

Myanmar has potential to graduate from LDC status in 2015



Vice President U Nyan Tun highlights procedures for graduation of Myanmar from least developed country status.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Gross national income (GNI) per capita, the human asset index (HAI) and the economic vulnerability index (EVI) are three criteria used by the Committee for Development Policy, an arm of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Vice President U Nyan Tun told a meeting on Thursday here,

sources said.

The meeting was focused on lifting Myanmar out of the category of least developed countries, with the vice president saying that a country must meet two of the three graduation criteria.

According to the 2013 report on least developed countries, Myanmar is nearly eligible for gradu-

ation in terms of GNI per capita.

U Nyan Tun said that his country is on the right track to sustainable development on all fronts, with the exception of the economic vulnerability index.

He called for stakeholders to add new momentum to community-based approaches

designed to create higher rates of productivity, employment, income, health care, education and social welfare in a bid to satisfy indexes required for the country's exit out of the least developed countries.

He spoke of measures being taken by relevant committees in partnership with UN agencies and INGOs to lift the country out

of the LDC category in 2015.

At the meeting, union ministers briefed Vice President U Nyan Tun on the collection of statistics for the GNI per capita, gross domestic product, EVI and HAI in collaboration with international organizations for technical assistance.

MNA

Warning shot of large-calibre weapon leaves casualties at KIA camp

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov —The Tatmadaw has occasionally or regularly informed ethnic armed groups of its normal activities such as changing duty at its security posts and repairing roads of food supplies to its personnel. However, the KIA (Kachin) troops attacked a post of the Tatmadaw near Lwe Yin Village in Lweje Sub-Township in Moe-mauk Township on 1 June, on 13 and 26 September and on 27 and 28 October. The Tatmadaw sent objections to these attacks to the team of negotiation and settlement of conflict (KIA).

Four Tatmadaw personnel were injured in an ambush by KIA troops on a Tatmadaw column, which was performing its normal activities of changing personnel at security posts near Palaung Dainsa Village in Mansi Township on

16 November.

Although the Tatmadaw informed the KIA of the attack through the team of negotiation and settlement of conflict in Myitkyina, about 80 KIA troops attacked the Tatmadaw column from all sides near Magigum Village on 17 November, leaving one Tatmadaw personnel injured.

The Tatmadaw informed the KIA team of negotiation and settlement of conflict through the state team of negotiation and settlement of conflict on 18 November to control its troops in order to build sustainable peace without starting an attack and without repeating such attacks. The Tatmadaw column that was building a road for food supplies also warned the KIA troops not to launch attacks on the

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National Education Law advisory body urges students to resolve issues with law democratically

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 20 Nov—The advisory body tasked with drafting the National Education Law has urged students protesting against the law to engage in dialogue with the body as well as the parliamentary legislative body to resolve their objections to the national law.

During a recent protest against the new law, the students called for amendments to the National Education Law, which was enacted by the Hluttaw on 30 September, 2014, pointing out that the law restricts the formation of student unions and creates a commission to oversee the country's education system.

The advisory body comprised of over 30 experts, mostly retired professors from institutes and universities, has called on the students to discuss with the body their objections to the law by

section as well as by paragraph of the law frankly and openly.

A statement released by the body on Thursday has suggested holding an inclusive dialogue with all educational institutions concerned over the controversial law.

However, the respon-

sibility for making the amendments into law rests with the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, the statement said.

Students have criticized that the National Education Commission formed by the law wields great power over the education system and that its

power to write syllabuses is not democratic.

The experts denied the existence of any controversy, saying the National Education Commission and the higher education coordination committee formed by the law are not meant to centralize the education

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The advisory body on drafting the National Education Law has assured students that the new law will create an education system that can promote the intellectual development of students as well as pave the way for a knowledge-based economy.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**Constitutional amendments debated at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday continued its debate on the report of the Constitutional Amendment Implementation Committee.

Defence Services Personnel Representative Lt-Col Moe Kyaw Oo was against conferring powers for defence, security, foreign affairs and finance to states and regions, arguing that new laws enacted by states and regions may contradict one another and

this may undermine national unity.

Representative Daw Phyu Phyu Thin of Mingala Taungnyunt Constituency said that a constitution that is simple and easy to understand helps the public and contributes to the stability of the country.

Representative U Salai Khwe Yan of Chin State Constituency-12 said that a solution must be sought through negotiations in the interests of the nation amidst challenges and that



section 436 of the constitution should be open to amendment.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is debating the report until 25 November.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives continue debate on issue of constitutional amendment.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw**Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on organ donation and digital television broadcasting**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — The Ministry of Health is drafting a new bill on the donation of organs to prevent illegal trafficking and the acquiring of organs through illicit means, Deputy Minister for Health U Win Myint told the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on Thursday.

He was responding to a question whether the new bill allows anyone to donate their organs if they have the same tissue type as the recipient.

There are two kinds of organ donation, one being donation of an organ of a brain-dead person and the other, of a living person, according to the deputy minister.

Although there is no problem in organ donation in the case of the former, that of the latter may lead



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway.—MNA

to illegal trafficking and illicit organ acquisition, the deputy minister added.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health is redrafting a new bill to prevent these undesirable incidents, the deputy minister said.

Another question raised at the Pyithu Hluttaw concerned digital television programmes, which were introduced recently to Myanmar. Regarding the question, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway said that 25 stations are not broadcasting with the Digital DVB-T2 system while 68 more stations will broadcast with the system in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Set-top boxes to receive the channels have also been distributed free of charge to the public and more set-top boxes will also be available in the 2014-15 fiscal year, according to the deputy minister.

Then, the secretary of the Bill Committee explained the bill for holding a national referendum to adopt the bill amending the 2008 constitution.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw**Amyotha Hluttaw holds 31st session**

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun responded to questions for the ministry at the Amyotha Hluttaw session (Upper House) on Thursday.

In his response to a question on issuing land grants to families residing in Kanthaya Village formerly registered as Gatekon Village in Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region, the deputy minister said that since the village is situated on pasture land, it is necessary for the township general administration department to apply for the cancellation of the pasture land to the Ministry of Home Affairs in accordance with rules and regulations. To change the name of the village, the Yangon Region chief minister is required to submit his recommendation to the president, according to the deputy minister. If approved, the residents can apply for land grants in accordance with rules and regulation, the deputy minister said.

Regarding a question as to whether the ministry has plans to purchase helicopters for the fire brigade, the deputy minister said that despite the efforts of the ministry to improve the skill of personnel in fire brigades by sending them to undergo training at home and abroad, no plan has been made to purchase helicopters as priority has been placed on expanding the fire brigade, substituting old fire engines with new ones and purchasing modern equipment.

As to the questions on drug trafficking in Rakhine State, the deputy minister said a number of measures have been taken to prevent the inflow of drugs into the state and that educational measures are also being implemented at schools.

MNA

Warning shot of large-calibre weapon . . .

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Tatmadaw column and the Tatmadaw column would respond if attacked.

However, KIA troops attacked the Tatmadaw personnel and the bulldozer that were building Sama Junction-Gagun road section for food supplies at about 11 am on 19 November and the Tatmadaw column taking security duty had to respond to the attack.

As the KIA failed to control its troops and increased its military activ-

ities despite the repeated warnings by the Tatmadaw not to attack Tatmadaw personnel who were discharging national defence duty such as providing security for safe travelling of the local people, changing personnel at security posts and repairs of roads, the Tatmadaw camp fired a warning shot of a large-calibre weapon which fell and exploded at a KIA camp, causing casualties.

In accordance with the guidance of the government, the Tatmadaw is

cooperating with the Union Peace-Making Work Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team in order to reduce military activities without starting an attack and to forge political agreements for sustainable peace. The Tatmadaw has already warned the KIA not to attack the Tatmadaw personnel and government staff who are performing their duties of national defence such as providing security and building roads.

Myawady

urges students to resolve . . .

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system. Furthermore, they said that the commission and the committee will carry out budget submissions for universities, institutes as well as colleges, will coordinate among the educational institutions and will carry out the setting of standards and quality assurance of the education system in accordance with rules and regulations.

The specific chapter of the new law is aimed at compiling syllabuses to promote the country's edu-

cation system, said Dr Myint Thein, a member of the advisory board.

The experts also welcomed ideas and suggestions of people from all walks of life for the bylaws of the National Education Law, which are nearly complete and would guarantee the formation of the students' unions, academic freedom and autonomy of universities and institutes, which are included in the demands of the students.

The experts are working their utmost for draft-

ing the law with "equity and equality" guaranteeing education for all, raising the quality of the education system and creating good learning and teaching environments, said Dr Myint Thein.

Significantly, the new law has also 13 policies and seven objectives and has guaranteed the formation of international and external quality assurance bodies to monitor and evaluate the education system, according to the experts.

GNLM

NATIONAL

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye as well as the secretary and members of the commission met seven officials and 46 trainees of the non-profit organization Myanmar Egress who observed the tasks of the UEC in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

UEC member Dr Daw Myint Kyi explained the organizational setup of the UEC and its duties and functions, as well as implementation of the plan to hold a free and fair general election. Member U Win Kyi explained the compilation of voter lists, and member U Win Kyo spoke about laws and rules governing the commission and

the political party registration law.

The trainees asked questions about declaration of canvassing expenditures of political parties, limitation of canvassing expenditures, auditing of parties' funds, undertaking a free and fair election, the right of voting by armed groups, Bengalis holding temporary IDs and those holding national registration cards, preparations for counting ballots, listing voters and announcing the result of the 2015 general election without delay, and voter education.

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye replied to queries raised by the trainees and gave concluding remarks.—MNA

Myanmar Egress trainees visit Union Election Commission Office



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye replies to questions by trainees of Myanmar Egress who observed preparations for holding 2015 elections.—MNA



Union Minister explains progress of Myanmar media to trainees

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut met trainees of the Mandalay Myanmar Journalist Institute led by course instructor

Mr. Thomas Kohlmann at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

At the meeting, the union minister explained developments of the ministry, measures being taken for development of Myanmar media to be on a par with the present time and efforts to turn out qualified media persons. The union minister replied to queries raised by the trainees.—MNA

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut meets members of Mandalay Myanmar Journalist Institute.—MNA

Students of three sports institutes take part in contests in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Students from sports and physical education institutes in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine met in 2014-15 academic year sports contests on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan watched the students compete in the wushu and judo events and observed preparations for holding the weightlifting event at Sports Training Camp-2 in Lewe, as well as a cycling contest at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

He viewed trophies and medals won by victorious Myanmar athletes, documentary photos of the 27th SEA Games and

booths at the Sports Museum of Social Zone of Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

He also watched the students compete in volleyball, sepak takraw, taekwondo and basketball events at training centre-1 at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium.

Altogether 1,652 athletes from the three institutes are taking part in the contests held up to 25 November.

One more institute was opened in Taunggyi, a city of Shan State, in the 2014-15 academic year. Students are allowed to attend the B.Sc. (Sports) major at Yangon and Mandalay Universities as of the 2014-15 academic year.

MNA

Union minister inspects development of Letpadaungtaung area

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, who chairs the committee for implementation of the report of the investigation commission for the Letpadaungtaung copper mine project, visited a 16-bed station hospital at mile post 445 on Patheingyi Road in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region, on Wednesday.

The union minister comforted patients and presented cash assistance to them.

At Letpadaung Taunggya Pagoda, U Hla Tun instructed officials to successfully hold a festival of Pagoda Pujaniya in cooperation with the local people.

The union minister visited pre-primary schools in Wethmay-Kandaw and Hsete-Zeedaw villages

and presented uniforms and toys to the children. He gave instructions on Letpadaungtaung copper mine project, the union

minister coordinated with officials on security measures in the project area.

MNA



Union Minister U Hla Tun presents toys to children from pre-primary school in Letpadaungtaung area, Salingyi Township.—MNA

Chin State Election Sub-commission opens training course

HAKA, 20 Nov—The Chin State Election Sub-commission opened a short-term on-the-job training course 1/2014 at the hall of the Chin State General Administration Department in Haka, the capital of Chin State, on Wednesday. Chairman of the sub-commission U Lian Oak said on the occasion that the staff members of the sub-commission are to cooperate with departments concerned, social organizations and media for disseminating knowledge about the election to the people on a wider scale.

He urged the staff to study the relevant laws, rules and office procedures



to be able to apply the experience gained from the

training in practical ways. The short-term course

will run for 10 days.

Chin State IPRD

Mung bean seeds distributed to local farmers in Taungup



TAUNGUP, 20 Nov — A ceremony to deliver mung bean seeds to farmers as a cold season crop

was held at the hall of the Township General Administration Department in Taungup, Rakhine State,

on 17 November.

During the ceremony, Township Administrator U Lu Maw explained the pur-

pose of providing the mung bean seeds.

U Tun Thein, the head of the township's Agriculture Department, spoke about cultivation of mung beans as a cold season crop, the high yield of quality strain seeds and the prospects of earning increased income in the market.

U Tun Thein presented the mung bean seeds to farmers from Natmaw and Thaleinbyin villages.

Thanks to the delivery of quality mung bean seeds, the local farmers plan to grow mung beans as a cold season crop on their farmlands so as to earn increased income and to ensure local food sufficiency.—District IPRD

Reproductive health talks given to students

MANDALAY, 20 Nov — The Mandalay Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee or-

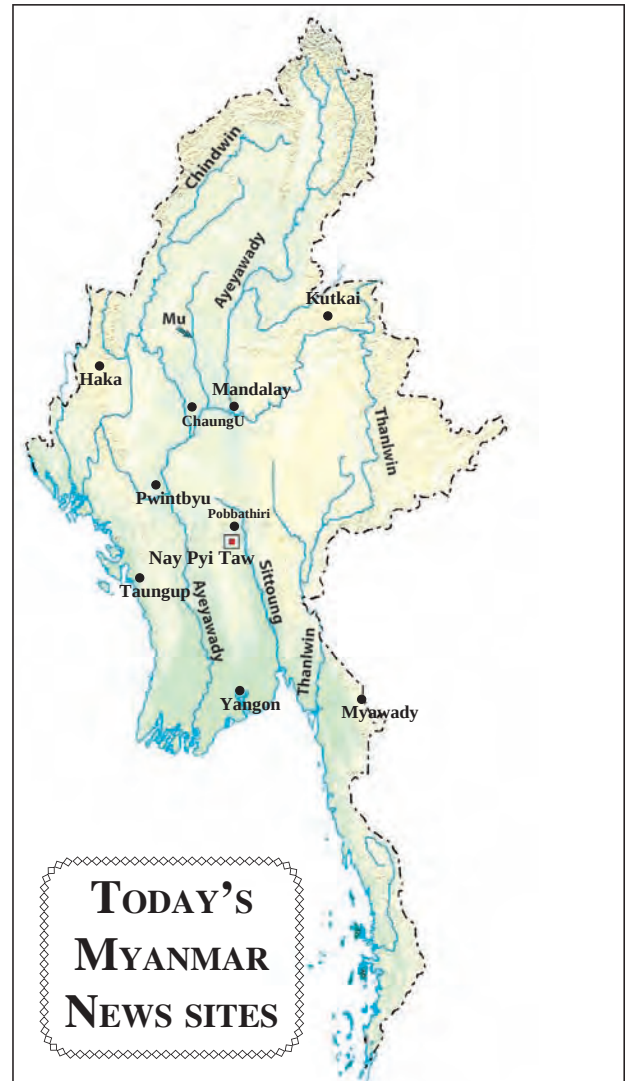
ganized youth reproductive health talks at Basic Education High School Branch in Hsingyi Village, Pathe-

ingyi Township, Mandalay Region on 17 November.

A total of 567 middle and high school students participated in the group discussions on youth reproductive health, and officials replied to queries raised by students.

Region MCWSC member Daw Thanda Phone Win gave talks on nutrition development and the danger of narcotics to the students.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)



Advantages of growing Manaw Thukha paddy strain explained

CHAUNGU, 20 Nov — A field day ceremony for the Manaw Thukha paddy strain was held at paddy fields irrigated by the Thonpanhla river pumping station in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region, on Wednesday.

Chairman of the District Management Committee U Kyaw Kyaw Wai and Head of the District Agriculture Department U Aung Myint Tun explained good agricultural practices for growing crops. Head of Township Agriculture

Department Daw Than Hla elaborated on cultivation of the Manaw Thukha paddy strain and on ways to ensure the plants thrive in fields.

Local farmers raised questions on the advantages of growing the Manaw Thukha paddy strain and its per acre yield, use of inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides and the best way to grow the paddy for boosting production. The head of the Township Agriculture Department replied to their queries.

ChaungU Township IPRD



LOCAL NEWS



Inauguration ceremony held for asphalt road in Pobbathiri Township

POBBATHIRI, 20 Nov — A ceremony to inaugurate a new asphalt road leading to Kantha Village was held in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Thursday.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay explained development undertakings in the township to the local people.

Director (Engineer) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Moe reported on construction of the repaved road.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htay and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Min Min Zaw formally opened the new road and strolled along it.

The asphalt road, measuring 1,900 feet long, facilitates the transport of local people and thereby contributes greatly to improvement of the social and economic sectors of the villages.

Township IPRD

Monsoon paddy plantation harvested in Pwintbyu Tsp

PWINTBYU, 20 Nov — The Hsinthukha monsoon paddy plantation on 1.27 acres of a model plot was harvested with the use of a combine harvester in Sanpya Village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, on Wednesday.

At the harvesting ceremony, the paddy plot yielded 138.01 baskets per acre.

About 70 farmers observed use of the combine harvester on the model plot.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Hlaing Myint and staff explained that the paddy strain was cultivated on 28 July and harvested on 19 November.

Thanks to good agriculture practices and

inputs, the local farmers achieved a high yield. The combine harvester can be used at a cost of K50,000 per acre, minimizing loss and waste in harvesting. The department will provide necessary assistance to the local farmers for convenient cultivation of crops.—*Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)*

Students join inter-basic education student sports festival in Myawady



MYAWADY, 20 Nov — In Myawady, a border town in Kayin State, a inter-basic education school sports festival took place on 19 November as part of government measures to promote fitness and athletic prowess among youths.

In his speech, Deputy Commissioner of District

U Lwin Ko Oo stressed the need to ensure health and fitness of students, adding that they have to participate in the sports events and forge a nationalistic spirit among themselves.

Basic education female students performed aerobic exercises as a skill demonstration.

In their debut, Shwekokko Basic Education High School played against Myawady Basic Education Middle School in the U-16 boys' event while Thingan Nyinaung BEHS competed with Myawady BEHS No 1 in the U-16 girls' event.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Red Cross holds workshop for Mandalarians

MANDALAY, 20 Nov — The Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross jointly conducted a Red Cross workshop at Golden Country Hotel on 65th street between 31st and 32nd streets in Mandalay on Wednesday.

President of MRCS Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe delivered an opening ad-

dress, and Coordinator Ms. Donnor Chanda of ICRC (Myanmar) explained the purpose of the workshop.

Chairman of the Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee Head of Region Health Department Dr Than Win, Director of Social Welfare Information Department Daw Shwe Zin Myint of MRCS, Deputy Director

Daw Shwe Zin Kyaw Soe and officials attended the opening ceremony.

Leaders of Red Cross societies in 28 townships of the region attended the workshop from 19 to 21 November. Two more workshops will be held at the same venue from 23 to 25 November and from 27 to 29 November.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to locals in Kutkai Tsp

KUTKAI, 20 Nov — Township Administrator U Hsan Myint of Kutkai Township, northern Shan State, supervised the issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in Mongyu, Pankai Panlao and Manneinum village-tracts on 17 November. Head of the Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Min Min

Zaw and staff delivered the citizenship scrutiny cards to 188 eligible citizens from the three village-tracts free of charge through a one-stop service.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population is implementing Moe Pwint Plan Step-7 for issuance of the cards to eligible citizens across the nation.—*Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)*



The US Navy sent a littoral combat ship, USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), to Singapore on 17 November, for a 16-month deployment mission, according to news from United States Pacific Fleet (USPACFLT).—XINHUA

Singapore's ultra rich population hits new high

SINGAPORE, 20 Nov — The total number of ultra high net worth population in Singapore rose by 40 to hit the record high of 1,395 this year, according to a wealth report released on Wednesday.

Their combined net worth is 180 billion US dollars, an increase of 12.5 percent over the past year, the Wealth-X and UBS World Ultra Wealth Report said, referring to the ultra high net worth individuals, or those with 30 million US dollars or above in net assets.

They account for 17 percent of Singapore's total wealth of 1.08 trillion US dollars, local broadcaster Channel NewsAsia said.

The size of Singapore's ultra high net worth population ranks the sixth among Asian countries and 19th globally, the report said, adding that about 60 percent of Singapore's ultra high net worth population is fully self-made.

The report said that the fast growth in the wealth of these population is "reflective of the city-state's growing international appeal with regards to the strength of its financial sector, and the ease of both establishing and conducting business in the country, allowing for rapid wealth accumulation."—Xinhua

Cambodian PM says gov't has no rights to control judiciary



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

PHNOM PENH, 20 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Thursday that he and his government have no rights to order the courts to arrest or release any suspects who have committed crimes.

"I and the government have no rights to order the judiciary, the court to arrest anyone based on evidence of offenses," he said, referring to the last week's arrest of 15 land activists and opposition officials.

"Everything has to follow the law," he said at a graduation ceremony of 1,200 students at the IIC University of Technology.

"Democracy and the rule of law must be simultaneously strengthened," he said, adding that there would be no more tolerance for protesters blocking roads during protests.

Hun Sen's remarks came after critics and a United Nations envoy accused the Cambodian government of using the judiciary to silence the opponents.

In the past week, the Cambodian authorities arrested 15 people, including 13 land activists and two opposition officials. Eleven activists have been charged with illegally blocking a road and obstructing public officials during their protests and sentenced to one year in prison each.

While the two opposition officials were apprehended in accordance with court warrants for their alleged involvement in leading an insurrection over a violent clash during a protest near the Freedom Park on 15 July.

Surya P. Subedi, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, on Tuesday criticized the Cambodian government for a series of arrests, alleging that the government is using the judiciary to silence critics and opposition officials.

Xinhua

Over 60% disagree with Abe's move to dissolve lower house: Kyodo poll

TOKYO, 20 Nov — Over 60 percent of Japanese voters do not support Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to dissolve the lower house for a snap election on 14 December, a Kyodo News poll showed on Thursday.

In the survey conducted after Abe on Tuesday called the election, 63.1 percent said they do not share the prime minister's drive to seek a fresh mandate, while 30.5 percent supported it.

But with an election now looming, a majority of respondents, or 51.4 percent, said they want to see a more balanced political landscape between the ruling and opposition parties.

When asked about which party they would vote for in the proportional representation system of the election,

Abe's LDP ranked first with 25.3 percent.

The largest opposition Democratic Party of Japan came second with 9.4 percent, followed by 4.6 percent for the Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of the LDP.

The Japanese Communist Party was cited by 4.2 percent, and the Japan Innovation Party by 3.1 percent, according to the survey conducted on Wednesday and Thursday.

Abe said on Tuesday he will postpone raising the consumption tax to 10 percent from the current 8 percent as the economy is not strong enough to withstand it.

To gauge voter support for his "Abenomics" policy package, the prime minister announced he will dissolve the House of Representatives on Friday.—Kyodo News

South Korea court sentences ferry operator chief to 10 years in jail

SEOUL, 20 Nov — A South Korean court on Thursday sentenced the head of the company that operated a ferry which capsized in April to 10 years in jail over his role in the country's worst maritime disaster in decades.

Kim Han-sik, the chief executive of Chonghaejin Marine, was found guilty of negligence causing death and embezzlement.

His sentence was the toughest penalty handed down to anyone other than the ferry's crew over the deaths of 304 passengers, most of them teenage children. Only 172 of the ferry's 476 passengers and crew were rescued.

Kim apologized to the families of the victims but said last month that he was simply a paid employee of the company and the decisions that led to the disaster were made by the firm's de-facto owner, Yoo Byung-un, media reports said.



Sewol ferry crew members (centre R) attend the start of verdict proceedings at a court room in Gwangju on 11 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Yoo, who was the head of the family that owned a holding company at the centre of a network of business interests that included the ferry operator, was found dead in June.

The overloaded Sewol capsized while making a turn on a routine voyage to the holiday island of Jeju. The vessel was later found

to be defective, with additions made to increase passenger capacity making it top-heavy and unstable.

The court found other executives of the firm to three to six years in prison for negligence and embezzlement. The officials were guilty of knowingly operating the ferry that was dangerous, and there

was "considerable causal relationship" between their jobs and the disaster, the court said.

The 15 surviving crew members including the captain were convicted last week on negligence charges and sentenced to between five and 36 years in jail.

Reuters

Putin to meet with Russian Security Council members to discuss anti-extremism strategy

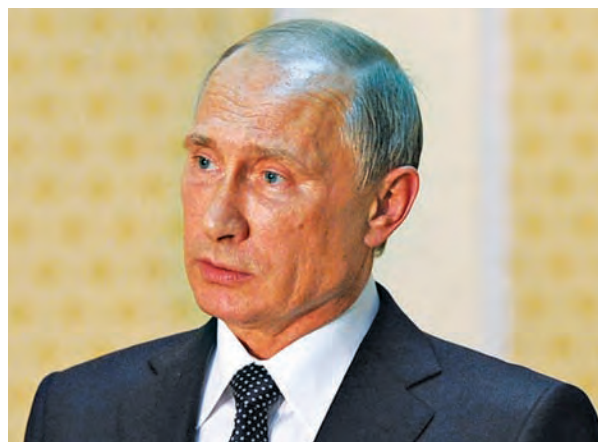
Moscow, 20 Nov — Russian President Vladimir Putin will chair on Thursday a meeting of the Russian Security Council that will discuss a draft Strategy of Counteracting Extremism in Russia till the year 2025, the Kremlin press service said.

“It is also planned to discuss a range of issues concerning measures to improve the state anti-extremism policy,” the press service said.

The keynote reports will be delivered by Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev, as the interior ministry was in charge of drafting the Strategy. Earlier, the interior

ministry said that the basic concept of the draft was as follows: to enhance efforts against concrete manifestations of extremism and, at the same time, to boost the efficiency of measures aimed against radical ideology in order to prevent its spreading into public conscience.

The key task of the Strategy, according to the ministry, is to set the goals, priorities and instruments of the state policy of pooling efforts of all power institutions and civil society to strengthen unity of the Russian people, to reach inter-religious and interethnic accord, and to form intolerance towards propa-



Russian President Vladimir Putin

ganda and dissemination of extremist ideas.

A special place in preventing extremism is allocated to civil society institutions. Earlier in the year, the draft was discussed by members of the presiden-

tial human rights council.

The Russian president has repeatedly spoken against extremism. “It is inadmissible to turn a blind eye, to underestimate extremist outrages from anyone, Putin said. “It is

necessary to draw a clear line between legal opposition activities present in every democratic state and extremism which rests on hatred, whipping up interethnic and social hatred and ignoring law and the constitution.”

In 2014, Russian laws were amended to toughen responsibility for extremism. Thus, amendments to the Russian Criminal Code tightened responsibility for public calls for extremist activities, including via the internet. Thus, a fine for the organization of an extremist organization has been raised from 200,000 (4,270 U.S. dollars) to 500,000 roubles (10,690

U.S. dollars), terms of correctional labour have been increased from four to five years, and prison terms have been increased from four to six years. Another law has established prison terms for financing extremist activities. Such charges carry a punishment from a fine of 300,000-500,000 roubles to a prison term of up to three years. If such offense is committed with the appropriation of corporate opportunities, a maximal punishment may reach six years in a penitentiary. Apart from that, the law provides for the seizure of property gained through committing extremism-related offences.—Itar-Tass

Cameron risks losing UK seat to anti-EU UKIP as two-party system creaks

LONDON, 20 Nov — Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives risk losing a second British parliamentary seat to the anti-EU UKIP party on Thursday, foreshadowing a possible political upheaval in next year’s national election.

With distrust of mainstream parties and anxiety about immigration rising among voters across much of the country, four opinion polls have suggested UKIP (the United Kingdom Independence Party) will win Thursday’s by-election in the southeast English constituency of Rochester and Strood.

Thursday’s vote was called when the constituency’s Conservative member of parliament Mark Reckless resigned after defecting to UKIP, which favours an immediate British withdrawal from the European Union and sharply lower immigration.

Victory for Reckless, who is seeking to regain his seat for UKIP, would deepen fears among European partners of a possible British exit from the EU. It would also deal a serious blow to Cameron who ordered his party to mobilize all its resources to hold Rochester, visiting the area five times before the ballot.

Final results of the vote, which follows a by-election last month when another Conservative defector won UKIP’s first

elected seat in parliament, are expected around 10 p.m. ET on Friday morning.

Success for UKIP would also deepen Conservative fears of a split right-wing vote in the election to the Westminster parliament in May 2015, making it harder for Cameron to hold onto power. This could stoke disquiet among Conservative lawmakers about his leadership, some of whom might also be tempted to defect.

“If I do win there will be a significant change in people’s assumptions about UKIP,” Reckless told *Reuters* in an interview. “People will realize that we’re credible and a party that is likely to win many more seats in Westminster next year.”

Reckless defected in September, saying said he had lost faith in Cameron’s promise to wring serious reform from the EU if a Conservative government is re-elected.

Reckless declined to forecast if a UKIP victory would encourage more defections, but said the contest was part of a reordering of Britain’s traditional two-party system.

Cameron’s party and the left-leaning Labour party have taken turns to govern Britain since World War Two but their collective support is waning. Cameron was forced into a coalition with the

center-left Liberal Democrats after failing to win an outright majority four years ago.

At least one opinion poll has since suggested that combined voter support for the two main parties has dipped below 60 percent for the first time since then.

At the same time, UKIP, broadly to the right of the Conservative party, and the Scottish National Party (SNP), broadly to the left of the Labour party, have exploited voters’ disenchantment to siphon off support from both.

Cameron’s party narrowly trails Labour in opinion polls but neither looks likely to win outright, raising the prospect of another coalition or a power-sharing deal with a smaller party.

Cameron once described UKIP as “closet racists” but apart from poaching two of his lawmakers, it also won European elections in the United Kingdom in May.

He tried to neutralize UKIP by promising to renegotiate Britain’s EU ties before holding a referendum on membership in 2017. But he has not so far spelt out exactly what changes he wants or forged strong alliances with EU partners to win them.

His strategy has alarmed some EU allies, particularly his talk of wanting to find a way to



United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) supporters canvas for votes in Rochester, south east England on 18 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

curb European immigration to Britain. “We are talking with Britain and I love Britain and want to keep talking to them,” Gunther Krichbaum, president of the German Bundestag’s EU affairs committee, told *Reuters*.

“But when the rhetoric is driving you at 100 miles per hour up a blind alley, you have to realize that you won’t be able to turn round at the end of the blind alley,” said Krichbaum, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrats.

UKIP has used soaring public concern about immigration, particularly from eastern Europe, to ar-

gue that Britain can control its borders only by leaving the bloc.

Cameron’s party promised to cut net migration to the tens of thousands by next year’s election, but it rose to 243,000 in the year to March 2014.

“Cameron is a liar,” said Keith Marden, a retired construction worker in Strood who plans to vote UKIP. “He can’t do anything on Europe.”

Marden backed UKIP’s plan for an Australian-style points system to select skilled immigrants and thought it should be harder for foreigners to benefit from Britain’s welfare system.

Opinion polls have given UKIP a lead of up to 13 percentage points in the constituency, which is about 50 km (30 miles) from London. It is regarded as a reasonable bellwether for British politics since parts of it were once controlled by Labour before the Conservatives took it in 2010.

The area embraces Rochester’s ancient cathedral, its 12th century castle, and its picturesque high street where many shops and bars are named after characters created by 19th century writer Charles Dickens who lived nearby.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 21 November, 2014

When all is said and done, deforestation must be stopped

By Kyaw Thura

Deforestation has become a global environmental issue with the direct consequence of global warming resulting from ozone depletion. This can be best described as a process in which forests are logged faster than they are replaced or they can recover through natural regeneration.

People cut down forests mainly for fuel and industrial use. In poor countries, people harvest natural forests to clear the land for farming and grazing grounds for animals. Excessive logging will no doubt affect precious environmental re-

sources. In addition, it will trigger erosion, pollution, and disruption to all living organisms.

Apart from trees, a forest is a habitat for insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals, all of whom depend on each other for their survival and that of forests too. For instance, fallen leaves form new layers of soil and as a result prevent soil erosion and maintain soil fertility.

Another benefit forests offer is that trees help reduce the effect of global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. On top of that, forests can offer an exciting and breathtaking environment for people to enjoy recreational activities. Nowadays, people have come to treat forests as popular places to go for a relaxing outing, a picnic or a walk. Some forests provide facilities for camping, bushwalking and horse-riding.

There are some other reasons why we should value our forests. Forests are a constant source of timber and forest products such as honey, essential oils, as well as barks and herbs for traditional medicines.

As is known to all, forests are regarded as one

of the most important natural resources on earth. They provide people with food, shelter, warmth, employment and useful products. However, we should not take too much advantage of forests. No matter how beneficial medicines are, an overdose yields unintended consequences.

With this end in view, forests, as the lungs of the world, should be preserved through appropriate management practices. Now is the time to undertake research on how best to conserve flora and fauna.

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Myanmar with a serene, beautiful and hearty smile

By: Tommy Pauk

People in Myanmar are composed of Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Kayah, Kachin, Chin, Kayah, etc. There are more than 100 national races have been living together through thick and thin from the time immemorial in Myanmar. Here, Myanmar people stand for all the national races residing in Myanmar. They always preserve and keep union spirit. All the national races residing in Myanmar possess a serene, beautiful and hearty smile. People wear a serene, beautiful and hearty smile whenever they welcome local or foreign guests. Their facial expressions are so warm, friendly and courteous that the visitors are delighted.

They speak their own vernacular languages and dialects, but Myanmar language is an official language and it is spoken widely in Myanmar. Many dialects can be heard in various places of Myanmar. The country itself is beautiful, large and bountiful with dense forests, high mountains, snowcapped mountains, silvery and sandy beaches, beautiful lakes, natural spa, waterfalls, long rivers, flora and fauna. There is much unspoilt beauty-of-nature, existing in Myanmar. Myanmar is a large country in Asia with vast areas of fertile soil. It is rich in natural resources, mineral resources, energy resources and water resources.

Once the globe travelers or globe trotters visit Myanmar, they love the warmth and hospitality of Myanmar people. People of Myanmar love to host and treat the international guests wholeheartedly. They are xenophiles and they take interest in foreign peoples, custom and culture.

No matter whether they get money from the guests for their host or not, they normally help and host the guests up to their maximum satisfaction. They do not hesitate to help others who are urgently in need of some help or assistance. This lovely mind and good-natured character towards the guests are fragrantly renowned as the most hospitable people in the world. The serene, beautiful and hearty smiles of Myanmar people are so fabulous and simple that the international guests feel happy and secure. This amazing smile significantly refreshes the guests. Besides, the rapturous welcome is always given to the tourists by Myanmar people. This reveals the humble and honest innate-nature of the people of Myanmar. These habit and behavior reflect Myanmar culture and goodwill.

All the national races in Myanmar are very kind, helpful and courteous to the international tourists or foreigners with true goodwill and sincerity. Therefore, the tourists travelling in Myanmar feel safe, secure and free with lesser culture shock. Their smile, simplicity, hospitality, frankness

and politeness are awesome. Myanmar people regard their guests as valuable persons so they use to call "gold guests" metaphorically. They compare guests with gold. The connotation of gold guests means precious persons because the guests bring valuable knowledge, experience and friendship to Myanmar people.

Traditionally, in Myanmar society, any guest is treated with warmth and sincerity and the guests are even given privilege. The national races are accustomed to treat and behave this way whenever they meet with foreign or local guests anywhere in Myanmar. Normally, the rural people treat the guests well and give them with special-favor. Even if some rural people are poor, they are frank, generous and hospitable to treat their guests as much as they can. They provide their guests with traditional food, drinks and accommodation. Though they are poor, they usually invite their guests to partake of their simple meal or food. At least, they offer their guests a cup of Myanmar green tea and traditional snacks. Even when they are busy with their job, they do not fail to treat and welcome their guests. In fact, they value the friendship, sincerity and recognition of the guests. They are rather obliging and willing to help their guests – both locals and foreigners, on any occasions or circumstances. However, they do not ex-

pect anything as a token of return from the guests.

Whoever visits their villages or towns, they equally treat their guests with nice manner and atmosphere to get relaxed during their stay. Their minds and hearts are so beautiful that any globe trotters cannot forget the hospitality of them. Therefore, such a lovely or friendly temperament of Myanmar people is well-known in the world. Myanmar people do not need to take the training for 'How-to-smile' in hospitality Industry as they possess in-born courtesy and a serene, beautiful and hearty smile. Of course, they are gifted in this trade and can handle it easily.

They already get used to be hospitable to any traveler or guest in Myanmar. No matter rich or poor, Myanmar people are excellent hosts of their guests. Myanmar people believe that if their homes are gracious, peaceful and pleasant, flocks of guests will visit their homes. They consider that situation as a good omen or auspiciousness. The hospitality of Myanmar reflects their inner-character and outward-appearance. Myanmar people are happy, simple, helpful, contented, kind, understanding and friendly so these characters purify their hearts and serene, beautiful and hearty smile comes out naturally.

Since Myanmar has pledged to move forward Democratic State, international people are eagerly and curiously visiting, ven-

ture and exploring for potential businesses in Myanmar. Tourism is one of the factors to develop Myanmar's economy. The foreign businessmen realize that Myanmar people are nice, hospitable, sincere and helpful to aliens or people from other countries. The new modern hotels are mushrooming in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and in Yangon. Tourism and Hotel Industry are interdependent. These two industries earn foreign exchange and can create employment for local people. Moreover, the foreign businessmen working with Myanmar people as their partners or their employees in Myanmar, are hugely impressed by the ability, hard work and sincerity of Myanmar people. The foreign businessmen get much benefit and trustworthy manpower here. Myanmar people are best suited for Hospitality Industry and Tourism as well. Consequently, they can grab job opportunities and work for hotel and tourism industries. Thus, Myanmar can earn more FE income from hotel and tourism sectors to develop Myanmar's economy. The tourists of all nationalities love, respect and recognize the nature, goodwill, sincerity and hospitality of Myanmar people.

The human resources for these sectors are availa-

ble already as Myanmar people are capable of handling the trade by nature. Myanmar possesses a gift of beautiful-nature and adequate land for agriculture farming, fishing and livestock-breeding so they do not need to worry about food-shortage. It is an agro-based country and rice is their staple food. The domestic food production is sufficient for more than 50 million of people (according to 2014 census enumeration) in Myanmar. Myanmar has sufficient food, water and habitable land. It is safe from natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, severe storms, earthquakes, floods, famine, drought etc., Myanmar still has plentiful arable land to be cultivated. Also, fresh water can be irrigated from many rivers, flowing from north to south.

The politeness, hospitality, simplicity, generosity and unpretentiousness of Myanmar people attract the international tourists and foreign businessmen to enjoy their visits safely and to do their businesses trustfully. Myanmar's Hotel and Tourism Industries will be booming tremendously around the corner. In accordance with these genuine qualities, Myanmar, undoubtedly, can develop its economy in very near future.

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Plans of Science and Technology Ministry elaborated to media



Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo clarifies future plans of academic matters for B.E. course and GTI.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — Technological universities plan to commence six-year Bachelor of Engineering courses this academic year with modern curricula and a proper ratio of students to faculty members,

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said at a press briefing at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

He elaborated that training is being given to faculty members to skill-

fully use the lab equipment and to improve their capacity at the technical enhancement department (Belin). Arrangements are being made for faculty members to do research for development of human

resources so as to improve the technological universities, he said.

The union minister explained a plan of the ministry to have 30 Government Technical Institutes in the 2015-16 academic year. He added that technical high schools admit youths who have passed the 8th standard without age limit in order to be able to turn out skilled technicians.

He highlighted that students from remote areas will be allowed to attend the Centre of Excellence with 3% per year out of the students who passed the entrance test.

The union minister replied to queries raised by media persons.—MNA

The State in Myanmar author gives talks on his book in capital city

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Professor Robert Taylor, an American academic of Myanmar's politics, has given a talk on his landmark book "The State in Myanmar" at the Ministry of Information on Thursday, officials say.

Deputy Minister U Pike Htway made an introductory speech, and Mr Konstantin Barwaldt of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), a biography of Robert Taylor and his book.

The American academic, who has been to Myanmar more than 125 times since 1975, explained the



Professor Robert Taylor, an American academic of Myanmar's politics.

MNA

contents of his book.

The book deals with Myanmar's politics in areas of precolonial or monarchical state, rationalization of

the state, politics under the rationalized state, displacement of the state, reassertion of the state and re-establishment of the state,

which are a collection of political landscape from the monarchical era up to 2008.

Regarding to what to do with Myanmar's politics, Robert Taylor said that new ideas and new institutions generated new political responses and new patterns of political behaviour. Speaking of lessons for the present and future in politics, he pointed out that Myanmar needs to be aware of changing international politics and consequences.

His book was translated into Myanmar and has now hit bookshelves.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Rector Dr Daw Yi Yi Win of University of Cooperative (Sagaing) of the Cooperative Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives on expiry of the one-year probation period.

Commerce minister urges measures to deal with impacts from exchange rate fluctuations

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — U Win Myint, Union Minister for Commerce and Chairman of the Union Commodity Stability Committee, attended a meeting Wednesday on discussing ways to achieve stability in commodity prices, development of production and consumer protection plans.

The minister said that the immediate problem to be solved is identifying the impacts resulting from the increasing value of hard currency.

Myanmar's total trade volume amounted

to K17,081 billion up to mid-November in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, up K2.713 billion from the same period last year.

U Win Myint also urged officials to seek ways to stabilize commodity prices, and to ensure the speedy flow of commodities after distributing information about local and foreign markets. The deputy ministers and department officials presented the existing trade situations and impacts of exchange rate fluctuations on their respective sectors.

MNA

7th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint called for safe and secure rights of migrant labourers in respective countries in his address at the opening of 7th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

The union minister pointed out that migrant labourers are human resources of both their home countries and host countries,

adding that their remittance of money to their families back home leads to an appreciation of the respective currencies of their home countries.

He stressed the need to prevent exploitation of migrant workers and to seek the best ways for safe and secure migrant employment. The meeting is being attended by delegates from ASEAN countries, NGOs and INGOs up to 21 November.—MNA

Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra concert to be held in December

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 20 Nov — To mark the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between Myanmar and Japan, a concert by the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra will be held on 2 December at the National

Theater on Myomakyaung Street here, sources said.

The performance is free and open to the public and it will be broadcast live only through MRTV-4 channel, U Toe Kyaw, director of the Music Branch of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), said at a press conference on Thursday.

He went on to say that the aims of the show are to promote friendly relations between Myanmar Japan and to reignite interest in classic songs of Myanmar, which are not popular especially among young people.

More than 50 Myanmar musicians led by

Japanese conductor and composer Mr Yamamoto Yunosuke and pianist Mrs. Kyoko Koyama are scheduled to perform 12 songs including well-known classic songs of Myanmar, pop and classical remixed songs and international theme songs. They have practiced at least four times to prepare for the concert since March.

Win Min Phyo Ko, a staff officer of the symphony orchestra, commented on concert preparation and performance techniques, expecting the concert may attract enthusiasts.

U Toe Kyaw said the symphony orchestra is planning to perform a con-

cert to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Myoma Music Band in January next year, adding that plans are underway to conduct at least two or three local concerts and a series of TV programmes each year starting from 2015 with the aim of bringing Myanmar classical music back to life.

The Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra, which currently consists of more than 60 musicians, was established in 2002. Some of them have received scholarship opportunities provided by foreign countries including China and Japan.

GNLM



Tow Japanese professionals and members of Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Colombia rebels to free general, opening door to resume peace talks



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) lead negotiator Ivan Marquez (C) speaks to the media while flanked by fellow FARC members in Havana on 19 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

HAVANA / BOGOTA, 20 Nov — Colombian Marxist rebels agreed to release an army general captured by their comrades over the weekend, a move that may lead to a resumption of peace talks and diffuse a crisis that threatened to extend five decades of war.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) promised to free General Ruben Dario Alzate and four others captured in the past two weeks “as soon as possible” after reaching agreement on liberation terms with the government and guarantor nations Cuba and Norway.

President Juan Manuel Santos’s office responded

immediately to the announcement, pledging to resume talks as soon as the hostages are free.

Alzate and two others were seized on Sunday by a FARC patrol as they left a boat in the poor and crime-ridden coastal region of Choco, prompting Santos to halt talks and throwing into doubt the two-year peace process under way in Cuba.

Just days earlier, the rebels had kidnapped two soldiers in eastern Arauca department.

“The government will give its total collaboration to guarantee the safe return of these people to their homes, which we hope will

be in the shortest time possible,” Santos’s office said in a brief statement.

“Once they are all free, the government’s delegation will return to Havana.”

The FARC’s decision to release the captives may counter critics of the peace process who say the rebels are not serious about ending Latin America’s longest-running war, which has killed more than 200,000 people since it began in 1964.

The suspension of talks is the most serious setback to peace efforts after months of complicated discussions resulted in partial accords on three out of five agenda items.

The most recent peace process with the FARC collapsed in 2002 after the group used the breathing room of a demilitarized zone to build its fighting force, intensify its cocaine trafficking, and take hostages.

The final straw came when the FARC boarded a commercial plane and seized a senator, who was held captive for six years.

Santos has staked his presidency on bringing peace to Colombia, winning re-election this year against a right-wing opponent who threatened to ditch the talks and finish the FARC on the battlefield.

Even while security has improved massively over the last decade or so, peace talks have been taking place amid continued conflict. The rebels have renewed their call for a bilateral ceasefire that they say would improve the climate for negotiations.

Alzate is the highest-ranking military hostage ever taken by the FARC. A soldier and a civilian lawyer were captured along with him.

The FARC says it has stopped kidnapping for ransom but maintains military personnel are fair targets in the absence of a ceasefire. Alzate was considered a prisoner of war.

Certain undisclosed conditions must be met before the FARC will free the

hostages, representatives from Cuba and Norway said in Havana.

Santos, after harshly condemning the FARC’s move in the last few days, set a more conciliatory tone during a speech in central Tolima on Wednesday, expressing hope that negotiations would resume.

“We need to abandon our weapons, the violence and end this armed conflict,” Santos said in the town of Ataco. “That is why I hope this impasse that has appeared in the Havana negotiations will be resolved soon.”

A massive rescue operation in Choco’s dense jungle terrain had been under way since Sunday, though there were fears a military effort to release Alzate could endanger the hostages. It is unclear whether orders still stand for FARC fighters to kill captives if a rescue is attempted.

The army offered a 100 million peso (29,360 pounds) reward for information leading to the hostages’ rescue, military sources confirmed to Reuters on Wednesday.

The deal was announced in Havana by representatives of the Cuban and Norwegian governments, the guarantors of the peace talks: Rodolfo Benitez of host nation Cuba, and Rita Sandberg of Norway, which is acting as a facilitator.

Reuters

Pakistan army chief tells US officials anti-terror offensive to continue

ISLAMABAD, 20 Nov — Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, who is currently visiting the United States, has told top American military and political leaders that the country’s security forces will continue offensive against the militant groups in the tribal regions. The military said on Thursday General Raheel Sharif held meetings with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

The general expressed Pakistan’s resolve to continue the military operation till the elimination of the last terrorist, said a statement of the military’s Inter-Services Public Relations, issued here on Thursday. “The Pakistan military is confident to hold their gains in FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) to ensure that terrorists would not be able to return or establish their operational basis on the Pakistani soil,” he said, quoted by the statement. Also discussed at the meetings were the overall security situation in the region and matters relating to Afghanistan.

The US Senators expressed the desire to forge a strong and lasting partnership between the United States and Pakistan, the statement said.—Xinhua

Hard to reach Iran nuclear deal by 24 November — US official Blinken

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov — It now appears difficult to reach a comprehensive nuclear deal with Iran by a 24 November deadline but it is not impossible, US Deputy National Security Adviser Tony Blinken told lawmakers on Tuesday.

“Right now, I think it’s going to be difficult to get to where we want to go. It’s not impossible,” Blinken, who is US President Barack Obama’s choice to be deputy secretary of state, said at his nomination hearing for the diplomatic post.

Six major powers are in negotiations with Iran in an effort to reach an agreement under which Iran would agree to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from economic sanctions ahead of a self-imposed 24 November deadline.

Blinken put the onus on Teheran, rather than on Washington, to achieve an agreement, which is being negotiated with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

“It (reaching a deal) depends entirely on



US Deputy National Security Advisor Tony Blinken

whether Iran is willing to take the steps it must take to convince us, to convince our partners, that its programme would be for entirely peaceful purposes,” he said. “As we speak, we’re not there.”—Reuters

UN blacklists Libya’s Ansar al-Sharia, involved in Benghazi attack

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov — The UN Security Council on Wednesday blacklisted two branches of the Islamist extremist group Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, which Washington says was behind the 2012 Benghazi attack that killed the US ambassador and three other Americans.

Ansar Al-Sharia Benghazi and Ansar Al-Sharia Derna, both associated with al-Qaeda, were added to the al-Qaeda sanctions list and will face an arms embargo and a global travel ban and asset freeze, UN diplomats said.

“Both groups are responsible for acts of terror in Libya, including bomb attacks, kidnappings, and murder,” British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in a statement. Britain, France

and the United States initiated the action.

Ansar Al-Sharia is one of a slew of violent political factions and tribal groups fighting for power since the government lost control of the capital, Tripoli.

The UN Security Council has had an arms embargo and other sanctions on Libya since 2011, when former leader Muammar Gaddafi cracked down on pro-democracy activists. Gaddafi was ousted from power and killed later that year.

Separate from the UN sanctions, the United States is also considering imposing sanctions on Libya’s militants to try to force leaders to negotiate and prevent the country from descending further into chaos.—Reuters

US war planes strike Qaeda militants in Syrian border town



An explosion following an air strike is seen in central Kobani in Syria, on 17 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

AMMAN, 20 Nov — US air strikes on a Syrian border town with Turkey killed at least two militants

from Nusra Front, in the fourth such attack against the al-Qaeda affiliate group since September, a mon-

itoring group and Syrian activists said on Thursday.

The US military said in a statement on Wednes-

day the strikes, which a monitoring group and several activists said took place late on Tuesday, de-

stroyed a “storage facility run by veteran al-Qaeda operatives” known as The Khorasan Group, whose members Washington says are plotting external attacks against the United States.

Rami Abdul Rahman, who runs the Britain-based Syrian Observatory monitoring group that tracks violence across the country, said the strike killed at least two fighters from the Nusra Front. There was no evidence it killed any senior members of the group or any of the Khorasan group network.

Two residents near the rural border area of Harem in Idlib province said at least six civilians including two women and a child were injured in a residential house close to the house hit by the US strike.

Khorasan is the Islamic term for an area including parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, where al-Qaeda council is believed to be in hiding. Khorasan is believed to be a foreign fighter cell in the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda official Syria wing.

Reuters

Syrian air force strikes increasing, civilians killed: monitoring group

BEIRUT, 20 Nov — The Syrian air force launched about 1,592 strikes across Syria over the past month, killing at least 396 civilians, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Wednesday.

The Britain-based group, which monitors the war in Syria using sources on the ground, said at least 1,500 people were also wounded in the attacks, which were carried out by warplanes and helicopters which dropped “barrel bombs”, steel drums full of shrapnel and explosives.

The group said air raids since 20 October had struck areas in the Hama,

Deraa, Idlib, Aleppo and Quneitra provinces as well as the Damascus countryside. They also hit the eastern Deir al-Zor Province, where US-led forces have been bombing Islamic State militants.

Syrian government air strikes have increased since the U.S.-led coalition started attacking Islamic State positions inside Syria in September.

Analysts say the increase could be because the Syrian military wants to weaken rebel groups before they get training and equipment promised by the United States.

Reuters

Taleban suicide bombers die in attack on international zone in Kabul

KABUL, 20 Nov — Four Afghan Taleban suicide bombers died when a group of the militants tried to storm an international zone in Kabul on Wednesday in the latest high-profile assault aimed at foreign targets in Afghanistan.

The attackers tried to break into a complex known as Green Village, starting with the explosion of a van at the gate of the heavily guarded area in eastern Kabul that houses foreign contractors and various facilities.

Security forces repelled them after about an hour of fighting and no casualties were reported among the area’s residents, officials said.

Attacks on foreign troops, Afghan government officials and security forces have intensified as the international military coalition ends operations, leaving the fight against the Taleban insurgency mostly to Afghan forces.

“Four suicide bombers have been killed, there was no harm to civilians,” said

deputy Interior Minister General Ayoub Salangi. It was not immediately clear how the attackers died.

“Since the Green Village had been targeted several times in the past, the place was heavily guarded and the attackers failed to reach their intended target. Only one guard was wounded,” said Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi.

The Afghan Taleban, ousted from power by a US-led coalition in 2001, have been staging almost

daily attacks in Kabul and claimed responsibility for the latest assault.

“Suicide bombers attacked the invading forces’ base called the Green Village,” their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said by text message. “The attack began with blowing up a car packed with explosives and other fighters, armed with heavy and light weapons, arrived at the area and started the gunfight.”

A Western security source at the Green Village told Reuters there had been between four and six explosions.

Another Western security source said the attackers failed to get inside but their grenades went over the wall and hit Green Village premises. They may have also fired rocket-propelled grenades, the source said. The Green Village is one of Kabul’s most heavily guarded compounds, surrounded by layers of tall grey blast walls and multiple security check points.

On Tuesday morning, a truck bomb ripped through the outer perimeter of a foreign security compound in Kabul, killing two Afghan security guards and wounding a foreigner.

Reuters

Niger sends helicopters to Mali border after militant attack

NIAMEY, 20 Nov — Niger sent army helicopters to its western border with Mali on Wednesday to repel unidentified militants who crossed over to attack the town of Bani-Bangou, residents and military sources said.

Residents said that the attackers had arrived on trucks and motorcycles during the afternoon before exchanging fire with Niger’s security forces, causing locals to flee.

Niger’s poorly policed west is close to Mali’s desert north, where Islamist insurgents linked to al-Qaeda have been hiding to regroup since a French-led military intervention ended their nine-month occupation of the region last year.

The clashes came on

the eve of a third round of negotiations in Algeria between Mali’s government and rebel armed groups from the north on the future of the troubled region.

Niger military sources said that calm had returned by late Wednesday evening, adding that there were at least two serious injuries on their side.

“Clashes took place with our armed forces and there was gunfire, including heavy weapons fire,” said a resident from a nearby village who asked not to be named. At least 12 people — including nine members of Niger’s security forces — were killed in attacks by unidentified insurgents in late October in the nearby western Tillabéry region.

Reuters



Afghan security forces arrive at the site of a Taleban assault in Kabul on 19 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

It is impossible to apply double standards in struggle against terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov — It is impossible to apply double standards in struggle against terrorism, Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin said at the UN open debates on Wednesday.

A terrorist threat which several countries are facing has emerged due to appeasement to the activities of some extremist groups, the Russian diplomat said.

The 'Islamic State', Jabhat al-Nusra and other terrorist organizations have been maturing in the Middle East for a long time.

"They got additional opportunities for conducting their criminal activities in conditions when the state became weak and not without outside support from various foreign sponsors," the Russian diplomat went on to say.

The 'Islamic State' terrorists and Jabhat al-Nusra extremists were

not a source of concern for some countries so long as they were fighting against the government troops in Syria. "We believe that it is impossible to apply double standards in struggle against terrorism," Churkin stressed.

The Russian diplomat believes that US air strikes against the terrorist-seized oil facilities in Syria and Iraq are not affecting illegally earned oil profits but are creating problems for the civilian population in these areas.

He said the oilfields controlled by the 'Islamic State' are producing 30 barrels of oil daily while terrorists were earning three million dollars daily on oil sales.

"US air strikes against the terrorist-captured oil facilities in Iraq and Syria are not having any impact on illegal sales volumes. They are objectively making life difficult for the population



Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin

in those areas," Churkin explained.

"Oil trucks keep going from those areas and self-made gas pipelines are operating," Churkin said adding that grey schemes and dealers helped selling the oil stock on the black market.

In 2013, the European Union adopted a decision to soften some restrictions against Syria and allow

buying Syrian oil from non-state companies. The move, according to Churkin, indirectly contributed to the financial strengthening of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Jabhat al-Nusra group that control hydrocarbon deposits in north-eastern Syria.

"Brussels should be fully aware of its actions," Churkin said.—*Itar-Tass*

Training drill held before 20th anniversary of nerve gas attack

TOKYO, 20 Nov — A training exercise to address a terrorist attack was held on Thursday ahead of the 20th anniversary next March of the AUM Shinrikyo cult's 1995 sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system.

The training exercise was the first of its kind held at a public transportation facility.

Some 300 people, including those from the Metropolitan Police Department and the Tokyo Fire Department, participated in the drill at Hibiya Station in central Tokyo. Under the exercise, police officers and firemen

responded to a simulated sarin attack and tackle decontamination tasks.

Tamotsu Imai, a 46-year-old businessman who joined the exercise as an evacuee, said it is important that each organization join hands on rescue operations when a terrorist attack occurs.

The deadly subway sarin attack, which left 13 dead and sickened some 6,300, took place on 20 March, 1995 when AUM Shinrikyo members planted and ruptured plastic bags containing sarin on morning rush-hour trains.

Kyodo News



Firefighters with protective gear conduct a rescue drill at a subway station in Tokyo's Hibiya district on 20 Nov, 2014, simulating a terror attack. Around 300 police officers and firefighters participated in the drill prior to the 20th anniversary of the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system by the Aum Shinrikyo cult that killed 13 people and injured more than 6,000, on 20 March next year. — Kyodo News

Ferguson braces for finding on shooting of unarmed black teen



Workers board up businesses in preparation for the grand jury verdict in the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri on 19 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

FERGUSON (Missouri), 20 Nov — Residents of Ferguson, Missouri, prepared on Wednesday for a grand jury report expected soon on the fatal August shooting of an unarmed black teen by a white policeman, an event that laid bare long-simmering racial tensions in the St Louis suburb. The shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown sparked weeks of sometimes violent protests. Many businesses have boarded up their windows as they expect another

wave of demonstrations to follow the grand jury's decision, particularly if officer Darren Wilson is not charged.

Jimmie Matthews, who said he had lived in Ferguson for half a century, said he planned to protest against the grand jury's decision regardless of whether it brings charges.

"Whatever outcome they have, we're going to be protesting. Either way, the issues are the same," said Matthews, who is black. "We feel that we are

not protected by anyone in the system."

More than two-thirds of the residents of Ferguson are black, but its mayor, police chief and most of its police department are white. Black residents say their conflicts with the police long predate Brown's shooting.

In a sign of tensions ahead of the grand jury report, a few dozen protesters gathered outside the city police station late on Wednesday in sub-freezing temperatures faced by of-

ficers in riot gear.

Some protesters chanted "Indict that cop." Police arrested about six people when protesters tried to block the street after ignoring orders to keep it clear. The arrests were the first of protesters in about a week.

On Tuesday, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon named a panel of 16 commissioners to develop solutions to the deep-seated socioeconomic disparities in and around Ferguson.

Despite the tensions, some in Ferguson have tried to carry on life as usual. A crew of city workers spent on Wednesday morning putting up Christmas decorations on the street that is home to the Ferguson Police Department. Activists say that will be the first place demonstrators assemble after the grand jury report. Officials have said the grand jury is expected to make its decision by the end of the month.

The Ferguson-Florisant School District told parents on Wednesday that schools may close early or not open at all on the day the grand jury's decision comes, with the decision based on when officials learn the report is coming.—*Reuters*

Major interest for Serbian dairy products

BELGRADE, 20 Nov — The Serbian Dairies Association (SEDA) presented the national dairy industry at the international forum in Krasnogorsk, Moscow region.

During the forum which ended on Wednesday, representatives of the European and Serbian milk processing industries conferred with officials of the Russian Federation, SEDA released.

At the invitation sent by the Moscow Region government, SEDA officials presented Serbia's dairy industry during the forum section on the dialogue between the economy and government institutions.

Serbia dairy industry came across good reception both among local retail chains and major world companies like Danone, Campina, Fonterra and Metro, SEDA CEO Goran Janjic said. He noted that SEDA representatives reached a principles agreement with the forum organizers and the European Dairy Association (EDA) concerning the visit to Serbian dairy industry and leading European companies and institutions.

According to Janjic, the goal of the visit is to review new opportunities for improvement of cooperation in the milk processing sector.

On the margins of the forum, SEDA and EDA representatives agreed that a meeting in Brussels should be organized in order to define the joint activities for the year of 2015, with the support of the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture.—*Tanjung*

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Public Apology Letter

We, Mercury Force Co., Limited, apologize to Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (Head office; 2-7-3, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan) for having distributed counterfeit breakers under the trade mark Mitsubishi.

Following the police raid action conducted on October 21, 2014 at our company's premise and the seizure of counterfeit breakers Mitsubishi, we promise and bind ourselves not to trade or deal in any infringing Mitsubishi products in the future.

Mercury Force Co., Limited

Six nurses killed in latest attack on Chinese medical workers

BEIJING, 20 Nov — A man with a history of mental illness stabbed and killed seven people, six of them nurses, at a sanatorium dormitory in northern China on Thursday in the latest of a string of attacks on medical workers, state media reported.

An administrator was among those killed and another nurse was seriously injured in the attack in the early hours of the morning, the official *Xinhua* news agency said. A spate of attacks on doctors and nurses in the past two years has prompted the health ministry to provide better security at hospitals.

The sanatorium is in Beidaihe, a seaside resort close to Beijing favoured by senior members of the ruling Communist Party. Beidaihe has many such

institutions, which are normally used as cheap hotels or spas.

Xinhua said the former hospital was under the administration of the Beijing military region, meaning it is likely a military-run facility. A suspect, who also worked at the sanatorium, has been detained, the *Xinhua* report said.

The *Beijing News* identified the suspect as Li Xiaolong, 27, saying he had confessed to having a history of mental illness and had received treatment in Beijing and the nearby city of Tangshan in 2006.

"It is initially understood that the suspect did not have any obvious problems with the deceased," the newspaper said on its website.

While the Chinese government has ramped

up health spending, hospitals are frequently overwhelmed with patients. Doctors are also badly paid, leading to corruption and a suspicion that staff are more interested in making money by prescribing unnecessary drugs and treatment than tending the sick.

Many other Chinese are unable to afford health care despite government efforts to provide a basic safety net, which has also prompted attacks in the past.

Ministry data shows that violent attacks directed at doctors and other health care workers in the form of beatings, threats, kidnappings, verbal abuse and murder reached 17,243 cases in 2010, the latest year for which such figures are available.—Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st November, 2014: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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Photo taken on 19 Nov, 2014 shows the Christmas illuminations at Oxford Street, in London, Britain.—XINHUA



Taylor Swift denies claims of Google music deal

LONDON, 20 Nov — Taylor Swift has denied reports that she spoke to Google about making her music available on its new YouTube Music Key service.

The denial was issued after Billy Bragg criticized the 24-year-old singer for removing her entire back catalogue from Spotify.

"Taylor Swift has had absolutely no discussion or agreement of any kind with Google's new music streaming service," her representative said. But, writing on Facebook, Bragg accused the star of not being honest with her fans.

"(She should) say 'sorry, but (Google) gave me a huge amount of money... So I've sold my soul,'" he said.

"These worthy sentiments have been somewhat undermined by Swift making her new album and back catalogue available on Google's new Music Key streaming service... Which also offers listeners a free service alongside a premium subscription tier," he added.—PTI

Tom Hardy to star in FX adventure series 'Taboo'

LOS ANGELES, 20 Nov — 'The Dark Knight Rises' star Tom Hardy has been roped in to star in a new FX drama. Titled 'Taboo', the series is set in 1813 and follows James Keziah Delaney (Hardy), a rogue adventurer who returns from Africa with 14 ill-gotten diamonds to seek vengeance after the death of his father.

Refusing to sell the family business to the East India Company, he sets out to build his own trade and shipping empire and finds himself playing a very dangerous game. The project was created by Hardy and his father, Chips Har-

dy. 'Taboo' is executive produced by Ridley Scott (Blade Runner), among others, and written by Steven Knight (Dirty Pretty Things). "FX is the perfect partner to engage with this dark, fantastic world that Tom and Steven have created," Scott said.

'Taboo' will have an eight episode first season that's tentatively slated to premiere in 2016.



Chris Martin says he would want to be in 'Hunger Games'

LONDON, 20 Nov — Cold-play Chris Martin would love to be in 'The Hunger Games'. Martin said he always enjoyed running in the outdoors and if he was a teenager now, he'd love to take part in the fictitious game, in which people kill others to win a competition, reported *Femalefirst*.

"I used to collect pen knives as a kid. I was into outdoor stuff and I wanted to be Robin Hood. Now I'd want to be into 'The Hunger Games'," he said.

The 'Viva La Vida' musician dated 'Hunger Games' actress Jennifer Lawrence for three months following his decision to "consciously uncouple" from his estranged wife Gwyneth Paltrow, 42, in March 2014.

And according to reports, Lawrence has rekindled her romance with her ex-boyfriend Nicholas Hoult, 24, after deciding to call time on her relationship with Martin in October.

PTI

Award-winning film 'Sold', the story of child trafficking, screens in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 20 Nov — Multi-award winning Hollywood film 'Sold', based on the story of child trafficking in Nepal, was screened in Kathmandu in the presence of ministers, senior diplomats, government officials, artists and social activists.

The screening was attended by starcast including Seema Biswas (Bandit Queen) and Sushmita Mukharjee (Khalnayak, Dostana) along with Oscar-winning director Jeffrey D Brown and Producer Jane Charles.

Nepalese Communication Minister Mrigendra

Rijal, Commerce Minister Sunil Thapa and US Ambassador to Nepal Peter W Bode were among the dignitaries who were present on the occasion of the special screening. Child rights organization Childreach Nepal launched the Taught Not Trafficked campaign to prevent child trafficking in Nepal through education on 18 Nov, 2014.

Every year as many as 10,000 to 20,000 children are estimated to be trafficked out of Nepal, mainly to India. Most trafficked children are girls aged between twelve and eighteen, who are sold to work as hu-

man slaves primarily in the sex industry in India and within indentured labour in countries as far away as the Gulf, according to a Press release issued on the occasion.

'Sold', starring Gillian Anderson, tells the story of Laxmi, a 13 year old Nepali girl sold to a brothel in Kolkata, India.

An extraordinary tale of survival, the film is directed by Oscar winner Jeffrey D Brown and based on the bestselling novel of the same name by Patricia McCormick.

The film throws a light on the fate that many girls

face after being trafficked from Nepal under false promises of employment.

"I wanted to create a film that could foster change and serve as a vehicle to raise funds for children that would make a substantial difference in their lives. Working closely with Childreach Nepal during the production of the film, it became clear that education was the key to making a real difference, so we jumped at the chance to help with the Taught Not Trafficked campaign to keep Nepali children in school," remarked Jeffery.

PTI



Singer Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande to perform at American Music Awards

LOS ANGELES, 20 Nov — Singer Ariana Grande is all set to perform at the American Music Awards.

The 21-year-old singer will perform a medley of her hits, including 'Problem', 'Break Free' and 'Love Me Harder' at the awards show, reported *Billboard* magazine.

It was also

announced that Grande and Jessie J will perform their summer smash 'Bang Bang'. They join already announced performers including 5 Seconds of Summer, Mary J Blige, Garth Brooks, Charli XCX, Fergie, Selena Gomez, Imagine Dragons, Lorde, One Direction, Sam Smith, Taylor Swift and the evening's host, Pitbull.

The American Music Awards will air on 23 November. The 2014 American Music Awards is produced by Dick Clark Productions.

PTI

GENERAL

Blatter tells FA there could be a way to release Garcia report

ZURICH, 20 Nov — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has told English FA chairman Greg Dyke that Michael Garcia's report into the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups could be made public if people named in it waive any right to any subsequent legal action.

Dyke had written to every FIFA executive committee member calling for Garcia's report to be published in full.

Blatter said in a letter to Dyke, published on FIFA's official website on Wednesday, that FIFA was bound by an "obligation of confidentiality" and would violate its code of ethics if it made the report public.

But he said the publication of the report "might be permissible if the persons

and entities included in the report consent to such publication and waive any legal action they may be entitled to bring due to the publication".

"Against this background," Blatter said, "I would therefore like to ask you whether we may interpret your letter as providing consent on behalf of any natural or legal person affected by the parts of the report relating to the England World Cup bid (ie Inter alia, the bid team/committee, FA employees, consultants etc) to publication of the report and as a corresponding waiver of any legal action in the event of such publication."

FIFA was plunged into chaos on Thursday when its ethics judge Hans-Joachim Eckert said in a statement



FIFA President Sepp Blatter adjusts his glasses as he addresses a news conference after a meeting of the FIFA executive committee in Zurich on 26 Sept, 2014. — REUTERS

there were no grounds to reopen the controversial bidding process which led to Russia being given the 2018 World Cup and Qatar the 2022 finals.

But hours later former US prosecutor Garcia, who led the investigation over an 18-month period, said Eckert's 42-page statement had misrepresented his 430-page report and that he

would take the case to the FIFA appeal committee.

FIFA on Tuesday lodged a criminal complaint in Switzerland against unidentified people over the bidding for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, but stood by its conclusion that any wrongdoing was not enough to jeopardise the winning Russian and Qatari bids.—Reuters

Honduran Miss World contestant and sister found murdered

TEGUCIGALPA, 20 Nov — A Honduran beauty queen has been found shot dead in a suspected crime of passion just days before she was due to compete in the Miss World pageant in London, police said on Wednesday.

The bodies of Maria Jose Alvarado, 19, and her sister Sofia, 23, were found buried near a river in the mountainous region of Santa Barbara in western Honduras, said Leandro Osorio, head of the criminal investigation unit.

Police suspect that Plutarco Ruiz, Sofia's boyfriend, shot and killed the elder sister in a fit of jealousy

after seeing her dancing with "another person or something similar," then shot Maria Jose and buried the bodies, Osorio said.

"This is the main hypothesis we have for this crime, based on the witnesses and investigations we've done," he added.

Police took Ruiz and Aris Maldonado into custody on Tuesday, confiscating two pistols and their pick-up truck and identifying them as the homicide's main suspects, he said.

On his Facebook page, Maldonado lamented "these very difficult and unjust moments of life" but did not



Maria Jose Alvarado (holding flowers) and two other contestants pose for photographs during a beauty contest in San Pedro Sula on 26 April, 2014. — REUTERS

make reference to any details of the double homicide. Ruiz has yet to comment publicly on the allegations.

Alvarado, a student who aspired to become a

career diplomat, had been due to take part in the Miss World pageant that starts on Thursday and culminates in the final in London on 14 December.—Reuters

Uruguay win in Chile without Suarez, Mexico lose to Belarus

MANCHESTER, (England) 20 Nov — Uruguay made light of the absence of striker Luis Suarez to recover from a goal down and beat 2015 Copa America hosts Chile 2-1 in a friendly in Santiago.

In a spate of friendlies on Tuesday involving Latin American teams, Colombia beat Slovenia 1-0 in Ljubljana but Mexico followed last week's impressive away win over the Netherlands with a 3-2 loss to Belarus in Borisov.

Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez released Suarez for the match because the forward, serving a nine-match competitive ban for biting at the World Cup, will be unavailable when they

defend their Copa America title next year.

Alexis Sanchez headed Chile into the lead close to the half hour from Fabian Orellana's cross but Uruguay snatched an equalizer on the stroke of halftime when Diego Rolan headed in Carlos Sanchez's cross.

Midfielder Alvaro Gonzalez scored the winner 10 minutes from time with a low shot.

In Borisov, four goals in the space of seven minutes early in the second half including two from striker Raul Jimenez had Mexico level at 2-2 with Belarus.

However, the home side scored a late winner through Pavel Nekhaychik with Mexico coach Miguel Her-

rera saying: "We underestimated rivals we shouldn't have and it goes to show that in football today if you get overconfident and think you're better you're going to end up losing."

In Ljubljana, striker Adrian Ramos scored from James Rodriguez's 43rd-minute free kick to give Colombia a second tour win after beating the United States 2-1 in London on Friday.

Peru, down to 10 men from the 66th minute when striker Paolo Guerrero was sent off, came from behind to beat Paraguay 2-1 in Lima following their loss to the same rivals by the same score in Asuncion last week.—Reuters



Alvaro Gonzalez (L) of Uruguay runs after scoring a goal in front of Alexis Sanchez (bottom) of Chile during a friendly soccer match in Santiago, on 18 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(21-11-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:20 am

* Myitta Pawana by Mingun Sayadaw Phayagi

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

10:00 am

* News

10:15 am

* TV Drama Series

11:45 am

* Myanmar Series

12:00 noon

* News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Hluttaw Image

3:00 pm

* News

4:15 pm

* Socio Economic Scenes

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Public Policy)

5:15 pm

* TV Drama Series

7:00 pm

* News

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* News
* Hluttaw Image
* Socio Economic Scenes

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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-11-14 07:00 am~ 22-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Pa O in the Union
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * The Hills of Phowintaung And Shwebataung
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass "Contemporary Art"
- * Local News
- * Traditional Matrimony of Khamti Shans
- * World News
- * Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
- * Local News
- * Oboist and His Life
- * World News
- * In The Studio "Six Thu"
- * Local News
- * Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bo Yatanamingalar Palace
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- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods- (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts)
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * Entrepreneur: Dr Thin Nwe Win
- * World News
- * A Day In Bagan

Injury-plagued United face tough trip to Arsenal



Manchester United's manager Louis Van Gaal looks on before their English Premier League soccer match against West Bromwich Albion in West Bromwich, central England, on 20 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

LONDON, 20 Nov — Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal will delve into the depths of his squad for the visit to Arsenal in the Premier League on Saturday, as an injury crisis engulfs Old Trafford.

So often it has been Arsene Wenger cursing his luck after key players have been crocked ahead of big matches but this time it is United who could be missing up to 12 squad players, including goalkeeper David De Gea, at the Emirates Stadium.

United are exposed at the back, and with four first-team defenders possibly missing, Dutchman Van Gaal might have to call up teenagers Patrick McNair and Tyler Blackett to keep former team mate Danny Welbeck at bay.

England striker Welbeck has been in fine form since his 16 million pounds (\$25.06 million) move to Arsenal in September, scoring 10 goals for club and country.

Arsenal suffered two disappointing results before the international break, letting leads slip to draw 3-3 at home to Anderlecht in the Champions

League and going down 2-1 at Swansea City in the league. "We have two games against Manchester United and Borussia Dortmund at home and if we get the crowd with us from the start, and get the results, then it will be a very different story again," Arsenal captain Mikel Arteta said.

Arsenal are currently sixth in the table with 17 points; United a place behind with one point fewer.

Leaders Chelsea host West Bromwich Albion earlier on Saturday looking to extend their four-point lead on second-placed Southampton, who visit Aston Villa on Monday.

Beleaguered Liverpool, in 11th after taking a paltry 14 points from their opening 11 games, visit struggling Crystal Palace on Sunday. Brendan Rodgers' team will have painful memories of relinquishing a three-goal lead to draw 3-3 at Selhurst Park last season as the title slipped away from them.

That draw proved costly for the eventual runners-up, but a win at the same ground this season would provide a timely boost.—Reuters

'Real-life Rocky' Algieri faces daunting reality in Pacquiao

MACAU, 20 Nov — Nine months ago, American Chris Algieri was fighting in a venue holding less than 2,000 spectators, but on Sunday he enters the big time when he challenges eight-division world champion Manny Pacquiao for the WBO welterweight title at the Venetian Macao. The 30-year-old Algieri, has been billed by

promoters as the 'real-life Rocky' because of his rapid and improbable ascension to world title challenger, is not overawed by his situation.

"Yeah, it's cool, but it doesn't faze me," he told reporters in Macau this week ahead of his clash with Pacquiao in the 15,000 seat arena in the former Portuguese colony.

"I've literally seen this in my mind for a long time. And now it's here, it isn't I made it; it's, this is where I'm supposed to be."

Algieri earned his title shot the hard way.

Nine months ago, his bout with Emanuel Taylor was headlining at a 1,555-seat venue in his hometown of Huntington, New York.—Reuters

Messi's father plays down son's 'Barca exit' comments

BARCELONA, 20 Nov — Lionel Messi's father Jorge has sought to play down comments his son made this week which suggested the four-times World Player of the Year could consider leaving Barcelona. Lionel Messi said in an interview published in *Ole* newspaper on Tuesday if it was up to him he would stay at the club he joined as a 13-year-old for his entire career.

However, he added that "sometimes not everything happens in the way you would like" and said the situation was "complicated".

"The thought is to stay here (in Barcelona)," Jorge Messi was quoted as saying by Spanish newspaper *La Vanguardia* on Wednesday.

"But as people read between the lines there is exaggeration," he added.

"It's clear that if tomorrow the club says to you 'we have this offer, we want to sell you', it

would have to be studied. Although right now it is not even on the agenda."

Lionel Messi has not been at his scintillating best over the past 18 months and, along with his father, has also had problems with the Spanish tax authorities. Now 27, Messi probably has at least five

years left at the top of the game and if the right offer was made, likely to be a world record fee in excess of 100 million euros (125.5 million US dollars), it is not inconceivable Barca could cash in or he could himself decide to leave.

Barca have a new coach this season in for-

mer Spain midfielder Luis Enrique, who replaced the discarded Gerardo Martino, now Messi's coach for Argentina. They are second in La Liga, two points behind Real Madrid after 11 matches, and have qualified for the Champions League knockout round.

Reuters



Argentina's Lionel Messi kicks the ball during a training session at the Rush Green Stadium in Romford near London, on 11 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

IOC being flexible with changes to venue plans

Speaking at a Press conference in Tokyo on Wednesday, IOC Coordination Commission Chairman John Coates said reducing the burden on taxpayers over ballooning construction costs will outweigh leaving behind a legacy in 2020. He also gave Tokyo a thumbs-up on its progress so far. Coates, who is visiting Tokyo for the second time to monitor the progress of city's preparation for the Games, said the IOC is backing the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee's proposals to change the location of venues, in particular moving the basketball tournament to Saitama Super Arena, some 30 kilometres outside Tokyo.

"It was a very positive experience when we went to the Saitama Super Arena. We've been in discussion about that as an alternative for at least the finals of the men's and women's basketball for some time now," said Coates, adding that the venue being used for the 2006 world basketball championships is another strong point.

Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, president of the local organizing committee, proposed to the IOC venue changes not only for basketball but also for badminton, triathlon, sailing among others. Tokyo's original bid proposal called for 28 of the 31 facilities, including the main stadium,

to be located within an 8-km radius of the Olympic Village. This, however, has become a non-starter due to the rising costs. According to a report released on Wednesday after discussions between the Tokyo metropolitan government and the IOC regarding the proposed revisions, costs could be reduced to about 260 billion yen (\$2.2 billion) from an earlier estimate of 460 billion yen (\$3.9 billion) which factored in rising costs of building materials.

Tokyo's original estimate from its candidature file totaled 153.8 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) for the construction of 10 new facilities.—Kyodo News



Manny Pacquiao (left) and Chris Algieri pose at Press conference at Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, CA, USA on 3 Sept, 2014 in advance of World Welterweight Championship bout on 22 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS