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## President congratulates UN on its 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

FOR over seven decades, the United Nations has been serving as a venue uniting the strength of its members to maintain international peace and security and to achieve sustainable development. On behalf of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and on my own, I take great pleasure in congratulating the United Nations on the auspicious occasion of its 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Member States gather at different fora under the framework of the United Nations system and make many remarkable achievements in finding peaceful solutions to disputes, sending peacekeepers, sheltering millions of people amid manmade and natural disasters, promoting and protecting human rights and providing development assistance.

Peace, Security and De-

velopment are inter-related and interconnected. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace. Peace is not sustainable without Development. Poverty eradication therefore stands as one of the solutions in addressing many of today's challenges. Realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is thus a priority for the United Nations and its Member States.

Today, the United Nations remains a receptacle of our hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous world, and a kinder and more compassionate home for all.

Cooperating with the United Nations is a cornerstone of Myanmar's Foreign Policy. Myanmar, as a member of the global community, is therefore committed to continue its strong support and cooperation to the

United Nations in addressing our common challenges through international cooperation.

Let us all celebrate this auspicious day by reaffirming our faith and confidence in the purposes and principles sustained in the Charter. Let us dedicate ourselves to support all its efforts for development, peace, security and human rights to bring about a better future for Mankind.

# STORM MAY TURN INTO CYCLONE

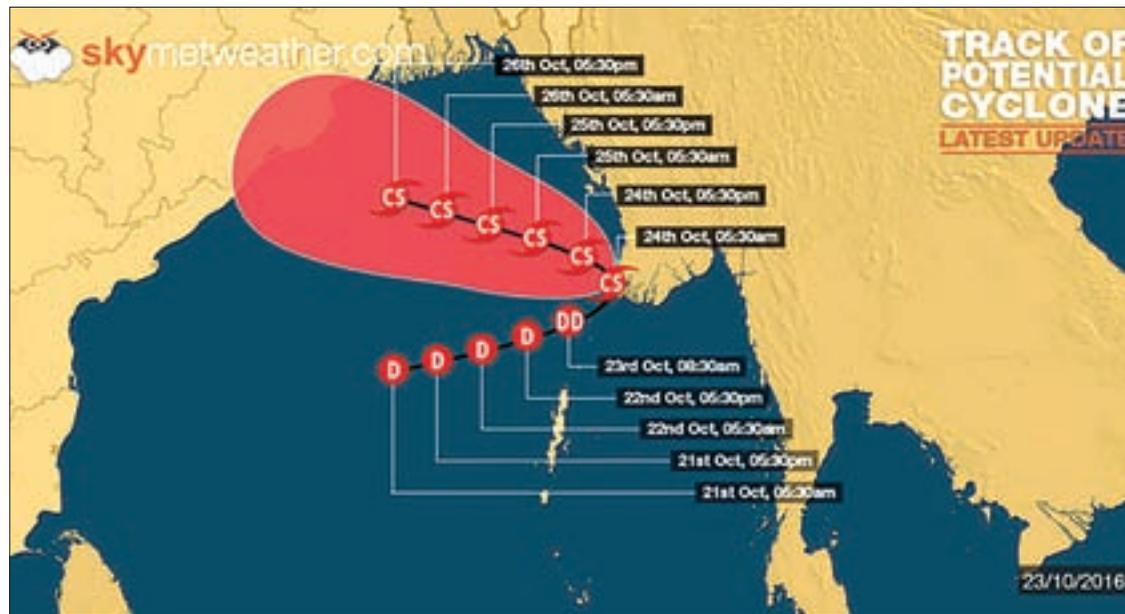
## Severe weather predicted for Myanmar coast with heavy rain, flooding

A large tropical depression in the northern Bay of Bengal is moving towards the Myanmar coast, prompting the issuance of a code red weather warning for the Ayeyawady Delta and the southern part of the Rakhine coast by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Winds of up to 45 miles per hour may batter the two regions, the weather bureau said, with winds of up to 30 to 35 miles per hour possible for the Yangon Region.

The depression will track northeast towards Myanmar through Sunday before curving northwest towards Bangladesh, according to the weather bureau.

The major tropical depression will be likely to result in thunderstorms and isolated heavy rainfall over Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Bago Region, Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Taninthayi Region, Chin State, Rakhine State,



Kayin State and Mon State from 24 to 27 October, the weather bureau said.

The weather bureau has also predicted the strong possibility of flash flooding and landslides across Myanmar as the tropical depression approaches the Ay-

eyawady Delta before curving towards Bangladesh.

Those living in highland areas are being warned to be prepared for possible landslides, and those living in coastal areas and near rivers have been advised to take precautions against possible

flash flooding and high tides.

The depression can result in large waves with frequent squalls along the coastline and in the offshore seas of Myanmar. Surface winds could reach 45 to 50 miles per hour, the weather bureau said.

The depression is gathering

energy from the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Sea surface temperatures are between 29 and 30C, warm enough for further development of this system, the weather agency warned.

Winds of at least 119 kilometres per hour are required for this depression to become a cyclone. Even if these wind speeds are not reached, it will remain a dangerous system as flooding is often a greater threat to life than winds alone. In excess of 250mm of rain is possible as this system brings moisture-laden winds in from the Bay of Bengal.

There are two cyclone seasons in the Bay of Bengal. The first is between April and June, when the air is becoming moister, but the upper atmospheric winds of the impending southwesterly monsoon are still relatively light. This allows cyclones to form unhindered. The second peak occurs between September and early December, as the southwesterly monsoon retreats.

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Won Crystal Prestige Trophy, Int'l High Quality Trophy, Special Gold Medals & Goal Medals for a decade in Belgium, Brussal base World Quality Congress..... Dagon Malta Fresh

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## BFM's cash assistance reaches out to survivors, families of victims of ferry capsized

VICTIMS of the ferry that capsized in the Chindwin River and volunteers who helped to retrieve the bodies have been provided with cash by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation-BFM.

Two soldiers and four firemen were given Ks1.5 million each, while forty victims who survived the accident were given Ks500,000 each by the foundation yesterday.

The foundation also arranged to provide K500,000 each to the families of the 75 victims who died in the disaster.

Members of the foundation presented a total of Ks71 million to Sagaing Region Government yesterday to deliver the cash to the victims. A university student who was found alive five days after the accident will also be given cash assistance of K1.5 million by BFM. The families of a doctor of the Ministry of Health who was confirmed dead and a nurse who is still missing will each receive Ks500,000.

"This is the second assistance by BFM to the victims of the ferry accident — the initial aid of Ks30 million and 300 articles of warm clothes were given to the victims on 17 October," said a member of the foundation. 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 carrying 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 overloading, according to survivor.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*



Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing accepts K71 million presented by personnel of BFM. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)

## Talks On Hydropower Projects Along Ayeyawady River focused on impact assessment

The volunteer groups, environmentalists and experts talked about the Myitsone Dam which is the largest dam and hydropower project in Myanmar yesterday, sharing about the impacts of the project.

At the talks, Environmentalist Devi Thant Cin of the Myanmar Green Network has urged the commission formed by the government to review and scrutinize the hydropower project at the confluence of the river, and the government to confirm the projects with rules and regulations for the benefits of the country.

Environmentalists has also suggested to the governmental

commission that environmental and social impacts be assessed for the locals.

The commission will submit its report to the president on 11 November.

An agreement to build Myitsone dam project at the confluence of May Kha and Mayli kha rivers was signed in 2009 and it was a joint venture between the China Power Investment Corporation (CPI), the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar and the Asia World Company.

The project was suspended in 2011 by the former president in accord with the people's desire.—*Kay Khaing*

## KOICA conducts social contribution activities with KOICA Alumni

KOREA International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Myanmar KOICA club (MMKC) jointly conducted a social contribution programme in Yangon yesterday, contributing equipment to an orphanage and updating its outdated facilities

About 200 people, including Euicheol Shin, Chief Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office, and U Thar Aung, MP and Chairman of Social Affairs and Management Committee, participated in the event.

Together with volunteers, they also carried out rooftop constructions of the orphanage.

They also experienced Korean Culture through cooking and mural activities at the New Generation Orphanage, which is two-hour drive from Yangon.

KOICA conducted global training programmes for Myanmar government officials, inviting them to South Korea to learn from the development experiences of

South Korea. MMKC, which is an association of alumni trainees, was founded in 2010 and comprised 131 members. The organisation was registered as a local NGO in Myanmar this year.

As part of social activities to practice compassion in the community, the KOICA Myanmar

Office visited Yowa elementary school and provided medical screenings and health education.

The KOICA Myanmar Office is planning to host charity events in rural communities and various cooperative projects to contribute to sustainable development.—*GNLM*



Volunteers of KOICA enjoy activities with orphans. PHOTO: KOICA

## Crime NEWS

### Road accident leaves one dead, 12 injured



The car is seen after the accident. PHOTO: MPF

A Toyota Dyna truck carrying 13 passengers overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on early Sunday morning, killing one.

Legal action has been taken against the driver, Soe Thu, who apparently lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn between mile posts 1/1 and 1/2 on the expressway. The truck was heading for Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon.

In addition to the one death, there were 12 injuries.—*Than Oo (Lemyathna)*

### Authorities accelerate reduction of child sexual abuse cases in Yangon

THE Yangon Region authorities have accelerated its programme to reduce rape cases including child molestation in the city, said Col Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

He added the number of cases this year has increased by nearly 60 compared with the last year's total of 110 cases. The number of cases as of mid-October reached almost 170.

This year's drug cases also increased from last year. Narcotics officers uncovered over 800 drug cases, including 44 cases of illegal trading of drugs for sexual favors.

At the same time, police put forth concerted efforts to protect people from violent attacks by unlawful groups, making special investigations in an effort to arrest the offenders of rape cases.—*200*

# Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker enjoys Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competitions



Dance troupe participate in the contest for Kayin traditional ethnic dance in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

MAHN WIN KHAING THAN, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, enjoyed traditional ethnic dance of Kayin at Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competition being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Troupes representing Yangon Region, Bago Region, Kay-

in State and Shan State participated in the contest yesterday.

The Speaker also enjoyed the individual category of Myanmar traditional orchestra contest.

The 22nd competition kicked off on 18th October. It aims at preserving and safe-

guarding the cultural heritage of the country's ethnic people and its national character.

About 1,766 contestants across the country are participating in the completion which is categorized as from basic level to professional level.

The contestants were se-

lected from regions and states after holding the preliminary contests. The competitions include contests of song, dance, composition, music and play at different stages such as professional, amateur, higher education and basic education levels. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Severe weather predicted for ...

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Myanmar's weather bureau also forecasts that the deep depression may intensify into a Cyclonic Storm During next 12 hours and reach near Myanmar Coast of the delta area, recurve and continue North-Northwest wards. According to the observations at 6.30 pm yesterday, the deep depression over the eastcentral Bay of Bengal remains partially stationary, centering at about 85 miles North-Northwest of Coco-Island, 85 miles Southwest of Haingyi Island, 125 miles Southwest of Pathein and 155 miles South-Southwest of Gwa and 205 miles Southwest of Yangon.

The probably maximum storm surge is about 7 to 10 feet at Labutta district in Ayeyawady Region, Thandwe district in Southern Rakhine State.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is on alert while carrying out preparedness to quickly respond to disasters to be brought by the deep depression. It has also urged the people to follow the instructions of local authorities while listening to information released by the government. The ministry has urged the people to contact its hot-line 067-404666 and 067 404777 if they want to know storm-related information.—*GNLM*

## Houses to be relocated due to erosion of Ayeyawady River in Mandalay

SEVEN houses on the banks of the Ayeyawady River in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region will be relocated due to erosion.

Mandalay Region Electric Power, Energy and Construction head U Zarni Aung inspected the riverbank on Saturday.

A portion of the bank 350 feet in length and about 130 feet in breadth at its widest section eroded inwards 5 feet due to changing currents. As a result, houses up to 75 feet away from the collapsed bank will have to



Erosion is seen on the bank of the Ayeyawady River in Ngazun Township. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

be relocated. "(A request for funds to prevent erosion have been submitted to the region government and it is expected that we will get the funds in Decem-

ber," said U Kyaw Myint Than, Assistant Director of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

## Five detained, one weapon seized in Maungtaw

A SECURITY squad comprising members of the Tatmadaw and Border Guard Police detained four people suspected of being involved in the recent violent attacks in northern Rakhine State.

The suspects were found during a search of Zeepinchaung (South) Village in Maungtaw Township on Saturday.

The four detainees were Sweyaw Duri, Guramya, MV Cormoridain and Mammud Dullah, all from Zeepinchaung Village.

On the same day, security

forces seized one MA-11, one cartridge and 25 rounds of ammunition.

The security forces also arrested Maung Maung Sein, an alleged financier of the violent attackers, at his home in Myoma (South) Ward-2 in Maungtaw yesterday morning.

Members of the Tatmadaw and the Border Guard Police are continuing their operations to hunt down the violent attackers who ambushed border police outposts on nine October during which nine policemen were killed. —*Myawaddy*



Service personnel check the weapon hidden by violent attackers in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Farmers accused of falsifying land tenure documents

SOME farmers in central Myanmar have been accused of falsifying land tenure documents to receive more agricultural loans, according to U Win Myint, a manager at the Agriculture Development in Mandalay Region.

Agricultural loans are extended to farmers according to the type of land they hold. More

loans are granted to rice paddy fields than to fields of other crops such as pulses, beans and sesame. As a result, some farmers who grow crops other than rice paddies try to get more loans by falsifying their land tenure documents by stating their land is used as rice paddy fields instead of other crops.

"We have found four farmers who falsified documents. It is an offence liable to be charged, but we are just informing them of the consequences of what they have done," the bank manager said. "If they take out loans for a rice paddy, they must grow it. They can't grow other crops". —*Aung Thant Khaing*

# LOCAL Business

## Myanmar needs real estate services law: property agents

A NEW LAW regulating real estate services is needed in Myanmar to raise public confidence in the country's burgeoning property industry as well as to promote investment from both home and abroad, according to the Yangon Region Real Estate Entrepreneurs Association.

"There are currently no laws related to real estate agents and services in Myanmar apart from the Landlord and Tenant Law. The industry needs a new law as real estate is one of the sectors attracting the most interest from investors", said U Tin Maung Oo, a member of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee.

"To develop the real estate services law, Myanmar Real Estate Services Association will



Experts have urged the government to create new laws regulating real estate services to raise public confidence and to promote investment from both home and abroad.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

take part in a workshop in the capital Nay Pyi Taw in November, planning to draft the law with the assistance of local and international experts in order to help ensure good conduct of busi-

ness", he added. According to industry representatives, the new law needs to detail minimum skill requirements for agents and their functions, duties and accountability, reasonable service charges

and rights of agents, buyers and sellers.

A workshop was held in Mandalay on October 8 with industry representatives from upper Myanmar to discuss the drafting

of the new law. A similar meeting was held in Yangon on October 22 to hear the voices of respective bodies and their suggestions on the drafting of the law. —Soe Win (MLA)

## Myanmar to export cucumbers, avocados to EU market next year

LOCAL exporters plan to increase the export sales of cucumber and avocados to some European countries starting next year, said a spokesperson for Myanmar Golden Produce Co, an exporter of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables.

The plan will hopefully generate healthy profits for producers and exporters as European nations will buy the fruit at a price requested by the Myanmar side. The new trade partners said they

prefer the taste of Myanmar fruits over that of their own country.

The company will export fruits and vegetables to the European market under a long-term plan with a target to eventually send fruits to Russia, Ukraine and some western countries with a high rate of fruit consumption.

Plans are underway to send a several tonnes of cucumber and avocado to the new partner countries next year, with plans to expand the export of other fruits

and vegetables to other European countries. Cucumbers are an excellent source of vitamin K and molybdenum. They are also a very good source of copper, potassium, manganese, vitamin C, phosphorus, magnesium, biotin and vitamin B1. Avocado, also very nutritious, contains more potassium than bananas. The fruit is loaded with heart-healthy monounsaturated fatty acids and fiber. The eating of avocados can reduce cholesterol levels.—200

## Myanmar to negotiate with China for official export of rice, maize

THE Ministry of Commerce will negotiate with Chinese authorities to allow the official export of rice and maize to China through the border route and to get an annual export quota via the sea route, the ministry's spokesperson said.

Negotiations will be made with China's Central Economic Committee through the Myanmar ambassador in Beijing to get an annual export quota to export both agricultural products via border trade camps and shipping, an offi-

cial of the ministry said.

It is technically illegal without specific permission to export rice, grain and other agricultural products from Myanmar into China, but until a recent crackdown the policy was widely ignored. With the recent enforcement of the export ban, the price of rice has plummeted and the surplus of rice in Myanmar has grown. The price of rice is likely to further decline if China, the world's most populous nation, continues the crackdown,

said the official, who added that the government of Yunnan Province seems to wish to buy Myanmar's rice because of the cheaper price. The commerce ministry also has plans to extend the trade contract to export 300,000 tonnes of rice annually to Indonesia between 2016 and 2019. According to the official figures of the ministry, the country earned US\$1.4 billion from the export of agricultural products between April and October 7 this fiscal year.—200

## Used cars purchased with instalments is in high demand



PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

PEOPLE'S demand for used cars purchased on an instalment plan is gradually increasing, according to Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association.

Industry experts said that those purchasing used cars make up 70 to 80 per cent of the market.

But some interested buyers said the high interest rates have hindered them from purchasing.

Industry players thus called for an improvement in banking services in order to promote instalment payments in the country.

More than 70 per cent of the

purchase can be paid with installments.

Showrooms are cooperating with eleven banks for the convenience of the customers, but each bank has different services and interest rates.

According to the criteria for instalment purchase, customers need to pay 30 per cent down payment, plus the bank's interest, service charges as well as insurance.

According to the industry experts, the period of instalment payments covers at least 5 years for a brand new cars, with 1 to 2 years for a used cars.—GNLM

## Duterte hopes Philippine fishermen can return to China-controlled shoal

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte expressed hope on Sunday that fishermen would be able to return to the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea in the next few days.

Duterte confirmed on Saturday that the Scarborough Shoal was discussed during his four-day trip to China which was aimed at paving the way for what he calls a new commercial alliance as relations with longtime ally the United States deteriorate.

“Let us just wait for a few more days, maybe we could return to Scarborough Shoal,” Duterte said in a speech in Tuguegarao City, north of the capital, where he helped deliver aid to victims of a recent typhoon.

It was not immediately clear if that meant China had given an indication it would end its four-year blockade of the shoal.

“I’m not sure if they will fulfil (what was discussed),” Duterte said.

Two Chinese sources



A fisherman repairs his boat overlooking fishing boats that fish in the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, at Masinloc, Zambales, in the Philippines on 22 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

with ties to the leadership told Reuters last week China would consider giving Philippine fishermen conditional access to disputed waters in the South China Sea after a meeting between the presidents of the two countries.

China seized the Scarborough Shoal in 2012, denying Philippine fishermen access to its fishing grounds.

The seizure formed part of a case the Philippines took to the Permanent Court of Arbitration

in the Hague, which in July rejected China’s territorial claims over much of the South China Sea, including its assertion of a 200-mile (320 km) exclusive economic zone around the disputed Spratly Islands.

China immediately declared the ruling “null and void” but said it was time for talks again between the countries directly involved in the territorial disputes to reach a peaceful resolution.

“China said it is

theirs. I also told them it is ours,” Duterte said.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion in trade passes every year. Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims to parts of it.

Duterte’s efforts to engage China mark a reversal in Philippine foreign policy since he took office on 30 June.

While building China ties, Duterte has denounced the United States, apparently after being infuriated by US criticism of his bloody war on drugs.

He has called US President Barack Obama a “son of a bitch”, told him to “go to hell” and thrown long-standing military ties into question.

On Thursday, while in China, Duterte provoked fresh diplomatic alarm by announcing his “separation” from the United States. He struck a more conciliatory tone as he arrived home on Friday. —Reuters

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## Japan PM pitches SDF’s new overseas duties at review ceremony



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday pitched new overseas duties to be given to members of the Self-Defence Forces under his administration’s security legislation as he spoke at a troop review at an SDF base in Tokyo.

“You will be assigned with new duties under the legislation. They are duties to protect the precious peace,” he said in an address as the SDF’s commander-in-chief during the ceremony at the Asaka garrison of the Ground Self-Defence Force.

Under the legislation

that took effect in March, the expanded duties include going to the aid of UN personnel under attack by armed groups during UN peacekeeping operations.

The government is in the process of deciding whether to give such expanded assignments to the next GSDF unit to be sent to South Sudan under a UN peacekeeping mission.

Approximately 4,000 SDF members, about 280 vehicles including tanks, and some 50 airplanes took part in the review. —Kyodo News

## China police detain person for spreading rumours of labour unrest

BEIJING — Police in China’s central city of Wuhan said they have detained a person for spreading rumours in what a state-run newspaper said was a video purportedly showing a demonstration involving workers at Wuhan Iron and Steel (Wugang).

Police in Wuhan’s Qingshan District said that a person, surnamed Rong, was placed under administrative detention on Friday

for five days, for allegedly spreading rumours about Wuhan Iron & Steel.

Qingshan district police on Sunday posted the information on Weibo, the micro-blogging service. Telephone calls to the district police were referred to the branch political office, which was unavailable for comment.

The online website of the official *China Youth Daily* also reported on Sun-

day that a person who had posted a video allegedly showing laid-off Wugang workers in a mass protest had been detained.

A propaganda official from Wuhan Steel Group characterised the video, which was filmed at night and showed a surging crowd, as rumour, the report said.

In September, Baoshan Iron & Steel announced it will acquire indebted Wu-

han Steel Group, as part of a broader effort to tackle inefficiencies and huge overcapacity in China’s steel sector.

There are tens of thousands of “mass incidents”, or protests in Chinese government parlance, every year, over everything from pollution to illegal land seizures, which are often swiftly put down by China’s stability obsessed ruling communist party. —Reuters

# Typhoon Haima causes heavy damage in south China province

GUANGZHOU

Disasters brought by Typhoon Haima have affected 1.69 million people in south China's Guangdong Province, said the provincial civil affairs department

on Sunday.

Typhoon Haima barreled into Guangdong Friday, triggering sudden downpours in several cities.

There have been no reports

of casualties following the timely evacuation of 668,000 people to safer areas.

The department has received reports of damage to 2,749 houses and some

178,000 hectares of crops. The department estimated that the economic losses total 3.5 billion yuan (517 million US dollars).

The typhoon caused power

outages to 2.12 million households. By Saturday, 95.5 per cent of them had regained power supply, thanks to emergency repairs by the provincial power grid company.—Xinhua



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: REUTERS

## India's new aviation policy aims at sector expanding: Modi

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said his government has devised a new aviation policy for the first time since independence that aims at expanding the sector in the country.

"After coming to power, the government has for the first time since independence formulated a new aviation policy for the country, which will take care of the consumers' needs and the growth of the sector," Modi said in the western state of Gujarat Saturday.

Stating that the country's development can take new dimensions if the tier-II and tier-III cities are brought on the aviation map, he said, "The government is making efforts to revive a large number of non-functional airstrips and airports in the country."

He added: "That is why to promote this, the government brought out a new regional connectivity scheme under which people can travel with airfares of only 2,500 Indian rupees (40 US dollars) for up to 500-km dis-

tance."

India is one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world. It recorded an air traffic of 163 million passengers in 2013, estimated to have 60 million international passengers by 2017. The market is estimated to have 800 aircraft by 2020.

In 2015, Boeing projected India's demand for aircraft to touch 1,740, valued at 240 billion US dollars over the next 20 years. This would account for 4.3 per cent of global volumes.—Xinhua

## Australian firefighters climb Sydney Tower for ALS research

SYDNEY — Hundreds of firefighters on Sunday climbed all 1,504 stairs of the iconic Sydney Tower Eye to raise money and awareness for the neurodegenerative disease ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease.

The 446 firefighters, each carrying an additional 20 kilograms of gear, raced to climb the equivalent of 98 stories to the tower's observation deck.

"It's harder than what we usually do, but doesn't compare to what people battling the disease go through," said one participant breathlessly after making it all the way to the top.

This year's fundraising target is A\$500,000 (about

\$380,000), with all money raised going to the Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre at Macquarie University, Australia's largest ALS research facility.

Sydney firefighter Matt Pridham organised the fundraising event after his close friend was diagnosed with the condition. A total of A\$180,000 was raised at the inaugural climb held last year.

ALS is a progressive, terminal neurological disease that strikes indiscriminately. There is no known cause or cure.

Sydney Tower is the city's tallest structure, measuring 309 metres from the bottom to the tip of the spire.—Kyodo News



A firefighter crosses the finish line after climbing all 1,504 stairs of the iconic Sydney Tower Eye during an event in Sydney on 23 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## LDP-aligned candidates appear set to win both by-elections

TOKYO — Candidates aligned with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party appear set to win both by-elections on Sunday for single-seat House of Representatives districts in Tokyo and Fukuoka Prefecture, according to Kyodo News projections.

The results signal public approval of the policy track the ruling parties have taken since July's House of Councillors race and may buoy Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's confidence as he considers when to dissolve the lower house for a snap election.

The premier is rumored to be considering a lower house election before the start of the next ordinary Diet session in January.

But the Abe administration is yet to tackle several thorny issues that could sway public opinion before then, meaning Sunday's results alone may not serve as enough impetus for Abe to dissolve the chamber so soon.

Masaru Wakasa, 59, appeared certain to win the Tokyo No. 10 district seat vacated by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike when she ran in July's gubernatorial election without the party's blessing.

Koike stumped for Wakasa, returning the favor after Wakasa broke ranks with the LDP mainstream by supporting her during her gubernatorial campaign. Wakasa is endorsed by the LDP's junior coalition partner Komeito.

Wakasa's campaign and victory indicates the LDP has mended fences with Koike and looks to draw support from her wider spectrum of supporters in the next nationwide election.

Wakasa appears to have defeated 40-year-old Yosuke Suzuki, a former journalist with public broadcaster NHK, who had the backing of the main opposition Democratic Party as well as the Japanese Communist Party, Liberal Party and Social Democratic Party.

The Fukuoka No. 6 district has likely been won by Jiro Ha-

toyama, 37, a son of former Justice Minister Kunio Hatoyama who held the seat until his death in June.

The LDP is expected to give its post-election endorsement to Hatoyama, who was competing for the party's support with 35-year-old Ken Kurauchi, secretary to an upper house lawmaker.

Those in the LDP loyal to the elder Hatoyama backed his son, while Finance Minister Taro Aso and others who had sparred with the former justice minister chose to support Kurauchi instead, leading to neither gaining the party's endorsement during the campaign.

Up against Hatoyama and Kurauchi was opposition-backed Fumiko Arai, 49, a former staffer at Japan's Consulate General in Chennai, India.

Voter turnout as of 6 p.m. stood at 22.73 per cent in the Tokyo No. 10 district and 29.04 percent in the Fukuoka No. 6 district, according to the election boards in those areas.

The failure of the opposition-backed candidates in both districts indicates the Democratic Party's leadership change in August, which installed charismatic former administrative reform minister Renho as leader, failed to sway voters.

Some in the party may call for a reassessment of its strategy of campaigning together with the three smaller opposition parties — something it tried in single-seat electoral districts in July's upper house election with mixed results.

Renho had decided to carry on the united front strategy inherited from her predecessor Katsuya Okada, despite ideological difficulties between the parties that could complicate their ability to run a coalition government.

Campaigning in both district by-elections largely centered on the broader battle between the ruling and opposition parties rather than each candidate's particular qualities.—Kyodo News



In this photo illustration, a man holds an iPad with a Facebook application in an office building at the Pudong financial district in Shanghai. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Facebook to cut down on censorship, allowing 'significant' graphic posts

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook has decided to cut down on its censorship of graphic posts which might violate its community standards against nudity and violence, as long as these posts are deemed “newsworthy and significant.”

“In the weeks ahead, we’re going to begin allowing more items that people find newsworthy, significant or important to the public interest — even if they might otherwise

violate our standards,” the company’s PR officials said in a blog post on Friday.

The move came after the “napalm girl” controversy stirred outcry from some Facebook users, who complained about being prevented from posting or sharing the world-famous photograph. The image, which shows a naked 9-year-old girl fleeing a napalm attack during the Vietnamese war, was said to have violated

Facebook’s ban on images of naked children, according to the CNN.

The California-based online social network also came under attack this week for removing a breast cancer awareness video for being graphic. The video, released by Swedish cancer charity Cancerfonden, explains to women how to check for suspicious lumps with animated figures. —Xinhua

## China’s first molten salt solar thermal plant sends power to grid

TIANJIN — China’s first molten salt solar thermal power plant has started to send electricity to the grid, said the developer based in north China’s Tianjin municipality on Sunday.

Known as concentrated solar power, solar thermal energy is believed to be the next generation of solar energy, and an ideal green power source for energy-hungry countries like China.

The Tianjin Binhai Concentrating Solar Power Investment Co. Ltd. said its 50-megawatt molten salt trough project in Akesai in northwest China’s Gansu Province shows the maturity of the commercial development of

solar thermal technology.

Guan Jingdong, chair of the company, said that the company will carry out large-scale production with the technology in 2018, when it is scheduled to produce facilities with 200,000 kilowatts of annual solar power output.

Molten salt solar thermal plants can harness solar energy by using molten salt as a heat transfer medium.

The Akesai plant was among 20 demonstration solar thermal plants listed for construction by China’s National Energy Administration in September as the government eyes the potential of renewable energy. —Xinhua

## Sharp eyes closing LED display plant in western Japan

OSAKA — Sharp Corp. is considering closing a light-emitting diode display plant in western Japan next year as part of its restructuring efforts under Taiwan’s Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., sources familiar with the matter said Sunday.

The Japanese electronics company may consolidate the production line at the facility in Mihara, Hiroshima Prefecture, with a factory in Fukuyama in the same prefecture, which mainly produces camera components for smartphones, the sources said.

Sharp will also study down-

sizing a liquid crystal display television factory in Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, they said.

The company plans to secure the jobs of the approximately 300 employees at the Mihara plant, according to the sources.

Sharp is taking steps to return to profitability in the fiscal year ending in March 2017 for the first time in three years.

Due to continued sluggish sales in LED panels, however, consolidated sales for the same year are expected to drop from 2.46 trillion yen in the previous year. —Kyodo News

## Peru’s avocado exports up 24.5 per cent thanks to boost in Chinese market

LIMA — Fresh avocados worth 386.6 million US dollars led non-traditional Peruvian agricultural exports in the first eight months, up 24.5 per cent year-on-year, Peru’s foreign trade bureau ComexPeru said on Saturday.

This rise in exports is linked to a higher demand for avocados around the world, which has caused prices to rise from 1.55 US dollars a kg in January to 2.1 US dollars in August.

Avocado exports received a boost in May 2015, when Peru was granted access to the Chinese market.

According to official reports, Peru exported 12,319 tons of avocados to China in 2015. The figure is expected to rise by 84 per cent to 22,764 tons in 2016 and by a further 63 per cent to 37,075 tons in 2017.

In its weekly report, Com-

exPeru said Peru is now the 10<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of fruits in the world, having exported 2.714 million US dollars worth of fruits from January to August, a year-on-year increase of 3.4 per cent. Fruits also accounted for 12.4 per cent of all Peruvian exports during the period.

In the first eight months of 2016, Peru also became the largest Latin American exporter of mandarins, whose exports in the period totalled 106.8 million US dollars. The country’s global exports of cranberries reached 41.3 million US dollars, up 125.6 per cent.

Peru still has broad potential to promote its agricultural exports even further, since the United States, the Netherlands and Spain currently account for 53 per cent of its non-traditional fruit exports, said ComexPeru. —Xinhua

## 2016 Toronto International Snowmobile, ATV & Powersports Show held in Canada



Visitors watch snowmobiles during the 2016 Toronto International Snowmobile, ATV & Powersports Show in Toronto, Canada, on 22 October 2016. As one of the largest Snowmobile, ATV & Powersports Shows in the world, this three-day show which kicked off on Friday is expected to draw tens of thousands of recreational powersports enthusiasts. PHOTO: XINHUA

# Opinion

## Write for us

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

## Building of human capital vs economic development

Khin Maung Aye

THERE has been a consensus by academics and researchers that the quality of human capital is essential to economic growth and development of a nation. It is also said that good governance and strong institutions are necessary to foster national development. And the efficiency and effectiveness of public institutions depend, in turn, on service delivery mechanisms and a supportive framework of rules and procedures, which enable the bureaucracy to discharge their duties in a citizen-centric and responsive manner. This requires highly committed, effective human capital that can undertake and implement the policies and programmes of the government.

In this regard, it is worth recalling that the incumbent government has laid special emphasis on two ministries – health and education. The reason for giving priority to these two sectors is that health and education are essential to national development. No nation has achieved sustained economic development without substantial investment in human capital, considered to be the most valuable asset that needs to be mobilized, developed and empowered to fully participate in all socio-economic activities. Obviously, countries wishing to effectuate economic growth and development require strong, healthy and educated human resources. This is the reason why priority is given to the health and education sectors.

In this juncture, international assistance programmes should support capacity building for local organisations to escalate development. To contribute effectively to development, civil society organisations (CSOs) must have the rights and freedom to organise, secure resources, voice opinions, participate in agenda setting, operate effectively and help hold the state institutions accountable for development results. The development assistance can be more efficient and effective if the local capacity building is better integrated into the ongoing programmes.

It is worth noting that capacity building is not income support, as many may think. It is, in fact, the efforts aimed at achieving long-term growth and development. However, it is important to strike a proper balance between short-term and long-term development strategies without bias to either side. Human capital development is the major type of capacity building and ought to be regarded as the primary theme of the social policies and programmes. Capacity building in societies and organisations involve education and development of skills – the capabilities to enable them to withstand the ever-changing environment.

In conclusion, the concept of human capacity building generally encompasses a policy action that is geared towards providing the skills and capabilities of key players in organisations. Improvement of skills and capabilities can be achieved through training and education programmes, continuing professional development programmes, seminars and exposing the organisations to good organisational practices. The key aspects of human capital capacity building includes the organizational development, human resource development and legal and regulation development. All these aspects are interconnected in order to achieve capacity building. And only through achievement of capacity building for human capital can national economic growth and development be achieved.

# Myanmar's Potential for BIMSTEC

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein

THE Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was established on 6 June 1997 in Thailand with the main objective of fostering socio-economic progress in the member countries by promoting the cooperation in various sectors. The original name of the BIMSTEC was BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation). Myanmar joined the organization as a full member at a Special Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok on 22 December 1997. Since then the name of the grouping was changed to BIMSTEC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Subsequently, full membership has been granted to Nepal and Bhutan in 2004.

We can see the potential of Myanmar from three perspectives: political, strategic and economy. From political point of view, Myanmar under previous government from 1988 to 2010 had to face many difficulties in her international relations due to external pressures. However, since opening up in 2011, Myanmar has been reintegrating into international community by undertaking a series of reforms. Moreover, the current changes and political developments in Myanmar have paved way to take a leading role in regional organizations.

From the strategic point of view, Myanmar is situated between South and Southeast Asia. Myanmar is surrounded in the West by the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mataban and the Andaman Sea in the South. She is located on routes that go from the India Ocean to the Southwest sea of China. Moreover, she has significant influence upon the sea approaches of Bangladesh in the West and the Southwest of Thailand. For India, it is a land bridge between India's North East Region and ASEAN countries. Myanmar has remained a crucial factor for the national interest of India and Southeast Asian nations.

This strategic position, as a gateway for the BIMSTEC or South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) could improve its basic economic fundamentals and infrastructure and learns from its neighbours and other economic clubs from transport network through Myanmar. As Myanmar is in the centre of BIMSTEC region transport network, this Sub Regional Organization can gain strategic benefits.

For Bangladesh, Myanmar is the gate way to ASEAN. In this context, bilateral relations are boosted by Bangladesh's desire to strengthen ties with ASEAN mem-

bers under a "Look East" policy adopted by Bangladesh. Bangladesh participates along with Myanmar, Thailand, and other South Asian countries in the BIMSTEC regional economic grouping. Bangladesh adopted "Look East" policy and emphasized on finding ways and means to promote its market access with ASEAN member countries. Among them, Myanmar is Bangladesh's closest neighbor as well as entry point to ASEAN. Trade routes through Myanmar are essential for trade promotion among BIMSTEC region. Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed to implement direct highway between two countries in March 2003, which was commonly called BIMSTEC Highways. The project route is 1370 kilometers and can be regarded as a part of Asian Highway. This road also helps boost regional cooperation by strengthening economic and trade relations in the South and Southeast Asia.

Myanmar also plays a central role in another major transport project, India-Myanmar-Thailand Tripartite Highways. The Project linking Thailand to Dawei deep sea port of Myanmar is a part of India-Myanmar-Thailand Tripartite highway. Moreover Dawei Deep Sea Port is a beneficial project for all BIMSTEC countries. Thailand proposed for using shorter trading sea route by upgrading modern ports along Bay of Bengal. These geopolitical significances make Myanmar's potential for BIMSTEC member countries.

From economic point of view, there are also many opportunities for BIMSTEC member countries. The west including EU and US has also lifted sanctions based on the political development of Myanmar. Prospect for inflows of resources from abroad into Myanmar in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and bilateral and multilateral assistance have considerably brightened with removal of sanctions and improved relations with the major players in the world stage. In the wake of this good outlook for foreign resource flows, Myanmar has also passed FDI Law at the Parliament session and approved by the President. So, in line with new FDI law it is easier for foreign investors to invest. In this regard, Myanmar's potential for BIMSTEC is trade and investment. Investments and trade relations between Myanmar and BIMSTEC countries can be seen especially with Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Besides these potentials, Myanmar can contribute to BIMSTEC energy security since it is endowed with large reserves of oil and gas. Myanmar has many oil and gas fields along the coast. Myanmar's



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for group photo with other leaders of BIMSTEC countries in Goa, India. PHOTO: MNA

export of gas from both Yadana and Yetagun (which is located in southern Myanmar) to Thailand is an example of success in energy cooperation in this region for mutual benefit. In addition, Bangladesh, India and Myanmar have agreed to an understanding for a tri-nation gas pipeline project, reflecting the necessity for enhancing regional cooperation in the energy and infrastructure development sector for the common benefit among BIMSTEC nations. Myanmar's cooperation in energy sector can bring fruitful benefits for member countries.

There is also an opportunity for BIMSTEC countries in the exploration of commercial scale hydropower for regional energy sector cooperation. Such projects are by nature need huge investments. Under new government, Myanmar is now willing to receive assistance from the west or indeed international organization for materializing these potentials. Then again, technologically more advanced BIMSTEC member countries; such as India, Thailand and Bangladesh on the other hand, have ample opportunity to provide Myanmar with technical assistance. Indeed, promotion of FDI in general will not only enhance the

development of BIMSTEC countries but will also make BIMSTEC a more attractive place for greater inflow of FDI. There are still a number of offshore oil and gas blocks left for regional cooperation in energy sector.

Another potential is tourism. Myanmar is a cultural destination known as "the land of Pagodas." Moreover, Myanmar also offers a variety of tourist attraction such as rich culture nature endowed with beaches, tropical forests, snow capped mountain ranges, world famous gems and handicrafts. Under previous government, tourism industry is not so much flourish due to political reasons. However, because of the changes of new government, it opens way for tourist attraction. Tourists are visiting Myanmar to find out how Myanmar has transformed peacefully in the political process, its culture and history. Myanmar is rich in cultural heritage and has great potential for popular tourist destination. Furthermore, tourism is also a sector that BIMSTEC is promoting for development. In this connection, Myanmar would like to suggest exploring the idea of devising joint tour programmes involving all BIMSTEC countries.

These four programmes will aim not only to promote tourism industry itself but also can promote social and cultural aspects of our respective countries. Myanmar views that BIMSTEC countries can work together to promote BIMSTEC's cultural, national heritage, eco or nature tours. Myanmar would propose that the Group should look into such possibility for the future undertaking.

It is also necessary to find ways how BIMSTEC can move forward. The level of economic integration includes free trade area, custom union, common market and economic union. Regional organizations like EU and ASEAN is approaching for the success of economic integration and EU has reached these levels. As for BIMSTEC, in spite of diverse dimensions, economic interests remained a priority since BIMSTEC is the home of one fourth of the world poor. With this interest in mind, members agreed to establish the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement and to create a free trade area within BIMSTEC region by 2017 as a whole. If this has accomplished, it will benefit for members, which led to non-zero sum game. Before reaching the

target, BIMSTEC should also take some experience and lessons from ASEAN.

Another factor to be considered is regional powers like Japan and China's interest in BIMSTEC. For Japan, promotion of Japanese Direct Investment in BIMSTEC countries, especially in infrastructure (such as power, communication and transportation), is the best way for realizing closer economic relations between Japan and BIMSTEC countries as well as promoting better ties among BIMSTEC countries. Indeed, promotion of FDI in general will not only enhance the development of BIMSTEC countries but will also make BIMSTEC a more attractive place for greater inflow of FDI. Most of the BIMSTEC members have already benefited from the Official Development Assistance and FDI flows from Japan in the past. Political stability and security, besides the liberalization of trade regimes and labor regulations and improvement in infrastructure facilities are quite essential for BIMSTEC members to have increased economic linkages with Japan. The cultural and other economic exchanges between the two will pave the way for sustain-

able relations. There is a possibility to strengthen the ties among BIMSTEC members to pursue the goal of providing secure, reliable and affordable energy, and in this context, Japan can extend suitable technical know-how to harvest the conventional and non-conventional energies. It is undeniable that Japan's technological capabilities and its economic strength will bring a significant change in the economies of BIMSTEC. China's interest in taking part of BIMSTEC can be seen in the some big projects like building deep-sea port in the Bay of Bengal and regional connectivity. The BIMSTEC members should consider how can gain win-win cooperation with these two regional powers.

Peace and security is another factor to be considered. This is also important factor for the promotion of regional economic integration especially among developing countries. There are still some border issues, which are hindrance for economic integration. In order to overcome this issue, there must be an understanding each other and look for a common ground. How can we have understanding among the BIMSTEC members? One of the

aims of BIMSTEC which is outlined in the First BIMSTEC Summit held in Thailand in 2004 is to provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional and technical sphere. But the cooperation in these areas is still limited.

In ASEAN, there is ASEAN University Network, which brings member countries together, understanding and people-to-people contact. It can also have better friendship and closer contacts with BIMSTEC countries by making people-to-people contacts like ASEAN. This will partly contribute for peace and stability in the region. Moreover, in this sub-regional organization, India is the largest economic power among member countries. As a small member country, we would like to see the rising power as a partnership friend, and not as dominant power. BIMSTEC also must be more action-oriented and result-oriented to become a genuinely effective forum to bring progress and prosperity to people of the region. Moreover, as Myanmar is under new elected civilian government with opening up for more investment and cooperation, it is an opportunity for BIMSTEC member countries to expand their trade and investment.

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## POEM:

### To the Drowned Noble Hearts

Your Fathers wait at home,  
but you never come home.

The school gate is open,  
the school bell is ringing,  
your pupils are waiting,  
but you never come back.

You were on way back home,  
all thirty of you,  
dreaming of seeing the families  
again during this brief vacation,  
and enjoying the Festival of  
Lights together,  
of paying homage to your  
parents and teachers.

But you took a journey  
on the River of No Return,  
got lost forever  
in the whirlpools of the  
fast-flowing Chindwin.

A fervent prayer  
from the heart of a teacher:  
May your noble hearts attain  
the high planes of existence.

Zaw Tun

# Iraqi Kurds say they captured town near Mosul

ERBIL — Kurdish fighters said they had taken the town of Bashiqa near Mosul from Islamic State on Sunday as coalition forces pressed their offensive against the jihadists' last stronghold in Iraq.

An American official said Masoud Barzani, President of the Iraqi Kurdish region, had told US Defence Secretary Ash Carter that the Kurds had succeeded in liberating Bashiqa from Islamic State.

Kurdish Peshmerga fighters told reporters at the scene that they had entered Bashiqa. Journalists were not being allowed into the town, which lies 12 km (8 miles) to the northeast of Mosul. Its capture, if confirmed, would mark the removal of one more obstacle on the road to the northern Iraqi city.

Reuters television footage from Nawran, a town near Bashiqa, showed Kurdish fighters using a heavy mortar, a machine gun



Smoke rises at Islamic State militants' positions in the town of Naweran, near Mosul, Iraq, on 23 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and small arms as smoke rose over the area around Bashiqa. As Kurdish Peshmerga forces moved through the area, armoured vehicles moved along a road and a helicopter flew overhead.

The Peshmerga are also

using tanks, rocket launchers and snipers. A Reuters photographer saw the fighters destroy at least three suicide car bombs dispatched against their forces.

The offensive that started on Monday to capture

Mosul is backed by a US-led coalition. It is expected to become the biggest battle in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003. Coalition forces have advanced to within 5 km (3 miles) of Mosul at the closest point, the interior

minister of the Kurdish regional government has said.

An Iraqi force of about 30,000, joined by US special forces and under American, French and British air cover, is ready to push into Mosul after recapturing Falluja and Ramadi, west of Baghdad, and seizing the Sunni stronghold of Tikrit in central Iraq.

Islamic State have staged attacks apparently aimed at distracting the advancing forces. They hit the city of Kirkuk on Friday and on Sunday they attacked Rutba, a town 360 km (225 miles) west of Baghdad, where they killed at least seven policemen, according to a police source.

The mayor, Imad al-Dulaimi, said the insurgents attacked during the night and gained entry to the town by coordinating with sleeper cells there.

About 30 insurgents skirmished with tribal fighters and security forces before vanishing.—Reuters

## Worker dies in 'work-related fatality' at World Cup stadium in Qatar

DOHA — A worker has died in a 'work-related fatality' at the site of a 2022 World Cup stadium in Qatar, the country's World Cup organising body said late on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Saturday morning at the Al Wakrah Stadium and is being investigated, Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy said in a statement. Al Wakrah was designed by the late British architect Zaha Hadid.

"It is with deep regret we announce a work-related fatality on one of our projects," said the statement. It did not elaborate on the cause of death.

About 5,100 construction workers from Nepal, India and Bangladesh are building stadiums in the wealthy Gulf Arab state which has drawn charges by human rights groups of labour abuse, including poor safety at work and squalid living conditions.

The Supreme Committee says there have been no work-related fatalities on World Cup sites, but law firm DLA Piper, in a review for the government in 2013, found evidence of dozens of work-related deaths across Qatar among migrant labourers from South Asia.—Reuters

# Battle for Aleppo intensifies after ceasefire ends

BEIRUT — The battle for control of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo intensified on Sunday with air strikes, ground offensives and shelling, the morning after a resurgence in fighting ended a Russian ceasefire, a monitor and rebel groups said.

There was fierce fighting between insurgents and Syrian government and allied forces along a strategic frontline in southwest Aleppo. In August rebels

briefly broke through this government-held strip of land to try to break a siege on rebel-held eastern Aleppo enacted in July.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there was heavy rebel shelling onto the government-controlled Hamdaniya district, part of this battle front.

Syrian or Russian air strikes hit a number of rebel-held areas just west of Aleppo city from dawn on

Sunday. Air raids also hit north of Aleppo and deeper into west Aleppo countryside, the Observatory said.

Aleppo has been a major battleground in the Syrian conflict, now in its sixth year. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, backed by the Russian military, Iran's Revolutionary Guards and an array of Shi'ite Muslim militias, wants to take full control of the city.

Russia had declared

a unilateral ceasefire from Thursday which was rejected by rebels, lasted three days and did not result in hoped-for medical evacuations from the city or aid deliveries.

Air strikes within the city stopped for three days, but resumed late on Saturday as the third day of the truce expired.

The Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebel alliance, which has said it is preparing for a

big attack to break the siege of eastern Aleppo, warned residents in and around the city to stay away from Syrian government military buildings for their own safety in a statement on Saturday.

FSA rebel groups said in statements they had repelled various offensives by government and allied forces along the frontline separating rebel- from government-held Aleppo city late on Saturday.—Reuters

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Email address: [myanmar@tilleke.com](mailto:myanmar@tilleke.com)  
Dated: 24.10.2016

## Opium crops spread in Afghanistan as Taliban gains ground, UN says

VIENNA — The cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan, the world's main source of heroin, has risen to its third-highest level in more than 20 years, the United Nations confirmed on Sunday, as the Taliban insurgency gains ground.

In the key findings of its annual Afghanistan opium survey, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said the total area of land devoted to poppy cultivation had risen 10 per cent in 2016 to 201,000 hectares (497,000 acres). "The survey shows a worrying reversal in efforts to combat the persistent problem of illicit drugs and their impact on development, health and security," UNODC Execu-

tive Director Yury Fedotov said in a statement. The government's loosening grip on security in many areas contributed to a collapse in poppy eradication efforts, a method championed by the United States after it led an invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 when the country was under Taliban rule.

"Eradication has dropped precipitously to 355 hectares — a fall of some 91 per cent," Fedotov said. The report said cultivation was also spreading to new areas, as the number of poppy-free provinces fell to 13 from 14 out of a total of 34.

The report confirmed a statement by Fedotov earlier this month that the area un-



An Afghan man works on a poppy field in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan on 20 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

der cultivation in 2016 had exceeded 200,000 hectares, putting it in the top three years since the UNODC began providing estimates in 1994. Fedotov's statement on 4 October was made at a conference in Brussels at which world powers raised \$15 billion to fund Afghanistan over the next four years.

Taliban successes on the battlefield have exposed the defensive limits of Afghanistan's NATO-trained armed forces, which are sup-

posed to number 350,000 personnel but which have been heavily depleted by casualties and desertion.

"Strong increases (in cultivation) were observed in the northern region and in Badghis province where the security situation has deteriorated since 2015," the UNODC said. The western region, which includes Badghis, has the second-biggest area under cultivation after the southern region.—Reuters

# Trump uses policy speech to attack media, promises to sue accusers



Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump delivers remarks at a campaign event in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, US on 22 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

GETTYSBURG (Pa.) — US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump promised on Saturday to foil a proposed deal for AT&T to buy Time Warner if he wins the 8 November election, arguing it was an example of a “power structure” rigged against both him and voters.

Trump, whose candidacy has caused ruptures in his party, listed his policy plans for the first 100 days of his presidency in a campaign speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, near the site of a Civil War battlefield and a celebrated address by President Abraham Lincoln.

But he also defiantly raised personal grievances, describing how, if elected, he would address them from the White House in a way he said would benefit Americans. The speech was billed by his campaign as a major outlining of his policies and principles. Many of the policy ideas Trump listed on Saturday were familiar, not least his promise to build a wall on the border with Mexico to deter illegal immigration and to renegotiate trade deals and to scrap the Obamacare health policy.

Moments after promising Americans that he represented a hopeful break from the status quo, he promised to sue nearly a dozen women who have come forward in the last two weeks to accuse him of sexual assault, calling them liars.

And he added a new threat to his repeated castigation of US media corporations, which he says cover his campaign unfairly to help Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

“They’re trying desperately to suppress my vote and the voice of the American people,” Trump, who often rails against media outlets and journalists covering his events, told supporters in his speech. Trump has not provided evidence for his assertion that the election would be rigged.

“As an example of the power structure I’m fighting, AT&T is buying Time Warner and thus CNN, a deal we will not approve in my administration because it’s too much concentration of power in the hands of too few,” Trump said.

Telecommunications company AT&T Inc has agreed in principle to buy Time Warner Inc, one of the country’s largest film and television companies, for about \$85 billion and an announcement could be made as early as Saturday. Trump also said he would look at “breaking” up the acquisition by Comcast Corp of the media company NBC Universal in 2013.

“Deals like this destroy democracy,” he said in explaining his apparent deviation from the traditional Republican position that seeks to minimize the taxation and regulation of American companies.

Amazon.com Inc, the online retailer, should also be paying “massive taxes”, Trump said, reminding voters that Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos also owns the *Washington Post*, a newspaper whose coverage Trump dislikes.

Trump, a wealthy New York building developer and television star, acknowledged in a debate with Clinton on 9 October that he had used investment losses to avoid paying taxes. The *New York Times* reported on 1 October that Trump’s declared loss of \$916 million in 1995 was so large that he could legally have avoided paying any federal income taxes for up to 18 years.

At a campaign event later on Saturday in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Clinton criticised Trump’s stance on news outlets, noting that she receives negative coverage too.

“When he blows up at a journalist or criticises the press and goes on and on and on - you know, I get criticised by the press,” she said. “I believe that’s part of our

democratic system.”

In a statement, Clinton spokeswoman Christina Reynolds described the speech as “rambling, unfocused, full of conspiracy theories and attacks on the media, and lacking in any real answers for American families.”

Although Trump on Saturday described his plans at least in part as a response to his belief media organisations had treated him unfairly, he argued that less wealthy voters had even greater cause to worry.

“When a simple phone call placed with the biggest newspapers or television networks gets them wall-to-wall coverage with virtually no fact-checking whatsoever, here is why this is relevant to you,” he said. “If they can fight somebody like me who has unlimited resources to fight back, just look at what they could do to you, your jobs, your security, your education, your health care.”

Trump, who has said he may not accept the election’s outcome if he loses, is trailing Clinton in most polls — although he has narrowed the gap according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday. Clinton maintained her commanding lead in the race to win the Electoral College, however, and claim the US presidency, a Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project poll released on Saturday showed.

Trump has bluntly said that Mexico will pay for the wall, an idea the Mexican government has scoffed at.

He tweaked his language on Saturday, saying the United States would fully fund the wall with the understanding that Mexico would reimburse the cost. Trump’s campaign was thrown into crisis two weeks ago when a 2005 video was released showing him bragging about groping and kissing women, prompting several prominent Republicans to announce they would not vote for him.—*Reuters*

## UN Secretary General’s message on United Nations Day

24 October 2016

This year’s observance of United Nations Day occurs at a time of transition for the world and for the United Nations.

Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the Organization’s 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.

The world is also moving at long last beyond the mindset which viewed the burning of fossil fuels as the path to prosperity. At a time of record heat, Member States have embraced the Paris Agreement on climate change in record time. This landmark measure will enter into force on 4 November. Across that historic threshold lies our best chance for greener, cleaner, low-carbon growth.

The United Nations is also in transition, from its eighth Secretary-General to the ninth. I have been honoured to serve “we the peoples” for the past ten years. Together, we have put in place some solid foundations for shared progress – which we must build on by working even harder to empower women, engage youth and uphold human rights for all. But we have also suffered enormous heartbreak — including unresolved conflicts causing immense suffering throughout the troubled Middle East, South Sudan, the Sahel and beyond. On these and other frontlines of violence and disaster, courageous UN staff continue to rise to the occasion and respond to the plight of the vulnerable.

I thank people across the world for their support — and urge all to give their full backing to Secretary-General-designate Antonio Guterres in continuing our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.—*UNIC/Yangon*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Police officer killed, 10 people wounded in bomb in east Turkey

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey) — Two police officers were killed and 19 people were wounded when a car bomb exploded near a passing police vehicle in the eastern Turkish province of Bingol on Sunday, security sources said.

The bomb, planted by militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), was detonated near the district governor’s office, the security sources said.

Five police officers were among the injured, they said.

Turkey’s largely Kurdish southeast has been hit by waves of violence since the collapse of a 2-1/2-year ceasefire between the state and the PKK last year. The autonomy-seeking PKK is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and Europe.—*Reuters*

#### One found dead, 3 hurt after explosions in Tochigi, north of Tokyo

UTSUNOMIYA (Japan) — One person was found dead and three other people were injured after explosions occurred at two locations in Utsunomiya, the capital of Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo on Sunday, local police said.

The person who died was found with burns to the body in Utsunomiya Joshi Park after police received a call at around 11:40 am saying someone was seen engulfed in flames following the sound of a blast.

The three people injured were also in the park, where a festival was under way. Shortly before the incident, several cars caught fire in a nearby parking lot at around 11:30 am, following reports of blasts there. No one was injured in the parking lot.

Both incidents took place in a downtown area where the local city office and other buildings are situated. The park is located around 500 meters southeast of Tobu Utsunomiya Station.—*Kyodo News*

#### In EU’s interests to give Britain tariff-free trade post-Brexit — UK minister

LONDON — Britain will have tariff-free trade with the European Union after it leaves the bloc as it is in both sides interests to do so, transport minister Chris Grayling said on Sunday.

Asked whether the EU’s floundering free trade deal with Canada was a worry for Britain, Grayling, a leading campaigner for Brexit, said Britain’s relationship with the EU was different as it was the bloc’s most important export market.

“Nobody in continental Europe benefits from a reduction in the ability to trade with the United Kingdom,” Grayling told the BBC’s Andrew Marr show. “I have always been convinced we will have tariff-free trade, we will have sensible trading arrangements, because it is in both our interests that that should happen.” —*Reuters*

# Dozens of demonstrators arrested at North Dakota pipeline

DAKOTA — More than 80 protesters were arrested on Saturday after clashing with police near a pipeline construction site in North Dakota, according to the local sheriff's department, which said pepper spray was used on some demonstrators.

The 83 protesters were arrested near the site of the Dakota Access pipeline on numerous charges ranging from assault on a peace officer to rioting and criminal trespass, the Morton County Sheriff's department said in a statement.

Law enforcement was alerted early Saturday morning to an SUV on private property near the pipeline construction site and found that four men had attached themselves to the vehicle, according to the sheriff's department.

Police removed the men from the SUV before arresting them.

Later, around 300 protesters marched toward pipeline construction equipment and tried to breach a police line keeping them from the equipment, the sheriff's department said.



Protesters are confronted by police near a pipeline being built by a group of companies led by Energy Transfer Partners LP at a construction site in North Dakota, on 22 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Some were pepper sprayed by law enforcement. One protester attempted to grab a can of pepper spray from an officer, resulting in the officer being sprayed.

The demonstration closed a section of a local highway, but it was reopened on Saturday afternoon.

"Today's situation clearly illustrates what we

have been saying for weeks, that this protest is not peaceful or lawful," sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said in a statement.

"It was obvious to our officers who responded that

the protesters engaged in escalated unlawful tactics and behaviour during this event. This protest was intentionally coordinated and planned by agitators with the specific intent to engage

in illegal activities."

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and environmental activists have been protesting construction of the 1,100-mile (1,886-km) pipeline in North Dakota for several months, saying it threatens the water supply and sacred sites. Numerous protesters have been arrested near the pipeline.

It was unclear who organised and led the protest. A spokesman for the Standing Rock Sioux could not immediately be reached for comment.

The pipeline, being built by a group of companies led by Energy Transfer Partners LP, would be the first to bring Bakken shale from North Dakota directly to refineries on the US Gulf Coast.

Supporters say it would provide a safer and more cost-effective way to transport Bakken shale to the US Gulf than by road or rail.

Earlier this week, pipeline equipment in Iowa was intentionally lit on fire causing about \$2 million in damage, according to local authorities and company officials.—Reuters

## French police chief promises change after sixth night of protests -TV

PARIS — France's national police chief has promised to upgrade equipment and improve working conditions for the country's police, who staged a sixth night of protests across several cities.

The police have said

they are no longer properly equipped to do their jobs and face harsh working conditions. They staged protests in Paris, Strasbourg and Nancy on late Saturday, according to BFM TV.

"In Paris, it is mainly

young police officers who say they have lost confidence in their hierarchy, in the institution and in their unions," Jean-Marc Falcone, France's national police chief said in an interview with weekly newspaper *Journal du Dimanche*.

Falcone said he would equip the staff with modern and sophisticated weaponry and gadgets, while he would also seek to reduce the burden of static surveillance missions. "I understand their concerns. And I also should tell you that I

share almost all of their demands," Falcone said.

About 100 police gathered late on Friday in front of Notre Dame Cathedral in central Paris, just opposite the central police headquarters, according to BFM TV.

Some 3,000 of them took to the streets of French cities on Thursday night.

French President Francois Hollande said on Friday he would meet police representatives at his office early next week to hear their grievances.—Reuters



**Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-Qualification for Printing and Graphic Design Services in Myanmar**  
Reference No.: MAMA/EOI/2016/010

UNICEF invites Sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Pre-Qualification of Qualified Printing and Graphic Design Services for participation in Long Term Agreements (LTA) and official tenders.

Required services: 1) Offset Lithography; 2) Digital Printing; 3) Screen Printing; and 4) Graphic Design. Companies are allowed to present their interests on any or all of those services.

Selection criteria: Offset Lithography, Digital and Screen Printers will be assessed and qualified for the pre-qualification on the following criteria:

- Completeness of valid documents submitted as required in the Registration package;
- Individual assessment of printer/supplier (Including Financial Status/review);
- Adequate printing/binding equipment;
- Adequate printing premises;
- Adequate packing, storage and warehouse facilities;
- Capability to arrange transportation to different districts in Myanmar;
- Proven ability to handle both small and large orders;
- Proven ability to produce high quality work; and work effectively under pressure,
- Capabilities to communicate fluently both in written and verbal English,
- Established quality control mechanisms

Interested companies who have excellent printing quality and graphic design skills, a minimum of 5 years' experience with reputable clients and meet the above mentioned criteria to operate in Myanmar are invited to request for the EOI and detailed Questionnaire forms through the e-mail address [procurementyangon@unicef.org](mailto:procurementyangon@unicef.org). Last date to collect the EOI form is 26 October 2016. Kindly mention the EOI Reference No. in the subject line. The duly filled in EOI form along with the requested information and documentation must be delivered in both hard copy and e-copy as per instruction in the EOI form on or before 05:00 p.m (local time Yangon/Myanmar) 10 November 2016. Late receipt of the EOI shall be rejected.

## Australian minister says rights commissioner politicising role

SYDNEY — An Australian government minister criticised the human rights commissioner on Sunday for comments on the treatment of refugees and reproof of politicians, saying she had politicised her position and made "substantial errors of judgment".

Under Australia's tough immigration policy, people trying to arrive by boat are intercepted and sent to camps on the South Pacific island nation of Nauru and on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island. They are never eligible for settlement in Australia.

The head of the Human Rights Commission, Gillian Triggs, has had an

uneasy relationship with the government since she released a critical report on the treatment of children in detention in 2015, and she has criticised politicians over the treatment of asylum seekers.

Leader of the House Christopher Pyne on Saturday admonished Triggs in an interview with the ABC.

"The human rights commissioner and her position, or his position, should be above politics," said Pyne, who is also minister for defence.

"Gillian Triggs has made substantial errors of judgement in commenting on the political process and commenting on poli-

ticians."

The Human Rights Commission is an independent body, which has statutory responsibility to investigate complaints and breaches of human rights laws and advise courts and the government on rights issues.

On Saturday, thousands of people rallied in 25 towns and cities across Australia to welcome asylum seekers.

Pyne said it was matter for the prime minister and the attorney general to say if they had confidence in Triggs.

Neither Triggs nor her office was immediately available for comment.—Reuters

## Blue Angles performs during Houston Airshow



A formation of US Navy Blue Angles performs during the Houston Airshow at Ellington Airport of Houston, the United States, on 22 October 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Iran's president says US election offers only bad or worse choice

DUBAI — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday the choice offered to voters in the US presidential election was between “bad and worse” and that harsh exchanges in the debates pointed to a lack of morality in America, Tehran’s arch adversary.

“America claims it has more than 200 years of democracy, and they have had 50 presidential elections, but there is no

morality in that country,” Rouhani said in a speech, carried live by state television.

“You saw the presidential debates, how they talk..., how they accuse and mock (each other),” Rouhani told a crowd gathered at a stadium during his visit to the central city of Arak.

Rouhani said a head of state had asked him during his visit to the United Nations in September

about who he preferred between Republican candidate Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

“I said should I prefer bad over worse or worse over bad?,” said Rouhani, a pragmatist politician and cleric who may run for reelection in Iran’s presidential polls in May 2017.

He did not say to which candidate his descriptions referred.—Reuters

## British PM calls regional leaders to Downing Street for post-Brexit meeting

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May called Sunday the leaders of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to Downing Street for talks aimed at strengthening ties.

The behind-closed-door meeting will take place on Monday, and will be the first joint gathering May has chaired since becoming prime minister.

It will take place against a post-Brexit backdrop that could pose a threat to the survival of Britain.

This week Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon paved the way for a possible re-run of an inde-

pendence referendum.

Wales First Minister Labor’s Carwyn Jones will head to London aware of a keynote speech this weekend at the annual conference of Plaid Cymru, the Party of Wales.

Plaid’s leader Leanne Wood raised the question of Wales fast-forwarding its ambitions for independence if Scotland goes it alone.

Although Welsh independence has been a long-term dream of Plaid Cymru, Wood told delegates at her conference that the Brexit vote had changed things.

Wood said a time may

come when Wales has to decide whether to “hitch itself to Theresa May’s right wing England, or contemplate independence.”

She told her conference 200,000 jobs in Wales depend on Britain’s membership of the European Union.

Although the leave vote in Wales matched almost the same 52-48 Brexit vote across Britain, voters in Cardiff, the Welsh capital, backed remain in the 23 June referendum by a 60-40 margin.

Wood told the conference: “We might not have wanted this outcome, but we have to try and secure

the best possible deal for Wales.

But what we will not ever accept is a negotiated deal which sees Wales worse off. Our red line at all times is the Welsh economy. Plaid Cymru will never sign off or endorse something that is bad for Wales.”

At Monday’s meeting, May aims to set out her vision for a new way of working between the British government and the regional administrations.

A statement issued by Number 10 on Sunday, said that May will call on the regional administrations to commit to fully working

with the British government to enhance the prosperity and security of the people of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

“She will set out how the UK government is resolute in its commitment to strengthening the union further and making a success of the opportunities ahead. Additionally, the PM will seek agreement on strengthening ways of working, guaranteeing that relationships will be built on a basis of cooperation and consensus.”

The Downing Street gathering will discuss how the regional administra-

tions can work together to get the best deal for Britain and seize the opportunities that exiting the EU will bring.

Downing Street said May plans to invite the first and deputy first ministers to take up a key role in helping to build a new industrial strategy for the whole of Britain to spread wealth, jobs and opportunity more evenly, and ensure that the economy works for everyone.

Ahead of the meeting, May said: “When I stood upon the steps of Downing Street, I made clear the importance of our great Union.”—Xinhua

## Nepal proposes date for discussion with China on protocol to transit transport agreement

KATHMANDU — Nepal has proposed the date for holding the bilateral meeting with China on finalizing the protocol of the Transit Transport Agreement (TTA) for 6-8 November, a senior Nepalese government official said.

During visit of former Nepalese Prime Minister K.P Sharma Oli to China last March, the two nations had signed the agreement which will pave the way

for either country to use each other’s territory for third country trade.

However, the TTA is just a framework and is incomplete without the protocol.

The protocol to the TTA will include details about customs arrangements, mode of transport, types of cargo and operational modality.

Nepal’s third country trade is presently conduct-

ed only through Indian territory. The TTA with China allows the Himalayan country to transport its imports and exports via its neighbour’s territory.

Rabi Sainju, joint secretary at the Nepal’s Commerce Ministry, who also heads protocol preparation team of Nepal government, told Xinhua on Saturday that they proposed the date for holding the meeting on protocol.—Reuters

## Mass prison break in Haiti, 174 inmates flee after killing guard

ARCAHAIE, (Haiti) — Most inmates of a northern Haitian prison escaped on Saturday after killing a guard and stealing firearms, said authorities who launched a manhunt with support from UN peacekeepers for the 174 fugitives.

Police set up checkpoints on roads leading from the prison and detained several people without identity cards, a Reuters

witness said. However, the 266 inmates of Arcahaie prison do not wear uniforms, making it easier for escapees to mingle outside.

Eleven inmates were caught during the break, which happened during a period when some were bathing, officials said. The inmates broke into an area used by the guards, stealing at least five rifles among other weapons. One guard was shot dead.

Haiti’s Minister Of Justice, Camille Edouard Junior, said one prisoner died after falling off a wall and hitting his head during the escape from the Arcahaie prison on the coast north of capital Port-au-Prince.

“One guard was killed during the incident,” Edouard Junior told Reuters. “Three prisoner were wounded, including one who died as a consequence of his wounds.”—Reuters

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Mechanical Car Parking  
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**TRW**  
No. (31), Room (5), 7 Miles,  
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T: 09.259.81.36.36  
: 09.259.81.37.37  
: 09.259.81.46.46

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## Swedish Academy says up to Dylan if he wants to come to receive Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM — The committee that awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature to Bob Dylan said on Saturday it was up to the American singer-songwriter whether to attend the prize-giving ceremony later this year or not.

The notoriously media-shy Dylan has not yet made any comment on the 8 million crown (\$900,000) prize, despite repeated attempts by award-givers the Swedish Academy to contact him since it named him as the winner on 13 October.

On Saturday, Swedish media reported that Academy member Per Wastberg had said that if Dylan remained silent, it would be “rude and arrogant”.



Bob Dylan performs during a segment honouring Director Martin Scorsese, recipient of the Music + Film Award, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles on 12 January 2012.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

The Academy, however said Wastberg's comments did not reflect their view.

“The author awarded the Noble Prize makes up his or her own mind regarding the ceremonies involved in the presentation of the prize,” Sara Danius, Permanent Secretary of the Academy, said in a statement.

“The Swedish Academy has never held a view on a prize winners decision in this context, neither will it now, regardless of the decision reached.”

The Academy gave 75-year-old Dylan the prize for “having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”. It was a controversial choice.

Dylan revolutionized American popular song with numbers such as “Blowin’ in the Wind”, “The Times They Are A-Changin’”, “Subterranean Homesick Blues” and “Like a Rolling Stone.” Yet some have questioned whether his work qualifies as literature. Others have complained that the Swedish Academy missed an opportunity to bring attention to lesser-known artists. The award ceremony takes place each year on 10 December, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death, when the King of Sweden hands each laureate a diploma and a medal, followed by a lavish banquet at Stockholm's City Hall for about 1,300 people.—Reuters

## Anne Hathaway: Was not happy with 2013 Oscar win

LONDON — Actress Anne Hathaway has revealed that she was not happy after winning an Oscar in 2013 for “Les Misérables”.

The 33-year-old actress won the honour for her role of a prostitute named Fantine in “Les Misérables” and she said she was forced herself to smile after the win, reported Guardian.

“I felt very uncomfortable.

I kind of lost my mind doing that movie and it hadn't come

back yet.

Then I had to stand up in front of people and feel something I don't feel which is uncomplicated happiness,” Hathaway said.

“It's an obvious thing, you win an Oscar and you're supposed to be happy. I didn't feel that way.”

“I felt wrong that I was standing there in a gown that cost more than some people are going to see in their lifetime, and winning an award for portraying pain that still felt very much a part of our collective experience as human beings.”

She added, “I tried to pretend that I was happy and I got called out on it, big time.”

“That's the truth and that's what happened. But what you learn from it is that you only feel like you can die from embarrassment, you don't actually die.”—PTI

## Madonna and I are very different, I write all my music: Gaga

LOS ANGELES — Lady Gaga does not like comparisons with Madonna and the singer made it clear by saying she pens all her music on her own. Gaga threw shade at Madonna during an interview with Beats 1 Radio when host Zane Lowe compared the two singers and brought up their relationships with their dads, reported Us magazine.

“Madonna and I are very different. Just saying. We're very different. I wouldn't make that comparison at all and I don't mean to disrespect Madonna, she's a nice lady, and she's had a fantastic huge career, biggest pop star of all time.

“But I play a lot of instruments. I write all my own music. I spend hours and hours a day in the studio. I'm a producer. I'm

## Difficult to balance between work, motherhood: Underwood

LOS ANGELES — Singer Carrie Underwood has found it “difficult” to juggle her career with motherhood. The 33-year-old singer songwriter, who has 20-month-old son Isaiah with her husband Mike Fisher, has admitted she plans to take some time out of her busy schedule to celebrate the upcoming festival Halloween with her child, because she finds it hard when her “professionalism and mommyhood collide,” reported E! Online.

Speaking about parenting, the blonde beauty said, “I'm not going to lie, it's difficult when professionalism and your mommyhood collide - which is on a daily basis - but it's wonderful. “It's like bring your baby to work every day. He's just there, and it's great he's on the bus and helping me get ready. It might make things take a little longer, but he's just my little sunshine. He makes me happy all day. [But] I've blocked off some time to be able to take him trick-or-treating a little bit and got him a costume and everything.”—PTI



Singer Carrie Underwood.  
PHOTO: REUTERS



Lady Gaga.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

a writer. What I do is different,” the 30-year-old singer said.

By “different,” Gaga meant that she is “not just rehearsing over and over again to put on a show.”

“There is spontaneity to my work. I allow myself to fail. I allow myself to break. I'm not afraid of my flaws,” she added. However, she cleared that she don't mean that in a disrespectful way and would not like to get compared to anyone anymore.—PTI

Actress Anne Hathaway.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Condolences

Our deepest Sympathies and Heartfelt Condolences to the family of Mr. Po Yort (Managing Director, Myanmar Finance International Ltd) on the demise of their beloved mother (Mrs. Seng Youk, age-88 years) who passed away peacefully on 18.10.2016.



From

Board of Directors, Management team & Staff  
(Myanmar Finance International Ltd)

## Deepavali Festival to come in Singapore



Photo taken on 22 October 2016 shows decorative lights for the upcoming Deepavali Festival, or Festival of Lights, at Serangoon Road in Singapore's Little India. PHOTO: XINHUA

## At Palace Museum, the world mulls heritage protection

BEIJING — When Stefano De Caro first saw the Palace Museum, or Forbidden City, in the movie “The Last Emperor” in the 1980s, he thought, “this is China.”

After visiting the palace complex, however, it dawned on him that there was much more about China.

“The Palace Museum has over the years impressed me on many more perspectives,” De Caro, director-general of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), told Xinhua at the 2016 Ancient Civilization Forum, which was held at the Palace Museum from Wednesday to Thursday.

For example, the restoration work is fantastic, De Caro said. Today, the Palace Museum has a conservation team of more than 100 professionals, who are tasked with restoring and maintaining the museum’s

rich collection, which includes ancient calligraphic works, paintings, time pieces and bronze items.

The Palace Museum is home to the world’s largest ancient Chinese calligraphy and painting collection. While many are hundreds of years old, some were born over a millennia ago. The museum’s noteworthy efforts in conserving cultural treasures can be seen from “Five Oxen,” a painting scroll by 8<sup>th</sup> century artist and prime minister Han Huang.

Oxen represent agriculture as foundation of ancient China. Han, who was active during the Tang Dynasty, so elaborately depicted five oxen that their muscles, bones and hairs are as vivid as the living animals from which he drew inspiration.

The painting, which is the world’s oldest surviving Chinese paper painting, was lost during the warring period in 1900.

The central govern-

ment, at great financial cost, recovered the painting after it reappeared in Hong Kong in the 1950s. When the painting was returned to the Palace Museum, it had more than 200 holes and was stained with dirt and mould.

In 1977, careful restoration work began on this splendid piece of art, and after eight months it was restored to its previous splendor.

Stories of treasured Chinese antiques and artifacts being given a new lease of life have gone on within the red walls of the Forbidden City.

Earlier this year, “Masters in the Forbidden City,” a China Central Television documentary that profiled the work of the museum’s restoration department became an unexpected Internet hit. It clocked up over four million views and scored an impressive rating of 9.5/10 on a major video-streaming website in China.—Xinhua

## Baby girl ‘born twice’ after life-saving surgery to remove rare tumour

HOUSTON — Lynlee, a Texas baby girl, looks as healthy as other babies, but her birth in June was the second time she made an entrance into the world after surviving a life-saving surgery.

Lynlee’s mom, Margaret Boemer, went for a routine ultrasound 16 weeks into her pregnancy and shockingly found that her child had something wrong.

“They saw something on the scan, and the doctor came in and told us that there was something seriously wrong with our baby

and that she had a sacrococcygeal teratoma,” Boemer said in an interview shared by Texas Children’s Hospital.

“And it was very shocking and scary, because we didn’t know what that long word meant or what diagnosis that would bring,” she said.

Sacrococcygeal teratoma is a tumour that develops before birth and grows from a baby’s tailbone, according to Texas Children’s Hospital. Found more often in girls than boys, it is a type of tumour commonly seen in newborns, but its oc-

currence is very rare, with only one in 35,000 births, the hospital said. Some of these tumours can be tolerated during pregnancy and be removed after birth, Dr. Darrell Cass, co-director of Texas Children’s Fetal Centre and associate professor of surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology at Baylor College Medicine, told the CNN.

But Lynlee was not that lucky as her heart showed signs of failing, he added. Cass told Boemer that fetal surgery is another possibility, but this option is risky both for the baby

and the mom.

Boemer decided to take the surgery as it would still mean a glimmer of hope for her baby’s survival. “We wanted to give her life,” she said.

Cass performed the emergency fetal surgery in March when Boemer was about 24 weeks pregnant.

Cass and another pediatric surgeon made an incision in Boemer’s uterus, pulled out the baby and removed the giant tumour from her small body. Then they placed the baby back inside her mom’s womb.—Xinhua

## China’s Tibetan cultural delegation wraps up Britain visit

LONDON — A Chinese delegation on Saturday wrapped up its three-day trip to Britain where they visited universities and a media house to boost exchanges on Tibetan culture.

The delegation visited universities of Oxford, Westminster and Cambridge where they talked with researchers and students on issues ranging from Tibet’s opening up and religious freedom, to the ancient culture in the area and the trans-

lation of the Tibetan Buddhism scriptures.

They also visited the headquarters of the Daily Telegraph and talked with senior editors on foreign affairs. Zhang Yun, head of the delegation and also director of the Institute of History Studies of the China Tibetology Research Centre, said he hopes to present the real Tibet to the Western world by breaking the myth and clearing up misunderstandings through the visit.—Xinhua



- 6:00 am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:35 am
- People’s Talks
- 8:35 am
- Women in Myanmar Society
- 9:35 am
- Life Struggles
- 10:35 am
- Documentary
- 10:45 am
- Documentary
- 11:15 am
- ASEAN Programme
- 11:35 am
- MRTV’s Youth Programme
- 12:35 pm
- TV Drama Series
- 1:25 pm
- TV Drama Series
- 2:15 pm
- Teleplay
- 3:15 pm
- Tasty Trip
- 4:10 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) — Fourth Year (Psychology)
- 4:35 pm
- Socio Economic Sciences
- 5:15 pm
- This Week’s Special Interest
- 5:35 pm
- Yes or No Talk Show “View on Mountaineering Sport or Adventurer”
- 6:35 pm
- Law Affairs
- 7:15 pm
- TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- News
- TV Drama Series

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

## mitv Myanmar International

(24-10-2016 07:00am ~ 25-10-2016 07:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2)
		Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
07:41	Am	History Of Kyaik Wyne Pagoda
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone
08:51	Am	Writer
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City
09:52	Am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
10:49	Am	Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market

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

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-1) Part -1
07:47	Pm	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part- 4)
08:53	Pm	Fortune Teller: “Yan Moe Aung”

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

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

# Locatelli gives Milan controversial win over Juve

MILAN — A stunning second-half strike by 18-year-old Manuel Locatelli gave AC Milan a 1-0 win over Juventus after the Serie A titleholders had a goal controversially disallowed on Saturday.

Juventus thought they had gone ahead in the first half from Miralem Pjanic's free kick but the goal was ruled out for offside after a two-minute consultation between match officials.

It was Milan's first win over Juventus for nearly four years and ended a run of nine successive defeats against the Turin side.

Earlier, an unlucky own goal by Armando Izzo handed Sampdoria a 2-1 win over neighbours and bitter rivals Genoa in a pulsating derby. Sampdoria also missed a penalty in first-half stoppage time.

Juventus stayed top with 21 points from nine games but Milan closed the gap to two points.

"It's clear that the goal

was good, everyone else is saying that, not just me," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri. "The Milan protests made the referee doubt his decision, but we as teams should think about playing."

Juventus have won the last five Serie A titles while Milan have slumped into mid-table mediocrity but the seven-times European champions have made a bright start this season under new coach Vincenzo Montella.

The game at San

Siro was an intense, tactical battle but erupted in controversy after 35 minutes.

Pjanic floated a 35-metre free kick over the wall, Juve's Leonardo Bonucci lunged and failed to make contact with the ball but distracted Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and it flew into the net.

Juventus players were back on the halfway line waiting for the restart when referee Nicola Rizoli disallowed the goal for offside against Bonucci although replays suggested he was inside when the ball was played.

Locatelli added to Juve's sense of injustice

when he collected Suso's pass and fired an unstoppable shot past Gianluigi Buffon into the top corner in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute.

Donnarumma, 17, ensured

Milan's win by turning away Sami Khedira's long-range shot with the last kick of the game.

Sampdoria ended a six-match winless run that had put coach Marco Giampaolo's job on the line in the so-called Derby of the Lighthouse.

Genoa's misfortune came two minutes into the second half when Luis Muriel crossed from the right, goalkeeper Mattia Perin palmed the ball away but it flew straight at Izzo and rebounded into the net.

Colombia forward Muriel, a constant thorn in Genoa's side, gave Sampdoria the lead after 12 minutes when he side footed the ball home after Fabio Quagliarella cleverly laid the ball into his path. Luca Rigoni levelled in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute from Edenilson's pass and the hapless Izzo saw a shot hit the crossbar shortly after that. Quagliarella won a penalty for Sampdoria in the first-half stoppage time and the same player took the spot kick but saw his effort saved by Perin.

—Reuters



AC Milan's Manuel Locatelli celebrates after scoring. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Mihara takes 3<sup>rd</sup>, Asada 6<sup>th</sup> in Skate America

CHICAGO — Japan's Mai Mihara reached the podium in her ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating debut, finishing third at Skate America on Saturday.

Mihara, who was second after Friday's short programme, finished with 189.28 points. Her compatriot and three-time world champion Mao Asada finished sixth with 176.78. Ashley Wagner of the United States finished first with 196.44, followed by countrywoman Mariah Bell with 191.59. Japan's Kanako Murakami (145.03) was 10<sup>th</sup>.

Despite a good first showing, the 17-year-old Mihara was less than delighted.

"In competition, I didn't skate as strongly as I'm able and that is frustrating," Mihara said with tears in her eyes.

Things began to go awry in the second half of her program on a double Axel-triple toe loop combination, when she under-rotated the second jump.

Another mistake soon followed.

Asada, meanwhile, made a series of jump mistakes in a free program in which her score of 112.31 was more than 30 points off her career best.

"I was unable to establish my timing or rhythm during the latter half of the programme when fatigue set in," said Asada, whose shoulders slumped and head hung after failing to reach a Grand Prix podium for the first time since 2010. "I'm a long way off."

Asada landed just one of her planned jumps cleanly and her edge work was lacking in her closing steps.

"If she was at full strength, she would be able to resolve this easily," Asada's coach Nobuo Sato said.

Japan's Shoma Uno landed a quad flip en route to winning the men's short program with 89.15 points. —Kyodo News

# Late Messi penalty seals dramatic Barca win

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi squeezed home a stoppage-time penalty to grab a thrilling 3-2 win for champions Barcelona in a controversial La Liga match at Valencia on Saturday.

Talisman Messi scored against Valencia for the 10<sup>th</sup> season in a row to put the visitors ahead in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute although team mate Luis Suarez was in an offside position and obstructing the view of goalkeeper Diego Alves.

Earlier, Barca captain Andres Iniesta was carried off on a stretcher due to a knee injury while Sergio Busquets was fortunate not to receive a second yellow card before the break.

Valencia turned the game around in four second-half minutes, Munir El Haddadi equalising against his parent club and Rodrigo Moreno putting the hosts ahead in the 56<sup>th</sup>.

Suarez lashed the ball home to pull Barca level and after Nani had missed a gilt-edged chance for Valencia, the Uruguayan won a penalty in the dying seconds that Messi sneaked just under the grasp of Alves.

Elsewhere, Espanyol drew 3-3 at home to Eibar, Real Sociedad beat Alaves 3-0 in a Basque derby and bottom club Granada

were held 0-0 at home by fellow strugglers Sporting Gijon.

Barca are top of the table on 19 points. Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid, both on 18, play on Sunday against Sevilla and Athletic Bilbao respectively.

"A lot of things happened in the game, the worst of all Andres'

injury," said Barca coach Luis Enrique. "In the end we showed we are able to overcome adversity." Valencia's Mestalla stadium was full for the first time this season as fans welcomed new coach Cesare Prandelli for his maiden home game, having won 2-1 at Gijon the week before. —Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (R) and Valencia's Enzo Perez in action at Mestalla Stadium, Valencia, Spain on 22 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS