroup to invest $47 billion to build chip empire

BEIJING — China’s Tsinghua Unigroup Ltd plans to invest 300 billion yuan ($47 billion) over the next five years to build the world’s third-biggest chipmaker, the chairman of the state-backed technology conglomerate said Monday.

Chairman Zhao Weiguo also told Reuters in an interview that Tsinghua Unigroup, controlled by Beijing’s elite Tsinghua University which counts President Xi Jinping among its alumni, was in talks with a US-based company involved in the chip industry.

Zhao said a deal could be finalised as early as the end of this month.

He declined to give more details but said being a majority stake was unlikely as it was too “sensitive” for the US government. The Chinese company was also suspending plans to invest in Taiwanese tech firms due to regulatory hurdles, after agreeing to take a stake in Powertech Technology Inc and expressing interest in more cross-strait deals.— Reuters
On World Toilet Day, one billion people have nowhere to go

LONDON — Some 2.4 billion people around the world don’t have access to decent sanitation and more than a billion are forced to defecate in the open, risking disease and other dangers, according to the United Nations.

Launching its World Toilet Day campaign for 19 November, the UN said poor sanitation increases the risk of illness and malnutrition, especially for children, and called for women and girls in particular to be offered safe, clean facilities.

“One out of three women around the world lack access to safe toilets,” UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement. “As a result they face disease, shame and potential violence when they seek a place to defecate.” Even where there are toilets around the world, some hardly warrant the name, as illustrated by Reuters in a photo essay from around the world.

In a Syrian refugee settlement called Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley, for example, toilets surrounded by graffiti-covered corrugated sheet sit right up against flimsy tents. In the Marcory district of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, a “private” stall is simply built of spare bits of lumber and metal.

The UN says that while there is sufficient fresh water on the planet for everyone, “bad economics and poor infrastructure” mean that every year millions of people — most of them children — die from diseases linked to poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions and lack of clean water supplies.

“We have a moral imperative to end open defecation and a duty to ensure women and girls are not at risk of assault and rape simply because they lack a sanitation facility,” Ban said.

Reuters

Apple-shaped body women prone to binge eating

WASHINGTON — Women with apple-shaped bodies — those who store more of their fat in their trunk and abdominal regions — may be less satisfied with their bodies which can contribute to binge eating, according to a new study.

The study marks the first investigation of the connections between fat distribution, body image disturbance and the development of disordered eating.

“Eating disorders that are detected early are much more likely to be successfully treated,” said lead author Laura Berner, who completed the research while pursuing a doctoral degree at Drexel University in US.

“Our preliminary findings suggest that apple-shaped fat distribution may be an important risk factor for the development of eating disturbance, specifically for loss-of-control eating,” said Berner.

“This suggests that targeting individuals who store more of their fat in the midsection and adapting psychological interventions to focus specifically on body fat distribution could be beneficial for preventing eating disorders,” she said.

Mounting evidence suggests that experiencing a sense of loss-of-control during eating — feeling driven or compelled to keep eating or that stopping once one has started is difficult — is the most significant determinant of binge-eating episodes regardless of how much food is consumed, researchers said.

“This sense of loss of control is experienced across a range of eating disorder diagnoses: bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder and the binge-eating/purging subtype of anorexia nervosa,” said Berner.

Using a large dataset that followed a female college freshman for two years, the researchers preliminarily investigated whether body fat distribution is linked to body dissatisfaction over time and increases risk for the development or worsening of loss-of-control eating. The nearly 300 young adult women completed assessments at baseline, six months and 24 months, that looked at height, weight and total body fat percentage and where it is distributed.

Reuters

US drug benefit managers clamp down on specialty pharmacies

NEW YORK — In recent days, the largest US managers of private prescription drug benefits have cut off at least eight pharmacies that work closely with drugmakers, intensifying scrutiny of a system that helps inflate drug prices, officials at the benefit managers told Reuters.

The terminations come from payers who together manage drug benefits for more than 100 million Americans, and they follow disclosures by Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc in late October that one pharmacy accounted for about 7 percent of its sales.

“What we had not been aware of, until really the last year, was these type of pharmacies that have a really high proportion of sales from a drugmaker and it was not out in the open,” Everett Neville, senior vice president of supply chain at Express Scripts Holding Co said in an interview.

The actions are being felt by drugmakers that have come to rely on hefty price hikes to boost profits. Valeant’s closely-linked pharmacy, Philidor Rx Services, pressed insurers to pay for expensive Valeant treatments even though much cheaper generic alternatives were available.

Shares of Valeant have lost more than half their value since its pharmacy ties were made public.

Neville said Express Scripts, the nation’s largest pharmacy benefits manager, has changed the algorithms it uses in its audits to find pharmacies focused heavily on one drug manufacturer and has cut ties with half a dozen such pharmacies in the past week. Express Scripts and OptumRx, part of UnitedHealth Group, have also found pharmacies engaged in extensive mail-order operations without proper accreditation.

CVS Health, the No. 2 pharmacy benefits manager, said in an email that it had reviewed pharmacies with ties to drug manufacturers and was removing those that fell short of its contract. It did not give further details. All three of the big benefits managers have quit doing business with Philidor. Neville at Express Scripts was careful to note that the pharmacies being eliminated are not true “specialty” pharmacies that help manage drugs for rare diseases.

“The Valeant-Philidor relationship woke payers up to potential problems in their pharmacy networks,” said Adam Fein, president of Pembroke Consulting, which follows the drug distribution industry. “We are now seeing much greater scrutiny of the independent pharmacies that may not be complying with payer requirements.”

Reuters

Prehistoric ‘sludge’ could help transplant surgery

CANBERRA — Australian scientists have found that a ‘primordial goo’, formed billions of years ago and thought to have formed the basis of life on earth, could assist the human body in accepting surgical implants.


CSIRO said the ancient molecules from this sludge, known as prebiotic compounds, can be used as a protective coating for surgical implants, such as bone replacements, catheters and pacemakers.

The goo, discovered decades ago, has been traced back billions of years and scientists believe it has undeniable links to the evolution of life on earth. The paper’s lead researcher, Dr Richard Evans, said the process of implanting artificial body parts was “complex” and this new bio-friendly, non-toxic ‘coating’ allowed the body to more readily accept the implant.

“Reducing the likelihood of infection and ensuring the body doesn’t reject implants are ongoing medical challenges,” Evans said in a press release yesterday.

“That’s why coatings on these implants are needed to help them to do their job,” Evans said.

“We wanted to use these prehistoric molecules, which are believed to have been the source of all life evolving on Earth, to see if we could apply the chemistry in a practical way,” he added. Evans’ team discovered that the coating was bio-friendly and it could be applied to medical devices to improve their performance and acceptance by the body. —Xinhua

Xinhua

A toilet with a view of the Pacific Ocean at Huntley Hotel in Santa Monica, California, United States.

PHOTO: REUTERS
Nicaragua closes border to Cuban migrants

Penas Blancas — Nicaragua on Sunday closed its border with Costa Rica to hundreds of Cubans who headed for the United States, stoking diplomatic tensions over a growing wave of migrants making the journey north from the Communist-ruled island.

Nicaragua’s government accused Costa Rica of sparking a “humanitarian crisis” after its southern neighbour issued transit visas over the weekend to more than 1,000 Cubans who had been detained at its border with Panama demanding the right to proceed.

Central America and Mexico have registered a surge in migrants from the island as the process of detente between Washington and Havana announced in December stirs fears that long-standing US asylum rights for Cubans may soon end.

Led by former Marxist guerrilla Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua is a close ally of Cuba, and his administration complained that Costa Rica’s actions had violated its national sovereignty.

“The Nicaraguan government calls on the international organisations responsible to deal urgently with this complaint,” Rosario Murillo, government spokeswoman and first lady of Nicaragua, said in a statement. The Costa Rican government had no immediate comment. Under arrangements stemming from the Cold War era, Cuban migrants receive special treatment on reaching the United States. According to the “foot-foot, dry-foot” policy, Cubans who set foot on US soil can stay, while those captured at sea are sent back. Earlier on Sunday, Nicaraguan security forces turned back hundreds of Cubans they say had crossed into the country illegally. The security forces later stood guard as migrants looked on in the hope they could soon progress. “We don’t want to stay in any of these countries, our aim is to reach the United States, that’s our objective,” said 33-year-old Alexei Cabezas, adding he left Cuba nearly a month ago and was also held up at the Costa Rica-Panama border.

Another migrant calling himself Damian estimated there were about 2,000 Cubans on the Costa Rican side of the border with Nicaragua. “Here we are waiting to be granted the safe-conduct that Nicaragua always gives to Cubans. But, well, to-day’s Sunday, and we don’t know if they’re going to work today or not,” said 30-year-old Maria del Carmen Garcia, another migrant.

Montreal — Canada’s new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the country will still take in 25,000 Syrian refugees before 1 January but he is facing increasing pressure to tighten screening procedures and slow down the process to make sure that Islamic State insurgents aren’t among them.

In the wake of the series of attacks in Paris on Friday, a number of politicians in Europe and North America have been warning that countries are taking a big risk by allowing in many thousands of refugees without rigorously determining whether any could be dangerous radicals.

News that at least one of the Paris assailants may have been among refugees who passed through Greece has heightened those concerns.

Trudeau, who last month won an election fought partly on security and the refugee issue, on Sunday said “Canada is pleased to be stepping up” to take in the refugees and will integrate them into the country. “We will be accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees between now and January 1st,” Trudeau said in the written text of a speech at the G20 major powers summit in Turkey.

The debate has been particularly heated in the mainly French-speaking province of Quebec, which — like France — has a large North African immigrant community and is grappling with concerns about radicalization of Muslim youth.

Last year, two Quebec-born Muslim convert staged separate attacks on Canadian soldiers, near Montreal and on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, killing two.

An online petition asking the government to suspend the plan to bring in the refugees was launched on Saturday by a Quebec City resident worried about “jihadists infiltrating the country,” according to Le Soleil newspaper. It had garnered more than 33,000 signatures by late on Sunday afternoon on the www.petitions24.net website.

“If we want to help these people well, help them at home, building a camp over there and help there,” wrote one person on the French-language petition.

“Short and long term it is unreasonable and dangerous to let them in here.”

Quebec City’s plan to accept about 200 Syrian families was controversial even before the Paris attacks.

Last week, a bunner reading “Refugees: No thanks” was hung over an overpass near the city before being removed. —Reuters

Claims Day Notice

MV Draco Ocean VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DRACO OCEAN VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent For: MS Coscol (HK) Investment & Development Co Ltd.
Phone No: 2301186

Claims Day Notice

MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY NO (1579)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY NO (1579) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.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 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.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent For: MS MCC Transport (Singapore) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

French bullfighter Sebastian Castella performs a pass on a bull during a bullfight at Peru’s historic Plaza de Acho bullring in Lima, on 15 November. Photo: Reuters

Fingerprints from Paris bomber match man registered in Greece: prosecutor

Paris — Fingerprints from one of the suicide bombers behind the attacks at the Stade de France in Paris matched the prints of a man registered in Greece in October, a French prosecutor said yesterday.

“At this stage, while the authenticity of a passport in the name of Ahmad al Mohammad, born 10 September 1990 in Idlib, Syria needs to be verified, there are similarities between the fingerprints of the suicide bomber and those taken during a control in Greece in October,” the Paris prosecutor said in a statement.

The prosecutor also said a second bomber at the Bataclan concert hall had now been identified. The prosecutor named him as 28-year-old Samy Ammour from Drancy, north of Paris and said he was known to counter-terrorism units after being placed under investigation and judicial control for attempting to go to Yemen. —Reuters
SENT BACK FROM EUROPE, SOME AFGHANS PREPARE TO TRY AGAIN

KABUL — Last year, Hamid Rostami, a 28-year-old from Wardak in western Afghanistan, was expelled from Paris after Judge Doris, who was trying to stay in Europe, Jobless and cut off from his family, he now sits in wintry Kabul wondering how to go back.

“Jobless and unwilling to go home to a district where he says a dozen people from the Hazara ethnic minority to which he belongs have been killed by Taliban militants in recent weeks, his choices are bleak.

“If I can get enough money I’ll go again. It is hard to survive here,” he said. “The situation is bad in Kabul. There is no security, no job. If you go out of your house it’s unclear what may happen to you. You can’t go anywhere,” Rostami’s predicament underlines the problem for European countries that promised to send back failed asylum seekers in the face of growing public alarm at the numbers arriving.

“The truth is that most Afghans who are forced to return try to leave again, whatever policy makers intend,” said Ceri Oeppen, from the University of Sussex in Britain, who has worked extensively on the problems of Afghan migrants. Accurate statistics on the number of Afghan migrants and asylum seekers to Europe are hard to come by.

But since the start of the year, almost 150,000 Afghans have arrived in Greece, the usual entry point to Europe, the second largest number of any country after Syria, according to the United Nations refugee agency. Despite billions of dollars in aid to support Afghan refugees, the European governments have been torn between the need to satisfy aid donors that it is trying to keep citizens from.emigrating en masse, and alarm at the prospect of having to re-settle thousands of returnees sent back from Europe.

This week, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbaani and Sayed Hussain Alimi Balkhi, Minister for Refugees, met EU ambassadors to plead for generous treatment of refugee applicants given unstable security and the approaching winter.

Behind the requests lies a stark reality, said Abdul Ghafoor, a former migrant who runs an information service in Kabul for Afghans thinking of leaving or returnees trying to adjust. — Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (313)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (313) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses. In the event of any discrepancy the consignee will have the right to inspect the cargo.

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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

French PM warns of more attacks

PARIS — French police raided homes of suspected Islamist militants across the country overnight in the aftermath of the Paris shootings, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Monday as he warned of potential further attacks.

Valls said that since this summer, French intelligence services had prevented five attacks.

“We know that more attacks are being prepared, not just against France but also against other European countries,” Valls said on RTL radio.

Police sources told Reuters that authorities conducted at least 110 house searches in cities across France overnight.

One of these searches, in the Paris suburb of Bobigny, was part of the judicial investigation into the attacks at a football stadium, bars and a concert hall and where at least 129 people died. The death toll was put 132 on Sunday, but reports on Monday said an increase may have been a counting error.

French media said police also raided houses in Toulouse, Grenoble and Bobigny.

“We are making use of the legal framework of the state of emergency to question people who are part of the radical jihadist movement...and all those who advocate hate of the republic,” Valls said.

On Friday, three coordinated teams of gunmen and suicide bombers carried out the wave of attacks across Paris in what President Francois Hollande called an “act of war” by Islamic State. — Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS MCC TRANSPORT (STORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMAP VOY NO (669)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMAP VOY NO (669) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.11.2015 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 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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (085W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (085W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

STORM WARNING

(Issued at (18:00) hours M.S.T on 16-11-2015)

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the well marked low pressure area over Southwest Bay of Bengal lies over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Tamliland coast (India), still persists. It is forecast to move Northwestwards and likely to intensify into a depression.

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Madonna cries onstage as she pays tribute to Paris victims

LOS ANGELES — Pop diva Madonna broke down in tears when she stopped her Stockholm, Sweden, concert to honour the victims of recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

“It’s been very hard for me to get through this show up to this point and not forget about what happened last night, so I need to take a moment to acknowledge the tragedy, the tragic killings, the senseless and the senseless endings of precious life that occurred last night in Paris,” the pop star, 57, said in a video posted to YouTube by her manager Guy Oseary.

“I am up here dancing and having fun when people are crying over the loss of their loved ones,” she continued. “However, that is exactly what these people want to do. They want to shut up and they want to silence us. And we won’t let them. We will never let them. We will never let them! “Because there is power in unity and I do believe that as much chaos and pain and senseless violence and terrorism that occurs around this world not just in Paris as much as that does occur, there is more goodness in this world. We are here to prove it.” —PTT

After Katniss, Jennifer Lawrence finds her voice

LOS ANGELES — While heroine Katniss Everdeen leads a rebellion in the final “Hunger Games” movie, the actress who brought the character to life, Jennifer Lawrence, is coming into her own in a business dominated by men.

With an Oscar and a number of hit films to her credit, Lawrence, 25, was ranked by Forbes as the highest-paid actress last year with an estimated $52 million in earnings. Hollywood’s top actors earned much more. When Lawrence spoke out against the wage gap last month, her comments went viral.

Lawrence reprised her role as Katniss in “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2,” due in theaters on Friday. She said the franchise had shown that “a female lead in an action movie can still be a critical and commercial success.”

“The huge misconception that women can relate to male leads but men can’t relate to female leads, I think that’s something studios are saying and it’s just getting repeated. Hopefully that kind of mentality is on its way out,” Lawrence said in an interview.

Lawrence’s brash sense of humor helps audiences relate to her. And she said that as she gets older, she is becoming more passionate about issues.

“You can actually really start to appreciate that you do have a platform and a voice that people will listen to and the option to use it hopefully for betterment,” she said.

Last month Lawrence wrote an essay for actress Lena Dunham’s newsletter in which she discussed being angry with herself for not asking for more money, as her male co-stars do, for fear of coming across as a “spoiled brat.”

“I was really shocked,” Lawrence said of the mostly positive response. “When (Dunham) asked me to write something, I just typed something up and pressed send. I didn’t really have any expectations.”

Lawrence has mainly played strong women. She won her first Oscar nomination for playing survivor Ree in 2010’s independent drama “Winter’s Bone.” She played the outspoken Tiffany in “Silver Linings” and Katniss, the “Hunger Games” heroine. Next up is “Joy,” in which she plays the matriarch of a family business through four generations.

“It is expected to earn the Kentucky native her fourth lead actress Oscar nomination in five years. Lawrence does not see herself sticking with a particular type of character.

“I don’t think it’s incredibly important as a part of my job or craft to play strong women,” she said. “I think it’s ok to play something more vulnerable, more passive or a little weaker.” —Reuters

My baby motivated my return to music: Adele

LONDON — Oscar-winning singer Adele says it was the birth of her three-year-old son Angelo that encouraged her to come back with a new album “25" after her 2011 work, “21”.

Adele, 27, acknowledged it was “weird” taking a break from music but felt it was the right thing to do, reported Female First.

The singer will release “25” on 20 November.

“...I knew some people thought I was mad for taking a break.

Even I can see it was a bit weird. But I’m glad it happened. I think it was the right thing. It slowed everything down.”

Asked about her motivation to return, she said, “My son. I felt so mega having given birth; the confidence from that, I felt unstoppable. I’m sure most women feel that. Towards the end of the ‘21’ stuff, I couldn’t remember why I was doing it any more.

“...I couldn’t answer the question: ‘Why am I halfway around the world? On my own?’ But then, after I had my son, I thought, ‘Yeah, that’s why I did it all.’ I felt proud of what I’d achieved with ‘21’ for the first time.

And now everything I do, in every channel of my life, is part of the legacy that I’m making for my child. For my children, if I have more.”

Adele said she is not motivated by money.

“I’m not motivated by much, certainly not by money - but I’m motivated by that. I want my child to see his mum running a proper business. Being a boss again. Hopefully smashing it again.” —PTT

‘Spectre’ Back on Top, Angelina Jolie’s ‘By the Sea’ Sinks

LOS ANGELES — James Bond is back on top, after “Spectre” led the US box office for the second weekend in a row.

Of course, the dashing super spy wasn’t exactly facing off against Ernst Stavro Blofeld. Its main competition was the second weekend of “The Peanuts Movie” and a lackluster crop of new releases such as the Chilean mining drama “The 33” and the faith-based football film “My All-American.”

“Spectre” added $35.4 million to bring its domestic total to $130.7 million. The weekend represents a 49% drop from its opening. Sony is distributing the Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer and Eon Productions’ film which carries an enormous $250 million price tag.

“The Peanuts Movie” also showed some impressive endurance, sliding only 45% to make $24.2 million. The Fox backed adaptation of Charles Schulz’s iconic comic strip about Snoopy and Charlie Brown has earned $82.5 million stateside.

Not even two of the biggest stars in the world could keep “By the Sea” afloat. The European art house influenced look at marital dysfunction featured real life couple Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt as a bickering twosome. But the pleasures of voyeurism extend only so far. “By the Sea” grossed a measly $95,440 at 10 sites for a doleful per-screen average of $9,546. Universal, the studio behind the great, pegs the budget at $10 million, but industry figures believe the cost of the picture is higher, citing its extended shoot in Malta. Of the new wide releases, CBS Films’ holiday-flavored “Love the Coopers” fared best.

The ensemble comedy about a family gathering nabbed $8.4 million from 2,603 locations. Distributed in conjunction with Lionsgate, “Love the Coopers” stars Diane Keaton, John Goodman, and Alan Arkin and cost $17 million to produce.

“The 33,” a look at a group of trapped Chilean miners, was less fortunate. The drama eked out $5.8 million from 2,452 theaters, a poor showing and less than the $8 million to $10 million it was expected to generate. —Reuters
Auction houses, wealthy Kenyans boost East African art scene

Nairobi — With growing interest from international auction houses and a flourishing gallery scene, East African art is catching on with global collectors and a new generation of local buyers.

Artists such as Kenyan painter Michael Soi are now fixtures at auction house Bonhams’s Africa Now annual contemporary art sale in London. The Circle Art Agency’s auction of East African art in Nairobi fetched more than $190,000 in sales earlier this month.

East Africa may lag the continent’s art powerhouses South Africa or Nigeria — where pieces fetch five to 10 times as much — but experts say East African art has attracted increasing interest in the past few years.

Kenyan artists like sculptor Cyrus Kabiru, known for his automotive installations, feature in multimedia installations, feature regularly in European shows.

“The development of modern and contemporary African art certainly is one of the most exciting parts of the art market at the moment,” said Giles Peppiatt, director of Modern and Contemporary African Art at Bonhams.

After taking a few years to catch the eye of European and North American collectors, he said interest was “phenomenal”.

Art buyers cite affordability — a painting by a well-known local artist can sell for a few thousand dollars — and intimacy; buyers can easily meet artists in their studios.

At the leafy Kuona Trust in Nairobi, several dozen artists work in old shipping containers converted into studios, while their work is displayed in more than a dozen professional galleries scattered around the Kenyan capital.

“There’s huge interest that wasn’t here even five years ago,” said Wambui Kamiru, a conceptual artist who opened The Art Space gallery last month. “Now you can go to a whole week’s worth of art events in Nairobi.”

At Circle’s auction this month at a five-star Nairobi hotel, the top-selling work, a painting by Ugandan artist Geoffrey Mukasa, went for $15,650. The sale also featured Ethiopia’s Dawit Abebe, Uganda’s Eli Kkeyune and Sudan’s Rashid Dub.

“Art buyers cite affordability — a painting by a well-known local artist can sell for a few thousand dollars — and intimacy; buyers can easily meet artists in their studios.” — Giles Peppiatt, director of Modern and Contemporary African Art at Bonhams

Senegal’s legendary ‘car rapides’ reaching the end of the line

DAKAR — The colourful mini-buses that roam the streets of the Senegalese capital Dakar have gained such fame over their forty years that, more than 4,000 km (2,485 miles) away, an exhibit devoted to them is on display at the Museum of Mankind in Paris.

The battered blue and yellow minibuses are Dakar institutions. Covered in Muslim slogans, portraits of Senegalese leaders and images of animals and trees, they weave in and out of Dakar’s traffic, muscular young men hanging off the back to call out the routes.

Dakar has a small suburban commuter rail system, thousands of yellow taxis and a network of buses, but it is the “car rapide” (literally “fast bus” in French) that connects the capital’s far-flung neighbourhoods.

French carmaker Renault shipped the first cars rapides to Senegal in the 1970s, the decade after Senegal’s independence. Today, maintenance is an expensive, never-ending chore.

Their age and their dangerous reputation — it is not an uncommon sight to see a car rapide in an accident or sitting for repairs on the side of a road — are why they are being switched for white buses from India and China.

Transport options. It hopes to completely eliminate the “car rapide” from roads by 2018.

The initiative is the latest effort to improve transit in a rapidly growing city choked by congestion, where pedestrians contend for space with parked cars, many streets are unpaved and navigating crossroads can be all but impossible.

Such a transport problem is all too familiar in a continent under-served by mass transit, which also has the highest proportion of people living in poverty. In Dakar, where most residents scrape by on less than $3 a day, transportation is largely on foot.

Although capitals across the continent, from Addis Ababa to Abuja, have begun transit projects, Africa has the globe’s highest rate of deadly road accidents, according to the World Health Organisation.

Tony Dyfays, director at the think-tank International Association of Public Transport, said inefficiencies and high transit costs for working-class families were important checks on economic growth in the region.

If you want to raise economic development, you would need to fold the amount of transportation that you have today and that can’t be provided by private (means),” he said. — Reuters

Senegal’s legendary ‘car rapides’ reaching the end of the line.
Euro 2016 joy for Hungary as they end 30-year wait

BUDAPEST — Hungary's 30-year wait to play on the major championship stage will end in France next year after their 2-1 victory over Norway ensured that one of football's most storied nations qualified for the Euro 2016 finals.

The triumph, which sealed their 3-1 victory on aggregate in front of an ecstatic crowd in the Groupama Arena, guaranteed Hungary's first appearance in any championship finals since the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"I have to congratulate my team, the association president Sandor Csanyi, and also Pal Dardai, who I took over from and he left this team for me," said Hungardai, who took charge in July.

"The players' approach was fantastic during those two games, they fought well and deserved to qualify for France." The Hungarians built on their first-leg win in Oslo when Tamás Priskin curled in a delightful 14th-minute opener and Markus Henriksson's own goal on 83 minutes made the tie safe.

Henriksson atoned with a late goal but it was scant consolation for the Norwegians as the home side celebrated qualifying for the European Championship finals for the first time since 1972.

The toast of Budapest was Hungary's 39-year-old Gabor Kiraly, who made a series of superb saves over the two legs. Ferencvaros's home ground erupted almost like never before when Priskin curled in a fabulous strike from 16 metres after a quick counter-attack to put Hungary ahead. Kiraly had to make a fine save from Haimt Alesan's low shot in the 27th minute after a flowing passing move from the visitors and Norway came even closer when Even Hovland's header from a corner hit the post in the 45th minute.

Balazs Dzsudzsak's deflected shot struck the crossbar in the 58th minute after a rare counter-attack by the hosts, who dropped deeper to defend their overall two-goal advantage.

Kiraly made another excellent save in the 76th minute when he parried Marcus Pedersen's close-range shot before the tie was effectively sealed seven minutes from time as Dzsudzsak's corner was bundled under pressure into his own net by Henriksson.

"The Az Alkmaar man then pulled one back for Norway in the 87th minute but it was too little, too late. "Congratulations to Hungary, they were better than us only by two legs," said Norway coach Per-Mathias Hogmo." "I am deeply disappointed with our performance, we could not score in Oslo, that was a big setback. All in all, we came up short."— Reuters

YANGON United to compete against Laos in Mekong Championship

YANGON United FC will go head-to-head with Lao Toyota Club in the Toyota Mekong Club Championship 2015 at the Youth Training Centre in Yangon in Yangon’s Thwunna Township on 22 November.

The tournament will include lucky draws and entertainment by vocalists Ni Ni Khin Zaw, R Zar Ni and Eint Chit.

Tickets for the match will cost K2,000 for grand stand seats and K1,000 for regular passes. Tickets will be available from 20 November at the Youth Training Centre in Thwunna, the Myanmar Football Federation, Aung San Stadium and Padonna Ground.

The winning team will receive a cash prize of US$75,000, while the second-placed team will be awarded $50,000; the third $30,000, the fourth $10,000 and the fifth US$ 5,000. A prize of $3,000 will be given to the top performing player following the grand final. The match between Yangon United FC and Lao Toyota Club will be broadcast live by Myawady TV. In 2014, host Vietnam’s Becamex Binh Duong beat Myanmar’s Ayeyawady United FC 4-1.

Djokovic and Federer stroll to easy wins

LONDON — Novak Djokovic looked unstoppable when trouncing Kei Nishikori but for sheer swagger Roger Federer remains unrivalled as he demonstrated again when dismantling Tomas Berdych as the ATP World Tour Finals began on Sunday.

World number one Djokovic extended his winning run to 19 matches with a 6-1 6-1 demolition of Berdych to earn a spot in the semi-finals against Dominic Thiem on Monday.

The Serb, who has won all six of this year’s Slam titles, has not lost a tie-break since August and is aiming to claim a sixth ATP Finals title.

"No question, it felt like the best tennis I played this year," the 28-year-old, aiming for a fourth consecutive title at the O2 Arena, told reporters.

"I was at my best and it was an incredible performance."

Djokovic and Nishikori had stood heads bowed before their match to respect a minute’s silence in a darkened arena for the victims of Friday’s Paris attacks.

Following his immaculate performance he was presented with a trophy for the year-end number one ranking he has achieved for the fourth time in five seasons.

Home fans were given some early excitement when Jamie Murray, older brother of Andy, marked his debut at the tournament when he and Australian partner John Peers beat Italian duo Fabio Fognini and Simone Bolelli in a thriller.

But the atmosphere was subdued later as Djokovic smashed out any chance of a shock when he thrashed a helpless Nishikori.

"He played unbelievable tennis. I’m very ashamed with this score," second-time qualifier Nishikori, who will hope for a better showing in his next two round robin matches, said. Federer will provide Djokovic with a far sterner test when they meet in the "Stan Smith" Group on Tuesday, if his level for most of a 6-4, 6-2 defeat of Berdych was anything to go by.— Reuters

Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain reacts after taking second place in the Brazilian F1 Grand Prix in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 15 November, 2015. PHOTO REUTERS

SÃO PAULO — Triple Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton hinted on Sunday that a change of tyre pressures may have contributed to the end of his qualifying dominance and team mate Nico Rosberg’s late-season resurgence.

“From Singapore onwards there’s been a change to the car — but whether or not that’s made a difference, I don’t know really,” Hamilton told reporters after finishing second to Rosberg in Sunday’s Brazilian Grand Prix.

“We'll have to see. But it has changed since Singapore.”

Hamilton has not been on pole position since the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in September, with Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel taking the top slot in Sin- gapore and Rosberg the following seven." The same Italian race won by Hamilton, Mercedes faced a stewards’ enquiry after their cars were found to have tyre pressures below the minimum specified by Pirelli after high-speed blowouts at the previous race in Belgium.

With some rivals calling for the championship to be disqualified, Rosberg having failed to finish, the stewards ruled Mercedes had not followed the specified procedure and decided to take no further action.

They did however call for clear guidance for future measurements.— Reuters

The car has changed since Singapore, says Hamilton

The triumphant Mercedes team is celebrated after the race.