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# INDIA AND MYANMAR: FRIENDSHIP TO STAND TEST OF TIME

## State Counsellor receives ceremonial welcome in New Delhi



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspecting the guard of honour during her ceremonial reception at the forecourt of India's Rashtrapati Bhavan presidential palace in New Delhi, India, on 18 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi yesterday at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the Indian president's official residence, where she was greeted by Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi.

"It is a great pleasure for me to be back in India again, especially in Delhi, where I spent so many years. I look forward to better relationships between our two countries because every time I come back to India, I realize how close we are to one another, and how much I believe that our friendship will stand the test of time," she said during her welcoming address.

The State Counsellor's mother, Daw Khin Kyi, was appointed the Burmese ambassador to India and Nepal in 1960, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi followed her there. She studied in the Convent of Jesus and Mary School in New Delhi, and graduated from Lady Shri Ram College in New Delhi with a degree in politics in 1964. Years later, she was a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) in Shimla, India.

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## Human-trafficking, exploitation discussed by Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia

THE 4th meeting of four nations — Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia — focused on co-operation in legal matters on human-trafficking and exploitation of labor wages in fishing businesses and other jobs. The meeting was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, chief of Myanmar Police Force and H.E Nicholas Coppel, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar, delivering the opening addresses.

"The present 4-nation meeting is aimed at helping victims of human-trafficking in legal

matters, exchanging news and information amongst the countries to closely co-operate and to find out cases of human-trafficking, smooth investigation of the cases in the region and enjoying benefits of exercising good practices. AAPTIP (Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking

in Persons) and other organisations are providing technical aid, laying down ideal processes, enacting guidelines. We call for the attendants to cordially discuss for the traffickers to be filed against and sentenced to punishment they deserve", Maj-Gen Zaw Win said.

He added, "In the transfer of government, the nation is experiencing many challenges: problems of migration, climate change, control of nuclear weapons and terrorist attacks. It was found that massive migration was caused by lack of peace and development.

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## MPF and Tatmadaw Cooperate for Regional Stability

THE Myanmar Police Force is cooperating with the Tatmadaw in order to achieve regional stability, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs, said to the ministry office in Maung-taw District on 17 October.

The Union Minister also urged the restoration of the rule of law so local people could live peacefully in accordance with the constitution and other legal mandates.

After his speech, the Union Minister personally provided funding to various ministries and police units to help with their security efforts.

He provided K 4.96 million to the Maungtaw regional ministry, K 1.2 million to injured police members and their families in Maungtaw Township People's Hospital, K2.5 million to members of a local border guard police at Mayu Hall.

Earlier, the Union Minister provided cash assistance of K 2.5 million to police officers and their families of the border guard police unit in Alethankyaw Vil-

lage and in Maungtaw

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and wife and officials met with members of the police and their families at the local police station in Buthidaung yesterday morning and presented K 2.5 million and other assistance for them.

Then, the union minister met with staff of the ministry in the meeting hall of the GAD and presented K3.36 million and other assistance for them.

Later, the union minister and party proceeded to Sittway by helicopter and discussed regional security with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials.

Afterwards, the union minister and wife visited Police Captain Aung Zaw Myint, who was injured during recent violent attacks, Ma Aye Chan Soe, widow of Police Lance Corporal Zaw Naing Tun, and U Thein Tun, a civilian at Sittway Hospital and provided cash assistance for them. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is being interviewed by Mr Zezaul Laskar from the Hindustan Times. PHOTO: MNA

## State Counsellor receives Indian media

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met separately with media representatives based in India at the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi.

Those who interviewed the

State Counsellor included Mr Srinjoy Chowdhury, senior editor from Times Now, Mr Zezaul Laskar, associate editor from the Hindustan Times and Ms Annie Gowen, India bureau chief

for the Washington Post. In the evening, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner hosted by the Myanmar ambassador to India and greeted staff of the embassy. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

MYANMAR Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competition kicked off in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with participation of 1,766 contestants across the country.

The 22nd competition aimed at preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage of the country's ethnic people and

its national character.

The competition is categorized as from basic level to professional level.

The contestants were selected from regions and states after holding the preliminary contests.

Speaking on the occasion in his capacity as the Chairman of the leading committee for hold-



Artistes performing at the Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competition. PHOTO: MNA

ing the competition Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said that one of this year competition's distinctive features is the designation of two ethnic traditional dances as union dances, namely Thaleswa (Pleasant) Rakhine State group dance of Rakhine ethnic people and Lettweenyinyi Shaethoche (Move forward hand in hand) group dance of Kayin ethnic people, and inclusion of them at this year's dance competitions.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Parton of the leading committee of holding the competition, said that each and every country in the world is proud of its longstanding culture, heritages and traditional fine arts, and tries to preserve them.

It has been about 25 years since the first Myanmar ethnic

traditional performing arts competition was held with the aim of not just preserving but also propagating them, he added.

Norms of performing arts seem to be different due to their locality but all have the same nature and it is incumbent on all to preserve performing arts of ethnic peoples. Historically developed performing arts and traditions are one of the characteristics of sovereignty of a country along with its politics, military, economics, wealth, resources, technological development and education.

The aim of the event is to delegate the duty to leave the traditional heritages to the younger generation.

The vice president has urged doyen artistes, new generation ethnic youths and support-

ing organizations to cherish and keep our traditions and performing arts intact and to hand down to new generations as a national duty.

Speakers of Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws and other government officials attended the opening ceremony.

Myanmar has held the traditional cultural performing arts competitions annually since 1993.

The nearly two-decade-old competition has gradually developed both in content and essence with experience.

The competitions include contests of song, dance, composition, music and play at different stages such as professional, amateur, higher education and basic education levels. —*Myanmar News Agency*



A student participating in a harp playing contest. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Htin Kyaw signs the book of condolence for King Bhumibol Adulyadej

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw signed the book of condolence for Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Embassy of Thailand in Yangon yesterday.

He was welcomed at the embassy by Ambassador of Thailand, heads of department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials of the embassy.

After signing the condolence book, President U Htin Kyaw cordially greeted the Thai ambassador and wife and officials.—GNLM



President U Htin Kyaw signing the book of condolence for Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Embassy of Thailand in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives ceremonial welcome in New Delhi

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Yesterday, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the Raj Ghat, tomb of Mahatama Gandhi and paid tribute to him and signed the visitors' book.

Raj Ghat Samadhi Committee Secretary Dr Rajnish Kuma presented books and a statue of Mahatama Gandhi.

She called on Indian President Pranab Mrkherjee at noon yesterday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and exchanged views on the democratic transition in Myanmar and experiences of India after gaining independence. Following the meeting, the President of India hosted a luncheon in honour of the State Counsellor. Before the call on the Indian President, the State Counsellor met with Minister of External Affairs Sushna Swarj and discussed subjects to be talked about during her visit.—GNLM



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi calls on Indian President Pranab Mrkherjee. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paying tribute to Mahatama Gandhi at Raj Ghat in New Delhi. PHOTO: MNA

## Coal power station not to be allowed in Kyauktan township

DAW Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport, announced that construction of a coal-fuelled power plant, a topic of some anxiety for the local populace in Kyauktan Township, will not be allowed by Yangon Region Government.

The news came in response to a question raised by Daw Thet Thet Mu, Hluttaw representative, constituency 2, Kyauktan Township.

According to Daw Thet Thet Mu, some local residents in the village of Zwebarkone, Kyauktan township were in-

duced into favouring the project after hearing that 2 per cent of the profits would be used for rural development, provided that construction was unanimously agreed upon by the populace residing in the area.

The project has been the subject of protests since the reign of the previous government.

In order to build a coal-burning power plant, an MoU was signed by the Ministry of Electricity, Diamond Palace Services Co, E-Gateway of India and Global Advisors (Singapore) in 2013, it is learnt.—Ko Moe

## 38 more bodies recovered from sunken ferry

THIRTY-eight more bodies have been recovered from the sunken ferry as workers continue to raise the boat from the bottom of the Chindwin River, Sagaing Region.

With the use of three 50-tonne cranes and four tugboats, search teams are trying to pull the ferry out of the water, according to Region Hluttaw Representative U Tun Tun Win. "The ferry is being lifted out of the river with cranes, but steel chains were cut off and we haven't finished retrieving the boat," said U Tun Tun Win. "Thirty-eight more bodies have been re-

## Human-trafficking, exploitation discussed by Myanmar, . . .

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According to the information released by the UN in 2015, the number of migrants hit the record up to 65.3 million, and all of them were forced to labor and exploited over wages. To help protect rights of those fishery workers, we will be able to accomplish our operation by finding out organisations and entrepreneurs involved in exploitation, educating humanitarian knowledge, building a society practising humanitarianism, thus reaching the state of assimilating among 4 nations."

Afterward, the Australian Ambassador said: "AAPTIP is now co-operating with other organisations in the process of police routines and in suing the culprits, mainly helping upgrade skills in the police forces with a view to investigating beyond borders, repatriation of the victims to their origins."

Khemmarin Hassiri, Police Chief of Thailand, disclosed, "For the protection of fishery

workers, a Central Committee for Eradication of Human-trafficking comprising police forces, armies and social societies from both countries has been formed, to share news and information via Hot Line between the two nations using smart phones.

Deputy Chief of the Police Force Ye Naung, pointed out, "After the present meeting, it has been arranged for discussion of emergence of better MoUs such as Thailand-Myanmar, Myanmar-Indonesia and etc. Migrant workers need not be seduced by traffickers, without any skills and knowledge on jobs and they need to join the workforces with sufficient evidence."

Most fishery workers are from Myanmar and fishing boats are mostly owned by Thai nationals. They go to sea very often into Indonesian territory, it was learnt.

The meetings will be held till 19 October.—Myanmar News Agency



PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

covered from the boat and we had to bury them immediately".

Bodies of some victims were also found in other places but it was not clear how many bodies in total were discovered.

Sagaing Region government provided Ks500,000 each to three villages to prepare food for relatives of lost victims, who were

gathering information about their beloved ones at the villages.

Many of the victims were school teachers, most of them females, as men in Myanmar rarely chose the low-paid profession. At least 25 were killed when the ferry sank on October 15, with many more still missing.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

# Tourists, locals enjoy traditional elephant dance festival in Kyaukse

THE Kyaukse Elephant Dance festival is an impressive show that is steeped in history. King Anawrahta (1015-1078) is one of Myanmar's most famous rulers and considered the father of the Myanmar Kingdom. He is also the founder of Kyaukse.

This year's opening ceremony of the Elephant Donation festival and elephant dummy dancing competition 2016 took place at the elephant competition grounds at the bottom of Shwe Thar Lyaung hill in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region on 15 October.

U Soe Than, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation, and a member of Mandalay Region Government and Mandalay Region Hluttaw representatives attended the opening ceremonies.

A total of 29 teams -- 17 traditional elephant teams, 6 sequined costume elephant teams and 6 children's elephant teams -- participated in the event.

The Kyaukse elephant dance festival has been celebrated every year since the 11th Century, the era of Myanmar King Anawrahta.

Legend has it that King



A dummy elephant seen dancing in the presence of spectators. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

Anawrahta obtained several Buddhist relics on a trip to China. Upon his return to Myanmar (Burma), he decided to build

a pagoda to house the precious relics. He strapped the relics to the back of his elephant and told the elephant to choose a suitable

spot for the new pagoda.

The elephant walked straight to the hill east of Kyaukse and knelt.

It was at this spot that the king built Shwe-tha-lyaug Pagoda, which remains there to this day.

In this year's celebration, the competition teams from various wards of Kyaukse, accompanied by drums, oboe, cymbals, brass gongs and bamboo clappers, toured around the Kyaukse Myo Ma bazaar three times. The teams competed in front of a panel of judges in different prize categories -- Ks1 million for first prize, Ks8 lakh for second prize and Ks6 lakh for third prize in the traditional elephant dance competition; Ks8 lakh for first prize, Ks6 lakh for second prize and Ks4 lakh for third prize in sequined elephant dance competition and Ks6 lakh for first prize, Ks4 lakh for second prize and Ks2 lakh for third prize in children's elephant dance competition. KBZ bank presented the cash prizes to the winners.

The roads and streets during this year's festival were crowded with pilgrims as well as tourists, some of whom travelled great distances in order to observe this unique cultural celebration.—  
Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

## Photo exhibition “Street Photography” opened in Mandalay

THE opening ceremony of “Street Photography”, a photo exhibition organised by a group of 64 photographers from Mandalay was held at Block 7, Unit 9 on Wood Street in Chanmyathazi township, Mandalay on 16 October.

Nyi Pu Lay, a famous author and photo enthusiast, coordinated the holding of the photo show. The photographers, media, photo

enthusiasts and guests attended the ceremony.

At the “Street Photography” show, displayed photos taken by Mandalay photographers illustrated the struggle in the streets for survival of the working class in Yangon and Mandalay.

The event lasts for three days, from 16 to 18 October.—  
Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



The photo exhibition called “Street Photography”.

PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)

## Schools, health centres being developed with Japanese aid

A PROJECT to develop schools and rural health branches has been implemented in three regions and a state under the Japanese government's supporting programme for small-scale projects.

The Japanese authorities plan to spend over US\$500,000 on the development programme.

The Japanese government has already signed an agreement with Myanmar authorities to build development facilities in Thapaung and Hinthada townships in Ayeyawady Region, Pakokku Township in Magway Region and Latpadan Township in Bago Region as well as some townships in Kayin State.

Under the new project, a two-storey school building is being constructed in Hnatpyaw-taw Village in Thapaung Township in Ayeyawady Region. The new RC school structure will include six rooms and an adequate number of toilets, with the project implementer planning to fully equip the school.

The old school building and school furniture was destroyed by floods in July last year. It can house over 100 students. — 200

## Crime NEWS

### Heroin, yaba pills seized in Kalaw, Taunggyi, Mabein

A combined team comprising members of the Myanmar Police Force and a local anti-drug squad in Kalaw searched a motorbike in Kalaw and discovered 25,000 yaba pills on Monday.

Action has been taken against Zaw Naung and Ma Phyu Phyu Soe who were on board and Nyi Nyi Zaw who was driving the motorbike when the surprise check was taken on the Kalaw-Thazi Road.

Similarly, local police in Taunggyi seized 2,000 yaba pills from Zaw Oo during a surprise

check operation. Following the interrogation, the police searched the house owned by Than Htwe on the Seinpan Road in Kyaung-gyisu Ward in Taunggyi and seized 3,180 yaba pills.

On the same day, a local police in Mabein discovered 2,660 yaba pills and 24 g of heroin from a house owned by Thein Tun in Khawtaw Village in Mabein Township.

Action has been taken against them under the Anti-narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—  
MPF



Nyi Nyi Zaw and Zaw Naung and Ma Phyu Phyu Soe. PHOTO: MPF

# LOCAL Business

## CHDB to offer instalment system for government's low and fair cost apartments

CONSTRUCTION and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) will offer an installment system for the low-cost and fair-cost housing apartments which the government will soon offer for sale, it is learnt from CHDB.

The low-cost housing apartments will sell for between Ks9.7million to 13.4million per home, with each 19x25 unit. Those who want to buy those apartments under the instalment plan linked with CHDB have to open a Housing Savings account with an initial deposit of Ks10,000. They have to save 30 per cent of the value of the flat

they want to purchase, it is learnt.

The amount of monthly deposit in the Housing Saving account will be dependent on income, receiving 8.5 per cent of interest per annum on the basis of their savings. Those who reach 30 per cent of the flat's value in their savings accounts will be listed at the Human Settlement and Housing Development Department. When the government calls for application for the apartments, those who have deposited at least 30 per cent of the value of a flat at CHDB will be given priority.—

*Mon Mon*

## EU and Myanmar under discussion to enter into bilateral investment treaty

MYANMAR is currently discussing entry into a bilateral investment treaty with the European Union (EU) to mutually enhance investment.

"Some foreign countries are interested in investment treaty. America has also proposed this, but the country has not given an official pledge yet.

Now, Myanmar and EU have discussed for three times and they will proceed to conduct another discussion", said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Investment

Commission.

"This treaty is expected to bring long-term benefits. More foreign direct investment (FDI) is likely to enter Myanmar", said Dr. Soe Tun, the vice chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation.

If Myanmar enters into a bilateral investment treaty with foreign countries, the investment laws, rules and regulations will be changed to match those of the investment commissions of the countries concerned.—  
*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Nearly 1,300 motor vehicles unclaimed at Yangon ports for over a year

NEARLY 1,300 cars which have gone unclaimed at Yangon ports for over a year will be confiscated and not allowed to be withdrawn even with payment of fines, it is learnt from the Myanma Port Authority.

Ships load motor vehicles at seven ports — Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa, No.4 Thilawa Port, Myanmar Industrial Port, Sule Port, Bo Aung Kyaw port, Asia World Port Terminal and Htee Tan Port Terminal. Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa and No.4 Thilawa Port receive the highest frequency of ships among Yangon ports.

There are currently over

1,270 cars which have not been withdrawn for over a year at Htee Tan Port Terminal, Asia World Port Terminal, Myanmar Industrial Port, Sule Port and Botahtaung jetty. Those stranded cars will be put out to tender, it is learnt.

The imported cars are allowed to stay 60 days at Yangon ports. If the owners of the cars fail to claim them within 60 days, the cars will be confiscated and put out for bids.

The government gave a green light to car importers in October, 2011. Five stages have to be passed to allow the cars to be claimed and unloaded at the ports.—200



US dollars being counted at a money changer in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN

## Foreign exchange rate reaches Ks1,285 per US dollar, local gold price rises

THE foreign exchange rate has risen up to Ks1,285 per US dollar and the local gold price raised its head at over Ks863,000 per tickle despite the stable world gold's price on the decline, it is learnt from the foreign currency's black market and the gold dealers.

The foreign exchange rate at the black market has been on the rise from 11th to 17th October. The US exchange rate

was opened at Ks1,242 per dollar in the morning and closed at Ks1,257 per dollar in the evening on 11th October. The exchange rate has risen over a week and it reached Ks1,285 per US dollar on 17th October.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the exchange rate at Ks1,260 per US dollar from 4th to 7th October. The prescribed US exchange rates per dollar are Ks1,258 on 10th Oc-

tober, Ks1,256 on 11th October, Ks1,255 on 12th and 13th October, Ks1,257 on 14th October, Ks1,257 on 17th and Ks1,259 on 18th October respectively, according to a figure from CBM.

The domestic gold price dropped to Ks843,000 per tickle on 11th October but raised its head to over Ks860,000 per tickle on 13th October, and the price is on the rise again, it is learnt from the gold market.—  
*Ko Htet*

## Export volume of mussels from Kyaukphyu to China declines due to unstable price

THE drop in export volume of mussels mostly found in Kyaukphyu is attributed to the unstable price of mussels and irregular demand from China, it is learnt from the mussel depots.

Around 2,000 to 7,000 viss of mussels are usually exported from the Kyaukphyu area to the China market per month. However, only 1,000-2,000 viss of mussels were exported to China

starting in June, 2016, said U Ni Tun, an exporter of mussels.

The price of mussels does not rise after the Chinese New Year. The export price is set by the Chinese market, but the price is often reduced. The main depots from Kyaukphyu are suffering from the reduced price offered by the Yangon purchase depot and the Chinese market, said U Maung Maung, an exporter of

mussels from Kyaukphyu.

The mussels are also one of the highest value fisheries products exported to China. After Chinese New Year Festival, the volume of demand is cut in half and the price begins to decline, said the local exporters.

"The local businessmen as well as the mussel harvesters suffer from manipulation of the mussel price by China and the Yangon market", said U Kyaw Sein Than, an exporter of mussels to China. "We, the businessmen, are trying to link with Thailand and other foreign markets to export the mussels".

The export price of mussels at Yangon market is Ks5,000 per kilo for the small mussels and Ks8,000 per kilo for the large mussels. The mussels are exported to China through the Yangon market or directly from Kyaukphyu market, it is learnt.—  
*Myitmakha News Agency*



Workers sort mussels in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

## China looks to expand trade ties during Duterte visit

BEIJING — China is looking to expand trade with the Philippines during President Rodrigo Duterte's visit this week, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday, as the two sides seek new commercial ties to soothe years of hostility. Duterte will travel with at least 200 business leaders during his four-day trip beginning on Tuesday, which could signal a transformation in a relationship dogged by rival territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The move to engage China, just a few months after an arbitral ruling in the disputed waters sparked fears in the region of a backlash by Beijing, marks a striking reversal in Philippine foreign policy since Duterte took office on 30 June.

China has welcomed

the shift in tone, which has put Manila's relations with Washington under strain.

Commerce Ministry spokesman Shen Danyang said China's tropical fruit imports from the Philippines was one area of trade the two sides would look to expand during the visit. China will strengthen trade links with the Philippines, encourage businesses to invest there, strengthen bilateral infrastructure construction and human resources training, Shen told a regular news briefing. "China looks forward to Philippine President Duterte's visit, further consolidating and strengthening bilateral trade relations, and continuously elevating the scope of bilateral cooperation to bring more practical benefits to both peoples and countries," Shen said.—*Reuters*

## Thailand must observe at least 15 days' mourning before royal succession: PM



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha is dressed in black as he arrives at a weekly cabinet meeting at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand must observe at least 15 days of mourning for King Bhumibol Adulyadej before his successor can ascend the throne, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Tuesday.

"On the matter of suc-

cession, in accordance with the constitution, citizens in Thailand and abroad should not be worried or concerned," Prayuth told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

"After at least 15 days of mourning, it will be the

appropriate time to enact section 23 of the constitution," he added, referring to clauses relating to the succession. King Bhumibol died last Thursday at the age of 88 after seven decades on the throne.

The prime minister

said last week that the coronation of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn would take place after the cremation of his father, which will follow a year of mourning. However, the prince can become king before his official coronation.—*Reuters*

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## Americans in Philippines jittery as Duterte rails against United States

OLONGAPO (Philippines) — In a bar along the Philippines' Subic Bay owned by an American military veteran, the main topic of conversation is not the upcoming US election despite the Donald Trump coffee mugs, photographs and caps on display.

The talk is of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's tensions with Washington and his courting of China, which is worrying the bar's mostly American clients who have settled in the vicinity of the huge Subic Bay base, a former US navy installation.

"The biggest fear is that one day he's going to wake up and say 'everybody from the US, get out of town' and we'd have to leave our loved ones behind," said Jack Walker, a retired Marine sergeant who has lived in Olongapo, the town around the base, for five years.

For more than a century the Philippines and the United States have had a shared history of colonialism, wars, rebellion, aid and deep



Jack Walker, head of an American veterans' association, speaks during an interview with Reuters in his office in Olongapo city, Philippines, on 6 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

economic ties. That could change as Duterte's three-month-old administration re-examines the relationship.

In a series of conflicting statements, Duterte has insulted US President Barack Obama and the US ambassador in Manila for questioning his war on drugs, which has led to the deaths of more than 2,000 suspected users and pushers. He told Obama to "go to hell" and alluded to severing ties with Washington.

Then, after weeks of anti-American rhetoric, Duterte said the Philippines would maintain its existing

defence treaties and its military alliances.

The comments have left Americans and US businesses in the Philippines jittery about their future, said Ebb Hinchliffe, executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce.

"Every time he opens his mouth and says something negative about America, that hurts me personally ... and from a business standpoint, it's not helping," he said. He said three trade delegations representing American technology, financial services and manufacturing companies had canceled trips to the Philip-

ippines in recent weeks.

At least two American companies have opted to do business in Viet Nam instead "because of the president's anti-American sentiment". Hinchliffe declined to name the companies or give further details.

The United States effectively ruled the Philippines from 1898, when it acquired the country from Spain, until recognising its independence in 1946.

About four million people of Philippine ancestry live in the United States, one of its largest minorities, and about 220,000 Americans, many of them military veterans, live in the Philippines. An additional 650,000 visit each year, according to US State Department figures. According to a Pew Research Centre study last year, the Philippines is the most pro-US country in the world.

Despite the shared history, though, the Philippines has a strong nationalistic movement that has questioned the US alliance. In 1991, the government asked Washington to vacate the Subic Bay naval facility and the nearby Clark Air Base.—*Reuters*

## Driverless car in Singapore collides with lorry, no injuries



A safety driver puts up his hands as his driverless car navigates a road in Singapore, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — A self-driving car being tested on Singapore public roads collided with a lorry on Tuesday, the city-state's transport regulator said, adding that no one was hurt.

"The test vehicle was changing lane when it collided with a lorry," the Land Transport Authority said in a Facebook post.

nuTonomy, which is developing and testing the technology, said the car was operating with two engineers onboard and travelling slowly.

Countries around the world are encouraging the development of autonomous technologies, and Singapore, with its limited land and workforce, is hoping

driverless vehicles will encourage its residents to use more shared vehicles and public transport.

Singapore's testing of the technology is being closely watched as tech firms and automakers race to build self-drive cars and develop new business plans for what is expected to be a long-term makeover of per-

sonal transport.

Four different groups are testing driverless cars in a western Singapore district. The test routes open to participants was doubled to 12 km (7.4 miles) last month.

In September, ride-hailing firm Grab partnered with nuTonomy to allow some users to book driverless cars via its app.—Reuters

## Malaysia on alert as Mosul offensive stokes fears of militant influx

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia has stepped up security at its borders in case Malaysian militant fighters try to return home after Iraqi forces launched a major offensive to take back the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul, deputy prime minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said on Tuesday.

Iraqi government forces launched a US-backed offensive on Monday to drive Islamic State from the northern city of Mosul, the group's last major stronghold in Iraq.

Around 4,000 to 8,000 militants, a mix of Iraqi and foreign fighters, are estimated to be in the city.

Ahmad Zahid told a news conference that Malaysian airport and border security had been increased, while illegal routes commonly used by smugglers were being monitored.

"We have been exchanging intel with international intelligence agencies, and we have a suspect list which includes names of those we believe have ties with Daesh," he said, using an alternate

name for Islamic State.

Ahmad Zahid did not state how many Malaysians were currently in Mosul but police figures released last month showed that 90 Malaysians had joined Islamic State in Syria and Iraq since 2013.

In August, Malaysia revoked the passports of 68 Malaysians who had been identified as leaving the country to join Islamic State.

Returning fighters would be detained and sent for deradicalisation, Ahmad Zahid said.

A total of 137 people have been arrested for either planning to join Islamic State overseas, returning to Malaysia after joining the group, or sending funds to the group, he added.

Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein had said on Monday intelligence sources suggested that thousands of Islamic State members would

make their way back to their countries of origin, or find safe havens in regions such as Southeast Asia, if the Mosul offensive succeeds.—Reuters

## South Korea voices 'deep concern' over Japanese lawmakers' Yasukuni visit

SEOUL — South Korea voiced "deep concern and disappointment" on Tuesday over ritual offerings and visits made by Japanese lawmakers to a controversial war shrine in Tokyo.

"Our government cannot but express its deep concern and disappointment over ritual offerings and visits made again by Japanese government officials and politicians to Yasukuni Shrine, which glorifies Japan's war of aggression," South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We urge Japanese politicians to place their view of history on a correct basis and show their humble repentance and serious reflection on the past history with actual deeds to win trust from neigh-

bouring countries and the international community and march toward the future," the statement said.

The statement was issued after a group of some 80 Japanese lawmakers from various parties visited the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The Shinto shrine has been a source of diplomatic friction with China and South Korea, which suffered Japan's wartime brutality, as it honours convicted war criminals along with millions of war dead.

The visit came a day after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a ritual offering to Yasukuni, as he has done for past spring and autumn festivals, instead of attending the shrine in person.—Kyodo News

## Despite failures, North Korea could field missile next year: US expert

WASHINGTON — In spite of the apparent failure of another North Korean missile test at the weekend, the country's aggressive testing schedule could see its Musudan intermediate ballistic missile entering operational service sometime next year — much sooner than expected, a leading US expert said on Monday.

The US military said on Saturday it had detected a failed launch of a Musudan, the latest in a series in violation of United Nations resolutions.

The US Strategic Command said the missile failed in a launch near North Korea's northwestern city of Kusong. South Korea's military said the missile failed immediately after launch, but neither it nor the Pentagon suggested reasons.

The Musudan has range of some 3,000 km (1,860 miles), posing a threat to South Korea and Japan, and possibly the US territory of Guam. Pyongyang claims that it has succeeded in min-

iaturing a nuclear warhead that can be mounted on a missile, but this have never been independently verified.

John Schilling, an aerospace engineer specialising in rocket propulsion, said it was noteworthy that North Korea had launched the missile from its west coast, rather than from its purpose-built test facility.

"Moving to a roadside near Kusong is like taking the training wheels off the bicycle, seeing if you really have mastered something new," he wrote on the 38 North website that monitors North Korea.

Schilling said the move showed that in spite of only one successful launch to show for seven attempts this year, North Korea was

not simply repeating old failures.

"They are continuing with an aggressive test schedule that involves, at least this time, demonstrating new operational capabilities. That increases the probability of individual tests failing, but it means they will learn more with each test," he wrote.—Reuters



A test-fire of strategic submarine-launched ballistic missile is seen in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 25 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Opinion

## Write for us

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

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

## Healthy response to conflicts

**Khin Maung Aye**

IT is impossible for two persons to agree on every matter all the time. Normally, people disagree when their interest is involved, when they are of the different opinion and when they have different upbringing etc. This being so, conflicts are a normal part of the relationship between people. In this regard, it is noteworthy that we are not to avoid conflicts – what we need is to learn how to deal with conflicts because when conflicts are handled in a wrong way, the relationship can be adversely effected. Nevertheless, if the conflicts are managed in a respectful, positive way, they even provide opportunities to further strengthen the bond

between the two people. Therefore, it is necessary for us all to learn conflict management skills in order that we can keep our personal and professional relationships strong and growing.

First of all, it is needed to know that conflicts are caused by differences be they large or small. They take place whenever people disagree over their values, motivations, perceptions, ideas, or desires. Sometimes, these differences seem trifle. Nevertheless, when a conflict triggers strong feelings, a deep personal need is often at the core of the problem. These needs can be a need to feel safe and secure, a need to feel respected and valued or

a need for greater closeness and intimacy.

It is important to be aware that the needs of both parties play a significant role in long-term success of most relationship, and each need deserves respect and consideration. In regard to personal relationships, not understanding of different needs can create distance, arguments and break-ups. However, when it comes to workplace conflicts, differing needs are mostly at the core of bitter disputes with the result that these occur deals being broken, profits getting fewer and jobs being lost. This being so, it is necessary to accept that needs can conflict and be willing to examine them

in an environment of compassionate understanding. Then only will the problems be solved in a creative manner, team building be strengthened and relationships be improved.

In conclusion, responses to conflict should be in a healthy manner. The five tips for healthy responses are: the capacity to recognize and respond to the things that matter to the other person; calm, non-defensive, and respectful reactions; readiness to forgive and forget, and to move past the conflict, not holding resentments or anger; ability to compromise and avoid punishing; and belief that facing conflict head on is the best thing for both sides.

## The Legislative Process of Myanmar Hluttaws

**Dr. Htoo Maung**

ALL legislative proposals must be brought in the form of Bills before the Hluttaws. Subject to the provision of the Constitution, Bills may be introduced in either Pyithu Hluttaw or Amyotha Hluttaw or Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Bills are classified into Public Bill and Private Bill. Public Bills are sponsored by Union level organizations and Private Bills are sponsored by member of Hluttaws.

Normally, the Bill to be introduced shall be submitted (30) days before the session commences. The Speaker may consider the bills submitted beyond the time limitation, if there is a reasonable ground.

Regarding to the submission of a Bill in accord with the law, the restriction of the Constitution should be carefully noted.

Under Section 100 (a) of the Constitution, the Union level organizations shall have the right to submit the Bills relating to matters they administered included in the Union legislative list of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the respective procedures. And also section 100 (b), Bills relating to national plans, annual budget and taxation, which are to be submitted exclusively by the Union Government shall be discussed and resolved at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the respective procedures.

Three kinds of Bill such as national plans, annual budget and taxation can be introduced only by

the Union Government to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw have no mandate to legislate them.

To initiate a public Bill the Ministry concerned has to work out the political, administrative, financial, economic and social implications of the proposal. Opinions of the legal and constitutional experts are obtained through the Union Attorney-General's Office and INGOs and CSOs. Afterwards, a memorandum is submitted to the Cabinet for approval. The proposal is then converted into a Bill.

The Bill as drafted, is examined in detail by the Union Attorney-General. Sometimes the Bill may have to be drafted several times before it can meet all the requirements. After the draft of the Bill has been finalized, the Ministry concerned forward the proposal to the Cabinet for consideration and approval. With the decision of the Cabinet the Bill is submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The works of the Bill Committee begins when the Pyithu Hluttaw receives the Bill from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Bill Committee is responsible to distribute the copies of the Bill to all representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw in time. On the fixed date, the Minister or the Deputy Minister concerned, shall introduce the Bill at the Pyithu Hluttaw session.

If such an introduction is accepted for further discussion at the Hluttaw, publication of the Bill in Gazette is done for taking public opinion and the Bill is referred to

Bill Committee. If the introduction of a Bill is rejected, the Speaker shall announce the rejection. Until now in the Pyithu Hluttaw, no Public Bill (Government's Bill) has been rejected so far yet.

The Bill Committee, on receipt of the Bill referred by the Speaker, shall make a report and send to the Speaker within seven days. Due to the time limitations, members of the Committee shall held a meeting without delay.

The first meeting within the Bill Committee, the following procedures are carried out;

- Invitation of related Hluttaw Committees and Commission to discuss the Bill;
- Invitation of related Ministries and organizations including civil society for necessary questioning;
- Fixing the date for discussion;

On the fixed date, the said Committees and Ministries together with members of Bill Committee and members of the Commission for Legal Affairs and Special Issues, the Bill is discussed exclusively. Based on discussion in the meeting, the conclusion for scrutinizing is drawn for necessary amendments. The whole discussion is recorded and the report to submit to Pyithu Hluttaw is prepared in a prescribed procedure.

The report along with meeting records and how the Bill was scrutinized shall be sent to the Speaker. On the fixed date, the Ministry that initiated the Bill shall submit the original Bill before the Hluttaw, The report of the

Bill Committee and the comparison of the two Bills are distributed to members of Hluttaw before the scheduled session convenes. The report of the Bill Committee shall be read and submitted by one of the Committee members at the session. After the reading, the Speaker shall invite members of Hluttaw to discuss the Bill. Members who seek to scrutinize or amend the bill shall be registered in accord with the rules and procedures of the Hluttaw within the specific time. The Speaker may decide the next session to discuss the matter. On the scheduled session, the Bill shall be discussed word by word or paragraph by paragraph in detail and the resolutions shall be drawn at Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Bill passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be sent to the Amyotha Hluttaw to continue to discuss and resolve. The Amyotha Hluttaw may make agree or disagree, or agree with amendments in accord with the resolution of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Bill shall be sent back to Pyithu Hluttaw together with the resolution of Amyotha Hluttaw. If the Pyithu Hluttaw accepts the amendments of the Amyotha Hluttaw, it shall send to the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for further process. If disagrees, it shall take the resolution of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In this regard, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is the highest law making organ of the state, all bills shall be introduced through the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The two Hluttaws, shall scrutinize the bill re-

ferred to them in accord with the procedures.

If the scrutinization of a Bill is agreed and approved by both Hluttaws, it shall be deemed that the Bill is approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

If there is a disagreement between the two Hluttaws, the Bill shall be discussed and resolved in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Joint Bill Committee shall review the differences and submit a report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for further discussion and resolution.

After a Bill has been passed by both Hluttaws or resolution has been made at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Bill must be obtained the comment or consent of the President. The President shall sign the Bills within fourteen days after the day of receipt of the Bill and shall promulgate it as law. Within the prescribed period, the President may also return the Bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with his recommendations for reconsideration. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, after discussion of the President's comments, may accept his comment and resolve to amend the Bill or may resolve to approve the Bill as it is without accepting the President's comment. After receiving the Bill back, the President shall sign the Bill and promulgate it as law within the period of seven days. If it is not signed by the President within that day, it shall become law as if he had signed it on the last day of the prescribed period. This is just a brief account of how a Bill has to be passed through many processes to become a law.

## Chief of Defence Services inspects heavy industries in Thagaya



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspecting a heavy industrial factory in Thagaya Industrial Zone in Yedashe Township. PHOTO:MYAWADY

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected heavy industrial factories in Thagaya Industrial Zone in Yedashe Township yesterday.

On his inspection tour, the Senior General acknowledged the better quality of the products produced by the factories

in the zone, calling for a step-by-step process—small scale, medium scale and large scale -- to eventually bring factories into full operation.

During the tour, the Senior General visited No 14 Heavy Industry, which produces diesel engines, No 15 Heavy Industry, which produces machinery in-

cluding bulldozers and No 26 Heavy Industry, which produces hydro turbines, generators and boilers.

Factories in Thagaya Industrial Zone are currently operating with foreign technology after signing agreements with various foreign companies.— *Myawady*

## Union Minister for Information receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang and party at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union minister clarified the efforts of

the government for the timely release of information on the recent violent attacks in Rakhine State.

They also discussed matters related to cooperation in the media sector between the two countries.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## DPN participates in Framework Review for Political Dialogues

THE government has agreed to four out of eight points demanded by the United Nationalities Federal Council and accepted the remaining four points in principle and as a result, the DPN formed by the UNFC attended the framework review for political dialogues, according to U Zaw Htay, Deputy Director-General of the President's Office.

“On the anniversary of NCA, the Peace Commission and the UNFC discussed the eight-point demand of it. The commission agreed to the four points of it and agreed to the remaining four points in principle. Both sides agreed to discuss it further. So, the DPN- Delegation for Political Negotiation attended the framework review,” U Zaw Htay said.

The meeting to review the framework for political dialogues was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold national level political dialogues and to pave way for ethnic armed organizations that have not yet signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement to

sign it.

“I would like to request participants to approve the terms of reference, which was drafted by three representatives each from the government, ethnic armed groups and political parties. They are important to political dialogues that will be held soon,” Dr Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, said on behalf of the government.

U Thu Wai, who spoke on behalf of political parties at the meeting, pointed out there is a need to discuss the framework thoroughly as the framework is important and it would be submitted to the UPDJC, the Union Peace Conference and the Hluttaw, which would enact it.

Today's meeting was also attended by the Delegation for Political Negotiation –DPN formed by the UNFC.

However, it is not clear whether non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement will be able to participate in the upcoming political dialogues, according to Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, General Secretary of the Karen National Union.— *Ye Khaung Nyunt*



DPN participating in Framework Review for Political Dialogues.

PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

### The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Designated Schedule for process of holding By-elections Notification

Nay Pyi Taw 18, October

The Union Election Commission has notified that by-elections for vacant seats to Hluttaw (at different levels) will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017(Saturday). For political parties, Hluttaw candidates and the whole populace to thoroughly know and prepare themselves beforehand, time-table for the process is hereby announced.

Sr. No	Subject	Expected date
1.	Announcement of date to hold by-elections for vacant seats in vacant constituencies	27.10.2016
2.	Date for Delivering form(15) to respective embassies for overseas voters to cast vote in advance	from 15.11.2016 to 5.12.2016
3.	Date for submission of names of candidates	from 28.11.2016 to 7.12.2016
4.	Deadline for withdrawal of application forms for candidates, if ever	9.12.2016
5.	Date for commencing to scrutinize the candidate application forms	from 12.12.2016 to 18.12.2016
6.	Date for Candidate Lists Announcement Form (10) to be passed	2.1.2017
7.	Tenure for launching election campaign	from 30.1.2017 to 30.3.2017
8.	Date for holding by-elections	1.4.2017
9.	Date for Announcing Parliamentarian-elect	from 2.4.2017 to 5.4.2017

Union Election Commission

## 10,000 Mon State students granted stipends for 2016-17

OVER 10,000 students in three townships in Mon State have been granted stipends for the 2016-2017 academic year under a programme administered by the World Bank and the Education Ministry.

The education promotion has existed since the 2014-2015 academic year, but the programme started in Mon State in 2015-2016.

The programme allowed monthly stipends for nearly 350 schools, including 69 schools with

2,899 students in Kyeikto Township, 185 schools with 4,234 students in Bilin Township and over 90 schools with 3,773 students in Paung townships.

Under the scheme, a primary student will receive stipends of Ks5,000 per month, while it grants monthly stipends of Ks8,000 to each middle school student and Ks10,000 to each high school student. All students will receive the monthly stipends before March 2017.—200

## Proposed German missile defence system cost far above estimates

The Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS) is pictured during a presentation at European Defence Group MBDA in Schrobenhausen, near Ingolstadt, Germany, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



BERLIN — A proposal by European missiles maker MBDA to develop and build a new air defence system for Germany came in billions of euros higher than the previous estimate of 4 billion euros (\$4.5 billion), according to multiple sources familiar with the proposal.

The German Defence Ministry declined to comment on the report, saying it was still evaluating the proposal submitted late last month by MBDA, jointly owned by Airbus Group (AIR.PA), Britain's BAE Systems Plc (BAES.L) and Italy's Leonardo Finmeccanica SpA (LDOF.MI).

The company also declined to comment.

Germany last year chose the Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS), made by MBDA and Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N), over Raytheon Co's (RTN.N) Patriot system, but said the companies would

have to meet tough performance milestones to retain the contract, one of Germany's biggest arms projects.

The MEADS system was developed jointly by Germany, Italy and the United States, although the US Army later decided not to buy the system for its own use. Germany is buying MEADS to replace its Patriot air defence system fielded in the 1980s.

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen last month promised to carefully scrutinize the MBDA proposal to avoid the cost overruns and issues that have plagued previous German military procurement programmes.

Sources said the MBDA proposal put the cost of finishing development of the MEADS system alone at up to 3 billion euros above the previous estimate of roughly 1 billion euros.

One of the sources said the total cost, including development

and procurement, was now seen at 9 to 10 billion euros, more than double the previous estimate of 4 billion euros, raising serious questions about the project's future. "With a cost of 9 to 10 billion euros, it's difficult to know how you can even negotiate," said the source.

The sources gave no specific reasons for the higher cost.

The ministry was not expected to cancel the project immediately, but would ask MBDA to provide an additional detailed breakdown of the cost of the major items in the proposal, the source said.

Some officials have already raised the possibility of going back to negotiate with Raytheon about a new version of the current Patriot missile defence system, the source added.

A decision on how to proceed was expected by the end of the year.—Reuters

## Rejecting Trump, Wall Street Republican donors scatter largesse

NEW YORK/BOSTON — Largely united in their dislike of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, some ultra-wealthy US investors who play in conservative politics are warily weighing their choices, torn between third-party candidates, simply focusing on down-ballot contests or even voting for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

As Clinton's lead over Trump has grown in opinion polls, some hedge fund managers who have traditionally donated big money to Republican presidential candidates see the congressional elections as their best hope.

Stanley Druckenmiller, one of the best-performing hedge fund managers of all time, told Reuters he had recently given to Repub-

lican candidates for Congress in the hope of creating a "firewall" against Clinton's economic policies, including more government control of healthcare and what he described as "astronomical disincentives" to invest.

Druckenmiller, who invests privately since closing his hedge fund firm in 2010, said Trump had an "unstable personality" that ruled him out as a candidate.

"I might just vote on the down ballot part of the ticket and not bother with the top," he said.

Public filings show Druckenmiller donated to US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida in August and the National Republican Congressional Committee in March.

He disavowed long-shot Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson,

saying he was "out the window" after a couple of high-profile lapses on foreign affairs, including struggling to name an international leader he admired.

But some Republican hedge fund managers contacted by Reuters said they planned to vote for Johnson, who is polling in the single digits. Among them is Tiger Management founder Julian Robertson, according to spokesman Fraser Seitel. Robertson previously backed Republicans Jeb Bush and John Kasich. "I've heard from a lot of people who say they'll vote for Johnson or not vote at all because they don't want to be held responsible for having elected Hillary Clinton," one hedge fund billionaire said in describing industry views.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Man arrested over alleged rape inside UK parliament

LONDON — A 23-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of rape following an alleged incident inside Britain's Houses of Parliament, London police said on Tuesday.

The attack reportedly took place in the early hours of last Friday and the suspect, who police have not named, was detained later that day. Police said he was not a lawmaker.

Police said the man had been released on bail until January pending further inquiries.

A spokesman for the House of Commons, one of Britain's most recognizable buildings on the banks of the River Thames in Westminster, said they were aware of the incident and parliament was working closely with police.—Reuters

#### Russia, Syria stopped airstrikes on Aleppo at 0700 GMT: Russian DefMin

MOSCOW — Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Tuesday that Russian and Syrian air forces had stopped airstrikes on Aleppo from 1000 local time (0700 GMT), ahead of the announced "humanitarian pause" scheduled for 20 October.

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday that a pause in strikes on Syria's largest city would be in force on Thursday, from 0800 (0500 GMT) until 1600, to allow civilians and rebels to leave the city.

Military experts will meet in Geneva on Wednesday to begin work on separating "terrorists" from Syria's opposition, Russia's state Rossiya 24 channel showed Shoigu saying.—Reuters

#### Chepurin: Serbia's EU accession to affect free trade regime

BELGRADE — Serbia's EU accession will bring major changes to its bilateral business ties with Russia, Russian Ambassador Alexander Chepurin said Monday, calling for talks on adapting an existing free trade agreement to new conditions.

We would not want our bilateral business ties to suffer at the time of Serbia's EU accession, Chepurin told a panel at the 16<sup>th</sup> Serbian Economic Forum.

The changes will primarily affect the free trade regime, he said.

The EU forms a single economic area and member states cannot maintain special economic relations with third countries or be in free trade zones with them, he said.

Following Serbia's EU accession, its free trade zone with Russia or the EEU will be forced to cease to exist, he said.

He said the accession could have a negative impact on the two countries' cooperation in the energy sector, as in the case of South Stream. — Tanjug

#### Philippine agri production loss from typhoon Sarika hits 61.86 m USD

MANILA — The Philippines has incurred huge losses in the agriculture sector amounting to almost 3 billion pesos (61.86 million US dollars) due to typhoon Sarika, locally named as Karen, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Latest report from the field showed that the total production loss in agriculture due to Sarika was already estimated to reach 2.972 billion pesos, according to Christopher V. Morales, an official in the Agriculture Department.

"A total of 260,002 hectares of agricultural areas, with an estimated production loss of 215,716 metric tons and a total of 86,261 farmers were affected in CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region) and Regions I, III, IV-A and V," Morales said in a memorandum to Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Pinol.—Xinhua

#### Taliban restart secret talks with Afghanistan in Qatar

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban and the Afghan government restarted secret peace talks in September and have held two rounds of discussions in Qatar, Britain's *Guardian* newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing anonymous sources.

Citing a Taliban official, the *Guardian* said a senior American diplomat was present at the meetings in Qatar, where the Islamist group has a diplomatic office.

The newspaper said the talks were attended also by Mullah Abdul Manan, the brother of Afghan Taliban founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar, who died in 2013.—Reuters

## Coalition warplanes kill 20 Islamic State militants in Syria: Turkish army

ANKARA — United States-led coalition warplanes killed 20 Islamic State militants in Syria over the last 24 hours, the Turkish military said on Tuesday, nearly two months into a Turkey-backed rebel operation to drive the jihadists away from the border.

Turkey pushed on with the Syrian operation as Iraqi forces launched a US-backed offensive to expel Islamic State (IS) from the

northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

The 11 coalition air strikes in Syria targeted the areas of Kar Kalbayn, Ghuz, Hassajik and Tiltanah and destroyed two IS defensive positions and three vehicles, the army statement.

Separately, Turkish warplanes also carried out air strikes and destroyed several IS targets, it said.

Since the Turkey-backed operation, dubbed 'Euphrates Shield',

was launched on 24 August, the rebel forces have seized control of some 1,240 square kilometres (479 square miles) territory from the jihadists, according to the statement.

Ankara says thousands of Turkey-trained forces are also participating in the assault to push IS out of Mosul, despite a row with Baghdad over the presence of Turkish forces in Iraq. —Reuters



Smoke rises from airstrikes on Guzhe village, northern Aleppo countryside, Syria on 17 October 2016. PHOTO : REUTERS

## First 14 unaccompanied children from Calais 'Jungle' reach Britain

LONDON — A first busload of children arrived in Britain on Monday from the "Jungle" camp near the French port of Calais as the British government started to act on its commitment to take in unaccompanied migrant children before the camp is destroyed.

The fate of children staying in the Jungle, a squalid camp where up to 10,000 people fleeing war or poverty in the Middle East and Af-

rica have converged seeking ways to cross to Britain, has been a political problem for the British government. Religious leaders, refugee rights campaign groups and opposition parties have accused the government of dragging its heels on helping to move unaccompanied children out of the camp, which France has said it will soon demolish.

The French and British interior ministers, Bernard

Cazeneuve and Amber Rudd, agreed in talks on 10 October to speed up the process of moving children eligible to go to Britain out of the Jungle.

Fourteen children, the first whose cases have been processed, arrived by bus in Croydon, south London, to be reunited with relatives already living in Britain. Faith leaders and aid workers were on hand to welcome and assist them. —Reuters



UK Border Force staff escorts some of the the first group of unaccompanied minors from the Jungle migrant camp in Calais to be brought to Britain after they were processed at an immigration centre in Croydon, south London, on 17 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Refugee from Iraq pleads guilty in US to attempting to join Islamic State

LOS ANGELES — An Iraqi-born man who entered the United States as a refugee pleaded guilty on Monday in Texas to attempting to volunteer to fight with Islamic State, federal prosecutors said.

Omar Faraj Saeed Al-Hardan, 24, pleaded guilty in a federal court in Houston to one count of attempting to provide material support, specifically himself, to the militant group, the US Attorney's Office for the southern district of Texas

said in a statement.

Al-Hardan, who most recently lived in Houston, faces up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced on 17 January, prosecutors said.

The case comes during a US presidential race in which the question of admitting refugees from the Middle East, especially Syria, has become a point of contention between the two leading candidates. Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton has called for increasing the number

of Syrian refugees admitted and said the United States can adequately screen them. Republican nominee Donald Trump has opposed their entry and called for "extreme vetting" of incoming Muslim immigrants. In the Texas case, federal agents began investigating Al-Hardan in 2014 after he communicated with a California man who he believed was associated with the Syrian Islamist rebel group Al-Nusra, prosecutors said in a statement. —Reuters

## Iraqi forces say 20 villages fall in first day of battle for Mosul

BAGHDAD — Armed forces closing in on Mosul said on Tuesday they had secured some 20 villages on the outskirts of the city in the first 24 hours of an operation to retake what is Islamic State's last major stronghold in Iraq.

With air support from a US-led coalition, government and Kurdish forces edged closer to the city as smoke darkened the blue sky above one IS position, apparently from oil fires ignited to hamper the incursion and make it harder to land air strikes.

Reuters reporters witnessed Islamic State mortar fire in villages on the plain east of the city as the militants sought to counter a push by Kurdish forces. One car bomb exploded during the fighting, although it was not immediately clear if it had been detonated or hit by incoming fire.

With a population of 1.5 million, Mosul is the largest city under the control of the Islamic State group that seized swathes of Iraq and Syria in 2014, and its

recapture would be a "decisive moment" in defeating the militants, according to US Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

But the urban battle ahead - in a city four to five times larger than other towns seized by Islamic State — poses not only a military challenge, but also a humanitarian one, with the United Nations warning of an exodus of up to a million people.

About 4,000 to 8,000 militants are thought to be dug into Mosul while the forces assembled to drive them out are estimated at 30,000, including Iraqi army, Kurdish and Sunni tribal fighters. More than 5,000 US soldiers are also deployed in support missions, as are troops from France, Britain, Canada and other Western nations.

The Iraqi army is attacking Mosul on the southern and southeastern fronts, while the Peshmerga carried out their operation to the east. The Peshmerga, who are also deployed north and northwest of the city, said they se-

cured "a significant stretch" of the 80 km (50 mile) road between Erbil, their capital, and Mosul, about an hour's drive to the west.

The UN refugee agency said it had built five camps to house 45,000 people and plans to have an additional six in the coming weeks with a capacity for 120,000, that would still not be enough to cope if the exodus is as big as feared.

The battle has also raised fears of sectarian and ethnic revenge killings in territory retaken from the ultra-hard-line Sunni Muslim Islamic State.

Amnesty International urged Iraqi authorities to keep Shi'ite paramilitary groups away from Mosul whose population is largely Sunni.

The rights group said the Shi'ite-led government in Baghdad would bear responsibility for the actions of the militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilization Forces, which are officially considered to be part of the country's armed forces. —Reuters

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Sr No.	Tender No	Description
1.	15(T)5/(E)	Spare Parts for Concrete Sleeper Plant 2016-2017 (a) Spare Parts for Rail Clip Production Machine- (17) Items (b) Spare Parts for Stressing Machine - (5) Items (c) Spare Parts for Batching Plant - (8) Items

Closing Date & Time - 17.11.2016 (Thursday) (14:30) Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 17.10.2016 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>th</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon.

Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

# Explosion at BASF facility in Germany kills two, seriously injures six



Photo taken on 17 October, 2016 shows the fire after an explosion at German chemical company BASF facility in Ludwigshafen, southwestern Germany. Two persons died in an explosion at German chemical company BASF facility in Ludwigshafen, which also left at least six people injured, two more missing. PHOTO: XINHUA

LUDWIGSHAFEN, (Germany) — An explosion at a facility of German chemical company BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany on Monday killed two people, seriously injured six others and left two more missing, the company said. Measurements done in the air and ground did not show any increase in

levels of toxic substances, said the German chemical giant. All the roads leading to the Gate 15, the northern entrance into the plant, which is not far from where the explosion occurred, remain blocked and are guarded by police officers. Meanwhile, the fire off the south side of Rhein River

can still be seen. The firefighting continues as the fire will be burned out under controlled conditions, according to the company. BASF said it has stopped its central production facilities. The so-called steam cracker had been turned off for safety reasons. The explosion took

place around 11:30 am (0930 GMT) while work was being carried out on a pipeline route, with which preliminary products of ships were transported to actual production sites. The blast resulted in a fire. However, the exact cause remains unknown as investigation is still underway.—Xinhua

# Rio police fire tear-gas during Brazil budget plan protest

RIO DE JANEIRO — Police fired tear gas in downtown Rio de Janeiro on Monday when protesters demonstrating against a proposed government spending cap approached the headquarters of state oil company Petrobras, the GloboNews channel said. The police action marks the first time a new wave of Brazilian street protests, this time against the signature economic policy of the months-old government of President Michel Temer, have turned violent. The proposed constitutional limit on federal government spending would restrict budget increases to the inflation rate for 20 years. The measure is aimed at closing a budget deficit that exceeded 10 per cent of gross domestic product last year and reviving confidence in the midst of a two-year recession that has seen Brazil lose 12 million jobs. Protesters say the measure will hurt health, education and other social

spending. The protests also come as Temer's union-movement opponents, plan a major strike against Petroleo Brasileiro SA, as Petrobras is formally known, over plans to sell assets and cut debt at the financially troubled oil company. Police moved to disperse the demonstrators shortly before 8 pm (2200 GMT) after they veered off an approved route, left the main protest that was winding down Rio's main downtown avenue and allegedly provoked police, GloboNews said. The press office of the Rio de Janeiro-state police declined to give an estimate of the crowd size or confirm if there were any arrests or injuries. Protest organisers said about 5,000 people participated. The conflict occurred on a side street where the headquarters of Petroleo Brasileiro SA and state-owned development bank BNDES [BNDES.UL] are located, the news agency said.—Reuters

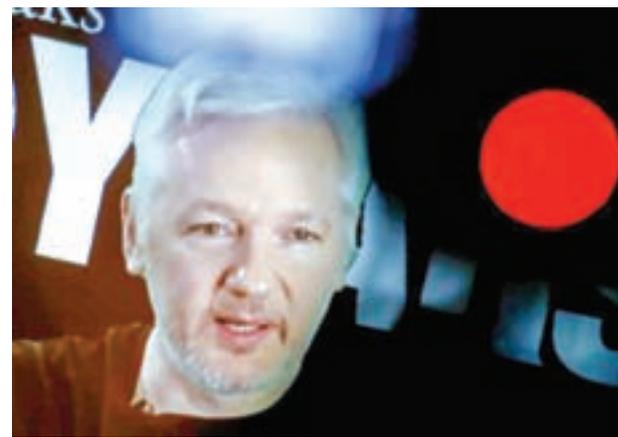
# Ecuador cuts Julian Assange's internet access: WikiLeaks

WASHINGTON — Anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks said on Monday that its founder Julian Assange's internet was shut down by the government of Ecuador, deflecting blame from the US or British governments which have sparred with Assange for releasing sensitive material. "We can confirm Ecuador cut off Assange's internet access Saturday, 5 pm GMT, shortly after publication of (Hillary) Clinton's Goldman Sachs speeches (sic)," the statement from WikiLeaks said.

Assange has lived and worked in Ecuador's London embassy since June 2012, having been granted asylum there after a British court ordered him extradited to Sweden to face questioning in a sexual molestation case involving two female WikiLeaks supporters. WikiLeaks said Assange lost internet connectivity on Sunday night. "We have activated the appropriate contingency plans," added the Twitter message on Monday. People close to WikiLeaks say that Assange himself is the

principal operator of the website's Twitter feed. The Ecuadoran government offered no immediate comment on the question of internet access, but the country's foreign minister, Guillaume Long, said Assange remained under government protection. "The circumstances that led to the granting of asylum remain," Long said in a statement late on Monday. The government of leftist President Rafael Correa has long backed Assange's right to free speech,

though the Wikileaks saga has caused some strain in relations with the United States, including the expulsion of diplomats in 2011. Correa, whose term will end next year, has said he is behind. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, who he says he knows personally, in the US presidential election. "For the good of the United States and the world ... I would like Hillary to win," Correa told broadcaster Russia Today last month.—Reuters



Julian Assange, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of WikiLeaks speaks via video link during a press conference on the occasion of the ten year anniversary celebration of WikiLeaks in Berlin, Germany, on 4 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

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# Kremlin-backed TV channel cries censorship in UK banking row

MOSCOW — Russia accused Britain of political censorship on Monday after a British state-owned bank withdrew its services from Kremlin-backed Russian broadcaster RT.

RT said NatWest, owned by Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS), which is majority-controlled by the British government, had not explained why it was withdrawing its banking services in Britain and accused the bank of attacking freedom of speech.

In a letter published on RT's web site, Nat-

West said it had decided to withdraw its services after "careful consideration". It did not offer an explanation for what it said was a final ruling, but said it would cancel RT's services from 12 December.

In a statement later, RBS (RBS.L) said: "These decisions are not taken lightly. We are reviewing the situation and are contacting the customer to discuss this further. The bank accounts remain open and are still operative."

Western critics dismiss RT, whose British



A man walks past a cash machine outside a NatWest bank in London in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

arm produces UK-specific content, as a Kremlin mouthpiece designed to sow disinformation. The channel, previously known as Russia Today, says it offers a refreshing Russian-slanted alternative take on global events to mainstream Western

media.

NatWest's decision is likely to inject further tension into relations between Moscow and London, already strained over Syria and Ukraine, and make it harder for RT to operate in Britain, something the channel said it would continue doing regardless.

"The situation will cause some insurmountable obstacles for the normal functioning of the channel in Britain," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, adding it was deeply concerned and would raise the matter

with British authorities.

"This gives rise to the thought that the bank has taken the decision in agreement with official London to get rid of a news resource that is inconvenient for the official narrative but popular among the British public."

RT, which counts President Vladimir Putin among its supporters and relies on Russian state funds, said the bank's decision was consistent with "countless measures" taken in Britain and elsewhere in Europe to try to impede its work.—Reuters

## Rich nations say on track for promised \$100 billion climate finance

COPENHAGEN — Rich countries said on Monday they were on track to keep a promise to provide developing nations with \$100 billion a year to tackle climate change by 2020, up from an estimated \$62 billion in 2014.

The pledge of fast-rising funds, first made in 2009 to help the poor rein in greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to rising temperatures, was a key to ensuring all governments signed up for the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat global warming.

"We are confident we will meet the \$100 billion goal from a variety of sources, and reaffirm our commitment to doing so," developed nations said in a report compiled by Australia and Britain.

The funds, from both the public and private sector, would be up from an estimated \$62 billion in 2014 and \$52 billion in 2013, it said.

The Paris Agreement will enter into force on 4 November after winning backing from major emitters led by China and the United States.

At a 2009 summit in Copenhagen, governments promised to mobilise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developed nations limit their emissions and adapt to heat waves, floods, more powerful storms and rising sea levels.

Then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, now the Democratic candidate for the presidency against Republican Donald Trump who doubts climate change is man-made, announced Washington's backing for the pledge at the summit.

Monday's report said that new estimates by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicated that finance from public sources alone would rise to \$67 billion in 2020 from \$44 billion in 2014.

More than 30 governments, including the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Australia had pledged new funds in 2015, it said.

The rising public sector finance could help mobilise \$33 billion in private sector finance by 2020 to reach the \$100 billion goal, it said.—Reuters



People get their picture taken in front of the foam covering the polluted Yamuna river in New Delhi, India, on 11 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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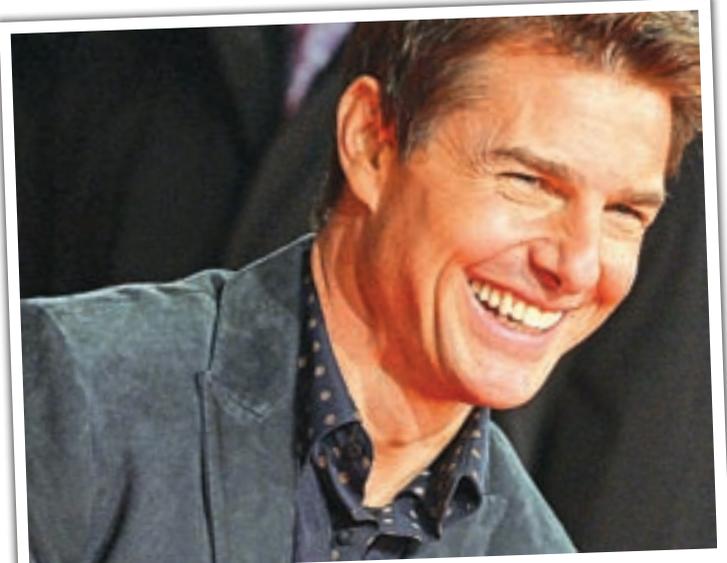



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US actor Tom Cruise. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tom Cruise promises 'unique brutality' in 'Jack Reacher' sequel

LOS ANGELES — Tom Cruise stars as the aggrieved former US military officer in sequel "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back", promising "a level of unique brutality" in the new film based on Lee Childs' books.

This time, Reacher uncovers the conspiracy that led to his former colleague, Major Susan Turner, being accused of spying. Reacher works to clear her name.

"It has a great humour and

it also has a level of unique brutality that this character brings," Cruise said at the film's premiere on Sunday in New Orleans, where it was filmed. "It is part of who he is."

The movie was directed by Edward Zwick, who worked with Cruise on the 2003 film "The Last Samurai".

Co-star Cobie Smulders - the "How I Met Your Mother" actress - plays Turner.—Reuters

## Emmy-Award winning actress Janney gets star on Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES — "The West Wing" actress Allison Janney was joined by former co-star Richard Schiff as she received the 2,592<sup>nd</sup> star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Monday.

Seven-times Emmy Award-winning actress Janney, who played White House press secretary C.J. Cregg in the po-

litical drama, received the star located next to American film and stage actor Montgomery Clift on Hollywood Boulevard.

Janney was also joined in celebration by Chuck Lorre, one of the creators of her latest series, "Mom", which premieres its fourth season on 27 October.—Reuters



Actress Allison Janney poses on her star after it was unveiled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California US, on 17 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Japanese rocker's modern kimonos kick off fashion week in Tokyo

TOKYO — Japanese rock star and fashion designer Yoshiki kicked off the week-long Amazon Fashion Week Tokyo on Monday, taking to the stage to perform music as models strutted by on the runway in his futuristic kimono creations.

Yoshiki, co-founder and drummer of rock band X Japan, played the piano and drums during the show for his brand Yoshikimono, which presented kimonos in metallic colors and leather in a modern twist to the traditional garment.

Models also wore printed strapless dresses and see-

through plastic tops.

"The entire kimono industry has been in crisis," Yoshiki, whose family ran a kimono shop, said. "Despite pros and cons (to) my approach, I think Yoshikimono is meaningful in terms of awakening interest (in kimonos)."

Other labels showcasing their spring/summer 2017 collections included ACUOD BY CHANU, with designer Chanwoo Lee unveiling black and white layered outfits, accessorized with face masks.

Amazon Fashion Week Tokyo runs until Sunday.—Reuters

## Green Day top Billboard album chart with 'Revolution Radio'

LOS ANGELES — Rockers Green Day debuted at the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, toppling Solange Knowles from No. 1 and edging out new entries from Norah Jones and One Republic.

"Revolution Radio," Green Day's 12<sup>th</sup> studio album, sold 90,100 albums, 14,000 songs and was streamed 47 million times, totaling 95,000 album units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan for the week ending 13 October.

At No. 2, is jazz singer Norah Jones' "Day Breaks" with 47,000 album units sold, while pop group OneRepublic debuted at No. 3 with "Oh My My" selling 46,000 album units.

Last week's chart-topper, Knowles' "A Seat at the Table,"



Members of the band Green Day react as they are inducted during the 2015 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cleveland, Ohio on 18 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

dropped to No. 6 this week.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other new entries on the Billboard 200 album chart include Alter Bridge's "The Last

Hero" at No. 8 and Phantogram's "Three" at No. 9.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures weekly online single sales, The Chainsmokers and Halsey's summer hit "Closer" held onto the top spot with another 123,000 copies sold.—Reuters

## Phil Collins returning to music stage with new shows

LONDON — British musician Phil Collins is returning to the stage with his first set of live shows in nearly 10 years, saying his children helped him cut his retirement short.

Collins, who announced in 2011 he was bowing out of music, will perform for five nights at London's Royal Albert Hall next June before heading to Cologne and Paris where he will play two concerts in each city as part of his

"Not Dead Yet: Live" shows.

Collins, 65, came to fame as the drummer and later lead vocalist for progressive rock band Genesis and is known for solo hit singles such as "Another Day in Paradise" and "In the Air Tonight". He last toured in 2007.

"They all kind of (said) 'You should get out there Dad, you should get out there and keep doing it.' They thought my retirement was a little premature but I

also really did want to stop to be with the kids and be a dad. Now I am a dad, I can leave," Collins told Reuters in an interview on Monday.

"People were talking to me over the last couple of years and saying 'We miss you, nobody does really what you do and it would be great if you came back and did some shows.' These kind of comments started to weigh up with me."—Reuters



The poppy sculpture 'Weeping Window', a cascade of thousands of handmade ceramic poppies by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper on display at Caernarfon Castle, Wales, on 17 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Poppies pour from Caernarfon Castle in WWI remembrance display

WALES — Thousands of handmade ceramic poppies pour from a tower top onto the grass below at Caernarfon Castle, the first place in Wales to host the display that was shown in London two years ago to mark the centenary of the beginning of World War I.

"Poppies: Weeping Window", by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, has toured Britain — including Lincoln Castle and Perth, Scotland — after its debut as part of the "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" installation at the Tower of London.

At Caernarfon, the display runs until 20 November.—Reuters

## Two to get comfy coffin for overnight stay in Dracula's castle

BUCHAREST — "No garlic or garlic-scented items allowed, including perfume," read the house rules of Count Dracula's castle to ensure that Halloween night guests cannot avoid the vampire.

On 31 October, two people will be allowed to sleep in velvet trimmed coffins in the seclusion of the count's crypt and will spend the rest of the night in the Carpathians castle completely alone, says vacation rental marketplace Airbnb.

The company launched a promotional contest via Airbnb on Monday to pick the castle's first ever overnight guests since Romania's

post-World War II communist regime expelled the owners, the Habsburg royal family, almost 70 years ago.

In 2006, a democratic government that replaced the fallen communists restored the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Bran fortress, known as "Dracula's Castle", to Habsburg descendents. Situated in the wooded foothills of the Carpathian mountains, it is now a museum and major tourist attraction in European Union member Romania.

The castle was never part of Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula," although Romania's notorious 15<sup>th</sup> century ruler Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler), whose

life inspired the book, may have set foot there briefly.

Vlad was notorious for his cruelty, impaling Turks and thieves on wooden stakes, but he was no vampire and vampires are not part of Romanian superstition, which includes the belief that garlic wards off evil.

Airbnb said the winning pair will walk through the castle's labyrinth of dark corridors to eventually discover a secret passage to the grand dining room. There, an intimate candlelit dinner will await, prepared in a traditional way, exactly as described in Bram Stoker's novel: "A hearty, blood enriching meal of robber beef steak

and paprika hendl chicken."

"Bran Castle is where the legend of Dracula was born, and I have many stories to share as I guide the guests through the dark secret passages of the castle for a private unveiling of its many mysteries," said Dacre Stoker, a descendant of Bram Stoker who will play the role of Jonathan Harker, a character from the novel.

The 14<sup>th</sup>-century fortress's jagged towers, built to guard the nearby city of Brasov from attacks by the Ottoman Turks, and its forbidding surroundings, ideal as a horror film backdrop, gave rise to its famous name.—Reuters

## New St Andrews students welcomed with shaving foam fight

ST ANDREWS (Scotland) — Students dressed in costumes chased each other with shaving cream in a massive foam fight at the University of St Andrews on Monday, as part of a decades old tradition for newcomers.

Each year, freshers at the Scottish university, where Prince William met his now wife Kate Middleton when they were both students, join so-called academic families where

they are adopted by older students for mentoring.

Several weeks into the first term, the university holds its annual "Raisin Weekend", during which the academic parents hold parties for the new students. The weekend culminates in "Raisin Monday", when they dress the new students in costumes and send them into the university main's lawn for a shaving foam fight.—Reuters



Students from St Andrews University are covered in foam as they take part in the traditional 'Raisin Weekend' in the Lower College Lawn, at St Andrews in Scotland, Britain on 17 October, 2016. The weekend, which begins on Sunday, involves rituals for new students, culminating in a foam fight on Monday morning. PHOTO: REUTERS

**Myanmar International**

(19-10-2016 07:00am ~ 20-10-2016 07:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-3)
07:45	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-III)
08:36	Am	The Art of Making Glaze Ware
08:54	Am	Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
09:40	Am	A Visit To Ye
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
10:50	Am	A Myanmar Tapestry

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Tuesday 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
07:26	Pm	A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
07:43	Pm	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
08:42	Pm	Up Against The Tide

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday 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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

# Liverpool and Man Utd deliver poor 0-0 draw after the hype

LONDON — One of the most eagerly-awaited clashes of the Premier League season turned into a major letdown as Liverpool and Manchester United nullified each other in a largely undistinguished goalless draw at Anfield on Monday.

After all the hype preceding the battle between English football's fiercest rivals, United's manager Jose Mourinho was left happier than his counterpart Juergen Klopp as the visitors doused Liverpool's acclaimed attacking pyrotechnics.

The home side, full of goals all season, proved desperately disappointing until finding some second-half drive and may have still felt they deserved the win as United goalkeeper David de Gea had to make fine saves from Emre Can and Philippe Coutinho.

Mourinho, the master of stifling Anfield dreams when at Chelsea, again found his tacti-

cal mastery rewarded but United, seventh in the table on 14 points, have still won just one of their last five league games while Liverpool stay fourth on 17, two behind leaders Manchester City and Arsenal.

The Portuguese sounded particularly satisfied as he suggested United's ability to keep a clean sheet against their hosts had shown "they (Liverpool) are not the last wonder of the world like you like to say they are".

Klopp, though, talked of "mixed feelings", admitting it had been a poor spectacle.

"I am not frustrated but I am not happy with the performance. No one will show this game in 10 or 20 years but we could have played better.

"We get a point. It doesn't feel like the best thing but it is what we got."

His usually whirlwind Liverpool were effectively subdued in the first half as Mourinho revert-



Liverpool's Emre Can in action with Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini during their Premier League at Anfield on 17 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed to conservative type, bringing in Marouane Fellaini to partner Ander Herrera in a stifling central midfield combination.

Throwing men behind the ball and taking the voice out of the passionate home crowd, United controlled most of the play in the opening half-hour even if a 40-metre Zlatan Ibrahimovic free kick blasted into row Z was their lowest of highlights.

Liverpool, without the injured Georginio Wijnaldum and

forced to leave Adam Lallana on the bench, never got going, with Daniel Sturridge proving disappointing, and they looked nervous in front of their fevered fans.

It took them more than half an hour before a Roberto Firmino header straight at De Gea represented their first attempt on goal.

It was only after the break that they began to show glimpses of their true colours, Can wriggling through to force a fine

one-handed save from De Gea at full stretch before the Spanish keeper delivered an even finer stop, flying through the air to tip Coutinho's curler wide.

A brilliant last-gasp challenge by Antonio Valencia deprived Firmino but United, for all their solidity, had only one effort on target and looked back ruefully on their best chance, a tame header across goal from Ibrahimovic after a great delivery from Paul Pogba.—Reuters

## South Korea emerges as potential rowing site for 2020 Games

TOKYO — The International Olympic Committee is considering holding rowing and canoe events at the 2020 Olympics in South Korea in the event Tokyo's original venue plan falls apart, unnamed sources on the organising side said Tuesday.

According to the sources, if the rowing/canoe sprint site is shifted from Sea Forest Waterway to be built in Tokyo Bay, the IOC is looking into the Chungju Tangeum Lake International Rowing Center as a backup solution to keep the 2020 Games budget under control.

"I will not comment on any kind of rumor," said IOC President Thomas Bach upon his arrival at Haneda airport before heading to the metropolitan building for a meeting with Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike.

"We will talk with the organising committee and the governor, and afterwards you will be informed that you will see it will be very constructive talks and in the end we will have excellent Olympics Games in 2020," he said.

After the 40-minute session in which Bach and Koike discussed key factors critical to Olympic success, the Tokyo governor said she will reach a

conclusion on proposed moves for three competition venues by the end of the month but did not mention South Korea.

A cost review panel set up by Koike recommended moving the rowing/canoe, volleyball and swimming events outside of Tokyo and using existing facilities to cut spending despite opposition from sporting bodies and Tokyo Games organisers.

An official of the Korean Olympic Committee said the South Korean sporting organisation has not been contacted by the IOC regarding this matter, though they are willing to cooperate should they be tipped to help.

"We are aware that the IOC is discussing (the venue move), but we have not been approached. We have not received a formal request from the IOC, therefore we are not in a position to consider anything," the official told Kyodo News.

Meanwhile, sports minister Hirokazu Matsuno and Olympic minister Tamayo Marukawa expressed dismay upon hearing the news. "I'm not aware (of the facts), but generally speaking venues for the Olympics should be located inside the (host) country," said Matsuno.—Kyodo News

# ATP got the Kyrgios ban right, says Woodbridge

MELBOURNE — The ATP has rarely garnered praise for its handling of misconduct but former doubles great and Tennis Australia (TA) official Todd Woodbridge believes the players' association hit the mark with the suspension of wayward talent Nick Kyrgios.

The 21-year-old was fined \$25,000 and suspended for eight weeks on Monday after his latest on-court meltdown at the Shanghai Masters, where he clashed with fans, the chair umpire and walked off court in the middle of a point.

Kyrgios can be back playing in three weeks if he commits to a course of counselling with a sports psychologist, which TA says he has already committed to.

Woodbridge, former head of player development at TA, has been a staunch defender of compatriot Kyrgios in the past but felt the ATP's rare suspension was due.

"I think with all of the things that have occurred, it was pretty important," Woodbridge, who won 22 grand slam doubles titles, told Reuters on Tuesday.

"There needed to be a suspension or a ban given what he did."

"Also the tour have handed him the right dose of it to help him become accountable and give him a chance to work on it."

In dealing with the prodigiously gifted hothead, who many tout as a future grand slam champion, TA has been caught between a rock and a hard place.

The proud tennis nation has not had a men's grand slam winner since Lleyton Hewitt's Wimbledon triumph in 2002 and fans clamour for Kyrgios to quell his demons and realise his enormous potential. TA have worn a lot of flak from pundits and local media for not being tougher on the players through his myriad controversies, but are mindful that the hard line has failed in the past.

The Australian Olympic Committee, represented by team chef de mission Kitty Chiller, slammed Kyrgios for his public demeanour earlier in the year and warned him to smarten up or miss out on the Rio Games.

Kyrgios promptly withdrew himself from consideration for Rio, leaving Australia without their top medal hope in the tournament.—Reuters



Nick Kyrgios of Australia celebrates winning the match against Gael Monfils of France. PHOTO: REUTERS