



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Coco Island

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CCTVs to be installed on nearly all lamp-posts in Yangon Region

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ANSWERS, ACTION PLEDGED

Union Government promises probe, accountability into deadly ferry incident

UNION Government expressed condolences yesterday for the deaths of scores of passengers after a ferry capsized in the Chindwin River, promising to carry out a probe into the deadly accident.

“A systematic investigation will be made into the accident to find the causes and take action against those who are responsible for this tragedy,” said the announcement of the govern-

ment signed by President U Htin Kyaw.

The Sagaing Region government announced that it would hold a press conference on the ferry tragedy at Myathala Hall of the GAD at noon on 22 October.

The regional government has formed a fact finding mission led by Sagaing Region Police Chief Pol-Col Lu Lu Than.

The Union Government expressed its sympathy and pledged

its assistance to the bereaved families. The incident occurred on 15th October in the Chindwin River in upper Myanmar.

A total of 68 passengers, including 14 men and 54 women, were confirmed dead as of 1 pm yesterday, according to authorities.

One-hundred and fifty-nine passengers survived the accident, and 80 people are still missing. The ferry was said to be carry-

ing about 300 passengers when it capsized, according to survivors.

According to a preliminary enquiry, the Aung Soe Moe Kyaw-2 ferry left Homalin at 10.30 am on 14 October and landed in Phaungpyin, Mawlike, Kalewa and Minkin before it capsized near Kanni after apparently hitting a rock on its way to Monywa.

Crew members had reportedly been warned about its over-

loading, according to survivors.

Search operations are still ongoing in the downstream area of the Chindwin River.

Authorities have properly recorded the retrieved bodies and provided information to relatives. Some unclaimed bodies had to be buried after recording their information.

The sunken ferry was salvaged from the river yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

UNFC likely to take part in political dialogues

Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) is likely to participate in the national-level political dialogues, according to Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Secretary U Hla Maung Shwe.

“We are negotiating with the DPN (Delegation for Political Negotiations) on 7 or 8 November. The Peace Commission of the government is also negotiating with them on 9 or 10 October. As both sides have paved the way to continue the peace process, the UNFC is likely to participate in the process,” U Hla Maung Shwe said.

The UNFC is a coalition of 11 opposition groups that campaign for the rights of various different ethnic minorities (some of which are armed insurgent groups).



See page 9 >> The framework review meeting on political dialogue in Yangon on 20th October, 2016. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



CCTVs will be installed on nearly all lamp-posts in Yangon Region.
PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

CCTVs to be installed on nearly all lamp-posts in Yangon Region

Ko Moe

“With a view to alleviating crime, discovering crimes as promptly as possible and preventing potential crimes, the installation of CCTVs at the lamp-posts in Yangon Region is under way,” said Colonel Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

“More lamp-posts are to be erected at places where power supply does not yet reach, with the installation of CCTVs to be made simultaneously,” he added.

According to the Yangon Region Police Force, there were 130 murder cases committed in 2016, for which 125 arrests were made, and in 2015 there were 191 murder cases committed with 178 arrested.



Seized yaba pills being seen. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

1.8 million yaba pills seized in Yathedaung, Rakhine State

BORDER guard police in Rakhine State discovered 1.8 million yaba pills hidden in the bushes in Yathedaung on Wednesday, according to police.

The illegal drugs worth more than Ks3.6 billion were found during a patrol which was conducted after receiving infor-

mation that people had descended with torch lights from the Mt Mayyu in Yathedaung on Tuesday evening.

The drugs were found in nine bags hidden near Aungthaya Village at the foot the mountain. Police are continuing their investigation. — GNLM

Ceremony held in Yangon on 71st Anniversary of United Nations

A CEREMONY marking the 71st Anniversary of the United Nations was held at Yangon University's Hall of Arts this afternoon. Present were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, rector and faculty members of Yangon University, students, officials of UN organisations in Myanmar, personnel from Civil Society Organizations and invited guests.

Ms Renata Dessalien, resident coordinator of the UN, Myanmar office called on Myanmar Government and its people to wholeheartedly embrace the UN as their aligned organisation.

She said that the ceremony marking the 71st anniversary of the UN was born out of the cooperation between the UN and the Myanmar Government,

pledging that the UN is ready to help Myanmar develop by sharing global experiences and knowledge.

Dr Pho Kaung, the rector of Yangon University, U Kyaw Zeya, the permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry and the resident coordinator of the UN respectively discussed “Sustainable Aligned Cooperation between the UN and Myanmar” and “Role of Rule of Law for the Progress”.

There will be a meeting with the local populace of Shwe Pyi Tha Township, Yangon Region on October 21 as a campaign in commemoration of United Nations Day, it is learnt.

Since April 1948, when Myanmar gained its Independence, it has been a UN member country. The UN is co-imple-

menting many development projects with Myanmar governments in the activities of education, health, natural disasters, human rights, equality in rights between both sexes, human trafficking, elections and emergence of nationwide peace.

In Myanmar, there are over 2,000 staff members employed under the 17 UN organisations across the nation.

The UN is working with its 17 key objectives worldwide, to eradicate poverty and hunger, to be rich in nutritional food, to make progress in the agricultural sector, to ensure every individual's health and education, for both sexes to have equal rights and for people to have an access to clean water and hygienic sewage systems. —Nandar Win

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U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivering address at a ceremony to celebrate 71st Anniversary of the United Nations. PHOTO: YE HTUT



Scared evacuees return home as government promises safety

WITH authorities pledging to provide better security and basic needs, evacuees who had temporarily left their homes in areas affected by the recent violent attacks in Rakhine State started returning home yesterday morning.

“Evacuees can now go back to their homes as the local police force has been better-equipped and reinforced with new police posts while the Tatmadaw is patrolling the region,” Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung told the local evacuees taking refuge in Aungmyaybodhi Alodawpyay in Maungdaw and civil society organisations.

Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi

Pu and party visited the Aungmyaybodhi Alodawpyay Monastery on 19 October and paid homage to the Sayadaw before presenting offertories to the abbot.

The union ministers and party also met with evacuees at the monastery and attended to their needs. Later, they met with the evacuees and local civil society organisations at Sasana Beikmandawgyi in Maungdaw. At the meeting, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung said that security measures have been taken for the stability and the rule of law in the sites affected by the recent violent attacks and surrounding areas.

“The government has tightened security in the region to ac-



Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pyu and Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Dr Win Myat Aye talking to officials during their visit to a police post in Maungdaw. PHOTO: MNA

cede to the requests of the people and civil society organisations.

In addition to existing police posts, new police stations have been deployed in the region, while the Tatmadaw is patrolling

the area,” he said at the meeting.

He added that the government is ready to offer assistance for the returnees and basic needs and other assistance will be provided by the Ministry of Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and related ministries.

The union minister also vowed to heed the advice of local civil society organizations. —*Myanmar News Agency*

9th ASEAN Forum on migrant labour held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Thein Swe speaking at the opening of 9th ASEAN Forum on migrant labour. PHOTO: MNA

THE National Tripartite Preparatory Meeting of the 9th AFML was opened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the opening address by U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labor, Immigration and Manpower and Mr Rory Mungoven, Liaison Officer of (ILO-Yangon).

The meeting was held with the aim of sharing results received from previous preparatory meetings over 8th AFML's suggestions and related work process under way. Under the declaration on promotion and protection of rights of migrant workers in the ASEAN region laid down by 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on July 2007, migrant workers will enjoy the rights of progress of their lives.

“It is the key objective of migration for those workers and their families who abandoned their places for better living conditions to enjoy favourable rights,” said the Union minister.

“These included some com-

plicated migrations. Some migrant labourers became scapegoats in economic and social matters due to the consequences of economic crisis. Now we are implementing national work to create jobs and business for citizens residing in the nation and foreign returnee workers very soon,” he added.

Emergence of modernised Labour Law, promotion of their lives in compliance with international standards are under discussion among the government, entrepreneurs, labour organisations and aligned parties,” said the Union Minister.

Mr Rory Mungoven said, “For the emergence of Code of Conduct, ILO gave technical aid and it was signed by over 90 out of 250 Inland Authorized Companies seeking employment in foreign countries.”

At the ceremony, U Htoo Chit of the Foundation for Education and Development, U Saw Khu of

International Resource Committee and U Moe Gyo of Joint Action Committee for Burmese Affairs accepted scholarship stipends — 10,000 baht each for their offspring presented by the Union Minister.

In the afternoon, labour representatives led by U Myo Aung, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry, responsible officials from ASEAN migrant labour organisation, CTUM, MOEAF and tripartite.

“Current situation of social protection of migrant workers in ASEAN” and “Working towards the portability of social security of migrant workers in ASEAN” will be discussed in the meeting and the results which will come out will be submitted to the 9th AFML meeting, it is learnt. There are 350 million working population in ASEAN region 15 million, of which are migrants, according to the statistics. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Foreign investment drops during 2016

ALTHOUGH Myanmar is projected to attract US\$6billion in foreign investment during the 2016 fiscal year, it has received only a fraction of that amount as of this month, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“We have received only US\$1.4billion so far,” Director-General U Aung Naing Oo of the DICA said. “We are not sure whether the target of US\$ 6 billion will be met”.

The director-general added that the shortfall in foreign investment might be due to investors who are still studying the policies of the new government and the new investment laws.

He was optimistic about the rest of the year. “The remaining period of the fiscal year is during the open season and the new foreign investment law is also in place. Prospects are likely to be brighter,” he said.

He was more optimistic about 2017 even if the target for current fiscal year is not met. The directorate is also developing plans covering until 2030 to attract foreign investment. The DICA projected for Myanmar to receive US\$6billion of annual foreign investment during the period from 2016 to 2020, US\$8billion annually for the period from 2021 to 2025 and US\$11billion annually for the period from 2026 to 2030. —*Ko Moe*

Myanmar chemical engineering students win Honeywell scholarships

MYANMAR chemical engineering students won scholarship awards provided by Honeywell UOP, a global leader in refining and petrochemical technology, to foster its advanced education in chemical engineering for the long-term development of Myanmar.

Sponsored by Honeywell UOP, four senior students studying chemical engineering — two from Technological University in Mandalay and the rest from Yangon's Technological University — have been chosen to participate in the programme, which will provide US\$500 worth of scholarship.

Jim Rekoske, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of

Honeywell UOP, said the company hopes this will be only the first step of a long-term programme to foster the advancement of oil refining, gas processing and petrochemical industries in Myanmar. This is the second such scholarship programme Honeywell UOP has established in the Southeast Asia region. The first was initiated in Viet Nam four years ago and has since benefited more than 60 chemical engineering students in that country.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students are required to have a GPA of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale, exhibit integrity and academic promise, as well as strong communication and leadership skills. —*GNLM*

KBZ Bank wins World Quality Commitment-2016



U Tun Lin and U Htay Aung Kyaw of KBZ Group of Companies accept World Quality Commitment Award in Paris. PHOTO: KBZ

KANBAWZA Bank (KBZ) has won the World Quality Commitment-2016 awarded by the Business Initiative Directions (BID) based in Spain.

Executive Director U Tun Lin of Executive Director of Myanmar Billion Co Ltd of KBZ Group of Companies and U Htay Aung Kyaw, Executive Director of Shwe Kanbawza Co and Procurement Director of the KBZ Bank Ltd accepted the award at the presentation ceremony held

in Paris on 16 October.

KBZ Bank was chosen as the winner for its achievements in standard quality, leadership, technology and innovation, according to the press release of the BID.

The Spain-based organization also said that in its statement that the bank is improving its total quality management with good leadership and becoming a model for others in terms of sustainable improvement of quality services.

The World Quality Commitment is the second award for KBZ awarded by BID, following the International Star Award Geneva 2015.

KBZ, which won several international prizes connected with banking sector, also achieved the Best Bank in Myanmar for 2016 presented by the Euromoney based in London and Best Bank in Myanmar for 2016 awarded by the Finance Asia. —Thura Lwin (Eco)

Installation of new overhead power lines to finish this month

INSTALLATION of 33 KV overhead power lines, the structures used in electric power transmission and distribution, in Dala Township in Yangon Region are projected to be finish by the end of this month, according to project manager.

The 2.4-mile-long new power lines have been installed since early September between

Kyaungsu Ward and the township electricity department in Dala.

U Aung Kyaw Moe, township electrical engineer, said the project aims to remove the very old 50 mm2 power lines and replaced them with new ones. A total of 157 poles, supporting structure of power lines, have been placed in the ground under

the project.

Yangon City Electric Supply Board spent over Ks210 million on installation of power lines and supporting structures.

After finishing the project, 24 villages and 24 wards in Dala Township will have access to electricity, under the government's plan. —Myitmakha News Agency

Police seize drugs including 288,000 yaba pills

THE police discovered 288,000 yaba pills in a car in Kalaw on Wednesday during a surprise check on Kalaw-Thasi road.

Sai Aung Nyunt, the driver of the car, was detained and action has been taken against him by the local police station. On the same

day, a local anti-drug squad discovered 143 grams of heroin and 1,000 yaba pills hidden in 11 soup cans.

Action has been taken against Hsan Aung, who was driving the car, with Ma Khaw Nan and Ma Zaung Hsai on board when the car

was searched by police. Similarly, a combined team comprising members of a local anti-drug squad and police seized 49,500 pills of Alprazolam from a car driven by Zaw Tun Oo at the Myanmar-India border gate.

A local anti-drug squad in Mandalay, acting on a tip-off, searched a pharmacy owned by Kaung Htet Ko Ko in Amarapura Township and discovered 50 capsules of Tramadol, 60 bottles of Tramadol for injection, 590 pills of Diazepam, 30 bottles of Diazepam for injection, 346 non-registered sex-drive pills, 164 sex-drive capsules and 150 bottles of sex-drive liquid.

Action has been taken against Kaung Htet Ko Ko under the anti-narcotic and psychotropic law and under Section 18 of the National Drug Law. —GNLM



Sai Aung Nyunt. PHOTO: MPF

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Government Announcement 1/2016 4th Waning of Thadingyut 1378 ME 20 October, 2016

1. Aung Soe Moe Kyaw (2) Ferry of the Aye Nyein Chan Thar Water Transportation Line, capsized in the Chindwin River near Michaungtwinn Village, Kinn Village-tract, Kani Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, around 5.10 am on 15th October, 2016 en-route from Homalin to Monywa and a total of 66 bodies : 13 men and 53 women: have been pulled from the river until 20th October, 2016. Under the guidance of the Union Government, Sagaing Region Government is closely supervising the search-and-rescue operations.

2. According to the decision made at the Meeting 14/2016 of the Union Government on 20 October, 2016, the Union Government issued this announcement to express its condolences for the deaths of scores of passengers in the accident and to carry out a probe into the deadly accident and to take action against those who are responsible for this tragedy.

Sd/Htin Kyaw
President
Union Government

Crime NEWS

67 kilo of heroin blocks seized in Loilem

A combined team comprising members of a local anti-drug squad and police discovered 200 blocks of heroin weighing 67 kilos and worth more than K1.65 billion in a car in Loilem on 20 October.

The drugs were hidden inside a SURF vehicle driven by Sai Saing Ywet, 26, with Sai

Sar Yi Ya, 24, on board when the car was checked by the police at the check-point on the Kunhein-Mongpyin Road.

Action has been taken against the two under the anti-narcotic drug and psychotropic substances law, according to the police source. —GNLM



Sai Saing Ywet and Sai Sar Yi Ya. PHOTO: MPF

50 cases of illegal logging and related trade uncovered this month

AUTHORITIES uncovered about 50 cases connected to illegal smuggling of forest products between 1 and 16 October this year, according to the Forest Department.

The majority of cases occurred in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, followed by Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi and Bago regions as well as Shan State.

Over the first five months of this financial year, the Forest Department seized over 19,000 tonnes of illegal logs of teak and

different species of hardwood, collecting related materials including vehicles and tree-cutting machines.

Local authorities including police and members of the forest department, collected over 7,500 tonnes in April, over 3,500 tonnes in May, nearly 3,200 tonnes in June, almost 2,800 tonnes in July and over 2,000 tonnes in August.

Among other regions and states, Sagaing Region and Kachin State tops the list with highest rate of illegal logging and illicit timber trade. —Kyu Kyu

LOCAL Business

Over 300 red and blue licence plates granted in Taunggyi for transportation of tourists

OVER 300 red and blue licence plates have been granted as of 17th October under the recommendation of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to facilitate the transportation of tourists in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State, it is learnt.

The Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) issued the blue licences starting on 1st October in Taunggyi. The Hotels and Tourism Ministry has already announced that tourists must take the cars with the blue licence for transportation.

Cars with red licence plates can also transport tourists, but have a limited geographical area in which to operate. The license plates are issued by the RTAD after certifying that the vehicles have met the set criteria to transport tourists. The car owners have to hold a "D" driving licence.

Cars with black licence plates can be used only for family and personal use, not for commercial purposes. This is the reason why many car owners apply for blue licences.

The licences are issued only after checking if the vehicles have enough capacity to transport, carry a fire extinguisher and medicines on board and provide air-conditioning. The drivers must be sober while transporting the passengers and are liable for any accidents. Traffic rules have to be strictly followed.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Farmers plant rice seedlings on a paddy field, outskirts of Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rice and broken rice export fetched nearly US\$181million

THE export of rice and broken rice as of 7th October in this fiscal year 2016-2017 earned US\$180.934million, with an export volume of 524,545 tonnes, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The volume of rice export from 1st April to 7th October in this fiscal year was 394,101 tonnes worth over US\$142million, while that of broken rice was 130,444 tonnes worth over US\$38million.

During the first week of

October, 5,716 tonnes of rice exports worth US\$2.191million were exported through Myanmar and China border trade camps. The figure slumped by over 2,000 tonnes when compared to the volume of last week.

In a similar period, the value of broken rice export through the Sino-Myanmar border trade camps amounted to US\$0.559million with the volume of 1,719 tonnes.

Through the China-Myan-

mar border gates, the total value of rice exports in September was US\$13.193million, with a rice volume of 35,856 tonnes which has slumped by 26,474 tonnes when compared to August, it is learnt. The broken rice export in September earned US\$1.868million, with an export volume of 5,747 tonnes, which decreased by over 2,500 tonnes compared to August.

The rice export through normal trade in September fetched US\$1.635million while

that of broken rice earned US\$1.012million, it is learnt.

About 200 tonnes of rice and about 500 tonnes of broken rice were exported through sea trade from 2nd to 8th October.

The volume of rice and broken rice exports in the last fiscal year 2015-2016 reached about 1.4 million tonnes. However, the demand from China, the main buyer of Myanmar's rice, is on the decline over the first half of this fiscal year.—*Ko Htet*

Yusen Logistics's refrigerated warehouse under construction in Thilawa SEZ

JAPAN-based Yusen Logistics is constructing a refrigerated warehouse in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) situated in Southern Yangon to facilitate the cold storage logistics infrastructure for perishable foods, it is learnt from an announcement released by Nikkei.

The company is building the warehouse on 6,200 square

metres of land. The warehouse is slated to start operation in July, 2017.

The warehouse will have sophisticated temperature management, which is critical for cold storage. Foods can be stored in three different temperatures — 15C to 20C, 5C and -20C, it is learnt.

"Myanmar looks promising, with more economic opportuni-

ties and possessing a production base", said Shoji Murakami, the senior managing executive officer at Yusen Logistics.

The Myanmar market is quickly growing and attracting an increasing amount of foreign direct investment, but the lack of sophisticated cold storage infrastructure has caused problems for entrepreneurs dealing in perishable foods.—*Mon Mon*

Avocado manufacturers & exporters association to be formed in November

AN Avocado Manufacturers and Exporters Association will be formed in November to be able to export quality avocados which meet international standards, it is learnt from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

MFVP has been planning to reorganize the Taunggyi Avocado Producers and Exporters Association by the end of October, it is learnt. After formation of the

Taunggyi Avocado Association, the national-level Avocado Association is slated to form in November. Myanmar's avocados do not yet meet the quality standards in the highly competitive international market.

Therefore, the formation of the association aims to systematically organise the growers to produce quality avocados, said U Soe Than Min Din, the chairperson of MFVP.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Suspected Islamic State-inspired militant stabs three Indonesian policemen

JAKARTA — A suspected supporter of Islamic State attacked police in Indonesia with a knife on Thursday and wounded three of them in what appeared to be the latest violence inspired by the militant group in the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation.

Indonesian authorities are increasingly worried about a resurgence in radicalism in Southeast Asia's largest economy, driven in part by a new generation of militants inspired by Islamic State (IS).

Police shot and wounded the attacker after he stabbed three traffic police officers during the rush hour in Tangerang, on the outskirts of the capital, Jakarta.

An unexploded pipe bomb and a large IS sticker were found near the scene, police said.

"All of a sudden a man brutally attacked our officers with a sharp weapon. The perpetrator was shot in the thigh and leg," police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar



A bomb squad policeman inspects a bomb suspected object at location where a suspected supporter of Islamic State attacked policemen in Tangerang, Indonesia's Banten province, on 20 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

told reporters.

"We suspect the perpetrator is an ISIS sympathizer," he added, referring to Islamic State.

The police officers and the attacker, who was born in 1994 and unemployed, were being treated in hospi-

tal. The assault comes after a series of Islamic State-linked attacks beginning in January when four militants mounted a gun and bomb attack in Jakarta. Eight people were killed, including the militants.

In July, a militant blew

himself up at a police station in the town of Solo, injuring one officer.

Police in August arrested IS supporters plotting to launch a rocket at Singapore's Marina Bay casino resort area using a boat from the nearby Indonesian island

of Batam.

A knife-wielding teen "obsessed" with IS attempted to attack a priest at a church in August.

The vast majority of Indonesia's 250 million people practice a moderate form of Islam. Small militant

groups that have periodically mounted attacks against the state and foreigners have been largely disbanded or driven underground.

In Indonesia's most serious attack, militants set off explosives at a nightclub on Bali island in 2002 killing 202 people.

Authorities believe Islamic State has more than 1,200 followers in Indonesia and nearly 400 Indonesians have left to join the group in Syria.

Police are on alert in case more Indonesians return home after Iraqi forces this week launched an offensive to take back the IS stronghold of Mosul.

"The war there is affecting our youth here," Amar said. "We have to be vigilant about parties that are changing the mindset of our youth." Authorities are monitoring about 40 returnees, concerned they could be linking up with existing networks, police chief Tito Karnavian told Reuters on Monday.—Reuters

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Empress Michiko 'shocked' to see headlines on emperor's abdication

TOKYO — Empress Michiko said in a statement released on Thursday on the occasion of her 82nd birthday that she was shocked and felt pain when she saw newspapers reports saying Emperor Akihito intends to relinquish the throne "while alive."

The Imperial Household Agency usually describes the act of an emperor relinquishing the Chrysanthemum throne with the single word "abdication," according to agency sources.

Empress Michiko said she heard "with awe and respect" the 82-year-old emperor's video message in August in which he signaled his desire to abdicate out of concern that advanced age could one day stop him fulfilling his duties. "It came as a shock to me, however, to see the words seizen taii (in Japanese, literally, abdicate while living) printed in such big letters on the front pages of the papers," she said.

"It could have been because until then I had never come across this expression even in history books that, along with surprise, I briefly experienced pain upon seeing those words," she said, adding she may have been too sensitive.

The empress was pres-



Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko read a book at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ent when the emperor recorded the video message prior to its release on 8 August. The emperor said he was concerned that his age and failing health could one day mean that he cannot fulfill his constitutional role as the symbol of the state and the unity of the people.

Currently, only posthumous succession is effectively allowed as the 1947 Imperial House Law lacks a provision regarding abdication. The last to relinquish the throne was Emperor Kokaku about 200 years ago. The empress said the emperor conveyed the message after "thoroughly discussing" the matter with their sons Crown Prince

Naruhito and Prince Akishino. She said she has always felt that, if an important decision regarding the imperial household system is to be made, those in the line of imperial succession should be the first to be involved, not their spouses or other relatives.

Aside from thoughts regarding the emperor's video message, the empress expressed her thoughts on various things that happened over the past year, including a series of natural disasters that hit Japan, such as huge earthquakes in Kumamoto Prefecture and its vicinity in southwestern Japan in April.

"I believe we must

work together to create a society in which all of us support those who are affected by disasters and never leave anyone feeling left behind and alone," she said.

The empress also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit the Philippines with the emperor in January to pay tribute to both Japanese and Filipinos who lost their lives in World War II.

On the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games in the summer, the empress said she was moved by the beauty of athletes with and without disabilities showing their brilliance. "I have kept many newspaper clippings of those photographs." As a matter that has been weighing on her mind recently, the empress pointed to incidents of visually impaired people falling from platforms onto railroad tracks at train stations. The empress said it would be idealistic for platform doors to be installed at every station to prevent such accidents.

But she added, "Instead of making this a matter of platform doors only, I think it is important to consider the issue further from many aspects and for everyone to make an effort so that there will be no more occurrences of these tragic incidents again."—Kyodo News

Saying US has lost, Duterte aligns Philippines with China

BEIJING — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced his “separation” from the United States on Thursday, declaring that it had “lost” and he had realigned with China as the two agreed to resolve their South China Sea dispute through talks.

Duterte made his comments in China, where he is visiting with at least 200 business people to pave the way for what he calls a new commercial alliance as relations with longtime ally the United States deteriorate.

His trade secretary, Ramon Lopez, said \$13.5 billion in deals would be signed.

Duterte’s efforts to engage China, months after a tribunal ruling in the Hague over South China Sea disputes in favour of the Philippines, marks a reversal in foreign policy since the 71-year-old former mayor took office on 30 June.

“America has lost now,” Duterte told Chinese and Philippine business people at a forum in the Great Hall of the People, attended by Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli.

“I’ve realigned myself in your ideological flow and maybe I will also go to Russia to talk to (President Vladimir) Putin and tell him that there are three of us

against the world - China, Philippines and Russia. It’s the only way,” he added.

“With that, in this venue, your honours, in this venue, I announce my separation from the United States,” Duterte said to applause. “I have separated from them. So I will be dependent on you for all time. But do not worry. We will also help as you help us.”

Duterte’s remarks will prompt fresh concern in the United States, where the Obama administration has seen Manila as a key ally in its “rebalance” of resources to Asia in the face of a rising China.

The administration agreed a deal with Duterte’s predecessor granting US forces rotational access to bases in the Philippines and further doubts will be raised about the future of this arrangement.

However, a White House spokesman stressed the traditional bonds between Washington and Manila when asked about Duterte’s comments and stuck to a US approach of seeking to play down the Philippine leader’s repeated attacks.

“The US-Philippines alliance is built on a 70-year history, rich people-to-people ties, includ-



President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping attend a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 20 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing a vibrant Filipino-American diaspora, and a long list of shared security interests,” spokesman Ned Price said. “We also remain one of the Philippines’ strongest economic partners; the current stock of US foreign direct investment stands above \$4.7 billion.”

China has pulled out all the stops to welcome Duterte, including a marching band complete with baton-twirling band master at the official welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People, which most visiting leaders do not get.

President Xi Jinping, meeting Duterte earlier in the day, called the visit a “milestone” in ties.

Xi told Duterte that China and the Philippines were brothers and they could “appropriately handle disputes”, though he did not mention the South China Sea in remarks made in front of reporters.

“I hope we can follow the wishes of the people and use this visit as an opportunity to push China-Philippines relations back on a friendly footing and fully improve things,” Xi said.

Following their meeting, during which Duterte said relations with China had entered a new “springtime”, Chinese vice foreign minister Liu Zhenmin said the South China Sea issue was not the sum total of relations.

“The two sides agreed that they will do what they agreed five years ago, that is to pursue bilateral dialogue and consultation in seeking a proper settlement of the South China Sea issue,” Liu said.

China claims most of the energy-rich South China Sea through which about \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. Neighbours Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.—Reuters

Another failed North Korea missile launch detected, likely of Musudan

SEOUL/TOKYO — North Korea on Thursday made another failed attempt to test-fire what is believed to be its intermediate-range Musu-

dan missile following last week’s failed launch, promptly drawing further condemnation from its neighbours.



File photo taken in October 2015 shows a military parade in Pyongyang. The United States and South Korea said they detected a failed North Korean missile launch on 20 October 2016. The missile, presumed to be an intermediate-range Musudan type, was fired at around 6 am Pyongyang time, according to the US Strategic Command. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The missile was launched at around 7 am JST near the city of Kusong, North Pyongan Province, in North Korea’s northwest, but failed, according to the US Strategic Command and the South Korean military.

“Regardless of whether it succeeded or failed, our government strongly condemns (the missile launch) made in violation of UN Security Council resolutions,” South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June Hyuck said during a regular press briefing in Seoul.

In Tokyo, Japanese top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told a press conference, “We are aware that the launch failed.” He added that Japan has lodged a stern protest with North Korea through its embassy in Beijing, strongly criticising the launch.

“North Korea’s repeated missile launches are a severe security threat compromising the peace and security of our region and the international community, and simply cannot be allowed,” Suga said.

The chief Cabinet secretary did not give details as to the missile’s trajectory or how far it may have travelled.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that the North Korean act is “a serious challenge to the international community including our country.” —Kyodo News

Approval given for \$23.2 billion development project in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — A \$23.2 billion development project in southern Cambodia has been given the green light by the government, with construction set to begin in March, the head of the scheme said on Wednesday.

The first project of its kind in the country, the plans include residential, business and tourist zones, according to Chheang Sophanna, executive director and head of international sales for Pallas Group, and will also involve recreation facilities, such as a film studio and an equestrian centre.

Sophanna said the aim is to create a world-class destination, while his company’s website describes the vision for the site in the southern province of Kampot as a “French Riviera City.”

Speaking to Kyodo News, he said the Cambodian government had given the scheme the green light on 12 October, and construction was expected to begin in March.

According to the company’s website, the site will occupy 6,056 hectares of land on the gulf of Thailand, while company documents seen by Kyodo News showed a planned smaller development in neighboring Kep Province will cover 144 hectares.

The company is also eyeing Thailand and Viet Nam for similar schemes.

“The French Riviera Marina and Kep Marina projects will become world-class destinations for living, business, tourism and film production. Pallas will create thousands of jobs during the construction with more than 50,000 direct and thousands more indirect employment opportunities servicing the developments,” said the company’s Vice President Siriluck Choochart.

“Each of our projects has been designed to be in complete harmony with the environment utilizing advanced construction methods and the highest grade materials. They will be the last word in exclusivity and luxury,” she added. According to the plan, the French Riviera community in Kampot will offer a secure oceanside parkland community consisting of hotels, villas, apartments, a water park, private and artificial beaches, a golf course, a marina, an amusement park and a shopping centre, among other facilities. It will also play host to schools and a health center, and its areas will be inter-linked by canals and cable cars. —Kyodo News

Opinion

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Efficient Police Force vital to public security

Myint Win Thein

THE police are essential to civil stability and tranquility. When the police are efficient, the public can live safely and peacefully. This is because the most important responsibility of a police force is to enforce laws and to provide public security. When the police are inefficient, public security is jeopardised.

We have seen many incidents in which the police often fell victim to resistance from lawbreakers. About a year ago, a murder suspect attacked and killed a police officer with knife who tried to

arrest him in a township in Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar. A few months later, more police officers were attacked and killed by another fugitive in Thanhlyin, a satellite town of Yangon. Since then, public security has been deteriorating in the entire country and more crimes of a cruel nature are occurring and being discussed. Public security is dwindling. City dwellers feel unsafe even in their homes behind multiple-locked doors in broad daylight. In the countryside, where only a few policemen are deployed, the

situation may be even worse. The rural security situation was highlighted by recent violent raids on border police posts in northern Rakhine State.

The police were taken aback by the violent attacks, and a number of policemen sacrificed their lives for their country and many others were injured. Many weapons were looted and local people had nowhere to take refuge. Although the police were overpowered by the violent attackers, one of the weaknesses of the police is the lack of combat readiness, accord-

ing to high-ranking police officers. There may be many reasons behind the tragedy but the first victim of the inefficiency is the public security. Local people in the attacked areas are feeling unsafe even in their village. It is of great relief to learn that India, during the State Counsellor's recent visit, agreed to support Myanmar in creating police training infrastructure and share expertise in developing training manuals, including forensics and cyber security. An efficient police force is essential to stability and security of the people.

By What Name should Our Country be Known?

Khin Maung Myint

WHAT should we call our country, is it Myanmar or Burma? My opinion is: "It doesn't matter whether the colour of the cat is black or white, as long as it catches the rats it's OK". Thus, whether it is called Myanmar or Burma, it wouldn't be a problem. For over half of my age I had been a Burmese from **Burma**. When it's changed to Myanmar, I didn't mind to be called a Myanmar, but the problem was I had to do a lot of explaining whenever I went abroad to attend seminars or conferences. In fact most of us were accustomed to and also comfortable with the name Burma, which had been the name of our country for centuries. Most people from abroad also knew and recognized our country as Burma and the people as Burmese or Burman. Thus I would like to call my country "**Burma**".

Only over two decades ago it was changed to Myanmar. It was changed without the general consents of the people, that is, it wasn't by holding a referendum or by a constitution, but the change was first declared in a circular and then regularized later in the constitution many years later. At that time, not only the name of the country was changed, but also the names of

some cities, towns and roads too were changed. Though changing the names just like that was easy, many complications ensued.

The first problem was to change the names of the government departments, which involved the changing of the signboards, letterheads already printed on numerous official forms and receipts and even the currencies, postal and revenue stamps had to be reprinted, which caused much inconveniences and unnecessary expenses.

Here, I would like to mention one such inconvenience, which the Burma Five Star Line (BFSL) had to face as the result of the name changes. As the ships of the BFSL travel all over the world their names, the name of the home port and the initials of the company name had to be written, on the ships' hull and funnel, in English. When the circular ordering the changes to be made came out, all the ships including those out at sea were given instructions to carry out immediately. Thus, the ships had to urgently repaint the name **BFSL** as **MFSL** (Myanmar Five Star Line), the name **MV Bassein**, for example had to be changed to **MV Patheingyi** and the home port **Rangoon** had to be changed to Yangon, while still underway at sea. As most of the ships of the BFSL were given the names of the cities, most had

to undergo changes. When they entered the foreign ports they encountered many problems and there were much explanations to do and wrangling with the port authorities as the latter parties were not yet been notified of the changes.

Of course there are a few countries, which changed their names. For example, Campuchea for Cambodia (later switched back to Cambodia), Korea for Manchuria, Malaysia for Malaya, Sri Lanka for Ceylon, Taiwan for Formosa, Thailand for Siam, and Zimbabwe for Rhodesia, and etc. Different countries that changed their names might have their own reasons and I have no intention to go into detail discussions. As for our country, there may be one, but I'm in no position to know the real reason behind the changing of the name.

At this juncture, I would like to draw the readers' attention as to how we came to be known as **Bamars**. According to some historical records found on the Internet, during the 9th century AD, the Mongolians invaded our country and put an end to the Pyu City states. Among them was a tribe called the **Barama**. When the main Mongolian forces returned to their country, they left the **Bamars** behind to administer their occupied regions. With the passage of time, the Pyus' identity faded away as the results of the

intermarriages with the **Baramas** and a new race known as **Bamars** emerged. Those **Bamars** were supposed to have founded the Bagan dynasty. This piece of information may be contradictory to some other records, because different scholars have different opinions or theories on this matter. However, I chose to accept this theory as it makes the most plausible explanation of the emergence of the **Bamar** race.

Some historical records mentioned the name **Miranma**, also known as **Barama**, as a tribe that accompanied the Mongolian army, and thus there was a possibility that the name **Myanmar** also could have been derived from that name. However, I couldn't find any mention of the name **Myanmar** in the old records of those periods. I found that almost all the chronicles of those periods recorded the name **Bamar** only.

Thus it can be deduced that our country had been known as the **Bamar Naing Ngan** since the Bagan period. Thus when the British annexed our country they called her **Burma**, in their accent. Different people have their own peculiar way of pronouncing the word **Bamar**. Indians call us **Bramar** (ब्रमर), the Japanese **Birumar** (びるま), the Thai word for us is **Phama** (พม่า), and Birmanie, **Birmania** or **Birmin** by some Europeans. All these examples indicate that the

name Burma is appropriate when written or spoken in English and **Bamar Naing Ngan** (ဘမာနိုင်းဂံ) when expressed in Burmese, the official language.

Here, it would need more clarification as to the naming of a country. Almost all countries chose the name of the majority race as the name for their country though there may be multitude of ethnic races. If we don't want to call our country **Burma**, because it appeared to represent the **Bamar** race, which race will we choose to represent our country's name? It would only be proper to respect the wisdoms of the founders of our country who had chosen the name **Bamar Naing Ngan** since her birth, many centuries ago.

Thus in conclusion please allow me to repeat what I had mentioned at the beginning: "It doesn't matter whether the colour of the cat is black or white, as long as it catches the rats it should be alright for everyone". In the same trend, whether the country is called **Myanmar** or **Burma**, as long as it is peaceful and prosperous it would benefit the citizens. It shouldn't be a big issue or let it become an obstacle in our strive towards a peaceful and prosperous nation, which we could rightfully claim as the **Shwe Naing Ngan**, the Golden Land. As for me, I prefer **Burma**, the traditionally accepted name, to **Myanmar**.

Senior General visits Coco Island



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being briefed by the naval commander. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with defence services personnel at the Coco Island Station at the Coco Island Naval Command yesterday.

The commander of the naval command reported to the senior general on implementation of plans to the senior general.

After hearing reports, the senior general gave instructions on transporting local people and staff and their goods on naval ships and military planes

free of charge, job opportunities and income generation of local people and families of the defence services personnel, finding ways for desalination of sea water for agriculture and generation of electricity from wind and solar power.

Then, the senior general delivered a speech to the defence services personnel and their families.

Later, the senior general and senior military officers presented assistance and gifts.

Afterwards, the senior general and party proceeded to

Sasana Mandaing Monastery and donated offertories to the abbot of the monastery.

Later, the senior general and party met with government employees and town elders and delivered a speech, before greeting them warmly.

Then, the senior general and party inspected round the green house plantation, poultry farm, manufacturing of home decoration items made of coconut products of the naval command and construction of Coco Island Jetty.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Archaeological excavation being conducted in Sri Ksetra

THIS month, an excavation was made at Khin Ba Mound in Sri Ksetra, listed as a World Heritage Site, located near Pyay Township in Bago Region, where golden parchments were discovered.

The major purpose of the project is to discover original artifacts and restore the structure, said U Kyaw Myo Win, deputy director of the Sri Ksetra based Department of Archaeology and Museum.

During the excavation process, ancient objects including gold coins, gold remains and earthen sculptures were found on the archaeological site, he added.

The authorities have also carried out maintenance works covering cleaning moss that spreads over some parts of the ancient structures with the use of cleaning chemicals during this budget year.

Khin Ba Mound was excavated in colonial era in 1926-27 when hundreds of ancient objects including seven golden parchments, throne made of stone and statues were found. Now, those



Archaeological excavation being conducted in Sri Ksetra. PHOTO: MMK

ancient materials have been displayed at Yangon's National Museum and Sri Ksetra Museum for public observation.

The government accelerates archaeological excavation, research and preservation at cultural sites after the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated three Pyu ancient cities—Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra—as UNESCO World Heritage Sites on 22 June 2014.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

UNFC likely to take part in political dialogues

>> From page 1

Efforts are being speeded up to pave the way for non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to sign the agreement as only signatories to the NCA are allowed to participate in the national-level political dialogues, according to the Secretary of UPDJC Dr Salai Hlyan Hmone Sar Khaung, a representative of the ethnic armed groups.

“Under the provisions 21 and 22, it is necessary for participants to be signatories to the NCA. Political dialogues are based on the NCA. Negotiations the DPN, which represents the UNFC, are underway so that they can sign the NCA,” he said.

Dr Salai Hlyan Hmone Sar Khaung made the statement on the third day of the fourth framework review meeting for national-level political dialogues held

at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon.

“Representatives of the DPN submitted their talking points and they said that they are trying their utmost to participate in the process. They requested us to understand their situation. I think the negotiation will conclude tomorrow”, Dr Salai Hlan Mhon Zarkhon said.

He also added that it is necessary for the UPDJC to approve the outcome of the framework review meeting.

National-level political dialogues are scheduled to start in November and terms of reference for them have been drawn.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by 14 representatives of the government, 17 representatives of the ethnic armed groups and 14 representatives of political parties.

Firearm seized in field near Wapeit Village

IN an area clearance operation, Tatmadaw troops found a 12-gauge, bolt-action shotgun hidden in a field near Wapeit Village yesterday morning.

The gun was reported to be one of the weapons which attackers took along during the

October 9 armed attacks on the outposts under the control of the Border Guard Police Force in Buthitaung and Maungtau Townships.

Tatmadaw troops are carrying out area clearance operations.—*Myawady*



Firearm seized in a field near Wapeit Village. PHOTO: MPF

Detained Myanmar citizens in Thailand to return home under government's plan

MYANMAR authorities plan to transport the first batch of detained Myanmar citizens in Thailand back to their homeland on October 25, according to the Social Security Board in Kayin State.

U Zaw Min, deputy director of the department, said there are roughly 100,000 Myanmar migrants trapped in detention camps in Thailand. The responsible agencies including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have put forth concerted efforts to return them to the motherland.

The first batch will include 96 migrants, who will be brought back to their native towns through a temporary shelter in Myawady.

A committee has already been founded by the Kayin State government on 17 October to provide social and economic assistance to those migrants in



U Zaw Min, deputy director.

partnership with representatives in Thailand, NGOs and civil society organisations.

The new committee was established with 17 members including Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin, U Saw Myint Oo, Sagaing Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs U Tayza Htut Hlaing Htway and Police Col Kyi Lin of Kayin State Police Force.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Invited students attend an event to watch the televised US presidential debate between Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump, at the US Embassy in Tokyo, Japan on 20 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Women in Asia-Pacific express dismay over US presidential campaign

TOKYO/TAIPEI — Women in the Asia-Pacific region expressed dismay on Thursday about the US presidential campaign's focus on the emotional topic of sexual harassment, saying it shows both democracy and the rights of women in America have some way to go.

In a fiery final debate on Wednesday night in Las Vegas, Republican nominee Donald Trump accused Democrat rival Hillary Clinton's campaign of orchestrating a series of accusations by women who said the businessman had made unwanted sexual advances.

Clinton, who would be America's first female president, said the women came forward after Trump said he had never made unwanted advances on women. His denial came after a 2005 video surfaced earlier this month in which he was recorded bragging about groping women against their will.

Hsiao Bi-khim, a lawmaker from Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, said she found it "rather incredible" Trump had survived politically in the face of the allegations.

If a candidate in Taiwan was caught on tape making similar remarks, "I don't think such a person would survive a presidential campaign," she said.

Taiwan in January elected its first woman president, Tsai Ing-wen, and on gender equality at least, appears more advanced politically than the United States, she said.

"Not only have we elected a woman president, but we have a higher percentage of women who are independently involved in politics and in leadership positions," Hsiao said.

Japan's former minister for gender equality, Kuniko Inoguchi, said the rest of the world has been dismayed to see the US campaign

devolve into "a downgraded debate on women's issues" and it wouldn't be happening if Clinton were a man running for president.

"So when the glass ceiling breaks, there are a lot of injuries that a woman must bear," Inoguchi said.

Mari Miura, a Sophia University political science professor specialising in women's issues, said Japanese politicians have also sparked outrage for comments demeaning women in the past.

"We hear such comments constantly from Japanese conservative men," she said. "There are so many incidents that people get used to it and it's easier to let it go." A study commissioned by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, published in March, found 28.7 per cent of women had experienced some form of sexual harassment, and 40 per cent of those said they had experienced unwanted touching.—Reuters

Major Russian naval deployment to intensify Aleppo assault: NATO diplomat

BRUSSELS — Russian warships off the coast of Norway are carrying fighter bombers that are likely to reinforce a final assault on the besieged Syrian city of Aleppo in two weeks, a senior NATO diplomat said on Wednesday, citing Western intelligence.

The fleet passed by the Norwegian city of Bergen on Wednesday, the diplomat said, while Russian media has said it will move through the English Channel, past Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean Sea to the Syrian coast.

"They are deploying all of the Northern fleet and much of the

Baltic fleet in the largest surface deployment since the end of the Cold War," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

"This is not a friendly port call. In two weeks, we will see a crescendo of air attacks on Aleppo as part of Russia's strategy to declare victory there," the diplomat said.

Photos of the vessels have been released by the Norwegian military, taken on Monday. A Norwegian newspaper quoted the head of the Norwegian military intelligence service saying the ships involved "will prob-

ably play a role in the deciding battle for Aleppo".

Russia, which supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with an air campaign against the Western rebels in the devastated eastern part of Aleppo, has said the deployment will target Islamic State militants in Syria.

But the NATO diplomat said the additional military firepower was designed to drive out or destroy the 8,000 rebels in Aleppo, the only large city still in opposition hands, and allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to start a withdrawal.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hungarian man arrested for Budapest bomb attack on police: media

BUDAPEST — A Hungarian man has been arrested in western Hungary on suspicion of carrying out a bomb attack in central Budapest last month which police said was aimed at two police officers who were injured the blast, local media reported on Thursday.

Police have said they regarded the attack on one of the capital's busiest thoroughfares as a case of attempted murder and that there was no sign it had been carried out by a foreign militant organisation.

Private news website Origo reported the arrest, citing unnamed sources, and other media said the suspect had been detained in the western county of Zala by the anti-terror police TEK.

Hungary's anti-terror police and the chief prosecutor's office on Thursday did not immediately reply to an emailed request for comment from Reuters.—Reuters

Scottish government publishes draft bill for second independence referendum

LONDON — Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon publishes a draft bill for a second independence referendum on Thursday as she ramps up the pressure on the British government to make sure Scotland's voice is heard in Brexit talks.

Scots voted by a large margin to remain in the European Union in June this year but Britain as a whole voted to leave.

Sturgeon, the fervently pro-EU leader of the ruling Scottish National Party (SNP) argues that the prospect of Scotland being taken out of Europe against its will validates a possible re-run of the 2014 independence referendum, in which 55 per cent of voters opted to remain in the United Kingdom.

Although she has said she regards a second referendum as "highly likely", Thursday's bill is merely for formal consultation and sets no date for another vote.—Reuters

Djordjevic: Cooperation with UN for further reforms

BELGRADE — Cooperation with the UN and its specialised agencies and bodies has been of great significance for furthering the reform process, which is especially important for Serbia's progress towards EU membership, noted Minister of Defence Zoran Djordjevic at a meeting with UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Serbia Irena Vojackova Sollorano.

The framework of the development partnership for the period until 2020 was presented in order to define future cooperation, a statement said.

They also noted that the cooperation of the Ministry of Defence with UNDP and UN Women was invaluable for implementing the National Action Plan for the UN SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Serbia. Preparations for the new National Action Plan, which will be implemented 2016-2020, are under way.—Tanjung

Iran denies 'possible role' in attacking US warships in Red Sea

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Thursday denied any possible role in the recent rocket attacks on US warships in the Red Sea near Yemen waters, official IRNA news agency reported.

The spokesman Bahram Qasemi was responding to allegations by a US army official who said Iran may have played a role in recent missile attacks against US warships in the Red Sea.

On Wednesday, Joseph Votel, commander of US Central Command, said that Iran may be behind recent missile attacks by Shiite Yemeni Houthi militants on US Navy ships.

"I do think that Iran is playing a role in some of this," said Votel. "They have a relationship with the Houthis, so I do suspect there is a role in that." —Xinhua

Russian rocketeers conduct tactical exercises in Western Military District

MOSCOW — The crew from the mobile short-range ballistic missile system Iskander-M have conducted tactical exercises at the firing field of Luga in Russia's Western Military District, authorities said on Thursday.

"The group ran many kilometres, practiced deploying the Iskander-M and loaded missiles with the help of transport-loading vehicles," said the press office of the Western Military District.

According to the District, over 100 servicemen and over 20 pieces of equipment were involved in the training.

During the drills, the abilities of the commanders to make independent decisions in different situations was also checked.—Xinhua

Four-way talks move ahead on Ukraine, scant progress on Syria

BERLIN — Germany and France pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin to extend a pause in air strikes in Syria and halt the “criminal” bombardment of civilians, but said four-way talks aimed at ending violence in eastern Ukraine made some progress.

“We are talking here about criminal activities, about crimes against the civilians,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters after what she described as a difficult discussion with Putin about the crisis in Syria.

French President Francois Hollande used the phrase “war crimes,” and both leaders criticised Russia for attacking the civilian population under the pretense of fighting terrorism.

“We agree that terrorism must be combatted, but not at the price that 300,000 people there must lose their lives and suffer without all necessary supplies,” Merkel said, reflecting growing concern in Europe and the United States about Russia’s support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Merkel and Hollande will discuss the talks at an EU summit meeting on Thursday evening, with the



Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko attend talks on a stalled peace plan for eastern Ukraine at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

bloc due to consider whether to impose new sanctions on Russians over the bombing in the besieged Syrian city of Aleppo.

While there is no immediate consensus for more sanctions, Britain and France, with support from

eastern and Nordic countries, said they could push for them in the coming weeks if Russia continues to bomb the rebel-held east of the city.

Merkel said she could not rule out sanctions, but said Thursday’s EU meet-

ing would be focused on helping civilians.

“We made it very, very clear tonight that Russia has a great responsibility that extends far beyond the bombardment,” she said. “It will decide whether humanitarian supplies can be

delivered (and) whether a political process can be begun.”

Putin told a separate news conference that Moscow had proposed to speed up adoption of a new constitution in Syria to facilitate future elections, and

said Russia was ready to extend an eight-hour pause in air strikes in Syria.

He underscored the importance of “eradicating terrorism” and called on the United States to separate Al Nusra Front militants from what he called “the healthy opposition” in Syria.

Hollande acknowledged Putin’s offer of extending the ceasefire, but said a longer pause in bombing was needed to bring in much-needed humanitarian supplies.

“A respite of a few hours makes no sense,” he told a joint news conference with Merkel after the talks. “The main point is that the population of Aleppo ... cannot continue to live in conditions that are unbearable.”

Merkel had insisted that Putin agree to discuss Syria on the sidelines of the so-called “Normandy Format” meeting on Ukraine. It was the Russian leader’s first trip to Germany since 2013.

The meeting took place hours after news emerged that Russian warships off the coast of Norway were preparing to reinforce a brutal assault on Aleppo.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Turkish jets strike US-backed Kurdish militia in Syria

ISTANBUL/BEIRUT — Turkish jets pounded a US-backed group of Kurdish-led militia fighters in northern Syria with more than 20 air strikes overnight, highlighting the conflicting agendas of the two NATO allies in an increasingly complex battlefield.

The jets targeted positions of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in three villages northeast of the city of Aleppo which the SDF had captured from Islamic State, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said late on Wednesday.

The Turkish military confirmed its warplanes had carried out 26 air strikes on areas recently taken by the Kurdish YPG militia, the strongest force in the SDF, and that it had killed between 160 and 200 fighters.

The British-based Observatory monitoring group reported a much lower toll of 11 dead and dozens wounded. Officials of the Kurdish-led administration that controls much of northeastern Syria said dozens had



A man walks past damaged buildings in the rebel held besieged al-Sukkari neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

been killed.

The United States has backed the Kurdish-led forces in their fight against Islamic State, infuriating Ankara, which sees the YPG as an extension of Kurdish PKK militants who have waged a three-decade insurgency in southeastern Turkey.

Turkey fears the YPG will try to connect three de facto autonomous Kurdish cantons that have emerged during the five-year war to create a Kurdish-run enclave in northern Syria, stoking the separatist ambitions of Kurds on its own

soil.

The air strikes, the heaviest against the YPG since Turkey launched a military incursion into Syria two months ago, came hours after President Tayyip Erdogan warned that Turkey could act alone in rooting out its enemies abroad.

They also came ahead of an expected visit by US Defence Secretary Ash Carter to Ankara on Friday.

“From now on we will not wait for problems to come knocking on our door, we will not wait until the blade is against our bone

and skin, we will not wait for terrorist organisations to come and attack us,” Erdogan said in a speech on Wednesday.

The Observatory named the bombed villages as al-Hasiya, Um al-Qura and Um Hosh. They lie around 30 km (19 miles) west of al-Bab, the last big town held by Islamic State in northwest Syria.

Turkey, a main backer of the insurgency against President Bashar al-Assad, entered the Syrian conflict in August, using its armor and air power to help Free Syrian Army rebel groups take territory near the border held by Islamic State.

But its intervention also aimed to prevent the SDF from gaining more ground.

The SDF has been moving eastwards towards al-Bab, a town that the Turkish-backed rebel forces also want to capture from Islamic State.

The Turkish military said its air strikes had destroyed nine buildings, one armored vehicle and four other vehicles that belonged to the YPG.—*Reuters*

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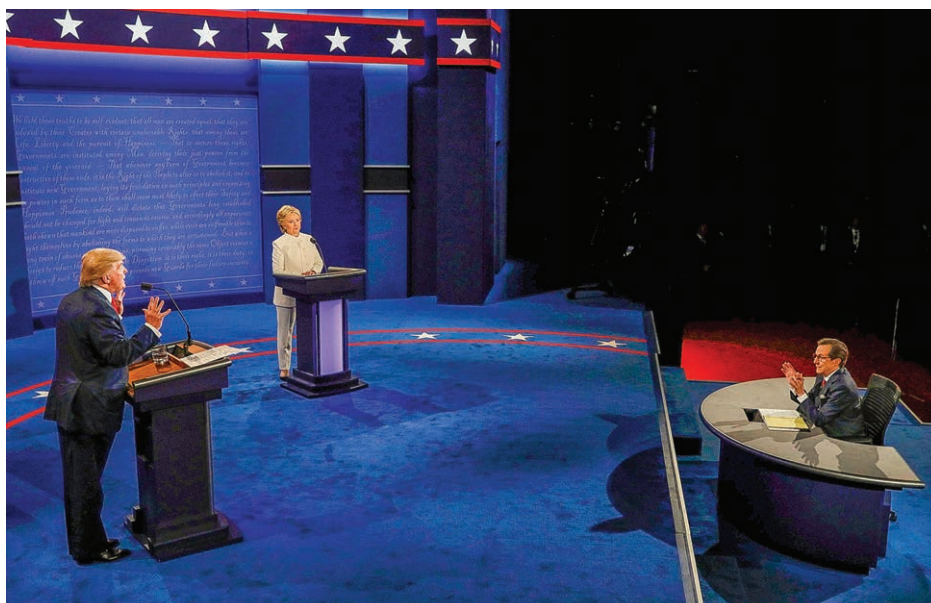
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Challenging pillar of US democracy, Trump says he may not accept election result

LAS VEGAS — Republican candidate Donald Trump on Wednesday would not commit to accepting the outcome of the 8 November US presidential election if he loses, challenging a cornerstone of American democracy and sending shockwaves across the political spectrum.

Trump's refusal, which his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton called "horrific," was the standout remark of the their third and final debate and ratcheted up claims he has made for weeks that the election was rigged against him.

Asked by moderator Chris Wallace whether Trump would not commit to a peaceful transition of power, the businessman-turned-politician replied: "What I'm saying is that I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in sus-



Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks as Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton listens during their third and final 2016 presidential campaign debate at UNLV in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

pense. Ok?"

Trump's statement may appeal to his anti-establishment followers, but it was unlikely to reverse opinion polls that show him losing,

including in key states that will decide the election.

"That is not the way our democracy works," Clinton said during the debate. "We've been around

for 240 years. We've had free and fair elections. We've accepted the outcomes when we may not have liked them. And that is what must be expected

of anyone standing on a debate stage during a general election."

Later she told reporters: "What he said tonight is part of his whole effort to blame somebody else for where he is in his campaign." A CNN/ORC snap poll said 52 per cent thought Clinton, the former US secretary of state, won the debate while 39 per cent said Trump, making his first run at public office, was the victor.

Mexico's peso currency, seen as a measure of Trump's prospects, rose to its highest level in six weeks at the end of the debate, suggesting growing investor confidence of a Clinton victory. Trump has vowed to build a wall on the border with Mexico to keep out illegal immigrants and has said he would make Mexico pay for it.—Reuters

Focus on Britain's post-Brexit future, PM May to tell EU leaders

BRUSSELS — Prime Minister Theresa May will tell European Union leaders on Thursday it is time to start talking about future EU ties with Britain and put paid to suggestions her government might reconsider Brexit.

A source in May's office said the prime minister would use a dinner at an EU summit in Brussels, her first since she was appointed premier following Britain's 23 June vote to exit the bloc, to outline her approach to the other 27 leaders.

Hoping to dispel any thoughts that Britain could hold a second referendum to reverse its decision to leave, May will call on leaders to help her make the country's departure as smooth as possible, to calm financial markets and business over a divorce process she says she will trigger by the end of March. "I expect her to say in broad terms that the British people have made a decision, and it's right and proper that that decision is honored," the source said May would tell the other leaders after a dinner discussion devoted to Russia — the only time set aside to discuss Brexit at the summit in Brussels. "There will be no second referendum. The priority now has got to be looking to the future and the relationship between the UK and the EU, both as an organisation but also (with) the member states of the EU once we leave."—Reuters

French police defy government in snowballing protest over lawlessness

PARIS — Hundreds of French police officers protested in Paris and other cities overnight to denounce what they say are insufficient resources to fight mounting lawlessness, defying government demands that they stop the unauthorised demonstrations.

Six months from an election, the protest, now in its third day, has put President Francois Hollande's Socialist government on the defensive at a time

when security forces are struggling to combat the threat of further terrorist attack.

Political opponents have seized on the discontent to accuse it of letting violent crime and everyday lawlessness proliferate despite a large police recruitment drive.

"I understand the anger of the police," conservative former president Nicolas Sarkozy said. "I've never seen such an erosion

of authority in this country," Sarkozy, who is campaigning to become president again, told Europe 1 radio.

In Paris, hundreds of police officers protested at the Place de la Republique square and the Champs Elysees avenue, scene of similar protests earlier this week that have since spread to other cities.

Other impromptu protests took place overnight in Bordeaux, Nancy and

Toulouse.

Thousands of police and soldiers have been deployed to boost security at airports, train stations and schools after a string of militant Islamist attacks in which more than 230 people have died in the past two years.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve promised police unions at a meeting Wednesday that local policing needs would be reviewed, but highlighted

that his government had recruited 9,000 police to fill most of some 12,000 posts axed under Sarkozy's 2007-2012 administration.

While police officers are allowed to protest like anybody else under French law, codes of conduct for law enforcement employees prohibit them from doing so during work hours, or with the use of police equipment such as official cars and uniforms.—Reuters



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Police disperse Cape Town student protesters with rubber bullets



Police fire rubber bullets at students at the University of the Western Cape during protests demanding free tertiary education in Cape Town, South Africa, on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAPE TOWN — South African police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades on Wednesday to disperse hundreds of student protesters demanding free education at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town.

Protests have taken place for weeks at universities across the country, prompting President Jacob Zuma last week to form a ministerial team to tackle the issue.

The university said in a statement it was suspending classroom lectures for the

rest of the academic year, which ends in December, and would give students the choice of writing final examinations in November or January.

“Today the situation on campus escalated and it has become clear that simply continuing with face-to-face academic engagement would not be possible without seriously compromising the safety of students and staff,” the university said.

A private security guard was badly beaten by demonstrators in the latest clash and a campus build-

ing was set on fire, a Reuters witness said.

The protests over the cost of university education, prohibitive particularly for black students and set to rise by up to 8 per cent next year, have highlighted frustration at the inequalities that still endure, more than two decades after the end of apartheid.

Police in the capital Pretoria warned the public of an expected march by students on Thursday to the Union Buildings, where the government has its seat.—*Reuters*

Latin America's left set to suffer new blow at Chilean local polls

VALPARAISO/SANTIAGO — Chilean voters are expected to shift right in local elections this weekend, dealing a blow to the center-left governing coalition and serving a further setback to Latin America's already struggling leftist movement.

Centre-left President Michelle Bachelet was elected three years ago with high approval ratings, and her Nueva Mayoria coalition, though riven internally, has held firm control of Congress.

But as Chileans prepare to vote for mayors and local councils this Sunday, it appears the left's era of dominance is drawing to a close, with likely consequences for next year's presidential election.

A series of high-profile corruption scandals among politicians, in a country that prides itself on its probity, have angered Chileans, and both the government and opposition have seen approval ratings drop into the teens. That anger will hurt Bachelet's coalition the most, analysts and politicians say, as voters set out to punish incumbents. In the local elections, right-wing parties are expected by pollsters and politicians consulted by Reuters to make gains, especially in important swing districts.

That would likely portend a strong performance in presidential and congressional elections in November 2017, in which Bachelet is constitutionally barred from running.

According to a September poll, 18 per cent of Chileans wanted the right-wing coalition's likely candidate, Sebastian Pinera, to become

the next president, versus 5 per cent for Ricardo Lagos, the front-runner to represent the Nueva Mayoria.

Both are ex-presidents and have not declared their intention to run, though both have put forth policy proposals and hinted heavily at bids. “If the [presidential] election were held this weekend, I'd have to say the right would win,” Socialist Party lawmaker Osvaldo Andrade, president of Congress' lower chamber, told Reuters. The shift would be further evidence of a retreat from left-leaning ideologies in Latin America, where leftist governments including in Brazil and Argentina have lost power.

But few Chileans are enthusiastic about the right-wing opposition, either, and new parties are threatening a shake-up of the two-coalition system that has dominated politics since Chile's 1990 return to democracy.

The number of official parties has increased to 32 from 15 in the last election cycle, according to Chile's electoral service, most of them left of centre.

Though none are expected to make a splash on Sunday, analysts say they will likely make inroads at the 2017 vote, in which new electoral rules will increase their chance of winning power. “The traditional political system, as we've known it, will cease to exist,” said center-left lawmaker Pepe Auth.

“Today's voters aren't going to move from one party to another; they're going from the parties to no affiliation at all.” —*Reuters*

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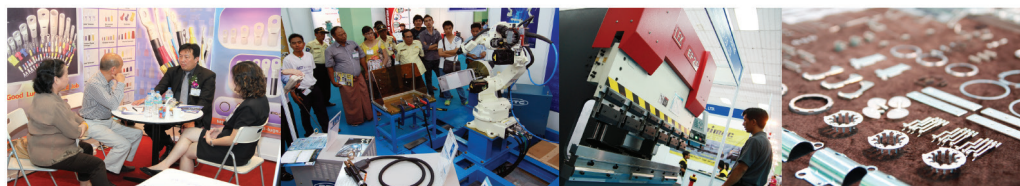
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Scarlett Johansson to open popcorn store in Paris

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson and her husband, Romain Dauriac, are opening a gourmet popcorn store in Paris, France this weekend.

The 31-year-old actress will open the temporary Yummy Pop store on Saturday in the Marais area of the city, according to E! Online. "It has been a dream of mine and my family for several years to bring our favourite American snack to our favorite European City!" Johansson said in a press release. "I am so excited to introduce Yummy Pop, a labour of love and Epicurean enthusiasm. My hope is for Yummy Pop to become a Parisian snacking staple and a symbol of friendship between my two most be- loved cities, Paris and New York."

—PTI

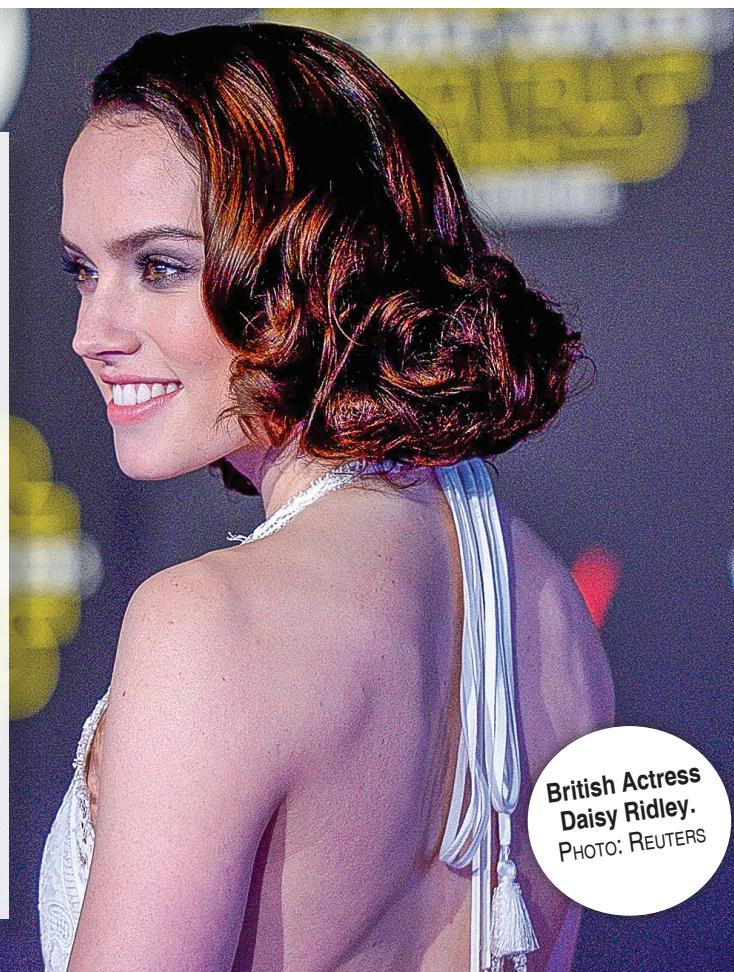
'Star Wars' actress takes on diverse role for Kazakh documentary

LOS ANGELES — Donning a different mantle from her breakout central role in the "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", British actress Daisy Ridley took to the red carpet as both narrator and executive producer for the documentary "The Eagle Huntress".

The story of a 13-year-old girl who trains to become the first female eagle hunter in Kazakhstan in decades, "The Eagle Huntress" stars a young Kazakh girl called Aisholpan, who also attended the premiere, a new experience for her.

"The first time I saw myself in the movie I was very excited to see it," Aisholpan explained. "It was funny and interesting but I didn't know it was going to be that big."

Already well-received at the Sundance Film Festival this year, "The Eagle Huntress" opens in theaters on limited release on 2 November.—Reuters



British Actress Daisy Ridley.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Cher goes classic for new tour starting in Las Vegas

LOS ANGELES — Veteran singer and performer Cher is not slowing down at 70, bringing her catalog of classic pop hits to a new North American residency show early next year.

The singer announced her "Classic Cher" tour on Tuesday, which will open in February for three weeks at the Park Theater in Las Vegas' Monte Carlo venue, then move to Maryland in March before returning to Las Vegas in May.

"You try to take the most important things from each decade and you try to distill



Singer Cher performs on NBC's 'Today' show in New York in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

them into a story about yourself and you try to do it with film clips and music and movement and costume and then you make it as entertaining as you can," Cher told Reuters.

The Oscar and Grammy-winning performer, known for her eccentric and flamboyant costumes and her sultry vocals, has adopted numerous musical genres over her career spanning five decades, dabbling in dance and pop to rock and folk sounds.

Her hits over the years have included "Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down)," "If I Could Turn Back Time," "The Shoop Shoop Song" and "Believe."

She has also starred in a number of high-profile films including 1987's "Moonstruck," for which she won the best actress Oscar.

Although the singer has performed thousands of times, she said she still suffers from stage fright.

"Right before I go on, I always want my mother," she said.

"I'm like 'I want my mother' but then you go on ... and then you go 'This isn't quite as bad as I thought' and then when the end of the first song happens, it's like 'ok, this is kind of good' and then it gets better and better."—Reuters

Scorsese says new film explores persecution of Christians in Edo era

TOKYO — American film director Martin Scorsese said Wednesday the making of his upcoming historical drama "Silence" has been an obsession since he read a Japanese novel of the same name nearly 30 years ago.

In a press conference in Tokyo, the 73-year-old director said he is "a great admirer" of the works of Japanese author Shusaku Endo, whose 1966 novel "Silence" provided the film's inspiration.

The adaptation follows two 17th century Portuguese Jesuit missionaries who travel to

Nagasaki, southwestern Japan, in the early Edo era when Christianity was banned and people of the faith were persecuted by the government.

Scorsese, who read the novel in 1988, said, "Endo's work along with my interest in Catholicism and my basis in the Catholic church has kept me interested and focused on making this film."

The director was drawn to the novel particularly because it depicts "the difference in the cultures, the meeting of the cultures, and the clash (between them)," said Scorsese, who is most famous for his films "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," released in the late 1970s and ear-



Announcing the release of his new film "Silence," Martin Scorsese (C) attends a press conference, together with actors Yosuke Kubozuka (L) and Tadanobu Asano, in Tokyo on 19 October, 2016. The film about a young Portuguese missionary in Japan's Edo era will be released nationwide in Japan on 21 January, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ly 1980s. The film is scheduled for a limited release in the United States on 23 December. In Japan, it will be released nationwide on 21 January 2017.

The press conference was also attended by Japanese actors, Yosuke Kubozuka and Tadanobu Asano, who play roles in the film.—Kyodo News



Actor and honouree Scarlett Johansson poses at Variety's Power of Women Luncheon in Beverly Hills, California US, on 14 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In his basement, son designs prosthetic arm for father in Belarus

MINSK — Sergei Galtsev, a Soviet army captain at the time, lost his right arm in an explosion on a military firing range when his son, Oleg, was four years old.

Almost three decades later the 53-year-old Belarusian became the first tester of a prosthetic arm designed and made by his own son in the basement of his apartment building.

“We wanted to create a simple and affordable prosthesis,” said Oleg, a 32-year-old software engineer.

Two years ago he teamed up with engineer Sergei Arefyev to develop an artificial arm. The video of its final tests hit almost a

million views on YouTube, with the partners making all the designs and software available on the internet for free.

“We did not patent it as it made more sense to spend money on development,” Oleg said.

“It’s like Lego, designed for people who are not at ease with electronics: just put the parts together.

If I managed it, then others can do it, too.”

In a country better known for its Soviet-era collectivized farming and run by President Alexander Lukashenko since 1994, the software industry is thriving. Belarus’s 54 universities

turn out 4,000 software engineers every year.

The prosthetic arm was created in a small workshop in the basement of a residential building in Minsk. Some parts were created using a 3D-printer, some were bought on the internet.

Galtsev and Arefyev say their design is 10 times cheaper than \$15,000 mechanical prostheses from big manufacturers, although it lacks sensor controls.

Sergei Galtsev says his world was turned upside down by the accident which befell him when he was 26.

It ended his military career and he took his wife and two children back to the



Sergey Galtsev builds a children’s pyramid with his granddaughter Anna while testing a prosthetic right hand, made by his son Oleg, in Minsk, Belarus, on 16 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

home town of Chechersk in what is now Belarus. His new arm has brought new possibilities within reach.

“It is a very good thing, and it can help so many people,” he said after testing the device at his house

in the country. “I sawed wood, mowed the lawn, did some other work around house”.—Reuters

Hockney presents ‘Bigger Book’ at world’s largest book fair

FRANKFURT — David Hockney presented the largest book ever devoted to his art on Tuesday, a limited-edition volume costing \$2,500 that spans more than 60 years of work by one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century.

“David Hockney: A Bigger Book” — a collaboration with publisher Taschen — weighs 35 kg (77 pounds), measures 50 by 70 cm (20 by 28 inches) when closed and comes with its own custom-made stand.

Such books, valued as physical objects in their own right, not just for their content — have bucked a years-long trend of decline in print books.

Hockney, 79, at the opening news conference of the Frankfurt Book Fair,

spoke however of his newfound passion for drawing on the Apple iPad, and before that the iPhone.

“I’ve always liked to draw. The computer doesn’t stop you drawing...I’ve noticed,” he said, showing speeded-up video of his process of drawing flowers, friends and the Eiffel Tower. “Who would have thought the telephone would bring back drawing?”

Book fairs continue to be a driving force in the \$105 billion global publishing market, which is stabilizing after years in which ebooks — with their lower production and distribution costs — ate into the profits of the traditional book trade.

This year, more than 7,100 exhibitors from more than 100 countries are expected at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world’s biggest.

Born in Bradford, England in 1937, Hockney studied at the Royal College of Art from 1957-62. He cemented his reputation with the “Young Contemporaries” exhibition in London in 1960, before moving to Los Angeles in 1974.—Reuters

Australia’s ‘Sculpture by the Sea’ exhibition begins near Sydney

SYDNEY — Australia’s annual “Sculpture by the Sea” exhibition got under way on Tuesday with more than 100 giant figures looming along the coastline between Bondi and Tamar-ama beaches near Sydney.

The exhibition showcases both Australian and international artists and will stop beachgoers in their sandy tracks with sculptures such as a red flipflop sandal and a dis-

membered rhinoceros with its feet in the air.

The annual event, which began in 1997 and is free to the public, received close to 500 submissions this year from sculptors in 27 countries around the world.

It runs until 6 November and is expected to attract thousands of visitors working on their tan amidst the huge sculptures.—Reuters

Revenue in South Korean duty free shops hits record high on rising foreign tourists

SEOUL — Revenue in South Korean duty free shops hit a record high on the back of a rising number foreign tourists visiting the country, customs data showed on Thursday.

Revenue of 50 South Korean duty free stores posted a combined 8.93 trillion won (7.93 billion US dollars) for the first nine months of this year, up 36.4 per cent from the same period of last year, according to the Korea Customs Service (KCS).

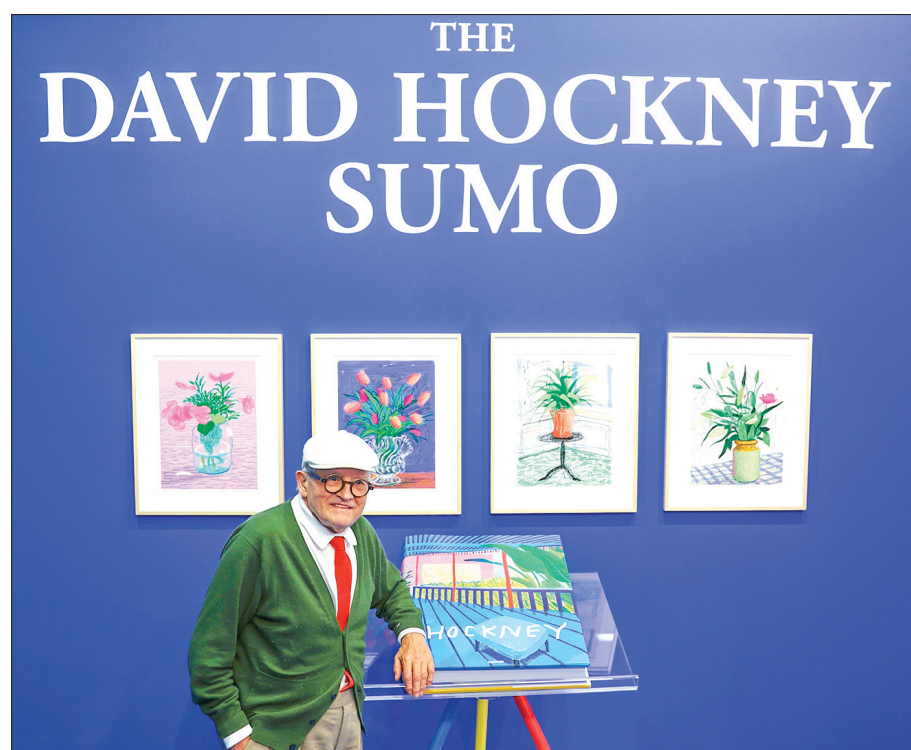
Given the January-September figure, this year’s total revenue in duty free shops is expected to reach almost 12 trillion won, surpassing the previous high of 9.2 trillion won

tallied in 2015.

Downtown duty free shops recorded 6.4 trillion won in revenue in the cited period, accounting for 72 per cent of the total. The country has 22 downtown duty free stores in major cities such as the capital Seoul, the southern port city of Busan and the southern resort island of Jeju.

Duty free stores in airports and ports posted revenue of 2.08 trillion won, taking up 23 per cent. Designated stores made up 5 per cent of the total sales.

Per-capita expenditure by foreigners in duty free shops averaged 350 US dollars, more than tripling the 106 dollars spent by local customers.—Xinhua



David Hockney poses with Taschen’s “A Bigger Book” prior to the opening of the book fair in Frankfurt, Germany, on 18 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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		Prime Time		
07:03	Am	07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Am	07:26	Pm	Travelogue: To my dream city (Part-1)
07:49	Am	07:49	Pm	Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
08:03	Am	08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Am	08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part - 1)
		08:51	Pm	Kayah Style
08:43	Am	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
08:53	Am	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
09:03	Am	(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
09:26	Am			
10:03	Am			

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

Ozil nets hat-trick as Arsenal thrash Ludogorets 6-0

LONDON — Mesut Ozil applied the gloss to a ruthless Arsenal display with a second-half hat-trick in a 6-0 hammering of Ludogorets that put the Gunners on the brink of the Champions League knockout rounds on Wednesday.

Arsenal were cantering against the Bulgarian champions thanks to sublime first-half goals from Alexis Sanchez and Theo Walcott and a strike straight after the break from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain before playmaker Ozil joined the party.

As Ludogorets crumbled, his well-taken goals in the 56th, 83rd and 87th minutes helped Arsenal to their biggest Champions League win since a 7-0 thrashing of Slavia Prague in 2007 and sealed their seventh successive win in all competitions.

Arsenal, who have fallen at the last 16 stage six seasons in a row, lead Group A on goal difference from Paris St Germain with both clubs on seven points. Ludogorets and Basel have one and are effectively playing heading for a Europa League berth.

“In the second half we took control of the game completely and could have scored more,” manager Arsene Wenger told reporters. “Ozil has got the taste to score goals.”

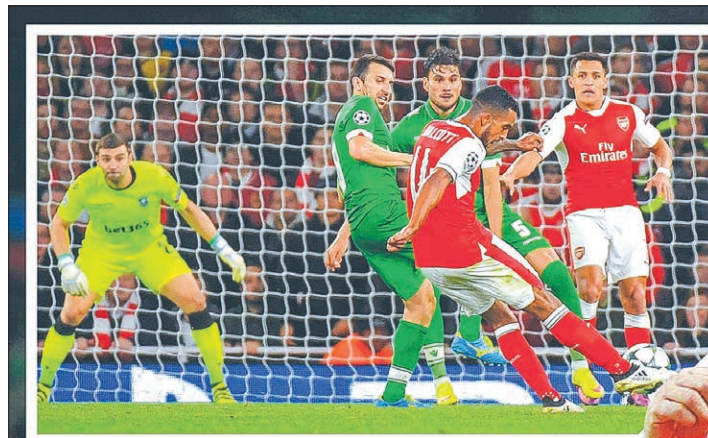
“We want him to be a provider and a scorer and it looks like he has got that balance now.”

Sanchez struck after 12 minutes with a majestic lob over Ludogorets keeper Vladislav Stoyanov but until Walcott slammed home his eighth goal in 10 games from 25 yards shortly before half-time it was a surprisingly even game.

Ludogorets, featuring three Brazilians in their starting line-up, cut through Arsenal’s defence several times and should have been level through lively winger Wanderson who forced David Ospina into a sharp save before hitting the post.

The second half was a romp as confidence ebbed through an Arsenal side unbeaten since the opening day of the season.

Oxlade-Chamberlain, making his first start for a month, swept in



ABOVE: Arsenal’s Theo Walcott scores their second goal during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group A at Emirates Stadium, London, England on 19 October.

LEFT: Arsenal’s Mesut Ozil celebrates scoring their fifth goal during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group A at Emirates Stadium, London, England on 19 October.

PHOTO: REUTERS

from close range in the 46th minute and 10 minutes later Ozil raced on to Santi Cazorla’s long punt and finished coolly past the over-exposed Stoyanov.

With victory in the bag Sanchez and Walcott were both substituted but Ozil stayed on, first converting substitute Lucas Perez’s low cross, then burying a volley to become the fifth Arse-

nal player to score a Champions League hat-trick.

Despite the emphatic nature of Wenger’s 100th European win for Arsenal, the Frenchman admitted his side had ridden their luck.

“We maybe eased off a bit early in the first half, we were sometimes in danger and I would like to give credit to (David) Ospina who saved us twice,”

Wenger said.

It could, however, have been a cricket score by the end.

“The only good thing is that this is not the heaviest defeat in the history of the UEFA Champions League,” Stoyanov said.

Arsenal will try to keep the pressure on PSG in the race for top spot when they go to Bulgaria in two weeks time.—Reuters

Messi played like a ‘child in playground’, says Luis Enrique

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi was like a “child playing in the playground” as he scored a hat-trick to inspire Barcelona’s 4-0 thrashing of Manchester City in the Champions League on Wednesday, his coach Luis Enrique said.

Making his first start in a month after recovering from a groin injury, Messi set the tone for another virtuoso performance with a stirring run through the middle of City’s half before calmly dribbling past Claudio Bravo to score.

The floodgates opened once former Barca goalkeeper Bravo was sent off for handling outside the area and Messi toyed with City’s defence to smash the ball past compatriot Willy Caballero.

The five-times world player of the year sealed a second hat-trick of the season by tucking home a Luis Suarez cutback and was tripped by Aleksandar Kolarov in the dying minutes, although Brazilian forward Neymar missed the resulting penalty.

“We saw Messi play like a kid in the school playground to-

day,” Luis Enrique told a news conference.

“Any other player would be shaking (after coming back from injury) but if we have come to expect anything from Messi, it’s that.”

“It doesn’t matter how long he’s been out for or how many games he’s missed, he has a total understanding of football. Anyone who ever doubts Messi is naive.”

“Those of us lucky enough to see him train every day know what he does. He helps in every sense and he is a reference point for us, without a doubt.”

Messi’s latest exhibition following a two-goal masterpiece against Bayern Munich, managed by Guardiola, in a Champions League semi-final first leg in 2015.

“Since I’ve known him he’s always done things like that and he keeps doing it,” said Guardiola.

“This is not the first time he’s done this, I’ve seen him do it many times live before, but you have to congratulate him.”

Barcelona lead Manchester City by five points after three matches in Group C.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Hot Costa out to spoil Mourinho’s Chelsea return

LONDON — Jose Mourinho will always have a place in the hearts of Chelsea’s faithful but his former charges are hoping to make him suffer when he returns to Stamford Bridge as manager of Manchester United on Sunday.

Two days before being sacked in December a doomed Mourinho spoke of a “betrayal” of his work by some of the players who had propelled Chelsea to the Premier League title the previous season.

Fingers were pointed at Diego Costa, among others, and the Spain striker’s huge dip in form was a contributing factor to the Portuguese tactician’s bitter exit.

Costa has started this season like the marauding forward Mourinho signed from Atletico Madrid, scoring seven goals in eight Premier League games, and he will be relishing the highly-charged atmosphere expected on Sunday.

The visit to Stamford Bridge could hardly have come at a worse time for a United side who have won only one of their last five Premier League games to stall what had been a promising

beginning to the Mourinho reign.

Fifth-placed Chelsea have also had a whole week to prepare following their demolition of champions Leicester City last weekend while United have been working overtime.

Mourinho’s new team drew 0-0 at Liverpool on Monday and will play Turkish club Fenerbahce in the Europa League on Thursday before they can fully focus on the visit to west London. No wonder Mourinho, whose side are seventh in the table, said it was a time for digging in.

“This is not the week where we were expecting to close the distances to the top of the league. This is the week we have to keep contact with them,” he told the club’s website (www.manutd.com).

“Then we will arrive at the moment where we win three, four or five matches in a row and we will be there fighting with almost everybody for the title.”

It is not the first time Mourinho, who won two Premier League titles for Chelsea before his first sacking in 2007, will sit in the away dugout at Stamford Bridge.—Reuters