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## PRESIDENT TOURS INDIA

### President goes on observation tour of India's Taj Mahal



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin visit Taj Mahal in India. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin left Gaya, India in the southern part of the country by air for Agra, in northern India, yesterday morning. Upon arrival at the airport, the president and his entourage were welcomed by Divisional Commissioner of Agra Mr Sh. Chandrakant and other high-ranking officials.

The president was led to the Oberoi Amarvilas hotel, where he observed paintings on marble plaques and utensils of personal use.

The president also visited the Taj Mahal, an ivory-white marble mausoleum constructed on 42 acres of land on the southern bank of the Yamuna river in the city of Agra. The structure

was built by order of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his queen Mumtaz Mahal, between 1628 and 1658. Architect Ustad Ahmad Lahauri supervised the construction with the help of nearly 20,000 handicraft artists.

Declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in

1983, the Taj Mahal is one of the Seven Wonders of the World and attracts about 8 million tourists every year.

President U Htin Kyaw then proceeded to the Palam Air Base in New Delhi in the afternoon. Upon arrival, the president was welcomed by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office of India Mr

Shri Jitendra Singh.

In the evening, the president and his wife met the staff of the Myanmar Embassy and military attaché, Myanmar doctors working at the World Health Organisation's office, scholars and their families at the residence of Ambassador to India U Aung Khin Soe, who later hosted a dinner. —Myanmar News Agency

## Myanmar's unique co-operation between fish and man

Aung Thant Khaing

FISHING with the help of Ayeyawady dolphins, the endangered species in the Ayeyawady River near Mandalay, is expected to be set up as an eco-tourism site.

The Directorate of the Ho-

tels and Tourism and Wildlife Conservation Society-WCS (Myanmar) held a meeting on 22 August to cooperate on the issue.

In Myanmar, Ayeyawady dolphins have been known to drive fish toward fishermen's nets. In return, the fishermen share some of their catch with

the dolphins, organisers said. "The unique cooperation between fish and man can be found only in Myanmar, and the number of visitors reached more than one thousand in the watching season," said U Han Win, who is in charge of the Ayeyawady Dolphins Conservation team of

WCS (Myanmar). A survey is currently being conducted in co-operation with foreign experts to help turn the conservation area for the dolphins into an eco-tourism site.

During the meeting, the authorities and the conservationists discussed the unique cooperation

between man and dolphins and raising awareness on the preservation of Ayeyawady dolphins.

The plan includes establishment of community houses at suitable places along the 74-km distance of the river between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung.

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## Myanmar's unique co-operation between fish and man

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The move is aimed at educating local residents, some of whom participate in the electrocution of fish, which poses a serious threat to the survival of the dolphins.

The conservationists found a dead dolphin in the area on 15 August, 2016, the first recorded death of an Ayeyawady dolphin this year. The death brought the number of known Ayeyawady dolphins in the area down to only 24.

Local people put blame the dolphin's death on those who electrocute fish.

However, some conservationists say the dolphin could have died accidentally due to becoming entangled in a net used

for the prevention of erosion.

A survey in February found 58 dolphins between Mandalay and Bhamo, which is a drop from 72 in 2004.

The Ayeyawady dolphins are found near sea coasts and in estuaries and rivers around Southeast Asia, especially in Myanmar, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

WCS annual surveys have shown that the number of the dolphins has increased from 17 or 18 in 2005 to 24 in February 2014, 2 along a 72 kilometre stretch of the Ayeyawady River between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung. Most of the dead dolphins were found near Bhamo and Katha and were caused by illegal fishing, according to the fisheries



Fishermen are catching fish with the help of dolphins in the Ayeyawady River near Mandalay.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

department. Illegal battery-shock fishing is the greatest challenge for conservationists and local authorities are trying to save the

endangered species, according to Myanmar's fisheries department.

The Myanmar government has banned electrofishing nation-

wide, punishing violators with a three-year prison sentence and a K300,000 fine.—Aung Thant Khaing

## Unscrupulous tax evading actors are hurting the film industry

FAMOUS Myanmar motion picture director 'Wine' has stated that government financially support for the country's film industry is lacking as previous erstwhile administrations failed to tax those in the industry.

"In order to entreat the government to financial support the film industry, how much should we pay them? Only after making our own contributions will the government be able to assist us in return. This could all be solved in a week if pre-cash computer systems were installed in every cinema around the country, but

they don't. Those in the film industry want to avoid paying tax," he said.

The utilisation of pre-cash computer systems in cinemas allow one to know the figures of movie-going audiences and how many tickets have been purchased, in order to calculate the income received, but only very few cinemas have reportedly installed such technology.

However, one of Myanmar's most prominent actors, Nay Toe, disagrees. "I've been paying my taxes ever since I started acting [in movies]," he claims. "I pay a

percentage of my annual income. Our taxes records are kept in the office of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation. We always pay our taxes. We use a third of our income to purchase needed props and clothing with which to shoot our motion pictures. The remaining two-thirds is paid in tax."

But failings appear to come from both sides. U Min Lwin Soe, director of the Internal Revenue Department, reportedly told the Myitmakha News Agency that just as those involved in the Myanmar motion picture indus-

try fail to pay their taxes, the department itself fails to take any legal action against tax evaders.

"I'll give you an example of how our department fails to press hard in procuring taxes from actors from my own experience," he began to explain. "The actor in question was required to pay K800,000 in tax. He implores me to not be so hasty with them, asking for a night's extension on his tax deadline. So, I wait. The next day I get a phone call from the regional office telling me to revise the tax levy and by how much."

Ma Sabei, a resident from

Yangon's Dagon Myothit (South) Township, told Myitmakha News Agency that she believes the correct and honest paying of taxes by actors will have benefits not just for the film industry, but also audiences as well.

The tax evasion of actors during previous government administrations and the need to development the motion picture industry through the payment of taxes during the current government was reportedly discussed during a Myanmar Motion Picture Development Forum held between August 19-20.—Myitmakha News Agency



Workers are preparing to restore the damaged part of the Sulamani Pagoda in Bagan on 27th August, 2008. The number of pagodas noted as damaged by the powerful earthquake has reached 341 nationwide with 188 in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA

## Sagaing residents call for reinstating of direct Hkamti - Monywa rapid ferry services

OVER 800 garnered signatures of residents in Sagaing Region, calling for a direct rapid passenger ferry service between Hkamti and Monywa, was reportedly forwarded to regional government on August 24.

The signatures were garnered from residents in wards and villages in Hkamti between August 19-22 through the concerted efforts of Hluttaw MPs and local residents.

"We collected signatures at the request of local residents. The absence of a direct Hkamti — Monywa ferry services have caused difficulties for the general public. Things were convenient in the past when the services used to run. Now, be they school children, teachers or doctors, citizens are faced with difficulty. We've got the support of Hluttaw MPs, and civil serv-

ants have also signed their name to the campaign," said Aung San Myint, an individual garnering signatures.

In the absence of a direct rapid ferry service from Hkamti to Monywa, passengers are forced to change in the town of Homalin, taking two nights to arrive Monywa and costing more than K30,000. The rapid ferry services reportedly took one only night to arrive in Monywa and cost just K15,000.

"It's difficult for us to travel around. The direct rapid ferry service makes life a great deal more convenient," said Ko Zaw, a resident of Hkamti Township.

Direct rapid ferry services ran between Hkamti and Monywa until the end of this July, when they were reportedly suspended for an assortment of reasons.—Myitmakha News Agency



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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong scheduled for four days with the opening address by UN Secretary General

THE Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong is scheduled to last for four days with an opening address to be delivered by the Secretary General of the United Nations, according to its planning committee, which met yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting attracted representatives from the government, the military, civil society and ethnic armed organisations.

The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC), the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) and the Preparatory Committee for Union Peace Conference will submit their reports to the conference, with officials saying that the reports on the frame-

work for political dialogue and the national-level political dialogue would also be presented to the conference. The event will have 76 speakers from three groups on its second, third and fourth days. The first group will comprise representatives from the government, ethnic armed organisations and political parties; the second will be made up of members from parliament, ethnic armed organisations and political parties; and the third group will contain representatives from the military, ethnic armed organisations and political parties. The last day will also involve placing the agenda on the record and making official approvals.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin watch the art works created on marble during their visit to Taj Mahal on 28th, August 2016. Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum constructed on 42 acres of land on the southern bank of the Yamuna river in the city of Agra. PHOTO: MNA

## Yangon peace activists stage mass rally in support of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong



Peace activists including MPs and members of the 88-general group take part in mass rally in support of Union Peace Conference. PHOTO: MNA

PEACE activists staged a mass rally in Yangon yesterday in support of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong.

The rally took place at Maha Bandoola Park in front of City Hall in the commercial centre, with musicians and artists entertaining the peace activists.

The demonstrators stood in silence for eight seconds in memory of the activists who were killed in the struggle for democracy.

The event witnessed active participation of the Yangon Region Hluttaw speaker, the Yangon mayor, artists and people from different social strata, including monks. U Ko Ko Gyi of the 88's Generation Peace and Open Society welcomed the peace conference and called for a continued effort to ensure that

the outcomes of the conference won parliamentary approval.

Daw Phyu Phyu Thin, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Mingala Taung Nyunt township, described the peace rally as a clear manifestation of how much the people have longed for peace. U Myitta, a comedian, stressed the importance of fraternity and unity in addressing the outstanding differences among the national brethren.

Htin Lin Oo (Wisdom Villa), who is a writer, called for broad-mindedness at the negotiation table, urging the stakeholders to put the public interest before anything else. U Jimmy of the 88's Generation Peace and Open Society spoke of the steadfastness in the restoration of peace amid the underlying challenges. —*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

## Plans to import frozen chicken cancelled

A PLAN to import frozen chicken has been canceled due to the objections of the breeders, it is learnt.

In an effort to reduce the price of chicken price, the Yangon regional chief minister U Phyo Min Thein came up with an idea to import frozen chicken. But the plan drew criticism from local breeders, who said the low price would result in heavy financial losses. The plan was canceled after two months of objections by the local breeders.

“We are satisfied that the government listens to voice of the public,” said U Khin Maung Win, a breeder from Myaungmya.

Currently, the rise in the price of chicken is being attributed to a big discrepancy between the price of chicken raised in chicken farms and the retail price of chicken. The price of chicken might decrease when the chickens are directly sold to the consumers.—*Min Thit*

## Victims of forced labour in Thailand saved by police



Victims of forced labour being seen after salvation. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG)

MORE THAN 260 Myanmar migrants, including 104 undocumented labourers who were forced to work in Thailand, have been rescued by responsible organizations of Thailand and Myanmar.

In cooperation with Myanmar Association in Thailand (MAT), Aid Alliance Committee for Myanmar Workers (AAC),

officials from the Myanmar Embassy, Thailand's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) and Thailand Ministry of Labour, a combined team raided the Thai Better Food Factory to save those migrants, including over 160 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) workers on 25 August.

According to investigators,

the migrants have worked at the factory for over six months. They have faced difficulties in obtaining legal protection because they were not provided with an ID card that was supposed to be given by the employer, who also failed to provide a monthly salary to workers with or without an MoU.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*

## Plantations in Naga Self-Administrative Zone suffered from pest problems

The plantations in Nanyun and Pansaung in the Naga Self-Administrative Zone have been plagued with an unexpected and serious pest outbreak, prompting emergency preventive measures, said U Sein Maung, a regional Hluttaw representative for Nanyun Township.

The damage caused by the pest outbreak was reported to the regional government through regional administrators, who provided pesticides to be used on the crops. The locals also provided insecticides.

"However, we cannot tell yet we have completely overpowered the pests," U Sein Maung said. "Although the big insects are killed, the small creatures are still found in the plantations."

The authorities from the self-administrative zone purchased the insecticide from Tanaing Township. The department of agriculture in Pansaung Township contributed 10-kilogram bottles of pesticide, buckets used for spraying the pesticide and a device to measure the pesticide toxicity, U Sein Maung said.

The pest outbreak is rare but devastating, farmers said.

"It is the very first time that I have suffered (from such an outbreak)," one farmer from the Pansaung area said. "The pests swallowed the whole plantation during one night and only the straws of the paddy were left."

Hista and Army worms destroyed plantations in 15 villages in the self-administrative zone. They are reported to be fairly large insects, officials said.

Army worms are worse than Hista because they can be eliminated only with the use of highly toxic pesticides, which are potentially harmful to farmers and consumers. Thus most farmers end up writing off the failed crop as a loss, said Daw Thida Aung, the officer from the township agriculture department.

While the extent of damage caused by pest outbreak in the Naga self-administrative region is still being compiled, so far only 155.25 acres out of 1,092 acres of plantations are found to have been badly damaged by pests, it is learnt.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

## Crime NEWS

### Six died, 17 injured after bus overturn near Hsipaw

SIX PEOPLE were killed and 17 others were hurt when a passenger bus overturned on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Union Highway on Saturday morning.

A public transport vehicle carrying 26 passengers lost control and overturned between mile post Nos. 149/3 and

149/4 near Kunkhite Village in Hsipaw Township in northern Shan State. Six passengers died at the scene. The injured passengers were taken to Lashio General Hospital. Myat Min Kyaw, the driver, was accused of careless driving by police.—*Sai (Hsipaw)*

### Inmates escape from men's prison in Khamti

NINE prisoners on Friday tried to escape from the men's jail in Khamti, a town in Sagaing Region, seven of whom were quickly arrested by police.

The escape occurred after a window was broken at the Khamti Myoma Prison, which holds 78 prisoners.

A resulting altercation between police and jail breakers

caused three police officers to sustain moderate injuries, officials said. Two inmates — Soe Naing Lin (aka Hse Ni or Kyaw Htoo), 26, of Homalin Township, and Ya Pop, 27, of Khamti Township, have not been caught and are still at large. Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the remaining two jail breakers.—*San Lwin Oo*

### One missing after wave strike in Dawei

ONE visitor is missing after a large wave hit Maungmagan Beach last Thursday in Dawei Township in Taninthayi Region, police reported yesterday.

A family from Thabyaychaung Village in Dawei was visiting the popular Shinmawtaung Pagoda on the Dawei promontory on the morning of 25 August when the wave struck, authorities said. A father and son fell into the

water when the wave hit them while they were taking photographs.

Tun Aung Kyaw, the son of U Myo Naing, was rescued by a construction worker near the pagoda. A concerted effort to locate the missing man has been undertaken by local police, family members, residents and responsible administrative officials.—*Soe Tun (IPRD)*

### Ten arrested for drug trafficking

TEN PEOPLE including one woman were arrested by police over a two-day period for alleged involvement in the trafficking of prohibited drugs.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad searched a car suspected of containing drugs being driven by Kyaw Oo, with another person on board en route from Kalaw to Aungban. The car was stopped near a toll gate in Kalaw. Nearly 100,000 yaba pills worth

about 2 billion kyats were found. Two other men were arrested by police after they were found to be connected with drug dealings in Heho Township, according to police.

A similar case occurred on 26 August in the Taungoo District in Bago Region and Tachilek, a town in Shan State. A total of 7,710 yaba pills, an air gun, a sword, four motorcycles, K88,450 and three mobile de-

vices were found in the house of Naing Lin Htet with four other people in Taungoo.

Libwe and Arsout were also arrested by police after they were discovered in possession of a cache of almost 400 yaba tablets and stimulant powder weighing 4 grams.

All suspects involved in the case are facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Kyemon*

### No injuries in Yangon factory fire

A FIRE broke out in a factory in the Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone in Yangon on Saturday night, according to a police report. There were no reported injuries, according to the report.

The blaze started at around 9.10 p.m. due to an electrical short-circuit while employees were working in the factory, officials said. Firefighters brought the blaze under control within 30 minutes, with the assistance of Red Cross members and departmental officials, according



Firefighters being seen bringing the blaze under control.

PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANDITA)

to the report. The fire service department sent several fire engines to fight the blaze, regarding it as level-3 inferno. The factory

building and raw materials were destroyed as a result of the fire.

Police are still investigating the case.—*Zaw Gyi (Pandita)*

# LOCAL Business

## New method of commercial paddy straw mushroom cultivation implemented

INDOOR cultivation of paddy straw mushrooms are being made on a commercial scale with the use of stackable plastic bags and baskets, officials said.

Paddy straw mushrooms have been cultivated in Amarapura Township since 1993. A new technique using organic fertilizer such as cow dung, hyacinth and cardboard are used in cultivation instead of a straw substrate.

Over 10 visses of paddy

straw mushrooms are yielded per room. A viss of paddy-straw mushrooms is worth between Ks2,500 to Ks4,000.

Because paddy straw mushrooms are cultivated indoors, they can be grown in all types of weather, officials said. In indoor cultivation, about 96 baskets of paddy-straw mushrooms can be accommodated in a room by stacking the baskets vertically. The cultivation of the pad-

dy straw mushrooms allows the growers to make profit within days. The paddy straw mushrooms are harvested after 10 or 11 days of cultivation. The paddy-straw mushrooms have to be plucked before they blossom. Paddy-straw mushroom (*Volvarella volvacea*) is a species of edible mushroom cultivated throughout Asia and used extensively in Asian cuisine. —*Teintaman*



Paddy straw mushrooms cultivated in plastic bags.

## Myanmar language teacher gets a jump on new exercise craze



Moe Chit, Centre, the Managing Director of the Moe Myanmar Language Centre, engages in her second job as a Zumba teacher at the Fitway Gym on Upper Pansodan Road. PHOTO: COURTESY MOE CHIT

### Mark Angeles

WHEN Moe Chit isn't teaching Myanmar language students, she's likely teaching them about Zumba.

Moe Chit, the owner of the Moe Myanmar Language Centre on Thein Phyu Road in Yangon,

discovered Zumba, a dance fitness programme, while on a visit to Australia in 2014. It was love at first jump.

"I was in Melbourne for a month and joined a gym. I saw Zumba classes on the schedule and decided to go," said Moe Chit. "I

liked it right away."

Upon her return to Yangon, she continued her new exercise regimen via YouTube videos, but eventually decided to become a Zumba teacher. She completed her three-day training by Zumba Fitness in Bangkok, Thailand last

year, making her one of only five licensed instructors in Myanmar.

Since then, she has held Myanmar language classes three or four days a week, and taught Zumba two days a week. Her first Zumba class in April drew over 30 people, drawing a mix of locals, foreigners, men and women.

The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Moe has such a fun and outgoing personality, and since Zumba is her hobby, this comes through in her classes, which means you can't not have fun," said Vince Kilpatrick, an expatriate from New Zealand who has also taken language classes from Moe Chit.

Zumba was created in the 1990s by the Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto Perez when he forgot his music for an aerobics class he was teaching. Undaunted, he went to his car, found a tape of salsa and merengue music, and improvised a routine. The resulting class was an immediate hit. Approximately 15 million people now take regular Zumba classes in over 200,000 locations across 80 countries.

Moe Chit will continue her

Zumba training next month, she said, when she will attend a course in Queensland, Australia to learn how to teach Strong by Zumba, a high-intensity interval training class. She said she will be the first in Myanmar to be certified to teach the new classes.

The exercise classes that involve slow warmup movements as well as energetic dance moves are still new in Myanmar, a conservative country, but Moe and her students believe it will become popular.

"I think it's a little unusual for the culture (of Myanmar)," said Vince Fitzpatrick, "but if she keeps it fun and exciting like it is now, more and more people will get into it then." Moe Chit's classes last one hour and are held at the Fitway Gym on Upper Pansodan Road in Yangon. She said she became enamored of Zumba because it combines two of her obsessions - exercise and dancing.

"I still go salsa dancing at least once a week, and the Zumba classes have the same feel," said Moe Chit, a small, slender woman with an easy smile. "I love Zumba because it feels like you're at a party dancing with friends."



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## Suspected 'terror' attack at Indonesian church; no serious casualties

MEDAN, (Indonesia) — Indonesian police were investigating a suspected terror attack by a knife-wielding assailant on a priest during the Sunday service at a church, and a bomb squad had been deployed to determine whether the attacker's backpack contained explosives.

There were no serious casualties, though the priest and his attacker suffered minor injuries, according to

police in Medan city, northern Sumatra.

"A terrorism act was carried out on Sunday morning at the Saint Joseph catholic church," said Rina Sari Ginting, spokeswoman for Medan police in a statement. "Police are interrogating the perpetrator... and will search his house for any bomb-making materials."

A witness present in the church told Reuters the attacker had sat with other

worshippers before running towards the priest.

"There was a small explosion like fireworks and he also took out a knife as he ran towards the priest," said Timbas Ginting.

A bomb squad was sent to the site to check whether the assailant was carrying explosives, in case the attack was a failed suicide bomb attempt.

"What's clear is that the pastor was threatened,

and (there was) an attempt to hurt the pastor," Fahrizal, the head of criminal investigations for police in Medan, said. Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population and the vast majority practise a moderate form of Islam. But there has been a resurgence in fundamentalism during recent years, inspired in part by Islamist militant groups like al Qaeda and Islamic State.

—Reuters

## Singapore reports 1<sup>st</sup> locally transmitted Zika infection

SINGAPORE — Singapore authorities said on Saturday that a Malaysian woman who works and resides in Singapore had contracted the Zika virus in what is likely to be the first locally transmitted infection and warned that more cases could emerge in the affluent city-state.

As the 47-year-old "had not travelled to Zika-affected areas recently, she was likely to have been infected in Singapore," the Health Ministry and the National Environment Agency said in a statement.

In May this year, Singapore reported its first case of the virus but that involved transmission from abroad, as the 48-year-old patient had just returned from Brazil.

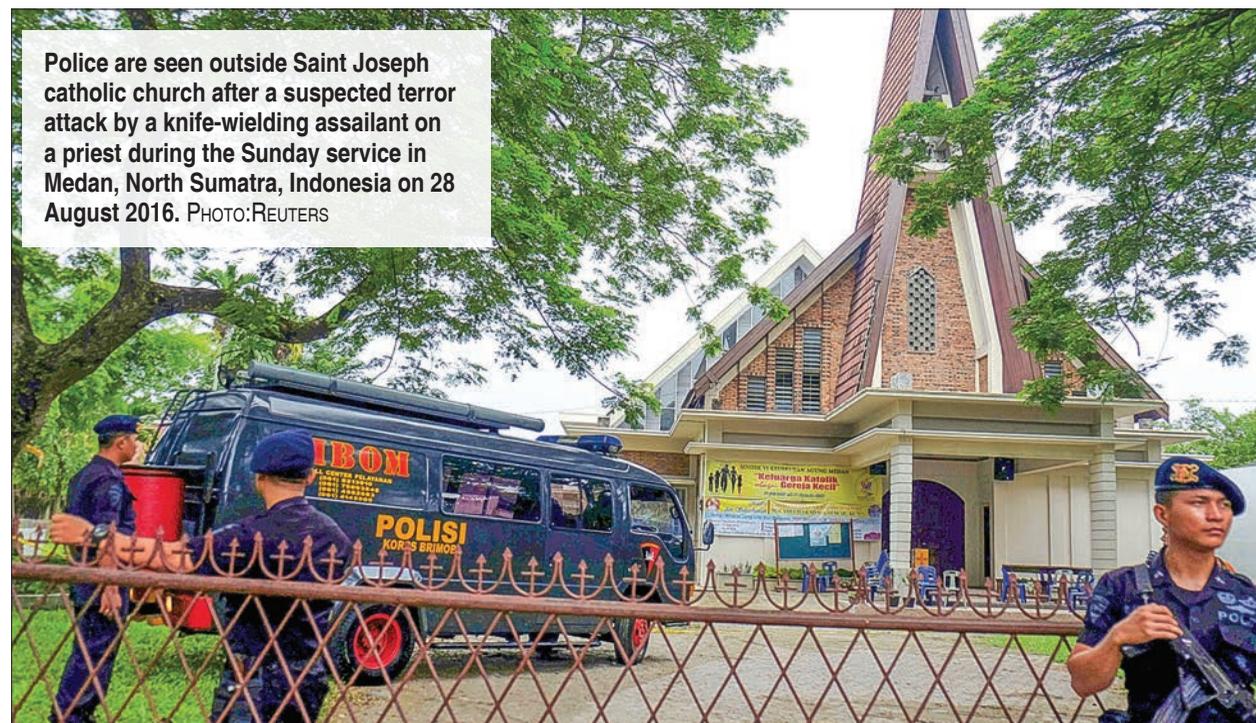
The latest patient developed fever, rash, and conjunctivitis from Thursday and tested positive for Zika on Saturday, the statement said. The patient, who has been isolated, is "currently well and recovering." However, three others who lived in the same area "had preliminarily tested positive based on

their urine samples."

The two agencies warned that there could be "further cases."

"With the presence of Zika in our region and the volume of travel by Singaporeans as well as tourists, it is inevitable that there will be imported cases of Zika into Singapore," it said. "There is also risk of subsequent local transmission, as the Aedes mosquito vector is present here."

Two infectious experts warned in January this year that the city-state could be "extremely vulnerable" to the Zika virus, a local state-run radio station reported in January this year. Any outbreak in Singapore could potentially overshadow the large number of dengue cases seen this year. Singapore, which has a warm and humid tropical climate and many trees all over the island, is already grappling with the spread of dengue, with more than 10,000 cases reported so far this year, including seven fatalities compared to four dengue fatalities in the whole of last year.—Kyodo News



Police are seen outside Saint Joseph catholic church after a suspected terror attack by a knife-wielding assailant on a priest during the Sunday service in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia on 28 August 2016. PHOTO:REUTERS

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## No one injured in passenger train derailment in southern India

NEW DELHI — A passenger train derailed in the southern Indian state of Kerala early on Sunday, but no casualties have been reported, a senior railway official said.

The mishap took place between Aluva and Karukutty stations in the state's Ernakulam district at around 3 am local time (2130 GMT Saturday), he said.

The Thiruvananthapuram-Mangalore Express was on its way to the neighbouring state of Karnataka from Kerala's capital when 12 of its coaches went off the tracks, the official said.

Local TV channels showed footage of the train coaches and reported that stranded passengers were ferried by buses to nearby places. "Train services in the region were disrupted

for over six hours, following the incident. Normalcy is slowing return there," the official said, adding a probe has been ordered into the mishap. Indian Railways, which carry millions of passengers, is one of the largest train networks in the world, criss-crossing the country from north to south.

But the state-run railways has a patchy safety

record — there has been little investment in upgrading decaying tracks and signals. It also lags behind on anti-collision technologies.

Moreover, decades of neglect, low investment and subsidised fares have also left the network in a shambles though the government is trying to revive the ailing railway sector.—Xinhua

## Philippine leftist rebels declare indefinite ceasefire

MANILA — A leftist rebel group announced on Saturday that it is declaring an indefinite unilateral ceasefire with the government effective from midnight Sunday, extending a week-long truce it declared last week that lapsed on Saturday.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said in a statement that

they declared an indefinite truce "to further promote and boost efforts to accelerate" the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the rebels that resumed in Oslo, Norway last week.

The declaration of an indefinite was also to reciprocate the indefinite ceasefire issued by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

on 21 August, the rebels said.

They added the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, "are encouraged by the positive outcome of the resumption of formal talks" held in Oslo from 22 August to 26 August.

"The revolutionary forces in the Philippines look forward to vibrant

talks in the course of the next few months to discuss social and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces," they said. The Duterte administration is trying to forge peace with the communist rebels in an attempt to end Asia's longest-running insurgency.—Xinhua

## As Obama heads to Laos, signs of a tilt away from China

VIENTIANE — The secretive communist government of Laos, a country with a population of less than 7 million, rarely causes a ripple on the diplomatic circuit. And yet its sleepy capital will spring to life next week when global leaders arrive for an Asian summit.

Barack Obama will be among them, making the last push of his presidency to ‘rebalance’ Washington’s foreign policy towards Asia, a strategy widely seen as a response to China’s economic and military muscle-flexing across the region.

The might of Laos’ giant neighbour to the north is hard to miss in Vientiane: wealthy Chinese driving SUVs overtake tuk-tuks sputtering along the roads and Chinese-backed hotels sprout from noisy construction sites in one of Asia’s most low-rise cities.

But diplomats say Obama could be pushing on an open door in Laos, thanks to a change of government there in April. They say the country’s new leaders appear ready to tilt away from Beijing and lean more closely towards another neighbour, Viet Nam, whose dispute with China over the South China Sea has pushed it into a deepening alliance with the United States.

“The new government is more influenced by the Vietnamese than the Chinese,” said a Western diplomat in Southeast Asia.

“It’s never too late for a US president to visit.” Obama will become the first sitting US president to visit landlocked Laos, where the United States waged a “secret war” while fighting in Viet Nam, dropping an estimated two million tonnes of bombs on the country. About 30 per cent of the ordnance failed to explode, leaving a dangerous and costly legacy.

Laos has strategic importance to both Viet Nam and China. Viet Nam has a long land border with Laos that gives it access to markets in Thailand and beyond. For China, Laos is a key gateway to Southeast Asia in its “new Silk



US President Barack Obama waves as walks on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, US before his departure to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre, on 26 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Road” trade strategy.

Laos, which is developing a series of hydropower plants along one of the world’s longest rivers, the Mekong, aims to become “the battery of Asia” by selling power to its neighbours.

It is difficult to read policy in Laos because its leaders are so uncommunicative, but Western diplomats have detected some shifts.

First, deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad — who ran the steering panel for a \$7 billion Chinese rail project — retired. The project is now believed to be on hold because Laos is unhappy with the terms of the deal.

Officials of Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith’s new government, many of them educated in Viet Nam, have visited Hanoi en masse in recent weeks, their first foreign trip.

At two of the past meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is currently chaired by Laos, Vientiane has taken a more nuanced stance

on Beijing than neighbouring Cambodia, which is increasingly seen as a Chinese satellite.

“The US strategic interest in Laos is to see the country be able to exert a certain degree of strategic autonomy because you don’t want ... (to) have something akin to the relationship between China and Cambodia,” said Phuong Nguyen of the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies think-tank.

A defence official in Washington did not comment on wider strategic issues but described Laos as “an important partner.”

A China foreign ministry spokesman said “we welcome any country, including those inside and outside this region, developing constructive relations, as long as these ties are really beneficial to regional peace, stability and prosperity.” Beijing has invested around \$1 billion annually in Laos in 2014 and 2015, a step up from the \$4.5 billion invested historically before 2014, according to figures from

China’s Ministry of Commerce and state-run media.

For the United States, impoverished Laos is not a strong investment draw.

“In Laos, we bring 7-8 companies to the table compared with 30-40 companies that Viet Nam brings. But China- that’s a totally different ball game,” said Anthony Nelson, director of the US-ASEAN business council.

“So there’s no coincidence that the countries with the lowest levels of development, Laos and Cambodia, are the most willing to advocate for China’s position in international discussions.”

But the Lao are closer culturally to Viet Nam than they are to China. Their businesses use Lao language signs and mixed Lao-Vietnamese families incorporate local customs, while Lao-Chinese families tend to be isolated.

“We are a bit frustrated with (China). They create their own eco-system,” a Lao businessman said.—Reuters

## Japan, South Korea, China agree to hold ‘Cultural City Summit’ in 2017

JEJU ISLAND, (South Korea) — Trilateral talks on culture were held between representatives of Japan, China, and South Korea here Sunday, with the three nations formally agreeing to hold an “East Asian Cultural City Summit” in Kyoto next year. The mayors of a total 12 cities in the three countries that have placed importance on cultural exchanges will take part in the summit, slated to be held in November next year in Japan’s former capital. From Japan, the mayors of Kyoto, Nara, Yokohama, and Niigata will attend.

The three countries also agreed to hold co-host academic and cultural events and mutually dispatch artistic delegations in conjunction with the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeong Chang, the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo, and the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing.

In addition, the Jeju Declaration released by the South Korean culture ministry was adopted, in which the countries pledged to “work for the creation of East Asian values that contribute to the peace and prosperity of humanity.”

It was attended by Japanese Culture Minister Hirokazu Matsuno, Chinese Vice Culture Minister Ding Wei, and South Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Kim Jong Deok.

The meeting has been held nearly every year since 2007 with the understanding that cultural exchanges must continue despite the prevailing political and diplomatic tensions between the three countries. It is hoped the cultural summit will strengthen ties at the municipal level.—Kyodo News

## Armed men storm jail in southern Philippines, free 28 prisoners

MANILA — Armed men believed to have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group have stormed a jail in the southern Philippine Marawi City, freeing at least 28 prisoners, authorities said on Sunday.

Police officer Augustine Tello, chief of the Lanao del Sur provin-

cial police, said the jailbreak took place around 5:40 p.m. on Saturday in Mapandi Village in Marawi City.

He said the attackers, numbering about 50, were heavily-armed and easily took control of the local jail.

Among the escapees were eight members of the so-called rag-tag Maute group who were arrested last Monday for possessing improvised explosive materials and guns. Twenty other prisoners escaped during the attack, he said.

Tello also said the attackers

disarmed the jail guards and carted away one M16 rifle, on M14 and a vehicle as they escaped.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told radio dzBB in an interview that the military is helping the police in the manhunt to re-arrest the gang members and the jail breakers.

“We have heightened the alert level in the region,” he said, adding that pictures of the escapees have been disseminated.

The Maute group has been blamed on several bomb attacks and kidnapping for ransom in central Mindanao.—Xinhua

## Bangladesh PM defends construction of India-funded power plant near Sundarbans

DHAKA — Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday defended her government’s decision to construct a controversial India-funded power plant near Sundarbans, the world’s largest mangrove forests which straddle both Bangladesh and India.

Despite warnings from activists of environmental costs, at

a press briefing on the coal-fired plant’s environmental impacts on the forest, the Bangladeshi premier Saturday justified her government’s decision to go ahead with nearly 1.50 billion US dollars power project at any cost.

About the environmental risks cited by environmental groups and ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

at the latest, Hasina said that the 1,320-megawatt “Ultra Super-critical Power Plant,” the construction site of which is about 14 kilometres away from the Sundarbans, will be developed with cutting-edge eco-friendly technologies.

“It won’t hamper the world’s largest mangrove forest,” she claimed and added “the plant

would rather come as a blessing for Sundarbans as people’s dependency on the forests for their livelihoods will reduce because it will create employment opportunities for them.”

In the press conference, Hasina showed photographs of many major coal-powered plants established in forests and cities in

different countries to assert the anti-power plant campaign was a mere propaganda of vested interest groups.

Some 70 per cent of the project cost would reportedly be covered by the Indian Exim Bank as a loan, and the rest by the governments of Bangladesh and India.—Xinhua

# Opinion

## Write for us

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Is equitable development a reality?

Kyaw Thura

There is a natural propensity for people to lead an easy life with the vague idea that the government is solely responsible for the equitable development of individual citizens. The reality, however, is that no political system is capable of providing a magic formula for higher socioeconomic status. We ourselves are the creators of our own fate. Since nobody is des-

tinued to failure, we have ourselves to blame for our own failed lives.

It takes only a cursory glance at the notion that all men are created equal to convince us that these people should have been raised differently. Creation ends at birth. We are left with the innate obligation to cultivate the virtues of love, understanding, respect, trust and industry, which are

the essential prerequisites for prosperity. It goes without saying that hard work is of the essence in creating prosperity.

However, the government is required to take the utmost caution to ensure that no community bears the burden of social deprivation and discrimination likely to stem from its industrial and commercial operations and its development policies as well. The govern-

ment should exert its efforts on social integration to pave the way for social mobility. In addition, local governments should provide the residents with opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes that can affect their communities. All things considered, equitable development requires equitable efforts among individuals at all levels of society.

## Britain's Exit from the EU: Why Marketers Should Care

Prof. Michael R. Czinkota  
McDonough School of Business  
Georgetown University's

These are tough times for international marketers. There is the ubiquitous and growing occurrence of terrorism, bringing fear to airplanes and airports, trains, entertainment venues, and many unexpected places. There is strong political volatility where the battle is not only about political savoir faire, but is driven by individuals. Just think of the new woman governor of Tokyo, elected against "official" guidance in a male-dominated country.

There is growing wealth concentration for a few, and low income for many others. We have witnessed the breakup of long-term coalitions thought to be stable, such as in Libya, Iraq, Indonesia and South Sudan. In Europe alone we have witnessed massive migration flows from the Middle East, which has led to global disharmony. We have seen the referendum in Scotland to tear asunder the United Kingdom. And now there is British exit (BREXIT) from the European Union due to a plebiscite.

Much of this occurs at a distance, so should marketers really be concerned? Yes, they need to analyze the precursors, effects, and consequences. There will be major changes in the business relations within the EU, and also important effects on marketing on both sides of the Atlantic. Understanding and preparation will not remove the thorn of separation, but may help with a less painful adjustment.

One hundred years ago, world economic and political conditions were characterized by globalization and democratization. Political and economic power was in balance. Large global conflict seemed unlikely between the three relatives who ruled England, Russia

and Germany, and referred to each other as Georgie, Nicky, and Willy. Yet, within only a few years, World War I had led to millions of casualties and major devastation. Today, some say that rather than walking the walk of diversity, we are ominously close to a similar path of divisiveness. What are we to do now in order to avoid a dramatic deterioration of global civility, security, and economy?

Tinderboxes can cause hot flames. For example, to guarantee their spheres of influence, Britain and France signed the Sykes-Picot treaty on May 16, 1916, which drew hasty and culturally poorly conceived borders for the Middle East. The accord achieved its planned outcome, namely the expiry of the Ottoman Empire, but has caused a century of painful conflict in the Middle East. Even today, the conflicts in Syria or Turkey reflect the inherent disharmony of the old agreement.

Brexit reflects an unwillingness to accept large migration flows and a reluctance to cope with diversity. A British start may encourage other nations to also demand special consideration. But who will be the beast of burden and at what price? Forward-looking countries which adapt their own solutions often surpass the slower and larger powers. Hungary's policy of "we can't do it" led to early control of immigration flows. But the nation found itself derided and scorned even though many other countries followed suit. Being the first with good ideas and their implementation does not always pay off.

It is ironic to see a self-inflicted British exit from the EU, which does not better the world, but carries the spark for further conflict. The economic relationship be-

tween the U.S. and Britain will weaken. The European Single Market (ESM) is single no more. The departure shifts the entire European unification from an outlook of optimism and growth to a fear of division. Its significance as a business cluster is declining and no longer as charming. The value of the pound is likely to remain depressed as will the currency of other non-Euro countries. Relative salaries, housing prices, innovation and new ventures become less robust. The plans of many people to establish their life in Britain will change. Inward tourism may rise but outward travel will suffer.

For trade and investment issues already settled by agreements between the EU and the U.S., the United Kingdom, now a new outsider, will need to seek new access accords. Many policy questions will not necessarily be resolved in favor of the UK. How will America choose between Britain and the EU? What are the consequences the U.S. will have to bear, especially with the ongoing negotiation of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)? What shortcomings will marketers experience in terms of employment, human capital development, and global market success due to the missing British team member? At the very least, they will need to re-differentiate between the EU and the UK, which requires new strategies, new tactics, and new allocation of emphasis.

American outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will change. U.S. Secretary of State Kerry reports that every day almost one million people go to work in America for British companies. More than one million people go to work in Great Britain for American companies. The U.S. and UK have the world's largest FDI partnership. According to the OECD, British direct investment in the U.S. totaled \$449 billion in 2014 while American direct investment in the

United Kingdom reached \$540 billion. American firms have regarded investment in Britain as a strategy to be safe and gain more access to the 27 other member states of the European Union. Under Brexit such rationale is no longer valid.

Stability is a key concern for investors. While the UK is an attractive market with its strong rule of law, highly educated workforce, and language similarity with the U.S., the EU partnership may be more attractive due to its size and the overall streamlining of trade and investment rules. American marketers in the UK will face rising cost and decreasing earnings. A survey of Ernst & Young found 72% of U.S. investors citing the access to the ESM as an important element of the UK's investment attractiveness. Marketers will need to find ways which improve the future appeal of the UK.

BREXIT will not make trade negotiations any easier. Trouble may often be unforeseen and delayed. For example, the Washington Post reports that the EU has agreed to a ban of certain pesticides in order to protect bees and their hives which are in decline. Will a London withdrawal from such restrictions endanger British bees, or will British bees endanger their EU relations? What can marketers offer to bridge this gap?

This is not a time for global conflict. Marketers must contribute to tranquility and cohesion, in order to demonstrate that trade and investments are preferable ways to obtain goods and services rather than obtain them by engaging in battle. As part of this process, marketers may shape relationships which are less traditionally organized but more individualistic and spontaneous. Also, highly emphasized marketing fundamentals such as competition, risk, profit, and ownership may have to be modified.

Confrontations between friends and adversaries do not re-

quire winners and losers. All should be willing to learn from each other, acknowledge and respect special needs, and make allowance for the human dimension. "We must lead toward a world that trades in freedom. And we must pursue all these goals with focus, patience and strength." These words of George W. Bush still ring. With all the resources now available, there must be an increased search for the soul of marketing. Determining past wrongs and the inflicted cost on individuals and society may enable curative marketers to play a new role in the development of relationships. We all must contribute conscientiously to finding ways which help others by sharing their burden. Yet, they must become more willing to share ours as well. Leadership is expensive. Those who now sit at the table must let others approach and take a seat. Dropping crumbs is an insufficient path to a better world.

It used to be said that the United States and England are only separated by a common language. The near term future will see a separation of the two by treaty considerations, which had been thought of as concluded, but due to Brexit, will emerge anew. There may well be the opportunity to arrive at new conclusions during new negotiations. However, the revision of past agreements will be quite onerous. In many instances, negotiators will tend to be more risk averse, leading to more restrictive negotiation outcomes. Bilateral discussions between the U.S. and the UK will focus on controversial fields such as norms, use of chemicals or additives, and privacy.

Marketers can contribute to such future negotiations by providing real data which help negotiators understand the realities of market exchange. It will be up to marketers to emphasize global openness, transparency, and consumption as desirable objectives for progress towards a better human condition.

## Conference aims to promote role of Myanmar literature

LOCAL writers have been urged to put more effort into creating non-fiction books as well as aesthetics books to promote the role of literature, said Sithu U Tin Hlaing, whose pen name is Lae Dwin Thar Saw Chit, at the Myanmar Writers Association's (MWA) conference in Yangon.

Chairman of the MWA Sithu U Tin Hlaing also ad-

vised local writers to observe the writing style in books created by international writers to help promote their writing skills.

The second conference of the Myanmar Writers Association, an independent literature association, was held at Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon start-

ing on 27 August.

During the conference, the Myanmar Library Foundation donated publications and well-wishers donated cash for the township writers association.

The MWA continued the second day of its conference on Sunday. —Yi Yi Myint, *Ohmma Than*

## Warm clothes donation helps IDPs to brace La Nina-induced cold weather

INTERNALLY displaced peoples at camps in Mandalay Region have been provided with 36,500 sets of warm clothes as the upcoming winter, expected to be extremely cold due to the La Nina weather system, approaches.

Following weather experts' warnings that Myanmar would be impacted with extremely cold weather this winter, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation imported 160,000 jerseys worth US\$2 million for the ethnic people's shelter at IDP camps at border areas. About 36,500 sets of warm clothing were donated to the people at IDPs in Mandalay Region through the Mandalay Region Government.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung accepted the donations presented by U Moe San Aung of the KBZ Group



Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung accepts warm clothes for the IDPs at the camps in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: BFM

of Companies. The philanthropic foundation also donated 3,500 warm clothes to the people in Lahe in the Naga Administrative Zone on 18 August.

Such donation will go to IDP camps in Shan State, Kachin

State and Chin State, which are likely to be hit by the unusually cold weather. The foundation has also established a K100-million fund in 14 regions and states in order to quickly respond to disasters.—Thura Lwin (*Eco*)

## Thai Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO) performs concert in Mandalay

THE Thai Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO) gave its performance at the Mandalay National Theatre in Mandalay on 27 August with the attendance of Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and members of Mandalay Region Government.

At the concert, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar delivered formal words of greeting before the TPO played the Myanmar National Anthem, Myanmar oldies, Beethoven symphonies pop-

ular in the Western countries and works by the Russian composer Tchaikovsky. Female dancers from the Fine Arts Department performed Myanmar traditional dances. The Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and his wife presented a bouquet of flowers to Thai orchestra.

The TPO is considered one of the best ensembles in South East Asia.

Over the past 10 years, TPO, which was founded by Director

Dr. Sugree Charoentra of Mahidol University Musical College in Salaya near Bangkok, is under the patronage of the Royal Thai Government.

The TPO had its first international appearance at the Asian Orchestras Festival in the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall in 2009. Its second appearance was at the gala concert for the 15th ASEAN Summit in Thailand. It has since performed in New Zealand in 2012, and Vientiane, Laos in 2013.—Thiha Ko Ko (*Mandalay*)



Tai Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO) seen performing. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)



### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

HERE again, as a Consultant Advisor. I will like to stress youth and alcohol. Alcohol is the number one drug problem among youth. The easy availability, widespread acceptability and extensive promotion of alcoholic beverage within our society make alcohol the most widely used and drug abused.

Alcohol used is widespread. I think by their senior year of high school almost all students will have tried alcoholic beverages: 2 out of 3 will be current users, 1 in 20 will be daily and almost 4 out of 10 will consume 5 or more drinks in a row at least once year every 2 weeks.

Drinking has acute effects on the body. The heavy, fast-paced drinking that young people commonly engage in quickly alters judgment, vision, coordination and speech and often leads to dangerous risk-taking behavior. Because they have lower body weight than adults, youth absorb alcohol into their blood system faster than adults and exhibit greater impairment for longer periods of time. Alcohol use not only increase the likelihood of being involved in an accident, it increases the risk of serious injury in an accident because of its harmful on numerous parts of the body.

Alcohol-related highway accidents are principal cause of death among young people; furthermore about half of all youthful deaths in drowning, fires, suicide and homicide are alcoholic related.

Any alcoholic beverage can be misused. Contrary to popular belief, drinking beer or wine can have effects similar to drinking 'hard' liquor. A bottle of beer, a glass of wine or a bottle of wine have about the same amount of ethyl alcohol as a drink made of liquor.

Early alcoholic use is associated with subsequent alcoholic dependence and related health problems. School performance of youth who use alcohol is likely to be affected and they are more likely to be truant and to abuse other drugs and to get into trouble.

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgement and coordination. Low to moderate dose of alcohol also causes the indence of variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol causes impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucination, convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. Long term consumption of large quantities of alcohol particularly when combined with poor nutrition can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as brain, liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with foetal alcoholic syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are of greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholic.

Dr. Aung Naing Moe ( *Tachilek* ) -  
MVT(Yangon)



European Union (EU) flags fly in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## New tans, same old 'polycrisis' as Europe's summer ends

BRUSSELS — The European Union grinds back into action this week after its August break, still dazed by Britain's midsummer vote to quit the EU and facing much the same "polycrisis" as a year ago: a mass of refugees, a fragile economy, hostile Russians and, yes, those Brits, now more awkward than ever.

When President Jean-Claude Juncker makes his annual State of the Union address to Parliament in Strasbourg on 14 September, he might easily repeat last year's warning: the EU had a "last chance" to save itself from a tide of centrifugal nationalisms.

Last week, the EU's remaining Big Three — German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and their host, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi — felt they needed to renew their vows at the well-spring of the union, the island of Ventotene, where in 1941 prisoners of Mussolini wrote a manifesto for a united Europe.

That they met on the deck of the aircraft carrier Garibaldi reinforced the sense of beleaguered leaders rallying to the EU's defence as they contemplated an obstacle-strewn political calendar for the year ahead.

The EU leaders are first preparing for a summit on 16 September in Bratislava — without Britain — that aims to sketch out a post-Brexit future for the Union.

On 2 October, Hungary's right-wing prime minister, Viktor Orban, is set to deliver another slap to Brussels: a largely symbolic referendum to reject an EU quota system for relocating refugees among member states — a scheme Juncker invested much capital in a year ago, but which has barely got off the ground.

On 8 November, Orban is

hoping for victory for a man he calls the "valiant" Donald Trump in the US presidential election. Few of Orban's EU peers are so enthusiastic. They see Trump as a disruptive maverick whose endorsement of and by Brexiteer-in-chief Nigel Farage marks him as no friend of the Union.

A Trump win could snap a transatlantic coalition on Russia that is already fraying in Europe, where governments from Paris to Bratislava are seeking a review of Ukraine-related sanctions when measures expire at year's end. Trump might also inject a new dose of post-Brexit uncertainty for world trade.

At home, all the Big Three leaders face their own electoral challenges from eurosceptics.

It starts with Renzi, today trying to persuade Italians he has the youthful energy for rebuilding after the latest earthquake in the Apennines, unlike the scandal-tainted Silvio Berlusconi at L'Aquila in 2009, when more than 300 people died.

Probably in November, Renzi will put to a referendum the constitutional reforms he says are needed to break a political deadlock that is choking the Italian economy. Polls are tight and the eurosceptic upstarts 5-Star are gunning for the socialist premier, who is expected to resign if he loses.

Hollande is threatened with a drubbing on 23 April at the hands of far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen in the first round of France's presidential election.

Her appeal has been enhanced by Islamic State carnage in Paris and Nice and the summer row about burkinis on the beaches, although pollsters doubt she can win a 7 May runoff vote against Hollande or any other

survivor from a mainstream party.

As for Merkel, she has yet to confirm she wants a fourth term at parliamentary elections due in just over a year. The biggest threat to her re-election remains her decision last year to welcome a million migrants to Germany as EU borders buckled. That has already weakened support for her conservative party.

Such threats to domestic survival have often spurred leaders to take potshots at Brussels — even if only the British have taken it to the length of turning most voters against the EU entirely. But even if little has changed in Brussels since last summer, optimists might see reason to hope for more unity now.

While rows go on about how, indeed whether, EU states should share out the burden of asylum-seekers stranded in Greece and Italy, what is new is how few are arriving, at least in Greece.

Rights groups were outraged this year by hard-nosed deals with non-EU Balkan states to bar the routes north from Greece and with Turkey to stop Syrian refugees reaching Greece in the first place. But those deals did slash the numbers arriving.

It's something EU officials find hard to boast of. Many admit privately to unease at policies that, along with efforts to pay African governments to stop people setting off for Italy, sit uncomfortably with the Union's lofty humanitarian ideals.

But look again at Merkel, Hollande and Renzi on the Garibaldi, flagship of an EU mission off Libya that is part rescue operation and military deterrent against people smugglers, and a slightly different image of today's EU emerges.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Half of Germans against Merkel serving fourth term — poll

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's domestic popularity has declined, a poll showed on Sunday, with 50 per cent of Germans against her serving a fourth term in office after a federal election next year.

A series of violent attacks on civilians in July, two of which were claimed by Islamic State, have focused attention on Merkel's open-door migrant policy, which allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants from the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere into Germany last year.

Half of the 501 people questioned in the Emnid poll for the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper were against Merkel staying in office beyond after the 2017 election, with 42 per cent wanting her to remain.—Reuters

#### India tests new space rocket engine

NEW DELHI — India on Sunday successfully tested a new rocket engine of the Super Sonic Combustion Ram Jet (SCRAMJET) from the southern spaceport of Sriharikota.

With the launch of the new engine, which could bring down space launch costs substantially, India joined the league of only two nations — the United States and Australia that have the technology.

The test was conducted by the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), using a sounding rocket. "The test was a grand success," ISRO chief Kiran Kumar told the media. Weighing 3 tons, SCRAMJET, also called Advanced Technology Vehicle, is an engine that takes atmospheric oxygen to burn fuel instead of using fuel and oxidizer for the combustion to happen.—Xinhua

#### Relative of Charlie Hebdo attacker investigated for Islamist ties

PARIS — A relative of one of the militants who attacked French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris in January 2015 has been put under formal investigation for Islamist ties and remanded in custody, a judicial source said on Saturday.

The source said Mourad Hamyd was suspected of trying to travel to Syria to join Islamic State.

Hamyd, who is French and a brother-in-law of assailant Cherif Kouachi, was detained in Bulgaria last month after a Paris court issued a European arrest warrant against him.

Hamyd was questioned by French police following the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in which Cherif Kouachi and his brother Said shot dead 12 people before being killed by police, but was cleared of any involvement.—Reuters

#### Southwest flight forced to make emergency landing after engine failure

WASHINGTON — A Southwest Airlines flight from New Orleans to Orlando, Florida, made an emergency landing Saturday morning after an engine failure. The Captain of SW Flight 3472 from New Orleans made the decision to divert the airplane to Pensacola, Florida due to a mechanical issue with the number one engine, a Southwest statement said.

"The flight landed safely without incident at Pensacola International Airport at 9:40 am central time. Initial reports indicate there are no injuries among the 99 passengers and five crew members on-board", said the statement.—Xinhua

#### May urged to give green light to Hinkley nuclear project

LONDON — The chief executive of the French power giant EDF has called on British Prime Minister Theresa May to give a go-ahead to the proposed nuclear power plant at Hinkley Point.

In a signed article on the *Sunday Telegraph* which was published Saturday night on the newspaper's website, Vincent de Rivaz pointed to the risks caused by some critics "losing sight of the bigger picture by overlooking the positive impact and importance of this investment for Britain."

One month ago, the new British prime minister ordered a review of the 18-billion-British-pound (23.6-billion-US-dollar) Hinkley Point C project, which will be built and mainly funded by the EDF. China also agreed to take a third of the investment.

De Rivaz said that the Hinkley project brings the benefits of a 30-year partnership between the EDF and its nuclear construction partner in China, a country with the largest civil nuclear programme in the world.—Xinhua

## Turkey ratchets up Syria offensive, says warplanes hit Kurdish militia

KARKAMIS, (Turkey) — Rebels supported by Turkey fought Kurdish-backed forces in northern Syria on Saturday, as Ankara ratcheted up its cross-border offensive by saying it had launched air strikes against both Kurdish forces and Islamic State.

Turkey's government, which is fighting a Kurdish insurgency at home, has said the Syrian campaign it opened this week is as much about preventing Kurdish militia fighters from gaining territory in Syria as about pushing back Islamic State.

Turkey wants to stop Kurdish forces gaining control of a continuous stretch of Syrian territory on its frontier, which it fears could embolden the Kurdish militant group PKK, which has waged a three-decade insurgency on Turkish soil.

Turkish security sources said two F-16 jets bombed a site controlled by the Kurdish YPG militia, which is part of the broader US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) coalition. The sources also said the jets hit six Islamic State targets.

Turkish military sources said one of its soldiers was killed and three others wounded when a tank was hit by a rocket that they said was fired from territory held by the Kurdish YPG. The sources said the army shelled the area in response.

Syrian rebels opposed to Ankara's incursion said Turkish forces had targeted forces allied to the YPG and no Kurdish forces were in the area.

On the ground, Turkish-backed Syrian rebels fought



A man carries an injured girl in a damaged site after double airstrikes on the rebel held Bab al-Nairab neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 27 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

forces aligned with the SDF near the frontier town of Jarablus. Forces opposed to Ankara said Turkish tanks were deployed, a charge denied by Turkey's rebel allies.

In Turkey, suspected Kurdish militants fired rockets at the airport in the main southeastern city of Diyarbakir, sending passengers

and staff scrambling for shelter, Dogan news agency said. There were no reports of casualties.

Turkey's offensive into Syria began on Wednesday, supporting its rebel allies with Turkish special forces, tanks and warplanes. It seized control of Jarablus from Islamic State seeking to stop any Kurdish forces moving in first.

Saturday's use of warplanes against what Turkey said was a Kurdish YPG militia target highlights its determination to prevent any Kurdish territorial expansion in north Syria.

Any action against Kurdish forces in Syria puts Turkey at odds with its NATO ally the United States, which backs the

SDF and YPG, seeing them as the most reliable and effective ally in the fight against Islamic State in Syria.

It adds complexity to the Syrian conflict that erupted five years ago with an uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and has since drawn in regional states and world powers.—Reuters

## Second boycotter says will rejoin Libya's UN-backed government

TRIPOLI — A member of the leadership of Libya's UN-backed government who is close to powerful rival factions in the east of the country has said he will end his boycott of the Tripoli-based body.

The decision by Ali Gatrani could strengthen the Government of National Accord (GNA), coming days after a second boycotting member of the government's nine-member leadership, or Presidential Council, said he would resume his role.

But in a statement late on Saturday, Gatrani referred anew to concerns around the continuing power of armed groups in the politics of the oil-producing North African state.

Eastern factions have blocked the parliament based in the east from approving the GNA, saying they believe the UN-backed government is dependent on militias and is undermining eastern forces led by General Khalifa Haftar.

Western states are counting

on the GNA as the best option in tackling the political chaos, security vacuum and economic collapse that have convulsed Libya since Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in an uprising five years ago.

The result of a UN-mediated deal signed in December, the GNA arrived in Tripoli, the capital in the west of Libya, three months later where it has gradually moved to install ministers.

But it has failed to win endorsement from the pre-existing parliament in the east, which is seen as indispensable if it is to extend its authority across the country.

Last week, the Council said it would resubmit a list of ministers to the parliament in the east, after some lawmakers there voted for a second time to reject it.

Gatrani said he was resuming his role in response to an invitation to a meeting on Sunday from Fayeiz Seraj, who heads both the GNA and the Presidential Council.

He said his top concern was "the rights of the Barqa region and its people ... whom we represent, along with their sons' sacrifices in the police and the army". Barqa is the name for Libya's eastern region.

Gatrani said he had been surprised by the Presidential Council's move from Tunis to Tripoli in March, even though the UN backed deal "states that the venue of Presidential Council meetings would be in the capital, Tripoli, only after the militias have left".

"For that we inform you that we are not going to respond to the call to convene unless the meeting venue is in a Libyan city controlled by regular police and army," he said.

The parliament now in the east left Tripoli in 2014 after armed opponents seized the capital and installed rival institutions there. The GNA has largely displaced the former government in Tripoli, but has struggled to win popular support.—Reuters

## UN Syria envoy presses for speedy Aleppo aid delivery

GENEVA — The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria called for all warring sides to agree by Sunday to allow the first safe delivery of relief supplies to the divided city of Aleppo.

The UN is seeking a weekly 48-hour humanitarian pause to deliver food, medicines and other aid to people in rebel-held eastern Aleppo as well as those in the government-controlled western part of Syria's second city. It also wants to repair the electricity system to deliver power and clean water supplies to 1.8 million people, amid fears of disease outbreaks.

Staffan de Mistura said in a statement on Saturday that for logistical and operational reasons convoys must go via the Castello Road during the first pause, although he was aware of rebel opposition to using that government-controlled route.

"The Special Envoy calls for all concerned to exert every effort so that, by this Sunday, 28 August 2016, we know where we stand," de Mistura said. There should be "no (military) escalation in areas

adjacent or around the area of the pause".

Russia, the main ally of the government of Bashar al-Assad, has already accepted the UN plan saying it is ready to ensure compliance, while the United States and other states are working to get other parties to commit, de Mistura said. UN agencies have said that supplies including surgical material for treating war wounds and even baby milk have been removed from UN convoys at government checkpoints throughout the five-year conflict.

The main alliance of rebel groups in Aleppo, in a statement, gave conditional approval to use of Castello road but said the "shortest and fastest" Ramouseh road south of Aleppo should be used in parallel to deliver supplies to eastern Aleppo. The United States and Russia failed on Friday to reach a breakthrough deal on military cooperation and a nationwide cessation of hostilities in Syria, saying they still have issues to resolve before an agreement could be announced.—Reuters

## Trump vows crackdown on immigrants who overstay visas if elected

DES MOINES, (Iowa) — US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump offered fresh details of how he would tackle illegal immigration on Saturday, saying he would crack down on those who overstay their visas as he sought to quiet criticism from conservatives.

In a campaign speech in Des Moines, Iowa, Trump also cited the shooting death of a cousin of NBA star Dwyane Wade to urge African-American voters to rally behind him, calling it an example of violence that has to be addressed.

Trump, speaking on the Iowa State Fairgrounds with hay bales stacked behind him, sought to clarify his views on how to overhaul the US immigration system after saying earlier in the week that he was softening on his plan to deport all 11 million illegal immigrants.

That stance drew fire from conservatives who wanted him to stand fast after he won the Republican presidential nomination in large part by a hardline stance that would include building a wall along the

US border with Mexico.

In his speech, Trump said he would seek to institute a tracking system to ensure illegal immigrants who overstay their visas are quickly removed, and would propose an e-verify system to prevent the illegal community from gaining access to welfare and other benefits.

“If we don’t enforce visa expiration dates, then we have an open border — it’s as simple as that,” he said.

In outlining his views, Trump said addressing illegal immigration is important to helping Americans find jobs.

“Every time an African-American citizen, or any citizen, loses their job to an illegal immigrant, the rights of that American citizen have been violated,” he said. “Equal protection under the law must include the consistent application of our immigration laws.” Trump said his first priority upon taking office next January would be the immediate deportation of thousands of illegal immigrants who remain in the United States despite having committed crimes.—Reuters

## Colombia’s FARC rebels to hold final conference, peace vote 13-19 September

BOGOTA — Colombia’s main rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, said in a statement on Saturday they will hold their final conference on 13-19 September to ratify a peace accord with the government.

The deal between the leaders of the leftist guerilla group, referred to as FARC, and the government was announced Wednesday in Havana, after almost four years of talks. The rebels have agreed to lay down arms after half a century of war.

Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos has sent the text of the accord to Congress, where legislators have 30 days to go over it before a national referendum on 2 October.—Reuters



Leidi, a member of the 51st Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), poses for a picture at a camp in Cordillera Oriental, Colombia, on 16 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Spain starts countdown to possible third national election in year

MADRID — The clock starts ticking on Wednesday towards what could be Spain’s third national election in a year when acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy faces a confidence vote in parliament for a second term in office.

Spain has been without a functioning government since inconclusive elections in December and June failed to hand a con-

vincing mandate to any political party. So far, party leaders have been unable to agree on forming a coalition.

The eight-month political deadlock has delayed investments in infrastructure such as roads and rail and put high-ranking government appointments on hold, leaving some Spanish embassies without an ambassador.

Rajoy’s centre-right

People’s Party (PP) won the most votes in June’s election but lacks the majority it needs to win the vote even with support from centrists Ciudadanos (Citizens), Spain’s fourth-biggest party.

The opposition Socialists have refused to back Rajoy or smooth the way to a PP-led minority government by abstaining in a second confidence vote, which will be held on Fri-

day if Wednesday’s ballot fails. In the second vote a simple majority will suffice to put Rajoy back in power.

The Socialists are unlikely to back down from that position given local elections in September in the northern regions of Galicia and the Basque Country where support for Rajoy’s PP could cost votes for the left-wing party.—Reuters

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## Scandal-hit Gupta family says plans to sell South African holdings

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa’s wealthy Gupta family, which has been accused of holding undue political sway over President Jacob Zuma, said on Saturday it planned to dispose of all stakes it holds in South African businesses before the end of the year.

The Guptas have denied accusations that they have used their friendship with Zuma to influence his decisions or advance their business interests. But South Africa’s anti-corruption watchdog said in July it would get more funds to investigate whether Zuma allowed the family to make government appointments.

In a statement, the Gupta family said “we now believe the time is right for us to exit our shareholding of the South African businesses” and it believed the move would benefit current employees.

“As such, we announce today our intention to sell all of our shareholding in South



An entrance to the ANN7 Television and The New Age newspaper offices, owned by the Gupta family, is seen in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, on 14 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Africa by the end of the year. We are already in discussions with several international prospective buyers,” the statement said.

The prominent business family is accused of being behind Zuma’s abrupt sacking of former finance minister Nhlanhla Nene in December, a move that rattled investor confidence and triggered calls for the president’s resignation.

The scandal surrounding the Guptas took a dramatic turn earlier this year

after deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas said the family had offered him his boss’s job. Zuma has said that the Guptas are his friends but denied doing anything improper. The Guptas have also denied making job offers to anyone in government.

The three Gupta brothers moved to South Africa from India at the end of apartheid rule in the mid-1990s and went on to build a business empire that stretches from technology to the media to mining.—Reuters

# Another powerful typhoon may hit Japan early next week

TOKYO — Powerful Typhoon Lionrock is forecast to hit eastern to northern Japan on Tuesday, bringing heavy rains and strong winds to a wide area of the country, the Japan Meteorological Agency said Saturday.

The typhoon, strengthening its force while hovering in the Pacific Ocean for several days, was moving east-northeast at 15 kilometres per hour about 370 km southeast of Minami Daito Island in Okinawa Prefecture as of 9 pm Saturday,

packing winds of up to 216 kph with an atmospheric pressure of 945 hectopascals near its centre.

The season's 10<sup>th</sup> typhoon is expected to move northeast on Monday, then turn toward the northwest and likely approach Japan's

largest main island of Honshu on Tuesday, the weather agency said.

Although the typhoon's strength is expected to peak out around Sunday, it may approach or make landfall on eastern to northern Japan with greater strength than

three typhoons that caused damage across the country in August, the agency added.

Due to the approaching storm, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is now in Nairobi to attend a Japan-led African development conference, decided to return to

Tokyo late Monday night, ahead of the initial schedule of Tuesday morning.

The Tokyo metropolitan area was hit by Typhoon Mindulle earlier this week, which disrupted traffic and caused one death and dozens of injuries.—Kyodo News

## Italy's quake survivors fear family villages will become ghost towns

SANT'ANGELO (Italy) — Tiny villages that dot the valley around the town of Amatrice, which was levelled by Wednesday's earthquake, were home to generations of families who once farmed the land, but later moved to cities for work and now return for the holidays.

They are hamlets where children are free to play and roam day and night, without fear of traffic or strangers, because everyone knows everyone and keeps an eye out.

"The fear is that they will now be abandoned," said Giancarla Celli, 50, standing outside the 300-year-old family villa that withstood the quake, but which has been badly damaged and is now unsafe, cracks zigzagging up its walls. Most of the other homes in the hamlet of Sant'Angelo, where more than 100 people pass the hot summer months but which is sparsely populated in winter, have been reduced to rubble.

"I spent every summer here when I was a little girl," she said, tearing up. "I have so many memories."

Sant'Angelo, San Lorenzo e Flaviano, Saletta, Rio, Cossito, and Retrosi are some of the more than 60 small villages near Amatrice at risk of becoming permanent ghost towns, like many others in Italy follow-

ing past earthquakes.

The Sicilian towns of Poggioreale, Gibellina, Salaparuta and Montevago were emptied after a 1968 quake, and deadly tremors have left a string of abandoned communities along Italy's rocky, 1,200 km-long (750 mile) Apennine backbone. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's government has promised to rebuild the devastated area, where at least 290 people died following Wednesday's disaster.

However, red tape, corruption and organised crime have given Italy a terrible track record for post-quake reconstruction. Complicating the matter is the fact that only an estimated one per cent of Italian households buy earthquake insurance, the other 99 per cent seeing it as an expensive luxury.

That means the cost on any rebuilding — probably running into the billions of euros — will have to be shouldered by a state that already has one of the highest debt mountains in the world that it is perennially struggling to keep under control.

"Sant'Angelo will end up a cemetery of rubble," said Pasquale Belli, one of Giancarla's neighbours, who drives about 150 km (95 miles) from Rome every weekend to get away from the chaos of the capital.

A little further down

the leafy valley is the town of San Lorenzo e Flaviano, also badly damaged. Firemen used a metal basket on the end of a crane to lower themselves into the church, whose roof has collapsed, to rescue relics such as an antique icon and a broken crucifix.

While in the United States kids go to summer camp, during Italy's long summer break, children often go to stay with grandparents in small towns like San Lorenzo where they forge a lifelong tie to both the place and the people.

"All of my most cherished childhood memories are from here," said Barbara Bonifazi, 32, who lives and works in Rome but returns often to San Lorenzo.

"At night, you can see every star in the sky."

Roberto Nibi, 67, is an architect who lives in Rome but was born in San Lorenzo. He was sleeping in the same room where he was born when the quake hit. "Imagine how ironic it would have been to have been killed in the same room I was born," he said shaking his head. Luckily for him, his house withstood the jolt. Nibi's 31-year-old son Eduardo said the survival of the villages depends on whether Amatrice, the biggest town in the area with more than 2,000 residents, is rebuilt.

—Reuters



Firefighters and rescuers work following an earthquake in Amatrice, central Italy, on 27 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

### INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CAUTION

Daio Paper Corporation, a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 2-60, Mishimakamiya-cho, Shikokuchuo-shi, Ehime 799-0492 JAPAN, is the owner and proprietor of the following Design in the title of "Packages for sanitary Pads":



Fig. 1 - Front View



Fig. 2 - Rear View



Fig. 3 - Right Side View



Fig. 4 - Left Side View

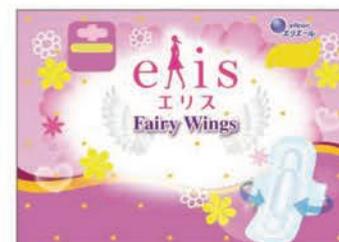


Fig. 5 - Top View



Fig. 6 - Bottom View



Fig. 7 - Reduced Development View



Fig. 8 - Perspective View

Reg. No. 4/5611/2016 (12.5.2016)

The above Design is applied for "Packages for sanitary Pads" in Locarno Class 09-05.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use of the Design shall be dealt with according to law.

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C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

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Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
kmma@kcyangon.com

Date 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016



## Miley Cyrus secretly married to Liam Hemsworth?

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Miley Cyrus has sparked wedding rumours after she was pictured wearing a diamond encrusted gold band on her left hand ring finger during an outing with Liam Hemsworth.

The Australian actor, however, didn't sport a similar ring, reported Ace Showbiz.

The pair kept it casual during the outing. The "Wrecking Ball" songstress donned a cropped turquoise cotton tank top and a pair of colorful leggings, while "The Hunger Games" actor rocked a grey T-shirt and black shorts.

Earlier, it was reported that the pair had cancelled their plans to get married this summer and go for honeymoon in Bora Bora because Miley "is still very erratic with her decision-making.—PTI

Miley Cyrus & Liam Hemsworth.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Iranian refugee detained in Papua New Guinea wins cartooning award

SYDNEY — An Iranian refugee held at an Australian-funded detention centre in Papua New Guinea has won a political cartooning award for his work depicting life inside the camp.

Ali, a 25-year-old whose pen name is Eaten Fish, has chronicled his three-year detention on Manus Island as he struggles with obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and debilitating panic attacks. Under Australia's hardline immigration policy, anyone intercepted trying to reach the country by boat is sent for processing to camps on Manus or Nauru in the South Pacific. They are not eligible to be resettled in Australia.

Cartoonists Rights Network International (CRNI) said Ali was recognised for his courage in documenting life under Australia's offshore detention programme — which drew thousands of protesters onto streets across the country on Saturday calling for its closure.

"Eaten Fish has been able to keep up a stream of cartoons documenting the unspeakable abuses and excesses of the guards and administrators of the camp," Joel Pett, president of CRNI's board of directors, said in a statement on Friday.

"For this he has been the subject of beatings, deprivation of food, and even worse degrading treatment by the guards."

Ali's Australian-based advocate, Janet Galbraith, said the award meant a lot to the young cartoonist — whose work has been published in *The*

*Guardian* newspaper — but it was also an indictment of Australia's detention programme. Previous winners have included cartoonists jailed or disappeared for their work.

Galbraith said Ali, who fled Iran due to fears of government persecution, was sick and needed specialist medical assistance.

Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection denied the claims made by CRNI and defended the care provided at the facility.

"The department currently has no evidence that any of these allegations are true," a spokesman said in an email to Reuters. Australia and Papua New Guinea said earlier this month the Manus center would be shut but they gave no date for the closure, leaving the fate of about 800 refugees unclear.—Reuters



Taylor Swift.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## The Weeknd joins Taylor Swift at Formula 1 party

LOS ANGELES — Singer The Weeknd will help Taylor Swift rev up the crowds at the 2016 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix.

The Canadian star has signed on to the bill for the post-race party on 23 October at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, reported

Billboard magazine.

Swift will headline the big show on the eve of the race. It will be her first full appearance since she closed out the 1989 World Tour and took the summer off. Elton John, Pitbull, and Kid Rock will also take part in the F1 weekend festivities.—PTI

## Journalism student D'Almeida Balbina crowned Miss Togo 2016

LOME — A second-year journalism student won the coveted Miss Togo 2016 crown, the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of Togo's beauty contest held on Saturday night in the capital Lome.

D'Almeida Mawubedzro Kokoe Balbina, aged 20 and with a height of 1.8 m, came first among 19 contestants at the final of the national beauty pageant before an audience of about 3,000 people in the Congress hall of Lome. Kankoue-Aho Kokoe Brenda Eyram, 18-year-old student in management and financing, and Blandeye Ella Fortune Stephanie, 21-year-old student in certified accountancy came second and third respectively.

Along with the crown, Bal-

bina was granted a Citroen car and 5-million-CFA Franc (8,531-US dollar) funding, a stay in Europe, a year of insurance and a special financing to be offered to her for social development projects. "I expect to become a very influential presenter and popularize talk-show across the African continent," said the new Miss Togo. Balbina succeeds the outgoing Adzoh Akou Yayra Gaelle Miss Togo 2015 who ends a year term. She said that she got "the opportunity to go to the school of life" being elected beauty queen.

Beauty queens from Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, France and Congo-Brazzaville were special guests to witness Togo's beauty pageant.—Xinhua

## Fire severely damages 'Knightfall' set in Prague

PRAGUE — A fire severely damaged a set for the "Knightfall" television series at studios in Prague overnight, causing damage worth about \$4 million, Czech media reported on Saturday.

Firefighters brought the fire under control late on Friday after they used helicopters to dump water on the blaze at the Barrandov Studios from the nearby Vltava river, CTK news agency reported.

Shooting of the series, depicting the final days of the Knights Templar in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was due to start in the Czech Republic this weekend after initial work in Croatia. "Avengers" Jeremy Renner is an executive producer.

The Barrandov studios, established by late Czech President Vaclav Havel's uncle in the 1930s, are one of the largest in Europe. Films such as "Mission Impossible" or "Hart's War" were shot there.—Reuters



## Jennifer Aniston to raise awareness about eye care

LONDON — Former "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston is leading a new campaign to bring awareness to a condition known as chronic dry eye.

The 47-year-old actress has partnered with Shire Initiative to launch eye love, after learning she suffers from the itchy eye condition, reported Contactmusic.

"My eyes often become dry, itchy and irritated, especially when I am reading or outside. The symptoms were bothering me so much that I finally decided to speak with my eye doctor, and learned I have dry eye," Aniston said.

The actress is now encouraging others to visit their eye doctor if they're experiencing similar issues.—PTI

Jennifer Aniston.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

**U Wynn Myat  
(Apollo)  
47 years**

Grandson of Rev. Mahn Po Way and Gha Aye Shwe of 466, Lower Kyimyindine Road, grandson of Mr. Mahinder Singh and Daw Eyat of Moulmein, Son of Mr. B. Singh @ U Aung Wynn and Daw Mya Mya Way, brother of Dr. Khin Mya Wynn and Daw May Thu San, uncle of Kaung Si Thu, fell asleep in Jesus on Friday, 26 of August, 2016, at 7:30 PM. Funeral service will be held at Yeway Ecumenical Garden, at 10 am on 29 August 2016.

**Bereaved family**

# South Australia eyes 10% rise in Indian tourists arrival

MUMBAI — South Australia, recently named the global wine capital and producer of 60 per cent of all Australian wines, is eyeing a 10 per cent increase in arrival by Indian tourists in 2016-17, boosted by its marketing and communication initiatives.

“We received 10,000 Indian tourists as of 31 March 2016. With the on-going and proposed marketing, communication activities, we aim to increase the visitation by 10 per cent in the coming year. We have witnessed significant growth in the India market in the last three years and look forward to a positive progression,” South Australia Tourism Commission (SATC) Regional Director, South East Asia and India, Dana Urmonas told PTI here.

She said, at present, India was among the top 15 source markets for South Australia.

“The way Indians are now travelling is changing significantly. With the increase in disposable income of the average Indian consumer we expect the number of international trips to

rise. We recognise India as a key growth market and are looking to capitalise on its growing outbound tourist numbers,” Urmonas said.

“We are positive about having more Indian visitors and hope that India will be among top 10 countries in the coming years,” she said.

South Australia’s top five source markets include — United Kingdom, North America (USA and Canada), New Zealand, Germany and China, she said.

China has grown significantly over the past five years, while the established western markets of United Kingdom, New Zealand and North America continue to perform well for South Australia, Urmonas said. In India, SATC targets people mainly in the age group of 25-55, who are global travellers.

“Our core target segments include leisure travellers, honeymooners and families and our primary markets are Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai,” Urmonas said, adding family travellers also form an important part of the customer segment.—PTI

# Eating while petting a bunny in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s first rabbit cafe opened in a small upstairs space over the busy commercial district of Causeway Bay.

Serving different combos, the each set comes with a rabbit snack.

Inspired by a similar cafe in Japan’s famous ‘rabbit island’, Ricky Lam and his friends decided to bring a rabbit cafe to Hong Kong.

“We went to Okunoshima in Japan last year, and we were inspired by the atmosphere when having meal with rabbits which could be a pretty relaxing. Also we all know abandoning rabbits is common so over half of rabbits in our cafe were adopted,” he said.

Lam also said they have a list of rules customers have to follow before playing with the rabbits, including not pulling their ears or picking them up by the ears.

Providing the experience to play with bunnies is attracting animal lovers and people considering whether to keep rabbit as their pet.

Lis Liu brought her two daughters to the cafe.



A rabbit looks at a customer at the first rabbit cafe in Hong Kong, China, on 25 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“It is the first rabbit restaurant in Hong Kong and here we come. Because my girls they want (to) have rabbits as their pets, so I just take them here and to have a look of rabbits,” she said.

Liu’s younger daughter Tiana Yung had a great time with rabbits.

“I think the rabbits are cute and I like them and I like the drinks and I like the food.” Tiana’s sister Charlotte also like rabbits, admitted, “I like

rabbits because they are very cute. I like feeding them, and they are very soft and fluffy,” she said.

However, rabbits are very fragile animals, and they can suffer severe physiological reactions to fear or stress according to founder of Dr. Hugh’s Veterinary Hospital Dr. Hugh Stanley.

“The rabbits in the cafe, the rabbits are prey species and they get very easily stressed. The diet is very important because

they get sick very easily. I don’t know what the set up in the cafe is.

It may be wonderful; the rabbits might be kept separate from people.

It may work but it has to be managed extremely well to avoid stress and disease in the individual rabbits in the cafe,” he said.

Lam said that the cafe, which opened in June, is so popular people need to make reservations.—Reuters

# ‘145-year-old’ Indonesian man may be world’s oldest person

LONDON — An Indonesian man who claims to be an incredible 145 years old may be the oldest person in the world ever.

According to the documents recognised by Indonesian officials, Mbah Gotho from Sragen in central Java was born on 31 December, 1870.

If the documents are true, that would make

him much older than the verified oldest person in the world ever - a title that currently belongs to Jeanne Calment from France who lived to the age of 122.

Gotho has outlived all 10 of his siblings, his four wives, as well as all his children, and is now survived by his grandchildren, great grandchildren,

and great-great grandchildren, ‘The Sun’ reported.

However, the super senior citizen now ‘just wants to die’ and even bought his gravestone 20 years ago.

“What I want is to die. My grandchildren are all independent,” he said.

Whether or not he will be listed as the world’s oldest man how-

ever is uncertain, as the paperwork has till now not been independently verified.

For the past three months, Gotho has had to be spoon-fed and bathed as he has become weaker.

According to Gotho’s grandchildren, he mostly sits and listens to the radio, and his secret to longevity is ‘patience.—PTI



**Entertainment Channel**

(29-8-2016, Monday)

<p><b>06 : 00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather Report</li> <li>Music Programme</li> </ul> <p><b>06 : 20 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cartoon “Ice Age; Dawn of the Dinosaurs” ( Part- 2 )</li> </ul> <p><b>07 : 10 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Drama Series</li> </ul> <p><b>07 : 50 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Drama Series</li> </ul> <p><b>08 : 30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRTV Entertainment Music</li> </ul>	<p><b>08 : 40 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-6) In Pursuit of a dream</li> </ul> <p><b>09 : 15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Movie Songs</li> </ul> <p><b>09 : 30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pyi Thu Ni Ti</li> </ul> <p><b>09 : 45 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dances</li> </ul> <p><b>09 : 50 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myanmar Video</li> </ul> <p><b>Midnight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Down</li> </ul>
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\* **09 : 20 Pm Live: “Peace Light Art Festival”**

**From 29-8-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm**  
**To 30-8-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm**



**Myanmar International**

(29-8-2016 07:00am ~ 30-8-2016 07:00am) MST

<p><b>Today Fresh</b></p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:27 Am Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar</p> <p>07:41 Am Clam Farming</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Novice hood in Myanmar</p> <p>08:50 Am Myanmar Street Foods</p> <p>08:54 Am Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p>	<p>09:26 Am Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab</p> <p>09:42 Am International Dances in Myanmar</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Myanmar Betels</p> <p>10:42 Am A Chance to Change Their Future</p>
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**(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)**

**Prime Time**

<p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:27 Pm Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-1)</p> <p>07:46 Pm Five Hair Relic Enshrined Pagodas</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Lashio Noodle)</p> <p>08:43 Pm Black Gold (Part - II)</p> <p>08:48 Pm Kayin Child Boxer</p>	<p><b>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b></p> <p><b>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b></p> <p><b>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b></p> <p><b>(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</b></p>
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# Nadal aims to carry Olympic boost into US Open

NEW YORK — Rafa Nadal was exhausted yet exhilarated following his emotional return to action at this month's Rio Olympics after an injury-absence and is looking forward to gearing back up for the US Open starting on Monday.

"If you're not excited about the US Open, you're not a tennis player," Nadal told reporters.

Injuries are affecting several top players heading into the last grand slam of the year in a season made even more hectic with the Olympics squeezed into the schedule.

Men's top seed Novak Djokovic, like Nadal, is also dealing with a wrist injury and women's number one Serena Williams is coping with a sore right shoulder.

Lefthander Nadal, sidelined after being unable to play his third-round match at the French Open because of an injured left wrist, decided to test himself in Rio.

"I was two months and a half outside of the competition, and not only outside of the competition, outside the practice courts. I couldn't practise," the Spanish fourth seed said at Flushing Meadows on Friday.

Nadal, 30, said he was determined to give it a try in Rio and ended up feeling good enough to compete in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

"The motivation, the passion, sharing moments with the team helped a lot," said Nadal, who reached the Rio singles semi-finals and won gold in doubles with his friend Marc Lopez.

"Winning a gold medal is always something unique, and I think I enjoyed it as much as I can during the whole event," he said.

"I finished the tournament completely exhausted ... no more energy inside of my body."

Nadal carried on straight from Rio to Cincinnati where he won his opening match before

losing to teenager Borna Coric of Croatia.

"I am better, I am a little bit better," said Nadal. "It's true that the wrist bothers me a little bit less every day. I need to understand again to hit my normal forehand. During the wrist injury, always you try to find movements to avoid the pain.

"Today I can start the forehand, I think my normal forehand, but still needs time to feel that I am more confident on my wrist. But I am practicing well and I am competing well."

Nadal hopes his Rio elation carries over to the Open, which he won in 2010 and 2013.

"I have been playing at a very high level. So that helped me to play well in the Olympics, and I hope it's going to help me to play well here," the 14-times grand slam winner said.

"When you go to the



Rafael Nadal (ESP) serves against Pablo Cuevas (URU) on day five during the Western and Southern tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Centre, Mason, OH, USA, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Olympics and finally you win a medal, it's just the most important thing that you can do. So I'm just very happy for that, one medal for my country." Nadal will play his first-round Open match against Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin, who reached the fourth round in New York in 2012 but is 7-20 this season.—Reuters

# Late show helps Mourinho's United join Chelsea on top

LONDON — After Chelsea continued their 100 per cent start with a 3-0 win over Burnley on Saturday, a last-gasp goal by Marcus Rashford helped Jose Mourinho keep pace with his old club as Manchester United beat Hull City 1-0.

Elsewhere, Arsenal and champions Leicester City picked up their first Premier League wins of the season by beating Watford and Swansea City re-

spectively while Tottenham Hotspur came from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Liverpool.

New manager Antonio Conte has promised to restore Chelsea's belief after they finished 10<sup>th</sup> last season and goals from Eden Hazard, Willian and Victor Moses secured top spot in the table after a one-sided encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Then, in the late game of the day, United joined the Londoners

on nine points when they sank Hull thanks to a stoppage-time effort by substitute Rashford.

Hazard, a crushing disappointment under former manager Mourinho last season, again showed he was back to his best this term with a brilliant solo goal in the ninth minute against Burnley.

The Belgium winger also played a part in the second goal by Brazil midfielder Willian

before substitute Moses rounded off a sweeping late Chelsea move.

"The team played very well, created a lot of chances," Conte said. "To keep a clean sheet is very important to increase our confidence in the work we are doing."

United were frustrated in wet conditions by Hull's dogged defending before

the 18-year-old Rashford struck by converting Wayne Rooney's cross.

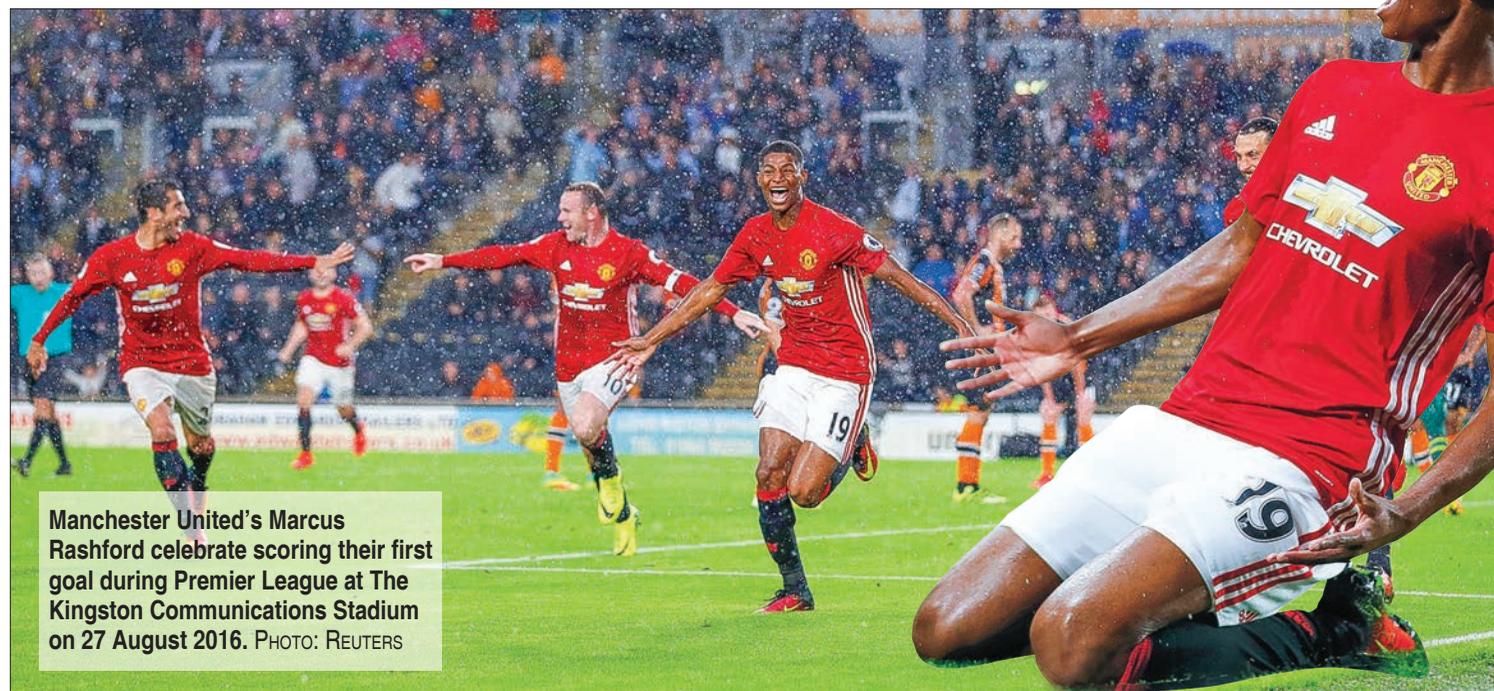
"We did everything to win," said Mourinho. "When you score at 90-something you always talk about luck but the fact is we deserved it.

"We were so intense in our attacking ways, I always believed the goal would arrive."

World record signing Paul Pogba was shackled by the home side's disciplined midfield but he did go close with a thunderous late shot.

"We frustrated them at times and we contributed to the game by going forward," said Hull boss Mike Phelan as his side saw their 100 per cent record ended by his former club United.

First-half goals by Santi Cazorla (penalty), Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil gave Arsenal a 3-1 win at Watford to ease the pressure on manager Arsene Wenger. "We had a good cushion at halftime," Wenger said. "At the moment we're not completely there physically and you could see that in the second half." Debutant Roberto Pereyra pulled one back for Watford with an unstoppable drive.—Reuters



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford celebrate scoring their first goal during Premier League at The Kingston Communications Stadium on 27 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS