A CALL TO ACT ON MINES

President urges to review safety policies as 114 die in landslide

FOLLOWING a recent deadly landslide at a jade mining site in Hpakant, Kachin State, President U Thein Sein spoke on the weakness of safety enforcement and regulations at risky work sites in his message to the country.

He expressed a deep sorrow for the deaths in the 11 November landslide at a mountain of dump soil, stressing that the tragedy was a message to the country to review safety policies and practices.

It is necessary to strictly enforce safety rules as well as provide safety equipment to allow quick responses to accidents at work sites, said the president.

Local authorities in Hpakant are making arrangements to provide the necessary assistance to the relatives of victims, he added.

U Min Zar Ni, Senior Technical and Policy Analyst of the Myanmar EITI, pointed out weakness in the technology used for dumping soils from mines, suggesting the adoption of long-term policies for dumping soil.

The Ministry of Mines has adopted rules for the dumping of soil but has been weak to monitor and enforce those rules,” he said to The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The expert also suggested raising awareness of ‘risk factors’ in mining areas in regards to landslides, such a program would be aimed at proving knowledge to mine workers and the local authorities.

U Khet Htain Nan, an MP from Kachin State, brought the issue of frequent landslides in Hpakant to the parliament on 30 November, stressing the need to make amendments to the Myanmar Gems Law in order to guarantee the safety and livelihoods of local people. He also pointed out the weakness of law enforcement for jade mining operations, which has failed to prevent the dumping of waste soil. The regulation of transportation, environmental conservation and marketing in the jade industry was also highlighted.

“The environment in Hpakant has been deteriorating for about 40 years. Environmental conservation is very weak and companies have used lots of heavy machinery in their jade mining operations,” said the MP at the parliamentary meeting.

In an effort to prevent future landslides, local authorities have planned to inspect mountains of dump soil routinely, according to Hpakant Township Administration Officer.

“We have relocated 108 miners from the high risk areas to a safety site which is about 3,000 feet away from the local mountains of dump soil,” said U Tint Swe Myint, the Hpakant Township Administration Officer in an interview with The Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday over the phone.

Miners search for jade stones at a mine dump at a Hpakant jade mine in Kachin state on 25 November. PHOTO: REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN

A 24-member drafting committee approved a draft political dialogue framework which was drawn up by a team of three members from each group at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

“Political dialogue will be held in accord with the timeline – within 90 days of the signing of the ceasefire agreement”, said Dr Saal Kyaw Yin Hlaing, another spokes persons representing the government. According to the drafting committee the approved framework will be submitted to the Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC for further approval.

The UPDJC meeting is scheduled to be held on 14 December in Nay Pyi Taw.
Tourist arrivals expected to top seven million by 2020

Singapore has topped the tourism investors list with US$1477.164 million, according to the ministry’s official figure

Khaing Thanda Lwin

MYANMAR’S tourism industry has a great future, said Hotel and Tourism Union Minister U Htay Aung at a press conference yesterday while inviting investors to make entrepreneurial inroads, especially on the country’s hundreds of islands.

Myanmar will top the list of tourist destinations, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council’s estimation about the future prospects and sustainable development of 180 countries between 2015 and 2025, based on tourism contribution to the GDP ratio, development rate, employment opportunities, investments and exports.

The country sees a massive influx of tourist every year. Tourist arrivals expected to top seven million by 2020

Respect-paying ceremony for seasoned literati held in Yangon

TO MARK the country’s Literati’s Day (Sarsodaw Day), the Myanmar Journalists Association organised a ceremony to pay respect to the seasoned literati at Yangon’s City Hall yesterday, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint was in attendance.

A total of 115 doyen literati were presented K100,000 (US$80.15) each and offertories by the well-wishers.

About 100 donors provided K26,234,111 ($21,026.82) and offertories worth K4,280,000 ($3430.45) to the literati.

Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing urged the junior journalists to maintain the role of the country’s media industry.—Yi Yi Myint Ohnma Thant

Ancient palm-leaf inscriptions of U Po Thee Repository in Thahton to be digitised

TO ensure the imperishability of the ancient palm-leaf inscriptions kept at the historic U Po Thee Repository of Thatdhammazawtikayama Monastery at Myatbaeit Hill - Base, in Thahton town, the Thuwannabumi Pariyati Satanahita Association intends to digitise the inscriptions, according to association secretary U Soe Naung Oo.

He added that the cataloged inscriptions will be available online and can be downloaded as a PDF.

“The palm-leaf inscriptions are 130-250 years old. Pali, Mon and Myanmar-language as well as foreign researchers come to study the inscriptions. As they are very delicate and becoming too vulnerable to handle often we are making the digitised archive instead,” said U Soe Naung Oo.

Thahton’s University of Computer Science had help a lot in the process, he said.

The palm-leaf inscriptions were first collected, preserved and kept 90 years ago by association chairman U Po Thee. They were used by the Sangha to study before their annual Pariyati examinations. The association has continued to maintain the repository, which is in southern Myanmar Taninthayi Region.

The total of 166,900 palm-leaf inscriptions were kept in gold gilded cupboards at the repository. The inscriptions are in forms of 788 palm-leaf packages and 28 tablet-folds.

At present, 156900 palm-leaf inscriptions have been digitised with a further 10000 needing to be processed.

Publication Administrator Dr William Pruitt of Pali Text Society( UK) said he was delighted to hear the news.—(Thet Oo-Thahton)
Commander-in-Chief meets Special Envoy from Chinese Government

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Special Envoy Mr Liu Zhenmin. PHOTO MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Finland

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sauli Vainamo Niinisto, President of the Republic of Finland on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Finland, which falls on 6 December 2015.—Myanmar News Agency

U Wunna Maung Lwin sends message of felicitations to Finland

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Timo Juhani Soini, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Finland, which falls on 6 December 2015.—Myanmar News Agency

A call to act on mines

>> From page 1

Currently, local authorities have formed 11 inspection teams at the ward-village level and have carried out inspections at 11 mountains of dump soil. This will continue to occur twice per week.

Meanwhile, a township-level inspection team is conducting inspections there every Saturday, said U Tin Swe Myint.

In Hpakant, there have been 37 landslides of dumped soil, including the 11 November landslide, which killed more than 114 migrant miners searching for jade in the piles of waste soil on the mountainside.

So far, 70 makeshift tents in the at-risk area have been removed, according to local authorities.

“If we find conditions that show that landslides can happen in the mountains, we will stop companies from dumping waste soil there,” said U Tin Swe Myint.

The deadly landslide was caused by the collapse of a 200-foot mountain of dump soil. It buried around 70 makeshift huts located in the ravine between two mountains of dump soil, killing 114 migrant miners.

The dump soil was deposited there by jade mining companies. Only five huts in the ravine escaped the landslide, according to a local resident.

Disaster Management Training Centre opened in Ayeyawady Delta

THE Disaster Management Training Centre, the first ever for Myanmar, was opened in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, on Friday.

In her opening remarks at the ceremony to inaugurate the centre, Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin pledged that the government will assist people who are hit by natural disasters and will provide social protection to them in line with the Myanmar National Strategic Plan on Social Protection.

The government is also taking disaster management measures in accordance with the country’s Disaster Management Law and its rules, she added.

A total of 60 youths including staff from the ministry and locals who are interested in disaster management will receive training at the newly opened centre for 12 days. The centre has a plan to conduct a diploma course as well as pre- and post-graduate courses on disaster management and research courses in the future.

Following the opening ceremony, the course No. 1/2015 on Disaster Management will kick off at the centre.

The centre was built on 22 acres and had been under construction since the 2013-2014 fiscal year.—Myanmar News Agency
**JPN Govt to fund four projects in Myanmar**

UNDER the Japanese Grant Assistance programme for the Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) the Japanese Government will provide a total of US$ 472,521 to four projects in Myanmar.

The grant contracts were signed by Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi and chairmen of the committees from the state and regions concerned on Friday.

According to the press release on Friday, the grant fund would be shared between the project for construction of Prosthetic Orthotic Building in Mandalay Orthopedic Hospital in Mandalay Township, Mandalay, the project for Construction of Moe Mauk Basic Education High School in Moe Mauk Township, Kachin State, and the project for Construction of Kwin Kauk Basic Education High School in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region.—GNLM

---

**Telenor launches e-learning video courses at its light houses**

TELENOR Myanmar has begun piloting novel e-learning video courses at selected Telenor Light-houses to help develop the basic computer literacy and English language skills of the local communities.

E-learning video courses will offer affordable, quality basic computer literacy skills in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and English education.

U Min Thu, head of Myanmar Telenor Corporate Social Responsibilities, said the courses will benefit communities, particularly children from low income households.

Apart from e-Education courses, the Light Houses offer mobile and computer training including how to use mobile internet, Viber, Facebook and basic computer skills, like using Microsoft Word.

“Students can self-learn computer literacy and English courses by following the instructions on the instructional videos. They will be supervised by the Lighthouse entrepreneurs in case they have any questions. We aim to expand the project at Light Houses nationally if the pilot is successful,” U Min Thu said.

Telenor aims to improve digital literacy through nationwide initiatives for school-children and boost user adoption of mobile connectivity and Internet in rural areas. The centres are run by local entrepreneurs and will be open to anyone in the local community. —GNLM

---

**Two men accused of street-level drug dealing in Yangon**

TWO men accused of street-level drug dealing were arrested in Yangon along with two others who were believed to be drug users earlier this week as a result of a undercover narcotic investigation, police said Saturday.

Acting-on tip off, an anti-drug squad searched a taxi in Kyauktada Township and discovered 33 tablets printed ‘WY’ and one green stimulant.

After interrogating the driver a further three suspects, who are believed to be connected with selling stimulant tablets, were arrested the next day.

Of the four suspects, two are believed to be users and the other two are street-level dealers, police said.

The 1993 Anti-Drug Law calls for up to a five-year jail term if a man uses drugs and up to five years jail for dealing.—Myiint Maung

---

**Fire at Myanmar Railways compound in Einmae**

A FIRE broke out at the Myanmar Railways office compound in Nyaungwang village of Einmae township in delta Ayeyawady Region, on Saturday at around 2 pm.

Early reports stated that two staff quarters were burnt down.

Firefighters of the Township Fire Services Department came to extinguish the fire, which was put out at around 2-40 pm.

The cause and cost of the damage is under investigation, said an official.—Htay Htay Hlaing Einmae IPRD

---

**Pickpocketed girl found by police officer**

OFFICERS of the Yangon Region police Force have recently been patrolling on the lookout for cases of pick pocketing and robberies around Dagon Township. A pickpocketing suspect was arrested at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Ma Mar Lar (a) Khin Mar, a19 year-old was arrested for stealing K 4000 and a wallet from a female visitor to the pagoda. The Dagon Myoma police station opened files with Pa 241/2015, under section379/54 of the criminal code.—Myiint Maung

---

**Children pursue lessons through e-learning video. Photo: Telenor**

---

CRIME NEWS
More than 126 Buddhist monks, nuns to do Sediyinga Exam

MORE than 156 Buddhist monks and nuns will do at examination for Sediyinga at the Shwedagon Pagoda from 5 to 11 December.

The ceremony to open the examination was held at the pagoda yesterday. During the ceremony, the congregation took the Five Precepts from Chaukhegyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandaw Barsa and Kalaywa Tawya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Zargara Bhivumsa delivered a speech.

The examination turns into 32th times this year.—Zaw Min Latt

Aluzinc sheets donated by Yunnan Province arrive in Mandalay

ALUZINC sheets donated from by the People’s Government of Yunnan Province, China, for house roofing in Rakhine State arrived in Mandalay on Friday.

A total of 200,000 aluzinc sheets measuring seven feet by 3 feet were transported from China on 24 October by truck.

They are currently being stored at the government’s warehouses, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

“An official ceremony to hand over the aluzinc sheets to the Myanmar government is set to be held in the second week of December in Nay Pyi Taw,” said U Soe Naing, Permanent Secretary of the ministry.

The donation comes after the meeting between President U Thein Sein and the Communist party secretary of the Yunnan Province in Kunming during the president’s visit to the 70th Anniversary of the Second World War.

Heavy rain from June to early November hit 14 regions and states including Sagaing and Magway regions, Rakhine and Chin states, displacing more than 1,692,000.

Aid from local and foreign donors for the people in flood-hit areas have been distributed and cash (kyat and dollars) have been collected for spending on reconstruction.—Myanmar News Agency

US plans to amend trade sanctions on Myanmar

THE United States is planning to ease trade sanctions on Myanmar, following the complaints of banks about the limitations of monetary transfer through the Asia World’s port terminal, a company blacklisted by the US.

The suspension of some sanctions is expected to come into effect next week. This move is seen as the US’s willingness to promote economic ties with the country because it successfully held its historic general elections on 8 November.

The trade volume between the two countries is small but growing. The bilateral trade rose from $185 million in 2014 to US$306.1 million in the first 10 months of 2015.

Three years ago, the White House suspended its sanctions on Myanmar in terms of investment and trade in recognition of the country’s political and economic reform.

At the request of US business people, the US Department of the Treasury took the matter of easing the sanctions into consideration, with reports saying that the Obama administration is preparing to amend sanctions on the country.—Myanmar News Agency

Refilling station construction causes fire concern

CONSTRUCTION of a refilling station downtown has made residents of Mahlaing, Meiktila District, concerned regarding the risk of fire.

“We have lodged complaints about the construction of the refilling station to local authorities because it is located very near school. We don’t any chance of accidents” said U Win Maung, a resident of Mahlaing.

Residents have requested the local authorities move the construction site to another location outside the town. Currently, there are four refilling stations in the township.—013 (Mahlaing)
Thais celebrate king’s birthday amid widening royal insult probe

BANGKOK — Thais marked the birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world’s longest-reigning monarch yesterday, by giving alms at temples around the country.

Celebrations in Thailand, where the monarch’s birthday is also national Father’s Day, come amid a widening police investigation into a group of people charged with insulting the monarchy.

Ten people, including senior police and military officers, have been charged with a range of offences, including corruption and alleged royal defamation, over their involvement in two nationwide cycling events aimed at celebrating the royal. Two suspects have died in military custody.

Criticism of Thailand’s monarchy is outlawed by draconian laws that provide for jail sentences of up to 15 years for each perceived insult to the monarchy.

Since taking power in a May 2014, the ruling junta has cracked down on perceived royal insults and has doled out record jail sentences of up to 60 years for lese majeste offences.

The royal insult investigation comes amid growing concern over the health of the king, who is highly revered by Thais, and the question of succession — an issue which will dominate political developments in the Southeast Asian country.

King Bhumibol, who turns 88, was last seen in public on 1 September, and officials say he will not be making a public appearance on his birthday.

The king has spent the past few months at a Bangkok hospital where he was treated for ‘water on the brain’, or hydrocephalus, a build-up of cerebrospinal fluid that surrounds the brain.

He cancelled a public appearance on his birthday last year, on medical advice.

Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn is expected to carry out ceremonies to mark his father’s birthday, including an evening candle-lighting ceremony in Bangkok to pay tribute to the king. Having reigned for nearly seven decades, King Bhumibol is the only monarch that most Thais have known, and anxiety over the eventual succession is seen as an aggravating factor in Thailand’s bitter political divide.

“I have a deep love for him and want him to be healthy,” said Suchada Charan, a retiree from Bangkok, after giving alms to Buddhist monks in honour of the king’s birthday.

“Father’s Day in Thailand is the king’s day. He is our father,” she said.— Reuters

New Delhi to ration road use by registration number to cut pollution

NEW DELHI — India’s capital will soon ban private cars from its roads on alternate days, according to their registration numbers, in an attempt to improve air quality in the world’s most polluted city.

Smog has blanketed New Delhi this week, as countries try to thrash out a deal to fight climate change at a UN summit in Paris.

“Particularly in winter when the pollution is high, we will implement for some time odd-and-even number vehicle operations,” Delhi Chief Secretary K.K. Sharma told reporters on Friday after an emergency meeting. “We will make all efforts to start it from the first of January.”

The government will run extra buses and ask the metro rail network to increase its services to cope with more people, he said. It will also consider shutting down inefficient coal power plants. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said implementation would be a challenge.

“But something urgent needed to be done in view of the emergency situation,” he tweeted. “Let’s assess after trying for a few days.”

The World Health Organisation said last year India had 13 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, and poor air caused hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year. The federal government is planning to force all commercial trucks more than 15 years old off the road from April and is reviewing how it checks vehicle emissions.— Reuters

Lee Kuan Yew: The Straits Times Asian of the Year 2015

SINGAPORE — Singapore’s late Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew is awarded The Straits Times Asian of the Year 2015, which has been given posthumously for the first time, announced Singapore Press Holdings Ltd in a press release yesterday.

The Straits Times Asian of the Year recognises an individual or organisation that has contributed significantly to improving lives either at home or in the wider neighbourhood. The editors of the newspaper picked the late prime minister, who passed away on 23 March at the age of 91, as their choice from a crowded field for the annual award.

Lee Kuan Yew had been respected as the architect of Singapore’s prosperity, transforming it from a port city into a wealthy global hub.

“He played key roles in introducing policies and attracting investments that turned Singapore into a modern, economic success story,” said the citation bestowing this year’s award posthumously on Lee Kuan Yew.

Warren Fernandez, editor of The Straits Times who chairs the editorial board that picks the Asian of the Year, said that very few people in Asia have influenced their nations and their neighbourhood as Lee Kuan Yew did in his long years as national leader and international statesman.— Khinna
Malaysia arrests five with suspected IS, al-Qaeda links

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia’s police said yesterday that it had arrested five people, including a European employed as a teacher, on suspicion of links with militant groups like the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

Malaysia is on heightened alert after reports on Friday that ten Syrians linked to Islamic State entered neighbouring Thailand in October to attack Russian interests.

Police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said in a statement that four of those arrested were foreign nationals and one was a Malaysian. The arrests were made between 17 November and 1 December.

Among them was a 44-year-old European who was employed as a temporary teacher in the state of Penang, and had links with al-Qaeda and allegedly participated in militant activities in Afghanistan and Bosnia, the police said.

Three other suspects — a 31-year-old Indonesian man, a Malaysian and a Bangladesh — were part of a cell linked to the Islamic State (IS) group and were tasked with recruiting volunteers to take part in militant activities overseas. The leader of the cell was the Indonesian who is said to have vowed allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi through Facebook in 2014.

“He, along with the Malaysian national, is suspected of acting as facilitator to organise individuals from Malaysia and some Southeast Asian countries to join the Islamic State in Syria,” said Khalid.

Southeast Asia faces the threat of Islamic State-inspired attacks designed to “glamorise terrorism,” a Malaysian minister said last month, voicing fears of battle-hardened fighters returning from Syria to launch Paris-style attacks. In September, Malaysian police thwarted a plot to detonate bombs in Kuala Lumpur’s vibrant tourist area of Bukit Bintang.—Reuters

Protests greet Australia’s first returning nuclear waste

SYDNEY — Anti-nuclear protesters in rubber dinglys and water police shadowed a vessel carrying a shipment of reprocessed nuclear waste as it docked yesterday at an Australian port after a two-month journey from France.

Environment group Greenpeace questioned the safety of transporting the 25 tonnes of waste, which originally came from an Australian reactor producing radioactive isotopes for industrial and medical uses and was sent overseas for treatment.

A small number of protesters were among those who greeted the ship, the BBC Shanghai, as it docked amid tight security and a heavy police presence at Port Kembla, south of Sydney, on Saturday afternoon, witnesses said.

Greenpeace spokeswoman Emma Gibson questioned the choice of vessel used for the journey from Cherbourg in northern France, and said details of the shipment from the Australian government did not tally with those released by French authorities.

“We followed the ship all the way in, as far as we can. We are going to be documenting its handling and following it all the way to Lucas Heights,” Gibson told Reuters.

Unloading is due to take place overnight and the waste will be transported by road to the Lucas Heights reactor in Sydney, where it originally came from.

It will be stored at Lucas Heights until Australia has a permanent storage site for spent nuclear waste. The country does not have the capacity to reprocess nuclear waste.

Australia’s nuclear regulators have rejected criticism of the shipment and said there was “no credible chance of any incident” during transport.

Australia produced the waste and had a responsibility to take it back, said Phil McCall, spokesman for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

“It is in line with international best practices that the countries that benefit have the responsibility to deal with the waste,” he said.

Australia is a major exporter of uranium ore. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull triggered controversy recently by suggesting the country should expand its role in nuclear energy by preparing and leasing out fuel rods to other countries and then storing the nuclear waste.—Reuters

SINGAPORE — An exhibition of 237 exceptional objects and treasures from the British Museum opened to the public at the National Museum of Singapore yesterday.

This is the first time that collections of the British Museum have been presented as a comprehensive exhibition in Southeast Asia.

The exhibition showcases the personal collections by Sir Stamford Raffles when he was in Southeast Asia and many precious artefacts, including paintings, drawings and sculptures, that have been sent overseas for treatment, in the gallery.—Xinhua

Sri Lankan securities regulator arrested for misappropriation

COLOMBO — A top securities regulator was arrested on Friday in Sri Lanka on suspicion of financial misappropriation, a police spokesman said.

Dhammika Perera, the deputy director of the Sri Lankan Securities and Exchange Commission, is now under compulsory leave.

He was arrested by the Financial Crime Investigation Department, police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera said, after a seven-month investigation of a suspected 5 million-rupee ($34,940) misappropriation that occurred in 2013.

The money was given to a youth organisation, Thathuwa Hitak or “Better Tomorrow for Youth”, headed by Namal Rajapaksa, a parliamentarian and the eldest son of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, police said. Perera headed the SEC investigation unit in Rajapaksa’s government.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, addressing a function at the Colombo Stock Exchange on Wednesday said the country needs an efficient and transparent stock market and want Colombo Stock Exchange to grow and become the centre for South Asia.

“It also requires complete confidence in the stock exchange so it’s best you address these issues for yourself,” Wickremesinghe said at a ceremony in Colombo to mark 30 years of the foundation of the Colombo Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka’s stock market index.CSE plummeted over 36 percent after reaching a record high of 7,863.74 points on 15 February 2011.—Reuters

China says to start claiming compensation from polluters

SHANGHAI — The Chinese government plans to begin claiming compensation from polluting companies and individuals, particularly those who damage state property, over the next two years, China’s cabinet has said.

The State Council said on its website late on Thursday it would trial the policy in a few provinces before rolling it out nationwide in 2018. The plan would cover air, water and soil pollution, as well as damage to plants and animals.

China already allows government-registered environmental organisations that have been operating for at least five years to launch legal action against polluters.

High pollution levels have sparked widespread social unrest and become a major concern for China’s leadership. Environmentalists say China’s big polluters routinely exceed government emission limits.

China’s capital Beijing suffered choking pollution this week, triggering an “orange” alert, the second-highest level, closing highways, halting or suspending construction and prompting a warning to residents to stay indoors.

That coincided with a meeting of world leaders in Paris to address climate change. China said after the meeting on Wednesday it would cut emissions of major pollutants in its power sector by 2020.—Reuters
The Health Benefits of Lemongrass

Khin Maung Myint

TODAY people all over the world are aware and more aware of the benefits of lemongrass. Most of us know the lemon grass is kind of spice used in cooking. In the past it was mostly used for cooking and to preserve their foods. However, the lemongrass is becoming very popular among health seekers as an ingredient. But also as a health booster it has a place in the menu of many restaurants and foreign cuisines.

So, what are the reasons beyond this growing craze for the lemongrass? They are not only healthy and pleasant to drink, but are also packed with untold properties and benefits that can be called the superfood. The lemongrass is a rich source of vitamins A and C, folate, folate, acetic, magnesium, zinc, copper, iron, potassium, phosphorus, calcium and proteins.

It also has minute traces of vitamin B.

The lemongrass has many medicinal properties including: analgesic, anti-allergy, anti-inflammation, antispasmodic, antiseptic, antibacterial, antiviral, antioxidants, carminative, diuretic, insecticidal, solubilizing and anti-cancer properties. The leaves, stems and bulbs of the lemongrass are used in various treatments. The medicinal benefits are so great and they are widely used as an alternative or complementary medicine.

The Health Benefits

As there are various medicinal properties of the lemongrass it is packed with many health benefits.

1. Digestion: Lemongrass tea helps treat digestive health like indigestion, constipation, stomach spasms, vomiting and cramps.

2. A healthy digestive tract: drink lemongrass tea on regular basis. However, it is not recommended to take it on empty stomach.

3. Controls Cholesterol Levels: Lemongrass oil has a direct impact on bad cholesterol (LDL) level and also helps to lower blood pressure. A cup of lemongrass tea everyday and it will lower your bad cholesterol level and blood pressure. It would reduce the risks of heart diseases and strokes.

4. Antibacterial and Antifungal: Drink- ing lemongrass tea helps clean and detoxify the body. Lemongrass increases the frequency and quantity of urination, it helps to cool internal heat, and bad cholsterols from the body. Urination also clean out the kid- neys and liver.

The cleansing properties of the lemongrass tea also help purify the liver, kidneys, bladders and pancreas. It also increases the blood circulation, which is impor- tant for the overall health.

Drink lemongrass tea on a regular basis to help your body to get rid of harmful elements.

4. Bones and Skin: The properties of the lemongrass help your body to cope with cough, fe- ver and other cold and the symp- toms. As it is loaded with vitamins C, it boosts your immune system to fight the infection. It is also ef- fective in breaking down muscles and plugging build up, which can lead to problems with breathing. It is also useful in keeping your lungs and throat clean. To make a medicinal drink with lemon- grass:

- Boil a small sticks of lemon- grass in a small piece of cinnamon, 1 tsp sugar of turmeric powder in a cup of milk.
- Mix and drink it when you have a cold or sore throat.
- Drink a day for a few days.

5. Fights Cancer: Research shows that lemongrass tea can help fight cancer. It has been found in lemongrass can prevent the development of cancer, without damaging the healthy cells. According to Top 10 Home Remedies, the health benefits are as follows:

6. Reduces Asthma Pain: Lem- ongrass helps treat asthma, thera- peutic, cough, congestion, cold and other types of joint pains. It also alleviates muscle spasms or cramps, which in turns reduces the pain-related symptoms.

7. Mix lemongrass oil with co- conut oil in 1/2 ratio and rub it on the affected body. Leave it for few hours before- more ing it. Do this daily for a few weeks.

8. You can also drink lemongrass tea twice daily for a few weeks.

9. Benefits New Mothers: Lemongrass tea helps maintain breast milk production. It also help keep the baby healthy and free from in-fections.

Breast-feeding mothers can drink one to two cups of lemongrass tea daily, but should avoid during pregnancy.

9. Fights Depression: The antipsycho- props of lemongrass tea help treat depression. It also reverse anxiety, boosts self esteem, uplifts spirits, gives confidence and improves mental strength.

Drink a cup of lemon grass tea whenever you feel depressed or have a low mood. It helps you keep calm and cool and also helps you to sleep better.

10. Reduces Body Odour: Diluted lemongrass oil is an effective deodor- ant. It is better than any deodor- ant on the market.

10. Keeps Skin Healthy: It is also beneficial for the skin. It can relieve varicose veins and also boils.

You can either use lemongrass oil by diluting with water or another base, such as olive oil or mix one-half cup of freely sliced lemongrass in a cup of olive oil and heat for five minutes and apply it when needed.

The Antidepressant Side Effects

According to WebMD, the Side Effects is LIKELY SAFE for people when used in food amounts and POSSIBLY SAFE to take it mouth or applied to the skin, for medical purpose. However, there have been some toxic side effects such as lung problems after inhaling lemon- grass and a fatal poisoning after a child swallowed a lemon- grass stich. It is LIKELY UNSAFE to take it during pregnancy.

Avoid smelling lemongrass leaves and keep away from lemongrass oils from children.

How Should It Be Consumed?

The best way to consume lemongrass, other than as a culinary ingredient, is as tea. Here, I would like to tell you some ways to make your own lemongrass tea and enjoy its benefits:

1. Drink a cup of lemongrass tea every day for a few days.

2. To make lemongrass tea:

(a) Take a tea spoon of turmeric and 1 cup of water.
(b) Heat it 5-6 minutes.
(c) Leave it to cool it down.
(d) Rub it on the affected area.
(e) Diluted lemongrass extract of syrup.

3. Cleanse and Detoxifies.

According to the nals properties, the lemongrass is a rich source of vitamins, it boosts your immune system, keeps your body to cope with cough, fever and other cold and the symptoms. As it is loaded with vitamins C, it boosts your immune system to fight the infection. It is also effective in breaking down muscles and plugging build up, which can lead to problems with breathing. It is also useful in keeping your lungs and throat clean.

4. Only refreshing and pleasant to drink it.

5. A poem by Christina Rosetti sent to The Global New Light of Myanmar on 28 November was very informative and poetic. I love to read it again and again. As a Myanmar citizen I am very proud of your article “Awed by Kalaw.”

Although our country is very poor, it is a good tourist desti- nation. As a Myanmar citizen, I want to do this work. Your Eng- lish is quite lovely and attrac- tive. I am a lawyer and now I am living in Australia. I also learnt some new words for me. Please accept my appreciation for it. I also made some copies of your article and emailed to some of my friends, who are living in Australia, Aus- tralia, and France. You will be my best friend, my English teacher. I am an oil man and a part of 45 years old, and a devout Buddhist.

Burma, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Jesus Murdie’s travel- logue was published in The Global New Light of Myanmar on 28 November was very informative and poetic. I love to read it again and again. As a Myanmar citizen I am very proud of your article “Awed by Kalaw.”

***

Jessica Mudditt’s travel- logue was published in The Global New Light of Myanmar on 28 November was very informative and poetic. I love to read it again and again. As a Myanmar citizen I am very proud of your article “Awed by Kalaw.”

***

Nancy Mudditt’s travel- logue was published in The Global New Light of Myanmar on 28 November was very informative and poetic. I love to read it again and again. As a Myanmar citizen I am very proud of your article “Awed by Kalaw.”

***

ANALYSIS & FEATURES

MCDC carries out checks on drinking water companies

 Mandalay City Development Community has conducted inspections of a number of drinking water companies and laboratories in Mandalay Region. FDA recommendation letters and provisions have been made to the companies in Mandalay Region.

Along with MCDC’s inspection, call 09-31422555 or 09-31521775.
ISLAMABAD — Tashfeen Malik’s path to accused mass killer in California began in a small city on the Indus River in Pakistan’s Punjab Province.

It was from here, she was a toddler, that she moved with her father Gulzar 25 years ago to Saudi Arabia, where he became more deeply religious, more conservative and more hardline, according to a family member.

A picture slowly emerged on Friday of the role and possible motivations of 27-year-old Malik in this week’s killing of 14 people in California, including her apparent pledge of allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State militant group, according to US officials.

Malik, with her husband Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, is accused of shooting at a holiday party on Wednesday in San Bernardino, California, and opening fire in America’s worst mass shooting in three years.

The intensive search for clues, extending to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, could help US investigators piece together what drove Malik and her husband to leave their infant daughter with her mother, don assault-style clothing and carry out the shooting.

Malik, who entered the United States on a fiancée visa, and Farook, the son of immigrant parents from Pakistan who had worked as a health inspector, were killed in a shootout with police just hours after the attack.

US investigators were evaluating evidence that Malik, a Pakistani native who had been living in Saudi Arabia when she married Farook, had pledged allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, two US government sources said.

They said the finding, if confirmed, could be a “game changer” in the probe.

CNN reported that one US official said Malik had made the pledge to al-Baghdadi in a posting on Facebook on Wednesday, the day of the attack.

US investigators had been focusing on Malik so far that the attack may have been inspired by Islamic State. But US government sources said there was no sign that it had been directed by the militant group, which has seized swathes of Syria and Iraq and claimed the deadly 13 November attacks in Paris.—Reuters

PARIS — Near the halfway mark of a UN climate change conference in Paris, hopes for a deal are far higher than at the last, failed summit in Copenhagen, even if the agreement on offer is less ambitious this time.

Back in 2009, many had hoped for a sweeping treaty to cut greenhouse gas emissions that are changing the climate. This time, nearly 200 countries will choose their own policies in the hope of binding both rich and poor into the effort to combat global warming.

With seven days of negotiations left before the conference closes on 11 December, two alternative draft texts are circulating, which all nations agreed on Friday to accept as the basis for talks.

At 38 and 48 pages long, they have shrunk from above 50 at the start of the week. At the same stage of Copenhagen, the drafts ran to 300 pages.

“I’m optimistic,” said Robert Stavins, director of Harvard University’s Environmental Economics Program. “It’s drastically different from Copenhagen.”

But the text still has hundreds of brackets, marking points of disagreement on everything from finance for developing nations beyond 2020 to where to set the long-term goal for cutting or phasing out the use of fossil fuels.

“It’s hugely frustrating.” EU chief negotiator Elina Bardram told Reuters.

But she said there was no comparison with Copenhagen as China, the world’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, was determined to be part of the deal and the presence of 150 heads of state at the start of the talks on Monday had shown strong political will. The idea is that the text will be cut and sent to French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius by midday (1100 GMT) on Saturday.

After that, it will be up to ministers to try to hammer out a deal next week.—Reuters

WASHINGTON — Since Turkey shot down a Russian fighter jet last week, the United States has quietly put on hold a long-standing request for its NATO ally to play a more active role in the US-led air war against Islamic State.

The move, disclosed to Reuters by a US official, is aimed at allowing just enough time for heightened Turkey-Russia tensions to ease. Turkey has not flown any coalition air missions in Syria against Islamic State since the 24 November incident, two US officials said.

The pause is the latest complication over Turkey’s role to have tested the patience of US war planners, who want a more assertive Turkish contribution — particularly in securing a section of border with Syria that is seen as a crucial supply route for Islamic State.

As Britain starts strikes in Syria and France ramps up its role in the wake of last month’s attacks on Paris by the extremist group, US Defense Secretary Ash Carter publicly appealed this week for a greater Turkish military role.

The top US priority is for Turkey to secure its southern border with Syria, the first official said. US concern is focused on a roughly 60-mile (96-km) stretch used by Islamic State to shuttle foreign fighters and illicit trade back and forth.

But the United States also wants to see more Turkish air strikes devoted to Islamic State, even as Washington firmly supports Ankara’s strikes against Turkey’s Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), viewed by both countries as a terrorist group.

Carter told a congressional hearing this week that most Turkish air operations had been targeted at the PKK rather than at Islamic State, but US officials acknowledged some promising signs from Turkey, including moves to secure key border crossings.

For example, Turkish F-16 fighter jets last month joined an air operation to support Syrian rebels taking back two villages from Islamic State along the so-called Mara Line, a senior Obama administration official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The United States does not give data on the number or type of missions conducted by Turkish air force flights in Syria.

Turkey rejects any suggestion it is not playing its part in the fight against ISIS.

“We have taken part in at least half of the operations,” a senior Turkish official told Reuters. “Apart from that, Turkey takes part in identifying targets and providing logistics and bases. We are in close cooperation with the US.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin branded Turkey’s shoot-down a war crime on Thursday and said Turkey would face further sanctions. Moscow has already banned some Turkish food imports as part of a wider package of retaliatory sanctions.

The United States hopes that tensions between Moscow and Ankara will ease quickly, allowing Turkey to take a more prominent role inside the US-led coalition’s air campaign, the first official said.

The Pentagon declined to comment on the status of Turkish flights since the shoot-down. Two Turkish officials declined to directly comment but stressed that Turkey remained part of the air coalition. “For us nothing has changed,” a senior Turkish official told Reuters.

US officials stressed that overall coalition air operations had been unaffected by the tensions between Turkey and Russia.

There is debate within the Obama administration on how hard to push Turkey. US officials broadly acknowledge its support has been vital to the US-led campaign in Syria, allowing the coalition to stage strike missions out of a Turkish air base.

Turkey, for its part, has grown frustrated over the past few years at what it sees as indecision on the part of the United States and its Western allies, arguing that only Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s removal from power can bring lasting peace.—Reuters
BRUSSELS — The European Union is considering giving a new EU border force powers to intervene and guard a member state’s external frontier to protect the Schengen open-borders zone, EU officials and diplomats said on Friday.

Such a move might be blocked by states wary of surrendering sovereign control of their territory. But the discussion reflects fears that Greece’s failure to manage a flood of migrants from Turkey has brought Schengen’s system of open borders to the brink of collapse.

Germany’s Thomas de Maizière, in Brussels for a meeting of EU interior ministers, said he expected a proposal from the EU executive on Thursday to allow a member state to include giving responsibility for controlling a frontier with a non-Schengen country to Frontex, the EU’s border agency, if a member state failed to do so.

“The Commission should put forward a proposal ... which has the goal of when a national state is not effectively fulfilling its duty of defending the external border, then that can be taken over by Frontex,” de Maizière told reporters.

He noted a Franco-German push for Frontex, whose role is largely to coordinate national border agencies, to be complemented by a permanent European border and Coast Guard — a measure the European Commission will propose on 15 December.

Greece has come under heavy pressure from states concerned about Schengen this week to accept EU offers of help on its borders.

Diplomats have warned that Athens might find itself effectively excluded from the Schengen zone if it failed to work with other Europeans to control migration.

On Thursday, Greece finally agreed to accept help from Frontex, averting a showdown at the ministerial meeting in Brussels.

After threatening Greece with triggering rules allowing for internal border controls within Schengen for up to two years, the ministers meeting in Brussels on Friday have not asked the bloc’s executive arm to activate the procedure.

“It is not legally possible to exclude a state from the Schengen area. We cannot expel or exclude a member state from the Schengen area... We weren’t targeting any country in the north or the south or the centre,” said Jean Asselborn, the minister of foreign affairs and migration of Luxembourg, which first tabled a paper invoking the two-year rule.

EU diplomats said the proposals due on 15 December to bolster defence of the external Schengen frontiers would look at whether the EU must rely on an invitation from the state concerned.

“One option could be not to seek the member state’s approval for deploying Frontex but activating it by a majority vote among all 28 members,” an EU official said.

Under the Schengen Borders Code, the Commission can now recommend a state accept help from other EU members to control its frontiers. But it cannot force it to accept help, something that may in any case not be practicable.

The code also gives states the right to impose controls on internal Schengen borders if external borders are neglected.

As Greece has no land border with the rest of the Schengen zone, that could mean obliging ferries and flights coming from Greece to undergo passport checks.

Asked whether an EU force should require an invitation or could be imposed by the bloc, Swedish Interior Minister Anders Ygeman said: “Border control is the competence for the member states, and it’s hard to say that there is a need to impose that on member states forcefully.

“On the other hand,” he said, referring to this week’s pressure on Greece, “we must safeguard the borders of Schengen and what we have seen is that if a country is not able to protect its own border, it can leave Schengen or accept Frontex. It’s not mandatory, but in practice it’s quite mandatory.”

Ministers and the Commission welcomed Greece’s decision on Thursday to accept more help from Frontex.

“Greece is finally taking responsibility for guarding the external border,” German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said.

“Greece must recognise this responsibility and be ready to accept Frontex help. This is an important step in the right direction.”

A dramatic increase in EU powers over national territory would be deeply controversial in many of Europe. On Thursday, Danes, who are part of the Schengen zone, heeded Euro-sceptics calls and voted against giving their government power to deepen its cooperation with the EU police agency.

The European Union faces another test over the next two months, as the bloc seeks to find big-sum deals with third countries in exchange for being allowed to return migrants to them.

The European Commission will propose in December a plan to take charge of Europe’s borders in Schengen.

EU mulls plan to take charge of Europe’s borders

Iraqi president says Turkish deployment inside Iraq violates international law

BAGHDAD — Iraqi President Fouad Massoum yesterday called the deployment of several hundred Turkish troops inside Iraq near the northern city of Mosul “a violation of international norms and law”.

A Turkish security source said on Friday the forces would provide training for Iraqi troops near Mosul, which is controlled by a Sunni Arab former Iraqi police protection force.

Turkey to withdraw its forces.

Iraqi forces has been repeatedly anticipated counter-offensive by Sunni Arab former Iraqi police protection force.

The spate of deaths has drawn rare media attention and protests. Two officers held him up as he struggled to walk, his face pale and his vest stained with blood.

He was 32. Unlike the families of scores of other Egyptians that rights groups say die in police custody every year, Abushanab’s family has gone to death by police on the street.

Nearly five years later, the latest deaths are creating rising pressure on another general-archibald-president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Abushanab’s family has launched a “We are all Amr Abushanab” page on Facebook.

In the eastern city of Ismailiya, protesters burned tyres in the streets after a middle-aged veterinarian died in custody hours after being hauled from his wife’s pharmacy on 25 November.—Reuters

Iraqi president says Turkish deployment inside Iraq violates international law

After deaths, Egyptians grow bolder in challenging police abuse

TAHANOUB — Fatima Hashem was preparing for bed when Egyptian plainclothes police burst into her house, forced her into a van and ordered her to lead them to her son Amr Abushanab’s apartment.

Three days later, she watched police escort him to be questioned by prosecutors. Two officers held him up as he struggled to walk, his face pale and his vest stained with blood.

He told her he had been beaten and subjected to electric shocks. Within hours he was dead.

He was 32. Unlike the families of scores of other Egyptians that rights groups say die in police custody every year, Abushanab’s family has gone public, as have those of two other men who died in police custody in the span of a week.

The spate of deaths has drawn rare media attention and prompted some street demonstrations, an echo of the public anger over police brutality that helped spark the revolution that brought down President Hosni Mubarak five years ago. “If 1,000 million officers died in front of my very eyes I would not cry for them because of my son,” Abushanab’s mother wailed in the courtyard of the family home in the village of Tahanoob in the Nile Delta north of Cairo. “The fire in my heart will not be extinguished until (the perpetrator) dies like my son.”

Egypt has a long history of police abuse under generations of military rulers. The “Arab Spring” revolt that toppled Mubarak began as a protest march during a national holiday to celebrate the police force in January 2011, fed in part by a “We are all Khaled Said” Facebook campaign by activists over the death of a man beaten to death by police on the street in Alexandria.

Egypt has a long history of police abuse under generations of military rulers. The “Arab Spring” revolt that toppled Mubarak began as a protest march during a national holiday to celebrate the police force in January 2011, fed in part by a “We are all Khaled Said” Facebook campaign by activists over the death of a man beaten to death by police on the street in Alexandria.

Nearly five years later, the latest deaths are creating rising pressure on another general-archibald-president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Abushanab’s family has launched a “We are all Amr Abushanab” page on Facebook.

In the eastern city of Ismailiya, protesters burned tyres in the streets after a middle-aged veterinarian died in custody hours after being hauled from his wife’s pharmacy on 25 November.—Reuters

Iraq's President Fouad Massoum. PHOTO: Reuters

Thursday escorted by a Turkish protection force.

A small number of Turkish trainers was already at the camp to train a force called Hashid Shaabi (national mobilisation), which is made up of mainly Sunni Arab former Iraqi police and volunteers from Mosul.

The United States was aware of Turkey’s deployment of hundreds of Turkish soldiers to northern Iraq but the move is not part of the US-led coalition’s activities, according to defence officials in Washington.

Powerful Iraqi Shi’ite Muslim armed groups have pledged to fight a planned deployment of US forces to the country.

Turkey has in recent months been bombing Kurdish militant positions in northern Iraq.—Reuters

Macedonian soldiers erect a metal fence on the border with Greece, near Gevgelija, Macedonia, on 28 November. PHOTO: Reuters
US arms makers strain to meet demand as Mideast conflicts rage

WASHINGTON — Top US arms makers are straining to meet surging demand for precision missiles and other weapons being used in the US-led fight against Islamic State and other conflicts in the Middle East, according to senior US officials and industry executives.

Global demand for US-made missiles and so-called smart bombs has grown steadily since the Isis capture of Syria’s northern oil fields in 2013, and the US defence industry responded last year by opening new plants to keep the pace of deliveries up as workers by 2020 and expand the facility, which also produces 2,200-pound air-to-surface stealth missiles.

Frank Kendall, the Pentagon’s chief arms buyer, told Reuters this week that the US has been selling about 10,000 precision munitions a month and is “on track to expand production of precision munitions and potentially add new capacity.”

“Frank Kendall, the Pentagon’s chief arms buyer, told Reuters this week that the US has been selling about 10,000 precision munitions a month and is “on track to expand production of precision munitions and potentially add new capacity.”

Two people held hostages in Australia’s Melbourne

MELBOURNE — A gunman held two people as hostages Saturday morning in a bakery in Melbourne, Australia’s second largest city.

According to local police, the gunman was armed with a .44-caliber handgun and was seen running around the building. Witnesses said the gun had been fired at least once.

“Two people held hostages in Australia’s Melbourne.”

New Mexico police say million-dollar jewel theft was on probation

ALBUQUERQUE — The prime suspect in a $1.3 million jewel heist during a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony at a fashionable New Mexico plaza a week ago has been identified and was on probation for committing a similar crime last year, police said on Friday.

A judge has issued an arrest warrant for Luis Villalba Boca-Negra, 45, in connection with the audacious 27 November theft of the jewellery from a boutique in the Santa Fe plaza, said Santa Fe Police Detective Abe Maes.

Witnesses say Boca-Negra was arrested in October 2014 for stealing a $35,000 ring from a store five doors down from the shop hit last Friday.

He pleaded guilty to that theft and was on probation at the time of last week’s heist, Maes said. — Reuters

Eastern Congo militias test UN peace enforcement

GOMA — As the battered pickup lurched down the road from Mount Nyiragongo, Lieutenant Bonambi Mibendeke took a closer look at its passengers, six men in faded camouflage fatigues with AK-47s over their shoulders.

“Government forces — I think,” the South African peace-keeper said. “It’s often hard to tell round here.”

In the hills of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, along the border with Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, Mibendeke’s uncertainty can be forgiven.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

“Look at our downtown,” she said.— Reuters

32 workers die after fire on Azerbaijani oil platform

BAKU — Thirty-two workers have died after an offshore oil platform operated by Azerbaijani state energy company SOCAR caught fire in the Caspian Sea, the head of an independent committee said yesterday.

SOCAR declined repeated requests for comment from Reuters.

“According to our information, 32 workers died, while 42 workers were rescued last night. ... The fire on the platform was finally extinguished,” said Mirvari Gakhramanly, head of Azerbaijan’s Oil Workers’ Rights Protection Committee.

SOCAR said on Friday that the fire on a platform in Azerbaijan’s Guneshli oil field had died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.

However, the biggest militia still at large, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by the French acronym FDLR, is led by ethnic Hutus who fled to Congo from Rwanda after helping instigate the 1994 genocide.

For years, the region, including the slopes of Nyiragongo, Africa’s most active volcano,

has been home to a patchwork of rebel militias who have killed thousands and displaced millions in their quest for control of timber, gold, tin and tantalum.

Many date back to the 1998-2003 Congolese civil war, fuelled by Rwandan intervention, in which millions died, either in the conflict or of hunger and disease.
Blizzardy Buffalo turns balmy, breaks 116-year record for no snow

NEW YORK — The notoriously snowy city of Buffalo, which was buried under nearly seven feet of powder in a single storm by this time last fall, on Friday broke a 116-year-old record for its longest period without measurable snow, meteorologists said.

This year’s El Niño weather phenomenon, expected to be the strongest in nearly 20 years, is what’s going on, D’Amore said. El Niños in the past have delivered sizable winter rainfall to drought-stricken parts of the country and unseasonably warm temperatures to others.

Forecasts say Buffalo, which typically sees its first dusting of snow by 24 October, is likely to remain without snow for another seven to 10 days.

The top destination was Spain, and returning Spaniards are of working age, although news was welcomed by this time last fall, on 24 July. The bulk of the emigration marks a near 30 percent increase on the official number in the first six months of the previous year, according to a November run-off election.

The western New York municipality known for brutal winters that start early and end late has gone 255 days without registering snow for the first time since 3 December, 1899, National Weather Service meteorologist Thomas D’Amore said.

“Even the winter snows and so when you go so long without it, everybody wonders what’s going on,” D’Amore said from the service’s Buffalo office.

Although the Spanish economy has rebounded to grow faster than most other countries in the euro zone close to 51,000 Spaniards packed their bags, nearly as many as left during the whole of 2010, in the depths of the country’s debt crisis, the figures from the National Statistics Institute showed.

The mass of people leaving Spain marks a near 30 percent increase on the first six months of the previous year.

The number of Spaniards returning home also rose, but net migration of Spaniards widened to nearly 25,000. The bulk of the emigrants are of working age, between 25 and 44 years old, the report on Spain’s population said.

The top destination was Britain, attracting more than 6,000 Spaniards in the first half, followed by France and Germany.

High immigration is controversial in Britain and is likely to be a major issue in the referendum on Britain’s EU membership that Prime Minister David Cameron has promised by the end of 2017.

Spaniards have been driven to look abroad by falling wages, job insecurity, and a youth employment rate even higher than Greece’s, despite Spain’s emergence from recession in mid-2013, with GDP growing by 0.8 percent in the third quarter of this year. Over the last four years average monthly wages for those aged between 16 and 24 fell by 12 percent, and those between 25 and 34 by almost 5 percent, according to a November report from the statistics office.—Reuters

Spaniards leave in ever greater numbers despite economy’s return to growth

ADVERTISE WITH US!
- We are Myanmar’s highest-circulating English language daily newspaper
- We offer competitive ad rates
- Your ad will be seen by a wide and influential readership

Email: adv.gnlm@gmail.com,
Phone: 09 250107962, 09 250122355

Police raid Argentina media regulator ahead of power handover

BUENOS AIRES — Police raided the headquarters of Argentina’s media regulator on Friday, prompting the watchdog’s head to accuse President-elect Mauricio Macri of involvement in what he called a “mafia plot” designed to force his resignation.

Martin Sabbatella said Macri wanted to replace him as president of the Federal Authority of Audiovisual and Communication Services (AFSCA) but that he would stay in his post until the end of his mandate in 2017.

The raid was the latest incident pointing to increasingly testy relations between conservative Macri and the outgoing leftist president, Cristina Fernandez, ahead of his 10 December swearing in. “This raid is about the institutional future of AFSCA,” Sabbatella told reporters after the police operation.

A spokesman for Macri was not immediately available for comment.

Macri opposes a law signed by Fernandez in 2009 that limits the number of radio and television licenses a single company can hold, a move her critics said was aimed at hobbling media company Grupo Clarin (CLA.BA). Clarin has been highly critical of Fernandez’s eight years in power.

During campaigning, Macri said he would push for Sabbatella’s removal if he won the presidential race and install his longtime friend Miguel de Godoy, an official in the Buenos Aires city administration that he headed. Sabbatella said that de Godoy visited his office on Thursday and asked him to step down. A judge ordered the raid after Grupo Clarin, led by CEO Hector Magneto, filed a legal complaint against the regulator over the company’s restructuring obligations needed to comply with the 2009 law.

“You can’t avoid the feeling that there is a mafia plot, that Macri and Magnetto sent de Godoy to ask us in a friendly way that we break the law,” Sabbatella said. “Since we said we weren’t ready to do such a thing they sent the other part of this mafia plot to carry out a raid that has no sense.” Last month, police raided the central bank on the orders of the same judge who was acting on another legal complaint filed by two opposition lawmakers, Macri, who won the 22 November run-off election, wants to replace the central bank chief with a more trusted ally.—Reuters

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise Invitation for Opened Tender (8/2015)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of Multi Grade Diesel Engine Oil 15W 40 C4/A5/ISO (40)Drums (Open Tender No. MPPE/POL/T/1(2015-2016)) in Myanmar Kyats.

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-12-2015, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 3-12-2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No 6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Coen brothers’ ‘Hail, Caesar!’ to open Berlin film fest

BERLIN — “Hail, Caesar!” an all-star look at the Hollywood Golden Age by the Academy Award-winning director duo Joel and Ethan Coen, will be the opening film of the 66th Berlin International Film Festival on 11 February, the festival announced on Friday.

George Clooney, Scarlett Johansson, Josh Brolin and Ralph Fiennes feature in the cast of the movie which will focus on the latter years of the period when the Hollywood studios reigned supreme, from roughly the 1920s to the 1960s.

“It’s wonderful that Joel and Ethan Coen are once again opening the Berlinale. Their humor, unique characters and fantastic narrative skill are guaranteed to thrill the audience. ‘Hail, Caesar!’ is the perfect start for the 2016 Berlinale,” Festival Director Dieter Kosslick said in a statement.

The film, which also stars Alden Ehrenreich, Jonah Hill, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton and Channing Tatum, is set in the 1950s and “follows a single day in the life of a studio fixer who is presented with plenty of problems to fix”, the statement said.

The Coen brothers have been leading figures of international cinema for more than 30 years, since their debut film “Blood Simple” in 1984. They have won Academy Awards for several of their films, including “Fargo” and “No Country for Old Men”, and also have appeared regularly at the Berlin film festival, notably with “The Big Lebowski” in 1998.

Their western “True Grit” was the festival opener in 2011.— Reuters

Adele’s ‘25’ fastest million-selling album in UK chart history

LONDON — Adele’s “25” sold 1 million copies faster than any album in British chart history and topped the album charts for the second week running on Friday.

Fans bought up 1 million copies of the British singer’s third album in just 10 days, beating previous record holder Oasis’ “Be Here Now”, which took 17 days to hit the milestone in 1997, the Official Charts Company said. Coming four years after her chart-topping album “21”, 25 sold 439,000 copies this week and outsold the rest of the top 10 albums combined.

Elsewhere in the album charts, Elvis Presley held second position with the “If I Can Dream” compilation while Justin Bieber’s “Purpose” held on to third.

Bieber and Adele are also fighting it out in the UK singles chart, with Bieber pushing his own single “Sorry” out of number one position to replace it instead with “Love Yourself”, Adele’s “Hello”, from 25, followed at number three.

Love yourself was the most streamed single of the week with 5.97 million plays.— Reuters

‘Star Wars’ proves treasure trove for philosophers

As any philosopher will tell you, there is a lot more to “Star Wars” than a bunch of spaceships, light sabers and princesses.

Rich in mythology, symbolism and theology, the movie franchise set in a galaxy far, far away has provided philosophers with a treasure trove for earthbound philosophers to explore.

Fans have been watching the films countless times, said Caleb Grimes, the Virgin-ia-based author of the “Star Wars Jesus” book and website, believes young Luke Skywalker’s initial yearning for something more in life echoes “our desire to know a personal God.”

Philosophers debate whether human-like droids, such as R2-D2, are conscious or self-aware, and how could that be tested. The Imperial Stormtroopers have long been likened to Nazi armies, and many feminists view Princess Leia’s gold metal bikini and metal-collars as evidence of the popular cliché of the feminine ideal of strength and beauty. Backen, who has seen the movies countless times, said that although the characters are not actively wrestling with philosophical concepts, the movies help explain a lot of human experience through their stories.

“It’s another way that students want to express their fanatism,” Turner went on a treasure hunt for the play after seeing a reference to it in a biography of Miller, who was one of Marilyn Monroe’s three husbands.

He said the Arthur Miller Foundation, which had heard of the play but not seen it, gave him permission to ask the University of Michigan to search its archives.

Six weeks later they came back with a microfilm copy of it—but a scanned version of his original transcript is there, complete with handwritten penciled notes,— Turner said.

The play, like many of Miller’s works, draws on the dynamics and interactions of Miller’s own family. His father, who had immigrated from a village that is now part of Poland, owned a clothing manufacturing business in New York City but the family lost almost everything in the 1929 Wall Street Crash. The plot centers on a student who had immigrated based on Miller, returns home from university filled with Marxist ideas, to challenge his father, who is struggling to keep the family business afloat in hard economic times.— Reuters

Arthur Miller’s first play to have London world premiere

LONDON — It is hard to believe that a decade after his death, and a hundred years after his birth, the first play Arthur Miller wrote could be landing its world premiere, but that is what will happen in London next week.

“No Villain,” which Miller wrote at 20 as a literature major at The University of Michigan, and which won a $250 prize that helped fund his studies, will be performed at the 60-seat Old Red Lion Theatre from Tuesday into early January.

Sean Turner, a 29-year-old director, unearthed the play in an Arthur Miller archive, “courted” the foundation that owns the rights to allow him to put it on, and says that while it may not be the equal of “Death of a Salesman” or “The Crucible” it is a worthy part of the Miller canon.

“I can see why there is a temptation to say it was probably ‘lost’ for a reason, so let’s leave it there,” he told Reuters at the theater in a pub in Islington.

“But I don’t think it was ever lost for a reason, I think he just didn’t have the means with which to produce it. There doesn’t seem to be any evidence to suggest that he thought it was a God and there is good evil.” Caleb Grimes, the Virginia-based author of the “Star Wars Jesus” book and website, believes young Luke Skywalker’s initial yearning for something more in life echoes “our desire to know a personal God.”

Philosophers debate whether human-like droids, such as R2-D2, are conscious or self-aware, and how could that be tested. The Imperial Stormtroopers have long been likened to Nazi armies, and many feminists view Princess Leia’s gold metal bikini and metal-collars as evidence of the popular cliché of the feminine ideal of strength and beauty. Backen, who has seen the movies countless times, said that although the characters are not actively wrestling with philosophical concepts, the movies help explain a lot of human experience through their stories.

“It’s another way that students want to express their fanatism,” Turner went on a treasure hunt for the play after seeing a reference to it in a biography of Miller, who was one of Marilyn Monroe’s three husbands.

He said the Arthur Miller Foundation, which had heard of the play but not seen it, gave him permission to ask the University of Michigan to search its archives.

Six weeks later they came back with a microfilm copy of it—a scanned version of his original transcript is there, complete with handwritten penciled notes,— Turner said.

The play, like many of Miller’s works, draws on the dynamics and interactions of Miller’s own family. His father, who had immigrated from a village that is now part of Poland, owned a clothing manufacturing business in New York City but the family lost almost everything in the 1929 Wall Street Crash. The plot centers on a student who had immigrated based on Miller, returns home from university filled with Marxist ideas, to challenge his father, who is struggling to keep the family business afloat in hard economic times.— Reuters
Japan’s Eiheiji temple: a night’s stay in the 13th century

EIHEIJI — If you want to glimpse life that has not changed much in eight centuries, Eiheiji temple in the mountains just outside Fukui city in central Japan is the place to find it.

Just mind the monk with the stick, who may tap you with it if you fail to meditate.

Isolated from other parts of quiet Eiheiji town on Japan’s western coast, the complex of more than 30 buildings stands on a hill among a thick forest of tall cedar trees.

The temple, established by the Buddhist monk Dogen in 1244, is an active monastery where about 150 monks are in training. They follow the Soto Zen School’s traditional, simple ways of living and are happy to welcome you to join them.

Visitors can tour the temple for a day or stay there overnight as Eiheiji provides lodging, including two meals and the chance for zazen meditation and the reading of Buddhist scripture.

The charge is $65 ($65) per person for an overnight stay in a modern visitor’s building called “sodo”.

A monk lets his colleagues know the food is ready by ringing a bell that is actually a large piece of wood curved in the shape of a fish.

Monks keep their own lacquered dishes and cutlery. Their founding monk Dogen did not allow his followers to waste water, so after each meal, they rinse the bowls with hot water, drink the water, and clean the bowls with a cloth-topped stick.

Meals are all vegetarian dishes known as “shojin ryori”, derived from the dietary restrictions of Buddhist monks. The meal is served in a set of five lacquer bowls in different sizes that can be stacked together when not in use.

The day’s dinner may consist of a bowl of rice and miso soup, along with stewed vegetable and fried tofu, daikon and carrots marinated in vinegar as well as a dish with eggplants marinated with sesame.

Eiheiji’s special sesame (goma) tofu, something like pudding made from sesame paste, water and kuzu powder, is also served.

Visitors who stay overnight eat the same meal as the monks but during the meal, they are not allowed to talk or make sounds. When you finish, tea is poured into your cup and you dip chopsticks in it to wash them. You will use the same chopsticks for breakfast.

Visitors stay in a modern building called “kichijojuku” and are given a room with tatami mats with a futon and a table, but there are no amenities like television sets or mini-bars.

After a dinner that ends before 6 pm, visitors may take part in zazen. For this you sit with crossed legs on a “zafu”, or cushion, while you look down at the floor at a 45-degree angle, take a deep and slow breath and meditate.

You face the wall when you take part in Soto School’s zazen. If you cannot concentrate, a monk walking around could hit your shoulder with a wooden stick called a “kyosaku”.

In the morning visitors may join the reading of scripture that starts a little before 4 am. The sun emerges in the quietness of the temple and trees gradually gleam with light.

The whole experience ends after breakfast.—Reuters

Paris Christmas bookings suffer after militant attacks

BERLIN — Demand for Christmas trips to Paris has slumped following last month’s Islamist militant attacks in the French capital, according to data from travel information firm ForwardKeys.

Overall, net bookings — calculated by taking new bookings and deducting cancellations — recovered in the week starting 23 November, compared to the week immediately following the 13 November attacks, thanks to fewer cancellations.

New bookings, however, remain 25 percent lower compared to last year, and Christmas demand has stagnated at pre-attack levels. There is a lack of new bookings from all major source countries, including Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United States, Forward Keys said.

"Put another way, in a normal year bookings for Christmas would be accumulating well now but following the attacks, enthusiasm has been dented," CEO Olivier Jager said. Travel companies are feeling the impact, with several airlines saying the numbers of travelers heading to France are down, although many expect the effect will be short-lived. Didier Le Calvez, who is managing director of luxury hotel Le Bristol and heads the luxury section at hotel association UMH, said earlier this week that high-end Paris hotels had only sold 40-50 percent of their rooms for the end-of-year festive period, whereas normally they would be 80-90 percent booked.

The CEO of AccorHotels has said the French hotel group is seeing fewer last-minute bookings for the second half of December compared with a year ago and that the impact will probably last three to four months. The ForwardKeys database contains reservations handled by more than 200,000 online and offline travel agencies worldwide.—Reuters

(6-12-2015 07:00 am – 7-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh
07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Myanmar’s Export: Mango
07:35 Am Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am On the River
08:47 Am Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) “Ooi”
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Dawei - Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part Of Myanmar
09:44 Am Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art
09:52 Am Independent Filmmaker
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting
10:43 Am A Chance to Change Their Future

Prime Time
07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture”
07:50 Pm Today Myanmar
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm The Great Po Sein
08:51 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Maung Zaw

(11:00 Am – 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am – 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm – 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am – 11:00 Am)

For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule
Saints won’t sell even for 100 million pounds, says Koeman

LONDON — Southampton manager Ronald Koeman is adamant they will not lose any players in the January transfer window and dismissed speculation that striker Sadio Mane is set to move to Manchester United or German champions Bayern Munich.

Mane, who joined Southampton from Salzburg last season, was strongly linked by British media with a move to United in the close season and has scored seven goals for the Saints in all competitions this campaign.

“We will sell nobody in January. Nobody. Even when they pay 100 million (pounds),” Koeman said at his pre-match news conference on Friday.

The Dutchman added that despite the reported interest, Mane was not yet the finished product.

“I think he (Mane) can still improve in some cleverness to know what’s his position on the pitch,” Koeman said.

“I think still he can be more dangerous if he knows exactly when to have that movement in the space behind the defenders.

“And in front of the goal he can be a more scoring player, but he’s young, a great player, and it’s a pleasure to work with (him).”

Twelfth-placed Southampton host bottom side Aston Villa on Saturday.

They won the corresponding fixture 6-1 last season when Mane grabbed the fastest hat-trick in Premier League history, but Koeman is expecting more of a fight from Remi Garde’s men.

“They are in a difficult, dangerous situation in the table. They need the points and they will react because they have qualities,” he said.

Saints captain Jose Fonte has returned to training after recovering from the knee injury he picked up against Manchester City at the weekend.

He could return to the heart of Southampton’s defence against Villa, after missing the 6-1 drubbing by Liverpool in the Capital One (League) Cup in midweek.— Reuters

David Beckham says new site secured for Miami football stadium

MIAMI — After a two-year-long search, retired English football star David Beckham and a team of investors said on Friday they had secured a site in Miami where they hope to build an arena for a Major League Soccer team.

Miami Beckham United said in a statement that most of the nine-acre tract just west of Interstate 95 in the urban Overtown neighbourhod was private property that it had under contract to buy for an undisclosed sum.

Miami-Dade County owns the remainder of the land, which the group said it plans to buy at “fair market value” once the site is approved by the MLS Board of Governors, which is expected to meet on Saturday.

The league’s Commissioner Don Garber said this week that if a deal for a stadium could not be finalised, then Miami was not going to have a MLS team.

“We appreciate the support and patience of our fans who share David’s dream of fielding a world-class soccer club in Miami,” Miami Beckham United said.

“We’ve never been closer to making that vision a reality.”

The move caps nearly two years of failed efforts by Beckham, American Idol founder Simon Fuller and Sprint chief executive Dan Hesse to lure a team.

Beckham was not yet the finished product.

But Koeman is expecting more of the same.

“Tenth-placed Southampton host bottom side Aston Villa on Saturday.

They won the corresponding fixture 6-1 last season when Mane grabbed the fastest hat-trick in Premier League history, but Koeman is expecting more of a fight from Remi Garde’s men.

“They are in a difficult, dangerous situation in the table. They need the points and they will react because they have qualities,” he said.

Saints captain Jose Fonte has returned to training after recovering from the knee injury he picked up against Manchester City at the weekend.

He could return to the heart of Southampton’s defence against Villa, after missing the 6-1 drubbing by Liverpool in the Capital One (League) Cup in midweek.— Reuters

Toro Rosso to use Ferrari engines next year

LONDON — The Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso team will use year-old Ferrari engines in Formula One next season, both sides said on Friday.

Toro Rosso used Renault power units this year and the switch was expected after Red Bull fell out with the French carmaker.

“Toro Rosso and Scuderia Ferrari have reached an agreement that will see our team use the current Ferrari power unit in the 2016 Formula One season,” they said in a joint statement.

Renault will be returning as a full works team next year after taking over Lotus while Red Bull will use an engine provided by Renault but with the branding of the team’s new partner, luxury watchmaker Tag Heuer.— Reuters

Real thrown out of Cup over ineligible player

MADRID — Real Madrid’s woes deepened on Friday when the Spanish football federation (RFEF) expelled them from the King’s Cup for using an ineligible player in Wednesday’s last 32, first leg match at third-tier Cadiz.

Real included Denis Cheryshev in their starting lineup for their first match of the 2015-16 competition even though he should have been serving a one-match suspension and the Russians forward opened the scoring in a 3-1 victory.

Real president Florentino Perez insisted on Thursday the club had not broken the rules as neither Cheryshev nor Real were notified he was banned.

In a nine-page ruling published on Friday, the RFEF sharply criticised Real, saying they should have been aware of the sanction, and as well as disqualifying the club fined them 6,001 euros (£4,320). Already smarting after bitter rivals Barcelona thrashed them 4-0 at the Bernabeu in last month’s La Liga ‘Clasico’, it is another embarrassing setback for the world’s richest club by income following their failed attempt to sign Spain goalkeeper David De Gea from Manchester United in the close season.— Reuters