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Peace Commission, UNFC discuss unsettled proposals

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

The meeting between Peace Commission and United Nationalities Federal Council in progress. PHOTO: PE ZAW

THE unsettled proposals of the Delegation for Political Negotiations (DPN) of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), one of the non-signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, were discussed at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by nine representatives of the government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw and eleven representatives of the DPN.

During the meeting on 15 October, four proposals of the UNFC were agreed upon by the participants, but another four proposals were left unapproved for further discussion.

"It is the third time since negotiations were held between the Peace Commission and the DPN. The peace process is actually a trust building process. We have always opened ways for further discussions. Discussions are moving toward the positive ends," Member of the supporting group to the Peace Commission U Hla Maung Shwe said.

As the unsettled proposals are mainly concerned with the Joint Monitoring Committee, the issues will be discussed at the Political Framework Review Meeting at the end of November.

"We are trying to speed up the process by discussing the issues phase by phase. Everyone has agreed to abide by the NCA. The most important problem for us is that not all EAOs can participate in the process. But we have been feeling the same with the people for a long time, and we want to leave peace for future generations,' U Khu Oo Yai, Leader of the DPN said.

The CT team and the government are now preparing for the national level political dialogues.

The initial political dialogues will be held in Kayin State and Tanintharyi Region and these will be held in other states and regions step by step before holding the second Union Peace Conference.

President U Htin Kyaw congratulates President-elect Donald Trump

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw wrote a letter to Donald Trump offering his congratulations to him on being elected as the 45th President of the United States.

In the letter, President U Htin Kyaw said "I firmly believe that during your tenure as President of the United States of America, the existing cordial relations and cooperation between our two countries will be further consolidated and strengthened through our joint efforts, to the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples." He also said "I wish you great success in discharging your new responsibilities at the White House."—*The Global New Light of Myanmar*

State Counsellor congratulates President-elect Donald Trump

STATE Counsellor and Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday offered congratulations to US President-elect Donald Trump after his US election victory.

"I am confident that the trust placed in you by the American people will inspire you to promote progress, peace and prosperity in the United States of America and beyond, as you lead your great nation into the future," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote.

She added that the people of Myanmar are happy with the "mutually beneficial and dynamic" relationship that Myanmar shares with the United States and that she is looking forward to working closely with Trump "to further strengthen the existing friendship, cooperation and partnership between our two countries".—*The Global New Light of Myanmar*

CBM likely to pave way for new mobile money services

THE Central Bank of Myanmar will allow money services on mobile devices, according to Director-General Daw Than Than Swe of the CBM.

"We are trying to implement effective financial services for the public" said Daw Than Than Swe. "The services aim to provide convenient services for people in rural areas who do not have a bank account.

Only about 20 per cent of the population of Myanmar has access to banking services, and people in rural areas will benefit".

Wave Money, the first mobile money service in Myanmar, was permitted to provide services in Myanmar on 3rdOctober.

Wave Money is a joint venture: Telenor owns 51 per cent, with First Myanmar Investment holding 44 per cent and Yoma Bank 5 per cent. The total investment is about US$17 million.

Wave Money, the country's first mobile financial service,has already opened 4,000 shops in 16 townships to transfer money without the use of bank accounts.

The Central Bank issued regulations on mobile financial services on March 30. In April, the Central Bank announced that providers could allow customers to open mobile accounts and deposit and transfer money between them.

People-to-people, people-to-government, people-to-business and business-to-business money transfers are now permitted under the Central Bank's regulations. Daw Than Than Swe confirmed that Wave Money is currently only the licensed mobile financial service in the country.—*Soe Win*

Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Tatmadaw delegation visit Venice & Florence

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen on a special express train to Florence. PHOTO: MNA

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing and party, currently in Venice, Italy, on a friendly visit, left Venice for Florence in the afternoon of November 9 in a special express train, arriving at Santa Maria Novella Railway Station at 4:30 p.m local standard time.

After visiting famous Michel Angelo Square, Great Synagogue of Florence and conservation project of nearby historical heritage area, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and delegation returned by express train, reaching Venice at 10 p.m local standard time. —*Myanmar News Agency*

BUILD Myanmar launches inaugural event for infrastructure development

Attendees of a Build Myanmar conference posing for a group photograph. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BUILD Myanmar launched the inaugural event for infrastructure development, building and construction yesterday.

Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Secretary, Yangon City Development Committee, gave a speech highlighting the BUILD Myanmar event that can support the country's rapid development of the industries behind the growth of Myanmar.

The exhibition and conference is from 10 to 12 November 2016, in the Inn Gyin Ballroom, at Rose Garden Hotel, in Yangon, Myanmar. There will be several free workshops and seminars available for all attendees to learn more about building and construction in Myanmar, the new investment laws, real estate trends and developments in Myanmar, pest control, and electrical management.

The event also provides opportunities for the industry to network, gain knowledge and exchange information for the growth of the developing infrastructure, building and construction industries in Myanmar.

BUILD Myanmar 2016 is the event for developers, owners, facility managers, architects, contractors, civil engineers, mechanical & electrical consultants/engineers, warehousing, logistics, distributors/agents and related trade involved in both new and refurbished infrastructure developments in Myanmar – both residential and commercial. —*GNLM*

Eight men arrested on suspicion of 9 October northern Rakhine attacks

GOVERNMENT troops arrested three men yesterday believed to be part of a group of violent armed attackers and five others suspected involving in the deadly attacks on border guard police outposts in northern Rakhine State on 9th October.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined troop comprised of members of the military and police forces searched a house in Sukarli Village in Maungtaw Township yesterday and seized three men armed with bullets, spears and knives.

The troops also detained Mummad Hussein, a suspect in the 9 October attacks that killed nine police, near Thakkalpyin Village. Authorities seized one handset, and one Bangladesh SIM card.

The three men — Mohammad Elsut, Rammad Dullah and Nawzi Mullah — were handed over to the Kyikanpyin Border Guard Police Post. Action will be taken against them in accordance with the law.

Meanwhile, during the patrolling operation, the combined troop of the military and border guard police forces arrested one suspect, Salamauk Dula, of Phati, Alal Thangyaw village tract in Yathedaung Township at about 1:30 a.m.

Similarly, at 3:30 a.m or so, three more suspects — Zubai, Shaungsha Arlong and A Karaoola — were arrested while walking along the embankment of Kyikanpyin village (west) on their way to Thetkepyin(east) from Kyikanpyin. A Bangladeshi-made Sanphoni D-150 handset, one domestic Robi SIM card used in Bangladesh and 3 MPT SIM cards were seized.

All of those suspects and the confiscated evidence were handed over to Alal Thangyaw Area Police Station and Kyikanpyin Border Guard Control Station for legal action under the law.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Three of the suspects arrested near Kyikanpyin Village. PHOTO: MNA

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs receives his UK counterpart

U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Rt Hon Baroness Anelay, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 11.45 am yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Kingdom. —*Myanmar News Agency*

U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs receives Rt Hon Baroness Anelay, Minister of State of United Kingdom. PHOTO: MNA

Warning

1. Don't run away in case of fire. Seek help from the people nearby.
2. Prompt extinguishing of fire reduces losses and damages.
3. Keep dry chemical powder extinguishers and/or fire extinguishers in all apartments, buildings and shops to put out fire promptly and protect against the danger of fire.

Daily Eleven CEO fails to appear in police station

POLICE have begun to look for Dr Than Tun Aung, the CEO of Daily Eleven and Eleven Media Group, after he failed to appear in a police station yesterday by the deadline stated in the summons issued to him.

"We started to carry out our police work in line with the rules and regulations, as he failed to come to the police station by 4pm," said Police Lt-Col Myint Htwe.

Dr Than Tun Aung was sued under the telecommunications law by the Yangon Region cabinet for writing and publishing an article titled, "One year after the election," in the 6 November issue of Daily Eleven. The opinion piece accused Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein of "rosy relations with corrupt officials" and of wearing a US$100,000 worth Patek Philippe watch that was described as a gift from a convicted drugs lord. The article was tantamount to damaging the reputation of the regional government, according to the lawsuit.

U Maung Weik, who was accused of giving the expensive Patek Philippe watch to Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein on Dr Than Tun Aung's Facebook page, appeared at the police station today to receive interrogation by the police.

"On social media, stories have circulated about a newly elected chief minister, making just US$2,500 [S$3,500] a month, being seen wearing a US$100,000 Patek Philippe watch," read the English version, published by the Asia News Network.

In the press conference held on the evening of 9 November at the cabinet's office, U Phyo Min Thein said, "As Dr Than Tun Aung didn't stop writing till this morning, the cabinet sued him for libel action at Tamwe township police station."

U Phyo Min Thein reiterated at the press conference that the watch he wears is a Rolex bought by his wife, not a Patek Phillipe as described by Dr Than Tun Aung.

The region cabinet prosecuted the accused at Tamwe Police Station with case No. Pa 893/2016 under section 66 (D) of the telecommunications law.—*Ko Moe*

Metal parts with Chinese writing fall down into Kachin State

A METAL structure assumed to be a part of an aircraft or satellite fell down near Hmawsizar Village in Hpakant Township yesterday. The cylinder-shaped structure, 4-feet in diameter and 15-feet in length, fell on the property of a jade mining company and bounced up to 150 feet away, according to members of the Defence Services who are stationed in the region. Local residents reported hearing a loud noise shortly before the metal object was found. At about the same time, another cylindrical metal structure about 0.8 inch in diameter and 4.6 inches in length bearing Chinese characters tore through the roof of the home of U Thaung Yin Kyu in Aungbarle Village in Longkin Village-tract. The roof was damaged, but there were no injuries, authorities said.

The metal objects are assumed to be part of a satellite or the engine parts of a plane or missile, authorities said. China's *Xinhua News Agency* at 11:11am yesterday announced that the country had recently launched a satellite. It could not be confirmed whether the launch of the satellite and the metal objects found in Kachin State were related. — *Myawady*

The photo posted on social media shows a metal cylinder at Hmawsizar Village in Hpakant Township.

Thura U Shwe Mann discussing at the work coordination meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Work coordination meeting on reviewing laws held

A work coordination meeting on reviewing and assessing the laws was held at the parliament building I-11 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hlutaw U Win Myint, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, Chairman of the Commission for Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues Thura U Shwe Mann and members of the commission, Member of the Constitutional Tribunal U Nyi Nyi, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint and officials of the department concerned.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Festival of Literature, Tradition and Culture of Ethnic Groups to be held

U Aung Myo Myint, the director-general of PPD and chairman of the committee for organizing the festival. PHOTO: MNA

UNDER the sponsorship of the Ministry of Information, a festival of literature, tradition and culture of ethnic groups is to be celebrated in February, 2017. it is learnt.

A preliminary meeting for the festival was held yesterday in the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) on Theinbyu Street in downtown Yangon.

"The celebration of the festival is aimed at promoting friendship and respect among the brethren groups", said U Aung Myo Myint, the director-general of PPD and chairman of the committee for organizing the festival said. "Books written by national races will be put on sale, whereas publication of some which were not yet published will be implemented soon. Arrangements for interpretation and presentation of the literature compiled by ethnic races, in Myanmar Language at seminars and talk shows are under way. Traditional music and dance which are now on the verge of extinction and little-known customs are to be exhibited by the ministry."

U Myint Htwe, director-general of MRTV and a member of the organising committee, said that 17 languages of national races are being broadcast presently, and anyone is eligible to submit customs, travels, scenes of beauty and religious festivals by connecting with branches of their respective townships for showing in the upcoming festival.

U Maung Pe, director-general of the information and public relations department and a member of the organising committee, said that non-transcribed but spoken proverbs and mottos, traditions and customs that are nearly extinct can also be collected to be sent to respective branches.

In the meeting, ministers for Kayin national affairs in Yangon and Bago regions and the chairman of the Myanmar Writers' Association participated in the discussions and made suggestions.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Freight vessel capsizes after hitting sand bank

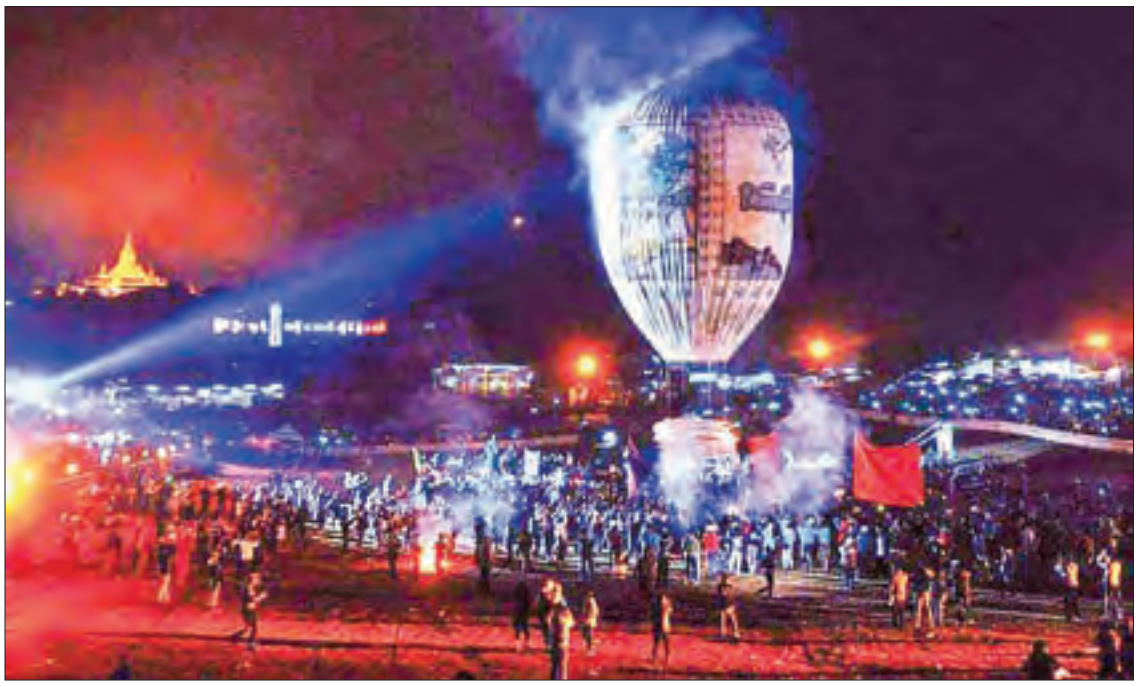
A freight vessel bound for Namtaw village from Monywa capsized yesterday after hitting a sand bank in the Uru river, authorities said

The incident occurred near the confluence of Chindwin and Uru rivers near Hommalin, Sagaing Region, authorities said.

The boat named Lin Lin Aung left Monywa with its owner U Bo Maung and vessel captain Kyaw Zin Tun. The vessel carried 300 barrels of diesel oil, 120 rice bags, iron bars of 20 feet in length and other commodities that had a total weight of 500 tonnes.

Responsible officials of the township, fire brigade members and auxiliary fire brigade members arrived at the site of the accident at 10a.m to carry out a rescue operation. No deaths or injuries were reported. An unknown volume of commodities were lost.—*MNA*

Pyin Oo Lwin celebrates hot-air balloon festival



The ballon belonging to the Sein Lann team being seen ready to go up. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

THE 12th Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival has begun at the Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Pagoda in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay and will be continue until November 15. This year's event includes a photography contest with cash prizes.

Day and night competitions will be held during the festival, including hot-air balloon competition, robe weaving (known as matho thingan), sepaktakraw competition and a small aircraft demonstration. At the event, vendors will sell regional foods such as cream balls, fruit, Khawpote, fried tofu and assorted jams.

This year, the Tazaungdine festival has attracted the interest of professional photographers from across the country and around the world.

Professional photographers will compete in both a day and night photo contest. The competitions will award prizes in both categories. The top prizes for the night competitors will include a trophy and Ks1.2 million to the first place winner, a trophy and Ks0.8 million to the second place winner, a trophy and Ks0.5 million to the third place winner, a trophy and Ks0.2 million to the fourth place winner, a trophy and Ks0.1 million to the fifth place winner and Ks0.08 million each to the sixth and seventh place winners.

For the day competitors, a trophy and Ks0.5 million will be awarded for first place, a trophy and Ks0.3 million for second place, a trophy and Ks0.2 million for third place, a trophy and Ks0.1 million for fourth place, a trophy and Ks0.08 million for fifth place, a trophy and Ks0.07 million for sixth place, a trophy and Ks0.07 million for seventh place and a trophy and Ks0.05 million for eighth place. The contest will not allow photographers to take photos using drones, organizers said.

A total of 132 hot-air balloons will be released at the festival. The festival will start at 8am on 11 November with a small aircraft demonstration. Hot-air balloons will be released the same day at 12pm and the night hot-air balloons will be released at 6pm.— *The Mirror*

Over 120 CCTVs to be installed across Mandalay next year

TO PREVENT crime and help investigation of criminal cases in the region, Mandalay Region authorities plan to instal over 120 new closed-circuit television cameras next year, a police spokesperson said.

Plans are underway to instal the CCTV cameras, considered a very useful investigative tool, at 56 strategic locations in Mandalay, one of largest cities in Myanmar, according to the Mandalay Region Police Station.

Details of the new scheme have been submitted to the region's chief minister.

The exact installation dates and locations have not yet been fixed for the government's programme, a police officer said, elaborating that the major goal of expanding installation of CCTVs is to reduce crime and promote public safety.

With the assistance of China, Myanmar's largest neighbor, authorities have installed 40 CCTV cameras at 20 locations in downtown Mandalay over the past few years. Thanks to the recordings of the cameras, police have made numerous successful investigations in traffic accident cases, he said.

The new plan will cover installation of CCTVs not only along main roads but also on the byways, as the majority of criminal cases occur on smaller roads and side streets.

The authorities monitor downtown Mandalay with the aid of CCTV at the Police Command Centre (PCC) 24 hours a day.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

A roundabout where a CCTV camera will be installed.
PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Crime NEWS

Raw opium and yaba tablets seized

NAM KHAM Township Police Force searched a motorbike ridden by Kyaw Oo and discovered raw opium weighing 3.6 kilogram on 8 November. Police also seized raw opium weighing 0.8 kilogram at Kyaw Oo's house at Lawl Lan village, Nam Kham Township.

In a separate but similar incident, anti-narcotics squad 28 of the Kengtung Township Police Force seized 200 yaba tablets from a motorcycle ridden by Kya Hae at the front of Naung Phaw Police outpost, Kengtung Township on 9 November. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Kya Hae. PHOTO: MPF

Kyaw Oo. PHOTO: MPF

GI Group Express hits road divider on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A GI Group Express car driven by Nay Tun Aung hit the road divider on 10 November between mileposts 232/4 and 232/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. There were no injuries.

The collision happened near Phayartaung Highway Police Station en route from Mandalay to Yangon. The damage to the vehicle amounts to Ks15 lakh, authorities said. The driver from GI Group Express has been charged with reckless driving by under Section 279 of the Penal Code.—*Than Oo (Lamyethnar)*

Larcenous motorboat purchaser caught using fake K10,000 notes

A man was caught using counterfeit Ks10,000 currency notes while trying to fraudulently buy a motorboat at the village of Maithwe, Kabin village-tract, Kyunsu township in Taninthari region at noon on 9 November, according to Myeik District Police Force.

Ngwe Than, alias Toe Nge, of Ranong, Thailand bought a motorboat from U Kyaw Tun Naing of Maithwe village.

After the sale, the seller reported to police in Kanmaw that the money may have been counterfeit.

Police inspected the notes in the presence of witnesses, finding them to be fake. Confiscated were 124 counterfeit notes of 10,000 kyats.

Ngwe Than, alias Toe Nge, was charged with possession of fake currency under sections 105/106 of the Myanmar Central Bank Law by the Kanmaw police station, it is learnt.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)*

Ngwe Than (*a*) Toe Nge.
PHOTO: MYEIK (IPRD)

LOCAL Business

MDY Urban & Housing Development to sell 500 affordable

MANDALAY Department of Urban and Housing Development Director-General U Aung Kyaw Lin announced that they will sell over 500 affordable, color-coded apartments within the Mya Yee Nanda housing complex starting on 10 November in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.

"The affordable apartments fall into four categories. The green colour is for government servants, blue for retired government civil servants, yellow for company staff and pink for lower-income people. Interested persons can apply between 1 December and 31 December." he added.

The apartments will be sold by lot. The applicants must have (Pyithu Hluttaw) Lower House representative's letter of recommendation or Regional Hluttaw representative's letter of recommendation. The decision will also be made based on household income. The applicant's monthly salary must be at least 4 to 5 lakhs on average and they must be able to purchase in four installments with bank loans. There are a total of 560 apartments in 14 five-storey buildings that have been constructed on an 7.67-acre plot of land. A ground floor apartment is being sold for K22.30 million,.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

A farmer ploughing traditionally on a field in Padigon, Bago Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Agricultural exports top last year's earnings

AGRICULTURAL exports as of 4th November this fiscal year earned US$155.395million more than the same period of last year, according to statistics from the Commerce Ministry.

Exports for in this fiscal year hit US$1,613.212million, whereas in the similar period of last fiscal year the figure was US$ 1,457.817million. Rice, peas and maize are the main exports from the agricultural sector. Myanmar's rice and corn are exported mostly to China through border gates while various type of peas go to India as well as China.

The volume of rice and broken rice exports as of 28thOctober in this fiscal year was 578,214 tonnes worth US$198.963million. The volume of rice exports was 425,924 tonnes worth about US$155million while 152,290 tonnes of broken rice worth over US$43million were exported.

The export volume slumped by over 201,000 tonnes when compared to that of similar period of last fiscal year, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.—*Mon Mon*

US election affects price of gold, dollar

THE world gold price has fallen to US$1,269 per ounce, a drop from 9th November, when it jumped to US$1,336 per ounce. Industry experts said the decrease was due to the unexpected victory of Donald Trump in Tuesday's US presidential election. The domestic gold price is tied to the global gold price.

The domestic prices are Ks878,000-880,000 per tical on 7th and 8th November. The price increased by Ks10,000 per tical on 9th November, reaching Ks892,200 per tical, aligned with increase in global gold price. The domestic gold price brought back to Ks887,000 per tical at the closing time on 9th November, it is learnt.

Similarly, the US election has an impact on the dollar price. The US exchange rate was Ks1,280-1,283 per dollar from 3rd to 6th November. The rate was opened at Ks1,280 per dollar on 7th November and closed at Ks1,288 per dollar in the evening. The rate hit Ks1,293 per dollar in the afternoon and dropped down in the evening. The dollar price was opened at Ks1,292 per dollar in the morning of 9th November and closed at Ks1,288 per dollar, it is learnt from the black market.

The Central Bank of Myanmar set the dollar price at Ks1,285 on 9th and 10th November despite the unstable rate in the private and black market. *–Ko Htet*

China fishery businessmen propose to purchase Myanmar's seafood

FISHERY entrepreneurs from China are eyeing Myanmar's fish products and proposed to purchase them on a large scale starting next year, said U Han Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF).

"Myanmar's seafood was on display at a China trade fair and Chinese fishery entrepreneurs expressed their interest. Therefore, we are planning to export saltwater fish to China as new market", U Han Tun said.

U Han Tun said the Chinese wish to purchase squids on a large scale. The MFF will make efforts to retain this new market to China for the long term. To enhance the fishery export market, the MFF is participating in foreign trade fairs to display Myanmar's fishery products, it is learnt.—*200*

Myanmar-Thailand border trade value hit over US$710million

THE border trade value between Myanmar and Thailand as of 28th October in this fiscal year reached US$715.261million, a big jump compared to the same period of last year, when trade value was only US$583.946million. This year's figure increased by over US$131million, according to the statistics of the border trade.

Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee and Maw Taung border trade channels are open to trade between Myanmar and Thailand.

The Myanmar export sector is dependent on natural resources such as natural gas, teak, agricultural products and fishery products. Agricultural products, livestock, minerals, forest products and industrial finished manufacturing goods are exported from Myanmar while personal goods, industrial raw materials and capital goods are imported into Myanmar. Myanmar has entered into agreements with neighboring countries — India, Thailand, China and Bangladesh — to engage in border trade in a total of 15 border camps: Muse, Lweje, Kan Pike Tee, Chin Shwe Haw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, Keng Tung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Nabulae/ Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Sittwe and Maung Taw. To bump up the border trade, there is a plan to negotiate with the countries concerned to open more trade camps in the commercial cities in the border areas, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

Seoul says Trump pledges commitment to defend South Korea

SEOUL — US President-elect Donald Trump pledged his commitment to defend South Korea under an existing security alliance during a phone call with South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Thursday, her office said.

Trump had said during the election campaign he would be willing to withdraw US military stationed in South Korea unless Seoul paid a greater share of the cost of the deployment. There are about 28,500 US troops based in South Korea in combined defence against North Korea.

Park congratulated Trump on his election and said the alliance between the two countries has grown and mutual trust deepened as they faced various challenges over the past six decades, adding she hoped the ties would develop further.

She asked Trump to join in the effort to change North's leadership and use deterrence against Pyongyang, especially at a time of transition in the United States when the North has tried in the past to test the will of the new US administration. Trump agreed with Park and said: "We will be steadfast and strong with respect to working with you to protect against the instability in North Korea," the Blue House said. The call was at around 0100 GMT for about 10 minutes and Park said she hoped Trump would be able to visit South Korea soon, according to the Blue House. There has been concern in South Korea that a Trump presidency would demand that Seoul sharply raise its share of the cost of maintaining the US military presence in the country.

Trump said earlier this year in various media interviews that he would be willing to withdraw US forces from South Korea and Japan but "would not do so happily." —*Reuters*

Modi in Japan to discuss India's nuclear, railway projects with Abe

TOKYO — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived on Thursday in Japan on a three-day visit to discuss with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe a nuclear plant pact and high-speed railway project in the fast-growing Asian country.

The two countries are expected to sign a bilateral pact enabling Japan to export nuclear power plant equipment and technology, Japan's first such pact with a country that has not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Japanese officials said. India tested nuclear explosive devices in the 1970s and 1990s.

The planned signing comes as India aims to increase nuclear power generation to meet its growing demand for electricity due to fast economic growth. Japan is promoting exports of infrastructural products, including nuclear plants, to spur its economy.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during a photo opportunity ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, on 12 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The two leaders agreed in principle in New Delhi last December to conclude the civil nuclear cooperation pact.

During talks on Friday in Tokyo, Abe and Modi are also expected to discuss progress on an Indian high-speed railway project using Japanese shinkansen bullet train technology. The 500-kilometre-long railway will link Mumbai and Ahmedabad in western India.

On Saturday, the two leaders will take a shinkansen train to Kobe in western Japan and visit a factory of Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., a maker of shinkansen cars, according to the Indian government.

Regarding the nuclear pact, it remains to be seen how Japan, sole victim of atomic bombings in war, can ensure that Japanese nuclear technology is not diverted to military use, the officials said.

Some in Japan are opposed to exports of atomic power equipment and technology out of concern over safety in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster in March 2011.

The Abe-Modi talks are also part of an effort to strengthen bilateral economic and security ties amid China's rising assertiveness in the South and East China seas and Indian Ocean. Abe hopes to enhance cooperation with India in defence, counterterrorism and capacity building of Southeast Asian countries under his strategy to promote stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region, the officials said.—*Kyodo News*

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Senior Chinese public security official chosen as Interpol head: Xinhua

Meng Hongwei (R), Chinese Vice Public Security Minister, shakes hands with Nguyen Quang Dam, the commandant of the Viet Nam Coast Guard, in Beijing, China, on 26 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — Global police cooperation agency Interpol elected a senior Chinese public security official as president, Chinese state media said on Thursday, in what could be a boost to Beijing's domestic anti-graft crackdown.

The move hands China another leading spot on an international agency and will likely help facilitate its high-profile efforts to track down Chinese fugitive officials who have fled the country.

Vice Public Security Minister Meng Hongwei was chosen for a four-year term at the agency's 85th members' meeting in Indonesia, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"He is the first Chinese official to take the post," Xinhua said. His predecessor was Mireille Ballestrazzi from France.

China has worked bilaterally with countries around the world, and through the France-based organisation, to chase down Chinese suspects as part of President Xi Jinping's sweeping campaign against corruption.

In 2014, China issued an Interpol "red notice", the closest instrument to an international arrest warrant, for its 100 most-wanted corruption suspects who have fled overseas. It has said it has brought back at least one-third of them so far.

China has been seeking more international cooperation to hunt down suspected fugitives since Xi began the drive against deeply rooted graft about four years ago.

Western countries, however, have been reluctant to help, or to sign extradition treaties, not wanting to send people back to a country where rights groups say mistreatment of criminal suspects remains a problem. They also complain China is unwilling to provide proof of their crimes.

Critics have also said Xi's graft crackdown is as much about taking action against his political enemies as it is about going after corruption, accusations the government strongly denies.

Duan Daqi, a Chinese national, is currently an Interpol vice president whose term ends in 2018.

Other Chinese nationals have previously served in senior positions in world organisations, including Zhu Min, who was deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund from 2011 to 2016.—*Reuters*

Japan's PM Abe to meet Trump next week, pitch importance of alliance

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will seek to establish good personal ties and pitch the importance of the bilateral security alliance when he meets US President-elect Donald Trump in New York next week, officials said on Thursday.

A Japanese government official said the pair had already talked by telephone and confirmed close cooperation, stressing the importance of the Japan-US alliance in the Asia-Pacific region.

Abe will meet Trump in New York next Thursday before going on to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

"Trump may take longer than usual to build his administration as he searches for people to fill key policy positions," Tetsuya Otsuru, a senior Japanese foreign ministry official, said in a speech in Tokyo. "We want to safeguard our alliance with the United States during the transition."

Trump's unexpected victory has fanned Japan's anxiety about Washington's commitment to security arrangements in the face of a rising China and a volatile North Korea.

His "America First" rhetoric and calls for Japan and South Korea to pay more of the cost for US troops in the region or face their possible withdrawal have worried officials. So has his opposition to a 12-nation pan-Pacific trade pact that was a linchpin of Washington's "pivot" to the region.

"Abe has big concerns on trade and security and on both of these, candidate Trump has been decidedly unreassuring," said Jeffrey Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University's Japan campus.

"Abe will politely try to explain why the alliance is so important and that Trump needs to retreat from some of his assertive rhetoric," Kingston said.

Japanese companies play a key role in the US economy, employing more than 800,000 American workers. They contributed $78 billion to US exports in 2014, according to the US Embassy in Tokyo.

Japanese officials said they had already been in touch with Trump's advisers but acknowledge they had a better understanding of the policies of defeated Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

"We are certainly concerned about the comments he has made to date about the alliance and the US role in the Pacific," said a Japanese government source. "I hope our team starts working as soon as possible to rectify his perceptions."

Abe was quick to offer Trump congratulations, praising his "extraordinary talents" as a businessman.

"I very much look forward to closely cooperating with you to further strengthen the bond of the Japan-US alliance," Abe said in a statement after Trump's win was confirmed.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan, on 26 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Abe and US President Barack Obama never really appeared to click personally. A ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker said he hoped Abe and Trump could develop the close personal "Ron-Yasu" ties seen between then-president Ronald Reagan and former Japanese prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in the 1980s.

"Trump is a practical businessman and he thinks in terms of profit and loss," Masashi Adachi, head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's foreign policy panel, told Reuters. "If we explain that the US-Japan alliance is in US interests, he will understand its importance on balance."—*Reuters*

Philippines' Duterte says to stop quarrels with US after Trump win

KUALA LUMPUR — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte congratulated Donald Trump on his election win and said on Wednesday he now wishes to stop quarrelling with the United States, recalling his anger at the Obama administration for criticising him.

The maverick leader, dubbed "Trump of the East" for his unrestrained rants and occasional lewd remarks, has repeatedly hit out at Washington in recent months, threatening to cut defence pacts and end military joint drills.

"I would like to congratulate Mr. Donald Trump. Long live," Duterte said in a speech to the Filipino community during a visit to Malaysia.

"We are both making curses. Even with trivial matters we curse. I was supposed to stop because Trump is there. I don't want to quarrel anymore, because Trump has won."

Duterte won a May election by a huge margin and is often compared with Trump, having himself been the alternative candidate from outside of national politics.

He campaigned on a populist, anti-establishment platform and struck a chord among ordinary Filipinos with his promises to fix what he called a broken country.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte arrives to meet with the Filipino community during his official visit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 9 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

But the biggest surprise of Duterte's presidency so far has been his hostility toward the United States, shown during near-daily eruptions of anger over its concerns about human rights abuses during his deadly war on drugs.

He has also threatened repeatedly to severe a military relationship that has been a key element of Washington's "pivot" to Asia.

Duterte on Wednesday told Filipinos how angry he had been at Washington, saying it had threatened to cut off aid and had treated the Philippines like a dog tied to a post.

"They talk as if we are still the colonies," he said.

"You do not give us the aid, shit, to hell with you," he said, recalling comments he had directed at Obama.

Last month Trump told Reuters that the Philippines was a very important strategic location and that Duterte's comments about removing foreign troops showed "a lack of respect for our country."

Teddy Locsin Jr, Duterte's incoming ambassador to the United Nations, said there were a few parallels between Trump, who stunned the world by defeating rival Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's presidential election, and Duterte.

"I remember Trump in the middle of one of his statements, he said 'I will not talk like this after I become president'," Locsin said on TV. "I remember someone who also said the same thing." —*Reuters*

India's move to curb 'black money' will break backbone of traffickers: Satyarthi

NEW DELHI — Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi has welcomed India's overnight move to withdraw 500 and 1,000 rupee notes from circulation to crack down on corruption and counterfeit currency, saying it would also to help curb human trafficking and child slavery.

The shock currency move, announced late on Tuesday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to bring billions of dollars worth of unaccounted wealth which people are hoarding, or "black money", into the mainstream economy and curb corruption.

From midnight on Tuesday, the highest denomination bank notes ceased to be legal tender for transactions other than exchanging them at banks for smaller notes.

Banks are meant to alert the Reserve Bank of India and tax authorities of any unusually large sums being exchanged — which may be the product of ill-gotten gains.

Child rights activist Satyarthi said human trafficking and child labour were amongst the largest sources of black money.

"I commend the boldness of the step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put an end to black money and corruption," he said in a statement on late on Wednesday.

"Every single rupee earned by the traffickers and slave masters is black money. This move will break their backbone."

India alone is home 40 per cent of the world's estimated 45.8 million slaves, according to a 2016 global slavery index published by the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation.

Thousands of children, mostly from poor rural areas, are taken to cities every year by gangs who sell them into bonded labour or hire them out to unscrupulous employers. Many end up as domestic workers or laborers in brick kilns, roadside restaurants or small textile and embroidery workshops. Many women and girls are sold into brothels.

Modi came to office in 2014 promising a war against the shadow economy, winning him support from middle-class Indians who accuse politicians and businessmen of cheating the system. —*Reuters*

Opinion

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Fundamental principles can avoid repetition of erroneous past

Myint Win Thein

OUR world is always changing and so are our concepts. However, we should not abandon our basic principles if we really love and respect our fundamental values as human beings, as these principles were developed during the course of human history. They are important for avoiding our erroneous past.

Nevertheless, we are sometimes amazed when we see an unexpected, completely opposite conceptual change in a person. As a result, we often say that we cannot understand such a person because that person now embodies something once he or she hated the most. That person may be pretentious at some points in his or her life.

On the other hand, it is not so difficult to understand behavioral and conceptual changes of people if we comprehend the concept of a sociologist that says that "It is not consciousness that determines life, but rather life that determines consciousness".

Our changing lives are reshaping our concepts and behaviour. That is why we sometimes surprise our friends. It is natural for us to adapt to our changing lives. However, we should not abandon our basic principles if we really love and respect our fundamental principles as human beings. For example, we should not treat others in the manner we do not want to be treated. This is one of our most important principles as human beings. There are also many other basic principles we should always follow.

Concepts may change with our lives, but we should always uphold our basic principles as a human being endeavoring for progress. When a society does not value its fundamental principles, society will always be in the circle of the horrible past, where every mistake is repeated with no end in sight. Therefore, it is of utmost importance for us as human beings to respect our basic principles, wherever and whenever.

Let's minimize traffic accidents

Khin Maung Myint

LATELY, there were news of traffic accidents in the media almost every day. Most of them happened on the Yangon — Mandalay expressway and most resulted in fatalities. Because of the frequent accidents along that expressway, it is becoming notorious and some even dubbed it "**The Death Highway**".

According to the latest WHO report there were over ten thousand fatalities from traffic accidents in Myanmar during last year; which is quite high. The traffic accidents are undesirable, thus although they cannot be totally eradicated, the lesser would be better. So, we should try to minimize the traffic accidents.

Some forty years ago, I came to know a traffic police officer. He was a senior officer in those days in his profession, not in terms of rank, but in service and experience. He had attended some workshop seminars and trainings related to his profession, in foreign countries. On one occasion, during a conversation with him, I learned a very interesting lesson concerning the road safety.

He was opening his heart to me, and told me that they were becoming scapegoats for the traffic accidents that were on the rise in those days. He said they were being blamed for laxity in enforcing the traffic rules and regulations. He told me that according to the common concepts, the road safety depends on "**the three Es**".

The first **E**, according to him is engineering. That is the engineering aspect of the road constructions. The roads must satisfy the road-safety standards required. The second **E** is educating the public, drivers as well as the pedestrians, to observe the traffic rules and regulations. The pedestrians need to know certain traffic rules and signs to avoid being involved in accidents. The third and last **E** is the enforcement, which is the main duty of the traffic police.

In those days, almost all the roads and streets in the cities and towns and the highways all over the country were sub-standards with potholes and damaged or no road shoulders. Also some road surfaces don't have the necessary camber to drain the rain water, which resulted in the formations of potholes and damages to the road shoulders. Such situations made the drivers to abruptly avoid the potholes and damaged road shoulders that caused accidents. That is why the first **E** or the proper engineering works are necessary.

The second **E**, which stands for educating is also important. In most countries, departments similar to our Road Transport Department are responsible for educating and testing the would-be drivers before issuing driving liscences. Most accidents were caused by human errors or negligences or ignorances, thus educating the public, both drivers and the pedestrians alike, is very important. It is common knowledge that accidents are mainly caused by:-

1. Reckless driving,
2. Drunken driving.

3. Over speeding.
4. Using mobile phones without hand-free equipments while driving.
5. Falling asleep while driving.
6. Undisciplined road crossing or jay-walking by the pedestrians.
7. Ignorance or disregard for road signs and car signal lights on the part of the pedestrians.
8. Reluctance to use the zebra-crissings and overhead pedestrian passes.

The third E, is the enforcement, which is the duty of the traffic police and the judiciary as well. Without enforcement, law and order wouldn't prevail. However, enforcement doesn't necessarily mean just taking actions. Any other means to make the public to observe the traffic rules and regulations are also effective. For instance, life-sized figurines of traffic police placed on the sidewalks at vital spots in Bangkok are very effective in making the speeding cars to slowdown. When viewed from a distance, the drivers cannot differentiate a dummy form the real traffic police. Also the presence of close circuit television (CCTV) cameras proved effective in preventing the drivers from running the red lights, which could cause serious collisions. At one time the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration even installed fake CCTV cameras as the genuine ones were very expensive. Those fakes also proved to be effective too.

As for the frequent fatal road accidents on the Yangon--Mandalay expressway, which is becoming notorious as "**The Death Highway**", they are caused mostly due to the engineering faults. The second cause is due to the human factors. Based on my meager knowledge about road constructions, a perfect road must have an appropriate cambered surface and the curves in the road must have the specified superelevations at the outer edge of the curves.The superelevation is the amount by which the outer edge of a curve on a road is banked above the inner edge to counter act the centrifugal force, which has the tendency to overturn the vehicles negotiating the curve.

The cement concrete surfaces, unlike the asphalt concrete surfaces, create much more frictions. As friction caused the tyres to heat up easily and extensively, the air pressure in them increased to the point of bursting. That will cause the car to swerve uncontrollably and either overturn or collide with other vehicles or objects. The dangers of the tyres overheating could be reduced if they are inflated with nitrogen, a fact most drivers are not aware.

As for the human factors that cause car accidents, they can take many forms. Reckless driving, speeding, drunken driving, over speeding, falling asleep at the steering wheel while driving, or talking on the mobile phone while driving are the most common causes of accidents. Also failures to check the conditions of the tyres, brakes and the steering mechanisms before journeying along the expressways also can lead to accidents.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that periodical and random checks for alcohol intakes of the drivers be carried out. Speed checks also should be made often and CCTV cameras and speed monitoring sensors that can automatically transmit, via the Internet, the data and images to the nearest highway police stations ahead should also be installed. Above all, if the expressway or highway roads are constructed according to the engineering specifications and use the correct materials, accidents could be reduced significantly. Also if the public is well informed about the things concerning road safety, they would contribute much to reducing accidents. These combined with effective enforcements would produce good results in minimizing the traffic accidents. Thus, if the three **Es** could be systematically and properly adhered to, by all concerned, the road accidents would be significantly reduced, sparing many lives and limbs.

Thousands of anti-Trump protesters take to streets of US cities

People march in protest to the election of Republican Donald Trump as President of the United States in Seattle, Washington, US, on 9 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CHICAGO/NEW YORK — Demonstrators marched in cities across the United States on Wednesday to protest against Republican Donald Trump's surprise presidential election win, blasting his campaign rhetoric about immigrants, Muslims and other groups.

In New York, thousands filled streets in midtown Manhattan as they made their way to Trump Tower, Trump's gilded home on Fifth Avenue. Hundreds of others gathered at a Manhattan park and shouted "Not my president."

In Los Angeles, protesters sat on the 110 and 101 highway interchange, blocking traffic on one of the city's main arteries as police in riot gear tried to clear them. Some 13 protesters were arrested, a local CBS affiliate reported.

An earlier rally and march in Los Angeles drew more than 5,000 people, many of them high school and college students, local media reported.

A demonstration of more than 6,000 people blocked traffic in Oakland, California, police said. Protesters threw objects at police in riot gear, burned trash in the middle of an intersection, set off fireworks and smashed store front windows.

Police responded by throwing chemical irritants at the protesters, according to a Reuters witness.

Two officers were injured in Oakland and two police squad cars were damaged, Johnna Watson, spokeswoman for the Oakland Police Department told CNN.

In downtown Chicago, an estimated 1,800 people gathered outside the Trump International Hotel and Tower, chanting phrases like "No Trump! No KKK! No racist USA."

Chicago police closed roads in the area, impeding the demonstrators' path. There were no immediate reports of arrests or violence there.

"I'm just really terrified about what is happening in this country," said 22-year-old Adriana Rizzo in Chicago, who was holding a sign that read: "Enjoy your rights while you can."—*Reuters*

Obama, Trump to set differences aside for awkward White House meeting

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama will host an awkward meeting with President-elect Donald Trump at the White House on Thursday in their first public step toward a peaceful transition of power after the Republican businessman's surprise election victory.

The two men have had almost no one-on-one contact previously. Trump led the "birther" movement that questioned Obama's US citizenship and has pledged to overturn the Democratic president's signature policy achievements after he takes office on 20 January.

Obama campaigned vigorously for Trump's Democratic rival, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and called Trump both temperamentally unfit for the presidency and dangerously unprepared to have access to US nuclear codes.

They will seek to put that history behind them, at least for the cameras, during a meeting in the Oval Office at 11 am First lady Michelle Obama will also meet privately with Trump's wife, Melania, in the White House residence.

Obama said on Wednesday that despite his major differences with the New York real estate magnate, he would follow the lead of former Republican President George W. Bush in 2008 and ensure a smooth handover to Trump.

"Eight years ago, President Bush and I had some pretty significant differences, but President Bush's team could not have been more professional or more gracious in making sure we had a smooth transition," Obama said. "So I have instructed my team to follow the example that President Bush's team set."

Trump spent Wednesday focusing on that transition during meetings with his staff at Trump Tower in New York.

After taking office, he will enjoy Republican majorities in both chambers of the US Congress that could help him implement his legislative agenda and scrap or roll back Obama policies that he dislikes, such as the Affordable Care Act, the nuclear deal with Iran and US participation in the Paris agreement to fight global warming.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama would brief Trump about the benefits of those policies during their meeting.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five shot in downtown Seattle near scene of anti-Trump protests

WASHINGTON — A gunman opened fire in downtown Seattle on Wednesday evening following an argument and wounded five people, one man critically, not far from protests against the surprise victory of Republican Donald Trump in the US presidential election.

The shooting did not appear to be connected to the anti-Trump demonstrations but instead stemmed from a personal argument, said Robert Merner, assistant chief of the Seattle Police Department.

"It appears that some type of argument took place. This individual began to walk away from the crowd, then turned and fired into the crowd," Merner told reporters.

He said the suspect then fled from the area on foot and remained at large more than an hour later.—*Reuters*

Dang: Serbia, Africa together in defending their interests

BELGRADE — Due to a growing intolerance and insecurity among nations and, especially, a world polarized by superpowers, the people of Serbia and the African nations can unite and defend their interests since a common danger requires a common reaction, Pan-African Parliament President Roger Nkodo Dang said on Wednesday.

Addressing the National Assembly of Serbia, he stressed that terrorism and expansionist provocations by other countries are common topics for Africa and Serbia. I wish and hope that our visit will examine ways of resolving the problems troubling our citizens, and we are representatives of those people, said Dang, adding that the world of the future will be consolidated if mutually beneficial relations for citizens are developed.—*Tanjug*

Mexico's Pena Nieto says agreed Trump meeting during transition period

MEXICO CITY — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said on Wednesday that he spoke to US President-Elect Trump to congratulate him on his election win and the two agreed to meet before he takes office.

Pena Nieto also said he had discussed a new work agenda with Trump that would include security issues, and that he would seek to protect the rights of Mexicans throughout the world. Pena Nieto was lambasted in the local press for hosting a pre-election meeting with Trump, who has made disparaging remarks about Mexicans. —*Reuters*

Peru may attract more foreign investment through APEC 2016: expert

LIMA — Peru could attract as much as 50 billion US dollars in investment as the host of the upcoming 2016 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leader's meeting next week, a leading researcher said. Fernando D'Alessio, director of the Centrum research centre at the Pontifical Catholic University in Lima, said the Peruvian government has to use this event to attract more investment.

Speaking at the launch of a new book, "Peru: Leaders' Vision APEC 2016," D'Alessio said he believed in the ability of President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and his cabinet to secure economic development. The new book, which will be offered as a present to important attendees to the meeting, seeks to showcase Peru's socio-economic situations and its potential business opportunities. It was co-developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).—*Xinhua*

Two men get 23 years for 2015 fatal street racing in Hokkaido

SAPPORO — A court in Hokkaido sentenced two men to 23 years in prison on Thursday for street racing and killing four and injuring another in the nation's northernmost prefecture last year.

The Sapporo District Court, in a rare move, determined that Ryuji Tanikoshi and Ryuichi Komi, both 28, conspired in reckless driving and gave the prison term sought by prosecutors.

The prosecutors argued in the trial that the defendants engaged in conspiracy as they tried to outdo each other in speeds and intentionally ignored red lights, while the defence contended that they merely failed to notice red lights.

The prosecutors alleged that Tanikoshi and Komi drove their respective vehicles on the night of 6 June on a road in the city of Sunagawa at a speed of at least 100 kilometres per hour and entered an intersection while ignoring a red light.—*Kyodo News*

‘Crashing waves’ of jihadists fray soldiers’ nerves in Mosul battle

BAGHDAD — A week after his tank division punched through Islamic State defences on the southeast edge of Mosul, an Iraqi army colonel says the fight to drive the militants out of their urban stronghold is turning into a nightmare.

Against a well-drilled, mobile and brutally effective enemy, exploiting the cover of built-up neighbourhoods and the city’s civilian population, his tanks were useless, he said, and his men untrained for the urban warfare they face.

His Ninth Armoured Division and elite counter terrorism units fighting nearby seized six of some 60 neighbourhoods last week, the first gains inside Mosul since the 17 October start of a campaign to crush Islamic State in its Iraqi fortress.

Even that small foothold is proving hard to maintain, however, with waves of counter attacks by jihadist units including snipers and suicide bombers who use a network of tunnels stretching for miles (km) under the city.

Members of an Iraqi special forces police unit fire a rocket toward Islamic State militants on the south of Mosul, Iraq. PHOTO: REUTERS

They appear able to strike at will, often at night, denying the troops rest and rattling frayed nerves.

“We’re an armored brigade, and fighting without being able to use tanks and with soldiers unused to urban warfare is putting troops in a tough situation,” the officer told Reuters. He asked not to be named because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

A year ago, when his forces took part in an operation to drive Islamic State from the much smaller city of Ramadi west of Baghdad, they were tasked with holding territory outside while the counter terrorism forces entered the city.

Mosul, whose capture is a crucial step towards dismantling the caliphate Islamic State declared two years ago across large areas of Iraq and Syria, is too big for specialist forces alone.

“In Mosul, we have to advance inside residential areas, comb streets, clear houses from terrorists and deal with civilians. I’m afraid this job is too tough for us to handle”.

He said it was impossible to differentiate between civilians and fighters who melt in amongst them. Islamic State has forced its dress code on the population during the two years it has controlled the city. Men are required to have long beards, something the militants are still policing.

“Our soldiers can’t recognize them until it’s too late, when the attacker either detonates his explosive vest or throws a grenade,” the colonel said, adding that he lost two T-72 tanks and an armored vehicle in a single day’s fighting on Tuesday.

“It’s becoming a nightmare and it’s nerve-wracking for the soldiers,” he said. Even for the Counter Terrorism Service, or special forces, trained more specifically for the challenges in Mosul, the last week of fighting has been unprecedented. “We are carrying out the toughest urban warfare that any force in the world could undertake”, CTS spokesman Sabah al-Numani said on Sunday. *—Reuters*

Iran once again exceeds a nuclear deal limit: IAEA report

VIENNA — Iran has exceeded a soft limit on sensitive material set under its nuclear deal with major powers, the UN atomic watchdog said on Wednesday, hours after Donald Trump — who has strongly criticized the agreement — won the US presidential election.

It is the second time Tehran has surpassed the 130 metric tonne threshold for heavy water, a material used as a moderator in reactors like Iran’s unfinished one at Arak, since the deal was put in place in January. It had 130.1 tonnes of the material on Tuesday, the watchdog said.

The last time Iran overstepped that mark was brief, passing without major criticism from the other countries that signed the nuclear deal last year. But there are questions about whether the incoming Trump administration will react to such incidents the same way.

“On 2 November 2016, the director general expressed concerns related to Iran’s stock of heavy water to the vice president

A general view of the Arak heavy-water project, 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Tehran in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

of Iran and president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, ... Ali Akbar Salehi,” the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a confidential report seen by Reuters.

The IAEA is policing the restrictions placed on Iran’s nuclear activities under the deal it signed with the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. The agreement also lifted international sanctions against Tehran.

Iran told the agency it would prepare to transfer 5 tonnes of heavy water out of the country, as provided for in the deal, and a senior diplomat said Iran planned to carry out the shipment in the coming days.

A US State Department spokesman, speaking at a regular news briefing in Washington, confirmed Iran’s intention to export the excess heavy water.

“It’s important to note that Iran made no effort to hide this, hide what it was doing from the IAEA,” spokesman Mark Toner said. *—Reuters*

Rainstorms kill three in Albania, flooding land and highway

TIRANA — Rainstorms and floods killed at least three people in Albania on Tuesday and the country braced itself for even worse weather overnight and on Wednesday.

One victim was swept away in his car while trying to drive across a swollen stream, another was found drowned on the banks of the Tirana River and a third blown off his roof by strong winds.

Schools were closed until further notice and the army and emergency services began to evacuate people from some areas. A new highway linking the capital Tirana with the main port of Durres was severed by flooding and traffic diverted to an old communist-era road further south. Water inundated some of Albania’s biggest businesses, which have depots and plants along the highway to Durres. Low-lying agricultural areas in northwest Albania were flooded and some bridges in the mountainous north destroyed. Power supplies were disrupted but most lines had been repaired by evening. Tirana’s tapwater was badly polluted by mud. The rainstorms are expected to move to central and southern Albania later in the week. Despite the havoc caused, the rainfall will be a boon for the KESH power corporation’s three main hydropower plants on the Drin River.*—Reuters*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(14 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-064(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Casing Centralizer (4) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-065(16-17)	Spares for Aspro Compressor (89) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-066(16-17)	Spares for Synchronizing Panel Ex Gas Generator (14) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-067(16-17)	Spares for Rotary Swivel (Wash Pipe & Packing) (5) Items	US$
(5)	IFB-068(16-17)	Spares for ZJ 50D Drawwork (71) Items	US$
(6)	DMP/L-014(16-17)	Electrical Spares (3) Items for ZJ 50D Sr-I Rig	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 7-12-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 9TH 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 - 411097 / 411206

Haiti launches massive cholera vaccination drive but worries remain

LES CAYES (Haiti) — Haiti has launched a massive cholera vaccination campaign to battle a flare-up after Hurricane Matthew, but concerns remain about the capacity for longer-term improvements to water and sanitation infrastructure needed to eradicate the disease.

The cholera campaign, launched on Tuesday in two southern areas hammered by the storm, is aiming to be the world's largest, targeting 820,000 people, said Ernsly Jackson, an immunization specialist for UNICEF Haiti.

Haiti has battled a cholera outbreak that has sickened more than 800,000 people and killed about 9,000 since 2010, when the bacteria was imported into the country by a contingent of United Nations peacekeepers.

Although it had proved stubborn to eradicate, cases had declined sharply from a peak in 2010-11.

But Hurricane Matthew struck the island in early October, killing up to 1,000 people, leaving about 1.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance and damaging many health facilities. The storm largely destroyed much of the southwestern region's already meager water and sanitation infrastructure, leaving it ripe for a cholera outbreak, experts say.

Clifford Gauthier, the South department's head of the Ministry of Health, said there had been 1,200 suspected cholera cases since the hurricane hit, a sharp increase since the region had previously had fewer cases than other areas of the country. In total, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says there have been 3,500 suspected cholera cases since the hurricane.

In the Immaculate Conception Hospital of the port town of Les Cayes, 19 people suspected of having cholera were hooked up to IVs and lay on hospital bedframes. Marie Wilnine Gaetan, the head nurse of a rapid-response team, said that the region had not seen so many cases since the disease was first spotted in Haiti. — *Reuters*

A woman receives an oral cholera vaccine in a street of Les Cayes, Haiti, on 8 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pfizer weighs sale or spin-off of consumer health unit

The Pfizer logo is seen at their world headquarters in Manhattan, New York, US, on 1 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — US drugmaker Pfizer Inc is evaluating a potential sale or spin-off of its consumer health division that could value the unit at as much as $14 billion, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

A Pfizer exit from the consumer health business, which includes lip balm Chapstick and painkiller Advil, would be one of its biggest corporate moves since abandoning a $160 billion deal to buy Irish drugmaker Allergan Inc earlier this year.

The deliberations are still in a preliminary stage and the New York-based pharmaceutical company may opt to retain the business, the people said.

The people asked not to be named because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. Pfizer declined to comment.

Pfizer earlier this year decided against splitting itself into two companies, one housing its patent-protected drug business and one containing its generics business. Pfizer began openly planning for a possible split in early 2014, as a way to simplify its portfolio.

In Pfizer's most recent quarterly earnings call, Chief Executive Officer Ian Read said that Pfizer was continually evaluating whether its consumer business, along with other business lines, was worth more in or outside the company.

The consumer business had annual sales of about $3.5 billion.

If a sale or spin-off went ahead, Pfizer would be the latest pharmaceutical company to sell its consumer business to slim down its portfolio. Consumer drugs sold over the counter have far lower margins than prescription drugs.

In 2014, Merck & Co Inc sold its consumer care business, including the MiraLAX laxative, to Germany's Bayer AG in a $14.2 billion deal. In early 2015, drugmakers GlaxoSmithKline PLC and Novartis AG agreed to merge their consumer health businesses through a joint venture, run by Glaxo as part of a $20 billion asset swap.— *Reuters*

President Xi talks with astronauts in space

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday talked with the two astronauts in the space lab Tiangong-2, at the command centre of China's manned space programme in Beijing.

The two astronauts, Jing Haipeng and Chen Dong, embarked on their 33-day journey, the longest mission in the country's manned space program to date, onboard the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft on 17 October They entered Tiangong-2 on 19 October.

Xi expressed his sincere greetings to the two astronauts on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the State Council, the Central Military Commission, and people of all ethnic groups in the country.

"You have lived in space for more than half a month, and this is the third manned space mission Comrade Haipeng has undertaken and the first time for Comrade Chen Dong to enter space," Xi said during the video call. "All the Chinese people care about you very much." Responding to Xi's inquiries about their work, health and living conditions, Jing, commander of the crew, said they felt very well and were working as scheduled. Jing told the president that they could even watch the China Central Television (CCTV) evening news bulletin, or "Xinwen Lianbo," in space.

"China's manned space program has reached a new height. Chinese astronauts now enjoy better working and living conditions in space. We feel very proud of our great motherland," Jing said.

Chen said he had adapted to the zero-gravity environment in space, and his daily life and work there was normal. He vowed to work harder and fulfill the remaining tasks.

Xi said he was delighted to learn the astronauts were in good condition, speaking highly of their coordinated efforts in facing difficulties. The president said he hoped the two astronauts would keep up the good work through close cooperation and careful operation, so as to complete their mission. Shenzhou-11, China's sixth manned spacecraft, was launched on 17 October from northwest China's Gobi Desert.

It approached Tiangong-2, which was launched into space on 15 September, and automatically docked with the space lab on 19 October. The mission aims to transport personnel and materials between Earth and Tiangong-2, and test the ability to successfully meet, dock and return. Other objectives include aerospace medical experiments, space science experiments and in-orbit maintenance.

Before the talk, Jing and Chen carried out an in-orbit maintenance test using man-robotics coordination, the first ever such test in space. —*Xinhua*

Combination photo taken on 9 November 2016 shows Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) talks with the two astronauts, Jing Haipeng and Chen Dong, in the space lab Tiangong-2, at the command centre of China's manned space program in Beijing, capital of China. PHOTO: XINHUA

Cuba announces military exercises after Trump elected US president

HAVANA — Cuba on Wednesday announced a week of pre-scheduled nationwide military exercises to prepare for "enemy actions," the day after the United States elected Donald Trump, who has threatened to unravel the US-Cuban detente, as president. The Communist-ruled island did not directly link the exercises, which will include troop movements and explosions from 16 November to 20 November, to Trump's victory. The government has not issued any official reaction to the US election outcome. Cuba has held what it calls the "Bastion Strategic Exercise" every few years since 1980, often in response to moments of tension with its northern neighbour.

"The aim is to... raise the country's ability for defence and the troops' and people's preparation to confront different enemy actions," according to the announcement in the ruling Communist Party newspaper *Granma.* Trump has threatened to reverse outgoing US President Barack Obama's moves to open relations with Cuba and end decades of hostility that began soon after the island's 1959 revolution that overthrew a US-backed dictator. —*Reuters*

BANK HOLIDAY

All Banks will be closed on 14th November (Monday) 2016 "Full Moon of Tazaung Daing" under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Clinton thanks staff, supporters behind historic bid for US presidency

NEW YORK — Hillary Clinton walked onto the ballroom stage Wednesday morning to do what many had considered unthinkable: thank her campaign staff after failing in her bid to become the first woman elected US president, instead of the anticipated victory speech under a symbolic glass ceiling.

Hundreds of staffers and supporters gathered at the New Yorker Hotel in midtown Manhattan to hear Clinton speak publicly for the first time after her bruising loss to New York real estate magnate Donald Trump in the early hours of the morning.

Many wore the same clothes as the night before, having stayed up all night after leaving the glass-ceilinged Jacob J. Javits Convention Center, where Clinton's final rally never materialized.

Campaign Chairman John Podesta told the distraught crowd just after 2 am to go home and expect to ultimately "bring this home." Shortly after, news broke that Clinton had telephoned Trump to concede.

As staffers and supporters filed into the ballroom, there were tears, hugs, and disbelief that Clinton, a former secretary of state, US senator and first lady, had again failed to shatter what she called the "highest and hardest glass ceiling" after her first attempt at the presidency in 2008, when she lost in her bid for the Democratic nomination.

Hillary Clinton, accompanied by her husband former US President Bill Clinton (L) and running mate Senator Tim Kaine, addresses her staff and supporters about the results of the US election at a hotel in New York, on 9 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

This time, Clinton won the Democratic primary race, becoming the first women to secure a major party's nomination in her race against US Senator Bernie Sanders. But in the final contest for the White House, she lost to Trump, the unorthodox Republican nominee.

"We have seen that our nation is more deeply divided than we thought, but I still believe in America and I always will, and if you do then we must accept this result and then look to the future," Clinton said, with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, daughter Chelsea Clinton and Chelsea's husband, Marc Mezvinsky, at her side.

Also on the stage were Clinton's vice presidential pick, US Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, and his wife, Anne Holton.

Clinton wore a black suit with purple lapels — the colour created by combining blue and red, the colours that symbolize the two major US political parties — and not the suffragette white that many expected Tuesday night. Bill Clinton wore a matching tie.

Clinton urged her backers to seek unity in the wake of defeat.

"Donald Trump is going to be our president, we owe him an open mind and the chance to lead," she said.

Likely facing her last opportunity for a presidential run, Clinton, 69, acknowledged the bitter sting of an election defeat in which initial results show she won the popular vote but came up short in the Electoral College vote that ultimately decides the race.

Clinton had been leading Trump in public opinion polls for months, and in the final week of her campaign, her staff celebrated a drawn-out campaign marked with vitriol at star-studded rallies with performers such as Jon Bon Jovi, Jay Z and Beyonce.

But as election returns came in, Trump pulled off major upsets in key states including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Florida that Clinton's campaign expected to win. Aides appeared visibly shaken as Tuesday night turned into Wednesday morning.

"Hate trumps love, I guess," a supporter in the ballroom on Wednesday said, flipping the phrase Clinton had used to close her rallies.—*Reuters*

Forensics experts search for evidence outside the French embassy, where unidentified attackers threw an explosive device causing a small blast, in Athens, Greece, on 10 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Small explosion outside French embassy in Athens, police say

ATHENS — Unidentified attackers on a motorcycle threw an explosive device at the French embassy in central Athens on Thursday, wounding a guard, police said, in an attack that came less than a week before US President Barack Obama visits the city.

"It was probably a hand grenade," one official told Reuters. "The building was not damaged, only externally, on the pavement. One officer, who was at the spot, was slightly injured."

The attackers were riding a motorcycle, according to footage from security cameras, another official said. The explosion was heard in central Athens. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack which happened at 5 am (0300 GMT), police said. The area around the French embassy, opposite parliament, was cordoned off by police. Small-scale attacks on businesses, police, politicians and embassies are frequent in Greece, with its long history of political violence.—*Reuters*

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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.

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Disbelief, questions at United Nations after Trump victory

UNITED NATIONS — The election of Donald Trump as the next US president was met with disbelief and despondency on Wednesday among some United Nations officials and diplomats amid uncertainty surrounding his foreign policy and likely engagement with the world body.

Trump, a Republican, has described the 71-year-old United Nations as weak and incompetent and threatened to pull out of a global deal to combat climate change — a cornerstone of the legacy of UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who steps down at the end of 2016 after serving two five-year terms as secretary-general.

"The United Nations is not a friend of democracy, it's not a friend to freedom, it's not a friend even to the United States of America," Trump said during a speech in March to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The United States is a veto-wielding member of the 15-member UN Security Council and the largest financial contributor to the United Nations. Washington owes about $1.1 billion, the United Nations said. Republicans have long been reluctant to pay dues, accusing the world body of waste and bias. Ban said on Wednesday he hoped that the Trump administration would "strengthen the bonds of international cooperation."

"People everywhere look to the United States to use its remarkable power to help lift humanity up and to work for the common good," Ban told reporters.

Topping the United Nations agenda are conflicts in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Iraq and elsewhere, and a refugee and migrant crisis that saw a record 65.3 million people uprooted worldwide last year. "More than ever, we need an America that is committed to world affairs, including at the United Nations," French UN Ambassador Francois Delattre said.

A senior Security Council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Trump's foreign policy had so far "not been very coherent" and his victory did not bode well for the future effectiveness of the council.

"The assumption is that (a Trump administration) will be less engaged with UN than (President Barack) Obama's administration, which was more committed to working for collective solutions than previous US administrations," the diplomat said.

Several UN diplomats noted a lack clarity from Trump on foreign policy.

"We have not really heard a very clear indication of where he is going," Iraq's UN Ambassador Mohamed Ali Alhakim told reporters on Wednesday, adding that he believed the United Nations would remain relevant.

"If there is any change in the policy we will then determine later on what we're going to do with that," he said. "Others were saying this is similar to Brexit, but this is what the Americans selected." Yemen's UN Ambassador Khaled Alyemany said he hoped the "new president will contribute positively to resolve the crises in the Middle East," acknowledging that Trump had not laid out a foreign policy plan for people to see.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein, last month warned that the world would be in danger if Trump was elected president. Zeid would continue to call out any Trump policies or practices that undermine or violate human rights, his spokesman said.

A western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, summed up how Trump's victory could impact the United Nations: "I think there will be a long hangover."—*Reuters*

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Antibiotic or hemorrhoid ointments; antiseptics, anti-dandruff shampoos and cream rinses; food for medically restricted diets; food for babies including dietary supplements for articles of food which supplements contain vitamins and/or minerals and/or proteins; protein supplements in powder form, wound adhesive bandages, preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides for domestic use, herbicides for domestic use, general purpose germicides, all purpose disinfectants, insect repellents and sprays, dietary and/or food supplements comprised of vitamins and/or mineral, herbs, plant concentrates, protein powder, fatty acid, fiber, algae and amino acids. (Int'l Class 5)

Water filtration apparatus for domestic and commercial use and parts and fittings; filters and parts and fittings; air filtration apparatus for domestic and commercial use, replacement filters for air filtration apparatus. (Int'l Class 11)

Paper bags, paperboard boxes, postcards, writing paper, note pads, envelopes, pens, pamphlets, leaflets, note cards, stickers, printed labels, not of textile, manuals for use by others in the selling, advertising and promoting the goods; catalogs for use by other in the selling, advertising and promoting the goods, paper towelettes; magazines, newsletters, periodicals, brochures and books all in the field of cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps, laundry products, dietary and/or food supplements, domestic water and air treatment systems. (Int'l Class 16)

Dispensers for soap and detergent in liquid or powdered form; squeeze bottles and spray bottles sold empty; sponge mops, applicators for rug and upholstery shampoo; stainless steel scouring pads; tote trays and caddies for household cleaning products and implements, disposable bags for baby bottles; metal skillets; sauce pans, pots, double boilers, dutch oven; cosmetic compact cases sold empty, eye shadow applicators; cosmetic spatulas; drinking glasses, made of glasses; drinking glasses made of crystal; glass, crystal and china dinnerware; figurines of china; figurines of crystal, figurines of glass; figurines of porcelain; candlesticks not of precious metals; candle holders not of precious metals; vases not of precious metals; bowls; crumb trays not of precious metal; meal trays not of precious metal; serving trays not of precious metal; plastic food storage containers for household or kitchen use. (Int'l Class 21)

Processed fruit and/or nut-based snack bars fortified with vitamins and/or minerals, potato chips; cream, not dairy products, granola-based snack bars; creamers for coffee. (Int'l Class 29)

Grain-based snack bars fortified with vitamins and/or minerals; chewing gum not for medical purposes; corn-based cheese puffs, corn tortilla chips, popped popcorn, coffee; sugar; protein powder. (Int'l Class 30)

Fruit juices, bottled water; mixers for use in the preparation of non-alcoholic fruit, chocolate or vanilla flavored soft drinks. (Int'l Class 32)

Business consultation. (Int'l Class 35)

Retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of cosmetics; retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of toiletries; retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of household cleaners; retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of soaps, retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of laundry products, retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of dietary and food supplements; retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of domestic water treatment systems; retail or catalog order services for merchandise in the field of domestic air treatment systems; mail order catalog services featuring cosmetics; mail order catalog services featuring toiletries; mail order catalog services featuring household cleaners, mail order catalog services featuring soaps; mail order catalog services featuring laundry products; mail order catalog services featuring dietary and food supplements; mail order catalog services featuring domestic water treatment systems; mail order catalog services featuring domestic air treatment systems; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of cosmetics, computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of toiletries; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of household cleaners; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of soaps; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of laundry products; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of dietary and food supplements; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of domestic water treatment systems, computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of domestic air treatment systems. (Int'l Class 42)

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Aung Naing Moe Advocate, Ong Mimi U Advocate, May Phyo Kin (H.G.P)
For Alticor Inc. **Myanmar Global Law Firm**
Ph:09732230123 Dated: 11, November, 2016

UK looks to rekindle China investment ties after Hinkley hiccup

LONDON — Britain will seek to rekindle its "Golden Era" of relations with China on Thursday in talks with Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai focused on trade, infrastructure investment and closer financial cooperation.

Ma's visit offers Prime Minister Theresa May a chance to smooth over a diplomatic spat caused by her surprise decision in July to delay approval of a partly-Chinese funded nuclear power project.

She later granted it, but not before drawing criticism from Beijing.

Facing a long and complicated withdrawal from the European Union, constrained government finances and an uncertain economic outlook, May said she wanted China to know that Britain was "open for business" as it prepares for life outside the bloc.

"As we take the next step in this golden era of relations between the UK and China, I am excited about the opportunities for expanding trade and investment between our two countries," she said in a statement. May held a private meeting with Ma and finance minister Philip Hammond on Wednesday ahead of the eighth round of the annual "UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue".

Chinese President Xi Jinping made a state visit to London last October, agreeing $62 billions of pounds worth of deals before sharing an evening of fish, chips and beer with May's predecessor David Cameron. —*Reuters*

AIG must defend Bill Cosby against defamation lawsuits

WASHINGTON — A federal judge said Bill Cosby's homeowner's insurance company must defend him against three civil defamation lawsuits in Massachusetts brought by several women who accused the once-beloved entertainer of sexual abuse.

In a decision on Tuesday, US District Judge Mark Mastroianni in Springfield, Massachusetts left open the question of whether American International Group Inc must indemnify Cosby for damages he may be required to pay the women.

But the judge said Cosby's alleged sexual misconduct was "too far removed" from his alleged defamation to free AIG from coverage under a policy it issued in California, while the sexual misconduct exclusions in a Massachusetts policy were "ambiguous" at a minimum.

"The court cannot say ... that it was the intent of the parties to exclude the kinds of claims brought in the defamation cases," Mastroianni wrote. "If Cosby's interpretation is reasonable, and thus the language is at least ambiguous under these circumstances, he prevails."

Mastroianni said the indemnification question "must await the completion of trial or settlement."

AIG had no immediate comment on Wednesday, and lawyers for the New York-based insurer did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Lawyers for Cosby did not immediately respond to similar requests. They have said AIG was required to cover Cosby's defense costs against the women's claims, even if those claims were groundless.

Homeowner policies typically cover personal injuries, such as when a person falls down on an insured's property, while "excess" policies such as Cosby's carry enhanced protections.

AIG had sought declarations that Cosby's policies excused it from defending and indemnifying him against personal injury claims "arising out of" sexual misconduct, as distinct from personal injury claims such as defamation.—*Reuters*

Brad Pitt back on red carpet for 'Allied' after cleared of abuse allegations

LOS ANGELES — Brad Pitt took to the red carpet at a fan event for his latest film "Allied" in Los Angeles on Wednesday, hours after he was cleared of child abuse allegations and applied for shared custody of his children with Angelina Jolie.

Pitt, 52, had kept a low profile after the Hollywood power couple, dubbed Brangelina, split suddenly in September following an incident on a private plane in which Pitt was reported to have lost his temper in front of one or more of the children.

But Pitt resumed press obligations this week for espionage war thriller "Allied". On Wednesday he attended a fan event alongside his co-star Marion Cotillard and director Robert Zemeckis, answering a few questions during a Facebook live stream hosted by movie studio Paramount Pictures.

"I don't know much about the espionage world and what it took to get behind enemy lines and to plant your characters, so that was really interesting," Pitt said of the film, which will be in theaters on 23 November.

Actor Brad Pitt. PHOTO: REUTERS

The actor plays Canadian army officer Max Vartan, who goes undercover in Casablanca during World War II, paired up with Cotillard's lively French spy Marianne Beausejour, to assassinate a German Nazi ambassador. While the pair flawlessly play a happily wedded couple during their undercover stint, they soon find themselves falling in love for real. But Marianne's alliances are called into question.

Parts of "Allied" echo Pitt's 2005 spy action movie "Mr & Mrs. Smith" in which he and Jolie teamed up on screen to play a married couple that keep their espionage lives secret from each other until they're ordered to assassinate one another. Jolie and Pitt started dating shortly after filming the movie.

On Wednesday a source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Pitt fully cooperated in a comprehensive inquiry in a child welfare case by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, which found no wrongdoing on his part. Pitt was only asked questions related to the film during the live stream interview, from his favourite Zemeckis movie to his grasp of the French language, which he was required to speak in parts of "Allied."

"I had to work at it really, really hard just to get that far. I say I'm going to get this language, but it may take me a lifetime," he said.—*Reuters*

Lady Gaga, tearful Miley Cyrus lead celebs mourning Clinton loss

LOS ANGELES — Lady Gaga called for kindness, Miley Cyrus was in tears, Madonna vowed never to give up and Katy Perry urged Americans not to weep as Republican Donald Trump stunned the world by defeating heavily favored Democrat Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's US presidential election.

Celebrities, many of whom had campaigned for Clinton, were shocked as Trump was elected after a long and bitter campaign.

A tearful Cyrus posted a video on social media on Wednesday saying she had not slept because of Clinton's loss. But the "Wrecking Ball" singer, 23, who had said earlier this year she would leave the country if Trump won, urged unity, saying "Donald Trump, I accept you as President of the United States ... Please treat people with compassion and respect."

Lady Gaga went to Trump Tower in Manhattan early on Wednesday and posted a picture of herself on Instagram holding a "Love trumps hate" campaign poster.

"I want to live in a #CountryOfKindness #LoveTrumpsHate. He divided us so carelessly. Let's take care now of each other,"she wrote. Hollywood actors, comedians and filmmakers had thrown their support behind Clinton. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, entertainment sources contributed $22 million to her campaign and to pro-Clinton super-PACs through Oct. 19, compared with less than $290,000 for Donald Trump, Hollywood trade publication Variety reported this week.

Cher, who had said earlier in the campaign that she would move to Jupiter if Trump was elected, tweeted "World will never be the same. I feel sad for the young." She made no mention of moving out of the United States.

Perry, who performed for Clinton at several campaign rallies, said "Do not sit still. Do not weep. MOVE. We are not a nation that will let HATE lead us."

"A New Fire Is Lit. We Never Give Up. We never Give In," wrote Madonna on Twitter. "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, who is British, got into a Twitter spat after urging her followers to challenge "racism, misogyny and hatred."—*Reuters*

Lady Gaga. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rapper Azaelia Banks & Donald Trump. PHOTO: PTI

Azealia Banks congratulates Donald Trump on becoming US President

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Azealia Banks has congratulated the newly elected US President Donald Trump, saying she is proud of him. Though many Hollywood celebrities like Chris Evans, Amy Schumer, Miley Cyrus, Jessica Chastain, Chern, Amanda Seyfried and among others have openly expressed their dismay over Trump's victory, Banks voiced her excitement on Instagram.

"First off, I would like to apologise to Donald Trump for all the stupid jokes I made. (I was kidding). Secondly, I would like to apologize for all the other times I was dumb enough to let the liberal media sway my opinion of you. Thirdly I'm proud of you. One for being a Gemini, two for being from NYC, three for winning the presidency and four for beating the media," she wrote.

Banks' comments came after she apologised for endorsing Trump last month. "I made a major mistake endorsing toupey-toupee. Womens' rights are important and we must protect them. I tried… I reached… I even carried… I take it all back," she wrote on Facebook at the time.

The "2012" hitmaker also mocked singer Beyonce and her rapper husband Jay Z on Facebook for supporting Trump's opposition and seasoned politician Hillary Clinton. "But I'm really laughing because Jayz and Beyonce really were up there shucking and bucking for Hillary and she STILL lost," Banks wrote.

During the elections, while many stars from the film industry aggresively campaigned for Clinton, Trump, a former Reality TV show host, found support in Jon Voight, Stephen Baldwin, Mike Tyson and Jesse James.—*PTI*

Melania's Slovenian hometown eyes Trump win as boon for tourism

SEVNICA (Slovenia) — The small Slovenian town of Sevnica, Melania Trump's birthplace, savored her husband's shock win in the US election as a likely boon for tourism on Wednesday, while a former schoolmate remembered her as "creative and innovative".

Until about a year ago, the town of fewer than 5,000 people, nestled in the foothills of the Alps, was scarcely known in Slovenia, let alone abroad.

But on Monday, Sevnica was clearly looking forward to a financial spin-off from being the hometown of the 46-year-old future US First Lady.

"Sometimes the pressure of the media was too hard. The people of Sevnica are not used to it. On the other hand, the global attention is positive because Sevnica is developing into a tourist destination," mayor Srecko Ocvirk said.

Speaking to Reuters shortly after 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) in Sevnica's Central cafe, the smiling mayor said local residents had supported Trump and his wife's campaign.

"We are very satisfied at the result," he said.

Born Melania Knavs in 1970, she lived in an apartment block in Sevnica with her family as a child. When she was a teenager, the family moved to a modest two-storey house above the Sava river on the outskirts of town, which sits below a well-maintained medieval castle.

Residents say her father sold car parts and her mother worked for a factory that made a brand of children's clothing very popular in communist Yugoslavia, before the country fell apart in the 1990s.

Melania's modeling career took her to Milan and thence to the United States, far away from her native Slovenia, a tiny former Yugoslav republic of 2 million people comparable in size to New Jersey.

"Even as a child Melania was creative, innovative and Sevnica was too small for her," said Mirjana Jelancic, Melania's friend who is now a headmistress of Melania's elementary school.

"She was reserved and when I heard that Donald was running I said (to myself) this will be hard for her. She never wanted to be in the spotlight," Jelancic said. "She was excellent at her job (in the campaign)."

Residents celebrate during the election in Melania Trump's hometown of Sevnica, Slovenia. PHOTO: REUTERS

The head of the town's health center, which received a donation from Melania in 2005 when she was pregnant with her son Barron, said she believed Melania would be a success in the White House, as well.

"Melania will be an excellent First Lady who will take Slovenian values of generosity, loyalty and trust to the United States and the world," Vladimira Tomsic said.—*Rerters*

Some Americans look to Canada, NZ as Trump surges to victory

TORONTO/WELLINGTON — Canada's main immigration website remained down on Wednesday and New Zealand reported increased traffic to its website for residency visas from US nationals as Donald Trump surged to victory in the US presidential election.

Americans have often vowed to leave the country if their chosen candidate doesn't win the election, but this time around some are actually preparing to do so after Trump stunningly won the 8 November election. A spokeswoman for Canada's immigration department said the website crashed "as a result of a significant increase in the volume of traffic" as election results rolled in Tuesday night.

Bonnie Quinn, a New Jersey insurance underwriter planning to move to Canada with her husband said she felt "just downright embarrassed" by the election results.

"I'm not sure in what order we should do things — find jobs first or move," said Quinn, 35, whose Irish grandparents once immigrated to Canada.

In New Zealand, immigration officials said the New Zealand Now website, which deals with residency and student visas, had received 1,593 registrations from United States citizens since 1 November — more than 50 per cent of a typical month's registrations in just seven days.

Rod Drury, the chief executive of NZ-based global accounting software firm Xero, said the statistics matched up with interest his company has been seeing from prospective US national employees concerned about a Trump win.

Drury said what started as a joke was becoming a reality.

"I've got lots of messages coming through at the moment asking for a job in New Zealand, and we're saying 'Yes you can'," Drury told Reuters by telephone on Wednesday.

In the hours after Trump's victory, Americans were searching for jobs in Canada at 10 times the rate of previous nights, said Jed Kolko, chief economist for job website Indeed.

"It's far too soon to guess how many of these searchers will make a move after the shock wears off. But the jump in searches shows how many Americans were surprised by Trump's victory and are thinking about their options elsewhere," Kolko said in an emailed statement.

In Atlanta, business coach Nancy Chorpenning, 62, said she and her husband are looking to move to Costa Rica sooner than their planned retirement because of the Trump victory.

"I am simply terrified the new administration and Congress may destroy the Social Security we count on when my husband retires," said Chorpenning, who is traveling to Costa Rica next week to scout for condos.—*Reuters*

Supporters of Hillary Clinton react at her election night rally in Manhattan. PHOTO:REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(11-11-2016 07:00am ~ 12-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-2)
07:55	Am	Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Tazaungmone (Part-II)
08:48	Am	Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	News Extra: Australia-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
10:03	Am	News
10:40	Am	Green Corner (Episode - 10) Glow in the Dark Mason Jars
10:51	Am	Egg Shell

(11:00Am~03:00Pm)-ThursdayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm~07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
07:46	Pm	Chinlone and the dreams of the player
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)

(09:00 Pm~11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00Pm~03:00Am)-ThursdayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Indonesia's tourism ministry wins several categories in 2016 China Travel Award: official

JAKARTA — A senior official at Indonesia's tourism ministry said that the ministry had won several categories contended in 2016 China Travel Award with trophy handover ceremony being scheduled on 15 November in Shanghai, China.

"We have already been acknowledged about that through the official invitation, notifying that Indonesia has won in several categories. I hope this would benefit Indonesia's tourism sector, particularly in the efforts to cope with over 20 million foreign visitors target by 2019," Ukus Kuswara, the secretary of Indonesia's tourism ministry said in a statement released on Thursday.—*Xinhua*

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PFA chief urges Mourinho to show more empathy to players

LONDON — The Professional Footballers' Association has voiced concerns over Jose Mourinho's criticism of Manchester United defenders Chris Smalling and Luke Shaw, urging the manager to show more empathy towards players with "personal problems".

Mourinho condemned Shaw and Smalling over the pair's apparent unwillingness to play through the pain barrier in Sunday's Premier League win over Swansea City, saying they were not "brave" enough to feature.

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I was disappointed by that because, knowing the individuals, they are both highly thought of. They've got personal problems which I don't need to relay," PFA Chief Executive Gordon Taylor told Sky Sports.

"Sometimes a manager needs to be a psychologist as well, and also to be a counsellor because you can't treat everybody in the team (the same), every manager must know that. Every player in a team is different." Smalling has missed several United matches with a foot injury but took a pain-killing injection to play against Chelsea last month, according to British media reports. Shaw, who recently returned following a 10-month injury layoff, has had a mixed start to the campaign and lost his place in the starting line-up after Mourinho publicly criticised the 21-year-old following United's loss at Watford in September. "It's a short-term career and we're all human beings. I think that's what management these days has to be," Taylor added. "I'm not talking about being soft, I'm talking about being understanding because to even get to the top in football you have got to succeed as not so many actually make it in the game."—*Reuters*

Tokyo 2020 Olympic games emblem is displayed at Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building in Tokyo, Japan, on 15 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tokyo 2020 organisers approve baseball-softball in Fukushima

TOKYO — Japan's Fukushima Prefecture could play a part in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after organisers on Wednesday approved a plan to hold part of the baseball-softball competition in the disaster-hit region.

The prefecture was devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that triggered the world's largest nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

Baseball is returning to the Olympics for the first time since Beijing 2008 and organisers are keen to play a part in helping the region — parts of which are still uninhabitable — get back on its feet. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach raised the possibility of Fukushima opening the baseball-softball competition at the World Forum on Sport and Culture in Tokyo last month.

The prefecture is one of three proposed venues, along with the cities of Koriyama and Iwaki. The IOC will take a final decision at a meeting of its executive board in December.

Fukushima governor Masao Uchibori said he had been told by Yoshiro Mori, head of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic organising committee, that the process to bring the baseball competition to Fukushima had begun.

"I was told by president Mori that the proceedings to host baseball and softball in Fukushima Prefecture have officially started," Uchibori said, adding that Fukushima would lobby to host other Olympic events as well. "We will now work with the organising committee to decide on the location and do everything we can to make the event a success in Fukushima Prefecture.

"Along with the baseball and softball, we have also asked about the torch relay as well as training camps for the soccer teams. We want to be involved in various events, which will hopefully help add to the atmosphere of the Olympics." The president of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, Riccardo Fraccari, will visit Japan next week for an inspection tour of the proposed venues.—*Reuters*

LA 2024 bid committee looks to Trump as a unifier

LOS ANGELES — Republican Donald Trump's stunning victory in the US presidential election was applauded on Wednesday by the Los Angeles bid committee that hopes to land the 2024 Olympics.

While Trump has angered many people with his polarizing words during a lengthy and often tumultuous presidential campaign, LA 2024 praised the Republican for "his longstanding support of the Olympic movement in the United States."

In a statement, the LA bid committee said: "LA 2024 congratulates President-elect Donald J. Trump ... we strongly believe the Olympics and LA 2024 transcend politics and can help unify our diverse communities and our world.

"LA 2024 has achieved 88 per cent public support in the latest poll and strong bipartisan government support at the local, state and federal level.

"We look forward to working closely with President-elect Trump and his Administration across the federal government to deliver a 'New Games for a new Era' that will benefit and inspire the entire Olympic movement in 2024."

A man crosses the road in downtown Los Angeles, California, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

A wealthy real estate developer and former reality TV host, Trump defeated heavily favoured rival Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's presidential election, ending eight years of Democratic rule and sending the US on a new, uncertain path.

On the campaign trail, Trump had made even his party's establishment uneasy with his abrasive tone and policy positions, including his promise to build a wall on the US-Mexican border, deport 11 million illegal immigrants and temporarily bar Muslims from entering the country.

Earlier this year, however, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said the Olympics transcended politics and it would not matter whether Trump or Clinton ended up winning the presidential election.

"When the dust settles on these presidential campaigns and we have a new president, he or she will squarely be behind Los Angeles' bid to bring these Games back to the US" Garcetti said at the United States Olympic Committee media summit.

"This is something that breaks down walls and something that brings us together."

Los Angeles is up against European glamor cities Paris and Budapest in the race to host the 2024 Summer Games. —*Reuters*

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