

## HAILING THE UNION PEACE CONFERENCE

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# THE HEART OF THE NATION

## STATE COUNSELLOR CALLS FOR CONSTANT EFFORTS TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressing her words of thanks to the stakeholders at the 21st Century Panglong Conference. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her words of thanks to the stakeholders at the 21st Century Panglong Conference, also known as the Union Peace Conference, which came to a successful conclusion yesterday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called the event a part of the peace process, stressing the need for constant efforts to keep up the momentum for peace and reconciliation.

“Peace is not a thing to discuss during the conference. We must keep on contemplating how to achieve peace for the reunifica-

tion of the Union,” the state counsellor said, adding that the peace conference was broadcast for public observation in acknowledgement of their crucial role in the peace process.

According to the state counsellor, the purpose of broadcasting the event was aimed at enabling the people to understand the extent of challenges they needed to overcome.

She encouraged the groups present to brave the future rather than being tied to the past, stressing that this resolution is not in the interest of individuals but for the benefit of the Union.

The peace of the Union is concerned with the world’s peace, which is why the whole world was watching the conference with interest.

To achieve peace is very difficult, she said, citing the challenges faced by other countries in their restoration of peace.

“The news of peace restored in other countries keep us cheerful, because we humans are somewhat of the same mind. Peace in one place raises hopes for peace in the other place. If our country succeeds in achieving peace, it will also raise hopes for other countries.”

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called for a sense of duty in the peace process, describing the conference as a precedent for the conferences to come.

The state counsellor hinted at preparation for national-level political dialogue right after the conference, including a forum by civil society organisations.

She urged the representatives to the conference to play an honourable part in serving the interests of the people during their life span, instead of entertaining grudges toward one other. She also encouraged them to

leave a good legacy for the country.

As regards the complaints of the hasty decision to organise the conference, the state counsellor responded that they had to work against time not for them or the government but for the people.

She described public respect and support as critical in the success of the peace conference, adding that no government can accomplish any task without public support.

“Each day gives a new opportunity. We receive new opportunities every morning we get up.

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# STATE COUNSELLOR CALLS FOR CONSTANT EFFORTS TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION



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We must grasp these opportunities to reach our goal.”

The state counsellor said pretence of not having a problem is a worrying thing, stressing that pretence can solve no crisis.

She called for parties to find ways to overcome differences through sympathetic interaction,

saying that a government has a crucial obligation to prioritise the consent of the public.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged all participants to make the 21st Century Panglong Conference go down in the history of the country in the same way as the Panglong did in 1947.—Myanmar News Agency



The photos show State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greeting the attendees of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong Conference concludes successfully

THE Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong Conference concluded yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The conference was chaired by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae representing the army, Dr Tin Myo Win representing the government, Daw Shila Nan Taung representing the parliament, U Khun Myint Tun representing the ethnic armed organisations and U Myint Soe representing the political parties.

Government representative U Aung Kyi said they had been working in harmony in the peace process to prevent further losses and sufferings incurred by the armed conflict. He described the improvement of social welfare as an essential prerequisite to enduring peace, calling for private participation in helping enhance economic development in soon-to-be-peaceful regions under the guidance of the government.

U Ngai Sark of the Chin National League for Democracy said the 2008 Constitution does not reflect the federal system just because it provides power sharing in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, in addition to its characteristics of Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, State/Region Hluttaw and Election Tribunal. He called for a federal system that guarantees justice, equality and self-administration and protects racial, religious and political rights



U Ngai Sark.

of the ethnic minorities.

Col Kyaw Soe Oo pointed out that the region/state governments should employ skilled workers to systematically develop human resources in the fields of legislation and management. He proposed an adoption of a tax system alongside budget allocations that will favour justice, equitability and sustainable development.

Member of Parliament U Thein Swe called for unity among the parliamentarians in their line of duty for peace, reconciliation and development to facilitate the emergence of a democratic federal union that promises freedom, justice and self-administration.

U Aye Min of the Dawei Nationalities Party stressed the importance of prescribing the exact percentage of taxes and budget allocations for specific sectors, saying that the central government



U Aung Kyi.

should not control economic activities across the country.

Col Zaw Win Tun urged the government at all levels to provide greater transparency in all new exploitations of natural resources and introduce decentralisation as appropriate. He also pointed out the need for the related ministries to modify their laws as part of the effort to overcome the challenges in the current management of natural resources.

U Zaw Htay of the group of the intelligentsia spoke of resource inequality among ethnic regions, stressing the need for tax sharing, resource sharing and responsibility and accountability sharing in the enhancement of national identity. Khun Soe Myint of the Pa-O National Organisation said their Pa-O self-administered zone should be upgraded to a state in line with the law that allows the emergence of



U Zaw Htay.

new states.

Col Nay Lin Tun called the Tatmadaw the most important defence institution of the country, stressing that all armed organisations should be placed under the command of the Tatmadaw. The disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) processes would take three to five years to be accomplished, he said.

U Khet Htein Nan, an ethnic representative, called ceasefire the top priority as continued fighting



Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

would harm the peace process and lose public interest and participation. He attached importance to freedom, justice and equality in the establishment of a federal union after the political dialogue.

The 21st Century Conference was successfully concluded with a concluding remark by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. In his remarks, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae quoted scholars as saying that the key to conflict resolution is to negotiate the proposals based on public interests. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## State Counsellor to attend ASEAN summits in Laos

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be attending the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits to be held in Lao People's Democratic Republic in the near future.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## UN former Secretary-General arrives at Yangon

MR. Kofi Atta Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, arrived at Yangon Yesterday.

The Nobel Laureate and two other commission members were welcomed by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs,

and officials at Yangon International Airport.

Mr. Kofi Atta Annan and party will visit Rakhine State and the capital Nay Pyi Taw during the official trip. They will leave Yangon on 9 September.—*Myanmar News Agency*



UN former Secretary-General welcomed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin. PHOTO: MNA

## UPC press briefing held

A PRESS briefing concerning the Union Peace Conference (UPC) \_ 21st Century Panglong was held at MICC-2 yesterday afternoon with UPC Convention Joint Committee members Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Rtd), U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, Dr Salai Lian Hmong Sakhong and Sai Kyaw Nyunt answering questions raised by foreign and local media.

As the conference has been broadcast live, both the international community and Myanmar citizens have had an opportunity to hear the opinions of the respective ethnic organisations and various organisations, explained the committee members, adding that all attendees have agreed to find solutions through coordination and discussion towards the goal of the achievement of peace

and the establishment of a federal democratic union, and that they have all had a chance to openly and independently reveal their attitudes.

After the press briefing, the joint committee continued to hold its third meeting attended by 15 people from the government's group, 15 from EAO and 13 from political parties' group.—*Myanmar News Agency*



UPC attends going on a after the conclusion of the conference. PHOTO: MNA

(Continued from 2nd September Afternoon session of the Union Peace Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong)

# The Union Peace Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

THE Union Peace Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong held its afternoon meeting of third day session at 1 pm at MICC—2 in Nay Pyi Daw on 2 September with Tatmadaw representative Major Hteik Tin Cho starting to discuss the policies concerning the internally displaced persons (IDPs).

He said all the NGOs and INGOs should provide assistance with the permission of the government in order that they cannot interfere in religious, social and political matters in the pretext of providing of the humanitarian assistance, that no one is left not provided with assistance, that there shall be no alignment and discrimination, that there shall prevail responsibility and accountability and that the number of IDPs is to be reduced gradually and ultimately done away with at a point of time.

Concerning rehabilitation, the following activities, he said, shall be carried out: providing health care; promoting of education; conducting vocational training courses; taking care of those who have lost their limbs because of the battles and the landmines, those infected with contagious diseases and those suffering from chronic diseases; prevention of trafficking in person; fighting of drug trafficking; prevention of people from forced recruitment (into the armed organizations); building the infrastructure; and promotion of the morale.

Next, U Ko Ko Hlaing representing the group formed of people who deserve attending this conference said that he would like to discuss five main points, that the first point is to end the armed conflicts and that he would like to request all brethren indigenous organizations to sign the NCA and show their genuine cetana (goodwill) or willingness to achieve peace.

Secondly, he said that he believed people all over the nation have a common goal to establish a federal union but when it comes to how it can be built, ways and means should be sought to reach an agreement on amendment, alteration, addition and deletion of the existing institutions like (2008) constitution, the existing laws and rules taking into account the real situations nowadays.

Thirdly, when it comes to resource sharing, we should find the ways and means under which we can share the resources in an equitable manner in order that both the region of source and the union government can earn whereas those regions where resources are scarce should be provided with assistance by the union government.

“In the fourth place, I would like to discuss national defence and security matter especially such a matter like keeping only one army for national defence. And the existing constitution



Major Hteik Tin Cho.



U Nyi Nat.



Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo.



Naing Chan Twe.



Lway Aye Nan.



Sai Boe Aung.



Lal Hmar Ngaik Zwal Ei.



Dr K Rwal Ja.

states that there shall be only one army”, said U Ko Ko Hlaing, who concluded this presentation, adding his fifth point. He pointed out that if one looks at the contemporary world, one will see that there have occurred armed conflicts because of racialism and attachment to religious faiths, that there are outside interferences which have torn and tattered the nations having armed conflicts and that the onus is upon everybody to make concerted effort to achieve peace as soon as possible.

Next, Wa National Unity Party representative U Nyi Nat said ‘Wa’ is a genuine ethnic race which has historical traditions and meets the seven-point requirements to become a union-member state. Such being the case, we would like (the government) to recognize ‘Wa’ self-Administrative Region composed of six townships as a ‘Wa’ state to include ten townships from Kengtung region where our ‘Wa’ kings demised. We would also like to request preservation of ancient heritage of Kengtung civilization, and if this is recognized, our ‘Wa’ State Federal Army will, under the leadership of the central government, dutifully protect the entire border in performance of security duty.

Then, Nai Win Kyi, representing the indigenous representatives groups, said there shall be an exact and strong constitution for a federal democratic union, that this sort of union is to be built on the basis of the states, which have equal status and the right to self determination, that there shall be two cameras, which have equal power, that division of power between the states and the union shall be specific, that the federal, democratic union shall exercise the multiparty democracy political system and that there shall also be a constitutional tribunal

in such a federal union. He also acknowledged that there shall be only one federal union army and that the state security guards shall be formed under the command and control of the state government.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo from the group formed with those who are worth participating (in the conference) said that the security troops shall, in performance of their security duties, be under the civilian command and control, that special emphasis is needed to be laid upon accountability to their national and nationalities and that as the security policies aim at creation of a secure environment, the roles and functions of the security organizations and the security laws and procedures will be required to charge depending upon the time and situations.

She went on to say that the sector of security reform is of utmost importance in construction of a post-conflict country, and that security sector reform is needed to be discussed. She points out that this sectoral reform should include formulation of national security policy and strategy, reformation of security framework, democratic command, control and accountability, defence sectoral restructuring, intelligence and security sectoral reform, border area management sectoral reform, police force reform, judicial sector reform and prison system reform.

Afterwards, Naing Chan Twe from All Mon Region Democracy Party said that he opined that at a time when NCA is at a stage of deadlock and battles are still being waged, it is not practical to build a systematic model of a federal union, that he has already submitted the opinion of the indigenous races in the peace conference held in the period of former president U Thein Sein, and that his presenta-

tion has already been recorded and so, this should be considered.

He continued that if the political dialogue framework is to be reviewed, our party wants a more expansive role, that as there will take place national-level discussions, awareness should be promoted and seeking of opinion be accelerated, that if time taking is to be interpreted, it is necessary to consider whether to spend time on reformation without essence or to follow a federal union constitution roadmap, and that it is, therefore, needed to be decisive whether to amend the 2008 constitution to look like federal or to write a new one because mere amendment of the existing one will yield only a federal union which is not up to the genuine federal system but just will be a practical one agreed by the majority.

U Hla Tha Tun, an ethnic representative, expressed his belief that closer cooperation through patience and understanding among the stakeholders would yield good returns in shaping the future of the country.

Lway Aye Nan from the group of the intelligentsia stressed the emergence of a new land management law that guarantees land ownership to farmers across the country.

Sai Boe Aung of the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party called for adherence to the basic principles included in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), urging the non-NCA signatories to place emphasis on a political culture of round-table talks rather than fighting in order to speed up the peace process. He urged the organisations to accept the fact that their proposals, no matter how worthwhile, are highly unlikely to succeed as long as they are contrary to the constitution.

Lal Hmar Ngaik Zwal Ei, an

ethnic representative, described self-administration as crucial to a multi-ethnic country like Myanmar, citing economic, social and cultural interdependence among the ethnic groups residing within the territory of the Union.

Naing Soe Aung of the group of the intelligentsia stressed the importance of devolution in the exercise of federalism by adopting a political culture of peaceful coexistence.

Dr K Rwal Ja of the Unity and Democracy of Kachin State called for inclusion of more women in decision making at all levels in the future peace processes. She also pointed out the need to invite both signatories and non-signatories of NCA and all political parties to raise their voices at the future conferences.

U Than Zaw Oo, an ethnic representative, stressed the need to invite the leaders who can represent their groups and determine their specific roles in the political dialogue. He also pointed out the need to listen to the voices of the ordinary ethnic people instead of making decisions on territories based on what the political leaders said.

U Marcos of the Akha National Development Party said the Akha people wanted their space in the union-level and state-level judicial and executive branches to protect their rights.

U Si Si Naw Ja of the Kachin National Congress Party called for an end to fighting and a start of round-table talks in a democratic way, stressing that the political dialogue should be more inclusive. He also called for the appointment of ethnic commander-in-chief on a rotational basis.

The third-day session of 21<sup>st</sup> Panglong Conference came to an end with a concluding speech by Chairman U Thu Wai.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# LOCAL Business

## Rice trade with China all but dried up

A clamp down on Chinese trucks importing illegal goods into Myanmar, the catalyst for the halting of Chinese traders purchasing Myanmar rice, has completely dried up the export market of rice to Myanmar's large northern neighbor, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) for Mandalay has informed Myitmakha News Agency.

A Chinese government crackdown on around 80 large trucks carrying illegal goods destined for Myanmar in August has all but stopped the Myanmar - China rice export market. "Chinese [rice] traders are nervous. That's why they don't come and purchase [rice from Myanmar] anymore. The trade of rice between both countries has ceased," said U Min Khant Oo, secretary of Mandalay's MRF.

The ceasing of such trade comes after the Chinese government ramped up inspections on goods destined for export into Myanmar from southern China's Yunnan province. Rice traders say they've been hit hard as the majority of rice is bought and sold through the black market, with only a meager extent

of rice traded through official channels.

The high number of arrests in China has dried up the flow of trucks which used to stream into China from the Myanmar border town of Muse, rendering trade between the two nations all but stopped.

But concerns have been raised by those involved in the domestic rice industry over how China-bound rice could end up having a negative impact on the domestic market.

"I would like to advise that special consideration is given in trading rice, in a bid to mitigate inflating prices of the commodity due to the current surplus of rice within the domestic market," said U Aung Than Oo, chair of the Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association.

The halting of foreign purchases of Myanmar rice is resulting in a domestic surplus, but rice traders told Myitmakha News Agency that a depreciation in the value of rice has so far been mitigated against thanks to the bulk buying and hoarding of rice by those affected by flooding in the middle and south of the country.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## ICT Fair being held in Yangon

THE Yangon ICT Fair 2016 was launched on Friday by the Yangon Region Computer Professionals Association and Computer Entrepreneurs' Association.

The event will continue until Sunday at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Mayangon Township in Yangon, showcasing the latest computer and mobile devices.

IT-related electronic equipment and accessories, technology and software will be displayed for sale through over 150 booths over the course of the three-day exhibition.

This is the second time organisers have held the ICT event this year. Three to four exhibitions are normally conducted annually by the Yangon

Region Computer Professionals Association, said its Secretary U Myo Min Oo. The Yangon RCPA held a similar expo in May.

The YRCPA has plans to launch a mobile ICT education system in Yangon with plans to initiate its pilot project next month in Htantabin, one of the remote suburban townships of Yangon, to promote knowledge of information and communications technology among rural communities.

The new system offers students access to ICT-related technology education. The organisers will use a 20-ft long classroom installed with 16 computers and other electronic equipment as a learning centre.—*Thura Phy*

## Five garment factories to be built in Yangon



Employees sew the clothes at a garment factory in Mingaladon Industrial Zone in Yangon. Photo: Aye Min Soe

MYANMAR Investment Commission has granted permission for the establishment of five garment factories in Yangon's industrial zones which are expected to create more than 6,000 local job opportunities.

Four of the five factories will operate under foreign direct investment and one will be

operated under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system. The new plants will be constructed in the industrial zones of Hlaingthaya, Shwepyitha and Hmawby.

The clothing industry is becoming increasingly popular among other export items, with local authorities planning to de-

velop a garment zone in the country to boost the manufacturing of raw materials and finished goods, packaging and export process.

Around 350,000 locals are employing in the country's textile industry. The garment sector tops the list of government priorities in terms of boosting trade.—*Kay Kay*

## New tourism investment for Myeik Archipelago

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has announced plans to invite new investment bids to boost the tourism industry around the Myeik Archipelago, which lies in the Andaman Sea off the coast of southern Myanmar.

Myeik Island in Taninthayi Region registered high visitor interest last high-tourist season due to its famous natural beauty.

To encourage the country's tourism sector, the ministry, in

cooperation with partner organizations, will also promote advertising of the region over the coming months.

The ministry is reportedly focusing on waterway tourism as well as nature-based tourism in coastal regions.

The ministry, in anticipation of increased tourist interest, is broadening the scope of their number of and variety of service licenses.

The Myeik Archipelago consists of over 800 islands, all lying in the Andaman Sea off the western shore of the Malay Peninsula. A wide variety of animals, including deer, monkeys and tropical birds thrive on the islands themselves.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has estimated the country will host over five million tourist arrivals over the 2016-2017 FY.—*200*

## Mandalay collects only 20 per cent of taxes

THE Mandalay Region Internal Revenue Department received only 20 per cent of budgeted tax over the first four months of this fiscal year, according to its Assistant Director U Kyaw Aung Moe.

A total of K26 billion from K132 billion budgeted tax has been collected from tax payers

this year, he added. The department has collected five kinds of tax including special goods tax, commercial tax, income tax, stamp duty and lottery tax.

The department received over K6 billion in revenue from K39 billion for budgeted commercial tax, K1 billion from over K1.096 billion for

budgeted special goods tax, K7 billion from K85.032 billion for budgeted income tax and K404.98 million from over K1 billion budgeted for lottery tax.

Authorities have urged entrepreneurs to pay due commercial tax to the relevant revenue officers within the set time frame.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

# Duterte declares 'state of lawlessness' after Philippine blast kills 14

MANILA — Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte declared on Saturday a "state of lawlessness" in the country after an explosion in a market killed 14 people in his home city while he was on a regular weekend visit there.

Duterte, the crime-busting mayor of Davao City for more than two decades, said the blast late on Friday outside a high-end hotel intensified what was an "ex-

traordinary time" in the Philippines, and security forces would redouble efforts to tackle crime, drugs and insurgency.

"I must declare a state of lawless violence in this country, it's not martial law," Duterte told a phalanx of reporters on a Davao street at daybreak after visiting the blast site.

"It's not martial law until it's a threat against the people and against the

nation ... I have this duty to protect this country."

Duterte was at a meeting some 12 km (7.5 miles) away from downtown Davao when the explosion occurred. It came as the uncompromising president wages war with just about anyone from drugs kingpins and street dealers to Islamist rebels and corrupt bureaucrats, scoring big points in opinion polls, but at a risk of making powerful enemies.

There was no claim of responsibility though suspicion centred on an Islamic State-linked militant group.

Police said 67 people were wounded in addition to the 14 dead. Police have yet to disclose details of their initial investigation, but Davao Mayor Sarah Duterte — the president's daughter — said in a television interview it was a bomb.

Police and military promised to implement the

nationwide "state of lawlessness", although there appeared to be confusion about what that actually entailed.

Duterte's office said it was "rooted" in an article of the constitution that puts the president in charge of the armed forces. Several officials said the declaration meant troops would assist police in anti-crime and anti-terror operations.

Rumours have swirled of a plot to assassinate Duterte, 71, which he has shrugged off as part of his job. The talk has been fuelled by his controversial crackdown on drugs that has killed more than 2,000 people since his 30 June inauguration, and has been condemned by activists and the United Nations.

Asked on Thursday about death threats, Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella said: "He eats that for breakfast, it's not something new."

The explosion went off at about 10.30 pm at a market outside the Marco Polo hotel, a place Duterte visits often and used for meetings during a campaign for a May election that he won by a huge margin. He typically spends his weekends in Davao.

Asked if he thought drugs gangs were behind it,

Duterte said: "It is also being considered ... At least we know who made the threats."

The White House offered condolences and assistance, which National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said President Barack Obama would convey when he meets Duterte in Laos next week.

Duterte cancelled a trip to Brunei on Saturday in what would have been his first overseas visit as president. Officials said he would still attend next week's Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia Summits in Laos. Though Davao itself is relatively safe, it is located on Mindanao, a large southern island province beset by poverty and decades of Muslim insurgency.

Abu Sayyaf rebels linked to Islamic State and notorious for multi-million dollar kidnappings operate in the jungles of Mindanao's Jolo and Basilan islands.

They are being hit by stepped-up offensives after Duterte ordered the military to wipe the group out.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Abu Sayyaf would have good reason to retaliate and he had placed the military on high alert for possible attacks elsewhere.—Reuters



President Rodrigo Duterte talks to the wounded victims of an explosion during his visit of a hospital in Davao city, Philippines, on 3 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

## India offers \$500 million defence credit as Viet Nam seeks arms boost

HANOI — Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered Viet Nam a credit line on Saturday of half a billion dollars for defence cooperation, giving a lift to a country rapidly pursuing a military deterrent as discord festers in the South China Sea.

The deal was among a dozen cooperation agreements Modi signed in Hanoi alongside his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, on the first visit to the country by an Indian prime minister in 15 years.

India and Viet Nam share borders and large trade volumes with China and have repeatedly locked horns with Beijing, over the territorial disputes in the Himalayas and the South China Sea, respectively.

Both are also beefing-up of their defences and in India's case, its defence industry, promoting heavily its supersonic BrahMos missile. India is keen to sell the missile to Viet Nam and four other countries, according to a govern-

ment note seen by Reuters in June.

It was unclear if the latest loan included the \$100 million India had previously made available to Viet Nam for four yet-to-be-built patrol vessels in a deal agreed in late 2014.

In an address to media, Modi said the credit was for "facilitating mutual defence cooperation" and the relationship between the two countries would "contribute to stability, securities and prosperity in this region".

Modi, who was enroute to a G20 Summit in China, made no mention of the patrol vessels, nor BrahMos missiles, and did not elaborate on what Viet Nam would use the \$500 million credit for.

The offer comes after a surge of almost 700 per cent in Viet Nam's defence procurements as of 2015, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute think-tank, which tracks the arm trade over five-year periods.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a photo with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the Government office in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 3 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Viet Nam is in the midst of a quiet military buildup analysts say is designed as a deterrent, to secure its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone as China grows more assertive in staking its claims in the South China Sea.

Experts say Viet Nam is in the market for fighter jets and more advanced

missile systems, in addition to its six kilo-class submarines it has bought from Russia, the last of which it will receive late this year.

The 12 agreements signed on Saturday covered areas like health, cyber security, ship-building, UN peace-keeping operations and naval information sharing.—Reuters

## India shelves plan to expand French submarine order after data breach

NEW DELHI — India is unlikely to give French naval contractor DCNS a proposed order for three new submarines, in addition to the six it is already building in the country, following the leak of secret data about its capabilities, Indian defence officials said.

Details of the Scorpene submarine were published in the Australian newspaper last month, triggering concerns that it had become vulnerable even before it was ready to enter service.

DCNS had offered to build three more submarines to help India replace its ageing Soviet-era fleet, and had held talks over the past year, two Indian sources said.

That offer will not now be taken up, according to the officials.

“We had an agreement for six, and six it will remain,” a defence ministry official briefed on the navy’s plans told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. A navy officer said there had been a serious breach of data and the navy’s efforts were focused on determining the damage done to the existing submarines.

“No order will be signed, nothing is going to happen now,” the officer, who is also been briefed on the submarine data leak, said when asked if the government planned to enlarge the order.

DCNS spokesman Emmanuel Gaudez said the company was “stunned” by the information. “The talks are ongoing with the government and our Indian partners. We have not been informed in anyway of such a decision,” he said.

India’s defence ministry has written to DCNS asking for details about the extent of the leak and how data relating to the Scorpene’s intelligence gathering frequencies, diving depth, endurance and weapons specifications had ended up in the public domain, both officials said.

A naval group headed by a three-star admiral is looking at altering some features of the submarine, the first of which began sea trials in May for induction later this year, to minimise any damage.

The remaining five are in

various stages of production at state-run Mazgaon Docks shipyard in Mumbai and they were all due to enter service by 2020.

An official at Mazgaon Docks said the firm was focused on completing the original order of six Scorpene and that he was not aware of any plan to build more.

A DCNS spokesman had earlier said the firm was in close touch with “our key customers like India to keep them informed of the development of our investigation, respond to their questions and mitigate their legitimate worries”.

“The investigation is still ongoing and one of its objectives is to determine the potential prejudice and minimize its potential consequences,” the spokesman said. DCNS is preparing to build a new fleet of submarines in Australia for A\$50 billion (\$38.13 billion). Australian defence officials have warned the firm to beef up security in the wake of the leak.

DCNS has said that the leak, which covered details of the Scorpene-class model and not the



An employee looks at the propeller of a Scorpene submarine at the industrial site of the naval defence company and shipbuilder DCNS in La Montagne near Nantes, France, on 26 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

vessel currently being designed for the Australian fleet, bore the hallmarks of “economic warfare” carried out by frustrated competitors.

Indian officials have pointed to a “non-disclosure of information” clause that was written into the 2005 contract at French insistence, the first defence ministry official briefed on the communi-

cation with the DCNS, said.

But the official said the government could only invoke that clause if it was established that the data was leaked and not stolen.

A French government source has said the firm had apparently been robbed, and it was not a leak, adding it was unlikely classified data was stolen.—Reuters

## China’s Hangzhou turns ghost town as G20 leaders arrive

HANGZHOU (China) — The Chinese city of Hangzhou felt like a ghost town on Saturday ahead of the arrival of leaders from the world’s 20 biggest economies, after the government encouraged residents to clear out and cranked up security for the summit.

On the eve of the Group of 20 summit, roads and malls around the main venue in the centre of Hangzhou, usually a bustling city of 9 million, were largely deserted, with just a smattering of cars and people around while shops were shut and locked.

Construction sites also whirred to a stop, uncommon in a country where labourers often work around-the-clock.

More than 200 steel mills in surrounding districts were shut as part of a government bid to limit

pollution during the two-day summit which begins on Sunday.

“Things are now a little bit inconvenient. But you can understand why,” said Hangzhou real estate agent Liu Wenchao.

“Leaders from the world’s most important 20 countries are coming for this big summit, and we all need to guarantee security for foreigners.”

The stakes are high for China to pull off a trouble-free summit, its highest profile event of the year, as it looks to cement its standing as a global power and avoid acrimony over issues like the South China Sea territorial dispute.

The city, a tourist hot spot, is home to Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holdings and to textile factories as well as steel.

Hangzhou’s residents left in

droves after authorities declared a week-long holiday for the summit, shut down the city’s famous West Lake beauty spot and offered free travel vouchers worth up to 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) to encourage people to visit out-of-town attractions.

Some residents, such as chefs from the western Xinjiang region, were also sent home over the period, restaurants told Reuters. The government has blamed Islamist militants for carrying out attacks in that region.

Over the weekend, policemen conducted security checks on streets while men identifying themselves as volunteer security guards patrolled. Two volunteers told Reuters journalists they were not allowed to film in residential areas.—Reuters



A well-wisher holds a picture of Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Siriraj hospital where he is residing, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 9 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Thailand’s king recovers after treatment for water in lungs — palace

BANGKOK — Thailand’s 88-year-old king, the world’s longest reigning monarch, has been treated after having water in his lungs and his condition has improved, the palace said in a statement late on Friday.

In a monthly update on King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s health, the palace said he had no fever and his breath and blood pressure have gradually improved after a “continuous renal replacement therapy” since Thursday after blood test showed there was water in his lungs and the function of kidneys reduced.

The therapy replaces the normal blood-filtering function of the kidneys. It is used when the kidneys are not working well.

The king’s condition

showed some improvement in most of August before he had rapid breathing and sticky phlegm on Wednesday, and an examination showed severe infection in his blood, the statement said.

He had a mild fever on Wednesday and a team of physicians had to administer antibiotics after his blood pressure dropped, the palace said.

News about the king’s health is closely monitored in Thailand, where King Bhumibol is deeply revered.

The king has been treated for various ailments over the past year at Bangkok’s Siriraj Hospital and was last seen in public on 11 January, when he spent several hours visiting his palace in the Thai capital.—Reuters



Security personnel run at the West Lake after the police closed the lake before G20 Summit in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China, on 3 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Opinion

## Write for us

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## Reconciliation requires patience, trust and understanding

Tha Sein

**T**HE Union Peace Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong has come to an end at the administrative city of Nay Pyi Taw with the concluding remarks of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who has exhibited her willingness to give peace a chance and made her presence felt in her capacity as a minister as well as a state counsellor.

Although the first ever conference is short on substance and will be just the opening to eternal peace the new government has earned

plaudits in its inclusion of ethnic armed groups that did not sign the national ceasefire agreement with the previous government, easing the animosity between the Tatmadaw and the ethnic armed groups, given their display of smiles and handshakes during the course of the historic event.

On a positive note, there is no doubt that the achievement the new government realised has surprised skeptics, for discussion on politics is done with participants or organisations that actually represent the

people whose concerns have been a constant refrain in the lead-up to the gathering.

The United States is, according to a news source, considering further easing or lifting sanctions against Myanmar around the time of the state counsellor's visit to the White House this month in order to improve the investment environment in the country. This can be attributed to one of the enormous achievements made in the time of the new government including the holding of the conference, and is a welcome

move in a democratic transition.

In the eyes of many, national reconciliation is a high profile and controversial issue that requires patience, trust and understanding with honesty as the bedrock of a major step forward, given the complexity that was rife in the country due to schisms. To address these deeply entrenched schisms, all the stakeholders are to strike a balance between showing the people the rewards of a democratisation process while minimising the social fallout through reforms.

## Regionalism, Nationalism, Globalism

Thiha Zaw (Nay Pyi Taw)

**A**MONG the most fascinating news that have happened around the world during the month of August 2016, US presidential election update, 2016 Rio Olympic news & news about 21<sup>st</sup> century Panglong conference are the ones that can draw most attention among the public. There are of course winners & losers in 2016 Rio Olympic followed by the endless comments and critiques. As usual US & UK, world super powers, are the top winners. Emerging powers like China & Russia have done their best and clinched third & fourth places respectively. By going through the medal tally, I have seen a lot of lessons to learn.

India, another emerging power and already a regional power, stood at 67<sup>th</sup> position with one silver & one bronze trophy only. What is more disappointing fact is that it stands at the lowest position in medal score per capita taking into account of its 1.3 billion plus population. The fact that these two trophies were won solely by the athletic Indian ladies makes male dominated Indian society a little frustrating.

Both China & India, Olympic ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> & 67<sup>th</sup> respectively are important neighbors for us. Since the rise and fall of their power can have a tremendous impact on the politicosecurity & socioeconomic affairs of our public

and the state, we must draw some lessons about their national power from their Olympic performance. **National power** can be divided into hard & soft power. Components of **hard power** are economic and military power and can be evident easily. **Soft power** is less tangible and includes diplomatic power, cultural factors, educational performance and influence as well as historical factors. Cultural factors include not only traditional factors like literature, religion & cultural heritage but also media power and sports performance. Number of movies produced and number of TV channels which can penetrate globally are part of the national power.

Why are India & China, emerging powers of more or less comparable standards, so different in sports performance? This is a very wide question and there are many influencing factors like public interest in sports, cultural and traditional preferences. Here I like to highlight one probable factor for such a huge difference. Chinese community is composed of more or less homogeneous Han Chinese especially in the highly populated northern, eastern and southern part of the country. Most of them speak Mandarin wherever they are from originally. Political system led by the Communist Party of China set up the People's Republic of China as a **Nation State** with little room for diversity. Therefore, **nationalism** is more common

than **regionalism** among Chinese citizens.

In contrast, Indian society is divided by various factors like political system which divide the power between central & regional governments, caste system, language barriers and native states (provinces). Although Hindi is widely spoken and regarded as official language, there are other major languages spoken in western, eastern & southern states (provinces) like Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Tamil & Telugu. I have travelled to both countries for a few times & I have a feeling that Indians are more proud to talk about their native states than India. It is because India has never been a **Nation State** in its history from the perspective of political science.

India was a kind of sultanate until it was conquered by Mogul emperor in 16<sup>th</sup> century. It became a more or less unified colonial state under British rule since late 18<sup>th</sup> century. After independence in 1947, it became a staunch icon of democratic state. It has walked unswervingly for nearly 70 years on the road to multiparty democratic parliamentary system. It is no wonder that for an Indian citizen, **regionalism** is as important as **Indian nationalism**. Unity among diversity has worked well in India society. But there are prices to be paid in terms of building national power. Both regionalism and nationalism have their strengths & weak-

nesses. Strong regionalism can weaken the nationalism and building of national power. In contrast to India, China can build the strong nationalism and possesses stronger hard & soft national power. On the other hand, strong nationalism can absorb the culture & tradition of minority ethnic groups causing relentless worry among them.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century, the concept of regionalism and nationalism is not enough for any community. The inevitable process of globalization can make every people think about globalism and global citizenship. Since the start of globalization, the world is like the opening of Pandora's Box. If we haven't anticipated and made preparation, we don't know which item to grasp and soon we will be in a messy situation. Other well prepared persons will certainly grasp the opportunity at the expense of ours. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** state that everyone has equal opportunity regardless of sex, age, color, ethnic origin, religious belief and so on. But it is only for those who can think and act beyond the boundary of regionalism and nationalism. For our younger generation to reap the profit from the process of globalization, our present generation will need to think about balancing between regionalism and nationalism as well as laying good and strong foundation whatever the differences we have now. That is the essence of eminent

people from home & abroad has talked about 21<sup>st</sup> century Panglong conference.

During the conference State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has warned that eternal peace is not only for those in the conference room but also for 51 million people of Myanmar who are so eager to see the peaceful dove flying over the sky above Myanmar. UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon has also warned that in order for the national reconciliation process to be successful, all stakeholders must accept that some of their respective objectives will need to be compromised. Commander-in-Chief of defence services also warned that extreme regionalism and ethnic bias are contrary to the democratic principles and can reach nowhere.

Many people around the world acknowledged that the peace process in Myanmar is no easy job. But even one day delay is the 51 million-day opportunity lost for all the people of Myanmar. Ongoing armed conflict based on various personal interests and bias can perpetually lead to loss of lives, loss of natural resources and most importantly, loss of precious time and deepening poverty among the people of Myanmar. Everybody must set aside their differences in the peace process and work towards building peace and national power by balancing between regionalism, nationalism and globalism.

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# Brunei-Myanmar investment invited

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid a courtesy call on the King of Brunei Darussalam at 2 pm yesterday at the King's Palace.

During his call the Senior General invited Brunei nationals to make investments in Myanmar. He also expressed Myanmar's wish for future cooperation in training exercises under the military exchange programme.

The Brunei King said co-operation will be made in business and investment activities and that the programme to exchange trainees is welcomed.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has also paid a courtesy call on the Queen of Brunei at the palace.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visiting around in Brunei. PHOTO: MNA

## Over utilization of groundwater detrimental to the environment, say conservationists

THE pumping up of groundwater to fulfill water requirements of the Myanmar public is not a good answer for the environment, Dr Sein Sein Thein, chair of the Evergreen Environment Conservation Organization, told Myitmakha News Agency.

"When groundwater was sourced from wells to water crops in Sagaing Region's Budalin Township, it ended up damaging crops because of the water's salt content. Year upon year, the amount of groundwater being sourced is increasing," she said.

Environmental conservation organizations warn that the greater the extent of groundwater being used, the more prolific the salt content within the water becomes. Since electrically pumped wells require a depth of more than a thousand feet to be dug, it destroys the layers of earth and soil below ground, reportedly allowing the water to become contaminated with salt.

"The digging of electrically pumped wells should only be for the purpose of using such water to wash and bathe with. Dependent upon the state-of-

play of the soil, wells should be dug at depth of at least 800 feet. But if they're dug to an extreme depth, it could render undesirable consequences," said Aung San Win, an individual involved with digging electric wells.

According to the Myanmar National Water Resources Committee, a proliferation of utilizing groundwater resources can cause such unwanted consequences as landslides, slumping ground levels and salt contamination.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Building Contractors Association to officially register

THE temporary Building Contractors Association (BCA), which has been licensed by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), will be officially registered as an association this September, Myitmakha News Agency has been informed.

At a press conference held at Yangon's Dolphin Restaurant on August 31, the association explained how the YCDC has invited association executives to apply for official registration as an association between September 1-14. "The objective of

forming this association is to facilitate collective resolutions to difficulties faced by contractors and landowners, in lieu of each person having to solve their own problem by themselves," said U Lar Zeh, member of the temporary BCA.

The association will reportedly aid with delays experienced by contractors in license applications made to the YCDC, ridding the city of building projects run by unlicensed contractors, and grievances concerning the procurement of electricity.

"[The BCA] is essential for building projects of licensed contractors. Furthermore, they will facilitate the collaboration of engineers on a given project," said U Aung Myint, chair of the Myanmar Engineers Association.

The official formation of the Building Contractors Association will reportedly see the association be comprised of an executive committee, team of architects, legal team, lead committee, and a team of engineers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

### POEM:

#### Acclaiming The Union Peace Conference — 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

The Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, commenced in Nay Pyi Taw, on 31<sup>st</sup> of August Twenty Sixteen as announced.

The peoples' hopes and prayers are that it will pave the way for lasting peace and unity in Myanmar come what may.

For sixty eight years the people have, for peace been longing only to see their hopes and dreams into thin air vanishing.

To end the armed conflicts, attempts had there been many but for various reasons peace had remained a distant entity.

National Peace Conference initiated by the last Government however did result in a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement unfortunately some armed ethnic groups were reluctant for various reasons to sign the Ceasefire Agreement.

The present Government continuing the past negotiation called for signatories' and non-signatories' inclusion has borne fruitful results with increased participation by the various armed ethnic groups representation.

The Panglong Conference of this, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will open a new Golden Page in Myanmar's history.

The representatives of National Races of the country will hopefully, based on mutual trust, fraternity and unity and the spirit of Panglong Agreement of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century discuss measures for achieving peace and harmony

for Myanmar to be a peaceful federal democratic Union as is the dream, aspirations, hope and expectation of the people and the National Races as one.

It's for the delegates to the 21<sup>st</sup> Panglong Conference to embrace mutual trust, fraternity, unity, and perseverance to accept Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and peace amicably and pave the way for achieving unity, progress and stability.

Lokethar

## Decline of China's stock exchange price impacts Myanmar jade market

JADE demand has fallen following China's stock exchange decline, it has been reported by Myanmar jade businesspeople.

"Chinese jade customers have not been as active as before since the fall of the Chinese stock exchange last month," said Phakant Jade and Jewellery businessman U Aung Win.

"Currently, the jade market

remains cool. China's political situation and price exchange market have impacted Myanmar's jade market," said U Sai Kyauk Naing, a member of the Phankant Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

According to the 2015-2016 Union Tax Law, jade traders have to pay 15 per cent tax on jade materials. So, traders are

burdened by high taxation.

The raw jade market is still on the decline due to lower earnings than we expected during 52nd Myanmar Jade exhibition which is celebrated in July in Nay Pyi Taw, he said.

Jade traders expect that they can earn back some money in the second Myanmar Jade exhibition. —*Kyay Sin*

## Teaching techniques now available online

THE Department of Basic Education under the Ministry of Education has officially launched its online page: [www.facebook.com/dbe](http://www.facebook.com/dbe). The page was launched on 31 August with the goal of aiding teachers to improve their professional ability.

Lesson plans for each subject including Myanmar language, English was language, history, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and economics have been posted on the page, inviting education service providers to actively participate in the online discussion, said U Myo Win Aung, director (Ad-

ministration and Finance) of Mandalay Region Education Office.

He added that the Mandalay Region Education Department has already posted lesson plans for mathematics as of Wednesday, saying that plans are underway to upload the completed lesson plans for all syllabuses included in textbooks between grade 2 and grade 11 over the next two months.

Lesson plans for mathematics will be designed by Mandalay Region, Kayah State and Shan State (North and South), Myanmar language, geogra-

phy, social science, history and physical education by Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Region, English and science by Yangon Region and Eastern Shan State, chemistry by Bago and Yangon regions, physics by Kachin and Chin states as well as Sagaing Region, economics by Taninthayi and Magway regions, Kayin and Mon states and the capital Nay Pyi Taw.

A middle-school teacher said her view was that the new system will offer educational benefit to both service providers and learners by sharing teaching techniques.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

## Ancient Buddha statues found

NEARLY 20 ancient Buddha statues have been discovered in Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region following the earthquake that struck the region on 24 August.

The Buddha icons, made of silver, were discovered when monks and villagers carried out

cleanup works around Shwem-inwun Pagoda, which was badly damaged.

"We found a total of 19 statues at a length of between six and 1.5 inches and other ancient materials under the broken stones and bricks," said the abbot of the village monastery.

Currently, the Buddha icons are being held at Thayettaw Monastery where monks are inviting enthusiasts to visit and observe the ancient discoveries.

Plans are underway to renovate the damaged pagoda using the contributions of local well-wishers.—*Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)*

## Seamen advocate establishment of multi-stakeholder committee to solve grievances

A three-sided multi-stakeholder committee needs to be urgently formed to handle and resolve problems experienced by Myanmar seamen, seafarers organizations have told Myitmakha News Agency.

Calls to form a committee comprising representatives from seafaring companies, the government and seamen come in a bid to make concerted efforts to resolve violations of labour laws in regard to salaries and compensation as legal action cannot currently be taken against unscrupulous maritime companies.

"The family of a seaman who died in Malaysia have still yet to receive any compensation for his death, and we're only able to offer them advice as we don't know to whom they should appeal or complain to. Our federation is unable to follow up and resolve such cases. [Myanmar] seamen face a huge amount of problems, from drunken on-board disputes to being ex-

ploited by their employers," explained U Tin Ko Ko The, secretary of the Myanmar Maritime Workers' Federation (MMWF).

A seaman, who requested to remain anonymous, told Myitmakha News Agency that neither complaints nor resolutions are can currently be made against regulation violators aboard shipping vessels as the Myanmar government has yet to officially recognize any organization advocating for the rights and welfare of Myanmar seamen.

"I paid the company K4 million to work as the ship's cook. But I got off the ship within just days of being aboard after I realized the conditions aboard were not as they'd been advertised to me by the company. The company asked me to wait while they found me an alternative ship to work on, as they didn't want to reimburse me my K4 million. I've been waiting for six months now and I heard nothing from

them. It's because of these kinds of situations that a three-sided committee needs to be urgently established," said the seaman.

In the past, the Department of Seafarers Recruitment and Supervision used to take legal action against companies which violated regulations by suspending their activities and confiscating licenses, but this department has since been disbanded and all that's left is the Department of Seafarers.

However, the department is reportedly about to start providing administration services for seamen and registering maritime companies.

According to the records of the Department of Maritime Administration dated 26 July 2016, a total of 21,924 seamen are registered as currently working on foreign shipping vessels, but there are reportedly only four maritime seaman organizations working for their affairs.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Crime NEWS



The school seen after outbreak of fire. PHOTO: MNA

## Fire breaks out at Yenangyaung school

A FIRE broke out at a school in Yenangyaung town, Magwe reigon on Thursday.

The fire brigade sent ten fire engines to put out the fire. It was extinguished within 2 hours. The fire department is

still investigating the case.

Director U Aung Kyaw Moe from the Social Welfare Department said the school will be rebuilt soon in Yenangyaung town, it has been learned. —*MNA*

## Two men arrested for murder

A MAN on Thursday was stabbed to death, allegedly by two friends, in Hpa-an town, Kayin state, with police arresting two suspects shortly after the incident.

According to an investigation, Myo Aye, 31, arrived at the home of Aung Zaw Oo and Khine Sabae, Tun Ko Ko, Chit San Ko Ko Oo, Chit Ko Ko and Aung Min Oo. Myo Aye, Chit

Ko Ko and Aung Min Oo, who were drunk.

The group then got into a quarrel and Chit Ko Ko stabbed Myo Ko to death. The suspects then fled the scene.

Police arrested Chit Ko Ko, 21 and Aung Min Oo, 18, at the Hsin Phyu Taw gas station. The suspects have been charged under Criminal Law.—*Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)*



The two criminal suspects being seen. PHOTO: TUN TUN HTWAY (HPA-AN)

## Yaba and heroin seized in Lashio

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Lashio seized 11,700 yaba pills from one Ma Shauk Hon and 11,700 yaba pills from Ma Twin Lauk Shom on a passenger bus at the Oriental toll gate at the Hsenwi entrance gate on Friday.

On the same day, police from Lashio seized 830 yaba pills and heroin weighing 2.4 grammes from a motorcycle being ridden by one San Tun with Aik Shan on board near Man Haung village, Lashio township.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Taunggyi searched the home of one Zar Ni Lin on Moe Maka street, Nyaung Phyu ward, Taunggyi and found 780 yaba pills. Zayyar Lin Pa, Sai Mai Sai, Pyat Son Augn and Sai Nay Myo, Chit Paing and Yan Naing were found together with the host. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—*Myanmar Police Force*



Two drug dealers seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

## Putin: world needs to avoid steps that would heighten tensions with North Korea

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia) — Russian President Vladimir Putin urged countries on Saturday to show caution when dealing with North Korea and to avoid any actions that might further enflame tensions with Pyongyang.

Speaking at a business forum in Russia's Pacific port of Vladivostok attended by South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, Putin said Moscow favoured bringing North Korea back to international negotiations over its nuclear programme.

Putin also urged Pyongyang to adhere to agreements backed by the United Nations, but he added: "I think that any actions that would provoke further escalation (of tensions) are counter-productive."

Earlier Park called on Russia and other major global players to increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear programme, saying this could open the road for cooperation with Pyongyang.

"In order for Pyongyang to take the decision to abandon its nuclear programme, it is important to give it a strong unified message," Park told the forum in



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech at an oceanarium on Russky Island before attending the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia, on 3 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vladivostok.

Concerns about the threat posed by North Korea have spiralled since it conducted its fourth nuclear explosion in January and followed it up with a series of missile tests despite severe United Nations sanctions, which Pyongyang rejects as an infringement of its sovereignty.

In June North Korea test-fired what appeared to be two mobile Musudan rockets, one of which climbed to 1,000 km (600

miles), or enough to fly more than 3,000 km (1,800 miles) down range.

On 24 August Pyongyang also fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) toward Japan that travelled 500 km (311 miles).

"If North Korea abandons its nuclear programme and chooses the path to openness, we, together with the international community, will be ready to actively support it," Park said.—Reuters

## May hails 'golden era' for UK-China ties as nuclear power row looms



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May visits a joinery factory in London, Britain, on 3 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Saturday Sino-British relations were in a golden era but made no mention of a looming row with Beijing over her suspension of a partly Chinese-funded nuclear power station deal.

The issue will be high on the agenda of her meeting on Monday at a G20 meeting in China with President Xi Jinping.

In July, May suddenly postponed plans for the building

of the first new British nuclear plant in 20 years, saying she wanted to review the 18-billion pound (\$24 billion) project, one-third of which was being financed by Chinese investors.

Newspapers said she was concerned over possible security implications of the deal although no official specific reason has been given.

Speaking as she left for the G20 meeting, May said: "This is a golden era for UK-China

relations and one of the things I will be doing at the G20 is obviously talking to President Xi about how we can develop the strategic partnership that we have between the UK and China."

British officials said on Friday May would not be making a decision on the Hinkley Point plant in southwest England in the next few days.

Hinkley Point is seen as the frontrunner to closer ties with China on nuclear issues, paving the way for tens of billions of dollars of investment and another two nuclear power plants with Chinese involvement.

The G20 will be May's international summit debut after Britain's shock vote in June to leave the European Union led to the resignation of her predecessor, David Cameron.

She will meet US President Barack Obama on Sunday and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, as well as addressing all G20 nations during a trade-focused summit session.

"The message for the G20 is that Britain is open for business as a bold, confident, outward-looking country and we will be playing a key role on the world stage," she said in a statement.

"My ambition is that Britain will be a global leader in free trade."—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Italians angered by Charlie Hebdo cartoon showing quake victims as pasta

ROME — French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, victim of a deadly attack by Islamist militants in 2015 for its irreverent humour, was criticised by Italians on Friday for portraying victims of an earthquake that killed almost 300 people as different types of pasta.

The cartoon was titled "Earthquake Italian style". It depicted a balding man standing and covered in blood with the moniker "Penne in tomato sauce", a badly scratched up woman next to him labelled "Penne au gratin", and finally feet sticking out between the floors of a collapsed building titled "Lasagne".

Amatrice, a town flattened by last week's quake, is famous for the pasta sauce — amatriciana — that carries its name.

The town's mayor, Sergio Pirozzi, who dramatically declared "the town is gone" on the morning after the 24 August earthquake, was baffled by the cartoon.—Reuters

#### North Korea says 15 missing after recent flooding

SEOUL — North Korea said on Saturday that 15 people were missing in the northern city of Hoeryong and thousands were left homeless by flooding caused by heavy rain in recent days.

The official KCNA news agency said flooding of the Tumen river, which forms a border with China, had damaged or destroyed 17,180 houses, and 44,000 people were left homeless in North Hamgyong Province. Widespread deforestation makes North Korea prone to flooding.—Reuters

#### Six killed, nine wounded in twin bomb attacks in Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq) — Six people were killed and nine others injured on Saturday in two coordinated explosions in Iraq's northern central province of Salahudin, a provincial security source told Xinhua.

The first attack occurred in the morning when a roadside bomb detonated at a neighbourhood inhabited by Shiite Turkomans in the town of Tuz-Khormato, some 190 km northeast of Baghdad, causing no casualties, the source said on condition of anonymity.

But minutes later, a booby-trapped car went off when security forces and civilians gathered at the site of the first blast, leaving six killed and nine others wounded, he said. The attackers created an initial explosion to attract security forces and civilians, and then set off another blast to cause heavier casualties, a tactic frequently used by insurgent groups, according to the source.—Xinhua

#### Indonesian noodle plant opens in Indjija

INDJIJA — President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic and Anthoni Salim, president of the Indonesian food company Indofood, opened in Indjija on Friday a plant that will produce Indomie instant noodles.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Vojvodina PM Igor Mirovic, Indonesian Ambassador to Serbia Harry Richard James Kandou and Indjija Mayor Vladimir Gak.

Nikolic said the opening of the plant was important not only for Indjija but entire Serbia as it represented a development opportunity for the national economy.

The plant will initially hire over 100 workers but there are plans for the figure to rise to 500 once the investment is complete, Nikolic said, adding that up to 90 pct of raw materials would be Serbian-made.

Indofood, the world's biggest noodle producer, has invested 11 mln euros to build the plant, which is the first Indonesian investment in Serbia.—Tanjug

#### Uzbekistan President Karimov dead from stroke

MOSCOW — Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov died of a stroke on Friday in the capital Tashkent, the country's government announced. He was 78.

Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev will chair the commission to organise Karimov's funeral on Saturday in the president's hometown Samarkand, Russia's Tass news agency said, quoting an official report by the government.

Russia's Interfax news agency reported the death earlier Friday but withdrew the report, saying it had been sent out prematurely due to a "technical error."

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev will head the Russian delegation to the funeral, Tass said.—Kyodo News

# Clinton tells FBI she could not recall all briefings on preserving documents

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton, under questioning by federal investigators over whether she had been briefed on how to preserve government records as she was about to leave the State Department, said she had suffered a concussion, was working part-time and could not recall every briefing she received.

Clinton, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, raised the health scare during her 3-1/2-hour interview with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Justice Department prosecutors on 2 July, according to an FBI summary released on Friday.

Besides the 11-page interview summary, the FBI also released other details of its investigation into her use of an unauthorized private email system while running the State Department, in which it concluded she mishandled classified information but not in a way that



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton addresses the National Convention of the American Legion in Cincinnati, Ohio, US, on 31 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

warranted a criminal prosecution.

Clinton told investigators she could not recall getting any briefings on how to handle classified information or comply with laws governing the preservation of feder-

al records, the summary of her interview shows.

"However, in December of 2012, Clinton suffered a concussion and then around the New Year had a blood clot," the FBI's summary said. "Based on her

doctor's advice, she could only work at State for a few hours a day and could not recall every briefing she received." A Clinton campaign aide said Clinton only referenced her concussion to explain she was not at work

but for a few hours a day at that time, not that she did not remember things from that period. The concussion was widely reported then, and Republicans have since used it to attack the 68-year-old candidate's health in a way her staff have said is unfounded.

The FBI report, which does not quote Clinton directly, is ambiguous about whether it was her concussion that affected her ability to recall briefings.

The FBI declined to provide further comment on the report. Clinton, who is challenging Republican Donald Trump for the White House in the 8 November election, has been dogged for more than a year by the fallout from her decision to use an unauthorized private email account run from the basement of her Chappaqua, New York, home.

Republicans have repeatedly attacked Clinton over the issue, helping drive

opinion polls that show many US voters doubt her trustworthiness.

Trump's campaign issued a statement immediately following the FBI report's release saying the notes from the interview "reinforce her tremendously bad judgment and dishonesty."

Clinton has said that in hindsight she regretted using a private email system while secretary of state.

According to the report, Clinton told the FBI that she did not set up a private email server to sidestep the law requiring her to keep her business communications a matter of public record.

At least one federal judge is examining whether this was the case as part of a lawsuit against the State Department concerning public access to Clinton's government records, which the US government said it had no access to in response to requests from members of the public.—Reuters

**ဦးဝင်းမြင့်ဦး (၁၂/အစန(နိုင်)၁၃၁၆၅၇) နှင့် အများသိစေရန် အသိပေးကြေညာခြင်း**

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## After huge Venezuela protest march, government says foils coup

CARACAS — Venezuela's socialist government said on Friday it thwarted a coup plot this week as opponents planned to build on their biggest protest in more than a decade with further street action demanding a referendum to remove the president.

Buoyed by rallies in Caracas on Thursday that drew hundreds of thousands, the opposition coalition is planning more marches on 7 September to demand a plebiscite against President Nicolas Maduro this year.

But with the election board dragging out the process and Maduro vowing there will be no such vote in 2016, it is hard to see how the opposition can force it.

"It was the day they wanted: massive, peaceful and inspirational. But that success leaves a key question in the air: 'What next?'" wrote pollster Luis Vicente Leon in the aftermath of Thursday's opposition-dubbed 'Takeover of Caracas'.

As the Democratic Unity coalition detailed its timetable for future actions, the government convened foreign diplomats on Friday to show how the arrest of several activists and capture of weapons evidenced plans to topple Maduro by force.

"We have frustrated the intended coup d'etat," Interior Minister Nestor Reverol told the diplomatic corps.

Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez added: "Yesterday, we stopped a massacre."

Like his predecessor Hugo Chavez, Maduro frequently denounces coup and assassination plans, bringing ridicule from foes who say he is inventing them to justify repression and distract Venezuelans from their economic crisis.

Reverol said this week's detention of opposition activists Carlos Melo and Yon Goicoechea had led to the capture of arms and explosives in a makeshift camp a few kilometres from the presidential palace.

They included a sniper's rifle, Reverol said, showing photos of the arms. He added that five policemen were injured in skirmishes with stone-throwing youths after Thursday's opposition rallies.

The opposition said the troublemakers, who clashed briefly with police and National Guard troops in several parts of Caracas, were infiltrators. Thursday's main events passed off peacefully, with the opposition saying more than a million protesters flooded Caracas, wearing white and chanting "This government will fall."—Reuters

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## Hermine pounds Florida, then churns north into Carolinas

TAMPA, (Fla) — Hurricane Hermine wreaked havoc across Florida on Friday, causing widespread power outages and flooding before diminishing into a tropical storm and plowing up the Atlantic Coast into the Carolinas with a still-potent mix of high winds and heavy rains.

The first hurricane to make landfall in Florida in 11 years, Hermine swept ashore early on Friday near the Gulf shore town of St. Marks, 20 miles (30 km) south of the capital of Tallahassee, packing winds of 80 mph (130 kph) and churning up a devastating storm surge in coastal areas.

Torrential downpours and high surf left parts of

some communities under water early Friday, with mandatory evacuations ordered in parts of five northwestern Florida counties.

State officials said electricity had been knocked out to nearly 300,000 homes and businesses by afternoon.

One storm-related death was reported by authorities in the northern Florida town of Ocala, where a fallen tree killed a homeless man sleeping in his tent.

Hermine was expected to snarl Labour Day holiday travel as it churned northeast for several more days after battering Florida's \$89 billion tourism industry.

While maximum sus-



Workers remove downed trees during cleanup operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Hermine in Tallahassee, Florida, on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tained winds had weakened to 50 mph (80 kph), the tempest headed to the Atlantic seaboard along a path inhabited by tens

of millions of Americans, prompting storm watches and warnings as far north as Rhode Island.

As of 9 pm EDT (0100

GMT), the fourth named storm of the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season was passing near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, leaving

some 51,000 power outages across the state, said state emergency management spokesman Derreck Becker.—Reuters

## Kosovo ready to become Japanese firms' gateway to Europe: new envoy

TOKYO — Kosovo hopes to attract investment from Japanese firms seeking a European base and is "ready to do what it takes" to compete with other destinations, according to its incoming ambassador to Japan.

In an interview Friday with Kyodo News, Leon Malazogu said that while the young nation is grateful for the Japanese government's assistance in infrastructure, cultural ventures and training to rebuild from the intense conflict of the late 1990s, it is time to also see Kosovo as a competi-

tive investment destination. "We understand that we have been seeking assistance for a long time, but we also understand that we are treated as equals now, regardless of our difficulties, and we're ready to embrace the challenge," Malazogu, 39, said.

Malazogu said he hopes to use his posting to strengthen bilateral ties and raise awareness in Japan and the broader Asian region about Kosovo's strengths and the steadily growing recognition of its statehood.

Japan is one of the

roughly two-thirds of United Nations member states that recognize Kosovo, which aspires to join more international organisations as well as the European Union.

As an investment destination, "Kosovo is where Slovakia was 15 years ago — a stable country with a good fiscal climate and with low costs and a well-educated workforce," Malazogu said.

The country can now freely export to the European Union, a few hours away by road, under an agreement that came into force



Leon Malazogu, Kosovo's incoming ambassador to Japan, speaks with Kyodo News in Tokyo on 2 September, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

in April.

Having embraced democracy and a free market economy since declaring independence in 2008, Kosovo sees itself as a strong ally of Japan, Malazogu said.—Kyodo News

## Nagasaki displays Obama's paper crane



Photo taken on 3 September, 2016, shows a paper crane made by US President Barack Obama during his historic visit to Hiroshima in May, which went on display at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum in Nagasaki, the second Japanese city devastated by a US atomic bomb. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NAGASAKI — A paper crane made by US President Barack Obama during his historic visit to Hiroshima in May went on display Saturday in Nagasaki, the second Japanese city hit by US atomic bombing.

The red paper crane, one of four made by the president during his visit, will be exhibited at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum through 30 November, along with a reproduction of a message he wrote in a visitor book of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

The message reads, "We have known the agony of war. Let us now find the

courage, together, to spread peace, and pursue a world without nuclear weapons."

The move came after Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui sounded out Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue about loaning the items during a telephone conversation in June. The Hiroshima museum initially planned to display the cranes until the end of August, but has extended the period until the end of January due to their popularity among visitors.

One of the four cranes is scheduled to be loaned for an atomic bomb exhibition in Chicago in October.—Kyodo News

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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## Chris Brown's lawyer says police found no gun at pop star's home

LOS ANGELES — A lawyer for Chris Brown said on Friday that the pop star cooperated with police after a woman called 911 from his Los Angeles home and that contrary to her claims that he pointed at gun at her, no such weapon was found.

Brown, 27, was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon on Tuesday after the woman, who has not been identified by authorities, called 911 from the home in the early hours that day. He was released on \$250,000 bail that evening and has not been formally charged by Los Angeles prosecutors.

Police have declined to elaborate on the woman's accusations against Brown. *The Los Angeles Times* and TMZ.com have reported that she claimed Brown pointed a gun at her during an argument over a piece of jewelry.

The arrest came more than 12 hours after the woman's call, with police spending much of the day positioned outside

Brown's home in the Tarzana neighborhood in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley before obtaining a warrant to search it.

Attorney Mark Geragos told reporters at a press conference that he was at Brown's home during a lengthy search of the premises and that nothing was found to corroborate the woman's allegations.

"To the best of my knowledge, during the entire time that I was there, there was no gun or guns found in that house whatsoever and no drugs found whatsoever," he said, adding that police had acted professionally.

No jewelry was uncovered matching the description given by the woman, Geragos said.

He described Brown as cooperative with police and said that despite media reports describing a standoff, said that he had advised the singer to remain inside and to insist on officers obtaining a search warrant. —Reuters

## Jessie J beats copyright appeal over smash hit 'Domino'

LONDON — British pop singer Jessie J on Friday persuaded a US appeals court to reject a California songwriter's claim that she stole the melody from one of his songs for her 2011 hit "Domino."

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said Will Loomis did not show that Jessie J, Dr. Luke, Max Martin and other "Domino" writers had access to his 2008 song "Bright Red Chords," and that his copyright was infringed.

Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group and various affiliates were also defendants.

Loomis said he had furnished a copy of his song, recorded in 2009 with his band Loomis and the Lust, to a record executive assigned to "find" and "share" music, and that through her it could have found its way to the "Domino" writers.

He also said Dr. Luke and Martin could have accessed "Bright Red Chords" in 2010 while helping Katy Perry record her "Teenage Dream" album, either from the local music scene or from a former Loomis and the Lust guitarist who had joined Perry's band.

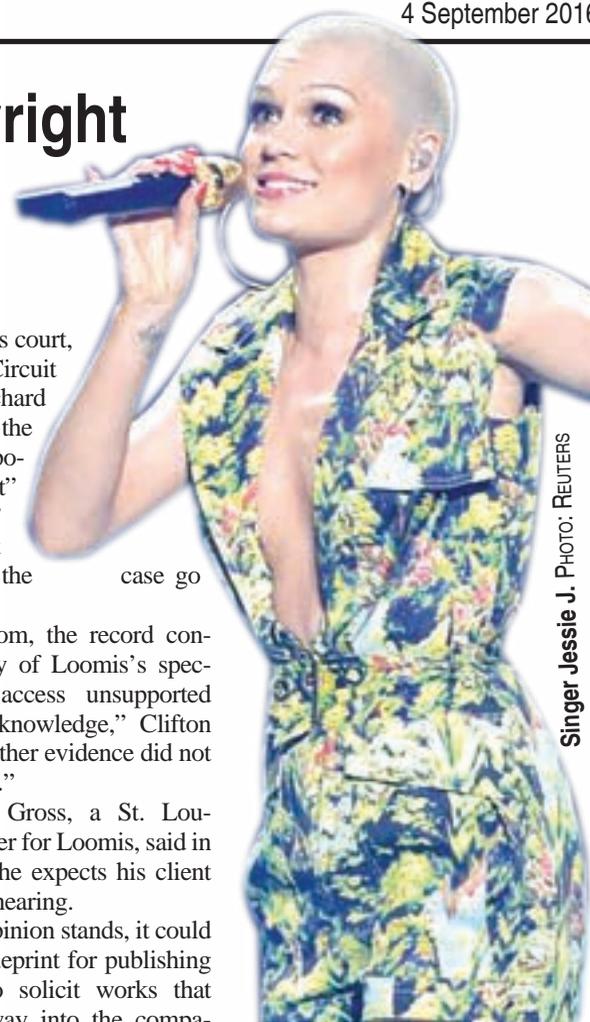
Writing for the Pasadena, Cal-

ifornia appeals court, however, Circuit Judge Richard Clifton said the "bare corporate receipt" of Loomis' song was not enough to let the case go to trial.

"At bottom, the record consists primarily of Loomis's speculations of access unsupported by personal knowledge," Clifton wrote. "The other evidence did not fill the breach."

Michael Gross, a St. Louis-based lawyer for Loomis, said in an interview he expects his client will seek a rehearing.

"If the opinion stands, it could serve as a blueprint for publishing companies to solicit works that make their way into the companies' own music," Gross said. "The copyright rule the court relied on was not meant to create that opportunity." Christine Lepera, a lawyer for the defendants, said they are pleased with the decision, which upheld a November 2013 lower court ruling.



Singer Jessie J. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Domino" peaked at No. 6 on the Billboard Hot 100, and reached No. 1 in the United Kingdom. Jessie J's birth name is Jessica Cornish.

The case is Loomis v Cornish et al, 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 13-57093.—Reuters

## Can't take rape allegations on Nate Parker lightly: Gabrielle Union



Gabrielle Union. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Birth of a Nation actress Gabrielle Union says the film is important for her but she cannot take rape allegations on its director and her co-star Nate Parker lightly.

In an opinion piece for Los Angeles Times, she addressed the accusations against Parker and wrote "As important and ground-breaking as this film is, I cannot take these allegations lightly."

The 43-year-old star, who

portrays a victim of sexual assault in the movie, said she accepted the role because she could connect to it as she was herself raped at gunpoint at the age of 19.

"Since Nate Parker's story was revealed to me, I have found myself in a state of stomach-churning confusion. I took this role because I related to the experience. I also wanted to give a voice to my character, who remains silent throughout the film.

"In her silence, she represents countless black women who have been and continue to be violated.

Women without a voice, without power. Women in general. But black women in particular. I knew I could walk out of our movie and speak to the audience about what it feels like to be a survivor," she further wrote.

The Bring It On actress added that she does not know what actually happened between Parker and the woman, who claimed he raped her. "Regardless of what I think may have happened that night 17 years ago, after reading all 700 pages of the trial transcript, I still don't actually know. Nor does an-

yone who was not in that room."

In 1999, Parker and co-writer Jean Celestin were accused of rape by a female classmate. It was also revealed that the victim killed herself in 2012. Though Parker was acquitted, the case has come back to haunt him close to the release of the movie.

The Birth of a Nation is based on the story of Nat Turner, who led a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia in 1831. Parker is playing the lead in the film. It will hit the theatres on 7 October.—PTI

## Wenders chooses 3D to bring intimacy to talk of women and men

VENICE — Wim Wenders shot "Les Beaux Jours d'Aranjuez", an adaptation of a play by Austrian writer Peter Handke, in 3D to draw viewers more intimately into a dialogue about how men see women and how women see men, the veteran German director said on Thursday.

In the movie, a man and a woman sit in a garden outside Paris

on a summer's day and share their views about love and freedom, weaving through memories and unspoken desires.

Their relationship to each other remains unclear, while the presence of an apple on the garden table between them hints at Eden's Adam and Eve. The film, which premieres at the 73rd Venice film festival later on Thursday, is one of 20 movies competing for the Golden Lion trophy that will be awarded on 10 September.

Wenders, who made his feature film debut in 1970, has won numerous festival awards, including Venice's top prize in 1982.

"The place gave me the desire to shoot it in 3D because I wanted

to take you there," Wenders told a press conference.

"3D is a very tender language and technology, it's a very kind technology, it corresponds to our two eyes if you use it naturally... I don't think I could have included you in any other way," Wenders added. The movie, which stars Reda Kateb and Handke's wife Sophie Semin, is the first film Wenders, 71, shot in French and the choice was deliberate.

"Things when they are said in German, they sound heavy... you see the movie with German subtitles and you realize the lightness the French enjoy every time and every day," he said. "Nothing comes close to it."—Reuters



Director Wim Wenders (C) poses with actors Reda Kateb (L), Sophie Semin and Jens Harzer (R) as they attend the photocall for the movie 'Les Beaux Jours d'Aranjuez' (The Beautiful Days of Aranjuez) at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy on 1 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# In Skopje, residents proud of native Mother Teresa canonisation

SKOPJE — When Mother Teresa is made an official saint of the Roman Catholic Church on Sunday, one city will be particularly proud of its famous native, Skopje.

On the streets of the Macedonian capital, stalls sell postcards and memorabilia with the nun's picture while visitors take in sites dedicated to the Nobel peace prize winner such as a memorial museum and statues.

Of Albanian parents, Mother Teresa was born Gonxha Agnes Bojaxhiu in Skopje, in what was then part of the Ottoman empire

and is now Macedonia, on 26 August, 1910.

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected at Sunday's canonisation service led by Pope Francis in front of St Peter's basilica, which will also be attended by Macedonian government officials.

"I think the whole world respects her," Skopje resident Milorad Ciric said. "She really did great work for the poor and helped as much as she could."

In Skopje, masses and other celebratory events will be held in honour of her canonisation.

Mother Teresa, who

died in 1997, became a nun at the age of 16. She moved to Kolkata, then called Calcutta, in India in 1929 and established her mission in 1950, working to help the destitute.

While she has also has her critics, Mother Teresa is revered by Catholics for her work to help the poor, and was affectionately called the "saint of the gutters".

"She was a woman whose huge contribution cannot be described in words," another Skopje resident, Sotjmen Nasteski, said. "She taught us modesty, humanity."—Reuters



A tapestry picturing Mother Teresa hangs from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, on 1 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Louis Vuitton targets middle-income shoppers with perfume launch

PARIS — Louis Vuitton has launched its first perfume range since the founding merger of its parent LVMH (LVMH.PA) in 1987, targeting middle-income shoppers amid a downturn

in luxury spending.

This week's launch is an important step for the French brand as it tries to strike the delicate balance between increasing its number of more affordable

goods while retaining its cachet.

Until now, shoppers on more modest incomes have only been catered for by Louis Vuitton's key chains and very small leather

goods, costing around 200-300 euros apiece.

But the brand needs to boost sales growth after a sharp slowdown in the past three years, and with little sign of an industry recovery as security fears and geo-political uncertainty hit the tourism flows vital for luxury brands.

Louis Vuitton's collection of seven perfumes, with names including "turbulences" and "matiere noire" or "dark matter," are on sale for around 200 euros (\$224) for a 100 ml bottle.

That is close to the price of niche perfume brands such as By Kilian, which have been enjoying sales growth four to five times higher than big, traditional fragrance providers whose prices cost under 100

euros. Perfume has been more resilient to the industry downturn than some parts of the luxury market, with global sales estimated to have risen 2.9 per cent to about 15 billion euros last year. Within that, sales by niche brands jumped about 15 per cent to around 1 billion euros.

At first, Louis Vuitton will sell the perfumes in only about 180 of its 460 stores. Analysts estimate they could generate 60-80 million euros of sales in the first year.

By comparison, luxury giants such as Chanel and LVMH's Dior, whose products are much more widely distributed, make about 2.5 billion euros a year from perfumes and cosmetics.

Louis Vuitton, which

declined to say how much it has invested in the project, gave star industry "nose" Jacques Cavallier-Belletrud four years to prepare the launch.

The perfumer, who worked for decades with fragrance producer Firmenich, created many commercially successful perfumes including L'Eau d'Issey for Issey Miyake and L'Oreal's (OREP.PA) Poeme for Lancome and Acqua di Gio for Armani.

Some industry analysts said Louis Vuitton took its time with the launch partly out of concern the move could exacerbate its ubiquity problem — the result of having opened too many shops, which dented its perceived exclusivity.

—Reuters



The new collection of bottles of perfume is seen as Louis Vuitton launches seven fragrances created by perfumer Jacques Cavallier, in Paris, France, on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



**Entertainment Channel**

(4-9-2016, Sunday)

<p><b>06 : 00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather Report</li> <li>MRTV Entertainment Music</li> </ul> <p><b>06 : 15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hanthawddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Part-2)</li> </ul> <p>(00:00 Am ~ 06:00 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 00:00 Am)</p> <p>(06:00 Am ~ 08:40 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 08:40 Pm)</p> <p><b>08 : 40 Am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myanmar Movie</li> </ul> <p>(12:00 Pm ~ 04:15 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am ~ 10:00 Am)</p> <p><b>04 : 15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Movie Songs</li> </ul>	<p><b>06 : 30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myanmar Movie</li> </ul> <p><b>08 : 35 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>International Movie</li> </ul> <p><b>10 : 40 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myanmar Video</li> </ul> <p><b>10 : 00 Am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Movie</li> </ul> <p><b>04 : 30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cartoon Movie "Free Birds"</li> </ul>
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From 4-9-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 pm  
To 5-9-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm

# Train Driver's Diary selected as Serbia's Oscar entry

BELGRADE — Milos Radovic's Train Driver's Diary is Serbia's submission for the 89th Academy Award for best foreign language feature-length film, the Academy of Film

Arts and Science of Serbia (AFUN) announced on Friday.

The AFUN expert committee picked Radovic's film from among five entries that met the

set requirements and also included Nikola Ljuca's Humidity, Mirjana Karanovic's A Good Wife, Jug Radivojevic's Darkness and Ivan Jovic's The Healing.

Fourteen of the 19

committee members made the decision in a secret vote, with Train Driver's Diary receiving eight votes, while The Healing and Humidity received four and two votes, respectively.—Tanjung



**mitv Myanmar International**

(4-9-2016 07:00am ~ 5-9-2016 07:00am) MST

<p><b>Today Fresh</b></p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:26 Am Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda</p> <p>07:47 Am Pet Fish Biz</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am Fantastic Villa From Ancient Cultural Land</p> <p>08:48 Am H.E.L.P (10) Elephants are extremely intelligent</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Wonderful Indonesia</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Shrinking Footprints</p>	<p>10:51 Am A Star for Great Achievement</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p><b>Prime Time</b></p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:26 Pm Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture</p> <p>07:44 Pm Colourful Threads</p> <p>07:53 Pm Today Myanmar: YCDC's Efforts for Granting Land Plots</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-2)</p> <p>08:57 Pm [Doctor] [Painter]</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) -Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a>)</p>
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# Nadal fist-pumps way into US Open last 16



Rafael Nadal of Spain.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Man City's Aguero gets three-match ban for violent conduct

LONDON — Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero has been banned for three matches after being found guilty of violent conduct, the Football Association said on Friday.

The Argentine striker elbowed West Ham United defender Winston Reid during Sunday's Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium, which City won 3-1.

He will be unavailable for the derby at rivals Manchester United on 10 September and will also miss City's Premier League clash with Bournemouth and a League Cup third-round tie against Swansea City. "Sergio Aguero will serve a three-match suspension with immediate effect after an FA charge of violent conduct against him was found proven," the FA said in a statement on its website.

"The club denied the charge and submitted further that, if it was to be found proven, the standard punishment would be clearly excessive.

"On finding the charge proven at a hearing today (Friday 2 September 2016), an Independent Regulatory Commission went on to reject the club's further claim to decrease the three-match ban."

Aguero has scored in two of City's three

league games so far this season, and also grabbed a hat-trick against Steaua Bucharest in a Champions League playoff match on 16 August. He has missed Argentina's World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay on Thursday and Venezuela next Tuesday with a calf muscle injury.—  
*Reuters*



PHOTO: REUTERS

slam, racing into the fourth round without dropping a set.

It was vintage Nadal on a warm New York evening, as the energetic Spaniard wore down his 47<sup>th</sup>-ranked opponent with a breathless work rate and a bombardment of stinging forehands.

"I am improving with that shot," Nadal told reporters.

"Everybody knows that is a very important shot for me.

"When I am able to play that shot well, then the court opens a lot."

Nadal, who incurred his wrist injury at the French Open and then missed Wimbledon, showed his form when he reached the semi-fi-

the most important thing.

"I don't know in which kind of level I am.

"Is true that when I had to stop I was playing great. I felt myself ready for the French. "For me is a great news that I am on the tour again and I am playing every day with less pain on the wrist."

Despite the one-sided scoreline, Nadal did his best to keep another large crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium entertained on Friday closing out the match in theatrical style, setting up the winning point with a between-the-legs lob that had fans on their feet.

The 30-year-old had them roaring again seconds later as he danced across the court in a succession of fist-pumps.

"Every victory helps for the confidence, especially when you feel that you played well," smiled Nadal, who will next meet 24<sup>th</sup>-seeded Frenchman Lucas Pouille, a five-set winner over Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut.

"I feel that today I played great tennis for a long time, for a lot of moments on the match."—  
*Reuters*

nals of the singles and won the doubles gold medal at the Rio Olympics last month.

Two weeks later, saying he felt fatigued, Nadal lost his second match at Cincinnati but has certainly appeared re-energised since arriving at Flushing Meadows.

The 14-time grand slam winner concedes he still feels some discomfort in his wrist but it has not affected his performance on the New York hardcourts.

"Still (feel) something but something that is not limiting my game now," said Nadal. "That's

## Rested Djokovic gets another slide at US Open

NEW YORK — Top seed Novak Djokovic cannot seem able to get a match in at the US Open, as the world number one was given another rapid advance when Russian Mikhail Youzhny retired due to a leg injury when trailing 4-2 on Friday.

Youzhny was treated during the changeover at 4-1 in the third-round match at Arthur Ashe Stadium and had his left thigh taped. He won the next game on his serve but could not continue, giving Djokovic a pass into the round of 16.

The Serb, winner of this year's Australian Open and French Open to complete a career grand slam, came into the match off a three-day break due to a walkover into the third round when Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic withdrew.

"It's difficult to pick the words now. I don't think I ever had this kind of situation in my career, where I had a second-round walkover and the third round 30 minutes only," Djokovic said on court before settling in for some practice.

"I'll try to get the positives out of these six games. Obviously I did start very well with a good intensity and I'll try to carry that into the next match."

Defending champion Djokovic will next face either 20<sup>th</sup>-seeded American John Isner or 84<sup>th</sup>-ranked Briton Kyle

Edmund with a berth in the quarter-finals at stake.

Djokovic, who has been bothered in recent months by a nagging wrist injury, won his opening match at Flushing Meadows on Monday, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 over 247<sup>th</sup>-ranked Jerzy Janowicz of Poland and is not expected back on court until Sunday.

The 29-year-old Serb was asked whether the long layoff was to his advantage or detriment.

"Depends at how you look at it," he told reporters.

"Considering the stage of the season, the amount of matches I've played, what I've been

through with my body, I think it's actually good to have some days off and then shorter matches.

"From the other side, sure, as you are approaching second week of the grand slam you want to have match play and you want to have time spent on the centre court before you face one of the top players."

On balance, Djokovic seems content with his situation.

"I'm not too concerned about my game itself. I've worked hard last couple days. Health-wise, I feel much better than I did at the beginning of the tournament," he said. "I'm confident that everything is going in the right direction."—*Reuters*



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after playing Mikhail Youzhny of Russia on day five of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, New York, on 2 September 2016.  
PHOTO: REUTERS