State Counsellor calls for responsible investment by Japanese Companies

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Japanese business leaders yesterday and invited responsible investment by Japanese companies for the stable development of Myanmar.

At the working luncheon hosted by the Japanese Business Federation Keidanren and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry-JCCI at the Imperial hotel yesterday, the State Counsellor also called for Japanese support for a job creation-based economy in Myanmar, saying, “We do not want to be a resource-exporting country. The only resource that we want to truly develop is human resources.”

“My country is very complex. We are not at peace yet. There is still armed conflict between various armed groups in our country. We must have peace in order that our development may be stable and sustainable,” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told Japanese business leaders at a separate event earlier in the day.

“In order to have peace, we have to make sure that development is equitable. We want all ethnic people to feel that they have equal chance to progress in our country,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

At the luncheon, Dr Akio Mimura, Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry clarified preparations for promoting economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the evening, Yoshihide Suga, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

At the dinner, Yoshihide Suga said the Japanese government would cooperate with the Myanmar government to implement as soon as possible the agreement reached between the leaders of the two countries during the visit of the State Counsellor.

He also expressed delight for the visit of the State Counsellor, saying that the visit yielded three results: Japanese government’s pledges to give assistance to the Myanmar’s new government; exchanging views between the two leaders on promoting relations between the new generations of the two countries, and the State Counsellor’s offer to Japanese companies to invest in Myanmar.

—Global New Light of Myanmar

Diplomats respond constructively to handling of violence

DIPLOMATS who visited Rakhine State responded constructively to the government’s handling of the situation after 9th October violent attacks on border guard police posts at a press conference held at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Not all incidents in Rakhine State affected local people as negatively as they were accused of...

Diplomats including the U.S. and British ambassadors and EU and U.N. officials visited early this week the areas where armed violent attacks happened killing nine police officers at border posts with Bangladesh in Maungtaw Township on 9 October.

Not all incidents in Rakhine State affected local people as negatively as they were accused of...

Diplomats including the U.S. and British ambassadors and EU and U.N. officials visited early this week the areas where armed violent attacks happened killing nine police officers at border posts with Bangladesh in Maungtaw Township on 9 October.

Not all incidents in Rakhine State affected local people as negatively as they were accused of...

Diplomats including the U.S. and British ambassadors and EU and U.N. officials visited early this week the areas where armed violent attacks happened killing nine police officers at border posts with Bangladesh in Maungtaw Township on 9 October.
Maungtaw returns to normalcy

Schools that were temporarily closed due to violent attacks on 9th October have been reopened since 24th October and shops in markets have returned to normalcy, according to local people and teachers.

“Our school has about 2,300 students and 69 teachers but we don’t have enough rooms for all of them. We have to teach them in morning classes (from KG to Grade-4) and afternoon classes (from Grade-5 to Grade-11). We need a fence at the back of the school,” Daw Hla May Thein, headmistress of No.2 Basic Education High School in Maungtaw, said.

There are a total of 183 schools in Maungtaw including primary, middle and high schools. Although majority of schools have been reopened, a few have not yet.

“Our school, No.1 BEHS, has been reopened since 24th October. We have 1,640 students and 54 students’ altogether. However, only about 400 students came back to school yesterday as some parents are too worried to send their children to school,” U Aung Myint Thein, the headmaster of BEHS(1), said.

Similarly, shops in markets in Maungtaw are also beginning to get busy. “Although we cannot sell as much as before, business is becoming brisk.” U Hla Moe, a shopkeeper from 3-Mile Ward in Maungtaw, said.

“The functions of our hospital have never been affected by the violent attacks. We are still running the hospital as before,” Assistant Surgeon Dr Myat Tun Khaing of the hospital said.—Myanmar News Agency

More policemen deployed in northern Rakhine

MORE border guard policemen will be deployed for the security of the area in Rakhine State, with concurrently local ethnic youths to be allowed to serve as regional members of the police force, it is learnt.

A high-ranking official of Myanmar Police Force said, “Any one wishing to defend their land and gain peace and stability of the area will be allowed to join the police force as regional members. They are required to have their names enlisted and to undergo prescribed trainings. After training, they will be provided with salaries, provisions and fringe benefits.”

Ethnic youths aged 18 to 35 will be accepted as trainees. Training camps will be in Sittwe and Maungtaw townships only. After courses they will be deployed in their locations.

He added, “In performing area clearance operations and tasks of security enforcement, defending people’s depredation is the highest on the totem pole of our aims and we are carrying out in accord with international standard.” In exercising force for area clearance, four matters are focused at being in accord with the law, taking accountability, being adjustable and using only the amount needed.—Myanmar News Agency

Police seized pistol and rounds of ammunition

THE police seized a pistol and some rounds of ammunition used by violent attackers who launched an assault on two police guards in Norula Police Post on Thursday.

The police were hot on the heels of violent attackers and they found the weapons while clearing the route of their withdrawal yesterday.

The police post staffed with 11 members of the Border Guard Police came under attack about six attackers who arrived at the police post by motorbikes. They started firing on two guards but had to withdraw when other police returned firing and reinforcement from the Tatmadaw arrived, sustaining injuries and leaving their bikes.

“We had exchanged fire with them for five minutes when members of the Tatmadaw re-inforced us. One of them was injured in the exchange of fire. We saw some blood patch on the ground,” Police Lieutenant Kyaw Myint of the post said.

One police lance-corporal lost his life during the attack and another one was injured.
—Myanmar News Agency

Myinlook Ywarthit Police Outpost abandoned by Border Guard Police Station put on arson

ATTACKERS and those who are related with them put an old police outpost on arson at 2:30pm or so today. It was a thatched cottage with bamboo wall mat. The fire destroyed 2 dormitories, one cooking house and a banker and it was extinguished at 3:30.

The above outpost was abandoned on October 11. Its nearby area was being cleared by security forces, it is learnt.
President visits Maesae border trade zone and Kyat limestone cave

President U Htin Kyaw went on a pilgrimage to Taungwe and Myonnan Pagodas at Siri Min-galar Hilllock in Loikaw, offering sacred water, flowers and donation.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Than Myint, U Thein Swe, U Pe Zin Tun, State Cabinet Chief Minister U Al Phaung Show, Li-Gen Aye Win of Defence Services, commander of the eastern command Brig-Gen Win Min Tun, deputy minister Maj-Gen Than Huht and responsible officials.

Afterward, the President and party arrived at Maesae Border Trade Zone in Maesae, cordially meeting with town elders, departmental heads, merchants, entrepreneurs and locals.

In the meeting, President said, “The Union Government, in consultation with departments concerned, will grant necessary support to Kayah State Maesae border trade project, assuming that it is the one which will bear sustainable benefits to the Kayah State and the Union of Myanmar as well.”

U Maw Maw, Kayah State minister for state project and finance explained, “There is a system of illegal black marketing between the two countries. To implement the situations in which legal trade can be made freely, border trade zone must be built as soon as possible. We need consider potential benefits, finance allowance and requirement and matters as to allowing free visa between the two countries.

U Khin Maung Phyu, state minister for transport and communication, explained needs and difficulties experienced in building more bridges promoting construction of Loikaw-Maesae road.

Towners, merchants and locals discussed matters concerning development of border trade, urban sprawl and urban regeneration and allowing locals to buy timber for construction of buildings.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint clarified matters on promoting of commerce and trade sector with Union Minister U Thein Swe on arrangements of opening border trade zones with neighboring countries and Union Minister U Pe Zin Tun on project for sufficient power supply in the region under way.

In reply to discussions, the President pledged that the present visit was aimed at helping to solve difficulties of national brethrens, and to support in sectors of economy, education, health and agriculture for the progress of the region. He added that all people were also responsible to perform their duties assigned to them with concerted effort, in unison.

Then President posed for a documentary photo with local youths, departmental personnel and people.

In the afternoon, President and party visited the natural limestone cave—Kyat Cave and went to Kyatgutawya Reverend Sayadaw Baddhanta Vayama to pay respect and offertories such as rice, cooking oil and dry rations.

In the evening, President and party left Loikaw by air for Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency

Suspects are under investigation, innocent ones start to be released

IN the October 9 violent armed attacks which happened in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, border guard policemen were killed and some injured with arms and ammunitions looted by attackers.

As a result, the combined force of Tatmataw troops-policemen waged area clearance operations and finding out attackers, abettors, those involved and suspects. Now those arrested are being investigated in accord with law.

As of November 2, there were 113 suspects in all who were held for investigation—3 in Sittwe Myoma police station, 5 in Maungtaw Myoma police station, 49 in Ngakhu and 56 Pyinphyu police station. Out of them, 38 found to be innocent were released—3 from Maungtaw Myoma police station, 15 from Ngakhu and 20 from Pyinphyu.

And, one from Pyinphyu kept as suspect was released on bail.

74 suspects held on remand are now under investigation—3 from Maungtaw Myoma police station, 15 from Ngakhu and 35 from Pyinphyu.

During investigation, there was no torture, and all were recorded on video files, it is learnt.

If those investigated need medical treatment, doctors and health staff are giving timely medical care.—Myanmar News Agency

Diplomats respond constructively to govt’s handling of violence

>> FROM PAGE 1

At the press conference, the diplomats also welcomed the government’s cooperation with them to give access to aid workers in norther Rakhine state, where deadly attacks on police border guard posts took place.

“We hope that this is the first step for greater access for us to resume humanitarian assistance,” said U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scott Marcio.

In Tokyo yesterday, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pledged to resolve ethnic conflicts, including the tensions in Rakhine state, and called for investment from Japanese companies for stable development.

“All the incidents that have taken place in Rakhine will be examined and that will be done in accordance with our laws and regulations. We will find out what really happened and then action will be taken accordingly, in line with the rule of law through due process,” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told a press conference in Tokyo.—Global New Light of Myanmar with Kyodo News

Photo: MNA
Water supply project opens in two villages in southern Shan State

A WATER supply project with four tube-wells and water supply facilities sponsored by KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation was inaugurated in Myogyi Village and Kyungyi Village in Ywagan Township, Shan State (South) on 29th October, benefiting local people.

The two tube wells and a concrete water tank with a storage capacity of 2,000 gallons each were established in the two villages, supplying drinking water to more than 5,100 people in total and cattle in the villages. “Thanks to the water supply facilities, we can get access to drinking water sufficiently and no longer need to worry for scarcity of water,” said a villager.

As part of its water supply project, the philanthropic foundation has successfully drilled more than 180 tube wells in the areas which were experiencing water scarcity.

BFM has brought back home 2,294 Myanmar nationals, who were detained at 11 camps in Malaysia, in October, providing them upon their arrival with K100,000 each and clothes.

The philanthropic foundation also sponsored returns of more than 3,100 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia, more than 500 from Port Blair, India, and more than 510 trafficked workers from Benjina Island, Indonesia, last year.

As part of the effort to brace for La Nina in the upcoming winter, the BFM has imported clothing from China at the cost of more than US$2 million to distribute to residents, including IDPs, in areas which are expected to experience extreme cold weather.

The warm clothes were delivered to ethnic people in Lahe, Naga Self-administered Zone, IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ng and Maethawaw in Kayin State, to IDPs in Namtu and ethnic people in the Mandalay Region. The delivery of warm clothes to areas which are expected to be hit by extreme cold weather continues, the BFM said.

The foundation has also established K100 million disaster preparedness fund each in fourteen regions and states this year. —Thura Lwin (Eco)

Four-lane bypass aims to reduce traffic problems

A NEW four-lane bypass will be built by the Oriental Highway Company in Nawngkho, a town in Kyauktaw District of western Shan State, to reduce traffic jams and road accidents along Gottwin Road Session.

Currently, the company is conducting soil tests in target areas as before starting construction of a new four-lane bypass that will help road users reduce travelling time. Compensation is being prepared for land owners in the project areas.

A company spokesperson said the company’s soil test in Nawngkho is nearly finished. At the same time, the land compensation plan has been submitted to the authorities.

The four-lane asphalt road will be built starting from mile post No. 72/5 to 92/5, which will be about over 12 miles. Thanks to the new bypass, travelling time for over six miles can be reduced.

A four-lane bridge under construction has also been developed on the Nawngkho side and the new bypass will support the new bridge to reduce traffic problems.

The Oriental Highway Company got the green light from the State government to implement the project after finishing soil tests and a land compensation process. —Aung Thant Khaing

Traffic Police dealing with OCC complaints

THE TRAFFIC Police have already taken legal action for violation of traffic rules in regard to 12,767 cases of complaint out of 17,633 cases uploaded to the Online Complaint Centre (OCC) via Viber, it is learnt from the Traffic Police Company No. 2.

OCC has been opened to enable the public to file complaints for violations of traffic rules, said a traffic police officer.

“As the internet connection is not good for about five days, we find it difficult to take prompt action. The outstanding cases from October will be carried forward to November. So, this month will find us busy,” said Police Lt-Col Aung Ko Oo from the Traffic unit. There have occurred altogether 148 cases of traffic accident in the month of October within the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) area. A total of 28 people were killed and 163 other injured.

“The cases of complaint involve clearance of traffic jam in addition to accidents, for which action has been taken according to the Motor Vehicle Law,” said a traffic policeman. —Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Caldina hits road divider on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A CALDINA van driven by one Myo Myint collided with the road divider causing flat tire of left-sided front wheel on the morning of 4th November. The collision happened between mile-posts 109/1 and 109/2, near Phyu Highway Police Station on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. No one was injured in the accident but the damage of the vehicle amounted to Ks 3 lakhs. The reckless driver has been charged by Phyu Police Station under Section 279 of the Penal Code. —Than Oo (Laemy-ethnar)

Heroin, stimulant tablets seized

AN ANTI-NARCOTIC squad from Lahsio Township seized heroin and stimulant tablets from a motorcycle near Oriental toll gate, Myo Shoung Street, Lahshio on 3 November. Acting on an information tip-off, the police stopped and searched the motorbike driven by one Aung Myint with wife Ma Kyi Kyi Than on board. The local police found heroin weighing 110 grams and 2,145 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, Pa’O people’s militia seized 4,050 stimulant tablets from a motorcycle ridden by Htet Wai Phyo with Phyo Ko Lo Lin aboard on Mong Pyin-Taunggyi Road near Sin village, Taunggyi. And the local police also searched a motorcycle ridden by Kyaw Hoe and seized 3,900 stimulant tablets.

Police have charged them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —Myanmar Police Force

High incidence of diabetes in Yangon

THE prevalence of diabetes is higher in Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar, than other regions and states because of unhealthy, sedentary lifestyles, according to the Myanmar Diabetes Association.

The commercial capital of Myanmar ranked first with the highest prevalence rate of 18.2 per cent, while Nay Pyi Taw was found to have the fewest cases of the disease, the association announced.

Ten per cent of people between the age of 20 and 65 in Myanmar are infected with the chronic disease, with the association planning to expand its project areas to raise awareness about the silent killer.

Diabetes is a long-term condition that causes high blood sugar levels. The disease occurs when the body cannot produce enough of the hormone insulin.

People need to change their lifestyle and leave unhealthy eating habits to prevent and control the chronic disease, according to medical experts.

Myanmar has one of the highest rates of diabetes in Southeast Asia. According to the 2003 public survey in Yangon, 12 out of 100 adults in the big cities of Myanmar are caused by diabetes, with estimates that three in 100 people in the hilly regions may have this chronic disease.

The International Diabetes Federation’s figure shows 382 million people, or 8.3 per cent of adults worldwide are diagnosed with diabetes, over 46 per cent of whom do not notice any warning signs. —200
ASOCIO ICT Summit 2016 to be held in Myanmar

THE 42nd Asian Oceania Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) ICT Summit 2016 is scheduled to be held on 15-16th November in the Novotel Hotel.

The theme of ASOCIO ICT Summit 2016 is Accelerate Digital Transformation through Leveraging ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Opportunities. The role of ICT, free trade in ASEAN, ASOCIO’s role and electronic trade will be discussed. ASOCIO Board Meeting, ASOCIO General Assembly 2016 and ASOCIO ICT Summit with high-profile keynote speakers, ASOCIO Awards Presentation and business matchmaking among delegates and with potential local business partners or high officials will be conducted.

Additionally, creating opportunities for those who are engaged in the IT field will be discussed, said U Zaw Min Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF).—200

No fishing zone for six freshwater creeks

THE Thaton district fishery department has designated six freshwater creeks in Bilin and Thaton townships as no fishing zones. The awareness campaign will be launched starting on 4 November.

The six freshwater creeks were designated as no fishing zones on 5 October. If people are found fishing in these creeks, action will be taken against them under the Mon state Fishery Law.

Township administrative authorities will launch awareness campaigns for local people.

“We will educate the villagers not to fish in the no fishing zone. If we find a person fishing, we will take action against them,” said Assistant Director U Saw Lin from the Thaton district fishery department on 3 November.

“We have designated six freshwater creeks as no fishing zones to sustain fish resources, conserve the environment for fishery work to develop systematically and to improve the eco-system”, he added.

No fishing zone include Ma Than Khe Creek, Ye Sakhan Creek, Mayangon Creek in Bilin township and Pyi Tho Sit Creek, Ka Taik Kalay Creek in Thaton township.

There are 13 freshwater creeks in Kyaikhto township, seven creeks in Bilin township, 16 creeks in Thaton township and three creeks in Paung township in Thaton district. Among them, only four freshwater creeks from Bilin township and two freshwater creeks from Thaton township have been designated as no fishing zones.—Myitmyukh News Agency

Thirteen foreign banks allowed to operate in Myanmar

A TOTAL of 13 foreign banks have been allowed to operate in Myanmar, and Shinhan Bank is among the four new foreign banks that have been given preliminary approval to open 100 per cent-owned branches in Myanmar.

Shinhan is the first Korean bank that has received a foreign bank license to launch a branch in Myanmar. Shinhan Bank will provide services to enhance bilateral trade, investment and offer various banking services for investors in Myanmar to encourage the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The four new foreign banks granted approval from CBM are the Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV), E.Sun Commercial Bank, Shinhan bank and State Bank of India.

Banking operations play a crucial role in the country’s economic development, said U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). The grand opening ceremony of Shinhan Bank was held on 1st November in Hotel Seda, attended by U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, the governor of CBM, U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission, Governor Mr. Zin Woon Seob of Financial Supervisory Service of Korea, Mr. Yoo Jar Kyung, the Korean ambassador, Shinhan Bank President and CEO Mr. Cho Yong Byoung, the authorities concerned and the officials from Korea, CBM and local private banks.

Myanmar plays a vital role in tapping deeper into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations market, said Shinhan Bank President and CEO at this opening ceremony.—Myanmar News Agency
SEOUL — A tearful and apologetic South Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Friday her “heart was breaking” over a political scandal that has engulfed her administration, pledging to cooperate with prosecutors in their investigation.

Park has been rocked by an influence peddling scandal involving an old friend, sending her approval ratings to just 5 per cent, a 12 percentage point drop from last week and the lowest since such polling began in 1988, according to a Gallup poll released on Friday.

In a brief televised address to journalists, Park said that prosecutors should clarify what happened and that she feels embarrassed if found guilty.

“It is hard to forgive myself and sleep at night with feelings of sorrow,” Park, 64, said, her voice trembling.

A prosecution official told Reuters, the second member of Park’s former inner circle of advisers has planned a large street protest for Saturday evening demanding that Park step down.

A group of civic organisations has planned a large street protest for Saturday evening demanding that Park step down. A former Park aide, Jeong Ho-seong, was arrested late on Thursday on suspicion of leaking classified information, a prosecution official told Reuters, the second member of Park’s former inner circle of advisers to be arrested this week.

Prosecutors asked a court on Thursday to arrest for another former adviser, An Chong-bum, on suspicion of abuse of power and attempted extortion, a prosecutor said, declining to elaborate. An has been under emergency detention since Wednesday.

Park’s long-time friend, Choi Soon-sil, 60, is alleged to have used her closeness to the president to meddle in state affairs, and her lawyer has said he expects prosecutors to look into whether she inappropriately received classified documents and benefited unlawfully from two non-profit organisations.

“It is very miserable and regrettable that a particular individual is said to have taken profits and committed several unlawful acts, while we are working on a job in hopes of helping the national economy and people’s lives,” Park said, referring to Choi.

Park closed her remarks with a bow and walked towards a row of journalists and repeated her apology. She did not take questions.

“I think she’ll manage to regain a bit of sympathy from the people who used to like her, but the speech itself was not enough to fix the crisis at hand,” said Kim Man-heum, head of the Korea Academy of Politics and Leadership, a research organisation. Park acknowledged carelessness in her ties with Choi, who has said helped her through difficult times.

“It is true that I lowered the wall of caution myself because she stood by me in difficult periods in my life,” Park said.

“I’ve already cut all the connections in my heart but from now on will completely break my private connections.”

Their friendship dates to an era when Park served as acting first lady after her mother was killed by an assassin’s bullet intended for her father, then-president Park Chung-hee. Five years later, in 1979, Park’s father was murdered by his disgruntled spy chief.

Choi, who has been in custody since Monday, told South Korea’s Segye Ilbo newspaper last week that her long-time friend, An Chong-bum, sent her approval by an influence peddling organisation. Park acknowledged carelessness in her ties with Choi, who has said helped her through difficult times with Choi, who Park has said helped her through difficult times.

South Korea’s Park says ‘hard to forgive myself’ for political crisis

BANGKOK — Thailand’s junta and ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra are the world’s biggest rice exporters, world’s second-largest rice exporter.

Yingluck visited rice farmers in the northeastern province of Ubon Ratchathani. Thailand’s rice farmers have traditionally supported the Shinawatra family.

“Low rice prices are a truth and a burden for the people who should be able to, and the responsibility of, every government,” Chayika Wongnapachant, Yingluck’s niece and aide, wrote on Twitter, along with photographs of a tearful Yingluck next to farmers in Ubon Ratchathani.

On Thursday, Yingluck visited rice farmers in the northeastern province of Ubon Ratchathani. Thailand’s rice farmers have traditionally supported the Shinawatra family.

“Low rice prices are a truth and a burden for the people who should be able to, and the responsibility of, every government,” Chayika Wongnapachant, Yingluck’s niece and aide, wrote on Twitter, along with photographs of a tearful Yingluck next to farmers in Ubon Ratchathani.

Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she arrives at the Supreme Court for a trial on criminal negligence looking into her role in a debt-ridden rice subsidy scheme during her administration, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4 November 2016.

Photo: Reuters

Thailand’s junta and ousted PM Yingluck seek rice farmers’ support ahead of 2017 election

Manas SanSernwar said the former premier not to use farmers for political gain. “I believe people will be comfortable with the fact farmers’ problems are being used as a political tool,” SanSernwar said.

Manas Rapta, head of the A 2007 US diplomatic cable described the senior Chai as the “Korean Rasputin”, an allusion to a close adviser to the last tsar of Russia.

“Is there any talk that I fell into a cult or I held a shamanistic ritual at the Blue House,” she said. “I am saying clearly: none of this is true.” —Reuters

Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she arrives at the Supreme Court for a trial on criminal negligence looking into her role in a debt-ridden rice subsidy scheme during her administration, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4 November 2016.

Photo: Reuters
A combination photo shows US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump (L) at a campaign event in Charlotte, North Carolina, US on October 26, 2016 and US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during a campaign rally in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, US on October 27, 2016. Photo: Reuters

Trump gains ground on Clinton: Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation

NEW YORK — The race for the Oval Office tightened significantly in the past week, as several swing states that Republican Donald Trump must win shifted from favouring Democrat Hillary Clinton to toss-ups, according to the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project.

The two presidential candidates are now tied in Florida and North Carolina, and Clinton’s lead in Michigan has narrowed so much that the state is too close to call. Ohio remains a dead heat and Pennsylvania is now tilting to Clinton. While Clinton remains the odds-on favourite to win Tuesday’s election, Trump now has a plausible route to victory, especially if there is a sharp fall in turnout among African-Americans from the levels of the 2012 election.

Still, Trump must win both Florida and North Carolina to have a good chance of winning the White House. Clinton could lose both states and still win.

The States of the Nation project estimates Clinton’s odds of winning the needed 270 Electoral College votes at about 90 per cent, down from 95 per cent last week. If the election had been held on Wednesday, the project estimates, she would have had 256 solid electoral votes and an estimated final tally of about 302 votes, to 236 for Trump. Last week, she had 278 solid votes and a final tally of 320 votes, to 218 for Trump.

By any measure, however, Trump has had a good run in the past week. He has seen his support grow in 24 states while losing ground in 11. Conversely, Clinton’s support grew in 13 states while shrinking in 22. Trump’s gains came in a period in which he had few new controversies to fend off, while Clinton faced renewed scrutiny of her email practices.

Most respondents to the latest survey were asked about their support for the candidates after FBI Director James Comey announced last Friday the agency was examining newly discovered emails that might pertain to Clinton’s use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Comey had concluded in July at the end of a year-long FBI probe of the email issue that there were no grounds to bring any charges against Clinton. His brief letter to Congress last week said the new trove of emails might or might not be significant.

Trump and other Republicans seized on the news to question Clinton’s credibility, while Democrats complained it could unfairly influence voters so close to the election. The States of the Nation project is a survey of about 15,000 people every week in all 50 states plus Washington, D.C.— Reuters

UN Secretary-General’s message on World Tsunami Awareness Day

5 November 2016

Today marks the first observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day. On this day, in 1854, a Japanese village leader recognized the signs of an approaching tsunami and improvised a remarkably effective early warning system— he set fire to his rice sheaves, saving the lives of the many villagers who saw the smoke and ran uphill to help put out the flames.

Over the years, early warning systems have grown more sophisticated, particularly since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which claimed nearly 226,000 lives. That tragedy prompted the introduction of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

In September this year, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO invited disaster management officials from 24 countries around the Indian Ocean to participate in one of the largest tsunami simulation exercises ever organized. The importance of simulation exercises and evacuation drills is underlined in a report released today by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It highlights how the World Tsunami Awareness Day serves as a reminder of the importance of reducing current and future levels of risk. This should be a clear guiding principle for all those working in the public and private sectors who have to take decisions on major infrastructure projects in seismic zones and near exposed coastlines. Tsunamis may be rare, but, like any other natural hazard, if we fail to prepare and raise awareness, then we risk paying a heavy price.—UNIC/Yangon

Paris climate pact enters into force, focus shifts to action

LONDON/WASHINGTON — A landmark global accord to combat climate change officially entered into force on Friday, putting pressure on countries to start executing plans to slash greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming.

The 2015 Paris Agreement was agreed last December by almost 200 countries and has been described as the most complex global treaty since the Marrakesh (trade) Agreement, signed in 1994.

The Paris accord passed a threshold on 5 October of 55 nations accounting for more than 55 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, allowing it to come into force 30 days later.

Ratification was swift compared to other international treaties, showing strong international support, but around 100 countries have yet to ratify it.

“This is a moment to celebrate. It is also a moment to look ahead with sober assessment and renewed will over the task ahead,” United Nations’ climate chief Patricia Espinosa said in a statement.

“In a short time — and certainly in the next 15 years — we need to see unprecedented reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and unprecedented efforts to build societies that can resist rising climate impacts,” she said.

The Paris Agreement seeks to keep the world economy off fossil fuels in the second half of the century, limiting the rise in average world temperatures to “well below” 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above preindustrial times.

It also notes an ambition to limiting temperature rise even further to 1.5 degrees.

The pact kicked off a rolling start in the Pacific region on Thursday, home to low-lying islands states which are in danger of rising sea levels.

On the same day, the annual report of UN Environment analysed countries’ current pledges for emission cuts and said they were not sufficient. Even if emission-cutting pledges under the Paris agreement are fully implemented, predicted 2030 emissions could put the world on track for a temperature rise of 2.9 to 3.4 degrees Celsius this century, the report said.— Reuters

13-year-old Aussie girl charged with 21 counts of theft, break-in offences

SYDNEY — A 13-year-old Australian teenager has shocked the police to the core after racking up a total of 21 charges during a three week crime spree around Cairns, Queensland.

The Cairns Property Crime Squad Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Gary Hallen told News Corp on Friday that all 21 alleged offences that were committed by the girl, including break-ins and car theft.

“She’s been travelling with male friends and relatives who have been involved,” Hallen told News Corp.

“She’s been influenced by friends and relatives, but she’s actively involved,” he said. In a statement police said the girl was detained at a Whitley Street residence at Mooma on Thursday. —Xinhua

Journalist killed by roadside bomb in Helmand Province, Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan) — A journalist working for Afghan television station Ariana News was killed by a roadside bomb in the southern province of Helmand on Friday, his employer said, adding to a growing toll on media workers in Afghanistan this year.

Witnesses said Nematullah Zahir had been travelling with other journalists on a police operation just outside the provincial capital Lashkar Gah when their vehicle came under fire and police advised them to leave the main road.

Shortly after leaving the road, the vehicle hit an improvised explosive device and Zahir was killed.

Ariana News confirmed the death in a statement posted on Twitter.— Reuters

54 killed in Indonesia’s sunken boat

Jakarta — The death toll of a speedboat which sank in western of the country on Wednesday rose to 54 on Friday with 6 others still missing, rescuer said.

Search for the missing persons is underway now, involving rescuers from navy, police, local search and rescue office, local disaster agency personnel and volunteers, said Marsudi, spokesman of national search and rescue office.

“Dozens of bodies were discovered by rescuers today (Friday). And search and rescue operation continues now,” he told Xinhua by phone. Mr. Marsudi disclosed that 41 people had been rescued safely in the sea incident.—Xinhua
History and human progress

Myint Win Thein

E

VERY student has to learn history at school because the correct understanding of the past helps them, at the very least, not to repeat the same mistakes made by their predecessors. In this sense, the same mistakes of predecessors could be committed by posterity again and again if history was not taught at school.

This is also the case with the teaching of incomplete historical facts with incorrect conclusions. Misguided history and erroneous conclusions lead students to a faulty understanding of present events. As their understanding of the world is incomplete, they cannot make correct decisions and could commit the same mistakes like their predecessors.

When a country is not united and prosperous, it is almost surely because it has not been able to emanipulate itself from past mistakes. This may be one of the reasons why the new government reformed the Myanmar History Commission and urged its members to compile correct history with facts, noting that history texts written by successive governments were just praise for the ruling classes.

In a recent meeting, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko told historians to review all history and bravely rewrite it with the facts. He also pointed out that the depiction of some famous events in ancient as well as in recent history, such as what occurred in Myanmar during last five decades, should be examined and rewritten with the facts.

If historians were able to rewrite history with facts, the country could avoid repeating the past mistakes and move toward to a democratic federal union in the future. History and human progress are interrelated.

To become an effective teacher

Dr. Myo Win
Yangon University of Education

I

AM an associate professor in Methodology Department, Yangon University of Education. I entered my teaching profession as a primary assistant teacher in a state primary school in Thebyu village, Labutta township in 1981. So I have been a teacher for about 35 years.

May I share my teaching experience with the reader?

To be frank, I did not know how to teach at that time. Children were very playful. I wanted them to sit still while I was teaching. But, as soon as I stood with my back to them they started to move. I wanted them to study. But they wanted to play. While I wanted them to be silent, they wanted to make a lot of noise. When they did not obey me, I became angry. When I became angry, I used to beat them. As a teacher, I loved my children. So I wanted them to understand what I taught. When they did not understand what I taught, I scolded or beat them. My children were often scolded or beaten. But they still did not understand what I wanted them to understand. My action did not fulfill my wish. Why? I could not answer that question at that time.

In 1986, I attended one year JAT training course in Pathein Teacher Training College to be a junior assistant teacher. In that course, I had to study educational theory among other academic subjects. I still remembered what the principal said at an assembly. He said that a teacher is similar to a shepherd. The only thing a shepherd can do is to take all the sheep to a stream to have a drink. But he cannot make every sheep drink water. Those sheep which are not thirsty do not want to drink water even though they are at the stream. After his speech, I at once remembered my children in Thebyu primary school. Was I a shepherd who could not make my children drink water? The principal left me one question—How should the teacher motivate his students if they do not bring their own intrinsic motivation into the classroom?

After JAT training course, I attended B. Ed one year course in Institute of Education in 1987. In that course, I had to study educational theory, educational psychology, methodology and two specialized subjects. After studying educational theory, I started to know that to be a good teacher, he must have at least two qualifications: academic qualifications and professional qualifications. To possess academic qualifications, a teacher must know his subject. To possess professional qualification, the teacher must know how to teach his subject effectively. To be able to do so, educational theory, educational psychology and methodology help a teacher. After studying educational psychology, I came to know children psychology. Then I realized why my children in Thebyu primary school did not do what I wanted them to do. As I realized the nature of children, I also realized how to use extrinsic motivation if students did not bring their intrinsic motivation into the classroom. Now I could answer the question that I could not when I was a primary teacher. I also understood the importance of ASK. Then I realized it is not easy to become an effective teacher. A person who earns his living as a hunter must know the habit of wild animals. He must also know how to use his bow and arrows skillfully. Otherwise, he cannot become a good hunter. If a village boy is asked to hunt deer, giving him a bow and arrows, he cannot be expected to hunt animals simply because he is not skillful in hunting. At least, he must learn how to hunt under the control of an experienced hunter.

Why do we teach? We teach our students because we want them to develop attitude, skills and knowledge. In fact, the objective of teaching is not only to develop students’ academic performance. If a teacher places too much emphasis on the subject he teaches, they can be said to be dutiful only one third of his duties. He must also make his students physically strong. He must have the ability to relate his students’ theoretical knowledge in the classroom with practical application for his real life. The third part which is technically well disciplined, kind-hearted, patriotic, etc. so that they will become useful members of the society.

While I was a tutor in Thegon Teacher Training School in Pyay in 1995, I attended M. Ed course in the University of Yangon from 1995 to 1998. In one module in the course, I had to study professional ethics. To be able to say that one is a professional, he must have at least three qualifications: expertise, commitment and ethics. Without these three qualifications, one cannot be said to be a professional. To be an expert in one field, one must have training in that field. Without training, one cannot become a professional. I became a tutor in Yangon Institute of Education in 1999. As in Pathein TTS, there was usually staff meeting at the end of every month. I still remembered rec- tor’s speech at one meeting. He said that when there was a strong wind, Mr. A built a great wall and Mr. B built a windmill. Some time, the wall was broken down but the windmill still produced electricity. What he wanted to point out was not to prevent nature but to use it. Again, I immediately remembered my children in Thebyu primary school. In fact, when I was a primary assistant teacher, I was Mr. A. A good teacher knows how to exploit the nature of children in his teaching. Therefore, language games, teaching through playing are successful in teaching children.

In conclusion, the teacher plays a vital role in education. The future of the society depends on the youth of this society. In the same way, the future of the youth also depends on the teacher. Therefore, we, the teachers should always try to become effective teachers. —To teachers
Arrangements made to arrest attackers at large

UNION Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Rakhine State Chief Min-
ister U Nyi Pu, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, UN resident coordinator Ms Renata Dessallin and ambassadors arrived at no 1 border guard con-
trol camp of Kyikyanpin, Maung-
taw township, Rakhine State on the morning of November 2.

On their arrival, Pol Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin clarified in detail violent surprise armed attack the Koethauk and Ngakhuwa police outposts on October 9.

He added, “After the attack, Tatmataw-Police Combined forc-
es pursued attackers, launching area clearance operations and blockage of potential routes. Out of arms looted from Kyikyanpin, 13 units were recaptured. Begin-
ning from 10 October, authorities concerned are continuously carry-
ing out process of administration and security of the area, rule of law. As the first stage, we took measures for these armed attacks not to turn into religious and ra-
cial conflicts, concurrently avertining more Tatmataw troops and police forces to increase region-
al security by Tatmataw-owned helicopters. As the second stage, security measures were made by deploying more troops in key out-
posts for attackers not to be able to launch fierce fighting. Thirdly, for aggessive attackers not to sever communication including river-
ine routes, security arrangements were increased, but there were slight travels these days for fear, and we are transporting them un-
der the supervision of departments concerned. As the fourth stage, we did try to contact the village administrators via administrative bodies to call for locals to keep staying and for displaced people to return home. At the same time, lengthening of curfew period is being carried out depending on the situation of respective town-
ships with the instruction of the State Cabinet. As the fifth stage, for the administrative machinery to smoothly run, we have taken measures in consultation with responsible officials of Rakhine State Cabinet for governmental staff to resume their routines.”

Rice and basic foodstuff sup-
ported by Tatmataw, ministry of border affairs, ministry of social
welfare, relief and resettlement Department, the state government are be-
ing delivered in convoy to distant villages facing food shortage due to these armed attacks.

Police force was equipped with non-lethal weapons to pro-
tect villagers and mobs. Those ar-
rested were investigated in accord with the law without torturing them, with time for sleeping and taking meal granted. All investi-
gations were recorded on video files. Families of the deceased were allowed to hold their funer-
al rituals according to their tradi-
tions.

Arrangements are being made to arrest attackers at large, to recapture lost firearms and am-
munition.

Till October 19, in 12 head-on confrontations, 5 Tatmataw-men, 9 border outpost policemen and 3 civilians were killed, with 2 arms from Tatmataw and 64 units from policeforce, 10140 ammunition, 173 cartridges and 47 bayonets looted. 33 bodies of attackers were recovered and 89 suspects under arrest and investigation.

In a news release issued by the President’s Office on October 14, it is described that those inves-
tigated stated that the attacks were manipulated by AKALMUL MU-
JAHIDAN led by RSO-related extremist HARVIT TUHAL.

HARVIT TUHAL posted 4 video files on social websites on October 12 in which the former invited them to wage Jihad op-
eration in Maungtaw region and commit suicidal bomb attacks.

Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofo Ann-
am, former UN Secretary-Gen-
eral formed on August 24 visited Myanmar during September 3-8 just prior to the armed attacks, discussing with governmental of-
icials and dignitaries from both societies, with their findings to be reported.

Myanmar will never accept any terrorist attacks and make re-
response to them and their abettors, with a view to protecting national security and depredation of the people in accord with Myanmar Constitution, anti-terrorism law and other existing laws and regu-
lations.

Accordingly, responsible of-
icials replied to the questions raised by UN resident coordinator and diplomats. —Thapay

Three-day land mine awareness workshop held in Kayin state

A WORKSHOP to raise aware-
ness on landmines left by the war was conducted in Kayin state Red Cross society from November 2 to 4, attended by 12 volunteers from Kya-in-Seikkyi and Hlaingbwe townships.

Under the guidance of Kay-
in State Social Welfare, Relief
and Resettlement Department, the workshop was jointly conducted by Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

“We will conduct landmine awareness training to seven town-
ships in the Kayin state. Also, My-
anmar Red Cross Society and In-
ternational Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will assist the people who are suffering from landmines and other explosive remnants of war. After the course, participants will share information with the people two times per month,” said U Tin Moe Kyaw, mine awareness coach and coordinator from Myan-
mar Red Cross Society.

“The villagers will not be interested in who laid these landmines. They may be interested in how to protect themselves against those landmines. So, we will share our information to prevent further harm,” said a volunteer called New Thidar Htway from Kya-in-Seik-
kyi township.

State Social Welfare, Relief
and Resettlement Department conducted the five-day land-
mine awareness training course in August in cooperation with UNICEF.—Myitmakha News Agency

Compensation paying ceremony of Myanmar Insurance in progress

Myanmar Insurance pays
compensation of Ks44
million as fire insurance

MYANMAR Insurance paid out
over Ks 44 million to households who bought premium for the fire
insurance in Mandalay highway
express supervisory committee
hall on 3 November.

The building was destroyed by the fire around 6 pm on 20 Oc-
tober. The compensation for fire
insurance is paid depending on the
amount of the losses.

“Buying the insurance premi-
un can protect the insurers, and
the burden upon government can be reduced. Two out of 10 houses from the town buy the fire insur-
ance premium,” said U Aye Min
Thein, Managing Director of My-

ann Insurance.

The compensation awarding
ceremony was attended by the authorities of Myanmar Insurance and staff from the relevant depart-
ments.—Myitmakha News Agency

Letter to the Editor

Reply to “As before, Sir”

opinion piece on Oct 11 Issue

As everything is changing at every nano-second, I am not as
before, Ko Kyaw Kha.

I am U Sein Win(Chemistry Department), now 70 years old.

With the help of my friend, I came across to read your opinion
piece “As before, Sir”. I have never been an atheist but seemed
to be an atheist because Buddha was hidden in my heart when I
was young. May I let you know that U Tin Than is still working
at Myanmar Statistics Research Company (MSR), but U San Tin
already passed away two years ago unfortunately.

I want to congratulate Ko Kyaw Kha on acquiring the knowl-
edge, understanding, and wisdom of Buddhist thoughts.

Sincerely,
U Sein Win

Photo: Myitmakha News Agency

Photo: Myitmakha News Agency

Myitmakha News Agency

Myitmakha News Agency
Iraqi forces say step up attack on east Mosul

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi’ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul. Winning back the city would crush the Islamic State of a cross-border caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghda di from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but is for by the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline mili tants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led inva sion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech read on Thursday Bagh da/Erbil, (Iraq) — Iraqi special forces moved up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Fri day, seeking to expand the army’s foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major opera tion.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighbour hoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigirs river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy pall s of gray smoke rising into the sky.

Iraqi security forces launch a rocket towards Islamic State militants during clashes at the frontline in Ali Rash village, southeast of Mosul, Iraq, on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraqi forces say step up attack on east Mosul

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi’ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul. Winning back the city would crush the Islamic State of a cross-border caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but is far by the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline militants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech read on Thursday Baghdad/Erbil, Iraq — Iraqi special forces moved up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Friday, seeking to expand the army’s foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major operation.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighborhoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigirs river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy palls of gray smoke rising into the sky.

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi’ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul. Winning back the city would crush the Islamic State of a cross-border caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but is far by the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline militants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech read on Thursday Baghdad/Erbil, Iraq — Iraqi special forces moved up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Friday, seeking to expand the army’s foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major operation.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighborhoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigirs river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy palls of gray smoke rising into the sky.

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi’ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul. Winning back the city would crush the Islamic State of a cross-border caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but is far by the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline militants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech read on Thursday Baghdad/Erbil, Iraq — Iraqi special forces moved up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Friday, seeking to expand the army’s foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major operation.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighborhoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigirs river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy palls of gray smoke rising into the sky.

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi’ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul. Winning back the city would crush the Islamic State of a cross-border caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but is far by the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline militants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech read on Thursday Baghdad/Erbil, Iraq — Iraqi special forces moved up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Friday, seeking to expand the army’s foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major operation.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighborhoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigirs river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy palls of gray smoke rising into the sky.

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi’ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul. Winning back the city would crush the Islamic State of a cross-border caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but is far by the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline militants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech read on Thursday Baghdad/Erbil, Iraq — Iraqi special forces moved up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Friday, seeking to expand the army’s foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major operation.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighborhoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigirs river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy palls of gray smoke rising into the sky.
New heavy-lift carrier rocket boosts China’s space dream

WENCHANG (Hainan) — China on Thursday launched its new heavy-lift carrier rocket Long March-5.

The rocket, which looked much “fatter” than other rockets of Long March series, blasted off at 8:43 pm Beijing Time from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in south China’s Hainan Province. The payload was sent into the preset orbit about 30 minutes later.

The State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND) later announced the most complete success of the launch.

The launch was delayed for less than two hours from the previously scheduled time. Tian Yulong, chief engineer of the SASTIND, told Xinhua that as it was the first launch of Long March-5 in a new development, the parameters needed to be debugged and various systems needed to be matched with each other.

“It was normal preparation work to ensure a successful first launch,” Tian said, adding that it caught up with the launch window.

The major targets of the mission are to verify the design and performance of the new rocket and test the rocket’s flight programme, according to CASC, the State Administration of Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the developer of Long March-5.

A congratulatory letter sent late Thursday night by the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission hailed the new rocket as the pinnacle of innovation in carrier rocket science and technology.

A successful launch has propelled China to the forefront of the world in terms of rocket carrying capacity, and marks a milestone in China’s transition from a major player in space to a major power in science, the letter said.

The Long March-5 is a large, two-stage rocket with a payload capacity of 25 tonnes to low-Earth orbit and 14 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit, the largest of China’s carrier rockets.

Its carrying capacity is about 2.5 times that of the current main Long March carrier rockets.

According to the CASC, the rocket uses two kinds of fuel, kerosene/liquid oxygen as well as liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen, rather than highly toxic propellant, making it more environmentally friendly and less expensive.

The rocket is about 37 metres long, with a takeoff weight of 870 tonnes and a thrust of 1,060 tonnes. It is equipped with eight liquid oxygen/kerosene rocket engines in four strap-on boosters, two liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engines in the first stage and two relatively small liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engines in the second stage.

Li Dong, design-chief-in-chief, said the rocket was the most complicated of the Long March series with over 100,000 components instead of tens of thousands in other Long March rockets. Scientists conducted over 7,000 tests during its 10 years of development.

With a 5-metre diameter core stage, Long March-5 is much thicker than China’s previous carrier rockets with 3.5-meter diameter core stages. Other launch sites in China are located in inland areas. Accordingly, transporation of rockets rely on railways, so that rockets cannot be too wide.

The heavy-lift rocket launched Thursday was taken to coastal Wenchang from the northern port city of Tianjin by ship in early September.

“...not just a simple enlargement of the diameter, it raised new requirements of materials, manufacturing and equipment,” said Lou Luliang, deputy design-chief-in-chief.

Lou said the new technology in Long March-5 would be used in other Long March series rockets in a bid to upgrade their payloads.

The heavy-lift rocket is a milestone for China to become a real space power in the world, said Li Dong. Experts said the Long March-5 will also lay the foundation for future rockets with heavier payloads capabilities.

The heavy-lift rocket is of great significance as China’s space programme relies on the carrying capabilities of launch vehicle systems.

With the heavy-lift carrier rocket, China can build a permanent manned space station and explore the moon and Mars — Xinhua
Majority of Colombians back peace talks but see no deal this year

BOGOTA — A majority of Colombians support peace talks with Marxist rebels but they also doubt that the government will be able to reach a new accord with the country’s largest guerrilla group this year, a poll showed on Thursday.

The Gallup poll was published a month after a landmark peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, was unexpectedly rejected in a referendum.

The Gallup poll showed that 77 per cent of Colombians want a negotiated solution to the 52-year conflict that 80 per cent of Colombians support peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN), the country’s second-largest rebel group.

The government has postponed planned talks with the group pending the release of a politician held with the FARC by less than half of those polled by Gallup said the government would not reach a final accord with the FARC this year, while 37 per cent said it would.

The poll also showed that 80 per cent of Colombians support peace negotiations with the FARC, while only 19 per cent support a military solution.

But voters rejected a signed peace deal with the FARC by less than half a percentage point in the shock result of an 2 October referendum, meaning it could not be implemented. Opponents of the accord, reached after four years of intense negotiations, said it was too lenient on rebels who had committed crimes.

Many voters also opposed provisions that gave the guerrillas seats in Congress. The government and rebels alike had said the accord was the best that could be achieved. But the government is now fighting to salvage the peace deal and extended meetings this week in Cuba, where the talks took place, to continue meetings with the FARC leadership.

Sixty-one per cent of those polled by Gallup said the government would not reach a final accord with the FARC this year, while 37 per cent said it would.

The poll also showed that 80 per cent of Colombians support peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN), the country’s second-largest rebel group.

The government has postponed planned talks with the group pending the release of a politician held hostage.—Reuters

Russia says UN South Sudan mission ‘in ruins’ after firing

UNITED NATIONS— Russia on Thursday criticized UN chief Ban Ki-moon’s decision to fire a Kenyan peacekeeping commander in South Sudan as premature, saying the mission there was now “in ruins” after Kenya vowed to withdraw all its troops in response to the move.

Ban dismissed Lieutenant General Johnson Mogoa Kimani Onyekiti after an inquiry into the response by peacekeepers to several days of violence in the capital Juba in July found a lack of leadership and that UN troops failed to protect civilians. Kenya said it would withdraw some 1,000 troops deployed with the 13,000-strong peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, where UN peacekeepers have been deployed since 2011 when it gained independence from Sudan.

In an unusual move, Russia, a UN Security Council veto power, and Kenya publicly criticized Ban’s response to the report. “For us the decision was premature,” Russia’s Deputy UN Ambassador Petr Iliichev said. “We don’t have a special representative, she’s leaving, we don’t have a force commander, ... The whole structure is in ruins.”

Onyekiti became the force commander in June, just three weeks before the outbreak of heavy fighting between South Sudan President Salva Kiir’s troops and soldiers loyal to his rival, Riek Machar.—Reuters

Hurricane survivors’ lives in limbo as Haiti tries again to hold vote

JEREMIE, (Haiti) — Haiti launched its ill-fated presidential campaign for the fifth time in a year on Thursday, but people in the hurricane-destroyed southwestern town of Jeremie have more pressing concerns, such as staying alive and finding a home.

“We don’t have anywhere to live, cholera is killing people,” said Jolyseine Saint Preux, who, along with dozens of others, has been staying in a school being used as a shelter since Hurricane Matthew flattened much of the port town a month ago.

“We’d like the elections to take place, but with so many people here, it’s hard to make decisions about us,” said 29-year-old Saint Preux, who, along with dozens of other displaced people, has been living in a school being used as a shelter since Hurricane Matthew flattened much of the port town a month ago.

“This is not the right time,” said Jolyseine Saint Preux, a street vendor before the disaster struck. Matthew killed up to 1,000 people and 1.4 million remain in need of humanitarian aid, while tens of thousands are packed into schools and other buildings used as polling centers, raising questions about the viability of the vote set for 20 November. The storm has triggered one disaster after another. The area’s fertile farms lost their cotton, raising fears of famine. Water purification systems were destroyed, leading to a flare-up of cholera that had been all but conquered in the region. Flooding has compounded the damage and caused even more deaths. And social tensions have boiled up over the slow distribution of aid.

Add a history of political instability and previous elections marred by accusations of fraud by losing candidates and it is easy to see why many fear the new vote will not be seen as legitimate if it is held now.—Reuters
Venezuela opposition gives Maduro until 11 November to meet demands

CARACAS/SAN CRISTOBAL, (Venezuela) — Venezuela’s opposition exhorted President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday to set an election and start releasing jailed activists within days, while students opposed to Vatican-led talks protested in the streets.

The opposition coalition drew hundreds of thousands into the streets when authorities quashed its drive for a referendum against Maduro last month in the country of 30 million people.

But it suspended street actions out of respect for talks with the government that began at the weekend National Assembly mediated by a Papal envoy.

However, with one major party dissenting and many supporters fearful, Maduro is playing for time, opposition leaders said they would wait until 11 November before possibly quitting talks and returning to street tactics if demands were ignored.

Carlos Ocariz, an opposition mayor speaking on behalf of the coalition, reiterated their first demand was the revival of the referendum or a moving forward of presidential elections to the first quarter of 2017.

The next presidential vote is currently set for late 2018.

“Our second goal is the freedom of all political prisoners in Venezuela,” Ocariz said, referring to what the opposition estimate are around 100 Maduro critics unfairly imprisoned.

The coalition also wants to overturn Supreme Court rulings that have annulled the opposition-led elections for a National Assembly and to name a new board to the national election council, which it accuses of favoring Maduro. The 53-year-old socialist leader won election to replace his late mentor Hugo Chavez in 2013, but has seen his popularity plummet to just over 20 per cent amid an unprecedented economic crisis in the OPEC member.

— Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.11.2016 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.

— Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.11.2016 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.

— Reuters
‘A Street Cat Named Bob’ brings heartwarming tale to screen

LONDON — The heartwarming true story of a stray cat that helped change the life of a London busker musician gets a big screen adaptation in “A Street Cat Named Bob” that premiered in the British capital on Thursday.

Based on the book of the same name, the film stars “Clash of the Titans” actor Luke Treadaway as James Bowen, a recovering drug addict who upon returning from busking one evening in 2007 found an injured ginger cat at his sheltered accommodation.

Bowen nursed the animal, which he named Bob, back to health and soon realized the cat was inseparable from him, following him as he went busking in London’s central Covent Garden area. The sight of Bob on Bowen’s shoulders or sitting by his feet as he performed on the streets caught the attention of increasing numbers of passersby and led to a life turnaround and bestselling book for the busker.

“He gave me a reason to get up in the morning ... and now I’m standing here,” Bowen told Reuters on the red carpet with Bob perched on his shoulders. “A movie about a part of our lives is just mind blowing.”

While producers had several cats on hand for the shoot, Bob also starred as himself, with co-stars Treadaway and “Downton Abbey” actress Joanne Froggatt describing him as “a professional” on set.

“It was kind of an unusual experience filming in Covent Garden with real Bob on your shoulders but it was amazing,” Treadaway said. “He would just know what he had to do.”

Bob lay on Bowen’s shoulders throughout media interviews on the red carpet ahead of the film’s screening, for which the two were joined by Prince William’s wife Kate, who attended as patron of the Action on Addiction charity. Fans cheered as they saw Bowen and Bob, with some saying they had traveled from as far as the United States for the premiere.— Reuters

Meat Loaf serves up a glimpse of ‘Bat Out of Hell’ musical in London

LONDON — Rocker Meat Loaf’s 1977 breakthrough album “Bat Out Of Hell” has inspired a passionate love story for the stage, fusing the classic catalog of songs with some previously unreleased music.

“Jim Steinman’s Bat Out Of Hell — The Musical” will open at the Coliseum in London’s West End on 20 June, 2017 and run for a limited month-long engagement.

American musician Meat Loaf, born Marvin Lee Aday, told Reuters that it was lyricist and composer Steinman’s idea to open the musical in London instead of New York, because he felt music played a more integral role among the British audience.

“He felt the people in London and in Europe ... relied still on music to be part of their lives, where America really doesn’t. You used to mark time, events in your life, by music that was playing,” the Grammy-winning rocker said.

“Bat Out of Hell” became one of the best-selling albums in history, with hit singles such as “You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth” and “Two Out Of Three Ain’t Bad.”— Reuters

UN chief Ban honoured by Elton John AIDS Foundation

NEW YORK — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been honoured by the Elton John AIDS Foundation with its Founder’s Award, which recognizes “extraordinary contributions to the global effort to end AIDS”.

The non-profit organization, founded by veteran singer Elton John, gave away the award at its 15th annual “An Enduring Vision” Gala in New York on Wednesday night.

“He continues to be a vocal supporter for LGBT equality and HIV/AIDS advocacy, declaring LGBT rights as one of the great neglected human rights issues of our time,” John said of Ban’s efforts in promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights in September, when the award was announced.— Reuters

Meryl Streep to get Golden Globes lifetime award

LOS ANGELES — Meryl Streep, regarded as the finest actress of her generation, will get the Golden Globes lifetime achievement award at the annual ceremony in January, organizers announced on Thursday.

Streep, a three-time Oscar winner, will be presented with the Cecil B. DeMille award in recognition of her 40 years in the industry.

“She has always taken roles with strong female leads, creating art by showing vulnerability and portraying truth on the big screen. Simply put, she is a trailblazer, having paved the way for women in television, film and stage,” Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) President Lorenzo Sofia said in a statement.

“For shattering gender and age barriers, all with finesse and grace, the HFPA is humbled to bestow this honour upon her,” Sofia added.

The HFPA organises the Golden Globes awards for film and television, one of the biggest ceremonies in Hollywood’s long awards season. The 2017 ceremony will take place in Beverly Hills on 8 January.— Reuters
LONDON — Students in Asia have been notified that their scores on the writing section of last month’s ACT college-entrance exam are being cancelled, in the latest example of how standardised test makers are struggling to contain an international epidemic of cheating.

The incident comes just months after ACT Inc., the Iowa-based nonprofit that operates the test, was forced to cancel its exam for all takers in South Korea and Hong Kong. That incident, in June, marked the first time the high-stakes exam was cancelled for an entire country.

ACT spokesman Ed Colby declined to say how many students were affected by the October score cancellations, which he said involved test centres in Asia and Oceania. He described the incident as “a frustrating and complicated situation for our students,” said Kristin J. Dreazen, president of the international affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counselling.

The day before the ACT was administered on 22 October, Reuters obtained a copy of an ACT writing test on the subject “Faime” that an Asian source said had leaked and was to be given the next day. Test administrators in Asia were instructed shortly before the test to substitute a different essay topic than the one that originally had shipped. Colby declined to comment on the test questions obtained.

Reuters reported in July that ACT’s test security unit repeatedly had recommended tightening security overseas before the June breach, but that ACT executives had rejected the recommendations. The organisation said it laid off the head of the unit. ACT’s chief executive, Marten Roorda, has declined to be interviewed.—Reuters

LONDON — Students in Asia have been notified that their scores on the writing section of last month’s ACT college-entrance exam are being cancelled, in the latest example of how standardised test makers are struggling to contain an international epidemic of cheating.

The incident comes just months after ACT Inc., the Iowa-based nonprofit that operates the test, was forced to cancel its exam for all takers in South Korea and Hong Kong. That incident, in June, marked the first time the high-stakes exam was cancelled for an entire country.

ACT spokesman Ed Colby declined to say how many students were affected by the October score cancellations, which he said involved test centres in Asia and Oceania. He described the incident as “a frustrating and complicated situation for our students,” said Kristin J. Dreazen, president of the international affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counselling.

The day before the ACT was administered on 22 October, Reuters obtained a copy of an ACT writing test on the subject “Faime” that an Asian source said had leaked and was to be given the next day. Test administrators in Asia were instructed shortly before the test to substitute a different essay topic than the one that originally had been shipped. Colby declined to comment on the test questions obtained.

Reuters reported in July that ACT’s test security unit repeatedly had recommended tightening security overseas before the June breach, but that ACT executives had rejected the recommendations. The organisation said it laid off the head of the unit. ACT’s chief executive, Marten Roorda, has declined to be interviewed.—Reuters
Turkish torture as Manchester United lose again at Fenerbahce

LONDON — Manchester Unit-
ed’s woes deepened as stunning goals by Monisa Sow and Jer-
emain Lens gave Fenerbahce a 2-1 Europa League win on Thursday that left Jose Mourinho’s side facing a battle to reach the knockout stages.

Without a victory in four Premier League games, United desperately needed a morale-lift-
ing result in Turkey but were undone by a brilliant second-minute overhead kick from Sow and a superb curling set piece by Lens before Wayne Rooney smashed home a consolation.

While Mourinho’s men are third in Group A, Zenit St Petersburg, Ajax Amsterdam, Shakhtar Donetsk and Schalke 04 have all sauntered through to the knock-
out rounds with two matches to spare.

What Mourinho would give for an in-form striker like Athlet-
ic Bilbao’s Aritz Aduriz who became the first player to score five times in a Europa League match, his haul comprising three penalty kicks in a 5-3 triumph over Racing Genk in Group F.

A gloomy pall has descend-
ed over Mourinho’s reign at Old Trafford with the manager under scrutiny for his team’s poor start and the disciplinary problems that have earned him a domestic one-match touchline ban.

After victories in their last two group games, Europe’s second-
tier competition had supplied United with some relief from their league struggles but they were sliced apart by Fener-
bahce who exposed some glaring defensive weaknesses.

The two spectacular goals they conceded, however, were almost unstoppable.

The match had barely begun when Sow flung himself on the edge of the box into an overhead volley from a floated cross, smash-
ing the ball past United keeper Da-
vid De Gea and into the top corner.

Fenerbahce then took a stranglehold on the tie when Lens stepped up to nonchalantly curl a free kick around the wall and into the corner 14 minutes after the restart, leaving De Gea rooted to the spot as the ball bulged the net.

It should have got a lot worse for United when second-half substitute Emmanuel Emenike threatened three times to extend the lead before Rooney drove the ball home from 25 metres to set up a nervy finish.

It was United’s start, howev-
er, that most displeased Mourn-
ho who railed at the lack of inten-
sity in their play.

“Our problems started in our global attitude. They were playing the Champions League final, we were playing a summer friendly,” he told BT Sport.

United, who suffered an in-
jury blow when the world’s most expensive player Paul Pogba was forced off in the first half, are now a point behind group leaders Feyenoord and Fenerbahce with two games remaining.

Zenit defeated Irish side Dundalk to maintain their per-
formance record in Group D while Shakhtar hit five for the second time in Group H as they over-
came Belgians Gent 5-3.

Ajax reached the last 32 with a 3-2 Group G win over Celta Vigo while Schalke won Group F after goals from Junior Caicara and Nabil Bentaleb secured a 2-0 victory over Krasnodar and a fourth straight triumph.

Southampton, playing in the third tier of English football six years ago, came from a goal down to beat former European royalty Inter Milan 2-1 in a tem-
pestuous encounter in Group K.

Zenit’s Mauro Icardi gave Inter the lead with a well-struck finish be-
tween the posts.

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney scores their first goal during their UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Group A at SK Sukru Saracooglu Stadium, Istanbul, Turkey on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Infantino says World Cup plan would keep dream alive for more teams

ZURICH — FIFA president Gianni Infantino says his plan to expand the World Cup soccer fi-
nals is less drastic than his critics suggest, and would create more excitement for fans, broadcasters and sponsors.

The Swiss-Italian was elect-
ed president of the sport’s world govern-
ing body in February, having promised as part of his campaign to expand the World Cup from 32 teams to 40. In Oc-
tober, however, he suggested that from 2026 the tournament could have 48 teams, although 16 of those would be eliminated after a single game.

The plan has attracted fierce criticism. Germany coach Joach-
im Loew expressed concern about a “watering-down of qual-
ity”, while the chief executive of leading German side Borussia Dortmund described it as “com-
plete insanity”.

But Infantino told Reuters in an interview it was simply a case of holding a round of playoff matches before the tournament proper. In effect, he said he was proposing a 32-team tournament preceded by a knockout round which would be held in the same country as the tournament itself.

“Actually, it is 32 teams but with an additional playoff round where you can bring in teams from different confederations and make sure the best 32 quali-
fy for the group stage,” he said.

The qualifying competition for a World Cup ends the preceding November, but Infantino said his plan would keep the alive the dream of qualifying until June for an extra 16 teams, compared with the present system, and al-
low them a taste of the tourna-
ment’s atmosphere.

“If we shift the last Novem-
ber date into June, then we move the whole perception of 16 more countries in the world. “It is the World Cup fever you can create in a country from November un-
til June, and this brings in kids who register in clubs, broadcast-
ers who go to the local associa-
tion, sponsors, the whole football movement in a country is really boosted.”

The winners of the 16 initial playoff games would go through to join 16 teams already sure of their places thanks to superior results in the qualifying stage.

The rest of the tournament would take place as usual, with eight groups of four.

In the interview, Infant-
ino also said he wanted to bring greater transparency to the sport’s murky multi-billion-dol-
lar transfer system and support-
ed the idea of introducing squad size limits to stop the “hoarding” of players by rich clubs.

He said an alternative sys-
tem for the World Cup could be to introduce a final round of two-leg intercontinental playoffs played home-and-away.

“That is also an option but if you stage a playoff outside the World Cup atmosphere, you have not really qualified for the World Cup; if you qualify for the World Cup, it’s a much bigger event,” he said.

A single match playoff would also give a better chance of upsets, he said. “In a one-off match anything can happen.”

— Reuters