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## President U Htin Kyaw visits 200-acre integrated farm in Toungoo Township

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw visited a 200-acre integrated farm operated by U Than Myint, local farmer of Moegaung village in Toungoo, Bago Region yesterday.

Accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint and Dr Aung Thu, the President met with local farmers from the farm and heard the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) presented by U Than Myint.

Next, a responsible person from a local cooperative society and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation reported to the President on distribution of farming implements, quality strains, farming methods and loans to farmers and other agricultural matters.

Then, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu and Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein reported on progress in the implementation of agricultural services to address labour shortage, works to have access to marketplace for value-added agricultural produce and regional development undertakings.

In his address, the President called for creativity and diligence to bring about a better generation in a shift to agricultural mechanisation.

After the meeting, the President observed SRI-oriented model farmlands and farming implements.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw inspects farming implements during his visit to the 200-acre integrated farm in Toungoo. PHOTO: MNA

## JK Paper plans to increase plantation in Myanmar

MUMBAI — JK Paper is exploring the possibility of enhancing forest plantation in Myanmar to secure its key raw material requirement for operations in India.

The paper industry, which has made an investment of Rs. 20,000 crore in last five years, is hit hard by the high pulp prices in India. Globally, pulp prices have plunged helping companies in China, Indonesia and Korea to export paper at low prices. Though domestic industry is protected with an import duty of 10 per cent, most of these

countries tap into Indian market duty-free or by paying marginal duty as they have signed free trade agreement or bi-lateral treaty.

Harsh Pati Singhania, Managing Director, JK Paper said the company is looking to secure pulp requirement by enhancing plantation in Myanmar as the wait for a dedicated policy on Industrial plantation in India is getting longer.

“We already have forest plantation in Myanmar and we want to increase the coverage rapidly over a period of time.

Import of pulp, paper and allied products at \$4 billion is expected to increase to \$18 billion by 2026 and in the absence of raw material security it would become difficult to add new capacity,” he said.

The industry requires 10 million tonne of wood annually and the supply is pegged at 9 mt. Though paper industry does farm forestry on 90,000 ha annually, the raw material shortage pegged at 1 mt may widen with the growing demand.

The area under JK Paper contract plantation went up by

3.5 per cent to 17,700 ha last fiscal with distribution of 8.13 crore saplings. This has made the company plant more trees than it cuts for captive use.

Of the 29 million hectares of degraded forest land, Singhania said the paper industry has urged the government to allow plantation on 2.5 million hectares for industrial use.

Wood pulp prices in India are about \$150 a tonne while in Brazil and Indonesia it is about \$50 and \$80 a tonne, respectively. This apart, the distance between the pulp plant and

wood sourcing location is about 150-2000 km against the global average of 50-200 km. Given the high logistics cost in India, the paper industry is not able to compete with low cost imports seeping into the country.

Globally, India is the fastest growing market for paper. It registered a growth of seven per cent last fiscal and the demand is expected to touch 27 mt by 2030 from the current level of 27 mt. The industry has to invest Rs. 90,000 crore in next 15 years to meet the growing demand.—*The Hindu*

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves effort to attain membership to OPRC 1990 Convention

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved the country's effort to join the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC 1990) as called for by President U Htin Kyaw.

Five MPs yesterday discussed the country's signing of the OPRC 1990 Convention, with Daw Khin Hnin Thet of Padaung constituency saying that the Convention is aimed at taking prompt measures to combat major incidents or threats of marine oil pollution.

She spoke in support of the country's membership to the convention, stressing that the country could benefit from becoming a member to the convention by establishing measures for dealing with pollution incidents in cooperation with other member



Dr Than Win. PHOTO: MNA

countries. She also spoke of the Convention's reimbursement scheme in the event of a pollution emergency.

According to her, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh have signed the Convention.

The issue of the country's membership to the Convention won parliamentary approval.

The Joint Bill Committee presented the peaceful assembly and peaceful procession bill, for which the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw held different views, with MPs discussing the differences.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw amended the controversial clauses in the bill, with the speaker declaring that the agreed bill would be processed in accordance with the parliament's rules

and regulations.

Commission for Studying, Examining and Reviewing Legal Affairs and Special Cases Vice Chairman Dr Than Win briefed the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on progress made in reviewing the rules and regulations concerning the farmland, the vacant, fallow and virgin land, protection and promotion of farmers' rights, and protection and preservation of ancient buildings.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than declared that the parliament put on record the clarifications given by the vice chairman of the comparative studies of the rules and regulations and their related laws.

The findings will be submitted to Union-level institutions for further processing.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## 143 former citizens have been allowed to resume their citizenship, Union Minister explains to Amyotha Hluttaw

A TOTAL of 143 former citizens have been allowed to resume their Myanmar citizenship in accordance with the law, Labour, Immigration and Population Union Minister U Thein Swe explained to the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday in connection with a query of the possible application for citizenship by former citizens.

The country has received a total of 198 applications submitted by former citizens to resume their citizenship since 2013, the union minister said, adding that the remaining applications would be processed.

The government has introduced a permanent residence system to help former citizens with the resumption of their citizenship and foreign technicians and investors with their business activities in the country. Permanent residency was granted to

264 of 319 foreign applicants from 29 January 2015 to 30 August this year.

Union Minister U Thein Swe pledged his ministry's full cooperation with the parliament in the process of amending the country's citizenship law.

U Khin Maung Lat of the Rakhine State constituency 3 inquired about the possible return of children and ancient objects to the monastic school in Sittwe from which they were taken. In connection with the issue, Home Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe responded that 75 children found malnourished there were taken for medical treatment.

Of them, two children under five died from low birthweight and undernourishment, while 11 were adopted and 22 returned to their parents, the deputy minister said.

The remaining 40 children were transferred to the government's childcare centres in Magway, Yangon, Mandalay and Sittwe. He said no to the handover of the children, stressing that they were considered children in need of care and protection by the state.

In connection with the handover of the ancient objects, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe said 13 Rakhine ancient silver coins were transferred to the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw; a Japanese sword is being kept at the Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum in Sittwe; a pair of gold earrings, a gold hand chain and foreign currency is being kept at the Central Bank of Myanmar and five plots of land have been confiscated as public revenue.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA



U Khin Maung Lat. PHOTO: MNA



U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw



Dr Myint Htway. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Maung Thin. PHOTO: MNA

## Paung Laung football ground to be returned to Pyinmana people

THE Pyithu Hluttaw session continued its 39th day with a question and answer session, the submission of a proposal and parliamentary approval for a proposed law yesterday.

During the Q & A session, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htway replied that the Paung Laung football ground, leased to Nay Pyi Taw FC, a football club, will be handed over to the people of Pyinmana.

An agreement was reached to hand over the football ground to the ministry through the Myanmar Football Federation by the Nay Pyi Taw FC following the stadium lease being terminated, added the Union minister.

Regarding a question over construction works for the Thasi Township People's Hospital, the

Union minister pledged to construct an operation theatre and staff quarters next fiscal year and to build a fence and roads at the hospital this fiscal year.

Next, Dr Maung Thin of Meiktila Constituency submitted a proposal calling on the Union government to hold basic education seminars involving people from all walks of life to assist the process of drafting a basic education law to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Following parliamentary approval of the proposal, the Hluttaw decided to discuss the motion.

Then, the Speaker informed the parliamentarians that the Pyithu Hluttaw received the bill to repeal the Emergency Provisions Act sent back from the Amyotha Hluttaw with no amendments.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## State Counsellor meets with WEF, Open Society Foundation & UNHCR

WHILE in New York, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Prof. Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum-WEF at the Myanmar Permanent Mission Office.

At the meeting, the two representatives exchanged views on framework for the development of the economy in Myanmar.

The State Counsellor was invited to attend the forum to be held in Switzerland next year.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also held talks with Mr George

Soros, Founder and Chairman of the Open Society Foundation and discussed promoting of the education sector in Myanmar.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor met with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

The State Counsellor gave an interview to CNN's Fareed Zakaria, GPS Editorial Producer, in New York, on Thursday.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr George Soros, Founder and Chairman of the Open Society Foundation. PHOTO: MNA

## President's Certificate of Honour presented to Myanmar Now Chief Reporter

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint presented the President's Certificate of Honour to Chief Reporter U Swe Win of the Myanmar Now News Agency for his investigation and reporting of an abuse case of two under-

age maids at the Ava Tailoring in Kyauktada Township, Yangon yesterday.

During the honouring ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union minister elaborated on the purpose of presenting the President's cer-

tificate of honour to the Myanmar Now's Chief Reporter, congratulating his efforts as a journalist who is capable of doing investigative journalism with a spirit of philanthropy in helping people.

While speaking words of thanks, Chief Reporter U Swe Win said that his reporting was an act of humanity, rather than simply part of his job, expressing his view that the presentation of the Certificate of Honour to him shows the new government's loathe of injustice and its true willingness to ensure the rule of law and effective implementation of the law.

Elaborating on the successful reporting of the abuse case, the Chief Reporter said that his access to a closed door meeting led to better understanding of the whole case and compilation of detailed information.

Acknowledging the situation of the media having access to more information than before, he expressed his belief that the new

government is striving for the freedom of media, but pointed out that the case showed the ministries' statements and press releases are not enough to expose abuse.

He called for a situation in which the media is allowed to freely determine and analyse a news event and stressed the need for having access to more information than information that was given at the press conferences and press releases.

Highlighting the importance of information for analysis, which is better than having a ready-made information sheet with around 200 words, he called for a detailed record of a meeting that the media was not allowed to be present at.

For information that cannot be immediately available for various reasons, it should be disclosed after a certain prescribed period, for example two or three months, added the Chief Reporter.

During his words of thanks, the Chief Reporter expressed his

thanks to U Myo Myint Maung, former administrator of Sharbwar village, who arranged to meet with the victims and Investigative Officer Police Inspector Zaw Win Naing of Kyauktada Township Police Station who became deeply involved in investigating the abuse case.

In conclusion, U Swe Win called on the government to provide legal protection to underage workers and maids who have attained the legal age to work and stressed the need for building a mechanism for maids and brokers to register and conduct surprise checks.

He also emphasised the need to bring the full weight of justice against the abusers.

The President's Certificate of Honour says Chief Reporter U Swe Win of the Myanmar Now News Agency has been honoured by the President for his philanthropic work on humanitarian grounds.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint presents the President's Certificate of Honour to Chief Reporter U Swe Win of the Myanmar Now News Agency. PHOTO: MNA

### Credentials presented

U Han Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Spain, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Felipe VI, King of Spain on 22 September 2016 in Madrid.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

### Myanmar ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

DURING the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi deposited the "instrument of Ratification to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)" to Mr Miguel de Serpa Soares, under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs of the United Nations, at the Treaty Event held at the United Nations Headquarters at 4 pm on 21 September 2016.

It was attended by concerned

officials from the United Nations including CTBTO Executive Secretary Dr Lassina Zerbo and Members of the Myanmar delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

Myanmar signed the Treaty on 25 November 1996. At present, a total of 183 states have already signed the Treaty and 166 states have ratified. Myanmar's ratification to the Treaty reflects its firm commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

### Charges brought against six family members accused of abusing girls in Ava tailoring

CHARGES have been filed against six family members of a tailoring business for seriously abusing two teenage girls in Yangon under the human trafficking law, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has filed charges against

three family members, namely Daw Tin Thu Zar, Tin Min Latt, also known as Phike Zal and Su Mon under the law regarding the protection of rights of children.

Out of six members, five, namely Daw Tin Thu Zar, Tin Min Latt, also known as Phike Zal, Ma Su Mon Latt, Yazar Tun and Ko Latt, also known as Mohammad Shafi have been arrested.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has filed charges against the abusers under the country's law regarding the protecting of the rights of children. The six family members accused of the abuse were also charged under Sections 326/325/344/114 of the penal code on Thursday by Kyauktada Township Police Station.—*MNA*

### Vietnamese parliament speaker to visit Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar on Sept 26-29

HANOI — Viet Nam's National Assembly (NA) Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan is expected to pay visits to Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar on Sept. 26-29, according to the NA Committee for External Relations on Friday.

The visits are made at the

invitations of the President of the Lao NA Pany Yathotou, Cambodia's NA President Samdech Heng and Speaker of Myanmar's Union Parliament Mahn Win Khaing Than, respectively. The Vietnamese top legislator will visit Laos on Sept. 26-27, Cambodia

on Sept. 27-28 and Myanmar on Sept. 28-29. In the last leg of her three-nation tour, Ngan is scheduled to attend the 37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw, said the committee.—*Xinhua*

## Yangon-Dala Friendship Bridge to take five years to build

THE CONSTRUCTION Ministry will sign a consultant contract agreement after obtaining approval from the Union government for the Yangon-Dala Bridge project within eight months. There are immediate plans to develop detailed designs for the bridge, including traffic management

The ministry got reviews from the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Union Attorney-General's Office on the contract agreement, said Union Construction Minister U Win Khaing at the second regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw on 20 September.

With the loan granted by Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), the bridge will be constructed across the Yangon River to link local roads in downtown Yangon. The bridge will take five years to build and will be 6,144 ft in length. It is estimated that the new bridge will be finalized in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Upon completion, the bridge will ensure local people in the



The architectural design of Yangon-Dala friendship bridge. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION

townships of Yangon and Ayeyawady can travel smoothly and quickly in and out of their own regions, helping to relieve Yangon's traffic jams.

Dala is located on the Southern bank of the Yangon River across from downtown Yangon. The area has not seen much development. Access

has only been via ferry. The new bridge will link Phonogyi Road in Lanmadaw to Bo Min Yaung Road in Dala. —Myitmakha News Agency

## Immunization to prevent Japanese encephalitis

THE MINISTRY of Health and Sports will launch a vaccination campaign across the nation next year to prevent children from the Japanese encephalitis viral disease.

According to the World Health Organization, the virus is spread by mosquitoes and is related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses. It is the main cause of viral encephalitis in many countries of Asia, with an estimated 68,000 clinical cases every year.

Details of the new programme, including target groups and the exact month to conduct the campaign, will be announced later, a member of the Public Health Department said, urging parents to continue their involvement in the activity. The ministry will add the new vaccine for the JE virus in its regular immunization schedules starting 2017 as JE disease is recognized as a public health issue.

“We welcome the ministry's new vaccination campaign to protect our children from dangerous diseases,” said Daw Khin Khin Soe, a resident from North Dagon Township in Yangon, who wishes the healthcare providers to inform the public of vaccination side effects.

According to the WHO, 24 countries in the WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions have endemic JEV transmission, exposing more than 3 billion people to risks of infection.—Myitmakha News Agency

## Raising money for charity through music album

FOUNDED by young music lovers, Magicianz Band will distribute its album entitled “We Are the Magicianz” before the end of this month, with a focus on raising money for charity,

its members say. The new album includes nine rock songs for young people created by the team, with plans to distribute on 27 September through The Sun Music Production and to sell at

an album price of K1,500.

“We founded the band on 9 September 2015. We produced the new album to mark our first anniversary,” said Hmu The Thet, the vocalist for Magicianz

Band. The musical team has built in plans of philanthropy by using half of the proceeds from selling of the new album to provide necessary assistance to people in need.—Myitmakha News Agency

## Crime NEWS

### Yaba pills seized in Tamu and Hopong towns



Nwin Hswin with Yan Kho Lat. PHOTO: WIN NAING (TAMU)

AN anti-narcotics squad comprising policemen from Boak Kan police station seized yaba from

a motorcycle rider on the road to Kalay town, Tamu township on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, po-

lice stopped and searched the rider, identified as one Nwin Hswin with Yan Kho Lat on board. The search revealed 4,000 yaba pills.

On the same day, police from Hopong Myoma police station raided the home of one Htway Maunag in Myo Oo ward, Nam Khok village, Hopong township. Police there seized 485 yaba pills.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Hopong Myoma police station seized 306 yaba pills from one Maung Pau who was riding a motorcycle on Nam Khok- San Phoo village road, Nam Kham village, Hopong township. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Win Naing (Tamu)

### Car accident occurs in Kyaukdaga

A VEHICLE accident occurred on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw highway in Kyaukdaga township, Bago region on Thursday.

The vehicle, en route to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon, was being driven by one Soe Moe Win, 40, from Patheingyi town when

the vehicle collided with the barrier in the middle of the road between mileposts 91/0-1 after the driver lost control. No one was injured in the accident but the vehicle was badly damaged. The driver has been charged by police.—Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

### Yaba seized in Lashio

A LOCAL anti-drug squad in Lashio town seized yaba from a motorcycle rider at the Nawngkhio entrance gate yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped one Lay Ko and found 2,900 yaba pills at milepost 80/4.

Similarly, police from Pyin-Oo-Lwin seized 1,075 yaba pills

from motorcycle rider Tun Kyaw with Aung Tun on board on Pyin-Oo-Lwin – Moghok road, Nyaung Gong village entrance gate, Pyin-Oo-Lwin township. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

### Group of drug users arrested in Kawthaung

POLICE arrested six men who were caught using illegal drugs in a home in Aye Yait Nyein ward, Kawthaung town on Tuesday.

According to an investigation, police searched the home of

Soe Thiha alias Ko Ko Naing and found six people using and selling drugs on the premises.

Police identified the suspects as Tay Zar Aung alias Wah Tot, Aung Aung, Kyaw Zin Htay, Aung Zaw Oo and Myo

Lwin. Police also found 10 yaba pills and ‘drug related items’ at home.

The police have taken action against all suspects under Anti-Narcotic Drugs Law.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



A criminal suspect seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

# LOCAL Business

## MIC has approved 21 foreign direct investment projects

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar investment Commission has approved 21 foreign direct investment projects worth US\$ 217.644 million within two months, it has been learned.

The investments will be made in 17 industrial sector projects, one transportation and communication sector project, one livestock and fisheries sector project, one service sector project and one energy sector project. These kinds of foreign direct investment projects create job opportunities for local people, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Moreover, the Myanmar investment Commission also approved seven local investments worth US\$ 40.387 million and K61,417.373 million. The seven local investment projects include two in the industrial sector, one

in the transportation sector, one in the livestock sectors, one in the agricultural sector and two in the service sector. These local investments created a total of 1,452 jobs for local workers, according to the DICA.

“Our MIC approves the investments on the basis of economic efficiency, the ability to create job opportunities for local people, accountability and environmental impact assessments (EIA),” said U Aung Naing Oo, director-general of the DICA.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approved 38 foreign investment projects worth US\$ 383.877 million in September. Moreover, the MIC permitted 21 local investment projects amounting to US\$ 96.059 million and K169,080.395 million, according to the DICA. China is the top foreign investor with investments totaling US\$ 18,112.755 million in Myanmar.

## Not a single application made for import license for over five-tonne vehicles

NO one has yet applied for an import license to bring in over five-tonne vehicles, although the government grants free taxes for the parking of five tonne and above vehicles in Yangon Region, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Recently, the Yangon region government allowed tax free park-

ing for vehicles weighing five-tonnes and above, said an official from the MIC.

The government granted license to import over 28,000 small vehicles, over 2,300 buses, over 23,200 trucks and over 1,600 heavy machines between April and August this year. —*Min Thu*

## GE expresses commitment to helping government achieve electrification target, suggests burning more coal

GENERAL Electric is hoping to upgrade its existing gas power plants and introduce new power projects with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and independent power producers to help the government achieve its target of 100 per cent electrification by 2030, it has been learnt.

GE leaders from Gas Power Systems and Hydropower, who are participating in the ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, encouraged continued development of these forms of generation given the critical role they play in Myanmar's energy mix.

Electricity demand in Myan-

mar has tripled over the past decade and grows on an average of 15 per cent every year.

Myanmar's domestic gas is also an important topic at the AEBF as the country is a net exporter of gas. In recent years, natural gas has been one of the largest sources of export revenue, according to a statement released at the summit.

Universal electricity access by 2030 will require more than double the current annual rate of connections with 500,000 new connections per year from 2020 onward.

While coal power produces 40 per cent of the world's electricity, Myanmar only produces

3 per cent.

A key topic of discussion at the AEBF is how coal fired power could help Myanmar diversify its energy mix.

“Myanmar's installed base is dominated by hydro and gas power, making up 97 per cent of all power generation in the country,” said Armir Mujzinovic, Executive Product Leader with GE Steam Power Systems and speaker at the AEBF.

“Developing a more balanced and reliable energy mix is crucial for Myanmar's socio-economic development and we see a lot of potential for coal's ability to improve the country's energy

## 312 outbound tour licenses issued by MoHT over past nine months

SINCE its initiation in December 2015, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has issued a total of 312 outbound tour licenses to operators within the past nine months, said its spokesperson.

The country's tourism industry has received greater interest from investors thanks to the country's economic reforms.

To promote the country's tourism industry, the ministry launched the online system for issuing four kinds of licenses concerning travel business in the first week of July including licenses for hotels and guests houses, travelling, tour guides and transportation related to tourism.

Under the existing law, anyone who carries out the travel services without permission from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism shall face up to a K50,000 fine or a three-year jail term or both.



A tourist family seen in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

By the end of August, the ministry permitted nearly 1,600 transport licenses, almost 4,000 tour guide licenses and 2,705 local tour guide licenses.

The country received over 4.6 million international visitors last fiscal year. It has increased

by 52 per cent compared with 2014. The ministry estimates that the number will increase to 5.5 million this FY.

International tourist arrivals in Myanmar are likely to reach over 7 million by 2020, according to the ministry.—*Kyu Kyu*

## Equal opportunity to be provided to local, foreign investors

THE NEW investment law will give equal opportunity to both local and foreign investors, according to Planning and Finance Ministry.

International investors are now monitoring the implementation of Myanmar's economic policies. This is the reason why the country received a small amount of foreign direct investment in the term of the current government, said a spokesperson of the Plan-

ning and Finance Ministry.

The direct investment is likely to increase in the future, he added.

The current Myanmar Investment Law enacted in 2012 provides exemptions and relief on income tax and commercial tax for import of capital goods only to foreign investors. This is the main reason for the policy makers amending both the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Citi-

zen Investment Law.

The new investment law will provide equal treatment to investors from home and abroad, U Kyaw Win, Union minister for planning and finance, said at the Myanmar Global Investment Forum on 13 September.

The ministry is planning to announce details of the government's economic policies this month.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2016 in progress. PHOTO BY SUPPLIED

security in an efficient and clean way,” he added.

At the AEBF, GE Energy Connections Sales Executive Paul English discussed how the business now hopes to help My-

anmar's energy implementation.

“We look forward to identifying actionable partnership and collaboration opportunities with the MOEE moving forward,” said Mr English.—*GNLM*

# South Korea says time to reconsider North Korea's UN membership

UNITED NATIONS — South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se accused North Korea on Thursday of “totally ridiculing” the authority of the United Nations through its nuclear and missile tests and said it was time to reconsider whether it was qualified for UN membership.

In an address to the annual United Nations General Assembly, Yun said the UN security Council should adopt “stronger, comprehensive” sanctions on North Korea after its fifth nuclear test on 9 September and close loopholes in existing measures.

“North Korea’s repeated violations and non-compliance of Security Council resolutions and international norms is unprecedented and has no parallel in the history of the UN,” Yun said.

“North Korea is totally



North Korean leader Kim Jung Un supervises a demonstration of a new rocket engine for the geo-stationary satellite at the Sohae Space Centre in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ridiculing the authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council,” he said.

“Therefore, I believe it is high time to seriously reconsider whether North Korea is qualified as a

peace-loving UN member, as many countries are already questioning.”

Yun said North Ko-

rea had not only advanced its nuclear and missile capacity, but publicly threatened to use those weapons preemptively.

He said it was the “last chance” to put a brake on its nuclear ambitions.

Yun also called for action against North Korea’s violations of the rights of its own people, and said there should be greater focus on North Korean workers abroad and the possible diversion of their wages to weapons programmes.

Discussions are already under way on a possible new UN sanctions resolution on North Korea after its latest nuclear test.

Analysts and diplomats say much depends on China’s attitude.

China is North Korea’s main ally, but has been angered by its repeated missile and nuclear tests and backed tough UN sanctions on Pyongyang in March.

At the same time, it has repeatedly called for a return to international talks to resolve the issue, in spite of the scepticism of other world powers.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told the General Assembly on Wednesday countries must remain committed to denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, while seeking a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue.

The United States said Li and US President Barack Obama agreed in New York on Monday to step up cooperation in the UN Security Council and in law enforcement channels.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Wednesday the threat posed by North Korea was “substantially more serious” than in the past and demanded an “entirely distinct” response.—Reuters

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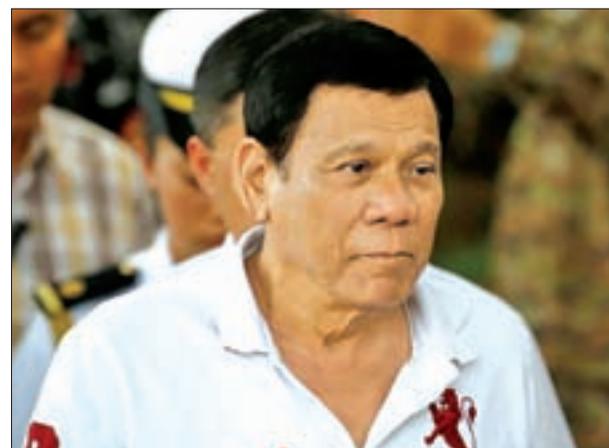
## Philippines seeks Duterte visits to Japan, China next month

MANILA — Diplomats in the Philippines are in talks with counterparts in Japan and China to arrange visits for their controversial President Rodrigo Duterte at the end of next month, officials in Manila said on Friday.

Dates were still being worked out for the proposed trips by the outspoken leader, several officials said, remaining anonymous because they were not authorised to speak to media.

A Japanese foreign ministry official confirmed plans were being made. There was no immediate response from China.

Philippine relations with Japan are warm but those with China have long been frosty over territorial wrangles in the South China Sea. Duterte has repeatedly said conflict was pointless and he wants to get along and do business with Beijing. Some analysts believe Duterte’s uncharacteristic verbal restraint towards China, in contrast to his stinging



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte arrives at the military's Camp Tecson to talk to soldiers in San Miguel, Bulacan in northern Philippines, on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

rebukes of the United States, United Nations and European Union, shows he is hedging in pursuit of his goal of an independent foreign policy and reducing reliance on former colonial ruler Washington. China and the Philippines are trying to find a way to break the ice after a verdict by an arbitral court in The Hague in July invalidated China’s claims to most

of the South China Sea and gave Manila the legal high ground in the dispute.

During a speech on Thursday Duterte said he would go to China this year and, without elaborating, told Chinese businessmen: “you will see me often”.

He reiterated he would not deviate from the court ruling but would seek a way out of a four-year deadlock

at the disputed Scarborough Shoal and for China’s coastguard to let Filipino fish there unimpeded. The arbitration panel ruled that no one country can legally control that shoal. A source in the Duterte’s office said it was possible former president Fidel Ramos, his new China envoy, could visit as early as next week to lay the groundwork for talks.

The relationship with Japan is far less complicated and Tokyo has agreed to provide 10 coastguard vessels to Manila to support its maritime security efforts.

Japan, a major investor across Southeast Asia, has been providing coastguard training and ships also to Viet Nam, another country at odds with China over its maritime assertiveness.

The proposed October visits would be among Duterte’s first as president in what has been a colourful, at times dramatic first three months in office.—Reuters

## Twenty-seven bodies recovered, twenty-two still missing in floods, landslides in western Indonesia

JAKARTA — Rescuers have recovered 27 bodies and are searching for 22 missing persons after flashfloods and landslides struck West Java province in western Indonesia on Wednesday and Tuesday, a spokesman

from the national disaster agency said on Friday.

The flashfloods in Garut district have left 951 houses damaged, swept by currents of rivers, and submerged by mud and waters, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. A total of

1,600 personnel, comprising soldiers, police and those from local search and rescue office, disaster agency office and Red Cross are taking part in the search and rescue operation for affected-people, Sutopo told Xinhua via

phone.

One helicopter is combing the areas along the two rivers, whose waters overflowed banks after heavy downpours earlier on Wednesday to find the victims, he added.—Xinhua

# Japan, Cuba vow to boost economic ties with more investment

HAVANA — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Cuban President Raul Castro agreed on Thursday to expand bilateral economic ties through increased Japanese investment in the Caribbean country and the cancellation of a major part of the debt it owes Japan.

During a meeting in Havana, Abe, who became the first Japanese prime minister to visit Cuba, also unveiled grants worth about 1.3 billion yen (\$12.9 million) in medical aid to the country, according to Japanese officials.

Abe referred to a recent bilateral agreement for Japan to waive 120 billion yen of a 180 billion yen debt that Cuba owes Japan, the officials said.

Given that Cuba has a friendly relationship with North Korea, Abe told Castro that Pyongyang's repeated ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests, including its fifth and largest nuclear test earlier this month, have raised the level of threat to the region and beyond.

He also sought Havana's cooperation in addressing the issue of Pyongyang's abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s.

Abe's visit came as the re-



Cuba's President Raul Castro (C) and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) review the honour guard during an official reception ceremony at Havana's Revolution Palace, Cuba, on 22 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States last year following a 54-year freeze has prompted other countries to boost relations with Havana.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

is also planning to travel to Cuba later this month.

In the talks, Abe and Castro agreed to convene a deputy ministerial-level meeting of government officials and business leaders from the two countries in

November in Tokyo to discuss specific investment projects to be launched in Cuba, according to the officials.

To facilitate implementation of Japan's aid to Cuba, Abe conveyed a plan to set up an office

of the government-backed Japan International Cooperation Agency in the country, they said.

Abe is hoping that his trip will encourage Japanese companies to invest in Cuba, whose major trading partners are Venezuela, China, Canada and Spain.

As of 2016, a total of about 700 foreign companies are operating in Cuba, of which 18 are Japanese, according to data from Japan's Foreign Ministry.

The two leaders affirmed cooperation in the medical area. With the 1.3 billion yen aid, Cuba will procure medical equipment.

They also agreed to launch a study to set up a centre in Cuba to train medical professionals.

Abe told Castro that with recent escalated provocations, North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons development programmes have become a threat to peace and stability in East Asia.

Prior to the talks with Castro, Abe met with former President Fidel Castro, Raul's elder brother and leader of Cuba's 1959 revolution.

Abe is on a two-day visit to Cuba after attending the UN General Assembly and related meetings in New York.—*Kyodo News*

## Bomb kills three Thai police officers in southern ambush

BANGKOK — Three Thai policemen were killed and two wounded on Friday in a bomb and gun attack in the southern province of Yala where Muslim separatists have been waging a simmering insurgency against the state.

The attack came just over a month after a series of bombs in three of Thailand's main tourist towns killed four people and wounding dozens and raised fears the insurgents were expanding their fight to tourist targets.

Police were travelling in two pick-up trucks when the first vehicle was blown up by a road-side bomb, police Lieutenant Colonel Chamnan Bhutpakdee told Reuters.

"The assailants detonated the bomb when the truck was passing over, instantly killing the three officers," he said.

Insurgents then opened fire

on the second vehicle, wounding two officers, Chamnan said. One of them was in critical condition.

Yala, along with Pattani and Narathiwat, are Muslim-majority provinces in mostly Buddhist Thailand's deep south.

Insurgency has plagued the ethnic Malay region for decades but it intensified in 2004. Since then, more than 6,500 people have been killed, according to the Deep South Watch monitoring group.

The International Crisis Group (ICG) think-tank warned in a report this week that the August attacks showed "a clear shift, and apparent decision to expand the conflict" that has been largely confined to the three southern-most provinces.

Talks with the insurgents began in 2013 under then Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra but stalled after the military overthrew

her government in 2014.

But early this month, another round was held in Malaysia between a separatist umbrella group and the Thai government but achieved no breakthrough.

The ICG said the government was only interested in a "semblance of dialogue" and opposed any devolution of power while the insurgents had not put forward a platform for talks.

The result was stalemate that neither side felt sufficient urgency to overcome, even after last month's bombs highlighted the militants' capacity to inflict damage to lives and the economy, it said. Thailand has proposed building a wall along its 640-km (398-mile) southern border to stop the insurgents slipping back and forth into Malaysia, which analysts say they use as a safe area to plan attacks.—*Reuters*

## Indonesia catches two Chinese vessels illegally fishing off Natuna

JAKARTA — Indonesia has caught two Chinese vessels illegally fishing in waters around the Natuna Islands, in the first case of its kind since an arbitration court ruled that Beijing's claim to almost the entire South China Sea is invalid, Indonesian authorities said on Thursday.

"Recently, police caught two

Chinese vessels in Natuna," said Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Susi Pudjiastuti, without giving further details.

She said that there have been many foreign vessels carrying out illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing around Natuna, with 30 caught in Indonesian territorial waters in the last

six months alone.

China's claim to the South China Sea overlaps with part of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone around the Natuna Islands. Its claim to that area, and the rest of the sea, was ruled by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague to have no legal basis.—*Kyodo News*

## UN agency snubs Taiwan, recognising Beijing's 'one China'

MONTREAL/TAIPEI — A UN aviation agency has snubbed Taiwan by not inviting it to its assembly in Canada, the latest sign of pressure China is bringing to bear on the new independence-leaning government of an island it views as a renegade province.

Diplomatically isolated Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, which recognises "one China" centred on Beijing. China, in turn, sees self-ruled Taiwan as fit to be taken back by force if necessary, particularly if it makes moves toward independence.

Since May, when President Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party, which traditionally favours independence from the mainland, took power in Taiwan, China has suspended official communication channels.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said arrangements for the assembly, scheduled for 27 September to 7 October in Montreal, did not follow the pattern ahead of a meeting in 2013, when China had asked for Taiwan to be invited.

"ICAO follows the United Nations' 'One China' policy," the agency's communications chief, Anthony Philbin, told

Reuters in an email.

"While arrangements had been made for their attendance at the last (38<sup>th</sup>) session of the assembly, there are no such arrangements for this one."

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) said it had approached China about the issue in early August with a "pragmatic and positive" attitude, but was "flatly rejected".

"We solemnly call on China to open its heart and think seriously as it may face serious consequences for its one-sided actions," it said in a statement.

Taiwan Foreign Minister David Lee told reporters diplomacy had never been an easy task for Taiwan, formally known as the "Republic of China".

"In the foreseeable future, I am not expecting this to change substantially," he said.

China's refusal to let Taiwan attend the meeting comes as China pressures Tsai to concede to Beijing's interpretation of the one China principle, which includes Taiwan as part of China.

China has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since 1949, when Mao Zedong's Communist forces won the Chinese civil war and Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the island.—*Reuters*

# Opinion

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

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

## Think before you speak

Kyaw Thura

**S**PEAK in such a way that others love to listen to you. Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you, so goes a famous but anonymous quote.

The relationship between the authorities and the press has always been at the centre of public attention simply because every news media can reach a wider readership through a single news report. It is undeniable that people are curious by na-

ture. At an outbreak of any newsworthy event, readers will turn to media platforms to be kept informed of any investigation in progress. After all, reporters seek information to write the news for their readership.

In this age of information technology, the news can spread like wildfire. It is, therefore, necessary for officials who are in frequent contacts with reporters to be polite and profes-

sional in dealing with media inquiries. It is also important for them to improve their communication skills in order to avoid making inappropriate comments during the course of a press conference. Inaccurate information and angry comments will not only damage the image of the officials concerned, but also undermine the credibility of the organisations they represent.

It is absolutely impera-

tive that officials show due respect for reporters at every media interview and vice versa. In addition, officials should keep in mind that they are not responding to the reporters' inquiries during the course of any media interview. In reality, they are informing the whole readership of a specific case through media platforms. In other words, the information they provide is valuable to reporters and the general public as well.

# A PLACE OF FANTASTIC CREATURES AND FANCIFUL CREATIONS

Nwe Nwe Tun



**O**ur group began the second day with a pick up from the hotel we stayed at in Hanoi to visit Bai Dinh pagoda and Trang An, eco-tourism attraction area in Ninh Binh 120kms away from south of Hanoi. The province is surrounded by Hoa Binh and Ha Nam to the North; Nam Dinh to the East and Thanh Hoa to the West and South.

This province is surrounded by rocky mountains in the West and Northwest with coastal areas in the East and South. This is a tropical region with monsoon climate. The best time to visit Binh Ninh falls between November and April of a year which is the dry season. It is worth mentioning that Ninh Binh was the ancient capital of Viet Nam in the 10th century and it is also a venue of sacred relics of Buddha that date back to 1000 years.

First, we visited Bai Dinh Pagoda, the bearing magnificent massive architecture, and a deep traditional identity, which has emerged as a must-see destination of Ninh Binh province in Viet Nam. Bai Dinh Pagoda is also one of the places of tourist attraction, and is located on an area of 539 hectares. In fact, it is a religious complex of both ancient and new pagodas with a wonderful panoramic view.

Buddha Sanctuary place of Bai Dinh Pagoda is a large temple complex which is known for many ancient Asian cultural heritages, and also for the Asia's largest gilded bronze statue of Buddha inside the temple. There are more than 1,000 steps to the temple on the top, and on the platforms between the stairs lie there the statues of 500 Arahats. The corridor to the temple on the top of the mountain is said to be the longest in Asia.

We paid homage to Lord Buddha and made an earnest wish we were be here the next time. The gilded bronze Buddha statue is 10 metres tall and weighs 100 tonnes. This statue was cast by the pure bronze bought from Russia. It is said to have been cast and installed by the famous artisans of Y Yen,

Nam Dinh. Moreover, there are several national handicrafts in this temple such as three largest horizontal lacquered boards (hoành phi) and three biggest "Cua Vong" (a kind of door which is sophisticatedly sculpted and engraved). In Tam The Temple, there are three Tam The statues representing the past, the present and the future. Each statue is 12 metres high and weighs 100 tonnes.

Another special feature in Bai Dinh pagoda is "Great Bell" which weighs 36 tonnes and is located in Bell Tower. In addition, there is a 70-tonne bronze drum on the floor of the Tower. What's more, coming to Bai Dinh pagoda, visitors have a chance to see the biggest Arimetteyya Bodhisatta statue in Bodhisatta Temple. This statue looks so marvelous with thousand hands and eyes to present the protection and universal salvation for common people.

Furthermore, visitors will be surprised at the collection of 500 Arahat statues on the hill on the right-hand side of Phap Chu Temple. The 500 Arahat statues made of marbles are placed along the two sides of the corridors leading up to other structures of the pagoda complex. Each statue, from 2 to 2.5 metres in height, 2 to 2.5 tonnes in weight, renders unique facial expression and posture that is not expressed by the other. No doubt, Bai Dinh pagoda is a masterpiece of both nature and men and it is the pride of Vietnamese people in terms of unique architecture, culture and historical value.

Bai Dinh Pagoda Mountain is 200m high. It lies between a mountain and a plain with an area of nearly 150,000 square metres. Bai Dinh Pagoda complex was arranged in five layers upward, including a temple's inner Three-Entrance Gate, a bell tower, a temple dedicated to Bodhisatta Arimetteyya, Phap Chu Temple devoted to the Sakyamuni Buddha, and Tam The Temple dedicated to Buddha. The Three-Entrance Gate is followed by the bell tower, built in the octagonal shape with

three-layer curved roof.

Bai Dinh Pagoda is famous for holding several records. So far, it has had eight records recognized as follows: Biggest gilt Buddha Sakyamuni statue in Asia : the 100-tonne statue of Sakyamuni Buddha in Phap Chu Temple; Biggest bronze statue of Buddha in Southeast Asia: the 100-tonne statue of Arimetteyya Bodhisatta; Biggest bronze bell in Viet Nam: the 36-tonne bronze bell in the bell tower; Largest pagoda area in Viet Nam: 539 hectares; Longest corridor with 500 Arahat statues: two wooden corridors with a total length of 3,400 metres; Largest number of Arahat statues in Viet Nam: 500 marble Arahat statues; Largest Ngoc (pearl) Well in Viet Nam: 30 metres in diameter, 6 metres in depth; Largest number of Bodhi trees in Viet Nam: 100 Bodhi trees.

What makes Bai Dinh pagoda different is its architecture of the dark brown, dome-shaped, curved tail of a phoenix. The architecture is not like rough straight strokes of the Chinese pagodas. Detailed, decorated pagoda is unique in architecture bearing the stamp of the famous traditional villages in Viet Nam.

Upon return from Bai Dinh Pagoda, we had lunch with some special dishes. Among those specialties, Ninh Binh's chamois meat (lamb) is the most famous and unique that gourmets may find no other place offering more delicious dishes made from goat in this country. The reason is all goats are fed naturally on limestone mountains that make their meat more firm than goats in other regions. Those dishes are at their best taste when eating with the local fresh leaf like đing lăng leaf, mo leaf or sung leaf as additional ingredients.

After lunch, we left for the Trang An Grottoes to take an amazing boat trip along the romantic riverside. Trang An, a place of eco tourism attraction, located in the eastern Ninh Binh, features many beautiful caves and great scenery of mountains and rivers.

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Vice Senior General Soe Win receives Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman. PHOTO: MNA

## Deputy C-in-C of Defence Services meets with Bangladeshi Ambassador

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, the two representatives exchanged views on

matters relating to further relations and exchange of information between the two Defence Services, ensuring border security and stability, anti-drug activities and measures to combat the involvement of armed insurgents in the drug trade and cooperation programmes including road

transport projects that can benefit the two nations.

Also present were senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Defense Attaché Brigadier General Md. Mahbulul Haque.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Japan to offer MBA scholarships for UMFCCI members

JAPAN will offer Master of Business Administration (MBA) scholarships for the members of UMFCCI and its associations under the JDS program for Human Resource Development Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. Those who meet the criteria can apply for the scholarship at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI), it is learnt.

The scholarship courses include Economic/ Business Administration, Master of Business Administration and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Those who win the scholarships will be able to attend the International University of Japan

(IUJ) and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) with 100 per cent of financial aid provided by Japan's government.

The applicants must be a Myanmar citizen between the ages of 22 and 40. They have to be a member or staff of UMFC-CI or its affiliated associations. The applicants will have at least two years of experience at full-time jobs. They will attend the course on leave and will return to work upon their return. The applicants must be degree holders with a GPA above 3.0. English language skills are also required, with a TOEFL 500 or equivalent certificate. A health certificate is also required. Those who are attending other universities under

scholarship and those who have already received Master Degrees are not eligible. Upon they return, they must work for their association for at least one year.

Those who meet the above criteria can apply at UMFC-CI by 23rd September with a CV form, a membership certificate of the association or the copy of the recommendation from the companies to the members of UM-FCCI, a copy of a passport or national registration card (NRC) and three photos, it is learnt.

For further information call UMFC-CI 01-2314344 ~ 49 (extension number 133 and 134) and 09-5099234.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



## Authorities to provide US\$1 billion worth of disaster aid to farmers in Sagaing Region

SAGAING Region authorities will provide over K1.3 billion worth of cash assistance to farmers, who lost their crops during natural disasters including severe floods in April and May.

Crop growers in 12 townships in Sagaing Region, including Katha, Htigyaing, Phaungpyin, Ayadaw, Wetlet, KhinU, Depayin, YeU, Kantbalu, Homa-lin and Kawlin, will soon receive disaster aid provided by regional governments from the Union budget, said U Nay Zaw Aung, deputy head of the township administration office.

A total of 36,258-acre of farmland with 12 kinds of crops

under cultivation were badly destroyed by the natural disasters between April and May in Sagaing Region.

Regional authorities on Tuesday gathered in Katha Township to implement the cash aid programme as quickly as possible through special teams organised by relevant heads of the townships.

“I spent K50,000 on buying one basket of groundnut species last season and lost three acres of the winter crops during the flood in April,” said Ko Tun Tun, a peanut grower in Katha Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung is welcomed by Mr Omar Eidheh M Alharthi, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Yangon on his arrival at the reception to mark the National Day of Saudi Arabia in Yangon on 23 September, 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## A place of fantastic creatures . . .



>> From page 8

Covering an area of nearly 2,000 hectares, the Trang An beautiful landscape site is scattered with karst topography such as limestone mountains, caves and lakes. Particularly, the Trang An complex is one of the province's most attractive destinations. It is a UNESCO recognized world natural heritage.

You will be amazed by a neglected area while having sampan boat trip through cave chains such as Sang Cave, Toi Cave, Ba Giot Cave, Sinh Cave, etc. You will have mysterious views of the so-called “inland version of Halong Bay.” So, Trang An is also known as Ha Long on the land around the many

countries in the world.

Trang An is compounded with 31 valleys and 50 cross-water caves. Trang An is also home to 600 different species of flora and over 200 species of fauna, many of them being rare and endangered. If you are lucky enough, you can sometimes see mischievous monkeys. Rowing through Trang An Grottoes is one kind of experience. The thunderous silence of the highlands is broken only by the sound of birds chirping and the oars stirring the clear water. Look closely as you float to see the wild white goats grazing on the forested mountains that rise up from the water. The tide-mark is still on the rocks about 2m above the

water, and on the higher mountain walls the erosion has carved some strange shapes in the caves. Trang An Grottoes is truly one of the most beautiful sights in Viet Nam.

This place is wonderful! We conducted the boat trip around 3 pm. There were still many other tourists from different countries. You will get a 3 hour boat trip for that. Just four persons can ride on the boats. During the trip, there are several temples and stops; you can choose if you want to get out around there. The scenery of Trang An is stunning, with lots of caves. Definitely a place worth visiting! After the boat trip, we returned to hotel in Ninh Binh.

*To be continued*

# UK may not need two years to get EU divorce deal — Johnson

NEW YORK — Britain expects to start the divorce procedure to leave the European Union early next year and may not need two years to negotiate a deal, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Thursday.

London is under pressure from fellow EU members to invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, which triggers the start of the exit from the bloc. After that, Britain will have two years to negotiate a deal.

Aides to Prime Minister Theresa May have suggested she hopes to trigger the procedure early next year to assuage any fears in her ruling Conservative Party and among millions of British voters that their decision to leave will not be heeded promptly.

But some lawmakers and government officials say the government has not had time to form a clear negotiating stance and that, by triggering proceedings too early, Britain may land a poor deal.

Johnson, speaking to Sky News television in New York, said Britain was already talking to its fellow members about future ties.

"What we're doing is talking to our European friends and partners now in the expectation that, by the early part of next year, you will see an Article 50 letter, we will invoke that, and in that letter I'm sure we will be setting out some parameters for how we propose to take this forward," Johnson told Sky News television in New York.

"You invoke Article 50 in the early part of next year. You have two years to pull it off. I don't actu-



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson speaks at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to address the situation in the Middle East during the General Assembly for the 71st session of the UN General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, US, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ally think we will necessarily need to spend a full two years but let's see how we go."

Some officials and politicians say that the unprecedented negotiations will take much longer than two years.

May has promised to deliver a "unique deal" for Britain — to get trade deals on good terms while limiting immigration, a combination ruled out by European leaders, who say free trade is only possible with free movement of people. Johnson, a former London mayor who was one of the most prominent campaigners to leave the EU, said the bloc's stance that there was an "automatic trade-off between what they call access to the single market and free movement of people" was "complete baloney".

"What I reject is the idea is that there is some automatic link (between trade and migration), and this particularly applies to the negotiation with the EU," Johnson said.

"The two things have nothing to do with each other. We should go for a jumbo free-trade deal and take back control of our immigration policy."

He also said gaining control over migration did not mean that Britain was going to be "hauling up the drawbridge or slamming the gates" on those wanting to work in Britain, which many businesses fear. "What we are going to do is take back control," he said, using the oft-repeated catchphrase of Britain's "Leave" campaign. —Reuters

## Syria toxic gas inquiry report delayed; France, Britain urge UN action

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council has given an international inquiry five more weeks to complete its report on who is to blame for toxic gas attacks in Syria as UN chief Ban Ki-moon, France, Britain and others push for those responsible to be punished.

The inquiry was due to submit its report this week, but Ban told the 15-member council in a letter, seen by Reuters on Thursday, that the inquiry needed extra time and wanted to delay its deadline until 21 October. The council has extended its mandate until 31 October.

In its most recent report to the Security Council last month, the joint United Nations and Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) inquiry said that Syrian government troops were responsible for two toxic gas attacks and Islamic State militants used sulfur mustard gas.

France, Britain and other council members want the body to act after receiving the next report, the inquiry's fourth.

"There have been two incidents documented by the UN/OPCW of the dropping of chlorine gas. How can we sit by and let that happen? Burning, blistering, barbaric chlorine gas being dropped on innocent people," British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson told a Security Council meeting on Syria on Wednesday.

As the inquiry works to complete its report, it has identified two Syrian Air Force helicopter squadrons and two other military units it holds responsible for chlorine gas attacks, a Western diplomat told Reuters.

Some diplomats worry that the council could respond weakly or that the issue could be sidelined as the United States and Russia try to salvage a truce deal in Syria.

"Justice demands that no crime is left ignored even as an exchange for a truce," French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told the council meeting during the annual UN gathering of world leaders.

"It is up to the Security Coun-

cil to act under Chapter 7 to condemn these attacks and sanction perpetrators. It is a moral duty and an obligation for the international community which wanted to ban chemical weapons," he said.

Chapter 7 deals with sanctions and authorization of military force by the Security Council. The body would need to adopt another resolution to impose targeted sanctions — a travel ban and asset freeze — on people or entities linked to the attacks

Syria agreed to destroy its chemical weapons in 2013 under a deal brokered by Moscow and Washington. The Security Council backed that deal with a resolution that said in the event of non-compliance, "including unauthorized transfer of chemical weapons, or any use of chemical weapons by anyone" in Syria, it would impose measures under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. Ban said that if the world did not pursue the perpetrators of brutal crimes in Syria it "would be a grave abdication of duty." —Reuters



Theme for 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

"Vibrant AIPA for a progressive ASEAN Community"

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### German anti-immigrant AfD party gets 16 per cent, highest ever, in new poll

BERLIN — The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party would capture 16 per cent of the vote if a federal election were held now, according to an opinion poll on Friday which showed it drawing more support than ever before.

The poll released by public broadcaster ARD said Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives would get 32 per cent of the vote, while the Social Democrats, junior partner in the ruling coalition, would get 22 per cent. Together they would have 54 per cent, enough for the ruling "grand coalition" to continue. —Reuters

#### Russian troops arrive in Pakistan for joint exercises: army

ISLAMABAD — Russian ground forces arrived in Pakistan on Friday for the first ever Pakistan-Russia joint exercise, the army said.

The two-week exercises will start on 24 September and continue until 10 October, the army spokesman said.

The military exercises, named as "Friendship-2016" will be conducted in mountainous areas of northern areas and at a special forces training centre in Cherat area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa province.

The joint exercises is seen important for the growing cooperation between the two armies. Russian Foreign Ministry had earlier stated that exercises are aimed at strengthening and developing cooperation between the countries armed forces. —Xinhua

#### Qantas plane makes emergency landing at Australia's Perth airport

SYDNEY — A Qantas plane was reportedly forced to make an emergency landing at a Perth airport in Australia on Friday with the main cause for the disruption still undergoing investigation.

Local media reported that 102 people were evacuated from the plane after reports of fumes in the cockpit of the QantasLink aircraft were spotted, forcing passengers to disembark using emergency slides.

Perth Airport had then tweeted that the Qantas QF1623 had landed safely. A caller to Radio 6PR, a local Australian radio station had claimed that he was watching the whole incident unfold from the observation deck when the plane suddenly stopped on the runway.

"A Qantas-link aircraft... it's landed and it's gone up the end of the runway," he said. —Xinhua

#### Davenport: Serbia heading towards goal, reforms must continue

BELGRADE — Serbia is heading towards its strategic goal of EU membership, and the EU has been impressed by the "level of preparedness and professionalism" of the Serbian administration, the head of the EU Delegation to Serbia, Michael Davenport, said in the Serbian parliament Thursday.

To maintain "this positive momentum," it is important that Serbia intensify its efforts to carry out implementation of reforms, he said, announcing that EC officials would come to Belgrade in early October to discuss with the Serbian authorities the 91 interim benchmarks related to negotiation chapters 23 and 24 in the EU accession talks. "The EU is also very appreciative of Serbia's handling of the refugee crisis and pro-activeness in joining EU efforts to address the situation. The EU's commitment to enlargement policy and Serbia's EU integration path is firm," Davenport said. —Tanjung

## Syria announces new offensive, diplomats fail to renew truce

BEIRUT/NEW YORK — Syria announced a new offensive against rebel-held areas of Aleppo on Thursday while diplomats failed to find a way in New York to revive a US and Russian-brokered ceasefire that collapsed this week.

Warplanes mounted the heaviest air strikes in months against rebel-held districts of Syria's commercial hub and largest city, dealing a fresh blow to efforts to end Syrian civil war that has raged since 2011.

Rebel officials and rescue workers said incendiary bombs were among the weapons that rained down on Aleppo. Hamza al-Khatib, the director of a hospital in the rebel-held east, told Reuters 45 people were killed.

"It's as if the planes are trying to compensate for all the days they didn't drop bombs" during the ceasefire, Ammar al-Selmo, the head of the civil defence rescue service in opposition-held eastern Aleppo, told Reuters.

Moscow and Washington announced the ceasefire on 9 September. But the agreement, possibly the final bid for a breakthrough on Syria before President Barack Obama leaves office in January, collapsed like all previous efforts to halt a 5-1/2-year-old war that has killed hundreds of thousands of Syrians and made half the nation homeless.

Syrian state media an-



A rebel fighter reacts while walking next to Syrian Army soldiers prior to evacuating the besieged Waer district in the central Syrian city of Homs, after a local agreement reached between rebels and Syria's army, Syria, on 22 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nounced the new offensive and quoted the army's military headquarters in Aleppo urging civilians in eastern parts of the city to avoid areas where "terrorists" were located and said it had prepared exit points for those who want to flee, including rebels.

The Syrian army announcement did not say whether the campaign would also include a ground incursion.

The aerial assault, by aircraft from the Syrian government, its Russian allies or both, signalled Moscow and Damascus had rejected a plea by US Secretary of State John Kerry to halt flights so aid could be delivered and the ceasefire salvaged.

In a tense televised exchange with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the United Nations on Wednesday, Kerry said

stopping the bombardment was the last chance to find a way "out of the carnage".

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad indicated he saw no quick end to the war, telling the Associated Press it would "drag on" as long as it is part of a global conflict in which terrorists are backed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and the United States. —Reuters

## Jets pound rebel-held Aleppo after army offensive declared — rescue worker, monitor

BEIRUT — Warplanes targeted rebel-held areas of eastern Aleppo on Friday in a second day of heavy bombardment hours after the army announced the start of a military operation there, rescue workers and activists said.

The Syrian military, which is backed by the Russian air force,

said late on Thursday it was starting a new operation against the rebel-held east, which is home to at least 250,000 people and was also targeted in heavy air strikes on Thursday.

The Syrian military could not immediately be reached for comment on Friday, and there

was no word on casualties.

Ammar al Selmo, the head of the civil defence rescue service in eastern Aleppo, told Reuters a squadron of five warplanes was in the skies over the city, identifying them as Russian.

A fresh wave of bombing had started at from 6 am (0300

GMT), after heavy overnight attacks, he said.

"What's happening now is annihilation," he said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported at least 30 air strikes had targeted different areas of Aleppo from midnight.—Reuters

## Turkey's Erdogan says US sent weapons to Kurdish fighters in Syria

ISTANBUL — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan accused the United States of supplying more weapons to Kurdish fighters in northern Syria this week, delivering two plane loads of arms to what Ankara says is a terrorist group.

Erdogan's comments, in a speech in New York on Thursday, are likely to add to tensions between Turkey and Washington over US support for Kurdish YPG forces involved in operations against Islamic State fighters.

Turkey is part of the US-led coalition against Islamic State but views the Syrian Kurdish YPG and its PYD political wing as an extension of Kurdish militants who have waged a three-decade insurgency on its own soil.

"If you think you can finish

off Daesh with the YPG and PYD, you cannot, because they are terrorist groups too," Erdogan said in comments broadcast on Turkish television, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

"Three days ago America dropped two plane loads of weapons in Kobani for these terror groups," he said, adding he had raised the issue on Wednesday with US Vice President Joe Biden who he said had no knowledge of this.

The United States, which sees the YPG as a major strategic partner in the fight against Islamic State in Syria, air-dropped weapons to the group in the largely Kurdish town of Kobani in 2014. Erdogan said that half of those arms were seized by Islamic State fighters.

Kobani was besieged by Islamic State for four months in late 2014 and is about 35 km (20 miles) east of the Syrian border town of Jarablus, which Turkey-backed rebels seized a month ago in an operation dubbed "Euphrates Shield".

That operation is designed to clear Islamic State fighters from Turkey's southern border area but it has also brought Turkish and Syrian rebel forces into conflict with the YPG.

Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin on Thursday ruled out the possibility of Turkey joining an operation by coalition forces against Islamic State militants in their stronghold of Raqqa if the YPG also takes Kurdish fighters also take part.

The Turkish border town of



Kurdish fighters from the People's Protection Units (YPG) carry their weapons as they take positions in the northeastern city of Hasaka, Syria, on 20 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kilis was struck on Thursday by three rockets, fired from Islamic State-controlled territory in Syria,

## Iran's Rouhani at UN calls on rival Saudi to cease 'divisive policies'

UNITED NATIONS — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday called on regional rival Saudi Arabia to "cease and desist" from "divisive policies" if it was serious about regional peace and security.

Rouhani was addressing the United Nations General Assembly the day after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef suggested Iran should be a better neighbour in the region and not interfere in the affairs of other countries.

The leading Shi'ite Muslim power, Iran and Sunni monarchy Saudi Arabia are both fighting Sunni militants of Islamic State, which controls parts of Syria and Iraq and has supporters and sympathizers worldwide who have carried out bombings and shootings of civilians.

"If the Saudi government is serious about its vision for development and regional security, it must cease and desist from divisive policies, spread of hate ideology and trampling upon the rights of neighbours," Rouhani said.

Saudi Arabia sees Iran as the paramount threat to the Middle East's stability, because of its support for Shi'ite militias that Riyadh says have inflamed sectarian violence.

Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic relations with Iran in January after Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in Tehran and Mashhad following Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shi'ite cleric.

On Wednesday, the Saudi Crown Prince said Iranian authorities had "not lived up to their duty to provide adequate protection in accordance with the binding international agreements", according to the Saudi Press Agency.—Reuters

which wounded eight civilians including six children, the Turkish military said.—Reuters

# Charlotte protests diminish early on Friday as family views video

CHARLOTTE, (North Carolina) — Largely peaceful protests dwindled early on Friday in Charlotte, North Carolina, as police chose not to enforce a curfew prompted by two nights of riots that engulfed the city after a black man was shot to death by a police officer.

A crowd of hundreds gathered, chanted and marched for a third successive night in the state's largest city, demanding justice for Keith Scott, 43, who was shot dead by a black police officer in the parking lot of an apartment complex on Tuesday afternoon.

Police fired tear gas and non-lethal projectiles to break up crowds blocking traffic on a highway. National Guard troops backed up a robust police presence in the town centre, helping to restrain protesters chanting "Whose streets? Our streets," as helicopters circled overhead.

The Charlotte Police Department said on Twitter that two officers were treated after they were sprayed with a chemical agent by demonstrators and that no civilians were injured on Thursday.

Despite the brief outbursts, the demonstrations were calmer than those on the previous two nights. Rioters had smashed storefront windows, looted businesses and thrown objects at police, prompting officials to declare a state of emergency and the city's mayor to enact a curfew.

A protester shot on Wednesday died on Thurs-



A protester holds up a sign towards US military personnel at the police station during another night of protests over the police shooting of Keith Scott in Charlotte, North Carolina, US, on 22 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

day, nine people were injured, and 44 were arrested in riots on Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Scott's death is the latest to stir passions in the United States over the police use of deadly force against black men. Protests have asserted racial bias and excessive force by police and have given rise to the Black Lives Matter movement.

His family viewed videos of the episode on Thursday and asked for them to be made public, stepping up the pressure for their release.

In an interview with Reuters early Friday, Justin Bamberg, one of the lawyers who is representing Scott's family, said the video shows that the 43-year-old did not make any aggressive moves towards police.

"There's nothing in

that video that shows him acting aggressively, threatening or maybe dangerous," Bamberg said.

Scott, who suffered head trauma in a bad car accident a year ago, was moving slowly as he got out of the car, he said.

"He's not an old man, but he's moving like an old man" in the video, Bamberg said.

Earlier in the day, Bamberg said in a statement that it was "impossible to discern" from the videos what, if anything, Scott was holding in his hands.

Police say Scott was carrying a gun when he approached officers and ignored repeated orders to drop it. His family previously said he was holding a book, not a firearm, and now says it has more questions than answers after viewing two videos record-

ed by police body cameras.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney has said the video supported the police account of what happened but does not definitively show Scott pointing a gun at officers.

In contrast to the tension in Charlotte, calm reigned in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where police released a video of the fatal shooting of Terence Crutcher, shot by police last week after his vehicle broke down on a highway. The officer who fired her gun was charged with first-degree manslaughter on Thursday.

US President Barack Obama called the mayors of both cities on Wednesday to offer condolences and assistance. On Thursday, he urged protesters to maintain the peace, while still addressing concerns of racial inequality.—Reuters

# More than 130 bodies recovered from migrant boat capsized off Egypt

CAIRO — At least 133 bodies had been recovered by Friday from a boat carrying hundreds of migrants that capsized off Egypt two days earlier, Egyptian officials said.

The boat sank off Burg Rashed, a coastal village on the Nile Delta. Rescue workers and fishermen said they had rescued at least 169 people, but confusion remained over how many might still be missing.

Health Ministry spokesman Khaled Megahed said 133 bodies had been retrieved from the Mediterranean, while Mohamed Sultan, governor of the Beheira region, said 148 had been recovered.

Security sources said there had been almost 600

migrants aboard the boat. However, a survivor whose comments appeared in a video posted online said the migrants had been told that about 200 people would be on board, but that the smugglers had then added another 50, causing the boat to founder. Officials said the boat was carrying Egyptian, Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali migrants, and that they believed it was heading for Italy. Four members of the crew were arrested.

The International Organization for Migration says that more than 3,200 migrants have died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean this year, while an estimated 298,474 have reached European shores.—Reuters

# Montenegrin admits to smuggling arms to Paris on eve of Islamist attacks

MUNICH — A Montenegrin caught in Germany with a car full of weapons a week before November's Islamist attacks in Paris confessed at the start of his trial on Friday to acting as a gun runner, but denied knowing what was planned with the arsenal.

The man in his early 50s, named by prosecutors only as Vlatko V., was stopped by police on Nov. 5 on the motorway between Salzburg and Munich. His navigation system showed he had come from Montenegro via Croatia and Slovenia, and was heading to an address in Paris. Police found an arsenal of weap-

ons hidden in his Volkswagen Golf, including eight Kalashnikov assault rifles, pistols, hand grenades, explosives and detonators. Vlatko V. is charged with transporting the weapons to Paris for use in a serious but unspecified act of violence.

On 13 November, Islamist militants killed 130 people in the French capital in a series of coordinated gun and bomb attacks. At least some of the weapons they used originated from the conflicts that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia, possibly brought from the Balkans along well-established smuggling routes.—Reuters

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

# Death toll from Moscow's warehouse fire rises to eight

MOSCOW — The death toll from Thursday's fire at a warehouse in Moscow has risen to eight, the Russian news agency TASS reported on Friday.

Eight bodies were found on the roof, where the dead firemen were installing a water curtain to cool the gas cylinders and compressors, Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said.

"They were the first to arrive at the warehouse, they immediately conducted a reconnaissance and evacuated over 100 em-

ployees of the warehouse," said a spokesman for the ministry.

Over 160 people and about 50 pieces of equipment were involved in the blaze, which broke out on Thursday in the warehouse located on Amurskaya Street in eastern Moscow and burnt an area of approximately 4,000 square metres.

The fire was extinguished at 05:23 pm local time (1323 GMT) on Thursday, according to the ministry.—Xinhua



A still image, taken from video footage and released by the Russian Emergencies Ministry on 23 September 2016, shows a warehouse containing plastic materials on fire in Moscow, Russia. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Work on sex life of rats, life as a badger honoured at Ig Nobel Prizes

CAMBRIDGE, (Mass) — Scientific research into how polyester pants affect the sex life of rats, what it's like for a human to live like a badger and how different the world looks when viewed through your legs was honored at this year's Ig Nobel spoof awards.

The group also took a dig at Volkswagen AG, lauding it in chemistry for engineering its vehicles to produce fewer emissions "whenever the cars are being tested."

The prizes will be awarded for a 26<sup>th</sup> straight year at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Thursday by a group of actual Nobel Prize winners, and are intended to honour accomplishments in science and humanities that make one laugh, then think.

"The prizes are for something pretty unusual," said Marc Abrahams, editor of the *Annals of Improbable Research*, and host of the awards. "Almost any other kind of award is for the best or worst. Best or worst is irrelevant to us."



'Majordomo' Gary Dryfoos sits onstage before the 26<sup>th</sup> First Annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US, on 22 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Timeliness is also of limited consideration: The Ig Nobel Reproduction Prize went to the late Ahmed Shafik of Egypt, who died in 2007, for a 1993 paper doc-

umenting that rats who wore polyester or polyester-cotton blend pants were less sexually active than those who wore cotton or wool pants or conformed to rat norms and

wore no garments of any kind.

The paper suggested that "electrostatic fields" created by polyester pants could play a role in im-

tence.

"We have never heard of anybody else who carefully spent time examining what happens sexually to rats if you put pants on

them," Abrahams said.

Two Britons split this year's Biology Ig Nobel. Oxford University fellow Charles Foster, was honored for his book "Being a Beast," chronicling his experiments in living as a badger, including digging a den to sleep in and eating worms.

Countryman Thomas Thwaites' work was in a similar vein; he built a set of prosthetic leg extensions to try living like a goat in Switzerland.

Japan's Atsuki Higashiyama and Kohei Adachi were granted the Perception Ig Nobel for a paper on how objects look different when one bends over and views them through one's legs.

Volkswagen's award was more ignominious, going to the company for equipping its vehicles with a "defeat device," which activated the emission controls of an engine undergoing government tests and deactivated them afterward.

VW has already agreed to spend up to \$16.5 billion to address US environmental, state and owner claims.—Reuters

## Clinton proposes 65 per cent tax on US billionaire estates

WASHINGTON — Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton on Thursday proposed raising taxes on inherited property to 65 per cent for the largest estates as she bolstered plans for tax hikes on the wealthiest Americans.

Known by conservative opponents as the "death tax," the estate tax, levied on property such as cash, real estate, stock or other assets transferred from deceased persons to heirs, currently is imposed only on inherited assets worth \$5.45 million or more for an individual.

Clinton's plan, posted on her campaign's website,

would raise the estate tax from the current 40 per cent to 45 per cent, the rate that existed in 2009. But the biggest estates would face rates of up to 65 per cent for property valued at more than \$500 million for a single person or \$1 billion per couple, under her proposal, an update of an earlier plan.

Clinton's proposed top rate of 65 per cent would be the highest estate tax since the 1980s, and is in line with a proposal made during the Democratic primaries by her former rival for the party's presidential nomination, US Senator Bernie Sanders.

Her campaign said the boosted estate tax and a change in the rules to tax capital gains associated with inherited assets would help pay for other proposals to benefit middle-class people, such as expanding a tax credit for working parents.

Clinton's campaign said the plan would hit only the wealthiest people.

"Hillary Clinton has made a commitment throughout this campaign to make sure there is a plan to pay for the progressive policies we have laid out," said Mike Shapiro, an economic adviser to Clinton.

The Committee for a

Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan group focused on budget issues, said Clinton's new tax proposals including the estate tax changes, taxes on capital gains of inherited assets and other provisions would together raise \$260 billion in revenue over a decade.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, a wealthy real estate developer, wants to eliminate the estate tax. Clinton's proposal prompted criticism from conservatives ahead of her first debate with Trump on Monday night at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York.—Reuters



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign event at the Frontline Outreach and Youth Center in Orlando, US, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## UN chief urges efforts to address root causes of hunger, malnutrition

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday called upon the international community to strengthen the efforts to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, saying that the effective implementation of the global development goals is crucial to reducing poverty.

The international community should continue to work together to meet the challenge of hunger and malnutrition, Ban said at a

high-level event on "Pathways to Zero Hunger" at UN Headquarters in New York.

The event was held on the sidelines of the ongoing annual high-level debate of the UN General Assembly.

The secretary-general noted some progress by the world community in combatting the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, but he said that the challenge of providing the fundamental right to adequate food to all people

must remain a priority. "It is unacceptable in a world of plenty that nearly 800 million people still suffer from hunger," he said. "This represents a collective moral and political failure."

The Zero Hunger Challenge reflects five elements from within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which, taken together, can end hunger, eliminate all forms of malnutrition, and build inclusive and sustainable food systems.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(12 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-055(16-17)	5" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X42 (13000) Meter	US\$
(2)	IFB-056(16-17)	Spares for Cummins Engine Ex Kenworth Truck (16) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-057(16-17)	Spares for 3 Ton Fork Lift (48) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-058(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipe (5) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-10-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23<sup>RD</sup> September, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

## Leonardo DiCaprio inundated with invites to revisit Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY — A captain of a luxury charter boat has joined in the bandwagon and become the latest person to personally invite Hollywood heart-throb Leonardo DiCaprio on a free trip to visit conservation efforts undertaken at the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns, Australia.

DiCaprio had previously described the Great Barrier Reef as a natural attraction that was full of “dead zones”.

Last week, the Oscar winner reiterated the matter at the “Our Oceans Conference” held in Washington D.C. and was particularly vocal on the impact coral bleaching and global warming has had on the Great Barrier Reef.

“This year, Australia’s Great Barrier Reef suffered what is

thought to be the largest bleaching event ever recorded,” DiCaprio said. “Over 600 miles of reef previously teeming with life is devastated. We are seeing this level of impact on coral reefs around the world,” he said.

Since that speech, DiCaprio has been inundated with offers to visit the reef coming from scientists to non-governmental organisations who had extended a “non-political” offer to the actor to show him the impacts of coral bleaching once again.

Queensland deputy premier Jackie Trad was quoted as saying in Brisbane last week that the actor was “absolutely welcome to come to Australia, to come to Queensland and to come to the Great Barrier Reef.”—*Xinhua*

## Forbes list The Big Bang Theory stars as the highest paid TV actors again

LOS ANGELES — Indian-origin actor Kunal Nayyar and his co-stars from hit comedy series The Big Bang Theory — Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki and Simon Helberg — are leading the Forbes annual list of television’s highest-paid actors.

For the second year in a row, Parsons is on the top spot, with a USD 25.5 million income earned between 1 June, 2015 and 1 June, 2016 which he once again got from his lucrative The Big Bang Theory contract.

This is not surprising considering reports that Parsons and his co-star Galecki earn USD 1 million per episode each. Galecki is at No. 2 with USD 24 million, followed by Helberg with USD 22.5 million and Nayyar, who is at No. 4 with USD 22

million.

While Helberg and Nayyar earn slightly less than Parsons and Galecki, their side projects helped them secure the spots in the top five.

Helberg had a role in “Florence Foster Jenkins” starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant, while Nayyar is an author of best-selling memoir “Yes, My Accent Is Real”.

“NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service” star Mark Harmon places fifth with another USD 20 million. His show was the third-most watched television program in the 2015-2016 season, behind the Super Bowl and “The Big Bang Theory”. David Duchovny cracked the list with USD 10 million, thanks largely to his return as Fox Mulder on “The X-Files”

revival. He is tied in the 13<sup>th</sup> place along with Michael Weatherly, who earned the money from his stint on “NCIS”. He recently left the show to headline a new CBS series, “Bull”. Other names in the top 15 include “Modern Family” stars Ty Burrell, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Ed O’Neill and Eric Stonestreet.—*PTI*



The Big Bang Theory. PHOTO: PTI

## Feathers and nostalgia add glam to Prada spring collection

MILAN — Retro trenchcoats, feathered cuffs and brightly coloured patterns hinting at the 1960s and 70s were among the highlights of Prada’s spring/summer women’s wear collection in Milan on Thursday.

Silk ensembles, colorful clutch bags and the Italian fashion house’s signature handbags added to the mix.

The luxury goods maker, which has been hard hit by the global slump in luxury spending, appeared to be counting on colour and a touch of nostalgia to revive its fortunes.

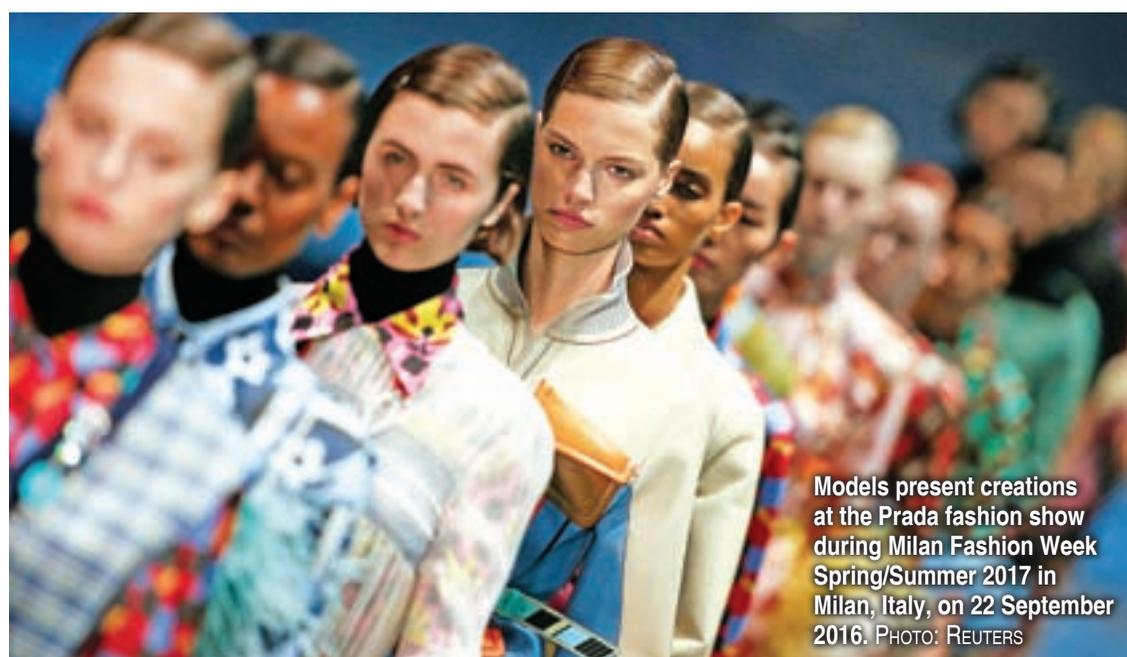
Last month it predicted a return to sales and profit growth next year, helped by improved sales trends in China, and there was plenty of variety in veteran design-

er Miuccia Prada’s collection.

Short black and red hot pants were a throwback to the 60s and 70s along with check long-sleeve tops and coats, while wraparound and pleated skirts, long and short, were completed with colorful feathers that were also used on the cuffs of dresses and blouses.

Footwear was decidedly more practical. Apart from a few chunky heels, models strode the catwalk in flat sandals or kitten heels.

Prada has said it is now trying to turn itself around by putting out more accessible products and slimming down its extensive retail network. Milan fashion week continues until Monday. Karl Lagerfeld’s collection for Fendi and creations from Moschino were also on show on Thursday.—*Reuters*



Models present creations at the Prada fashion show during Milan Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2017 in Milan, Italy, on 22 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sony unit, Dalian Wanda in tie-up to tap China’s huge movie market

SHANGHAI — Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group will market Sony Pictures’ films and co-finance some upcoming movie releases of Sony Corp’s film unit in China, which is forecast to become the world’s top movie market as soon as next year.

Wanda, owned by China’s richest man, Wang Jianlin, and Sony announced a deal on Friday under which Sony Pictures will utilise China’s biggest theatre chain owner Wanda to better access a rapidly growing yet restricted movie market.

The alliance will help Wanda extend its Hollywood footprint and further Wang’s goal of making the group a global entertainment powerhouse.

Wanda said in a statement on its website the tie-up would use its consumer-facing infrastructure to bolster Sony Pictures’ presence in China, which is on track to surpass the United States as the world’s biggest probably by next year, according to industry executives.

“This partnership makes a lot of sense for both parties. Sony will benefit from smoother distribution and playback of its films in China and Wanda will be able to further integrate into the content development side of the business,” said Ben Cavender, Shanghai-based principal of China Market Research Group.

“We are going to see more co-operation going forward...Tie ups make sense because a lot of Chi-

nese companies are also becoming interested in film financing as a form of investment,” he said.

This would be Sony Pictures’ first partnership with Wanda, which has previously invested in movies made by Viacom Inc’s Paramount Pictures unit, such as “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” sequel, and would give Wanda a step into movie marketing.

Despite an economic slowdown and dipping ticket sales, China showed how it could still be a saviour for Hollywood producers in June after Universal’s \$160 million blockbuster “Warcraft” managed to chalk up \$156 million in China in the first five days despite flopping in the United States.

But the country’s regulator re-

stricts the number of imported films that theatres can show to 34 a year, a limit that films which qualify as co-productions and meet other criteria are exempt from. These films also have an easier time navigating censorship issues with notoriously picky industry watchdogs.

Profits at Sony’s film unit fell 34 per cent over the year to March after it struggled to achieve hits at the box office over that period.

Wanda declined to provide further details on the deal. Sony was not immediately available to comment.

Started by Wang as a property developer in China’s northeast, Wanda now owns theatres, massive shopping malls and amusement parks around the country.

The billionaire has said he wants to bring Hollywood technology and capabilities to China through acquisitions, telling Reuters in August that he was keen to buy Hollywood’s “Big Six” studios and was close to sealing two billion-dollar film related deals.

Wanda already owns Legendary, co-producer of hits such as “Jurassic World” and “The Dark Knight”, which was the biggest US-China movie deal when it was sealed in January, and US cinema chain AMC Entertainment Holdings.

Besides Wanda, Chinese companies that have invested in Hollywood include Fosun International and Huayi Brothers Media Corp.—*Reuters*

# Rome reopens Spanish Steps after costly restoration

ROME — Rome is reopening its famed Spanish Steps after a privately funded restoration but has urged visitors to treat the 18<sup>th</sup> century staircase with greater respect to prevent it falling again into disrepair.

The site of one of cinema's most famous ice cream breaks in the film "Roman Holiday" has been largely shut since last October while technicians cleaned and repaired the monument.

Roman jeweller Bulgari paid 1.5 million euros (\$1.7 million) to spruce up the 135 steps, which had become loose, stained and cracked under the strain of daily use by city-dwellers and hordes of selfie-snapping visitors.

The steps where Audrey Hepburn met Gregory Peck in the 1953 film underwent

both chemical and mechanical cleaning. Large pieces of stone were added in some places and invasive weeds were removed from the balustrades. Standing halfway up the staircase which joins Piazza di Spagna to the Trinita dei Monti church, Rome mayor Virginia Raggi said she had ordered police to monitor more closely people's behavior on the steps and to stop anyone "camping out" there.

"I think it is essential to let people use these assets and also make them feel responsible for that use," Raggi said, adding "this use has often become abuse".

Bulgari is one of several companies to have responded to Italy's call for private investors to help prop up monuments whose

condition has deteriorated after years of spending cuts.

Paolo Bulgari, great-grandson of the jeweller's founder, caused controversy this month when he proposed fencing off the steps to help preserve the expensive restoration from "barbarians" who have left them strewn in the past with chewing gum, coffee and wine stains.

But Bulgari chief executive Jean-Christophe Babin said he was confident the steps, which are a few meters from the brand's flagship store, would be better looked after in future.

"I walk there myself virtually every day to go the store and I have an eye on the steps — not to check, but just to admire," he said. —Reuters



People take picture during a ceremony to mark the restoration of Rome's famed Spanish Steps in Rome, Italy, on 22 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Plus-size fashion show scores big in Japan

TOKYO — Japanese pop girl group Pottya, who describe themselves as "chubby", performed their hits while eleven plus size amateur models strutted along the catwalk at a new men's fashion show in Tokyo aimed at breaking down obesity taboos.

The Tokyo Pochari (plump) Collection, jointly organized by a plus-size clothing brand Sakazen Shoji Co and fashion magazine, Mr Babe, featured models weighing more than 100 kg (220 pounds) walking, twirling and posing on the catwalk.

Thursday's event attracted more than 100 people, who were invited to disclose their weight for a discount on a new range of ready-to-wear plus size clothing items, but organisers said the



Models pose on the runway during Tokyo Pochari collection, Japan's first fashion show for plump men in Tokyo. PHOTO: REUTERS

event wasn't just about sales. They hoped to change attitudes towards plus-size people in Japan,

where obesity levels are among the lowest in the developed world and large people — sumo wrestlers aside — are often depicted as figures of fun on television.

"I wanted to spread a notion that big and tall men, who have trouble finding clothes to wear, can actually choose from a wider varieties of outfits and enjoy being fashionable," said Li Tianwei, Sakazen Shoji sales manager.

This year's event was so successful that organizers hope to run a bigger show in 2017 with both male and female models, they told Reuters.

"As a fatso or big woman, I want more of these kind of events. Even this one is still small-scaled, I want it bigger," said 37-year-old Momoko Kashiwazaki. —Reuters

## Vietnamese student wins 1<sup>st</sup> prize in int'l letter-writing contest

HANOI — A Vietnamese student has won the first prize in the 2016 International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People held by Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Nguyen Thi Thu Trang, a student in Nam Sach High school in Viet Nam's northern Hai Duong province, won the first prize of the 45<sup>th</sup> UPU competition under the theme of "Write a letter to your 45-year-old self," reported Viet Nam's state-run radio VOV on Friday.

In her letter, Trang in-

carinated herself as the three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi who was drowned in Turkey while trying to reach the Greek island of Kos earlier this year.

In May, Trang's letter won the first prize of the contest at the national level in Viet Nam. According to VOV, Trang is preparing to come to the award ceremony held in Turkey on 1 October.

For the competition at the international level, top compositions of UPU member states were sent to the UPU. —Xinhua



(24-9-2016, Saturday)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 am</li> <li>• Paritta by Hilly Region</li> <li>• Missionary Sayadaw</li> <li>7:35 am</li> <li>• Hyper Sport</li> <li>8:35 am</li> <li>• Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions</li> <li>8:45 am</li> <li>• Pan Pyo Khin</li> <li>9:20 am</li> <li>• Nine Precept</li> <li>9:35 am</li> <li>• Business News</li> <li>10:35 am</li> <li>• Peom for Children</li> <li>11:15 am</li> <li>• Health and Vegetables</li> <li>11:35 am</li> <li>• Game for Children</li> <li>1:30 pm</li> <li>• TV Drama Series</li> <li>2:20 pm</li> <li>• HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE "Hope"</li> <li>• "Still in the Dark"</li> <li>3:35 pm</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Entertainment News</li> <li>4:15 pm</li> <li>• Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions</li> <li>4:35 pm</li> <li>• NHK Programme "All about Rice"</li> <li>5:20 pm</li> <li>• KARAOKE World Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Level-1, Group-7)</li> <li>6:35 pm</li> <li>• Tasty Trip</li> <li>7:15 pm</li> <li>• Myanmar Series</li> <li>8:00 pm</li> <li>• News/ International News/ Weather Report</li> <li>• Documentary</li> <li>8:35 pm</li> <li>• Towards All Sector Development</li> <li>9:00 pm</li> <li>• News</li> <li>• Gitadagale Phwintbaohhn</li> <li>• Pyi Thu Ni Ti</li> </ul> |
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Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

### mitv Myanmar International

(24-9-2016 07:00am ~ 25-9-2016 07:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon—The Prayer Halls and Buddha Images (Part-1)
07:53	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Ar Khar New Year Festival
08:47	Am	Around The Maha Boditahtaung
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Unique Pattern of Myanma Ethnic Group: A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation: Nyan Kyal Say
10:33	Am	Image Of The Monks

10:50	Am	Traditional Snacks
10:56	Am	Black Gold (Part- II)

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
07:43	Pm	The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar "Sim Card Registering"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-1)
08:54	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art

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

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



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Wenger implores Gunners to avoid seeing red against Blues

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has urged his players to avoid being drawn into needless confrontations with their Chelsea opponents when the London rivals meet at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

Arsenal were beaten home and away by Chelsea in the Premier League last season, and had three players sent off over the two games, with Chelsea's combative striker Diego Costa involved in two of the three incidents.

"In the last two games we played with 10 men so for the result tomorrow it's important the way we play football but also the way we behave," Wenger told a news conference on Friday.

"We have to be cold blooded and respect the rules of the

game."

When the teams met last September, Arsenal centre back Gabriel was dismissed for scuffling with Costa and although the red card was later rescinded, the defender was given a one-match ban for failing to immediately leave the pitch.

Costa, who has scored twice in three games against Arsenal, was retrospectively banned for his involvement in the incident, and Arsenal ended the 2-0 defeat with nine men after midfielder Santi Cazorla picked up a second yellow card late on.

Arsenal then lost 1-0 to Chelsea when the teams met in January, a game in which defender Per Mertesacker was shown a red card for a foul on Costa.

Wenger, whose side have not beaten Chelsea in nine league encounters, urged his team to channel their emotions in the

right way.

"Discipline and results are strongly linked — and the regrets we have from the last two games are that we couldn't play 11 v 11," said the Frenchman, who will complete 20 years in charge of Arsenal on 1 October."

Wenger confirmed that striker Olivier Giroud was back in training after a toe injury but had less positive news on Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who is out with a hamstring injury.

"Aaron Ramsey is still struggling with his hamstring," Wenger said, while ruling the midfielder out until after the international break which ends on 14 October.

"He has a small grade one (tear) hamstring but he is not completely free to push at the moment and he has a little bit of pain. He is in the last days of his rehabilitation." —Reuters

## Serena misses Wuhan & China Opens, eyeing WTA Finals return in Singapore

WUHAN — World No. 2 Serena Williams is eyeing a return to action at the WTA Finals in Singapore after a nagging shoulder injury has ruled her out of the Wuhan Open and the China Open.

Williams announced Friday that due to shoulder injury she will not compete in the upcoming Wuhan Open and the following China Open. "I am disappointed that I will not be able to compete at the Dongfeng Motor Wuhan Open or the China Open due to continuing issues with my right shoulder," Williams said in a statement.

"I have been practicing and playing but my shoulder is still not fit for tournament play."

"I wish the tournaments great success and I'm sure the fans will enjoy some great tennis. I am focused on getting ready to compete at the WTA Finals in Singapore."

"I'm tired of playing tournaments unhealthy and taking losses that I would never lose," Williams recently remarked in an interview.

Williams has played eight



Serena Williams of the United States. PHOTO: XINHUA

tournaments this year, the fewest she has played in a season since returning from injury in 2011. She has won two titles out of Rome and Wimbledon and finished as runner-up three times, losing to Angelique Kerber at the Australian Open, to Victoria Azarenka at Indian Wells and to Garbine Muguruza at Roland Garros.

In an interview with CNN, coach Patrick Mouratoglou called

it "a bad season for her" adding that Serena has suffered from injury a great deal of the time. "For Serena any other result that is not a title is a bad result. The final at a Grand Slam is a bad result for her. We cannot be satisfied with one Grand Slam [title] and two finals lost," he said.

Serena Williams has competed in nine WTA Finals, carrying home five titles thus far. —Xinhua

## Asian neighbours join hands for Olympic

BENGALURU — Sports ministers from neighbouring countries of South Korea, China and Japan held talks to build a platform to ensure the success of upcoming Olympic Games in the region.

The three countries will host the next three Olympic Games in Northeast Asia — PyeongChang hosts the 2018 Winter Games,

Tokyo will stage the 2020 Summer Games and the 2020 Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing.

After the two-day meeting between the Asian nations, South Korean sports minister Cho Yoon-sun announced the "PyeongChang Declaration", under which the countries agreed to expand their sports exchange

and cooperation, and sought their counterparts' expertise to ensure the smooth running of the Olympics. "For the success of PyeongChang 2018, Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022, the three nations will share their know-how and undertake joint efforts to create excitement for the events," the declaration read. —Reuters

## Mourinho hits out at 'Einsteins' for criticism

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has lashed out at football's "Einsteins" for criticising him during the English Premier League club's run of three successive defeats.

Despite winning the first four games of his tenure, Mourinho has come under scrutiny from the media after United's slump in form with the club currently six points behind leaders Manchester City in the league. United returned to winning ways after beating third-tier side Northampton Town 3-1 in the third round of the League Cup on Wednesday.

"We had a bad week. I know that the world is full of Einsteins, I know that they tried

to delete 16 years of my career," Mourinho told MUTV, the club's in-house television station.

"They tried to delete an unbelievable history of Manchester United Football Club and to focus on a bad week with three bad results. But that's the new football, it's full of Einsteins."

United have been given the chance to redeem their recent league defeat to City after being drawn to face them at Old Trafford in the fourth round of the League Cup. With home

games against champions Leicester City, Russian side FC Zorya Luhansk in the Europa League and Stoke City coming up, Mourinho hoped his side can regain some of their lost momentum in the coming weeks.

"We have three home matches now in a row and it is always good to be at home," said the former Real Madrid and Chelsea manager.

"If the fans have been disappointed with the last week, I understand completely but I am sure they will be behind the team like they always are." —Reuters



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS