

President U Htin Kyaw meets with delegates from ASEAN parliaments, AIPO Secretary-General

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Speech delivered by State Counsellor at the Opening Ceremony of the 37th General Assembly of AIPA

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Vice President U Myint Swe meets outgoing Turkish ambassador

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## HONOURED TO HOST THE AIPA

### NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, HARMONY STRESSED: STATE COUNSELLOR

THE 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) was opened with the opening speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. (The full speech of the State Counsellor is covered separately on page-3)

In her speech, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that her government is focusing on national reconciliation and harmony while striving for sustainable economic development.

"Today marks exactly six months in office. I would like to take this opportunity to very briefly outline some of our main areas at work," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

She said the first priority of her new government is to "bring about the national reconciliation and harmony" between all parts of the society, further explaining that it is taking steps "towards establishing a genuine federal democratic union."

She added that her administration is aiming to bring an end to decades of conflict, which had blighted the country since independence in 1948, by building on the work of the previous government, despite being aware of the "complexity of the challenges that lie ahead".

She said "through political negotiations held in the spirit of cooperation and compromise" she believes Myanmar can finally realize a peaceful, secure and prosperous future, which is "the collective aspiration" of the people, despite having many diverse ethnic groups



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivering the opening speech at the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

and a legacy of decades of mistrust.

On the economy, the State Counsellor said her government is "striving to bring about sustainable economic development for the benefit of all people in Myanmar."

"For reasons of history our country has never realized its economic potential. Today, (thanks to) the hard work of our government and people, and support and collaboration of our friends in this

region, we have an unprecedented opportunity to build a better future," she said.

"We have launched an economic policy that aims to support national reconciliation, alleviate poverty, develop much-needed infrastructure, encourage responsible foreign investment and job creation," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

"The economic development

of Myanmar will, I believe, support the growing prosperity as a whole and contribute to the future success of the ASEAN community," she added.

Regarding the situation in Rakhine State, the State Counsellor said that the government is striving to bring harmony to the different communities there.

"The situation in Rakhine is complex and it is the subject of

close attention and concern outside our borders in the ASEAN region and beyond. Since forming the new government we have taken new measures to begin to address these challenges," she said, adding that her government is working to build understanding, trust, and harmony between communities, while standing firm against prejudice, intolerance and extremism.

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## CDC issues Zika travel advisory for 11 Southeast Asian countries

US health officials on Thursday recommended that pregnant women postpone nonessential travel to 11 Southeast Asian countries because of the risk of Zika virus infection, which has been shown to cause severe birth defects.

The latest countries singled out by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention are Brunei, Myanmar, Cambo-

dia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), and Viet Nam.

The CDC said "travel notices," like those issued for Zika-struck countries like Brazil and Singapore, have not been issued for these destinations, but such warnings would be considered if the number of cases rises to the level of an outbreak.

Zika, which is mainly a mosquito-borne disease, was first identified in Brazil last year and has been spreading globally. The CDC has so far advised pregnant women to avoid going to nearly 60 countries and regions because of the active spread of the virus.

Unlike parts of Central and South America and the Caribbean hit hardest by the recent

Zika outbreak, areas of Southeast Asia have had the virus present for many years. It is considered endemic in these countries, the CDC said in a statement, and many people who live there are likely immune.

The agency said there have been recent variations in the number of cases reported in the region and, while the level of risk is unknown, Zika virus infection

during pregnancy causes severe birth defects, including microcephaly and other severe brain abnormalities.

Henry Harteveldt, founder of the travel consultancy Atmosphere Research Group, said the warning could discourage visits to Southeast Asia ahead of the peak winter travel season around Christmas and New Year.

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## Handover Ceremony of AIPA Chairmanship to Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE handover ceremony for the Chairmanship of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) to Myanmar was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, in conjunction with the handing over of the Secretary-General of the AIPA to Mr. Isra Sunthornvat of Thailand.

During the ceremony, Deputy Speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives Datuk Ronald Kiandee extended greetings and handed over the chairmanship gavel and AIPA flag to Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than.

In his welcoming remarks, Chairman of the General Assembly of the AIPA Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been very proud to host the AIPA General Assembly for the first time during its second term.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Mahn Wing Khaing Than receiving chairmanship gavel. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker thanked the Speaker of Malaysian House of Representatives for his chairmanship of the previous AIPA General Assembly and AIPA members of parliaments and AIPA Secretariat, including AIPA Secretary-General Mr. P.O. Ram for his efforts in convening the annual AIPA General Assembly in accord with rules, regulations and procedures.

The Speaker pledged to make utmost efforts to successfully hold the 37th General Assembly of the AIPA.

Next, Mr. P.O. Ram of Singapore handed over the Secretary-General of the AIPA to Mr. Isra Sunthornvat of Thailand.

Then, a meeting of the AIPA Executive Committee followed.

After the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than greeted the delegates to the 37th AIPA General Assembly and officials from international organisations working together with AIPA.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with UNDP Country Director

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received UNDP Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor at a hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the

call, the two representatives held discussions on the UNDP's assistance to the development of the Myanmar Parliament and capacity-building programmes.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker U Win Myint receives UNDP Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor. PHOTO: MNA

## President's wife Daw Su Su Lwin calls for gender equality at CWP meeting

THE Committee on Women Parliamentarians (CWP) of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon following the opening of the 37th General Assembly.

Daw Su Su Lwin, MP from Thongwa Township Constituency and wife of President U Htin Kyaw, chaired the meeting. In her address, Daw Su Su Lwin called for gender equality for women in terms of health, education and employment, emphasising the need to protect women against human trafficking and exclusion, prevent discrimination against them and ensure their social security and interests.

The meeting reached an agreement to create an atmosphere of decent work for women across the ASEAN region by granting equal rights to women parliamentarians in decision making. The extension of maternity leave provision will be discussed at today's session.

The Committee on Organisational Matters had a meeting under the chairmanship of Amyotha Hluttaw's Committee for Health, Sport and Culture. The meeting saw 13 points proposed, with 11 of them being approved. The remaining two points will be discussed at the 38th AIPA, for which the venue and date were set.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Dinner hosted in honour of 37th AIPA

A dinner was hosted in honour of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko and U Kyaw Win, deputy speakers, leaders of the ASEAN delegations and officials of AIPA's international partners attended the dinner.

Speaking at the dinner, U Win Myint said the assembly would strive to overcome the pressing challenges facing the region with the aim of serving the interest of 600 million people residing in the

region. The speaker stressed the need to promote regional security and stability to ensure shared prosperity among its people.

He called for collaborative effort to realise the goals of the ASEAN Community 2025 in line with

its theme "One Vision, One Identity and One Community". During the dinner, the ASEAN delegates were entertained with songs and dances by artistes from the Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*



The dinner at MICC, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## Winners of commemorative article, essay and poem contests on 2016 World Teachers' Day announced

WINNERS of article, essay and poem contests held in commemoration of the 2016 World Teachers Day were announced yesterday.

In the higher education level article competition for teachers, the first prize went to Dr Marlur, Head/Professor of the Myanmar Language Department of Lashio University and second and third prize winners were Dr Kyaw Swe Oo, Associate Professor at History Department of Yenangaung Degree College, and Tutor Daw Soe Sandar Pyae of the Department of Educational Psychology from Lashio Education College.

In the article contest for teachers of Basic Education High Schools, Daw Zin Myat Khaing of Magway BEHS No (2) stood first, followed by U Win Htay, head of Pyay BEHS No (2), and Daw Htoo Htoo Myint of Kachin State's Myitkyina BEHS No (5) second and

third respectively.

Likewise, Daw Aye Mya Mya Aye of Magway BEHS No (3) won first prize and second and third prize winners were Daw Ohnmar Myaing of Yankin BEMS No (4) and Daw Thiri of Talaisu BEPS in Amarapura, Mandalay in the article contest for teachers of Basic Education Middle School.

In the article contest for primary teachers, the first prize winner was U Thant Zin Oo, head of Narhee BEPS in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North), followed by Daw Khine Su Su Tun of BEHS (University) in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region and U Thein Zaw, head of Chaukpin village BEPS in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region. Mg Kyaw Yan Nang of Myitkyina Institute of Education was awarded first prize in the essay contest for students from Institutes of Education and Educa-

tion College, followed by Ma Moe Moe Aung of Pyay Education College and Ma Khine Zar Thwal of Sagaing Institute of Education.

Likewise, Eight Grader Ma Han Mi San of Mon State's Mudon BEHS No (2) was the first prize winner and the second and third prize winners were Tenth Grader Ma Su Eindray Khin of Magway BEHS No (2) and Tenth Grader Ma May Thwal Thwal Tun of Myitkyina BEHS No (1). In the essay contest of basic education middle school level, Seventh Grader Ma Khine Thazin Tun Oo of Shwegun BEHS in Hlinebwe Township, Seventh Grader Ma Phyu Sin Thant of Yangon Region's Ahlon BEHS No (6) and Fifth Grader Ma Hninn Ei Wint Hlwar of Ayeyawady Region's Patheingyi BEHS (Branch) No (1) won first, second and third prizes respectively.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## President U Htin Kyaw receives Viet Nam's National Assembly Chairperson

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received a Vietnamese delegation led by Madame Nguyễn Thị Kim Ngân, Chairperson of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, the two representatives discussed mat-

ters related to further cooperation between two Parliaments and the investment sector.

Also present were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Ti Khun Myat, Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko and U Kyaw Win, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Madame Nguyễn Thị Kim Ngân, Chairperson of the National Assembly of Viet Nam. PHOTO: MNA



President U Htin Kyaw poses for a documentary photo with delegates from ASEAN parliaments, AIPO Secretary-General at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Htin Kyaw meets with delegates from ASEAN parliaments, AIPO Secretary-General

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Speakers and Deputy Speakers from Parliaments of ASEAN countries and the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) who are at the 37th Gen-

eral Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the representatives held discussions on the 38th AIPA General Assembly

and cooperation among parliaments of ASEAN.

Also present were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Ti Khun Myat, Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko and U Kyaw Win and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Speech delivered by the State Counsellor at the Opening Ceremony of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

**H**ONOURABLE President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Honourable Speakers, Parliamentarians, Secretary-General of ASEAN, ladies and gentleman.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak today at the opening of the 37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Myanmar is honoured to be able to host this year's assembly, under the Presidency of Speaker U Mahn Winn Khaing Thann.

On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, I would like to thank all of you for being here, and express appreciation to the ASEAN leaders for their kind messages of support.

This is the 6th AIPA in which Myanmar has participated, following the re-establishment of a Parliament here in 2011 after a long hiatus. In 1948, when Burma became independent, we established parliamentary democracy. But, at that time we could say that we are one of the foremost countries in Asia to have adopted parliamentary democracy. However, the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Time and Chance happen to us all. Time and Chance happen to us and we lost our parliamentary democratic system. But the commitment with the diver and perseverance we have once again started out on the road to establishment of the parliamentary democracy that truly reflects the will of the people. We

wish to make this parliament, a vibrant one.

The theme of this year's Assembly is "Vibrant AIPA for a progressive ASEAN community". I am confident that the delegates here in this room will more than do justice to this theme. In my experience, Parliamentarians across the world, even when divided by party or ideology, are united by a remarkable vibrancy of spirit. Perhaps this vibrancy is invigorated by an awareness of the great responsibility that their constituents have bestowed upon them- and by a desire to live up to this responsibility to the best of their ability.

ASEAN itself aspires to be a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centred community. Rules-based is extremely important particularly for members of parliaments. Law makers cannot be law breakers. They must know the rules and procedures all the parliaments and themselves and also the law of the land that they may truly be representative of the legislative branch of democratic governments. And at a national level it is arguably the institution of Parliament that best embodies the principle of ruled-based people-oriented and people-centred. That is why the strong partnership between AIPA and ASEAN over many years has proven so valuable, morally and practically. For it is through the ongoing scrutiny and support of legislators that our countries have been able to ratify



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

the agreements of ASEAN, enact relevant legislation in a timely manner, and bring political aspirations into reality under the rule of law.

I was encouraged by the productive discussions between the leaders of ASEAN and AIPA Representatives at the recent ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, and look forward to continuing this dialogue in the years ahead, as we work towards realising the ASEAN Community 2025 vision, and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

I am also pleased to note that AIPA aims to promote the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN. As I think you may be aware, these aims align closely

with our own domestic priorities in Myanmar, as we continue on the long and challenging path towards full democratisation.

Our new government here was formed at the end of March this year, following the general elections in November 2015. Today marks exactly six months in office. I would like to take this opportunity to very briefly outline some of our main areas of work.

The first priority of our new government is to bring about national reconciliation and harmony between all parts of our society. One month ago we launched the 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference here in Naypyidaw, as a step towards establishing a genuine federal democratic union. Building on the work of the

previous administration, we aim to bring an end to the decades of conflict that have blighted our country since independence, and to secure the lasting peace that our people have longed for.

We are under no illusions as to the complexity of the challenge that lies ahead. We have many diverse ethnic groups, and a legacy of decades of mistrust. Yet through political negotiations held in the spirit of cooperation and compromise, I believe that we can realise the collective aspiration of our peoples for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

We are also striving to bring harmony and understanding between the different communities in Rakhine State. The situation in Rakhine is complex, and is the subject of close attention and concern outside our borders, in the ASEAN region and beyond. Since forming the new government, we have taken measures to begin to address these challenges. I chair the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine, overseeing the tasks of ensuring stability and rule of law, scrutinising immigration and verifying citizenship, and implementing socio-economic development. We have also formed an Advisory Commission chaired by Dr Kofi Annan to help us to identify and address comprehensively these challenges. **See page 9 >>**



Two Chinese naval vessels arrive at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa. PHOTO: ZAWGYI (PANITA)

## Two Chinese naval vessels visit Myanmar

Two Chinese naval vessels, Xiangtan and Zhoushan, arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) in Yangon yesterday evening with the aim of implementing the important consensus reached by military leaders of the two countries, that is to strengthen strategic communication and enhance practical cooperation and China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Present at the welcoming ceremony at Thilawa Port were Rear Admiral Myint Oo, Commender of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters, and senior naval officers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials and Chinese students.

On a five-day goodwill visit to Myanmar following the completion of its escort mission in the Gulf of Aden, the Chinese naval fleet with a crew of 728 officers

and sailors led by RADM Qin Wei, Deputy Director of Political Department, East Sea Fleet, PLA-N, aims to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation, said Senior Captain Mr. Wang Hongli.

During the goodwill Myanmar trip, officers of the Chinese naval fleet will meet with Myanmar military leaders, and sports events of Chinese naval crews and Myanmar Tatmadawmen are set to be held.—Zawgyi (Panita)

## Answer sheets destroyed at Kyaukse GTU

A FIRE, believed to have been caused by an arsonist, broke out at Kyaukse Technological University in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region at around 5.45 am yesterday.

Police Sub-Inspector Min Kyaing of Kyaukse police station said that some answer sheets were destroyed in the fire and that police

are investigating the suspected arsonists.

Police discovered that the door of the room where the fire occurred had been destroyed, with its lock cut by a hacksaw.

A man wearing trousers, believed to be a student, was seen on CCTV, said the police Sub-Inspector.

U Zin Tun, assistant director of the Kyaukse District Fire Department, said that the man seen on CCTV was believed to have set fire to the room where answer sheets were kept.

Examinations began 19 September at Kyaukse Technological University.—Aung Thant Khaing

## Crime NEWS

### Heroin, raw opium and yaba seized in Nawngkhio



The criminal suspect seen together with drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Lashio police station seized soap boxes filled with heroin weighing a total of 20 grams and 4,000 yaba pills from a vehicle being driven by one Sai Tun Myint near Oriental toll gate on Thursday.

Similarly, police from Yatsauk Myoma Police station seized raw opium weighing 40.82 gram and 389 yaba pills from one Tun Aye who was found inside a hut on Yatsauk-Shwe Nyaung road on Wednesday.

All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

### Heroin seized in Wuntho township

An ANTI-narcotic police unit from Wuntho township seized yaba in Aharmakan village, Wuntho township, Sagaing region on Thursday. Acting on a

tip-off, police arrested one Thet Naing who was allegedly selling the drug at his house. The police searched the house and found heroin weighing 46.16 gram.

Police have filed charges against him under section 15/19(A) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Lu Aung (Katha)

## Singaporean investment grows by over 55 per cent during new government period

SINGAPORE'S investments in Myanmar have grown by over 55 per cent during the time of the new government, it is learned. At this point in time Singaporean companies have invested over US\$ 517 million in 8 enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The country's total foreign investment in Myanmar is currently US\$ 701.737 million in 23 enterprises for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The FDI invested US\$336.430 million in 13 manufacturing projects, US\$

112.197 million in four transportation and communication projects, US\$35.030 million in two hotel and tourism projects, US\$105 million in real estate projects, US\$37.535 million in other projects and US\$ 75.545 million in livestock and fisheries.

Foreign direct investment reached over US\$2.8 billion over the 2015-2016FY. Currently, the FDI has invested over US\$ 700 million in the 2016-2017FY, according to figures from the DICA. —200

## Trade deficit reaches over US\$ 1.7 billion

MYANMAR'S trade deficit reached US\$ 1.7 billion between 1 April and 1 September this fiscal year. It has seen a decrease of US\$ 788 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the 2014-2015 FY, Myanmar's trade deficit was recorded at over US\$ 2.5 billion. "This financial year, Myanmar's trade deficit recorded US\$ 1700 million, which is a decrease compared with the previous year. This year, Myanmar exports increased by US\$ 271 million while imports

decreased by US\$ 571 million," according to an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's foreign trade volume sits at US\$ 12 billion for the 2016-2017FY. As for exports, Myanmar earned over US\$ 5.1 billion while import value reached US\$ 6.8 billion. Between April 1 and 16 September last fiscal year, trade reached over US\$ 12.2 billion with exports of over US\$ 4.8 billion and over US\$ 7.4 billion in imports. Last year's trade balance showed a deficit of US\$ 2.5 billion.—200

### Illegal timber and machinery confiscated

AN official and staff from Katha township confiscated illegal timber and machinery near the creek of Nyaung Chay Htauk village, Katha township, Sagaing region, on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the creek and

found 30 logs of timber weighing 6.2 tonnes, sawn timber weighing 1.4 tonnes and a Chinese made machine used in the collection of logs. The Forestry Department have kept the seized timber and machine.—U Ye (Katha)

### Black opium and yaba seized in Moe Nae

LOCAL police from Shan State seized black opium and yaba from a house in Lwin Myay ward, Moe Nae town on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the home of one Myint Oo, 54, and found black opium weighing 400 grams and 110 yaba pills.—Township IPRD



Criminal suspects seen together with drugs seized. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

# LOCAL Business

## Fish and prawn breeders required to adopt new breeding methods to enhance sector

Businessmen who are engaged in fish and prawn farming should adopt new techniques to enhance the sector, said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF).

MFF and non-governmental organisations have encouraged fish and prawn breeders to practice new breeding methods and discard the traditional methods. The aquatic resources in Myanmar are on the decline, and will continue to do so unless the breeders participate in practical farming using new methods.

Restricted periods of fishing have already been set and awareness campaigns promoting the

new methods are being conducted, it is learnt from MFF.

Myanmar's weather is favourable for fish and prawn farming. Additionally, Myanmar is rich in aquatic resource when compared to neighboring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam. There are around 400,000 acres of fish and prawn farms, it is learnt from the Fisheries Department. However, the volume of the products produced is 10-12 times less than that of Thailand and Viet Nam. The fisheries export sector annually earns around US\$500 million. The target of the fisheries export is to fetch US\$700 million.—200



Workers work at a fish farm in Htantabin township, outside Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Huawei selects KMD as enterprise ICT products and solutions distribution partner in Myanmar

HUAWEI announced its partnership with KMD Company Limited (KMD), Myanmar's foremost IT distribution company, selecting the IT company as the new distributor for its ICT products and solutions business in the country.

The announcement came at the inaugural "Huawei Partner Summit" focusing on the enterprise market in Myanmar and held at Sule Shangri-La Yangon Hotel yesterday.

"The selection of KMD as its distributor further affirms Huawei's strategic commitment to Myanmar as a key market for its business operations," said the statement released by Huawei at the ceremony.

Myanmar's ICT industry development has been the most rapid in the world in recent years. With the advancement of its communication network construction,

mobile penetration in the market has exceeded 90%, according to Huawei.

"However, it still lacks sufficient government and the enterprise ICT solutions. Growing of this segment would bring many benefits such as the country's adoption of e-Government, which necessitates applications that improve operational efficiency and provide more convenient public services," said Mr. Zhang Liman, CEO of Huawei Technologies (Yangon) Co. Ltd., Mr. William Chuck, Director of Huawei's SEA Channel Business Department, said: "The partnership is very timely as the demand for ICT products and solutions has significantly increased in Myanmar in recent years."

Myanmar has been earmarked as one of the most important emerging markets for Huawei in Southeast Asia.—GNLM

## Petrol price high on local market

THE price of petrol has risen on the domestic market due to an increase in the price of world crude oil and also shifting currency exchange rates on the global market, according to owners of fuel filling stations.

The price of crude oil per barrel increased to US\$54 from under \$50 on the global market. The current price is \$11 more than the same period last year.

According to the filling stations, the price of 92 octane petrol on 24 September rose from

K510 per litre to K570 while the price of 95 octane petrol increased from K600 to K640. The price of high diesel also increased from K550 to K560 per litre and diesel to K530 from K570.

In September 2015, 92 octane petrol was sold for K700 per litre, K95 octane petrol for K800, high diesel for K700 and diesel for K660 on the local market.

The currency exchange rate also increased to US\$1,232 on 24 September from \$1,208 in early September.—Kyu Kyu

## Farmers struggle from delay in providing cultivation loans for rain crops

FARMERS are being forced to take out loans at high interest rates because of a three-month delay in providing cultivation loans for rain crops in Htigyaing Township.

The loans for rain crops were provided in July last year, but this year loans were offered only in September.

There were a total of 1,690 acres of paddy in Mya Taung village tract in 2015, for which cultivation loans of Ks100,000 per acre were provided. But some farmers failed to repay their loans on time, causing the delay to provide the cultivation

loans. This year, 1,497 acres of land are eligible to receive cultivation loans, after excluding those acres owned by farmers who cannot afford to repay the loans, said U Thaw, a manager of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

But the farmers said that the loans of Ks150,000 per acre in 2016 were insufficient to cover the entire cost of cultivation, resulting in losses and an inability to repay the loans.

"The loans were delayed for two or three months and it is close to harvest time. The

farmers struggled from the delay. The cultivation costs about Ks250,000 per acre, excluding the cost of harvesting. We are relieved that the cultivation loans of Ks150,000 can cover over half of the cultivation cost", said U Aung Thaung, a farmer from Htigyaing Township.

The rice this year was planted from July to August in this township. The farmers were forced to take out loans from businessmen at an interest rate of 8 per cent per month, it is learnt from the farmers.—Myitmakha News Agency

## Budget deficit of over Ks159billion to be requested for Kachin State

THE budget deficit of Ks159.769billion for the ministries in Kachin State will be requested to the Union Government, said U Wai Lin, the state minister for Finance and Revenue, Planning and Economy.

A total budget of Ks159billion is in deficit even after the budget allocated by the government and the revenue earned from the State are added. Currently, 10billion out of the budget deficit will be asked for the 20 ministries in the state, he continued.

The state minister discussed seeking approval from the State Hluttaw to ask for a higher budget from the Union Government at the Kachin Hluttaw meeting held on 28th September.

The budget provided by the Union Government is enough only for a five-month period to fulfil the requirements of the local people. The budget cannot sufficiently cover the remaining seven months, officials said. The State Hluttaw has already given approval to forward the request to the Union Government.

"There are many infrastructural requirements in our state. We have requested to build tarred roads to facilitate transportation. If the minister asks for more budgets to fulfill our requirements, I will appreciate it", said U Min Min, a Hluttaw representative from Mansi Township.

The Union Government was allowed to spend Ks164billion

in Kachin State in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The allocated budgets will be spent to effectuate the state's development, plus the fund of the state at Ks11,720.624million, it is learnt.

The current proposal for a Ks11billion budget will be spent on the State government, State Hluttaw, the court office, the administrative office, fire service office, fish farming, livestock and treatment, cooperative business, microfinance, forestry and environmental conservation, salt mining, electricity, sport and physical education, planning, urban areas, human settlement and housing development, road construction and the State Development Committee, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

## Philippines' Duterte likens himself to Hitler, wants to kill millions of drug users

MANILA — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte appeared to liken himself to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler on Friday and said he would “be happy” to exterminate three million drug users and peddlers in the country.

His comments triggered shock and anger among Jewish groups in the United States, which will add to pressure on the US government to take a tougher line with the Philippines leader. Duterte recently insulted President Barack Obama and in a series of remarks he has undermined the previously close relationship between Manila and Washington.

In a rambling speech on his arrival in Davao City after a visit to Viet Nam, Duterte told reporters that he had been “portrayed to be a cousin of Hitler” by critics.

Noting that Hitler had murdered millions of Jews, Duterte said: “There are three million drug addicts



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte gestures during a news conference upon his arrival from a state visit in Vietnam at the International Airport in Davao city, on 30 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

(in the Philippines). I'd be happy to slaughter them.

“If Germany had Hitler, the Philippines would have...,” he said, pausing and pointing to himself.

“You know my victims. I would like (them) to be all criminals to finish the problem of my country and save the next generation from perdition.”

Duterte was voted to power in a May election on the back of a vow to end drugs and corruption in the country of 100 million people. He took office on 30

June and over 3,100 people have been killed since then, mostly alleged drug users and dealers, in police operations and in vigilante killings.

His comments were quickly condemned by Jewish groups.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Digital Terrorism and Hate project, called them “outrageous”.

“Duterte owes the victims (of the Holocaust) an apology for his disgusting rhetoric.”

The Anti-Defamation League, an international Jewish group based in the United States, said Duterte's comments were “shocking for their tone-deafness”.

“The comparison of drug users and dealers to Holocaust victims is inappropriate and deeply offensive,” said Todd Gutnick, the group's director of communications. “It is baffling why any leader would want to model himself after such

a monster.”

Two days before the Philippines election, outgoing President Benigno Aquino had warned that Duterte's rising popularity was akin to that of Hitler in the 1920s and 1930s.

“I hope we learn the lessons of history,” Aquino said in widely reported remarks. “We should remember how Hitler came to power.”

Duterte has been scathing about criticism of his anti-drugs campaign and has insulted the United Nations and the European Union, as well as Obama, at various times in recent weeks.

On Friday, reacting to critical comments on his war on drugs by US Senators Patrick Leahy and Benjamin Cardin, Duterte said: “Do not pretend to be the moral conscience of the world. Do not be the policeman because you do not have the eligibility to do that in my country.”

—Reuters

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## Fore! South Korea golf course may get anti-missile battery

SEOUL — South Korea's military aims to deploy an advanced US missile defence unit on a golf course, a defence ministry official said on Friday, after it had to scrap its initial site for the battery in the face of opposition from residents.

Tension on the Korean peninsula has been high this year, beginning with North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January, which was followed by a satellite launch, a string of tests of various missiles, and its fifth and largest nuclear test this month.

In July, South Korea agreed with the United States that a US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile unit would be deployed in the Seongju region, southeast of the capital, Seoul, to de-

fend the country.

But residents of the melon-farming area protested over worries about the safety of the system's powerful radar and the likelihood it would be a target for North Korea, which warned of retaliation, if war broke out.

The plan to deploy the system has also angered China, which worries that the THAAD's powerful radar would compromise its security.

The new site for the missile battery would be a golf course at the high-end Lotte Skyhill Seongju Country Club, the ministry official said told Reuters, confirming media reports.

The club is owned by the Lotte Group conglomerate and had been considered as an alternative due

to its high altitude and accessibility for military vehicles, the defence official said.

It was not clear how the military would acquire the property, reportedly worth about 100 billion won (\$90.54 million).

“We will positively consider the deployment of THAAD at the golf course considering the grave situation regarding national security,” Kim Byung-wook, an official at the club, told Reuters by phone.

He said the company had received a notice from the defence ministry about the plan on Thursday.

The United States said this week that it would speed up deployment of the system given the pace of North Korea's missile tests, and it would be stationed

in South Korea “as soon as possible”.

On Thursday, China again warned against the deployment, saying it “means what it says” when it says it will consider countermeasures.

The United States and South Korea have said THAAD does not threaten China's security or target any country other than North Korea.

The military analysed three possible locations for the system and found the golf course to be the most feasible, the defence official said, as the other two would require additional engineering which would delay the deployment.

The official declined to be identified as he is not authorised to speak to media.—Reuters

## Indonesians line up to beat deadline for tax amnesty's best terms

JAKARTA — Hundreds of Indonesians queued for hours on Friday to get the most attractive terms on offer under a tax amnesty that's recovered strongly after a slow start and which the finance minister calls the most successful a country has had.

The amnesty, which runs until March, aims to provide the government with billions of dollars in revenue to help cover a large fiscal deficit.

Facing government threats of an unpreced-

ed crackdown on tax evaders, more than 300,000 Indonesians have joined the tax amnesty scheme and declared \$250 billion of assets since its launch in July.

Friday marks the end of the programme first phase, during which the lowest penalty of 2 per cent on previously unreported assets applies. The penalty rates rise 1-2 percentage points on Saturday and rise again from 1 January for the final phase.

“I don't want to miss

this. If the value of what I declare is big, than 1 percentage point matters,” Lenna Yovanca, an employee in the fashion industry, said while waiting with scores of others outside the main tax office in Jakarta.

Data on Friday showed 319,129 taxpayers had signed up, declaring 3,344 trillion rupiah (\$257.19 billion) with 133 trillion rupiah pledged to be repatriated back to Indonesia, according to a government website giv-

ing daily updates.

Indonesians who declare assets overseas are not required to bring them home, but pay a lower penalty rate if they do. The bulk of Indonesia's offshore assets are believed to be in Singapore, with an estimated \$200 billion there in private banking assets.

To date, the amnesty has generated 95.3 trillion rupiah in government revenue, or 57 per cent of Jakarta's 165 trillion rupiah target.—Reuters

# Pakistan 'completely rejects' Indian claim of cross-border strikes

ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR, (India) — Pakistan on Friday "completely rejected" India's claim to have sent troops across its disputed border in Kashmir to kill suspected militants, as India evacuated villages near the frontier amid concerns about a military escalation.

In a rare public announcement of such a raid, India said it had carried out "surgical strikes" on Thursday, sending special forces to kill men preparing to sneak into its territory and attack major cities.

Indian officials said troops had killed militants numbering in the double digits and that its soldiers had returned safely to base before dawn, but declined to provide more evidence of the operation.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif maintained that India fired unprovoked from its side of the heavily militarized frontier in the disputed region of Kashmir, the flashpoint for two of three wars between the nuclear-armed neighbours, and killed two soldiers.

"The Cabinet joined the Prime Minister in completely rejecting the Indian claims of carrying out 'surgical strikes'," Sharif's office said in a statement issued after a cabinet meeting on Friday.

It added that the country was ready "to counter any aggressive Indian designs," but gave no fur-



Indian army soldiers keep guard on top of a shop along a highway on the outskirts of Srinagar, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ther details.

Pakistan also captured an Indian soldier on Thursday on its side of the border, but India said this was unrelated to the raid as the man had inadvertently strayed across the frontier.

Domestic pressure had been building on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to retaliate after 19 soldiers were killed in a 18 September attack on an Indian

army base in Kashmir that India blames on infiltrators who crossed from Pakistani territory.

A senior leader of Modi's ruling party declared himself satisfied with India's "multi-pronged" response to the attack on the army base.

"For Pakistan, terrorism has come as a cheaper option all these years. Time to make it costly for it," Ram Madhav, national gener-

al secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, wrote in a column for the *Indian Express* newspaper.

India has also launched a diplomatic campaign to try and isolate Pakistan. Its decision on Tuesday to boycott a summit of South Asian leaders in November in Islamabad was followed by Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan expressing their "inability" to attend.

Sri Lanka said on Friday that peace and security were vital for regional cooperation, but stopped short of pulling out.

While India's public and politicians have welcomed the operation, Pakistan greeted New Delhi's version of events with scepticism and ridicule.

Television news channels and newspapers reported only small arms and mortar fire, a relatively routine occurrence on the de facto border.

Pakistan's *Express Tribune*, an affiliate of the *New York Times*, led its edition with the headline "'Surgical' farce blows up in India's face".

Rising tensions have also hit cultural ties.

Pakistani cinemas have stopped screening Indian films in "solidarity" with the armed forces, and after an Indian filmmakers' group banned its members from hiring Pakistani actors. Indian-made Bollywood films are wildly popular in both countries.

India's announcement of the raid on Thursday raised the possibility of military escalation that could wreck a 2003 Kashmir ceasefire.

India evacuated more than 10,000 villagers living near the border, and ordered security forces to upgrade surveillance along the frontier in Jammu and Kashmir state, part of the 3,300-km (2,100 miles) border.—*Reuters*

## Pentagon chief calls US alliance with Philippines 'ironclad'

SAN DIEGO, (Calif.) — The United States has an "ironclad" alliance with the Philippines, US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Thursday, countering statements by the southeast Asian nation's president that have thrown bilateral relations into deepening uncertainty.

Carter spoke a day after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has branded President Barack Obama a "son of a bitch," declared upcoming US-Philippines military exercises "the last" and ruled out any joint navy patrols.

"As it has been for decades, our alliance with the Philippines is ironclad," said Carter, speaking to American sailors aboard the U.S.S. Carl Vinson at its home port in San Diego.

Through a "landmark" recent agreement, "the United States is supporting the modernisation of the Philippine Armed Forces," he said.

Duterte has engaged in near-daily outbursts against the United States for the last month, raising questions about whether Manila's next moves could complicate regional diplomacy.

Among other measures, the firebrand leader has said he will order the pullout of the remaining US special forces stationed in the Philippines' restive south.

The comments have cast doubt over an alliance that both countries have sought to strengthen amid shared concerns about China's military clout and pursuit of broad maritime claims. The

Philippines and China have long sparred over sovereignty in the South China Sea.

Carter also noted the Maritime Security Initiative, under which the United States is providing tens of millions of dollars to the Philippines.

Despite his inflammatory comments, Duterte has said the Philippines will maintain security agreements with Washington, and Philippines Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said Duterte had only ruled out joint patrols beyond the Philippines' 12-nautical mile territorial waters. US officials said this week that they had not seen formal requests from the Philippines to stop the joint patrols.

Carter also spoke broadly

about the US "rebalance" toward the Asia-Pacific region, and touted strong bilateral relationships with countries in the area, including Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

Carter is due to host defense ministers from southeast Asian countries in Hawaii this week, including the Philippines. Such gatherings have recently been dominated by China's claims on parts of the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

In a visit to the Philippines in April, Carter announced expanded military ties, including regular rotations of US troops and military equipment and joint patrols in the South China Sea.—*Reuters*

## Construction of metro bridge in Viet Nam's HCM City complete

HO CHI MINH CITY — Construction of the most important bridge in a project on building the first metro route in Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City was complete on Friday, the municipal Urban Rail Management Board said.

Construction of the new bridge over Saigon River started in December 2013. Along with four other bridges, the Saigon Bridge, which is nearly 300m long and over 11m wide, will serve the Ben Thanh-Suoi Tien metro route.

The 20-km metro route, running through Ho Chi Minh City's 1, 2, 9, Binh Thanh and Thu Duc Districts and Binh Duong Province's Di An district, is scheduled to open to traffic in 2020, helping ease congestion at the city's northeastern entrance, said the board.

Construction of Ben Thanh-Suoi Tien metro route started in August 2012, and its total investment stands at 2.49 billion US dollars.—*Xinhua*

## Three Chinese fishermen killed in confrontation with South Korea coastguard

SEOUL — Three Chinese fishermen were killed on Thursday in a fire that broke out on their boat when South Korean coastguard men trying to apprehend them for illegal fishing threw flash grenades into a room they were hiding in, a South Korean official said.

The three men were believed to have suffocated, a coastguard official in the South Korean port city of Mokpo said, adding that

the incident was being investigated.

Disputes over illegal fishing are an irritant in relations between China and US ally South Korea, even as their economic relations grow close. They also share concern about North Korea's nuclear weapon and missile programmes.

The fire broke out in the boat's steering room, said the official, who is not authorised to

speak with media and declined to be identified, told Reuters by telephone.

A Chinese embassy official in Seoul could not be reached for comment and China's foreign ministry in Beijing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

South Korean authorities were questioning the 14 surviving crew and coastguard members involved in the operation,

the official added.

South Korean coastguard vessels regularly chase Chinese boats for fishing illegally and violent confrontations have occurred in the past.

The Chinese boat, caught fishing in waters off the southwest of the peninsula, about 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Hondo Island, would be brought in to a South Korean port later on Friday, the official said.—*Reuters*

# Opinion

## Write for us

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

## An important episode of life

**Khin Maung Aye**

**I**N most societies, marriage is a significant social and economic episode. In fact, marrying is commencement of young person's departure from their household even though co-dependency between generations. Marriage embodies not only the union of the two people from the two different families possibly with different social, cultural and religious backgrounds but also the unification of two families.

It is worth mentioning here in this juncture that marriage is considered to be part of demographic analyses, for it incorporates the study of a feature of a population, which has a rela-

tionship with both the size and distribution of that population. In the study of marriage, focus is mostly laid upon the first marriage, for its impacts upon fertility and the growth of population bears public policy implication (Savitridira, 1997).

As for the young people, first marriage counts the most, for it is the start of a transition from adolescence to adulthood in their life cycle. This being so, understanding of the timing of the first marriage is significant to enter a period of transition from adolescence to adulthood.

In those days, the age at first marriage of women and the proportion of women single

in the developed nations were usually higher than that of the developing. It was assumed that early and universal marriage contributed towards a high rate of fertility in Asia. In fact, early and universal marriage, particularly among women, was the most common pattern of most Asian nations until 1970 (Minh, 1997).

Nevertheless, most developing countries these days are witnessing a transition from universal and early marriage to later age of marriage and less universal marriage. A major characteristic of this process is the reduction of proportion of marriage at younger ages and

permanent celibacy with result that people marry late.

This transition of marriage pattern has impacts upon many things particular upon the fertility rate. Delayed marriage plays an important role in the declining fertility by shortening the reproductive life span of a woman. And the decline in fertility will adversely effect the family size and a country's population growth rate.

Such being the case, it is necessary for the government to reconsider the population policy in order that the human capital is not depleted and the replacement level is not reached.

## TCSF Field Testing Consolidation Workshop

**Dr. Myo Win**  
Yangon University of Education

**T**EACHER Competency Standards Framework (TCSF) field testing consolidation workshop was held in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw for three days from 26 September, 2016 to 28 September, 2016. UNESCO education specialists and TCSF working group members acted as facilitators for this workshop. It was attended by responsible personnel from Ministry of Education, Development Partners and data collectors.

The purpose of this workshop is:

- to present the findings from the field testing
- to consolidate and discuss analysed data collected through case studies of classroom observations and key informant interviews
- to consolidate and analyse the findings to inform further improvement of the framework

The Myanmar Teacher Competency Standards Framework (TCSF) has been developed since October, 2015. The main objective of this framework is to establish an agreed set of teacher competency standards to improve the quality of teachers and teaching in Myanmar. The framework consists of four domains: professional knowledge and understanding, professional skills and practice, professional values and disposition and professional growth. Each domain has minimum requirements and competency standards for teachers' professional development. To implement this framework, the core working group was organized in October, 2015. The UNESCO experts and working group members worked together to get the first

draft of TCSF framework. To ensure that the frame is useful for Myanmar's education system, it was field-tested during September, 2016. Such research tools as classroom observation, teacher self-appraisal, interview, etc were used for the field-testing. The field-test involved seventy-six (76) test case sites, each selected purposively and for convenience to include participants from all states and regions, teacher education institutions and basic education school providers - government, non-government, monastic, ethnic, private and secular education. The sample also covers all stages of schooling - Kindergarten, Primary, Lower and Upper Secondary. Teacher educators and M. Ed students from Universities of Education and teachers from Education colleges volunteered to conduct this field test. To discuss field testing experiences, this workshop was held for three days.

On the first day, UNESCO education experts and working group members from Yangon University of Education, Sagaing University of Education and University of Development of National Races first discussed the findings of the field testing.

On the second day, data collectors and researchers were awarded certificates of appreciation. Discussion was focused on feedback from data collectors on the field test exercise experience. All members were divided into ten groups. The discussions of these groups were as follows.

- The respondents requested to give more time to study TCSF in detail. As they did not have suffi-

cient time, they could not study the self-appraisal form thoroughly.

- There were so many questions for the respondents to answer.

- Mini workshop for basic education teachers should be conducted to be familiar with TCSF.

- Some headmasters and teachers were very interested in TCSF and actively participated.

- Some teachers from rural areas were afraid of being punished if they were found to be unqualified.

- They thought that TCSF was opposite to current situation.

- Most of the respondents did not understand the contents in the self-appraisal.

One of the self-appraisal forms is based on Likert Scale. According to this form, one statement is given. The respondents have to choose one out of four alternatives.

A. Strongly agree B. agree C. disagree D. strongly disagree . Give reasons for your choice.

- According to the findings of some data collectors, respondents chose one alternative without thorough knowledge. But they could not give the reasons for their choice. This is the research tools' weakness.

- Some classroom observers' finding was quite interesting. As the headmaster had already known that his school was going to be observed, he asked the teachers to teach the students in advance. So the result is not as reliable as expected.

- Some data collectors were warmly welcomed by the headmaster and teachers but some had opposite experience. Some data collectors had to go to private schools. Some headmasters from private schools said that they were

not responsible for this TCSF. It was found that some were not interested in this field test.

- Some teachers were worried about being interviewed or being observed. They thought that if they could not teach well, they would be taken action.

- Some teachers did not read the questionnaire which was sent in advance. Without interest, they responded the questionnaire.

- One data collector had difficulties in using language. The school she had to observe was Mon school. So the results were not as reliable as expected because of language difficulty.

- Many teachers did not understand such terms as ethical use of ICT, scarce education resources, learning context etc.

Data collectors were trained for two days before field testing. The questionnaire was written in Myanmar. There may be some weaknesses in translating from English to Myanmar. In fact, this TCSF is very important for the improvement of Myanmar education. On the second day, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Minister for Education, came to the workshop. He also pointed out the importance of TCSF. He said that some 2 year education colleges are going to be upgraded into 4 year degree education colleges. In developing curriculum framework for these colleges, it must be based on the TCSF framework. Moreover, this framework is also in line with education law.

In the evening section of day two, minimum requirements and indicators in Domain A and B were discussed. Data collectors presented their findings - strengths and weaknesses in these domains. On the third day, the domains B and C were discussed. In the evening section of the third day,

discussion was mainly focused on reaching consensus among members on revisions to competency standards, minimum requirements, indicators and practice examples.

It should be said that the workshop is fruitful, for feedback from the data collectors is very useful for the improvement of TCSF framework. It is natural to find some difficulties in changing present situation into new situation which is not familiar with the present one, especially in education reform. The pioneer of this TCSF framework is UNESCO education specialists. They worked together with Myanmar working group so that the framework will be more in line with Myanmar culture. Field testing clearly pointed out some mismatches between theoretically expected outcomes and practically authentic results. Therefore, there are some recommendations for the improvement of Myanmar Teacher Competency Standards Framework.

The preliminary findings from the field test provide evidence that the intent of the framework is appropriate and acknowledged by many stakeholders. However, the current version requires revisions to simplify the content and language to make it more useful and meaningful. Broader consultation and discussion should be conducted to develop an understanding of how the framework may be implemented within Myanmar's system of education and the capacity development requirements for on-going implementation. As the framework is to be implemented for use as a professional developmental tool, more extensive implementation trials and validation surveys are required.

*Reference: Handouts used in workshop*

## State Counsellor opens 37th AIPA in capital city

>> From page 1

After the address, the state counsellor banged a gong to mark the opening of the assembly.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, who chairs the 37th AIPA, said he felt a glow of pride on behalf of the representatives as the country hosted the regional event for the very first time.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was recognised as a full-fledged member to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly at the 32nd AIPA hosted by Cambodia in 2011.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than pledged that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, despite its capacity as the most recent member, would make strenuous efforts to secure the success of the assembly.

The regional countries still fail to protect the rights of migrant workers at a time when one country is in a position of relying on the other in terms of labour

and import, with the speaker stressing that the peoples of the ASEAN countries are faced with pressing challenges that need addressing without delay.

He also linked human trafficking and gender discrimination to the challenges of migrant workers, describing the protection of the environment and the management of natural resources for development as additional challenges.

According to him, the 37th ASEAN Assembly would adopt necessary regulations to tackle these problems through the adoption of necessary regulations.

The success of the assembly would represent our commitment to democracy, thereby enabling the world to witness the friendship and solidarity among the ASEAN countries, he added.

The state counsellor posed for group photos together with the leaders of the delegates to the assembly and officials from

AIPA's international partners.

At the plenary session, speakers of the ASEAN parliaments, the ASEAN's deputy secretary-general and the secretary-general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union discussed matters related to statements.

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly first met in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8-11 January 1975. Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore signed the AIPO Statutes at the third meeting in the Philippines in 1977. According to the statutes, the venue of the assembly is annually rotated among the member countries in alphabetical order.

Myanmar attended the 27th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly as an observer but joined the 32nd event as a full-fledged member on 20 September 2011.

This year's theme is "Vibrant AIPA for a Progressive ASEAN Community".—GNLM with Myanmar News Agency

## Vice President U Myint Swe meets outgoing Turkish ambassador

VICE President U Myint Swe met outgoing Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace on Friday morning.

During the meeting, both representatives discussed matters

relating to bilateral relations and trade promotion.

Also present at the call were Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, and officials.—Myanmar News Agency



Vice President U Myint Swe shakes hands with outgoing Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates. PHOTO: MNA

## CDC issues Zika travel advisory for 11 Southeast Asian countries

>> From page 1

"Some of these destinations are very popular for students and younger adults in their 20s or 30s looking for vacations, whether it's a backpacking tour or surfing or swimming," said Harteveltdt. "This could have a noticeable impact on inbound tourism and (cause) some economic damage."

The impact may not be limited to US vacationers, he added.

"When the US CDC issues an alert, just like when the US State Department issues an ad-

visory, it's taken very seriously across the travel industry. It may prompt the CDC's counterparts (in other countries) to take a look and issue their own warnings," Harteveltdt said.

To be sure, any dip in travel to Southeast Asia is unlikely to hurt profits for US airlines because they have few flights to the region, relying instead on other carriers to transport their customers with the help of marketing or "codeshare" agreements. Companies that fly more to the destinations, like Air

France-KLM SA and Emirates [EMIRA.UL], have more exposure, said Harteveltdt.

"These are not the top-tier vacation destinations that a lot of people go to. They're still (more like) "bucket-list" destinations, he said. "It's not like the CDC just issued a warning saying, don't go to England."

Airline bookings to parts of Latin America and the Caribbean slipped globally after the CDC issued a similar travel warning for the region because of Zika.—Reuters

## U Myint Swe appointed ambassador to South Africa

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Swe, Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Speech delivered by the State Counsellor at the Opening Ceremony of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

>> From page 3

We are working to build understanding, harmony and trust between communities, while standing firm against prejudice, intolerance and extremism. In doing so, we ask for the constructive support of our regional neighbours. Progress in every field will not be possible overnight, but we are determined to persevere, and to bring about positive change in Rakhine State, as in other areas of our country affected by conflict.

We are also striving to bring about sustainable economic development for the benefit of all people in Myanmar. Our country is fortunate to be endowed with varied natural resources, a young population eager to learn, and a location between the largest markets of the world. Yet for reasons of history, our country has never realised its economic potential. Today, through the hard work of our government and people, and the support and collaboration of our friends in

this region, we have an unprecedented opportunity to build a better future.

We have launched an economic policy that aims to support national reconciliation, alleviate poverty, develop much-needed infrastructure, encourage responsible foreign investment and job creation. We will seek to learn from what has worked well in your own countries as we pursue this approach. The economic development of Myanmar will, I believe, support the growing prosperity of our region as a whole, and contribute to the future success of the ASEAN Community.

At the same time, we are pursuing our international obligations, in line with our intention to be a responsible and active member of the world community. Myanmar has recently ratified the UN Nuclear Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We are currently concluding domestic procedures to enable the ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Privileges and Im-

munities, the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms, and the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. In doing so, the constructive and active cooperation between our executive and our legislature has been invaluable.

The continued goodwill and support of the people of the ASEAN region as we pursue all these endeavours will be a great source of strength and encouragement to us.

Today our world is more connected than ever, and no country or people can or should stand alone. The opportunities and challenges that we face cannot be realised or overcome without international cooperation. And this cooperation must be across all the pillars of government- executive, judicial, and of course legislative.

AIPA therefore has a very important role to play. The breadth of subjects on the Assembly's agenda for the coming days

stands testament to this. Among the matters you will be discussing are: strengthening cyber security; protecting marine resources; mitigating the impacts of climate change; supporting SMEs; defending against the Zika virus. All these are issues that affect our citizens directly, and where we have a duty to work together, in a spirit of democratic collaboration, to find effective and progressive solutions.

Before I conclude, may I draw again on my closing remarks from the United Nations General Assembly, which I had the privilege of attending last week.

Myanmar has known too well the cost of conflict and strife. We have seen how anger, greed, fear and ignorance can corrupt human nature, and corrupt a human community as a whole. Therefore, I would appeal to all of you here today to stand up against anger, hatred, fear and ignorance wherever you may encounter it, and to instead seek the path of compas-

sion, loving kindness, and happiness in the good fortune of others.

I would like to see the ASEAN Community stand as an example to other communities around the world — a community where giving is truly more valued than receiving, and which places fundamental human rights and human dignity at the heart of all policies and actions. And may I remind all legislatures that there's no honour grace of than that to be an elected representative of the people, to discharge our responsibilities to them to stand for them against the challenges of our world and to be able to say at the end of our term in office that we have truly done our duty by our people and by ourselves.

May I conclude by wishing this 37th Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Union every success, and by wishing all of you a productive and enjoyable few days in Naypyidaw. Enjoyable, I hope.

Thank you.

# Saudi foreign ministry condemns passage of US September 11 law

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry condemned the passage of a US law that would allow families of victims of the 11 September, 2001 attacks to sue the kingdom for damages, calling it a matter of "great concern" in a statement on Thursday.

The US Senate and House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to approve legislation that will allow the families of those killed in the 2001 attacks on the United States to seek damages from the Saudi government.

"The erosion of sovereign immunity will have a negative impact on all nations, including the United States," said the Saudi statement, which was carried on state news agency SPA after a day of stony silence from Riyadh.

The foreign ministry expressed hope that the US Congress would correct the legislation "to avoid the serious unintended consequences that may ensue," without elaborating on what the consequences might be.

Riyadh has always dismissed suspicions that it backed the attackers, who killed nearly 3,000 people under the banner of Islamist militant group al-Qaeda. Fifteen out of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals.

The Saudi government financed an extensive lobbying campaign against the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism



A lone flag sits at the North Pool of the National 11 September Memorial, ahead of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks in Manhattan, New York, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Act", or JASTA, in the run-up to the vote, and warned it would undermine the principle of sovereign immunity.

But Saudi officials who had lobbied against the bill stopped short of threatening any specific retaliation if the law was passed.

The Saudi riyal fell against the US dollar in the forward foreign exchange market on Thursday after the law was passed.

Analysts said a successful lawsuit against the Saudi government would be unlikely at best, but speculated that the uncertainty surrounding the legal implications could negatively affect bilateral trade and investment with a major ally.

Saudi Arabia's Gulf state neighbour, United Arab Emirates, warned of the long-term grave repercussions of Congress overriding Obama's veto.

In a tweet late on Thursday, Anwar Gargash, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, called the US Congress move "a dangerous precedent in international law that undermines the principle of sovereign immunity and the future of sovereign investments in the United States".

In a later tweet Gargash said his country's reactions on both the legal and investment fronts should not be hasty and that "easing the damage requires joint action".—Reuters

## Clinton says Trump may have violated US law on Cuba

CHICAGO — US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton said on Thursday that Republican opponent Donald Trump may have violated US law, following a news report that one of his companies attempted to do business in Cuba.

*Newsweek* said on Thursday that a hotel and casino company controlled by Trump secretly conducted business with Cuba that was illegal under US sanctions in force during Fidel Castro's presidency of the Communist-ruled island.

"Today we learned about his efforts to do business in Cuba which appear to violate US law, certainly flout American foreign policy, and he has consistently misled people in responding to questions about whether he was attempting to do business in Cuba," Clinton told reporters on her campaign plane.

Clinton and Trump are in a close race ahead of the 8 November presidential election.

The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

*Newsweek*, citing interviews with former Trump executives, internal company records and court filings, said the Trump company spent at least \$68,000 for a 1998 trip to Cuba at a time when any corporate expenditure in the Caribbean country was prohibited without US government approval.

The Trump company did not spend the money directly, but funnelled the cash for the Cuba trip through an American consulting firm, *Newsweek* said.

*Newsweek* cited a former Trump executive as saying the goal of the Cuba trip was to give Trump's company a foothold should Washington loosen or lift the restrictions under the US trade embargo.

The former executive said Trump had participated in discussions about the Cuba trip and knew it had taken place, according to *Newsweek*.

"The efforts that Trump is making to get into the Cuba market, putting his business interests ahead of the laws of the United States ... shows that he puts his personal and business interests ahead of the laws and the values and the policies of the United States of America," Clinton said.—Reuters



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds a rally with supporters in Bedford, New Hampshire, US, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



## UN Secretary General's message on International Day of Older Persons

1 October 2016

The International Day of Older Persons is our chance to take a stand against the destructive problem of ageism.

While older persons are often said to enjoy particular respect, the reality is that too many societies limit them, denying access to jobs, loans and basic services. The marginalization and devaluing of older persons takes a heavy toll. It undermines their productivity and experience in the workforce, in volunteerism and through civil engagement while constraining their capacity for caregiving as well as financial and other support to families and communities. Ageism frequently intersects with other forms of discrimination based on gender, race, disability and other grounds, compounding and intensifying its effects.

Ending ageism and securing the human rights of older persons is an ethical and practical imperative. The stakes are high and growing. The global population of older persons is expected to rise from just over 900 million in 2015 to 1.4 billion by 2030 and 2.1 billion by 2050, when there will be roughly the same the number of older persons and children under 15.

I condemn ageism in all its forms and call for measures to address this violation of human rights as we strive to improve societies for people of all ages. This demands changing the way older persons are portrayed and perceived, from being seen as a burden to being appreciated for the many positive contributions they make to our human family.

I also call for greater legal guarantees of equality for older persons to prevent ageism from resulting in discriminatory policies, laws and treatment. I urge policy makers to compile better data and statistics on older persons' health, economic status and general wellbeing in order to better address their concerns. And I hope we will all reflect on our prejudicial attitudes and consider how, as individuals, we can counter ageism.

We have a clear roadmap to transformation: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This visionary plan and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize inclusion and equality, promising to leave no one behind. Older persons are both agents and beneficiaries of change. By advancing progress on the SDGs, we can mobilize the considerable talents, energy and experience of all older persons in carrying out this Agenda.

Let us mark the International Day of Older Persons by forcefully rejecting all forms of ageism and working to enable older persons to realize their potential as we honour our pledge to build a life of dignity and human rights for all.—UNIC/Yangon

## Building hosting Malaysian stock exchange evacuated over bomb threat

KUALA LUMPUR — A building in downtown Kuala Lumpur that hosts Bursa Malaysia, or the Malaysian Stock Exchange, was evacuated on Friday after the management office of the building received a bomb threat.

Bursa Malaysia said in a statement that it has notified the authorities about the threat, which was received at 12:01 pm, and evacuated all tenants and staff in the building "as a precaution."

Video footage posted on social networking sites show that

hundreds of people gathered outside the building with the police cordoning off the area.

A report from *Oriental Daily* estimated that more than 600 Bursa Malaysia staff and another 2,000 staff from Astro Awani, a satellite TV network and HSBC, work at the building.

The exchange said Business Continuity Plans have been activated.

Stock quotes posted by its website at 14:31 showed that normal trading activity has resumed.—Xinhua

# Palestinian president, Netanyahu shake hands at Peres funeral

JERUSALEM — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shook hands and exchanged brief words at the funeral on Friday of Shimon Peres, the former Israeli leader who won international acclaim for peacemaking with the Palestinians.

US President Barack Obama and other world leaders gathered for the burial in Jerusalem's Mount Herzl cemetery, two days after Peres, a former president and premier, died at the age of 93.

"Long time, long time," Abbas told Netanyahu and the prime minister's wife Sara, after shaking his hand before the start of the state ceremony.

Welcoming Abbas, as participants recorded the encounter on their cellphones, Netanyahu said of his attendance: "It's something that I appreciate very much on behalf of our people and on behalf of us."

But Abbas's rare visit to the city, a short drive through Israeli military checkpoints from Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, seemed unlikely to yield anything more than handshakes.

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have been frozen since 2014 and Netanyahu and Abbas, deeply divided over Jewish set-



US President Barack Obama (L) hugs Chemi Peres, the son of former Israeli President Shimon Peres, as Obama arrives to attend the funeral at Mount Herzl cemetery in Jerusalem, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tlement on land Palestinians seek for a state and other issues, have not held face-to-face talks since 2010.

Abbas was given a front-row seat between European Council President Donald Tusk and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. Obama briefly greeted the Palestinian leader with a kiss on each cheek before walking down the line to stand next to Netanyahu.

Peres, who died two weeks after a stroke, jointly won a Nobel Prize for his peace efforts with the Palestinians in the 1990s, landmark talks that have failed to achieve a final land-for-peace agreement.

Obama and Netanyahu were to deliver eulogies at the cemetery, which overlooks the Jerusalem forest and a verdant valley, in what could be an opportunity for the president to encourage Is-

raelis and Palestinians to revive peacemaking. US officials have held open the possibility of Obama making another formal effort to get peace negotiations back on the agenda before he leaves office in January, possibly via a UN Security Council resolution.

With time short between the end of the funeral and the start of the Jewish sabbath at sundown, no plans were announced for any diplomacy on Friday. Obama and Netanyahu, who have had a testy relationship, last held talks on 21 September in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Peres will be buried in a Jewish religious ceremony, in a plot between two former prime ministers, Yitzhak Rabin and Yitzhak Shamir. Rabin was assassinated by an ultranationalist Israeli in 1995 over the interim peace deals that he and Peres reached with the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"A light has gone out," Obama said in a statement after Peres died in a hospital near Tel Aviv on Wednesday, two weeks after suffering a stroke.

Outside Israel's parliament on Thursday, an estimated 50,000 Israelis filed past Peres's flag-draped coffin as it lay in state.

Former US President Bill Clinton, arriving in Israel a day before the burial, visited the plaza in front of parliament to stand, head bowed, in front of Peres's casket.

The leaders of Egypt and Jordan, the only Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel, were not on the roster of participants issued by Israel's Foreign Ministry. But the Egyptian foreign minister was scheduled to attend and King Abdullah of Jordan sent a telegram of condolences.

Obama was leading a delegation of 33 US officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry and Nancy Pelosi, Democratic leader in the House of Representatives.

Britain's Prince Charles, French President Francois Hollande, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and former British leaders David Cameron and Tony Blair were also on a long list of foreign dignitaries attending the funeral.

Israel laid on heavy security, deploying some 8,000 police and intermittently closing the main highway between Tel Aviv's airport and Jerusalem for Obama's motorcade.—Reuters

## Syrian army, rebels wage fierce battles north of Aleppo city

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces and rebels waged fierce battles north of Aleppo on Friday, sources on both sides said, a week into a Russian-backed offensive by the Syrian army to take the entire city.

Syrian government forces made a significant advance on Thursday north of Aleppo, capturing the Handarat refugee camp, a few kilometres (miles) from the city. The sources gave conflicting reports on the outcome of

Friday's fighting.

Hezbollah's Al Manar television said on Friday the Syrian army and its allies took full control of Handarat and the nearby Kindi Hospital area and continued advancing.

Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shi'ite group, is fighting in support of the Syrian government.

But a senior rebel source denied that the government had captured the Kindi Hospital area, saying the battles were ongoing.—Reuters



People stand near craters and damaged buildings in a rebel-held area of Aleppo, Syria, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## German minister to discuss Iran's role in Syria during visit: Spiegel

BERLIN— German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel plans to raise concerns about Iran's role in the war in Syria and its human rights record during his upcoming visit to Tehran, weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported on Friday.

The magazine quoted Gabriel, Germany's vice chancellor, as saying Iran could have normal, friendly relations with Germany only when it accepted Israel's right to exist.

Gabriel, who will travel to Iran for two days from Sunday, said he planned to use his meeting with Iranian officials to address not only economic ties, but also growing horror about the situation in Syria, as he did during a recent visit to Russia.

"I will do what I did during my last trip to Russia: explain the outrage that people in Germany feel toward those conflict parties allied with (Syrian President Bashar al-Assad) given the hor-

rible situation in Syria," he said.

"We cannot just go with business as usual in our relationship with countries who are involved in this murderous war," Gabriel told the magazine.

Gabriel is leading a large delegation of business executives to Iran to discuss potential business deals after a historic nuclear accord paved the way for ending sanctions that had been in place for years. He said he expected some agreements to be signed

during the visit but gave no details. German industry is keen to rebuild longstanding business ties with Iran, but trade has been slow to resume due to uncertainty and financial sanctions that remain in place even after completion of the nuclear accord.

Gabriel said it was important to talk with Iran about human rights, arms control and other issues that divide Berlin and Tehran. "And part of that is the situation in Syria, where Iran is

playing a decisive role," he said.

Gabriel said he was skeptical about imposing fresh sanctions against Iran, but said Tehran needs to realize it would be difficult under current circumstances to find lasting partners for business deals in Germany or other European countries.

No business would invest in Iran in the longer-term while it was still uncertain if sanctions could be reinstated, he said.—Reuters

# New Jersey train rams into station, kills bystander, injures 114 others

HOBOKEN, (N.J.) — A commuter train plowed into a station in New Jersey at the height of Thursday's morning rush hour, killing a woman on the platform and injuring more than 100 people as it brought down part of the roof and scattered debris over the concourse.

Witnesses described terrifying scenes as the front of the train smashed through the track stop at high speed and into the Hoboken terminal, toppling support columns and creating chaos at one of the busiest transit hubs in the New York City area.

"We have no indication that this is anything other than a tragic accident but ... we're going to let the law enforcement professionals pursue the facts," New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said at a news conference in Hoboken alongside New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Train #1614 originated in the town of Spring Valley in New York state and was at the end of its hour-long journey when it crashed.

The train's engineer, or driver, was injured and taken to hospital but later released, officials said, without providing details.

Media identified the engineer as Thomas Gallagher, citing unnamed sources,



Onlookers view a New Jersey Transit train that derailed and crashed through the station in Hoboken, New Jersey, US in this picture courtesy of Chris Lantero taken on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and said he was cooperating with investigators.

US National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr told a separate news conference in Hoboken that investigators would retrieve the event recorder, which tracks speed, braking and other data, from the rear of the train on Thursday night.

She said the train was operating in a "push-pull configuration" in which locomotive-hauled trains can be driven from either end.

The train had an engine that was pushing four cars including the controlling, or cab, car in front, officials said.

"Our investigation will continue here on scene for seven to 10 days," Dinh-Zarr said.

The train was on track five when it hit the Hoboken terminal building at about 08:45 am (1245 GMT).

The New Jersey medical examiner's office identified the victim as Fabiola Bittar de Kroon, 34, of Ho-

boken. The woman was a former employee in the Brazilian legal department of SAP, the technology company said in a statement. Her LinkedIn page said she was a corporate lawyer who attended Florida International University.

Broadcaster NBC New York reported de Kroon had recently moved from Brazil to New Jersey with her husband and child.

Christie told CNN 114 people were injured. The Chinese Consulate General

in New York told Xinhua news service at least one of the injured was Chinese.

Cuomo said it was obvious the train came into the station too fast, but it was unclear why. The cause could be human error or technical failure, Cuomo said. He added that it was too early to say whether an anti-collision system known as positive train control (PTC) could have prevented the crash.

PTC is designed to halt a train if the driver misses

a stop signal and advocates cite it for helping to combat human error.

The crash renews focus on the mandatory anti-collision system that has been plagued with lengthy, contentious delays. According to a report by NJ Transit to the Federal Railroad Administration for the first half of 2016, the public transport system does not have PTC in operation on its 326-mile network.

New Jersey Transit ranked second for the most train accident reports nationwide for commuter railroads from January 2007 through June 2016, behind Amtrak.

New Jersey Transit had 271 accidents, or 18 per cent of the total, compared with Amtrak's 44 per cent, according to data from the US Federal Railroad Administration Office of Safety Analysis.

Mike Larson, who works as a machinist for NJ Transit, was 30 feet away from the train just before it slammed into the platform. He told *The Journal News* of Westchester County, New York, that the train's speed appeared to be about 30 mph (48 kph).

The speed limit in the station is 10 mph (16 km) per hour, the NTSB's Dinh-Zarr told reporters.—*Reuters*

## INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (TENDER NO. 5(T)MPE/MIXED LPG(1)/2016-2017)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy for the supply of Mixed LPG (1,800 MT ± 5%).
2. Tender Closing Date : **1.11.2016** at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : **1.11.2016** at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : **Within 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016**
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing **5 . 10 . 2016** on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise  
Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

## At least 200 inmates escape Brazil prison; many recaptured

SAO PAULO — At least 200 prisoners escaped from a minimum-security Brazil prison during an uprising on Thursday, with about half recaptured within hours of the prison break, state prison officials said.

The inmates fled from the Jardimopolis prison, about 100 miles (160 km) northwest of Sao Paulo,

Brazil's biggest city. There was no immediate word on possible deaths or injuries among guards or inmates.

Sao Paulo state penitentiary officials said the inmates had set fire to several cells in one wing of the prison during a routine morning role call. Amid the chaos that ensued, scores of prisoners knocked down a

13-foot (4 meter) tall mesh security fence, allowing them to flee into surrounding sugar cane fields and along a nearby river.

*The Folha de S.Paulo* newspaper, citing penitentiary officials, said the prison housed over 1,800 inmates, although it was built to hold just over 1,000. State authorities declined to

comment on reported overcrowding at the facility and did not respond to a request for information about the type of crimes committed by prisoners housed there.

Prison uprisings and escapes are frequent in Brazil, which has long been criticized by human rights organisations for its prison conditions.—*Reuters*

## Venezuela expects non-OPEC nations like Russia to join in output cuts

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said on Thursday he expects non-OPEC oil-producing countries, like Russia, to support OPEC's efforts to boost oil prices by reducing crude output.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Wednesday agreed to slightly reduce production for the first time since 2008 amid mounting pressure from low oil prices.

"This agreement

should be consolidated in the coming days," Maduro said in comments broadcast on state television.

"I am very optimistic that major non-OPEC producing countries, such as the Russian Federation, will also take part in this joint effort of OPEC countries."

Venezuela has insisted for months that major oil producers should reach a consensus to freeze production levels to counter excess supply. Maduro said



A worker at an oil field owned by Bashneft, Bashkortostan, Russia, on 28 January 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

he is convinced that there will be "a stable oil market" if OPEC and non-OPEC countries pledge to cut production. Venezuela, which gets nearly all of its foreign exchange from oil exports, is facing triple-digit inflation and chronic product

shortages as a result of low oil prices and a decaying state-led economy.

Maduro says his government is the victim of an "economic war" led by opposition businessmen with the support of Washington.—*Reuters*

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## US warships make port call in HK, 5 months after carrier barred

HONG KONG — Two US Navy ships made a port call in Hong Kong on Thursday, the first such visit since China turned a US aircraft carrier away from visiting the territory five months ago.

The two warships, carrying about 3,600 sailors and marines in total, are the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard and the amphibious transport dock Green Bay.

Rear Adm. Marc Dalton, head of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet's amphibious force, said the ships were recently operating in the western Pacific, in the vicinity of Guam and Japan's Okinawa, but

had not experienced any trouble with Chinese vessels operating in the same area.

"We have encountered nothing but professional mariner behavior from the Chinese vessels we interacted with," Dalton told a number of reporters invited to a boat tour, without revealing the locations of the interactions.

Chinese strong assertion of its claims to disputed waters of the East China Sea and the South China Sea has alarmed some countries in the region, including Japan, while the US military has vowed to continue to sail, fly and operate anywhere inter-

national law allows.

Dalton also declined to comment on China's "political" decision to reject a port call request made by aircraft carrier John Stennis last in April. "I have only been in command since August. That all happened before I was out here. I can't really have an opinion on it. Any issue (of the kind) would be political and leave that to the diplomats," he said.

China turned down the port call request shortly after US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter had visited the Stennis with his Philippine counterpart as the carrier sailed near the main



Photo taken on 29 September 2016, shows the amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay in Hong Kong. Two US Navy ships made a port call there the same day, the first such visit since China turned a US aircraft carrier away from visiting the territory in April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Philippine island of Luzon, to underscore the US commitment to its treaty ally amid heightened tensions

with China. During the latest port call, some US marines and sailors will conduct community exchanges,

including visiting schools and playing basketball with local students, Dalton said.—Kyodo News

## Renewables make record contribution to New Zealand energy use

WELLINGTON — The proportion of renewable energy used in New Zealand electricity generation hit a new record of 80.8 per cent last year, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) announced on Thursday.

The figure was the high-

est renewable contribution in 20 years and was mainly due to increased geothermal generation, MBIE manager of energy and building trends James Hogan said in a statement.

"This was due to strong growth in geothermal electricity generation in 2015.

Geothermal contribution was 56 per cent of total renewable primary energy for the year," said Hogan.

The report also showed that renewable energy provided 40.1 per cent of New Zealand's total primary energy supply — a measure of all the energy used domes-

tically - in 2015. It includes all raw energy produced domestically, such as coal, oil and gas, hydro, wind, geothermal heat, and biomass, as well as all energy imported for use, such as petrol and diesel. "This is a record high, placing us third in the world, behind other renewable su-

perpowers Iceland and Norway," Energy and Resources Minister Simon Bridges said in a statement.

The renewable contribution showed the country was well on the way to meeting the government's target of 90 per cent renewable electricity by 2025, he said.

"The government continues to work on new energy targets and this growth in our renewable advantage is very encouraging as we think about what New Zealand's energy future should look like in the transition to a lower carbon economy," said Bridges.—Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAASHOLM VOY. NO ( 1649 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAASHOLM VOY. NO ( 1649 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC SINGAPORE VOY. NO ( 1615 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC SINGAPORE VOY. NO ( 1615 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1025)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO (0002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO (0002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (127N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (127N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.10.2016 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Princess Charlotte pets a dog as her mother the Duchess of Cambridge watches during a children's party in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, on 29 September.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Princess Charlotte says first word in public on Canadian tour

TORONTO — Britain's Princess Charlotte, 1, spoke for the first time in public on Thursday during her family's Canadian tour, uttering the word "pop" while she and her brother played with balloons.

Britain's Prince William and his wife, Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, are on week-long trip to Canada. It was the first time the couple have brought their children Charlotte and George, 3, on an official visit to the country.

The family was in Victoria, British Columbia, on Thursday, where they attended a children's party for military families.

The event on the grounds of Government House, an official residence, included bubbles and a petting

zoo with miniature ponies.

But the two royal children seemed especially interested in an archway of pink and green balloons, where Charlotte was heard speaking to her brother.

It was not the first time on the tour that the children have been the centre of media attention.

On Saturday Prince George made headlines when he ignored Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who was offering him a high-five and a handshake.

The royal family has been greeted by enthusiastic crowds during the tour of the western province of British Columbia and the Yukon territory in the far north.

William is second in line to succeed his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, who has been Canada's head of state since she ascended to Britain's throne in 1952.—Reuters

## Lady Gaga to perform Super Bowl 2017's halftime show

SAN FRANCISCO — Grammy-Award winning pop singer Lady Gaga will play the half-time show at the 2017 Super Bowl, the musician and National Football League said on Thursday.

"The rumours are true. This year the SUPER BOWL goes GAGA!" the musician said on Twitter. The NFL retweeted the message, adding "Can't wait. Let's do this!"

Super Bowl LI is slated to

be held in Houston, Texas on 5 February. The NFL said this would be the second appearance for Lady Gaga on the Super Bowl stage, opening last February's game with a performance of the national anthem.

The Super Bowl is the most-watched event on US television drawing more than 100 million viewers and the most expensive TV programme for advertisers, who pay millions to secure 30-second commercial spots.

Last year's half time show featured Beyonce, Coldplay and Bruno Mars who performed a mélange of some of the artists' greatest hits. Other past performers included Michael Jackson, Madonna and The Black Eyed Peas.

Lady Gaga, known for frequent creative self-reinventions, is a six-time Grammy Award winner and has also won a Golden Globe and was nominated for an Academy Award.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Uganda's underdog community finds spotlight in 'Queen of Katwe'

LOS ANGELES — Disney's "Queen of Katwe" isn't just the true story of Ugandan chess champion Phiona Mutesi overcoming overwhelming odds stacked against her; it's also a rare uplifting tale from the African continent.

"God knows there's an im-

mense paucity of films about anything to do with Africa that is about a specific place or specific street or country or character. It's always a kind of colonial nostalgia that we're presented," director Mira Nair said.

"The story of Phiona specifi-

cally was the inspiration. I'm always inspired by people who make something out of nothing," she added.

The slums of Katwe become a character within "Queen of Katwe," out in US movie theaters on Friday, providing the backdrop for Mutesi's humble small world as the child is taught chess by charity worker Robert Katende, who is played by David Oyelowo. She eventually rises the ranks of the chess world to play on the Ugandan team as a teenager in the 2010 Chess Olympiad in Russia.

"Though they live in a world of struggle, that is not what defines who they are," Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o, who plays Mutesi's mother Harriet, said of the Katwe community.—Reuters



Actors Lupita Nyong'o (L), Madina Nalwanga (C) and David Oyelowo pose in the same manner as they appear on the movie poster seen behind him during the Los Angeles premiere of "Queen of Katwe" in Hollywood, California, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## All-star cast for new sci-fi series 'Westworld'

LONDON — An all-star cast, including Anthony Hopkins, Ed Harris and Thandie Newton, come together in television drama "Westworld", an HBO sci-fi thriller series inspired by Michael Crichton's 1973 film.

The 10-episode series, is "set at the intersection of the near future and the reimagined past ... (and) is a dark odyssey about the dawn of artificial consciousness and the evolution of sin", according to the cable network.

At the series premiere in Los Angeles on Wednesday, actress Evan Rachel Wood said the script was "the best writing I've read maybe or that I've been a part of really ever."

The drama kicks off Sunday.—Reuters



Cast member Thandie Newton.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Beckham gives support to quake-hit Kumamoto U-16 players



Former English football star David Beckham (R in front) poses with Kumamoto Prefecture's popular black bear mascot "Kumamon" (L in front) and Under-16 players from the prefecture in Tokyo on 29 September 2016, during an event to support the prefecture hit hard by a series of earthquakes in April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Former England superstar David Beckham handed out signed soccer balls Thursday to the players of an under-16

select team from Kumamoto to Prefecture, which was hit by two huge earthquakes in April that took the lives of 50 people.

Beckham, who captained England during the 2002 World Cup campaign in Japan, watched Kumamoto U-16's take on a university team in a 5-a-side match at a charity event in Tokyo. The 41-year-old said it was a tough time for the players but wished them well, adding he was surprised by the high quality of play on show.

"Everyone was fired up to put in a good display in front of Mr. Beckham," said Hayato Fukushima, captain of the Kumamoto side that will compete at the national athletics meet next month in Iwate Prefecture. "We'd like to win as many games so we can deliver good news (to Kumamoto)," he said. —Kyodo News

## Fiat, Tigar, He Steel top list of Serbia's biggest exporters

BELGRADE — With exports totalling 768 mln euros in the first eight months of the year, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Serbia retained the number one position in the August 2016 list of Serbia's top exporters, followed by Tigar Piro (208.4 mln) and He Steel Smederevo (207.2 mln), the Ministry of Finance

said Thursday.

The total exports by the 15 biggest exporters in the period amounted to 2.6 bln euros. NIS ranks fourth with exports worth 150.7 mln, followed by Philip Morris Operations Nis (149.9 mln), the HIP Petrochemical Complex in Pancevo (136.8 mln), MK Group (116.5 mln),

Gorenje Valjevo/Stara Pazova (116.2 mln), Victoria Group (111.1 mln), Tetra Pak Production Belgrade (110 mln) and Yura Corporation Raca (103.3 mln).

Hemofarm Vrsac (100.1 mln), Bosch (94.8 mln), Leoni Prokuplje (94.5 mln) and Jugoimport SDPR Belgrade (84.2 mln) round out the top 15. —Tanjug

## 14<sup>th</sup> International Comics Festival opens

BELGRADE — The 14<sup>th</sup> International Comics Festival opened at Belgrade's Student Cultural Centre on Thursday, featuring 292 entries by 325 authors from 33 countries.

This year's guests are Mary and Brian Talbot (UK), Petar Meseldzija

(Serbia/The Netherlands) and Helena Klakocar (Croatia), with particular attention to be devoted to the Croatian comics scene.

The festival will also feature screenings of animation films by Switzerland's Georges Schwizgebel and a commemoration

of 80 and 50 years since the launch of the Serbian comics magazines Mika Mis (Mickey Mouse) and Miki (Mickey), respectively. The 20th anniversary of the Leskovac comics school and 15 years of the Strip Pressing editions will be marked as well. —Tanjug

## Thumbs up sculpture unveiled as new artwork for London's 'fourth plinth'

LONDON — A giant hand with a thumbs up has been unveiled as the new artwork occupying the fourth plinth at London's Trafalgar Square.

Mayor Sadiq Khan presented artist Da-

vid Shrigley's sculpture "Really Good" on Thursday, a seven-meter (23 ft) high hand with a long thumb cast in bronze, saying it represented "optimism, positivity, the best of us".

The plinth, built in 1841, was meant for a statue of King William IV but stood empty because of lack of funding.

More recently, it has hosted various commissioned artworks. —Reuters



Artist David Shrigley poses after the unveiling of his artwork 'Really Good' on the fourth plinth at Trafalgar Square in central London, Britain, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Two major Van Gogh works stolen in 2002 recovered — museum

AMSTERDAM — Italian police have recovered two paintings by the Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh in Naples, the Van Gogh Museum in Amster-

dam said on Friday.

It said the paintings, stolen from the museum in 2002, had been removed from their frames but appeared largely un-

damaged. It was not immediately clear when they would be returned to the museum.

The works, "Congregation Leaving the

Reformed Church in Nuenen" and "View of the Sea at Scheveningen", are both from relatively early in Van Gogh's career. —Reuters

## Spain marks monthly record for tourist arrivals in August

MADRID — Spain hosted 10.1 million foreign tourists in August, the National Statistics Institute (INE) said on Friday, 5.8 per cent more than a year earlier and marking a monthly record for arrivals as the influx of visitors bolsters the economy.

Spain's thriving tourism industry has fueled a jobs surge over the summer months, extending an economic recovery throughout a period of political uncertainty triggered by two inconclusive national elections. In the first eight months of 2016, the number of tourists rose more than 10 per cent from the same period in 2015 to 52.5 million, INE said, putting Spain on track to surpass last year's record 68.1 million arrivals for the full 12 months.

Security fears in competing destinations across the Mediterranean and in the Middle East have helped lure more tourists than ever to Spain's shores.

Northeastern Catalonia, home to vast stretches of beaches, was the most visited region in Spain, followed by the Balearic Islands. Britons remained the most numerous visitors to Spain and arrivals from the United Kingdom were up 3.9 per cent year-on-year in August. But this marked a slowdown compared to previous months and follows the UK's vote to leave the European Union, after which the British pound weakened against the euro.

Tourism provides some 11 per cent of Spain's gross domestic product. —Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International

(1-10-2016 07:00am ~ 2-10-2016 07:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News   |
| 07:26 | Am | Great Shwedagon- The Prayer Halls and Buddha Images (Part-2) |
| 07:52 | Am | Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up                            |
| 08:03 | Am | News   |
| 08:26 | Am | Serene and Fun Festivities of Yaw                            |
| 08:37 | Am | Htan Taw Drums (Part-1) "Osi"                                |
| 08:50 | Am | Chaung Tha Souvenir Business                                 |
| 09:03 | Am | News   |
| 09:26 | Am | Discovering Tribes "Bwe"                                     |
| 09:53 | Am | Tea  |
| 10:03 | Am | News   |
| 10:26 | Am | Next Generation: 3 Pencils                                   |
| 10:36 | Am | A Real Dream of Accidental Gift                              |

(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   |
| 07:27 | Pm | Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-4)   |
| 07:39 | Pm | A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)                               |
| 07:50 | Pm | Today Myanmar: Community Center & Mobile Library                               |
| 08:03 | Pm | News   |
| 08:26 | Pm | "Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1) |
| 08:51 | Pm | Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism   |

(09:00 Pm~ 11:00 Pm) - TodayRepeat (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)



Roma's Francesco Totti in action During UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Group E at Olympic Stadium, Rome, Italy, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Inter suffer more Europa woe, Totti shines for Roma

LONDON — Inter Milan's aversion to Europa League football continued with a 3-1 defeat at Sparta Prague, while AS Roma ended a continental hoodoo stretching back seven games with a 4-0 home win over Romanian side FC Astra on Thursday.

The second round of group stage matches featured a string of high-scoring encounters as Fiorentina, Zenit St Petersburg and Krasnodar all hit five in comprehensive victories.

Yet while the goals flowed freely throughout the continent, Manchester United were made to sweat as they edged to a 1-0 win over Ukrainian outfit Zorya at Old Trafford.

It is six years since Inter last won the Champions League but they have not played in Europe's top club competition since 2012 and have now got a losing habit in its second-tier cousin.

They are already facing a

difficult task to escape from their group after suffering a second straight defeat this season, which was their fourth in a row in the competition.

The three times European champions have made a good start to Serie A under new manager Frank de Boer but came into Thursday's encounter looking to rebound from a shock defeat in their opening Group K game at home to Israel's Hapoel Beer-Sheva.

Their hopes were hit within 25 minutes, however, as they fell two goals behind after a double strike by Vaclav Kadlec.

Rodrigo Palacio pulled one back in the 71<sup>st</sup> but any hopes of a recovery ended when Andrea Ranocchia was sent off four minutes later and Mario Holec restored the Czechs' two-goal advantage.

Inter's Serie A rivals Roma had no such problems with tal-

ismanic forward Francesco Totti continuing to defy the ageing process as he played a pivotal role in their comprehensive demolition of Astra two days after his 40th birthday.

Totti had a hand in three of Roma's goals, teeing up Kevin Strootman for the opener, rattling the crossbar with a free kick for Federico Fazio to net the rebound and playing a clever flick to release Mohamed Salah for Roma's fourth.

The only one he did not play a part in was a 47<sup>th</sup>-minute own goal by Astra's Fabicio as Roma ended a run of seven matches without a win in European fixtures.

Manchester United also needed the intervention of an ageing great to beat minnows Zorya as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who turns 35 on Monday, headed home a second-half winner.

—Reuters

## Liverpool's Klopp says Swansea will provide tough test

LONDON — Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp believes Saturday's opponents Swansea City are a far better team than current form suggests and there will be no complacency as the Merseysiders look to maintain their bright start to the season.

Liverpool are fuelled with confidence and fourth in the table, having beaten Arsenal, Chelsea and champions Leicester City in their opening six games of the campaign.

While it has been a far more testing start for Swansea, who are fourth from bottom with a solitary victory, Klopp believes they could prove a stubborn obstacle at the Liberty Stadium.

"They played much better than four points look like," Klopp told reporters on Thursday.

"They are a good foot-



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp. PHOTO: REUTERS

ball-playing side with a clear plan and different options in their style of play, good defending.

"We cannot lean back and think that's how it is until now so it will stay like this, especially on Saturday. We will be prepared for this game, nobody should be in doubt that we know about the quality of Swansea."

Liverpool have won three successive league games, scoring 11 goals in the process and have emerged from a tough run of opening fixtures with 13 points.

Klopp, however, is keen for them to stay focussed and not take their foot of the gas as he looks to turn a good start into a genuine title challenge.

"It's much too early to be satisfied with anything this season. In this part of the season you create a base for the rest of the season," Klopp said.

"We have a job to do. Christmas will come, the second part of the season will come, the weather will change. We need to stay fit and have luck with injuries.

"Of course it's important to have a good start but it's also important to build on it."

Striker Divock Origi is a doubt for the clash against Swansea after he picked up a minor knee injury.—Reuters



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic scores their first goal against FC Zorya Luhansk during UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Group A at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, on 29 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mourinho bemoans United's 'poisoned' October fixtures

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has described next month's fixture list as a "poisoned gift" following Thursday's Europa League 1-0 win over Zorya Luhansk.

After the international break, United travel to Liverpool on 17 October, host Turkish club Fenerbahce in the Europa League three days later before travelling to Chelsea for a league fixture on 23 October.

"Well, we could play Liverpool on the Saturday, we could play Liverpool on the Sunday.

We play Liverpool on the Monday," Mourinho told reporters after United's slender win over the Ukrainian side.

"We don't have the best conditions because we play against two top Premier League teams who don't have European competition. We have this poisoned gift with playing on the Monday which gives us a very difficult situation."

When asked if he tried to move United's top flight clash with Liverpool back from Monday, Mourinho said: "I think it's

impossible, the poisoned gift is already there. We just have to play Monday, Thursday and then the Sunday.

"But before that we have Stoke, so let us concentrate on Stoke because it is another poisoned gift because Stoke is not what the table says," he added of Sunday's struggling league opponents at Old Trafford.

United sit third in Europa League Group A after two matches, having lost to Dutch side Feyenoord in their opening game.—Reuters