KIA, TNLA set fire to vehicles

TROOPS of KIA and the TNLA stopped vehicles on Union Highway near Nangphalon village thirteen miles away from Kutkai yesterday morning and torched two 22-wheel vehicles and a passenger bus, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office.

Another group of the combined KIA/TNLA armed groups also set a Prado on fire on the highway about sixteen miles away from Kutkai yesterday morning and torched two 32-wheel vehicles and a passenger bus which was on its way near Nangphalon village thirteen miles away from Kutkai yesterday morning.

The armed groups also sabotaged bridges and destroyed trucks on the Union Highway since fightings with the government troops broke out last weekend. At least 11 civilians have been killed and 29 others injured so far. —Myanmar News Agency
More rations provided to villages in Maungtaw district

A responsible person said that food and other necessary commodities bought with the national fund on natural disasters were provided to villages situated in the southern part of Maungtaw by the ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement and the cabinet of Rakhine State, under the supervision of national management committee for natural disasters on November 25.

Dr Min Thein, director, the ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement said, “The present provisions were made in cooperation with responsible officials including Administrator of Maungtaw District. Food and other necessary commodities bought from the national fund on natural disasters to 4 villages in southern part of Maungtaw. In October provisions that are worth Ks 700 lach were given out, as were Ks 700 lach worth goods in November as well. The subventions were handed over to Rakhine State Cabinet and the cabinet supported rations—rice, cooking oil, salt, pea and etc. under the arrangement of responsible personnel including district administrator. Daw Htay Htay Khin aged 30 residing in Shwebaho village said, “This is the fourth time that provisions were given out to our village. Living in the daytime is convenient for us, but we are still feeling insecure at night. My husband is a car driver, having no occupation for the time being.”

According to U Tun Hla Aung of Khayemyaing village, they found it difficult to deal with paddies harvest, living and travelling although they have got such provisions.

Daw Ma Che of Oudaung village also said, “We thank a lot for such a donation. We feel happy and sorry simultaneously. Sadness was caused by inconvenience of living and working. We are not safe in going to forests and climbing up hills. We want to live in our home and village in peace.”

The villages include Shweyminaye, Khayemyaing, Shwebaho and Oudaung. U Ye Htut, district administrator, and Dr Min Thein gave words of encouragement in the tour of support. —A One Soe

Road network in Maungtaw district to be upgraded

U Aung Kyaw Zan, minister for electricity and road transport of Rakhine State Cabinet said, “Roads in Rakhine State were mostly built by ministry of construction. Though being endowed with road network, quality of those roads was in poor state. Most are gravel paths. It is possible to implement safety and development of the area by upgrading as roads usable for all seasons. Depending upon budget allotted for roads, all the roads will be likely to be built with aggregates.”

It is learnt that roads will be upgraded as aggregate roads to be able to lengthen road as much as possible as the first stage in developing the road network. And in this open season, the project for upgrading the road network will be launched as soon as the area gains peace and stability. —A One Soe

Cash provided to the injured in northern Shan State clashes

A ceremony to provide cash for people who have sustained injuries during the fighting in Shan State (North) was held in a ward at Muse Hospital yesterday afternoon, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office.

A total of K 5.8 million was provided to 28 wounded people. Those who were seriously injured were provided with K 300,000 each while those who were injured were presented K 100,000 each. The chairperson of Muse District Women Affairs Committee also donated K 20,000 to each injured patient. —Myanmar News Agency

INFORMATION Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office released the news that police of Norular police outpost extinguished a house fire that broke out because of the arson in Norular (south) village as no one came to extinguish the fire.

Seeing an unoccupied house owned by Adul Rawhein in Norular village catching fire, responsible personnel present cash assistance to a civilian receiving medical care at the hospital. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR’S OFFICE

16 more suspects involved in a series of armed attacks seized apprehended

THE State Counsellor Office’s Information Committee released the news that the government troops and border guard control police forces arrested 16 suspects involved in October 9 attack at 3 pm today between Thetkaipyin and Maungnama villages during the area clearance operation in Maungtaw, including Norukarmar residing in the village of Maungnama/south.

The detainees have been handed over to respective border guard police force in accordance with the prescribed rules and law, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

A house destroyed in an arson outbreak in Norular village in Maungtaw township

INFORMATION Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office released the news that police of Norular police outpost extinguished a house fire that broke out because of the arson in Norular (south) village as no one came to extinguish the fire.

Seeing an unoccupied house owned by Adul Rawhein in Norular village catching fire, responsible personnel present cash assistance to a civilian receiving medical care at the hospital. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR’S OFFICE

Fire destroys shops, house in Minbya

INFORMATION Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office released the news that police of Norular police outlet called to inform the head of the village named Maujub Rakaman to collectively extinguish the fire, but no one extinguished the fire. Thanks to timely action to extinguish, the fire did not spread to other houses. The arson destroyed only one human dwelling, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

Fire destroys shops, house in Minbya

TWENTY shops and one house were destroyed and five people were injured by a fire in Minbya, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The fire started while Maung Phy Hla (a) U Tin Hlaing of Tadau Street poured gasoline into a plastic container.

The fire brigade, the police and the public put out the fire in 45 minutes. About K 9 million was lost due to the fire. —Myanmar News Agency
First Myanmar-China (2+2) High-Level Consultations held

The First Myanmar-China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence was held yesterday 10 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was co-chaired by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Commander of No.(1) Bureau of Special Operation, Office of the Command-er-in-Chief (Army) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and General Xu Fenlin, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission of the People’s Republic of China.

During the meeting, the two sides cordially exchanged views on matters of security and development along borders of the two countries including stability along Myanmar-China border areas, China’s constructive support for the Peace Process of Myanmar, prevention of illegal entries, and development of legal trade in the border areas.

After the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin hosted a luncheon in honour of the Chinese delegation led by H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin and General Xu Fenlin at Thin Ga Ha Hotel.

The (2+2) High-Level Consultations meeting was aimed at strengthening the cooperation in security and management in the Myanmar-China border areas, and both sides agreed to hold the meeting annually in Myanmar and China alternatively.

Before the First Myanmar-China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, advanced meetings between Minister of State U Kyaw Tin and Deputy Minister H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, and between Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and General Xu Fenlin were held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence separately on 24 November 2016.—Myanmar News Agency

3rd Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue

No conflict in surprise area clearance raid in Longdon and Sinthabyin villages

The State Counsellor’s Office Information Committee released the news that security forces launched a surprise raid into Longdon and Sinthabyin villages on receipt of the information that there were attackers involved in a series of armed attacks hiding in those villages, facing no conflicts in the raid.

During the surprise area clearance raid, the government troops ensured the security of the village outside, inspecting the village at 6 a.m. or so today, accompanied by village elders.

—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar hosts ASEANPOST++ Business Meeting

The ASEANPOST++ Business Meeting was held at Hotel Novotel in Yangon on Tuesday morning.

Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung and Mr Mohd Salieh Mohd Shukrie, the chairman of the meeting, delivered opening speeches and presented the heads of postal service from ten ASEAN countries and their partners.

Participants discussed cooperation among all the relevant countries, regulations on bilateral express mail, issuance of ASEAN stamps, implementation of programs of the Universal Postal Union and financial services. Heads of postal services form partner countries like China, Japan and Korea and Hong Kong also took part in the discussions. The meeting, attended by over 30 representatives, is held alphabetically among ASEAN countries.—Myanmar News Agency

A suspected driver arrested

The State Counsellor’s Office Information Committee released the news that security forces found 3 suspected pajeiro vehicles going to and fro in front of 105-Mile Muse Trade Zone’s gate 4 at 7 a.m today and stopped them for inspection but they fled to Pansang Maungtan Gate, due to the fire from the security forces in the pursuit of them.

On receipt of the news that one San Aye aged 24 residing in Nambhei village was hospitalized with a bullet wound on the right shoulder at Muse hospital, responsible officials inquired him, finding the injured person to be the pajeiro driver who fled without being inspected at gate 4 of the Muse 105-mile trade zone.

The security officials are investigating the suspect as to whether he was involved in the armed groups, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency
500 people’s hospitals to be established in Yangon under new urban plan

Zin Oo, Nay Win Tun

IN COOPERATION WITH the Ministry of Health and Sports, Yangon Region government plans to expand or open at least 500 hospitals to provide better healthcare to the growing urban population, said U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction.

With regards to strategic urban development of greater Yangon, U Win Khaing said the population of Myanmar’s largest commercial city is estimated to increase to about 12 million by 2040. That is why the government makes concerted efforts to implement new urban planning,

which will include establishment of new towns with a good public transport system.

The government plans to carry out sector-wide development of the region within the next five years, planning to try to strike a balance among the health, education and social needs of urban residents.

With respect to the new transportation plan, authorities are implementing projects to construct bridges across the Yangon River as well as the Bago River, according to the cabinet member.

The region government will also develop a good transportation route to connect Thilawa to the towns of Taninthayi, Mon, Thanatpin and Theonegwa over the next five to seven years, the Union Construction Minister said.

He also disclosed housing plans that will provide about 8,000 apartments within two years, with plans to sell them at a price less than Ks10 million through an installment system.

The new plan will increase the number of low-cost housing units to 200,000 in five years. The government plans to construct up to 1 million low-cost flats in Yangon and Mandalay by 2030.

Over 800 jade lots sold out in Mid-year Gems and Jewellery Emporium-2016

THE 6th day of mid-year Gems and Jewellery Emporium for 2016 where jade lots displayed in the Maniyadana Jade Hall was crowded with foreign and local gem merchants in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 November.

Starting from the morning, traders went round the emporium to observe the jade lots displayed within the compound and submitting the tender for the jade lots which they want to buy at Myanmar Gems Emporium.

The event attracted 772 gems and jewellery companies from foreign countries and 608 gems and jewellery companies from within the country as well as 1,796 foreign gem merchants and 1,743 local traders.

A total of 828 gems and jade lots were sold out for 77.26 million euros at mid-year gems and jewellery emporium for 2016 yesterday.

The jade lots ranging from No.3601 to No.4800 will continue to be sold on 26th November, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Handmade bomb blasts at Yangon Regional Government Office

A HANDMADE bomb made of an energy drink bottle and chemicals exploded at the Yangon Regional Government Office yesterday.

There were no fatalities nor injuries in the blast that occurred around 5.30 pm. Security forces also found another homemade bomb near the site of the blast and detonated it safely.

The blast came as the latest in a series of similar explosions to hit Yangon following one that occurred at a local immigration office on Thursday and another explosion at a hypermarket on November 17.

— Myanmar News Agency

Crime NEWS

Security forces checking the drugs seized. Photo: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR’S OFFICE

W Y-Brand Amphetamine Tablets numbering 68,250 Seized In Maungtaw Township

ACCORDING to the Information Committee of The State Counsellor’s Office, security forces seized 68,250 tablets of WY brand amphetamine on board a long boat in Maungtaw township, Rakhine State.

During a riverine-patrol tour from Kaninjachaungwa to Tatchaung, security forces found a suspicious looking boat with 3 people on board. In spite of calling them by signaling with lights to come for inspection, they failed to do so. In pursuit of them by firing 5 scare shots, they fled into the Nipa Palm grove.

While pursuing them, 6,8250 WY brand pink amphetamine tablets in 7 packets packed with yellow tape on board the boat abandoned near the bank, costing Ks 1365 lakh of street value, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar traditional boxer killed in car accident

A 19-YEAR-old Myanmar traditional boxer was killed in a car accident on Wednesday in Mandalay, it is learnt.

“A motorbike collided with a vehicle. The accident occurred at 84th street traffic lights. He is a member of Swam Kay Kay United boxing club. He is a very promising boxing player. I really feel sad for him,” said U Dattha, secretary of Mandalay Region Boxing Sub-Committee.

According to the investigation, the motorbike driven by Min Naing Tun crashed with a car around 6 pm at the corner of 41st street x 84th street, Mandalay city. The police are still investigating the case.—Aung Thant Khye

Six injured in a car accident on Yangon- Mandalay highway

A VEHICLE en route to Yangon from Mandalay turned over between mileposts 205/6 and 205/7, on Yangon-Mandalay highway on yesterday, leaving six injured.

According to the investigation, a vehicle driven by Than Zaw Oo with the passengers on board capsized when the driver lost control. Six people were injured in the accident. The Red Cross Brigade members arrived at the scene and took the victims to the 1000-bed general hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.—Than Oo (Lay Myethmar)
Local Business

Truck drivers continue to send crabs to Muse despite attacks

Aung Thant Khaing

TRUCK DRIVERS continue to send the crabs to 105-mile trade camp in Muse from Mandalay in spite of the fact that a combined force of ethnic armed groups launched attacks near Muse border town, killing innocent civilians including a driver, say local traders.

U Ya Zar Tun, manager of Shwe Myanmar Sales Center said the exporters are facing difficulties to hire drivers to send the crabs in time to the buyers although the authorities reopened the Muse road on 23 November.

Since the next day after the attacks, border authorities granted trucks loaded with crabs before starting to go rotten, said U Ya Zar Tun, pointing out the importance of time to send the live crabs to Chinese market.

U Min Min from Htin Kyaw Sales Center said crab dealers faces losses because of the recent attacks that force crabs to go rotten.

The long delay on Muse road killed 30 per cent of total crabs being sent from Mandalay to Muse. A truck is normally loaded with over 100 baskets of crabs weighing 2,600 kilos.

Different kinds of marketable crabs have been sent to Mandalay from Sittway, Taungup and Pathein coastal towns.

Because of the this month’s attacks, the export volume of crabs has decreased by 25 per cent, according to the local exporters.

—Aung Thant Khaing

Export value of jade declines by USD 167 million this year

THIS YEAR’s export value of jade decreased by USD 167 million compared to the same period last year, according to the figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Between April and mid-November this year, export earnings from Myanmar’s jade reached over US$370 million. The country received US$544.157 million from the export of jade to foreign buyers for the same period last year.

Myanmar yearly exports over US$1 billion worth precious green stones uncovered from jade-producing Kachin State where a giant jade stone weighing over 170 tonnes was found last month.

Myanmar’s jade mostly goes to China, the largest neighbouring country, followed by India.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, there are over 950 jade blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant and other sites whose licenses will expire in November.

The export value of jade and other mineral resources of Myanmar dropped by over US$200 million in the first six months of 2016-2017 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

—Krhe Khant

AYA Electronics Lifestyle Fair 2016 on 26-27 November

ORGANISED by the AYA Bank, the two-day AYA Electronics Lifestyle Fair will take place in Mandalay Region on a grand scale.

The event is scheduled to be held on the fifth floor of Mandalay’s Diamond Plaza starting on 26 November, planning to feature a wide range of electronic items produced by popular electronic companies.

Consumer electronic devices, mobile handsets and the AYA bank’s services will be showcased at the fair with special discount programme that provide up to 15% discount to buyers who purchase any electronic products from partner shops of the bank with the use of AYA Credit Card including MPU, JCB and Union Pay Brand cards.

Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet, a well-known Myanmar economist, will share his knowledge at MICT Park in Mandalay on the opening day of the event. The title of his presentation is “Towards a cashless economy”.

Mon State Chamber of Commerce and Industry to form anew

LED by Mon State government, Mon State Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be formed anew, said U Min Htin Aung Han, Minister for Electric Power, Energy and Industry.

With the request of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the state authorities have decided to reorganize the MSCCI, he explained.

According to the organisational policy, the MSCCI will be formed every three year. It is difficult to establish the team again after over four years because of disputes among members, said U Tin Myint Oo, chairman of the Mon State Rice Merchants Association.

He added that members of the MSCCI dislike the current executive body of the team that forces to decrease its participation rate in the UMFFCCI’s activities.

Another point is that township representatives are not included in the existing state-level MSCCI, local merchants say.

The state authorities recently distributed applications to the Department of Consumer Affairs at each township to promote the involvement of township representatives, said U Min Htin Aung Han.

As of 24 November, the MSCCI has over 400 registered members. The state-level economic organisation was established over the past 17 years.

—Myitmaikha News Agency

Winter clothes from Mandalay sell well in Haka Township

CHINESE winter clothes have been sold well in Haka, the capital of Chin State, at the beginning of the cold season, according to dealers.

Those China-made warm coats for every age have been exported to Haka market through Myoma-Kalay Road from Mandalay.

Located in Northeast of Chin State, the town of Haka is more than 1,800 meters (6,000 feet) tall above the sea level.

The weather in the city is excruciatingly cold in winter months. Sometimes, the temperature drops to minus two degree Celsius. January is the coldest month of the year.

People in Haka need warm clothes every season. In winter, residents usually wear two or more coats to go around the town, U Tun Lin Oo from Mandalay, who visits Haka to sell warm coats.

“The sale of winter clothes increased to 20 from 10 coats per week,” said the seller, and “among different kinds of warm coats, people prefer leather jackets, bomber jackets and fur coats than cotton ones.”

A resident expressed his view that town dwellers need very warm clothes to protect against low temperatures this winter as the weather bureau has issued warning as regards the impending La Nina.

Starting from mid-December, the temperature of the city falls below zero, according to the Department of Metrology and Hydrology.
Death toll in China power plant accident climbs to 74

BEIJING — Police took 13 people into custody as the death toll in the collapse of a platform under construction at a power plant in eastern China rose to 74, with two others injured, state media said on Friday.

Deadly accidents are relatively common at industrial sites in China, where anger over lax standards is growing. Three decades of swift economic growth have been marred by incidents ranging from mining disasters to factory fires.

State news agency Xinhua said 68 of the 74 dead had been identified so far, with victims ranging in age from 23 to 53.

The accident happened on Thursday morning in Fengcheng, in Jiangxi province, during work on a cooling tower for the coal-fired power plant.

The official China Daily newspaper said the accident happened when a tower crane collapsed, triggering the collapse of the entire construction platform as the night shift was being relieved by the morning shift.

“We will conduct a serious investigation into the cause of the accident and hold those who are responsible accountable,” Jiangxi vice governor Li Yihuang was quoted as saying.

The company in charge of the plant, Jiangxi Gangneng Co, said in a stock exchange filing on Thursday it was cooperating with authorities.

The China Daily cited a company statement from September as saying it had started a 100-day campaign to speed up construction of the plant and take advantage of days with “fine weather”.

Yang Huanning, head of the State Administration of Work Safety, had already arrived on the scene to oversee an investigation into what happened and to collect evidence, the People’s Daily said.

His administration held an emergency meeting with departments all over China to learn the lessons of the accident to root out “hidden dangers” and ensure people’s safety, the newspaper said.

The official Xinhua news agency reported that police had taken 13 people into custody, but did not give further details.

China has vowed to improve its poor safety record.

President Xi Jinping has said authorities would learn the lessons paid for with blood after chemical blasts in the port city of Tianjin killed more than 170 people last year.

Shortly after these explosions, Yang Dongliang was removed from his post as director of the State Administration of Work Safety and later charged with corruption. He admitted during his trial on Thursday taking bribes and gifts worth 28.5 million yuan ($4.1 million). He will be sentenced at a later date. The two Yangs are not related.—Reuters

Japan’s MHI US Army vehicle suspension may mark milestone for defence exports

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) (7011.T) has designed a new suspension for the US Army’s Bradley Fighting Vehicle, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, potentially the first Japanese defence hardware built for export in decades.

The design is for an upgrade of the mainstay infantry carrier proposed by Britain’s BAE Systems (BAES.L). If adopted, it would be the first Japanese component designed specifically for a foreign military to be exported in seven decades. MHI and other Japanese defence companies are seeking overseas sales after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a ban on arms exports two and a half years ago. However, no significant export deals have been secured yet.

“It could be a pretty good deal for Mitsubishi Heavy,” said one of the sources who know about the partnership with BAE, asking not to be identified because he is not authorised to talk to the media.

The US Army currently has around 6,000 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and has asked BAE and rival General Dynamics Corp (GD.N) to submit proposals for new or upgraded vehicles to improve mobility, fire power and survivability.

The sources did not say how much the Japanese suspension will cost. Twelve of the suspension components would be needed for the twelve road “bogie” wheels per vehicle to cushion its tracks.

BAE displayed a prototype upgraded Bradley for the first time at the Association of the United States Army exposition in Washington in October, where it also displayed a mock-up of MHI’s suspension.

“It was simply displayed alongside the vehicle and at this time remains an early prototype, not a part of the vehicle,” a spokesperson for BAE Systems said.—Reuters

South Korea health officials disinfect a vehicle to prevent spread of bird flu in Pocheon, South Korea, on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Korea issues temporary nationwide standstill order to contain bird flu

SEOUL — South Korea’s agriculture ministry said on Friday a temporary nationwide standstill order for poultry farms and related transport will take effect over the weekend in a bid to contain a wider spread of H5N6 bird flu, a severe strain of the disease.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said in a statement that the movement control order will be put in place for 48 hours, effective from 1500 GMT on Friday — midnight in South Korea.

The move comes as the number of cases of the highly pathogenic H5N6 strain rose to six on Friday since the first cases were reported a week ago. About 730,000 birds have been killed to prevent the spread of the disease as of Friday, according to the ministry — under 1 per cent of the country’s poultry population of 84.7 million.

A new case was confirmed at a duck farm in the southwestern part of the country, where 16,700 ducks had been culled as a precautionary measure, according to the statement.

Kim Yong-sang, a senior official at the ministry’s animal health management division, said six cases were confirmed as of Friday with four other suspected cases still being tested.

“We believe infected migratory birds have spread the virus and each case occurred separately,” Kim said at a briefing. “Currently we are looking into whether the virus also has been spread between farms.”

Cases of human infection with the H5N6 virus have previously been reported elsewhere, including China and Hong Kong, with the virus killing at least 10 people in China since April 2014. No cases of human infection have been detected in South Korea.—Reuters
China considers granting Philippines access to disputed shoal adviser

BEIJING — China is considering a “wholesale” deal that will grant Philippine fishing vessels access to disputed Scarborough Shoal waters in the South China Sea, according to an analysis prompted by the political crisis in South Koreas democratically elected leader in February 2016.

South Korean political crisis hits Park rating, consumer confidence

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye’s approval rating fell to 4 per cent amid a deepening political crisis, marking an all-time low for any democratically elected leader in the country, according to an opinion poll released on Friday.

Askled about Wu’s comments, Chinese Foreign Minister spokes- man Geng Shuang said China would make “appropriate arrange- ments” to allow Filipino fishermen access to the waters, but did not give any further details.

China claims most of the energy-rich South China Sea. As well as the Philippines, neighbours Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.

South Korea political crisis hits Park rating, consumer confidence

BEIJING — North Korea on Friday denounced a recent agreement between Japan and South Korea that will allow the sharing of military intelligence, calling it a “hostile act.”

A Foreign Ministry spokesman released a statement threaten- ing that the signing of the pact on Wednesday will prompt North Korea to redouble its ef- forts to strengthen military pow- er centred on nuclear weapons.

The statement, carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, warned that the agreement will further destabilization on the Korean Penins- ula and in its surrounding areas.

With the General Security of Military Information Agree- ment, Japan and South Korea hope are hoping to exchange with each other more sensitive infor- mation on North Korea, which has been trying to bolster its nuclear and missile capabilities at a fast pace, in defiance of in- ternational condemnation and sanctions.

PHNOM PENH — About 54 per cent of Cambodia’s adults have access to formal financial ser- vices, including money deposit, borrowing and transfer, according to some 300 economists, researchers, and company representatives.

The deputy governor said on Friday that a total population of ap- proximately 15 million, of which nearly 10 million are adults.

“Currently, some 54 per cent of the adults have been using financial services, remarkably up from roughly 17 per cent in a decade ago,” she said during a macroeconomic conference, attended by some 300 economists, researchers, and company representatives.

The deputy governor said that growth clearly reflect- ed the rapid development of banking and financial sector in the kingdom. Cambodia has 36 commercial banks, 14 spe- cialized banks, 8 representative offices of foreign banks, 57 mi- crofinance institutions, and 160 rural credit operators, according to a NBC report.
Opinion

Responsibilities and the society

Myint Win Thein

 Humans society is made up of its basic units known as families. A family will be peaceful and prosperous only when each member of the family performs their responsibilities. If someone fails to carry out his or her family duties, other members of the family will have to bear the brunt of the failure. As the society is made up of families, a burden on a family due to only one member of it has an impact on the society as a whole. It will affect the family life first, and then the community and the country and the society. Responsibility means duties that must be performed by someone, and everyone has responsibilities to perform for their families, communities, organizations, towns, countries and the society.

Therefore, it is important that each and every one executes their responsibilities for their families as well as for their communities, towns, countries and the society. Those who shun their responsibilities even at the family-level will not be able to fulfill his or her obligations to the society. That is why politicians, although they are serious about their responsibilities to the people and the country promise to take duty for all while vying for votes but have to remind the supporters after victory of their rightful share of responsibilities for a better family, a better community, a better country and a better world. Everyone should satisfy their responsibilities and should not place a burden on others. 

Balance of Power and Peaceful Co-existence

U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

To be frank and honest, I am not a linguist nor am I a language expert. I consider myself, in spite of my old age, still a student. A student, in the sense that I am “studying” language, law, diplomacy etc. And as far as I know, in some languages, for example, the English Language and our mother-tongue (Myanmar Language) a single word may take different meanings according to the context and in its way of usage. We will be able to guess the meaning of the word from the context and in its usage and collocation. For example, the phrase – “balance of power” takes different meaning from “abuse of power”, “power crazy” “power struggle, “power sharing”, “power of light, “knowledge power”, etc.

In one usage of the word “power”, we have famous quotations. They read: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely”. “The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.” In these quotations “power” means energy, “power” means energy. Now, “balance of power”, What does the phrase mean?

Balance of power

Balance of power is a situation in which political or military strength is divided between two countries or two groups of countries. Another political principle which is worth mentioning in this article is “checks and balances”.

This principle is practised in a country’s domestic affairs. In the United States of America, this principle means the principle of government by which the President, the Congress, the Supreme Court exercises control over the government and over the others. It is the principle of the United States constitution that the political power of the government is divided between the President, the Congress and the Supreme Court. Only with an academic interest, may I present to you that in 1947 constitution, we had the principle of checks and balances under which the political power of the government was divided, between the Prime Minister, head of the government, the Parliament, and the Judiciary. As far as I could recall, under that 1947 Constitution, the Supreme Court of the Judiciary was the guardian or the watch-dog of the constitution. In those days, in some parliamentarian-sessions, the then honourable Prime Minister U Nu used to mention his request to the Supreme Court to kindly point out and advise if some of the government actions were not in accord with the provisions of the constitution. Under the 1947 Constitution there were such writs or legal documents which the supreme Court was entrusted with the power to issue to ensure the rule of law prevailed and the provisions and the principles of the constitution were well respected and strictly obeyed by executive, legislative and by the subordinate courts. Those writs were certiorari, habeas corpus and mandamus.

Well, now, please allow me to explain what those writs or legal documents mean. “Certiorari” it is an extra ordinary writ issued by the appellate court/ the High Court or the Supreme Court at their discretion, directing a lower court to deliver the record in the case for review. “Habeas Corpus”: it is a writ employed to bring a person before a court most frequently to ensure that the party’s imprisonment or detention is not illegal” “Mandamus” it is a writ issued by the court, ordering a public officer to perform mandatory or purely ministerial duties correctly.

I am afraid, I may have consumed quite some of your precious times. So, I would like to present to you the principle and practice of balance of power in today’s world of ours. The world is now called a globalization, world, in which all countries, big or small, developed or developing are interdependent. But on the other hand, some big powers are getting involved in power struggle, power rivalry with each other. Thus, in this highly competitive world of ours, there are instances of balance of power attempts and exercises, with threat or use of force, nuclear deterrents and shifting alliances, etc.

Well, first and foremost, let’s take a look at the Philippines, a member-country of ASEAN. The Philippines and the United States have had the security alliance since 1954. But, since when Mr. Rodrigo Duterte was elected as the Philippine President, there came out media reports that the Philippines was taking measures to shift alliances with China and Russia. The Philippine President even declared that year 2016 was its year of “rebalancing” and joint military exercises between his country and the United States in the South China Sea, mostly claimed by a rising China. And I have read a news item which mentioned that Mr. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had agreed to provide planes, patrol ships to the Philippines.

In the economic sector too, we have read those news items about “balance of power” exercises. As known to you all, China is now the second biggest world’s economy, overtaking Japan. To achieve further economic development, China has also set up AIIB, Asia Infrastructure and Investment Bank with billions of dollar capital. China has won developing countries to put in shares and become share holders of AIIB. The United States of America has also initiated T.P.P: Trans-Pacific Partnership (Trade Pact). According to the Strait Times news report, the T.P.P is a core pillar of America’s rebalance in the Asia Pacific. In one of the breaking news items, Channel News Asia has reported that U.S. has warned that China will take export market if there is no T.P.P. As regards TPP, Singapore Institute of International Affairs head, Mr. Simon Tay has said “the TPP is every bit as significant as military engagement and more enduring. Mr Tay added that TPP causes the Chinese more concern than anything else.

In essence, in “the balance of power” exercises such instances of power rivalry, power struggle, power deterrents, mistrusts, threat or use of force are highly involved. However, in the principles of peaceful co-existence, none of these negative elements are involved. Mutual trust, mutual benefits, and peaceful co-existence, mutual respect for each other’s national or vital interests are well propagated and practiced.

The Union of Myanmar really values and strictly adheres to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. These five Principles were expounded by Myanmar, together with her two big neighbours, India and the People’s Republic of China, in 1954. The principles are. “Mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, Non-aggression, Non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, Equality and mutual benefit, Peaceful co-existence and Peaceful settlement of disputes.”

As regards these five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, may I present to you, for just the record and also with deep respects that these principles were jointly propounded by the first Prime Ministers of Burma (Myanmar) and China and India, namely, U Nu, MR. Chao Enlai and Mr. Nehru. And these principles form one of the main pillars of Myanmar’s foreign policy. It is a source of satisfaction that these principles have also become universally accepted and that they were incorporated into the Ten Principles, laid down at the 1955 Bandung Conference of Afro-Asian states, which in turn led to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In my opinion, these five principles of peaceful co-existence are well in accord with our age-old custom and tradition which can be translated in English as, “Let amity be eternal and enmity be ephemeral”. Well, my dear reader, what do you say, sir? Does the principle, “balance of power” involve strategies, tactics, or does it involve positive or negative elements, or do the principles and practices of “peaceful co-existence involve diplomacy and positive elements, but not any iota of negative elements?”

Reference

(2) Black’s Law Dictionary, Bryan A. Garner.
(3) The Straits Times
(4) A book of essential quotations
(5) C.N.A Satellite news
(6) http://en.wikipedia.org
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services receives Chinese delegation**

**COMANDER-IN-CHIEF** of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a Chinese delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Mr Liu Zhenmin and General Xu Xinmin, Deputy Chief of Join Staff Department under China’s Central Military Commission (CMC) of the Chinese Communist Party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Mr Liu Zhenmin expressed China’s respect for Myanmar’s sovereignty and its support to peace and stability and national reconciliation efforts in Myanmar.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing clarified the backgrounds of KIA, TNLA and MNDAA armed groups which are fighting the government troops in northern Shan State and their violent attacks, and area clearance operations the government troops there.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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**Training aims to turn out skilled welders: Education Ministry**

WITH the aim of turning out qualified welders in the country, the Ministry of Education has started a training programme as a pilot project in Yangon, with plans to expand the new programme plan across the nation.

Supported by Total Myanmar Yadana project, the Yadana Welding Training School was officially opened in Ayungmar Ward, Insein Township, on 23 Wednesday by the ministry with its partners so as to share welding techniques free of charge.

Trainees will receive certificates which will help them land jobs in local factories as skilled welders.

Priority will be given to 15 people who have no job at the present time. People above 18 years of age who passed the Grade 10 examination under the government education system are eligible to apply, said U Win Maw Tun, deputy education minister.

Mr Xavier Preel, the general manager of Total E & P Myanmar, said the support programme aims to develop the country’s human resources in the welding sector, with plans to provide further assistance for livelihood programmes.

The supporter spent around US$400,000 on the new programme, said Mr Preel.

Both men and women in good health are urged to apply for the course at the training school, said U Nay Htet Kyaw, one of trainers at the school.

Every selected person will attend the 10-month course to learn basic and advanced welding techniques through theoretical and practical lessons.—*Myitnaka News Agency*

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**Owners of Aung Soe Moe Kyaw 2 ferry to face new count**

A NEW count will be filed against the two owners of Aung Soe Moe Kyaw (2) ferry which capsized in Kani township, Sagaing region on 15 October, it is learnt from Kani Myoma police station.

The police filed a new count against the ferry owners on Wednesday because the police during interrogation found that the former do not have a transportation license. The two owners of Aung Soe Moe Kyaw (2) ferry are Ko Htay Zaw alias Zaw Zaw, 40, and Ko Myint Kyaw, 27, from Ohin Pin Seik village, Kani township.

“We don’t change the section. We just filed a new charge under the Maritime law, said Police Captain from Kani Myoma police station.

The ferry’s owners have already been charged with sections 280 and 304(A) of the penal code by the police in Kani township. The police will file a new charge against them under section 23(A) of the Myanmar Coastal and Maritime transportation Law.—*Myitnaka News Agency*

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**Peace forum held in Yangon**

**PEACE MAKERS PARTICIPATE IN PEACE FORUM IN YANGON**

Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of peace commission, urged all participants of a public peace forum yesterday to help build trust among all stakeholders.

At the peace forum held in Yangon, he said that all participants are capable of restoring peace as belief is based on sympathy, loving-kindness and honesty.

Representatives of the government, ethnic armed groups, civil society organizations, political parties and international experts attended the forum held at the Inya Lake Hotel.

Expectations for peace, the peace process, and participation of women in the process, inclusiveness of ethnic armed groups and benefits of peace were discussed at the forum.

He also pointed out that as they were discussing, internally displaced persons including the elderly were fleeing their homes for their lives. Then, he asked if any stakeholder had sympathy for internally displaced persons or family members of Myanmar and if any stakeholder could subdue up their individual feeling in the interest of the country.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retd) pointed out the importance of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement at the forum, saying that the truce was not the policy of the government but the outcome of negotiation between both sides. He also expressed his belief that peace would be achieved soon.

Daw May Sabai Phyu of the Gender Equality Network, U Khin Okkar of Pa National Liberation League and Dr Arthur DeFehr of DeFehr Foundation discussed their opinions. In the evening session, peace experts, veteran peace-makers and scholars from the international community took part in the discussions.—*Ye Kaung Nyunt*

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**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of India and FSMTMC Director**

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF** of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr Vikram Misri and Director Alexander Fomin of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTMC) yesterday at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

At the meeting with Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri, the two representatives discussed matters relating to stability, peace and development of the border areas between the two countries, exchange of information between the armed forces of the two countries, engagement of the two armies and promotion of cooperation between the two armed forces and promotion of co-operation in related sectors inclusive of training courses.

“The incidents taking place in Northeastern Shan State, Rakhin State and Kachin State are challenging the political stability. We are making our utmost effort to end the armed conflicts peacefully and through political means,” said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the meeting with Director Alexander Fomin of FSMTMC, they discussed matters relating to military technology co-operation being implemented by the two armed forces and enhancing the training courses.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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**Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Say Poe**

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF** of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Say Poe and his delegation at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were: Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Nay and Air) General Mya Tun Oo and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Say Poe, KNU general secretary Pado Saw Kwal Htoo Win and high-ranking officials from KNU.

At the meeting, both parties discussed the measures to convene the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong, matters to be discussed at the political dialogues and arrangement for deployment of troops from both sides.—*Myanmar News Agency*
Tokyo — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday Russia’s deployment of missile systems on islands in the western Pacific isles that are also claimed by Tokyo was “regrettable”.

His comments came less than a month before Russian President Vladimir Putin is to visit Japan for talks aimed at progress on the decades-old territorial row. Moscow has already said it hoped the deployment would not damage efforts to settle the dispute.

Russian media reported on Tuesday that Bastion and Bal anti-ship missile systems were now in operation on the islands, part of an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean over which Russia and Japan have staked rival claims for 70 years.

The feud over the islands, called the southern Kuriles in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan, has kept Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty to formally end World War II.

“The four islands are our country’s inherent territory. We have conveyed through diplomatic routes that this ... is not compatible with our country’s position and is regrettable,” Abe told parliament’s upper house.

Delicate diplomacy is underway to prepare for the meeting between the Russian and Japanese leaders in Japan on 15-16 December. Both sides have said they hoped progress could be made towards settling the dispute.

Abe, who sees improved ties with Moscow as a counter-balance to a rising China, hopes the lure of economic cooperation will help ease a breakthrough when he meets Putin, given the hit to Russia’s economy from sluggish oil prices and Western sanctions imposed after its annexation of Crimea. — Reuters

**Game of Thrones in the Himalayas leaves Nepal quake victims in the cold**

HOKSHE (Nepal) — New reports have surfaced of an 80-year-old woman who, along with her two children, died of hypothermia in a morgue in eastern Nepal following a 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the Himalayan nation on April 25.

The 54-year-old farmer was one of eight million people affected in April last year when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck the Himalayan nation - leaving 9,000 dead and destroying one million homes and as well as schools, businesses, roads, and bridges.

“The money is low and it’s not enough to build what I had before, but at least the government has given it,” Gaitam said to nods from fellow villagers gathered at the office in Hokshe village, 64 km (40 miles) east of Kathmandu.

“We’ve already endured one winter and two monsoons like this — out in the open with no protection from the rain and cold.”

But Gaitam is one of the lucky ones.

Constant feeding between a myriad of political parties has fuelled political turmoil and weak governance in Nepal, delaying efforts to rebuild the country of 28 million people despite an outpouring of aid, analysts said.

Ongoing political instability in a country which has seen 24 governments in 26 years has thwarted reconstruction efforts.

“You are looking at a country that has had three governments since the earthquake - all coalitions and none with a solid majority,” said Renaud Meyer, Country Director for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal.

“There is no doubt the political landscape is the biggest barrier for the recovery and reconstruction of Nepal to take place. It requires consistency, it requires determination and the less open it is to spoilers, the better.” — Reuters

**Fire breaks out in Mumbai suburb, no reports of casualties so far**

MUMBAI — A massive fire broke out in a furniture market in Mumbai’s western suburb on Friday afternoon, but there has been no reports of casualties so far, the fire department said.

Sixteen fire engines and 12 water tankers were rushed to the spot, a Mumbai Fire Brigade Control Room official said. There was no clarity on how long it would take douse the fire.

The furniture market is in the Gulsan Nagar area of Oshiwara, a suburb in Western Mumbai. — Reuters

**Thai assembly to hold urgent meeting next week**

BANGKOK — The head of Thailand’s National Legislative Assembly (NLA) Friday said the NLA has called a special meeting on next Tuesday morning to consider an urgent motion from the government.

NLA deputy chairman Peerassak Porsit was quoted by Thai media that there are not details of important law to be proposed by the government, what the special meeting will handle is still unclear.

The meeting, which will be broadcast live, is expected to be attended by all members of the NLA, according to the NLA chief Prongpetch Witchitcholchai who has instructed the lawmakers not to leave the country next week. — Xinhua

**Two dead in gas blast at Greek refugee camp causing protest**

ATHENS — Two refugees died and another two were seriously injured during a fire which broke out following a gas blast at Moria camp on Lesvos island, Greek police said on Friday.

Terrorist followed overnight with dozens of refugees setting tents on fire and scuffling with police in protest of living conditions.

A 60-year-old grandmother and her six-year-old grandson were the victims, according to local police sources.

Her 25-year-old daughter in law and her second grandchild suffered extensive burns and are hospitalized, while six other refugees have been lightly injured, according to the same sources.

According to police investigation, the fire started from a gas canister which exploded when the grandmother tried to cook. —Xinhua

**Flu season begins nationwide in Japan**

Tokyo — The influenza season has arrived nationwide in Japan, more than a month earlier than last winter, with the type A Hong Kong strain the most reported variety so far, the health ministry said on Friday.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare is calling on the public to wash their hands after going outside and wear masks to prevent the virus from spreading. According to the ministry, about 5,000 designated clinics nationwide reported an average of 1.38 cases in the week between 14 and 20 November. The ministry judges the flu season has commenced when the average number of cases per clinic exceeds 1. The flu season last winter began in January. An estimated 70,000 people with flu visited medical institutions in the week, the ministry said. —Kyodo News
Scientists say gut microbes may play role in yo-yo dieting, obesity

LONDON — Scientists studying yo-yo dieting in mice say the tendency for people to regain excess weight rapidly after successfully slimming may well be due to their microbiome—the trillions of microorganisms in the gut.

The researchers found that changes in the gut microbiome that occur when an obese mouse loses weight can persist for many months, and that this contributes to accelerated weight regain later if the diet lapses.

If, as the researchers believe, a similar thing happens in obese people, they said, it could help explain why so many of them fail to keep their lost weight off, and often put on more than they lost in the first place.

In a telephone briefing about their work, professors Eran Segal and Eran Elad of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, said that while there has been good progress in studying obesity and its causes, relapsing obesity is poorly understood.

“People go on diets over and over again—and keep failing,” Segal said. “It’s a very common problem. Up to 50 per cent of obese people suffer this relapsing pattern.” To try to find out why, Segal and Elad experimented with mice, giving them cycles of high-fat diets interspersed with periods of lower-fat normal diet.

They found that the gut microbiomes of the mice who lost weight were altered, and that these changes remained in place for many months and contributed to rapid and excessive weight gain if the mice were given high-fat diets again. To test whether it was due to the microbiome, the researchers transferred the altered microbiomes into mice that had not previously been exposed to yo-yo diets—and here too they found unusually rapid and excessive weight gain when the mice were given high-fat foods.

“The microbiome by itself is not sufficient to produce this (rapid weight again) effect, but it’s the diet plus the microbiome,” Segal explained.

The scientists were not able to say exactly what the mechanism is or how exactly the microbiome’s persistent post-diet state increases weight gain.—Reuters

A man crosses a main road as pedestrians carrying food walk along the foothpath in central Sydney, Australia, in 2015. (Photo: Reuters)
Central Americans surge north, hoping to reach US before Trump inauguration

TEGUICALPA/GUATEMALA CITY — Central American countries warned on Thursday that large numbers of migrants have fled their poor, violent homes since Donald Trump’s surprise election win, hoping to reach the United States before he takes office next year.

Trump won the 8 November vote by taking a hard line on immigration, threatening to deport millions of people living illegally in the United States and to erect a wall along the Mexican border.

Trump’s tough campaign rhetoric set tens of thousands of migrants – primarily from Central America and the close-knit migrant communities in US cities, with many choosing to fast-forward their plans and migrate north before Trump takes office on 20 January.

During fiscal year 2016, the United States detained nearly 410,000 people along the south-west border with Mexico, up about a quarter from the previous year. The vast majority hail from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Since Trump’s victory, the number of people flocking north has surged, with migrants from Central America and Mexican citizens, who are fleeing from violence and poverty, queue to cross into the US to apply for asylum at the new border crossing of El Chaparral in Tijuana, Mexico, on 24 November 2016. Photo: Reuters

Immigrants from Central America and Mexican citizens, who are fleeing from violence and poverty, queue to cross into the US to apply for asylum at the new border crossing of El Chaparral in Tijuana, Mexico, on 24 November 2016. Photo: Reuters

Immigrants from Central America and Mexican citizens, who are fleeing from violence and poverty, queue to cross into the US to apply for asylum at the new border crossing of El Chaparral in Tijuana, Mexico, on 24 November 2016. Photo: Reuters

Central American officials say, contributing to a growing logjam along the southern US border, “We’re worried because we’re seeing a rise in the flow of migrants leaving the country, who have been urged to leave by coyotes telling them that they have to reach the United States before Trump takes office,” María Andrea Matamoros, Honduras’ deputy foreign minister, told Reuters, referring to people smugglers.

Carlos Raul Morales, Guatemala’s foreign minister, told Reuters people were also leaving Guatemala en masse before Trump becomes president. “The coyotes are leaving people in debt, and taking their property as payment for the journey,” he said in an interview.

Last week, US Customs and Border Protection opened a temporary holding facility for up to 500 people near the Texan border with Mexico, in what it said was a response to a marked uptick in illegal border crossings.

US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said earlier this month immigration detention facilities were holding about 10,000 more individuals than usually, after a spike in October of migrants including unaccompanied children, families and asylum seekers. — Reuters

Central American officials say, contributing to a growing logjam along the southern US border, “We’re worried because we’re seeing a rise in the flow of migrants leaving the country, who have been urged to leave by coyotes telling them that they have to reach the United States before Trump takes office,” María Andrea Matamoros, Honduras’ deputy foreign minister, told Reuters, referring to people smugglers.

South Africa’s scandal-plagued Zuma to face ANC integrity panel

JOHANNESBURG — South African President Jacob Zuma will be questioned next week by the African National Congress’ (ANC) integrity commission following persistent allegations of corruption and poor election results, the party said on Friday.

Zuma’s appearance before the panel could deepen divides within the ANC as it gears up for a national conference next year when Zuma, 74, is expected to stand down as party leader.

“He will be having a meeting with the IC,” ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe confirmed to Reuters, referring to the integrity commission.

Zuma’s meeting with the commission is expected to be held on 3 December behind closed doors. Members of the ANC have been removed from their posts as a result of the commission’s recommendation.

The ANC formed the commission in 2013 to help protect its image and take “urgent action” to deal with members of the party who face allegations of improper conduct.

The Mail & Guardian newspaper reported on Friday that the commission, headed by anti-apartheid stalwart Andrew Mlangeni, would question Zuma over a slew of corruption scandals and the party’s worst local election results in August.

Mantashe did not say what would be discussed at the meeting.

Several senior members of the ANC have called for Zuma to resign in recent months after scandals rattled markets in Africa’s most industrialized economy and cost the party votes. A constitutionally-mandated anti-graft watchdog this month called for a judge to investigate allegations Zuma provided special favours for wealthy friends and allowed them to choose ministerial appointments.

Zuma denies any wrongdoing. — Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER )
( 15 / 2016 )

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No Tender No. Description Remark
(1) DMP/L-015(16-17)CAP Oil Tanker (3200 Gals)(6x4) (370HP, 10 Wheels) (1) No
Tender Closing Date & Time — 15-12-2016, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 25th November, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ph : +95 67 - 411274 / 411206

— Reuters

Hurricane Otto hits Nicaragua, Costa Rica as quake shakes region

BLUEFIELDS (Nicaragua) — Hurricane Otto battered Nicaragua and Costa Rica with powerful winds and torrential rains on Friday, damaging homes, forcing thousands to evacuate and causing an undetermined number of deaths.

The hurricane, which was predicted rapidly after hitting the southeastern coast of Nicaragua, became a tropical storm by early Friday, the US National Hurricane Centre said, as dangerous flooding continued in both countries.

In Costa Rica, President Luis Guillermo Solís said late Thursday there had been a number of deaths, but added it was too early to say how many people had died. “I regret to inform you … that there are people dead and missing,” Solís told a news conference.

Otto, the seventh Atlantic hurricane of the season, landed north of the town of San Juan de Nicaragua as a Category 2 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of intensity, the Miami-based hurricane center said.

Thousands of people were evacuated from its path.

It weakened to a tropical storm, with top sustained winds of 70 mph (113 kph), about 55 miles (89 km) northwest of Liberia, Costa Rica.

Soon after the storm landed, a 7.0 magnitude quake struck 93 miles (149 km) southwest of Puerto Tríunfo, El Salvador, at a depth of 6.4 miles (10.3 km), the US Geological Survey said.

There were no reports of major damage from the quake in El Salvador, but local emergency services ordered about 15,000 people to evacuate north of San Salvador, the capital.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega declared a state of emergency because of the storm and the quake, his spokeswoman and wife Rosario Murillo said.

Nicaraguan civil protection officials said the hurricane, which was moving west at 13 mph (21 kph), damaged homes and telephone lines but had not reported any victims as of early Friday morning.

— Reuters
WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION CHIEF SAYS NO INDICATION THAT TRUMP WANTS TO TAKE US OUT OF GROUP

Geneva — World Trade Organisation chief Roberto Azevedo said on Thursday he had no indication that US President-elect Donald Trump wanted to withdraw the United States from the global trading body.

“Tread softly, tread more softly,” he said. “The US is a very important partner and we need to keep that partnership. It is not business as usual.”

Azevedo told reporters that he had not yet talked to Trump but was ready to do so.

If the United States were to pull out of the WTO if its terms of trade were not renegotiated, “Trade is not for amateurs. Trade is tough,” he said.

Azevedo said that protectionism would hit the patient, “You don’t get the right diagnosis you don’t get the right treatment.”

World Trade Organisation (WTO) Director-General Roberto Azevedo attends a news conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTER

New Zealand looks offshore for workers to rebuild after quake

Wellington — New Zealand is looking offshore for hundreds of workers to rebuild roads, railways and buildings after this month’s earthquake amid a shortage of local workers in an overstretched construction industry.

But while importing more workers from countries including South Africa and the Philippines may fill the gap, there are some concerns that it will add to New Zealand’s already surging immigration levels, which are in turn fuelling an overheating property market.

Highly-qualified professionals such as engineers could get skilled migrant visas that allow them to settle in the country - adding some extra demand to the housing market.

Foreign labourers would usually receive year-long temporary permits to work in New Zealand and are most likely to live in temporary accommodation.

New Zealand was still dealing with the aftermath of the 2011 quake that destroyed much of Christchurch when this month’s 7.8 magnitude quake shook the country, killing two people, setting off destructive landslides and cutting of the country’s main highway.

“We can’t get enough people to fill the demand currently,” said Kevin Everett, director of Building Recruitment, an Auckland-based agency that finds the majority of its workers from overseas, mainly in South Africa.

“We’re looking for hundreds of people, in all aspects of the industry.”

Other sources of migrants for the construction industry were the Philippines, China and the United Kingdom. — Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PIYA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PIYA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING LINE
PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

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 26.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice

Claims Day Notice

Claims Day Notice

Claims Day Notice
Mortal Engines will be the first film of a planned movie series adapted from Reeve's novels, which also includes Predator's Gold, Infernal Devices and A Darkling Plain.

Set in a future world, Mortal Engines chronicles Earth's cities which now roam the globe on huge wheels, devouring each other in a struggle for ever diminishing resources. On one of these massive Traktion Cities, a teen named Tom Natsworthy has an unexpected encounter with a mysterious young woman from a territory known as the Outlands, who will change the course of his life forever.

‘Brady Bunch’ mom Florence Henderson dies aged 82

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actress Florence Henderson, best known to a generation of baby boomers as all-American mother Carol Brady in the 1970s sitcom “The Brady Bunch,” has died aged 82.

Maureen McCormick, who played Henderson’s oldest daughter, Marcia, in the show and in many sequels, said on Twitter: “Florence Henderson was a dear friend for so many years & in my (heart) forever... I’ll miss u dearly.”

McCormick was a contestant in the dance competition “Dancing With the Stars” this season and Henderson attended a taping of the show just days ago.

Henderson died with family and friends at her side, the Associated Press reported, citing her manager Kayla Pressman. The cause of death was not detailed.

Henderson starred in the ground-breaking television series about a woman with three daughters who married a widower with three sons.

She first graced television screens in the 1950s following a role in the musical “Carrousel” in 1949 and other musical theater hits including “South Pacific” and the title role in “Fanny.”

But it was the 1969 premiere of “The Brady Bunch,” among the first US television shows to focus on a non-traditional family, that made her a household name.

On the show, Robert Reed’s character, architect Mike Brady, was a widowed father of three boys. Henderson’s character Carol Brady was a single mother — the show was vague as to why — who had three daughters. They married in the first episode.

The series made its debut amid cultural tumult in the United States but remained invariably cheery and avoided controversy during its five seasons on the ABC network. It ran during a TV era populated with caustic sitcoms such as “All in the Family,” “Maude” and “Sanford and Son.”

After the cancellation of the original series in 1974, Henderson appeared on later incarnations of the show, including “The Brady Bunch Variety Hour,” “The Brady Brides,” “A Very Brady Christmas” and “The Bradys.”

Henderson, one of 10 children from a small Indiana town, went on to guest star on hit TV shows including “Murder, She Wrote,” “The Love Boat” and “L.A. Law.”

Henderson also appeared frequently on a host of game and talk shows, including serving as the “Tonight Show’s” first female guest host and competing on “Dancing With the Stars” in 2010. Her film appearances included “Song of Norway,” “Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult” and most recently, “Fifty Shades of Black.”

She also had a cameo on “The Brady Bunch Movie,” a send-up of the original sitcom which continues to play in syndicated reruns. — Reuters

Short film on climate change hit Sundarbans children

KOLKATA — A short film documenting the challenges faced by children in the climate-change-hit islands of Sundarbans was screened recently at an international symposium.

The 27-minute film titled ‘How Healthy are the Children of the Indian Sundarbans?’ was one of the three films selected for screening at the Global Health Systems Research Symposium held last week in Vancouver.

Made by the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) University and Future Health Systems (FHS), the film provide stark and illuminating audio-visual evidence of the plight of these isolated and vulnerable communities living in the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Prof Barun Kanjilal of FHS said the film focuses on the weaknesses in and need for healthcare and the complex interplay of roles of the different health providers against the backdrop of an inaccessible region prone to climate shocks. — PTI
Frida Kahlo painting, unseen for 60 years, sells for $1.81 million

NEW YORK — Mexican artist Frida Kahlo’s “Nina con Collar,” an early painting whose whereabouts had been a mystery for 60 years, has sold for $1.81 million at a Sotheby’s Latin American art auction.

Works by Mexican Rufino Tamayo and Colombia’s Fernando Botero topped sales at the auction.

“We saw a series of exceptional prices for the giants of Latin American modern art,” said Axel Stein, Sotheby’s Latin American art chief, commenting on the $16.84 million in total sales on Tuesday evening in New York.

Leading the sale was Tamayo’s “Sandias y naranja” (Watermelons and orange), a 1957 oil and sand on canvas once owned by film star Audrey Hepburn, Sotheby’s said. It sold for $2.29 million.

A Botero bronze sculpture, “Man on a Horse,” fetched $1.82 million, and his “Homage to Bonnard,” a large-scale nude painting, went for $1.39 million.

Kahlo’s “Nina con Collar” (Girl with Necklace), which had not been seen publicly for six decades, went to an unidentified European buyer. The 1929 oil on canvas is among the first 20 of the Mexican artist’s 143 paintings, Stein said.

The work, whose subject is about 13 or 14,抵御s hallmarks of Kahlo’s self-portraits, including winged eyebrows and a full frontal gaze.

Kahlo died at age 47 in 1954. The following year, her widow, the muralist Diego Rivera, gave “Nina con Collar” to one of her studio assistants, who hung it in her California home for 60 years, according to Stein.

The work came to light when the unidentified former studio assistant, now in her mid-90s, contacted Sotheby’s last summer, Stein said.

In international art markets, works by Kahlo have fetched more than any other Latin American artist, according to Stein.

Last May, Christie’s sold a 1939 Kahlo painting for $8 million, an auction record for her work.

Sotheby’s has privately sold Kahlo works for more than $15 million each, said Dan Abernethy, an auction house spokesperson.

One reason Kahlo’s works are so valued in the international market is that Mexico barred their export for several decades under laws to conserve the country’s cultural heritage, Stein said.—Reuters

With rap and poetry, Cape Town tries to bridge racial divides

CAPE TOWN — A city surrounded by ocean and divided in two by the naked rock of Table Mountain, Cape Town’s incredible natural beauty belies a past of hundreds of years of slavery and racial oppression.

Now a generation of artists, musicians, poets, and filmmakers is trying to overcome this legacy, and in South Africa, a country with 11 official languages, it is not just significant what they say, but how they say it.

Quintin Goliath, who goes by the stage name Jitsvinger, meaning ‘The Dope Finger’, is a rapper of mixed ethnic origin from Cape Town. He performs in Afrikaans, a language spoken by 7 million South Africans that is derived from Dutch and draws on Malay, Portuguese, English, Xhosa, Chinese and Khoi influences.

Goliath, who raps about topics including politics, identity and love, said Afrikaans was becoming more popular, especially among the young. “Afrikaans has become more edgy and loose lately in the last decade and a half,” he said. In the neighborhood Kimberley, up to six different languages are spoken in one sentence, he added.

“As a result, my vernacular can reach the broader collective consciousness and that’s where the future lies for Afrikaans: inclusivity and the acceptance of one another’s expression.”

While some see the future of Afrikaans as promising, its past is contested. Afrikaans developed in the Cape Town region among slaves from West Africa, the indigenous Khoi and San tribes and Indonesia who adapted the Dutch spoken by slave owners and colonial settlers into a common language.

Today around 40 per cent of those who speak Afrikaans at home are white South Africans, according to the South Africa Race Relations Institute.—Reuters

Christmas display shows Trump dressed as Santa playing ‘Pokemon Go’

KOBÉ — A figure of US President-elect Donald Trump dressed in a red Santa Claus costume and playing the popular smartphone game “Pokemon Go” was displayed at a museum in Hyogo Prefecture on Friday.

In the period through Christmas, figures of various newsmakers are exhibited on the roof and outer walls of the Urotoko no Ie (House of Fish Scales) house museum in the historical Kitano district of Kobe.

With “Pokemon Go” this year’s theme, figures of Kohei Uchimura, who won a gold medal in gymnastics at the Rio Olympics, and Japanese games designer Yuji Naka, who created the popular video game Sonic the Hedgehog, will be on display through 25 December.—Kyodo News

With the global controversy over the sale of a Kahlo painting, a South African artist is reinterpreting history through the lens of popular culture. In Cape Town, over the last decade, a new generation of artists, rappers, poets, and filmmakers have begun to use their craft to bridge the racial divides of the past, with her work performed mainly in Afrikaans, a language that was sanctioned by the apartheid regime.

Straddling two worlds, Cape Town’s landscape is as diverse as its population, and so too is the art scene. While some see the future of Afrikaans as promising, others see it as contested. Afrikaans, developed in the Cape Town region among slaves from West Africa, the indigenous Khoi and San tribes, and Indonesian who adapted the Dutch spoken by slave owners and colonial settlers into a common language.

“Today around 40 per cent of those who speak Afrikaans at home are white South Africans,” said Quintin Goliath, who raps in Afrikaans under the stage name Jitsvinger, meaning ‘The Dope Finger’.

In recent years, the language has become more popular, especially among young people. Goliath explained that in his home neighbourhood, up to six different languages could be heard in one sentence. The result, he said, was a vernacular that could reach a broader audience.

As he performed in Afrikaans, Goliath drew on his heritage, referencing politics, identity, and love. His work was a reminder of the inclusivity and acceptance needed for languages to thrive and coexist.

As a country with 11 official languages, South Africa offers a unique challenge and opportunity for artists. While some see the future of languages like Afrikaans as promising, others see it as contested. Afrikaans, developed in the Cape Town region among slaves from West Africa, the indigenous Khoi and San tribes, and Indonesian who adapted the Dutch spoken by slave owners and colonial settlers into a common language.

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Inter slump out of Europe as Rooney ignites Man Utd

LONDON — Inter Milan’s calamitous season hit a new low on Thursday as they squandered a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 at Israeli club Hapoel Beer-Sheva and suffer the embarrassment of an early Europa League exit.

After one of European football’s giants capitulated, another flexed their muscles with an inspired Wayne Rooney performance.

A.—

Poor defending five minutes from time saw Singapore pay the price eventually, with Stephan Lulipaly lashing in Boaz Salossa’s cross to clinch all three points, along with the second spot in Group A.

Goals
27’ (1-0) A long throw from Madhu Mohana is flicked on by Safuwan Baharudin for Khauril Amri, who smashes it into the roof of the net with a scissors kick.

62’ (1-1) Slack marking from the Lions allows Andik to run in and slot in Rizky Pora’s cross to level matters.

85’ (1-2) Boaz is not stopped down the left side and both Bennett and Hariss fail to cut out his cross, allowing Lulipaly to volley it into the top corner.

Match Highlights
Great save from Hassan —
Stephan Lulipaly curled the ball over the wall towards goal from the free-kick, but Hassan read it well and pushed it onto the woodwork before Boaz Salossa sent the rebound over.

Singapore’s first chance —
Yasir Hanapi aimed a cross towards Faris Ramli at the far post, but his volley in the seventh minute goes over.

Lulipaly again —
Indonesia’s early onslaught continued and this time midfielder Lulipaly shot straight at Hassan after eight minutes.

Good build up from Lions —
Khauril Amri and Safuwan Baharudin exchanged passes before the latter released Yasir Hanapi, who sliced his shot narrowly wide. —AAP

Indonesia fight back to make semis and send Singapore home

MANILA — A second-half turn around from Indonesia saw them earn all three points and a spot in the semi-finals coupled with Philippines’ defeat to Thailand.

The Lions have only themselves to blame for the result. Khauril Amri gave them the lead in the 27th minute, but it was also him who missed a superb opportunity to put them ahead by two goals after the restart.

Singapore would go on to pay for it, after slack marking allowed Andik Vermansyah to level matters.

Poor defending five minutes from time saw Singapore pay the price eventually, with Stephano Lulipaly lashing in Boaz Salossa’s cross to clinch all three points, along with the second spot in Group A.

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Khauril Amri and Safuwan Baharudin exchanged passes before the latter released Yasir Hanapi, who sliced his shot narrowly wide. —AAP