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## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

### PRESIDENT ATTENDS MEKONG SUMMITS IN HANOI

THE seventh Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Summit (ACMECS 7) and the eighth Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit (CLMV 8) were opened in Hanoi yesterday.

President U Htin Kyaw attended the opening ceremony of the 7th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy Summit and the 8th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit in Hanoi yesterday.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, President U Htin Kyaw stressed the need to work collectively for meeting the economic development targets of Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos, urging the countries to find new ways to overcome the challenges ahead. Current cooperation among the countries should be transformed into clear and effective ways in order to be more effective, he suggested. He also called for effective management of development projects in the region.

At the opening ceremony, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Hun Sen and Prime Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Laos Mr Thongloun Sisoulith also gave welcoming speeches. **See page 3 >>**



President U Htin Kyaw delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit (CLMV-8) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Summit (ACMECS-7), in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

#### INSIDE

'Milestone' reached as Myanmar nationals return home from Thai border camps

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### Suspected border police attackers arrested, one dies after altercation

ONE of the six suspects arrested in an area clearance operation made by Tatmataw columns on 14 October died on the way to the hospital three days later. The death sparked an official investigation as well as numerous discussions on social media.

According to investigators,

six people suspected in the violent attacks of 9 October on border police outposts were arrested in Ridar village of Maungtau Township on 14 October. Among them were Khawrimular, 60, his three sons and two of his brothers. All were jailed at Kyeinchaung Police Station. After taking away

Khawrimular for interrogation on the evening of October 16, Tatmataw troops brought him back to Kyeinchaung Police Station on the morning of 17 October. On the way back, the suspect grabbed a firearm from a soldier. Responsible personnel managed to subdue Khawrimular, but he

lost consciousness as a result. On the way to the hospital in a car, he died near the village of Longdone at about 5:30am on 17 October, it is learnt.

Authorities have opened an investigation into the death, in accord with the law.—*Myanmar News Agency*



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်





President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Vietnamese Premier, discussing bilateral cooperation in the agricultural and fishery sectors and expansion of air flights. PHOTO: MNA

## Child playhouses containing illegal gambling dens found

Ko Moe

“SOME child-playing houses are making money by running illegal betting businesses behind locked doors. Proprietors of such game shops will be arrested promptly if found. Presently, children are playing with toys while illegal gambling, including use of gambling machines, occurs, it is learnt. If and when such game shops are found, it is needed for the public, township police and township administrators to be in-

formed. Effective actions will be taken against them. Every responsible person has been instructed not to be involved in such cases. Dubious personnel will have action taken if they are found to be involved in fraudulent cases,” said Col Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Border Affairs at the Yangon Region Hluttaw on Tuesday.

The response came in reply to a question raised by U Nay Phone Latt, Hluttaw representative of Thingangyun township

constituency 1 as to whether there were plans to take action against shops that are running gambling games upstairs at the AKK Shopping Mall in Thingangyun township.

“Such game machines are ensured not to be imported into the country. Scrutiny of giving out licenses will be made in consultation with departments concerned”, Col Tin Aung Tun added,

There are 43 licensed child playhouses in Yangon Region, it is learnt.

## Milestone reached as Myanmar nationals return home from Thai border camps

THE Labour Department officially received 68 Myanmar nationals from camps along the Thai-Myanmar border yesterday, providing aid and temporary shelter.

The ceremony was held yesterday at a reception camp set up in Myawady, a border town in Kayin State.

Officials of Thailand National Security Council handed over the internally displaced persons (IDPs) comprising 30 men and 35 women from 19 households to the Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin.

The UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, called

the first voluntary repatriation of Myanmar refugees “a milestone”.

Following the ceremony, they were settled at temporary shelters and provided aid including K300,000 each to the families by the Department of Relief and Resettlement.

Authorities also carried out a survey to facilitate the finding of jobs for the returnees.

Meanwhile, a household comprising six refugees who wanted to go back home were handed over by the Thai authorities to the Myanmar side in Dawei, Taninthayi State, yesterday. — Myanmar News Agency



Myanmar internally displaced persons are seen at the ceremony to receive them in Myawady. PHOTO: MNA

## Myanmar business environment improves after reforms

### East Asia and Pacific Makes Steady Progress to Improve Business Environment: Doing Business Report

MYANMAR has improved its business regulatory environment over the past year through reforms on business registration and the enactment of a law that allows the establishment of a new credit bureau, finds the World Bank Group's annual Doing Business report.

The report finds that over two-thirds of East Asia and the Pacific region's 25 economies implemented 45 reforms in the past year to make it easier to do business, compared to only 28 reforms in the previous year.

Four economies in the East Asia and Pacific region rank among the top 10 economies globally in the Doing Business rankings. The top-ranked economies are New Zealand (at 1), followed by Singapore (2), Hong Kong SAR, China (4) and the Republic of Korea (5).

Myanmar now ranks at 170 among 190 economies on ease of doing business, compared to 171 last year. When compared with leading economies, Myanmar made starting a business easier

by reducing the cost to register a company. It also simplified the process by removing the requirement to submit a reference letter and a criminal history certificate in order to incorporate a company. Myanmar also improved its credit information system by enacting a law that allows the establishment of a new credit bureau. However, the report also noted that Myanmar made trading across borders more difficult for traders as they experience higher costs and time delays due to congestion at the port of Yangon.

“Myanmar is steadily making progress in creating a business environment that will help the country sustain its strong pace of growth,” said World Bank Country Manager for Myanmar Abdoulaye Seck. “Pursuing business reforms will help the country create a vibrant private-sector and eventually, more jobs and better income for the people of Myanmar.”

Myanmar has the potential to follow the same path of inclusive growth as other high performing countries in the region, the



Workers are seen at the production line of a garment factory in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

report noted. Indonesia, which implemented seven reforms during the past year, made Starting a Business easier by abolishing the

minimum capital requirement for small and medium-size enterprises and by encouraging the use of an online system to reserve com-

pany names. As a result, it now takes 22 days to start a business in Jakarta, compared with 46.5 days previously.



# President U Htin Kyaw receives warm welcome from president of Viet Nam

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw was accorded a warm welcome by the President of Viet Nam and wife at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi yesterday.

Afterward, the President inspected the guard of honour, taking the salute.

Before the bilateral meeting at the presidential palace, the two Presidents and the First Ladies posed for documentary photos at the stateroom of the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, President U Htin Kyaw and members, Vietnamese President Mr Tran Dai Quang and ministers and high-ranking officials, discussed promotion of bilateral relations, increased cooperation in economic and investment sectors and promotion of relations between the two countries' armies. A joint communiqué was released about promotion of bilateral relations, economic cooperation, promotion in invest-



President U Htin Kyaw inspects the guard of honour in Hanoi. PHOTO: MNA

ment and trade sectors and cooperating closely under the framework of CLMV & ACMECS.

Following this, the President and party met with the team led by the Vietnamese Premier, discussing bilateral cooperation in the agricultural and fishery

sectors and expansion of air flights.

The President also met with Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party at the Party Headquarters.

At night, the President and wife attended the state

banquet hosted by the Vietnamese President and wife.

In the morning, the President and wife Daw Su Su Lwin visited the ancient university in Hanoi, accompanied by officials from the Myanmar embassy to Viet Nam. — *Myanmar News Agency*

## Election commission seeks cooperation from ministries to hold by-election

THE Union Election Commission has urged relevant ministries to cooperate in preparation for holding an April-1 by-election.

At the consultation meeting between the UEC and seven ministries, UEC's Chairman U Hla Thein said respective election commissions at different levels are carrying out door-to-door scrutiny-cum-data collection. Hence, respective ministries are requested to co-operate in the activity.

By-elections for 19 va-

cant parliamentary seats at different levels in respective constituencies is slated to be held on 1 April 2017, with the time schedule for the election process released.

"It is clearly promulgated in the law to compile voter lists for by-elections based on the voter lists of 2015 general elections", said U Hla Thein.

In regard to casting votes in advance for voters who have been abroad with the permission of the government, arrangements

will be made in consultation with the Foreign Ministry for a smooth process, he added. The chairman of the UEC also called on the Ministry of Education to help election booths for the upcoming by-elections to be built in schools where previous election booths were located and to help teaching staff to perform when they are in charge of voting booths during elections.

"Especially, local and foreign election observatory

units are to be allowed to be free, fair and above-board by-elections 2017," said the chairman.

Afterward U Tin Tun, secretary of the UEC, explained in detail the working process under way and responsible officials from ministries pointed out weaknesses found in previous 2015 general elections and plans for their cooperation in the by-elections to come, according to their respective sectors.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## British Ambassador calls on Union Minister for Information

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Partick at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed matters on releasing information on the recent violent armed attacks in Rakhine State.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Moderate earthquake strikes Myanmar

A moderate earthquake with 5.0-magnitude jolted northwestern Myanmar yesterday, according to the Mandalay seismological observatory.

With its epicenter about 8 km east of Minkin and 184 km northwest of

Mandalay, the quake struck at 8:51 a.m. local time (0221 GMT).

The quake was felt in Monywa and Minkin townships in Sagaing region.

No immediate report on casualties or damages are available.—*GNLM*

## President attends Mekong summits in Hanoi

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The meeting came to a close with addresses made by Mr Le Luong Minh, general secretary of ASEAN, Deputy Secretary-General of UN Ms Shamshad Akhtan, a resident representative of ACMECS's Economic Council and a representative of ADB.

Prior to the opening ceremony of ACMECS, President U Htin Kyaw, prime ministers of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, deputy prime minister of Thailand and secretary-general of ASEAN posed for official photos.

The prime minister and dignitaries clarified matters relating to acquiring increased development in the Mekong Region, speeding up regional co-operation for the progress of ACMECS economic co-operation, situations on cooperation among ACMECS member-

countries, releasing a communiqué of ACMECS-7 and a place and date for ACMECS-8.

ACMECS-7 ended with the closing address of Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, prime minister of Viet Nam.

After the ceremony of ACMECS-7, CLMV was held. Prime Ministers and heads of state including U Htin Kyaw discussed matters on creating images for CLMV's future and opportunities and challenges for the CLMV's economic development, agenda for cooperation for economic competitions and regional unity, choosing the date and the place to hold CLMV-9 and releasing a communiqué on CLMV-8.

After the meetings, President U Htin Kyaw and wife laid a wreath on the Mausoleum of Viet Nam's Soldiers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## LUXURIOUS & TRANQUIL WEEKEND 'BUBBLY' BRUNCH AT SEDONA YANGON



Relax this weekend away from the hustle and bustle at Sedona's 'Bubbly' Brunch that serves up an indulgent spread of mouth-watering delicacies and cuisine, with seafood, sushi, sashimi, carving & 'live' cooking stations and an extensive salad bar for the health conscious!

Immerse yourself in luxurious surroundings with 'Live' Entertainment, comfort and 5\* services at our lavish Weekend 'Bubbly' Brunch available every Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday from 11.30pm to 3.00pm at D'Cuisine.

\* Free use of swimming pool for brunch & dinners.  
\* Seniors above 60 yrs and children below 12 yrs old enjoy 50% discounts.  
\* Free Parking  
\* MMK 1,000 credit vouchers for every MMK10,000 spend.

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**EXECUTIVE BUFFET LUNCH**  
Mondays to Fridays  
11.30am to 2.30pm

**INTERNATIONAL BUFFET DINNER**  
Mondays to Thursdays  
6.30pm to 10.00pm

**SEAFOOD AND BBQ BUFFET DINNER**  
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays  
6.30pm to 10.00pm

\*\*Inclusive of free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks





## Rabies control effort coming to Sangyaung, Mingala Taungnyunt Towns



Workshop for eliminating rabies in progress. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (Eco)

FOLLOWING the successful achievement in fighting rabies in Lanmadaw Township, the CNVR (Catch, Neuter, Vaccination, Return) programme will be carried out in Sangyaung and Mingala Taungnyunt townships, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The decision was made at the workshop on the subject of elimination of rabies in Yangon, sponsored by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation yesterday.

During the two-day workshop, participants including experts and officials of the Yangon City Development Committee discussed how

to implement the CNVR method effectively and systematically.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was attended by Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance U Myint Thaung, MPs of the Yangon Region parliament, members of the YCDC, international experts, NGOs, Vice Chairman of the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation Daw Nang Kham Naung and invited guests.

Under the agreement between the YCDC and Washington DC-based Humane Society International (HSI) and Thailand-based Soi Dog Foundation (SDF), KBZ's Brighter

Future Myanmar Foundation, a prominent philanthropist organization in Myanmar, conducted the workshop with the technical assistance of the two foreign organisations.

Rabies is a zoonotic disease transmitted by the bite or saliva of a rabid animal.

The burden of rabies is very high worldwide; 30,000 to 50,000 people die annually due to rabies and around 10 million people take the rabies vaccination for fear of rabies. Awareness against rabies, vaccination of animals against rabies and controlling the population of dogs are important preventive measures.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

## Myanmar seafarers travel to Europe for technical trainings

SOME international shipping companies plan to send Myanmar seafarers to Germany and Cyprus in early 2017 to polish their skills through technical training, local seafarers say.

Those local seamen working for three German shipping lines will have an opportunity to learn state-of-the-art technology as well as international shipping rules practiced by the world's marine industry from foreign experts.

The German companies plan to send the local sailors to European countries between January and June next year to

promote deck-related skills as well as to turn out qualified ship mechanics.

All trainees will receive half of their salary provided by the companies while they are attending the training abroad.

A local seafarer said many Myanmar seafarers have good reputations in the international market, while many others are facing difficulties, adding that, due to low demand, junior officers face less employment opportunities as shipping companies want to appoint more experienced men.—200



Daw May Zaw Oo, a member of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, seen before leaving for Japan to participate in the JENESYS 2016 (Theme; Economics) 3rd Batch trip from 25 October to 9 November. PHOTO: MWEA

## Inmates moved to Mohnyin from Myitkyina

OVER 300 inmates from Myitkyina Correctional Facility in Kachin State have been moved to Mohnyin in September because of overcrowding.

Located in Kachin State in northern Myanmar, the Myitkyina Correctional Facility has a capacity of 1,000. However, the prison at one point housed 3,318 inmates, including 626 female prisoners.

That is why the prison authorities decided to move 400 inmates, including 100 women, to Monywa Correctional Facility in Sagaing Region in upper Myanmar. The authorities organised the transfer of 300 inmates between 17 and 23 October, with plans to move an additional 100 prisoners on 27 October, said U Hla Win



The correctional facility of Myitkyina, Kachin State. PHOTO: MMK

Maung of the Correctional Department (Myitkyina branch).

Apart from the overcrowding factor, there are no significant problems at the Myitkyina Correctional Facility, he

added. Regional instability, weak employment opportunities and the transportation barrier led to more crimes in the region, he commented.—Myitmakha News Agency

## Crime NEWS

### Two injured in bus accident on highway

A bus accident caused by a sleepy driver occurred on the road between Yangon and Mandalay on Wednesday morning, leaving two people with moderate injuries.

An express bus owned by New Mandalay Htun Highway Express Group carrying over 30 passengers, including a monk and 10 women, was being driven by U Naung Naung en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon when it crashed into a bridge

between mile post Nos. 58/0 and 58/1 at around 4 a.m.

The tired driver and a monk sustained moderate injuries during the collision, which damaged the wide parts of the vehicle, causing damage of approximately Ks2 million, the investigators said.

The highway police charged the driver under Sections 337/338 of the Penal Code for reckless driving.—Than Oo (Laymyatna)



# LOCAL Business

## Thailand to open OTOP Minimart stores in China, Myanmar, Laos

THAILAND plans to open OTOP Minimart stores in China, Myanmar, Laos and other neighboring countries to promote the sales of its indigenously-manufactured goods.

Thailand's OTOP, the acronym for One Tambon (community), One Product, will be given international sales campaigns by OTOP Intertrader (Thailand) Co. Ltd. and under support of the Department of Community Development, the firm's president Watcharapong Radomsithipat said on Wednesday.

The firm has planned to open OTOP Minimart stores in Myanmar and Laos next year, followed by Cambodia and Vietnam in the next few years and finally in China and Malaysia in the following years,

Watcharapong said.

It remains to be seen how many OTOP Minimart stores will open in each of Thailand's neighboring countries, according to the firm's president.

Most OTOP goods will be fresh and processed fruits, fresh and processed foods, and handicraft items.

Meanwhile, an initial stage of a domestic sales campaign called for the opening of OTOP Minimart stores in 10 provinces with 2,000 to 3,000 OTOP goods for sales at each store, he said.

Those provinces include Ayuthaya, Saraburi and Kanchanaburi in the central region, Tak and Chiang Mai in the north, Roi-et and Kalasin in the northeast and Surat Thani, Chumporn and Patalua in the south.—Xinhua

## Domestic price of dried fish drops by half from excess supply of raw fish

WITH an excess supply of raw fish, the domestic price of dried fish has slumped by half, it is learnt from the fish paste and dried fish sellers.

The supply of raw fish is currently high. The dried fish market plunged by half starting in September, resulting from low demand in the market, said U Tun Sein, a dried fish seller.

While the domestic price is dropping, the export price of dried fish is normal, said U Soe Win Naing, the chairperson of the Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Producers Association.

"The price of dried fish slumped by around

Ks2,000, whereas that of some varieties decreased by half. We cannot blame on the excess supply of raw fish because the fishermen will catch as much as they can", he continued.

"The price of dried fish declines sharply. The dried fish market is not doing well", said U Khin Lat, a dried fish seller in Bayintnaung commodity depot.

Despite the low price of dried fish in the domestic market, the export price of the various dried fish has remained unchanged. Over 100,000 viss of shrimp paste is exported monthly to Thailand, it is learnt from the association.—200



Dried fish displayed by the vendors. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Price of 92 octane higher than that of diesel in Yangon market

THE price of 92 octane fuel is higher than that of diesel in the Yangon market, even though the imported price of octane is lower than that of diesel.

During 10th to 14th October, the price of imported diesel was Ks598 per liter, whereas that of Octane was Ks586. However, the price of 92 octane

is Ks620-630, whereas the price of diesel is Ks610-625 per liter, said Ko Than Win, a driver.

The price tag at a state-owned fuel oil station on Bayintnaung Road, Hlaingthaya Township mentions that the prices are Ks2,550 per gallon of diesel, Ks2,500 per gallon of fuel oil and Ks2,920 per 92

octane on 22nd October.

From the end of 2015 to the end of May 2016, the import price of diesel per liter was lower than the liter price of 92 octane. Starting from early June, the import price of diesel was higher than that of 92 octane. A similar price is offered during the first and second week

of October. However, the diesel price in Yangon market is seen to be lower than 92 Octane, unlike the import price.

Those who are running the vehicles with diesel are happy with the lower price. However, the owners of the cars which use octane petrol are not satisfied with a high price.—Khin Saing



A worker fills a car with fuel at a filling station in Yangon on 26 August. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Pet fish required to create market

A demand for pet fish is needed to expand Myanmar's ornamental fish trade, it is learnt from the Myanmar Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association.

"We need a firm market to trade the ornamental fish. The pet fish market is wider in the foreign market, with its own and export market. It would be better if the government intervenes", said U Sai, the

chairperson of Myanmar Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association.

Most of the ornamental fish keepers are doing it for a hobby or part-time. The prices of ornamental fish vary depending on the variety. Currently, ornamental fish keepers are dealing with space problems, he added.

There is a marketplace showcasing the many va-

rieties of ornamental fish on Friday mornings at the Yangon Zoological Gardens. The sellers of ornamental fish across the nation come to this place, it is learnt.

There are also small scale pet stores. Sure, the market is required for the pet fish keepers who are working on a commercial scale, said Ko Htein Lin, an ornamental fish keeper

from Yankin Township.

The association has already discussed the possible help of the government at a meeting of the Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF) on 25th October.

Myanmar Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association was organized in 2007 by MFF, having over 300 members.—Myit-makha News Agency

## Service stations for mechanised agriculture to be established

TOWNSHIP-based service stations for mechanised agriculture will be built to facilitate manufacturing of crops, said U Thauung Win, an executive director from the Myanmar Agribusiness

Public Corporation (MAPCO).

MAPCO will set up the service stations for mechanised farming in Kyaiklat, Letpadan, Shwetaung and Sittwe.

The company is currently establishing the stations in Nay Pyi Taw, Kyaiklat and Twantay. A similar plan will proceed to Myaungmya, Maubin, Shwetaung in Western

Bago and Rakhine State, it is learnt.

The stations will include showrooms featuring reaping machines, fertiliser, agricultural machines and tools.—200



# Deadly Australian theme park ride had just had safety checks — owner

SYDNEY — A water ride that killed four people at an Australian amusement park in one of the world's deadliest theme park accidents had completed an annual safety inspection less than a month ago, the park's owner said on Wednesday.

Police were examining the Thunder River Rapids Ride at Dreamworld, near Gold Coast in Queensland state, where the four adults died Tuesday after being trapped under an upturned raft.

The owner of the park, Ardent Leisure Group, said the ride had completed its annual mechanical and structural safety engineering inspection on 29 September.

"As per regulations, this safety audit was conducted by a specialist ex-

ternal engineering firm," Ardent said in a statement. The ride, meant to simulate going over river rapids, uses round floating devices that seat six and can reach speeds of 45 kph (28 mph). It is described by Dreamworld as a "moderate thrill" attraction for those older than two.

A collision between two rafts flipped one, throwing two children, aged 10 and 13, free and trapping four adults beneath it, Queensland assistant police commissioner Brian Codd told reporters. He said the adults became caught in the ride's conveyor-belt machinery.

Police have called for witnesses to come forward.

The victims, two men aged 33 and 38 and two women aged 32 and 42,

all lived in Australia, police said. The New Zealand government confirmed one was a New Zealand citizen. Two children on the ride were being treated for injuries in hospital.

Police have not yet confirmed the relationship of the children to any of the adults.

Their deaths follow a similar accident at Dreamworld in April, when a 19-year-old man was seriously hurt after falling from another water ride.

The Australian Workers Union (AWU) said it had raised "grave concerns" about safety at the theme park with authorities and the park operator as early as April 2015.

"There is a very persistent and long process of representation by my un-



Members of the public leave floral tributes outside the main entrance to Dreamworld located on the Gold Coast, Australia, on 26 October 2016 after Tuesday's tragedy that saw four people killed on the Thunder River Rapids Ride at Australia's biggest theme park. PHOTO: REUTERS

ion to Dreamworld and to the division of workplace health and safety around safety issues at Dreamworld," AWU state secretary Ben Swan told Reuters.

Asked on Tuesday whether there were any earlier problems with the ride, Tod Reid, an inspector with Queensland Po-

lice, said: "I'm not aware, but that will be part of the investigation."

Forensic police and workplace safety authorities were checking CCTV footage and will prepare a report for the state coroner.

Shares in Ardent plunged 21 per cent at the open on Wednesday, adding to a 7 per cent fall in

the final hour of trading on Tuesday after the accident. By the close of trade the stock had pared some losses to finish 14.9 per cent lower.

The park is scheduled to reopen on Friday, with all the proceeds to be donated to the Australian Red Cross, Ardent said. —Reuters

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## Thai police chief says no room for royal insult in Thailand

BANGKOK

— Thailand's police chief said on Wednesday insulting the monarchy would not be tolerated and anyone considering doing so should get out of the country, after a spike in cases following the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 13 October.

The widely venerated king died at the age of 88 after seven decades on the throne and the military government has declared one year of mourning.

Speaking ill of the king and the royal family is not only taboo but also illegal under the criminal code which makes anyone who "defames, insults or threatens the king, queen, heir-apparent or regent" liable to 15 years in prison.

Following the king's death, many Thais have become sensitive to anything they deem disrespectful, especially in an outpouring of material about the king and the royal family posted online.

National police chief Jakthip Chaijinda said police were investigating 20 cases of royal insult, or lese-majeste, since the



A mourner holds up a picture of Thailand's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej as she waits in line to offer condolences at the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

king's death and arrest warrants have been issued for eight out of the 20 suspects.

"For lese-majeste cases, if people don't want to live in Thailand they should go abroad," Jakthip told reporters.

"If they don't have money for the air fare I will pay for it, they can ask me to buy their plane ticket," he added.

The government has also been taking steps to

stop what it regards as royal insults being committed abroad.

The foreign ministry said on Tuesday it had asked for the extradition of several people suspected of insulting the monarchy but it did not give details.

The military has long seen itself as the defender of the monarchy and it has over decades invoked its duty to protect the monarchy to justify its intervention in politics.

Since seizing power from a populist government in 2014, the junta has taken a hard-line stance against perceived royal insults and courts have handed down record sentences.

Critics and some Western governments have raised concern about the state of human rights since the coup.

Political activity and peaceful gatherings are banned and military courts have been used to try national security cases, including cases involving civilians.

The military government has defended its rights record saying it must act to maintain order after a decade of divisive and at times violent political rivalry that has pitted the royalist-military establishment against populist political forces.

The king's son and designated heir, Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, is in line to become the next king but has asked that his formal ascension be delayed while he grieves with the people, the government has said. —Reuters



# Philippines' Duterte tells Japan his China visit was just economics, blasts US

TOKYO — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sought to assure Japan on Wednesday that his high-profile visit to China last week was about economics, not security, and vowed to stand on Tokyo's side over the disputed South China Sea when the time came.

Earlier in the day, Duterte reiterated his harsh words for long-time ally Washington, saying he might end defence treaties.

The volatile Philippine leader's visit to Japan comes amid jitters about his foreign policy goals after weeks of verbal attacks on ally the United States and overtures toward China. Duterte last week announced in China his "separation" from the United States, but then insisted ties were not being severed and that he was merely pursuing an independent foreign policy. His perplexing comments pose a headache for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has tightened ties with Washington while building closer security relations with Manila and other Southeast Asian countries as a counter-weight to a rising China. "You know I went to China for a visit. And I would like to assure you that all there was, was economics. We did not talk about arms. We avoided talking about alliances," he told an audience of Japanese businessmen.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (L) and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attend a joint press conference at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Japan, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Duterte, speaking through a Japanese interpreter at the start of his talks with Abe, later said he would stand on Japan's side in the contentious matter of the South China Sea. Describing Japan as a "special friend who is closer than a brother", Duterte said after the meeting that Manila would work closely with Japan on regional issues of common concern and uphold the values of democracy, the rule of law and peaceful settlement of disputes including the South China Sea.

Reading from a statement, he added: "Today we have taken steps to ensure that our ties remain vibrant and will gain greater strength in the years to come." Both Tokyo and Wash-

ington have grown worried that the commitment under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino, to stand up to China in the South China Sea is under threat, although Japan has no direct territorial row with Beijing there.

Japan has a separate dispute with China over tiny, uninhabited isles in the East China Sea, and has been keen to stress the importance of the rule of law.

Abe, for his part, said he welcomed Duterte's efforts to improve Manila's ties with Beijing and — noting the South China Sea issue was one of international interest — said the two leaders had agreed on the importance of settling maritime disputes peacefully. —Reuters

# Getting North Korea to give up nuclear bomb probably 'lost cause' — US spy chief

WASHINGTON — The US policy of trying to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons "is probably a lost cause" and the best that could be hoped for is a cap on the country's nuclear capability, the Director of US National Intelligence James Clapper said on Tuesday.

However, underscoring conflicting views in the Obama administration, the State Department said US policy was unchanged and continued to be to seek the "verifiable denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula.

President Barack Obama has repeatedly stated that the United States will never accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state.

Clapper made clear at an event at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank in New York he did not think that the policy the administration has stuck to, in spite of repeated North Korean nuclear tests, was realistic.

"I think the notion of getting the North Koreans to denuclearise is probably a lost cause," Clapper said at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank in New York. "They are not going to do that — that is their ticket to survival."

Pyongyang has persisted with its missile and nuclear weapons programmes, including a 9 September nuclear explosion, despite strong international sanctions.

Clapper said he got a good taste of how the world looks from North Korea's viewpoint when he went to Pyongyang on a mission in 2014 to secure the release of



James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, US, on 25 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

two Americans. "They are under siege and they are very paranoid, so the notion of giving up their nuclear capability, whatever it is, is a non-starter with them," he said.

"The best we could probably hope for is some sort of a cap, but they are not going to do that just because we ask them. There's going to have to be some significant inducements."

US State Department spokesman John Kirby said he had not seen Clapper's remarks but told a regular news briefing in Washington that the administration did not believe denuclearisation was a lost cause.

"No, nothing's changed ... that's not our position. Our policy objective is to seek to obtain a verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. That is the policy; that is both the goal and what we want to see and there is a way to do that." —Reuters

# Chaos erupts as Hong Kong independence activists fight ban to enter legislative chamber

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's legislature descended into chaos on Wednesday as two pro-independence lawmakers defied a barring order and barged into the chamber as democrats formed a human chain around them, forcing the session to be adjourned.

The president of the Chinese-ruled city's Legislative Council on Tuesday delayed the swearing-in of Yau Wai-ching, 25, and Baggio Leung, 30, and temporarily banned them from attending meetings, following weeks of pressure from factions loyal to Beijing.

"If we lose this war ... our system is done for. We have no room to retreat," said Leung, tears welling in his eyes.

The pair, who represent a new breed of more radical activists moving into the political mainstream, had their swearing-in oaths invalidated this month over language and a banner that was deemed derogatory to China.

"Democratically elected legislators need to take their oath," the democrats shouted as they made their way to the meeting, while shielding Yau and Leung.

They called on council president Andrew Leung to step down, while Yau accused him of "destroying the dignity" of the council, where chaotic scenes erupted as the session descended into farce.

Thousands of pro-Beijing loyalists rallied outside the legislature to condemn the pro-independence lawmakers.

Waving China's national flags, the protesters gave a thumbs-down sign as they shouted: "Against insulting China, against Hong Kong independence, protect national dignity."

The former British colony of Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under the principle of "one country, two systems", allowing it wide-ranging freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland.

Once a taboo topic, the issue of independence has gained momentum since pro-democracy protests in late 2014, which paralysed parts of the Asian financial centre, failed to wrangle concessions from Communist Party rulers in Beijing.

The two lawmakers insisted they had the right to enter the chamber to retake their oath of

office. Council rules state that members cannot attend meetings or vote before they take the oath. Andrew Leung said on Tuesday he would halt the pair's swearing-in ceremony until an unprecedented judicial review had been heard.

While the High Court last

weekend allowed the judicial review to go ahead, it thwarted a late-night government push for an injunction to halt the swearing-in — a move effectively overturned by Andrew Leung.

The government's writ seen by Reuters seeks to disqualify the

two and vacate their seats. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's decision to challenge the legislature via the judiciary demonstrates the steps the government is willing to take to quash advocacy for Hong Kong independence from China. —Reuters



Pro-China protesters demonstrate outside the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, China, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Opinion

## Write for us

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## Development of ethnic languages and literatures

Myint Win Thein

**T**HE 22<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competition successfully concluded recently. At the ceremony to honour doyen artistes, who acted as judges at the competition, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said that the government spends large sums of money on organizing the competition every year to preserve the traditional cultures of ethnic peoples.

Myanmar is a country of many ethnic peoples. Therefore, it needs to preserve many cultures and traditions and traditional dances of ethnic peoples, like the group dances of Rakhine and the Kayin ethnic groups at this year's event, which are gradually added to the competitions year by year.

Culture is defined as the customs and beliefs, way of life and social organisation of a particular country or group, including art,

music and literature. Among these cultural aspects, the most distinctive characteristic of culture is language. However, many ethnic languages are disappearing very rapidly around the world. Historians and linguists are making utmost efforts to record and save these endangered languages. We still do not know how many of these ethnic languages are facing extinction.

Although there are so many

foreign language courses and schools in Myanmar, we rarely find ethnic language schools. This is because they are not used very widely in schools, offices and businesses. It is time we made efforts with all seriousness to save ethnic languages by encouraging ethnic people to use their languages wherever possible and it is expected that ethnic language and literary contests will be added to the competition in the future.

## Beyond Being Strange

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

**N**ATIONAL DAY falls on 16 November, this year. The ceremony of pay homage to the ex-teachers who have served in No. 1, Basic Education High School, Kyaunggon in which Ko Kyaw Kha lives is often held on every National Day that falls in November. As that year's ceremony turns 25th anniversary of Silver Jubilee, it is magnificently held. Many ex-students of the school come back to the town in order to attend the ceremony.

As Ko Kyaw Kha is in poor health, he cannot attend it. He is the one who makes himself pleased with paying homage to his teachers from his home being meant for. To say vividly it has been for ten years Ko Kyaw Kha cannot attend this ceremony.

At about 10:30 a.m., while Ko Kyaw Kha is sitting in the easy chair in front of the altar, he hears a man's voice from the front of his house.

"Hey, do you remember me, I'm looking for again and again. It has been three or four times about here. I learnt No. 61, Yadanarbon Street by heart."

When Ko Kyaw Kha looks at the front door, he sees a man of about the same of his age wearing rather faded clothes, holding an umbrella in one hand and the other a small bag and smiling at him. Ko Kyaw Kha does not know him. No remembering may be more than not knowing. Ko Kyaw Kha knows well that the ex-students far and near often come back to the town on such day. The man must have also been an ex-student. Besides he must have known Ko Kyaw Kha very well. Thus he must have got to the front door Ko Kyaw Kha safe and sound greeted him.

Meanwhile, Ko Kyaw Kha tries hard to remember the man's name in his memory. However, he cannot. However, it is not suitable for Ko Kyaw Kha to talk to a guest at the very door. So, he invites him

to come in. Ko Kyaw Kha's living room is not splendid. There are three old single wooden chairs and a small dwarf plastic table only. Ko Kyaw Kha waves him to sit in a chair and makes a chat with him whose name he has not remembered yet.

After about ten minutes, Ko Kyaw Kha begins to remember the name of the guest's elder brother.

"Are you along with Ko Tin Myint in coming to the ex-teachers paying homage ceremony now?" said Ko Kyaw Kha revealing his brother's name first. Only after that, Ko Kyaw Kha remembers the man's name.

"Ko Tin Myint is along with the ex-teachers from Yangon and has already gone to the school. I come here to meet you. The address I remembered was No. 61, Yadanarbon Street. But it now is No. 43. So I've spanned round and round about here."

"You are Ko Tin Soe, aren't you?"

"Yeah, I am Tin Soe, right."

Ko Kyaw Kha has just remembered him well. Ko Kyaw Kha looks at his alive friend with whom both of them had been separated since he was in Grade VII, half surprised and half happy. Ko Tin Soe's family with seven family members was well-known. This was because his father was a Township Cooperative Officer who had five children – the eldest, Ko Tin Myint, Ma Khin Lay, Ma Khin Hnin, Ko Tin Soe and Ma Khin Mar in order respectively.

Being well-known to his family in the town was not because his father was a Township Cooperative Officer but because his two elder sisters and a younger sister were very beautiful ladies. The two brothers – Ko Tin Myint and Ko Tin Soe were themselves handsome with fair complexion. Among their family members, Ko Kyaw Kha was the most familiar to Ko Tin Soe as they were in the same Grade.

Ko Tin Soe also got on well with Ko Kyaw Kha's family but he

never invited Ko Kyaw Kha to his house. Ko Kyaw Kha also never asked Ko Tin Soe who had beautiful sisters for a chance of visit aware of existing circumstances.

Ko Kyaw Kha and Ko Tin Soe often went to Kyar Inn lake behind their High School in order to shoot birds with a catapult each at weekends as they both were in playing-age. Ko Tin Soe spent most of the time playing with Ko Kyaw Kha.

In the year in which Ko Kyaw Kha had sat the Grade VII examination, Ko Tin Soe's father had to transfer to Yangon. Both two friends happened to meet a cause to be separated. Before about a week of transfer, Ko Tin Soe came to stay at Ko Kyaw Kha's house. Ko Kyaw Kha's parents accepted him and took responsibility for his food. He slept with Ko Kyaw Kha, too. After the whole family of Ko Tin Soe had moved to Yangon, there were in regular contacts by mail between the two friends for a year. Later, their contacts got less and less and finally they have been losing their contact up to now.

If the contact-loss period is counted, there has been over 40 years. Not only Ko Kyaw Kha but also Ko Tin Soe encountered with new experiences of life and hard pounds of the way of the mundane world. To say the truth, under such circumstances, Ko Kyaw Kha entirely forgot Ko Tin Soe.

In today's chat, Ko Tin Soe tells Ko Kyaw Kha that he graduated and served as government staff in Custom Department in Yangon – for the first nine years as a clerk, for the second nine years as a Junior P.O. and for the third nine years as a P.O. After that he was arrested and sent to prison. After four months of imprisonment, he earned his living by the income of his better-half only. He is now learning the Dhamma of Lord Buddha. He also says that all the worldly business lead to Apāya, when death. So he concentrated his mind on Dhamma. He again asks which

line of Dhamma Ko Kyaw Kha is now learning.

Ko Kyaw Kha answers he is studying the Dhamma as much as he can reach. At this moment, he is listening the sermons preached by Ashin Nandamālābivumsa and during the past year, he was listening to the sermons of Mogoke Sayardawgyi, Ashin Nānissara and Ashin Javana.

Ko Tin Soe says he studies various strong dependences and likes the sermons of Ashin Okkatha, Venerable Mon of 'The-inn-gu'. He also says he is glad to hear that Ko Kyaw Kha is also practising Dhamma and gives two CDs of 'The-inn-gu' sermons which he has already brought. He, then, takes his hand phone out of his shirt pocket and says some selected sermons are copied from CD into the hand phone and it is easy to bring wherever he goes. Then, he asks the phone number of Ko Kyaw Kha and they exchange their numbers each other.

As the practicing methods of 'The-inn-gu', Ko Tin Soe explained are unfamiliar to Ko Kyaw Kha, they become the new knowledge for Ko Kyaw Kha. Ko Kyaw Kha decides to listen to the sermons from the CDs he gets as a present the next day. The paying homage ceremony for the ex-teachers will be started at 1 p.m., and Ko Tin Soe leaves for the school at about fifteen to one. Ko Kyaw Kha sends Ko Tin Soe off to the entrance of his house compound and remembers their younger days' playing vaguely gazing Ko Tin Soe's back.

At about the finished time of the ceremony, Ko Kyaw Kha makes a call to Ko Tin Soe. Ko Tin Soe answers the phone that he is on the way to Yangon-Pathein High way riding on a Tri-show. Ko Kyaw Kha tells him to make him a call without fail when he gets to his home.

However, Ko Tin Soe does not make a call about his arrival to Yangon that night. The next

Day, Ko Kyaw Kha waits for his friend's ring the whole day. But in vain. The next day, he again waits for it but in vain. Ko Kyaw Kha wants to make a call to Ko Tin Soe but he has lower credit in his

phone and so he does not want to make a call first because if they get contact, their chat may be rather long.

In this manner, Ko Kyaw Kha does not make a call to Ko Tin Soe up to tenth day. Ko Kyaw Kha tops up the bill of his phone today and so he decides to make a call to Ko Tin Soe first. He has been upset to the loss of contact for ten days after just an hour re-meeting of an old friend, who has been separated for over four decades.

Choosing the number of Ko Tin Soe in his contact list, he makes a call first. His call gets engaged with its destination instantly.

On the other side of the line... "Hello" a woman answers.

"Hello...it is Ko Tin Soe's number, isn't it?" asks Ko Kyaw Kha.

"Yeah, who is on the line of that side?"

"I'm one of Ko Tin Soe's friends. Ko Tin Soe got to my house on National Day as he came to the ceremony of paying homage to the ex-teachers of our school. As he went back to Yangon, he did not make me a call. I am worried if he is fine or not. So I make this call."

"Repeat me on which day, please."

"On National Day, 16 November."

There is a silence for a while and Ko Kyaw Kha is waiting for the answer. After that .....

"Something is going wrong with Ah Ko Gyi who is now on the line. I'm Ko Tin Soe's spouse. 16 November is the day that turns exactly a month of Ko Tin Soe's death.

"Oh...how...and how..."

"Yeah, Ah Ko Gyi, on 16 November, we put on alms-food into a monk's bowl for his very turn of first month death. I can't consider it."

Ko Kyaw Kha is greatly shocked and amazed holding his hand phone in his hand. Going to the altar, he holds the CDs Ko Tin Soe gave. One of them is on the altar and the other one is in his laptop which is still being listened. One of the sermons for that CD is much liked and copied and saved in Ko Kyaw Kha's hand phone.

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## Chaungtha Beach authorities ban vendors



Stalls occupy the walking of the beach. PHOTO: MMK

AUTHORITIES will not allow vendors to sell any goods along the walkway by the Chaungtha Beach beginning from November 1, according to officials.

The beach's rule enforcement committee will disseminate pamphlets about the new rules for vendors starting October 26. The information about the new rules and regulations will also be spread through posters and other activities, its members said.

Currently, about 75 stalls and over 200 vendors are selling different kinds of goods and food along Chaungtha Beach, a pop-

ular resort and one of the tourist attractions in Myanmar that is accessible from Yangon, about a 5-hour drive from the commercial capital.

Administrator U Tayza Aung said the major objectives of the new rules are to promote good sanitary condition and to sustain the beauty and development of the beach, urging visitors to participate in the committee's cleaning programme by following its rules. The move also aims at reducing possible criminal activities such as snatch thefts in the beach area, he added. The rule enforcement

committee has also prohibited the driving of speedboats and banana boats within the public swimming areas. Also prohibited are the riding of horses, bullock carts and motor vehicles along the shore. The rules also prohibit campfires and entertainment programmes on the shore such as fish catching, planting and farming near public areas. The activity comes from the committee's workshop on sustainable development of Chaungtha Beach held between 16 and 18 September to discuss effective environmental conservation plans. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

## Free hepatitis B vaccines for 1,000 eligible residents

THE HEPATITIS B vaccine will be administered free of charge to about 1,000 eligible people in Yangon next month under a plan organised by the Sunday Foundation, a local non-profit charitable organisation.

The donation event is planned to take place at Aung Philanthropic Monastery in Hlaingthaya Township, inviting people around the township to join the vaccination programme.

This is the second time the foundation has helped to protect people from hepatitis virus infections, said Daw Aye Khaing Khaing Oo, secretary of the foundation.

"Since its establishment in

March 2015 by the first 50 members, including entrepreneurs and managers of the E.S.I Food Company, the charity has conducted health care activities including blood donations done by the company's staff, all of whom have passed the hepatitis B blood test, and more", said Daw Aye Khaing Khaing Oo.

The foundation's previous vaccination programme was carried out in the last three months of 2015. An ethnic child from northern Shan State who has joined the non-formal education programme at the monastery in Yangon said that he appreciates the foundation donating the Hepatitis B vaccines for monks and poor residents to

prevent the serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver.

The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting the hepatitis B vaccine. The vaccine is safe and effective. It is available for all age groups to prevent HBV infection.

The virus is transmitted through contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person.

The World Health Organization estimated that around 240 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B and more than 686,000 people die every year due to complications of hepatitis B, including liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

## MPT exchanging all 3G SIM cards for 4G cards in Mandalay

MYANMAR Post and Telecommunication (MPT) and KSG Company of Japan have launched a 4G network service in Nay Pyi Taw and in some places in Yangon during the first week of October to give users access to a faster network.

The effort is part of MPT's measures to launch a 4G network in Yangon and Mandalay by the first quarter of 2017. MPT has also issued Regular/ Micro/ Nano SIM Cards of an international standard so that MPT users have no need to cut the SIM cards. Since the last

week of October, MPT has exchanged the 3G SIM Cards of MPT users for 4G SIM Cards at the MPT Sales Division in Mandalay without charge.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has announced that mobile phone users will have to register their SIM cards starting 18 October.

MPT said that, starting from 31 March 2017, all un-registered SIM cards will be blocked.

In Southeast Asia and Oceania in 2015, only 5 per cent of all mobile subscriptions were 4G – but the figure is expected to increase to more than 40 per cent by 2021, according to the Ericsson Mobility Report 2016. Telecoms competitors Ooredoo and Telenor launched 4G networks earlier this year. — *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



MPT 3G SIM Card users being seen at the MPT Sale Division in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDY)

### POEM:

## “What’s Your Dream?”

- \* What is your dream?  
To have a ride in the limousine car?  
As a celebrity, to walk on the red carpet?  
Think first, what kind of person you are.
- \* What is your dream?  
To become a famous pop star?  
To become a queen or a princess?  
Think first, what kind of person you are.
- \* What is your dream?  
To be a Britain or Ireland's top model star?  
To become the prettiest Miss Universe?  
Think first what kind of person you are?
- \* What is your dream?  
To be a billionaire or a millionaire?  
To visit round the world in thirty days?  
Think first what kind of person you are?
- \* What is your dream?  
Just to be an average one of many a star?  
Just to run a simple life, helping the others?  
Then, you don't need to think of who you are.
- \* Try to live one day at a time.  
See things always from good point of view.  
Be content with what you have and who you are.  
Then your dream will surely come true.

Daw Aye Aye Pyone  
(Retired Teacher)

## More displaced persons return home



Displaced persons receive cash assistance from authorities in Sittway before they return home. PHOTO: NAY LIN

DISPLACED people who took refuge in camps in Sittway, Buthidaung and Maungdaw are returning home as their native place has become stable, according to the Rakhine State government.

About 100 displaced persons who stayed in Danyawadi Stadium in Sittway went back home by boat yesterday morning.

"Those who went back today include people from Mawrawadi, Aungthayar and Kanthayar villages in southern Maungdaw. It is the fourth group of returnees and a total of about 300 people have returned home so far. The state government is providing their basic needs," Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha said.

Each family of returnees

were granted K 10,000, boat tickets and food for one week by the state government while the Department of Social Welfare provided them with household goods. Free Funeral Services Association (Sittway) and well-wishers provided K 50,000 to each family.

"I have provided healthcare services for displaced persons in the Danyawadi Stadium. I will also go to camps in Maungdaw and Buthidaung," Dr Soe Lwin, who returned from England to take care of the displaced persons, said. "Most of them suffer from malnutrition. It has other complications," he added.

A total of about 3,000 people left their villages after violent attacks in Maungdaw and Buthidaung.— *Min Thit*



# Women lawmakers face sexism, violence on job — report

GENEVA — Women members of parliament (MPs) in all regions face sexism, harassment and violence from male lawmakers and are increasingly targeted by online humiliation campaigns, a report said on Wednesday.

The first study on the issue by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) follows scandals in France and other countries where women have denounced abuse in the corridors of power.

Sexist violence and harassment against women lawmakers is “real and widespread”, the report said. The findings suggested “that the phenomenon knows no boundaries and exists to different degrees in every country, affecting a significant number of women parliamentarians”.

The results were based on data provided by 55 women parliamentarians of all ages who were selected from 39 countries in five regions.

Four out of five of the women

reported having been subjected to hostile behaviour causing psychological harm or fear. Some 44.4 per cent said they had received threats of death, rape, beatings or abduction during their terms.

“The respondents said that most of these acts were committed by their male colleagues — from opposing or their own parties,” it said.

Being under 40, or belonging to the opposition or a minority group, are “aggravating factors” that put women at risk, according to the study by the Geneva-based body that links 171 national parliaments. The IPU called for male and female MPs to denounce such behaviour and for codes of conduct and complaint procedures to be put in place. Females account for 22.8 per cent of some 46,000 parliamentarians worldwide.

“The report ... is an eye-opener, it’s the first of its kind. We have gone out to interview members of

parliament, to have their own personal perspectives, from their own experience,” Martin Chungong, IPU secretary-general, told a news briefing.

“We are looking at how we can help resolve some of these issues, because they are actually a stumbling block to political participation of women,” he said.

Women lawmakers endure hostile behaviour and sexist violence in parliamentary offices and political meetings, as well as the newer arenas created by social media, the report said.

Women MPs from sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East “described photomontages showing them nude, photos of them accompanied by disparaging comments, obscene drawings of their person or information published in the social media suggesting that they had marital problems and failed private lives,” the report said. —Reuters

# Clinton warns against complacency, Trump warns of World War Three

COCONUT CREEK, (Fla.) — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton warned her supporters on Tuesday against complacency as opinion polls show her holding a clear lead over Republican rival Donald Trump with two weeks left until the 8 November election.

Clinton told voters in Florida, one of the battleground states where the election will likely be decided, that Democrats could not afford to relax.

“I hope you will come out and vote because it’s going to be a close election. Pay no attention to the polls. Don’t forget, don’t get complacent, because we’ve got to turn people out,” she told a rally in Coconut Creek, standing in front of a large sign reading: “Vote Early.”

Trump also campaigned in Florida on Tuesday. He blasted recent spikes in premiums for health insurance under President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare. Trump promised to repeal and replace the healthcare law as soon as he takes office.

“This is why we have to drain the swamp and repeal and replace Obamacare immediately, and I’m the only candidate running for president who will do it,” Trump said.

On Monday, the US government said the average premium for insurance plans sold on Healthcare.gov for 2017 rose by 25 per cent compared with 2016.

But with polls showing Trump trailing Clinton, Trump has asked his campaign to cut back on work identifying candidates for



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton waves as she leaves a rally in South Broward Area at Broward College-North Campus in Coconut Creek, Florida, US, on 25 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

jobs in his future administration and focus instead on bolstering his chances on 8 November, according to two people familiar with the campaign’s inner workings.

An average of national polls since mid-October gives Clinton a lead of more than 5 percentage points, as Trump fights off accusations that he groped women and faces heavy criticism for suggesting he might not accept the result of the election if he loses.

Trump denies the accusations of sexual misconduct and says the election is rigged against him, although he has not cited widely accepted evidence to back that up.

On Tuesday, Trump told Reuters that Clinton’s plan for fixing the Syrian civil war would “lead to World War Three,” because of the potential for conflict with military forces from nuclear-armed Russia.

In an interview focused largely on foreign policy, Trump said defeating Islamic State was a higher priority than persuading Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down, playing down a long-held goal of US policy.

Clinton has called for the establishment of a no-fly zone and “safe zones” on the ground in Syria to protect non combatants. —Reuters

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Spanish police arrest Moroccan accused of supporting Islamic State

MADRID — Spanish police have arrested a Moroccan man accused of spreading Islamist militant messages and trying to recruit others, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

Police arrested the man in Calahorra, in Spain’s central Rioja region, and said he was linked to another Moroccan man detained in December in the city of Pamplona.

He is accused of distributing Islamic State propaganda and supporting the activities of various militant groups operating in Iraq and Syria.

Spain has been on high alert and has stepped up security measures following attacks in Paris last year, with 50 people arrested so far this year on suspicion of having connections to Islamist militants. —Reuters

### US firms in Philippines concerned over Duterte’s call to ‘get out’

MANILA — The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said on Wednesday its members are concerned over anti-US statements by President Rodrigo Duterte, who added fuel to the fire Tuesday by suggesting that foreign businesses should “get out” of his country if his rhetoric worries them.

“AmCham has received a large volume of messages of concern from members in the Philippines, the United States, and elsewhere, asking for explanations and whether their investments, purchases from the Philippines, and visits to the country are still welcome,” the group said in a statement emailed to Kyodo News. Before leaving Manila for his official visit in Japan last Tuesday, Duterte reacted to a news report quoting US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Daniel Russel, as saying the Philippine president’s comments are worrying the business community. —Kyodo News

### Utah boy, 16, shot outside school, 14-year-old arrested — police

LOS ANGELES — A 16-year-old boy was shot and critically wounded during an argument outside a middle school in Sandy, Utah, on Tuesday, and a 14-year-old boy was taken into custody, police said.

Sergeant Dean Carriger said the bell excusing students at Union Middle School had just rung when the shooting took place.

“At about 3 pm, Union had just released and students were leaving the property when two juveniles got into an argument that led to the shooting,” he said.

Carriger said the 14-year-old boy was a student at Union Middle School but the victim was not. The 16-year-old victim was taken to a hospital in critical condition, where he was undergoing surgery for two gunshot wounds. Local media initially reported the victim was 12, citing authorities. —Reuters

### Taiwan fishing boat catches fire off Japan’s northeast, one missing

SENDAI — A Taiwanese fishing boat with 53 crew members on board caught fire in the Pacific off northeastern Japan and one Indonesian member is missing after falling overboard, the Japan Coast Guard said on Wednesday.

The coast guard received a call for help from the Chin Chun about 510 kilometres east of Miyako, Iwate Prefecture, at around 9:10 am.

Initial information indicated that the boat had collided with another vessel, but an aerial survey from a coast guard plane proved it to be otherwise, according to the coast guard. No smoke was spotted from the boat. —Kyodo News

### Iran unveils marine drone capable of launching suicide attacks

TEHRAN — Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) unveiled on Wednesday a new marine unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) used for multiple purposes including suicide attacks, Tasnim news agency reported.

The drone can carry heavy payloads of explosive material for the combat missions to launch suicide attacks, the report said.

Flying at a high cruising speed near the water surface, the aircraft can collide with the target and destroy it, either a vessel or an onshore command centre. The indigenous drone can flight as high as 3,000 feet, and as low as only 50 centimetres above the sea water.

The drone, designed also for patrols, reconnaissance and combat operations, is equipped with advanced optical and night vision devices with utility in humid air. With a flight endurance of around 4 hours, the new drone can fly in a range of 1,000 kilometres. —Xinhua



# US air strikes spike as Afghans struggle against Taliban, Islamic State

KABUL — American air strikes in Afghanistan this year have already significantly surpassed the total number conducted in 2015, a stark indicator of the United States' struggle to extricate itself from the conflict and stick to its declared "non-combat" mission.

American warplanes have conducted around 700 air strikes so far this year, compared to about 500 in total last year, according to US military officials, signalling a deeper role for American forces that is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Ending American involvement in Afghanistan was one of President Barack Obama's signature promises and he declared the combat mission over at the end of 2014.

In the last year of his presidency, however, rising violence has led Obama to keep more US forces in the fight, both to target a growing Islamic State presence and back up struggling Afghan troops.

Top American military commanders in Afghanistan successfully pressed Obama to reverse earlier restrictions on the use of air strikes, clearing the way for a spike in attacks on Islamic State



A US Air Force crew chief signals the pilot of an F-16 Flying Falcon as it taxis for a mission at Bagram air field in Afghanistan on 11 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and Taliban targets.

"The increase in strikes is due to the additional authorities US forces received and due to the Afghan change in strategy to offensive operations," US military spokesman Brigadier General Charles Cleveland told Reuters in a statement.

"The new authorities have allowed the US to be more proactive and deliberate in supporting this year's Afghan offensive operations and in aggressively targeting (Islamic State)."

With no end in sight for one of America's longest wars, any decisions on the future of the

air strikes and nearly 9,000 US troops that will remain in Afghanistan will be up to the winner of the 8 November American presidential election.

"It will be important to ask if the relaxation of rules of engagement that President Obama provided to American/NATO

forces in Afghanistan in 2016 should go further, allowing even more substantial use of their air power against the Taliban," wrote a dozen former US military commanders and ambassadors to Afghanistan in an October report outlining challenges for the next president.

Of the approximately 700 air strikes that occurred between 1 January and 20 October, about 240 were under rules approved by Obama in June that allowed US forces to more actively support Afghan troops during strategic combat operations, Cleveland said.

A similar number were conducted against "counter terrorism" targets, including about 50 against al Qaeda and 190 against Islamic State, he said.

Other air strikes can be conducted in defence of US and international military advisors, as well as some Afghan troops. American air strikes have been credited with helping to prevent Taliban forces from completely overrunning cities like Lashkar Gah, the capital of embattled Helmand province, but militants still contest or control as much as a third of the country.—Reuters

## A Picture And Its Story — Severe malnutrition in Yemen



Saida Ahmad Baghili, 18, sits in a wheelchair at the al-Thawra hospital where she receives treatment for acute malnutrition in the Red Sea port city of Houdieda, Yemen, on 25 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HODAIDA (Yemen) — The emaciated frame of 18-year-old Saida Ahmad Baghili lies on a hospital bed in the red sea port city of Hodaيدا, her suffering stark evidence of the malnutrition spread by Yemen's 19-month civil war.

Baghili arrived at the Al Thawra hospital on Saturday. She is bed-ridden and unable to eat, surviving on a diet of juice, milk and tea, medical staff and a relative said.

"The problem is malnutrition due to (her) financial situation and the current (war) situation at this time," Asma Al Bhaiji, a nurse at the hospital, told Reuters on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old is one of more than 14 million people, over half of Yemen's population, who are short of food, with much of the

country on the brink of famine, according to the United Nations.

Her picture is a reminder of the humanitarian crisis in the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country where at least 10,000 people have been killed in fighting between Saudi-led Arab coalition and the Iran-allied Houthi movement.

Baghili is from the small village of Shajn, about 100 km (60 miles) southwest of the city of Hodaيدا, and used to work with sheep before developing signs of malnutrition five years ago, according to her aunt, Saida Ali Baghili.

"She was fine. She was in good health. There was nothing wrong with her. And then she got sick," Ali Baghili told Reuters.

"She has been sick for five years. She can't eat. She says her throat hurts."—Reuters

## Spain reviewing refueling permission for Russian warships

MADRID — Spain is reviewing a request by a Russian flotilla to refuel in its North African enclave of Ceuta, the foreign ministry said, as NATO raised concerns that the warships headed for Syria could be used to target civilians in Aleppo.

NATO is monitoring the progress of the eight-strong carrier battle group from northern Russia en route to the eastern Mediterranean, where alliance officials fear it will launch fighter bombers to hit northwestern Syria early in November.

"The latest stopover requests are being reviewed at the moment based on the information we are receiving from our allies and from Russian authorities," the ministry said in a statement. Spain, a NATO member, added that it had been allowing Russian navy ships to dock in Spanish ports for years, but that it treated such requests on a case by case basis. The naval group, which passed through the English Channel on Friday, is made up of Russia's only aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, as well as a nuclear-powered battle cruiser, two anti-submarine warships and four support vessels, likely escorted by submarines, NATO officials said.—Reuters

## Iraqi army's elite force pauses advance near Mosul

EAST OF MOSUL / BAGHDAD, — An elite unit of the Iraqi army paused its week-long advance on Mosul as it approached the city's eastern edge on Tuesday, waiting for other US-backed forces to close in on Islamic State's last major urban stronghold in Iraq.

On the ninth day of the offensive on Mosul, government forces and allied Kurdish Peshmerga fighters are still fighting their way towards the outer limits of the northern city, in the early stages of an assault which could become the biggest military operation in Iraq in

over a decade.

The first force to get near to Mosul, advancing to within two kilometres (just over a mile) of Iraq's second largest city, was the elite US-trained Counter Terrorism Service (CTS).

CTS troops have moved in from the east, dislodging Islamic State from a Christian region that has been empty of residents since the ultra-hardline Sunni militants took it over in 2014.

The combat ahead is likely to be more difficult and deadly because of the presence of civilians.

Some 1.5 million residents remain in the city and worst-case forecasts see up to a million being uprooted, according to the United Nations.

UN aid agencies said the fighting has so far forced about 9,000 to flee their homes. But Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, told Reuters that the United Nations expects a mass exodus from Mosul, perhaps within the next few days.

In the worst case scenario, Grande said it was also possible that Islamic State fighters who have controlled Mosul for more

than two years could resort to "rudimentary chemical weapons" to hold back the impending assault.

UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville said Islamic State fighters have reportedly killed scores of people around Mosul in the last week.

Colville said that security forces discovered the bodies of 70 civilians in houses in Tuloul Naser village south of Mosul last Thursday. Islamic State also reportedly killed 50 former police officers outside Mosul on Sunday, he said.—Reuters



## Calais Jungle clearance to resume after tent-burning, gas explosions overnight



Migrants queue on the third day of their evacuation and transfer to reception centers in France, as part of the dismantlement of the camp called the 'Jungle' in Calais, France, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CALAIS, (France) — The “Jungle” migrant camp near Calais woke up to a third day of a government operation to empty and clear it on Wednesday following a night of ritual tent and shelter-burning and some gas-bottle explosions.

A Calais prefecture official told France Info radio on Wednesday morning that one person had been slightly injured in his inner ear by one of the explosions and had been taken to hospital.

“The operation will continue today to remove the empty shelters and to avoid them being set fire to again,” a prefecture spokesman told Reuters.

Late on Tuesday, regional prefect Fabienne Buccio said it was difficult to prevent the fires.

“Some migrants follow traditions — we asked them not to do it — but they set ablaze their tents and their shelters when they leave,” she said.

“We told them not to do it, but some...do it anyway. We are on standby, the fire brigade is in the vicinity to guarantee security and to prevent the fire from spreading. It’s part of a tradition. Even if we would like them to refrain from doing it, they do it.”

Migrants fleeing poverty and war outside Europe have over the past few years congregated at Calais, the main port entry to Britain from France, in the hope of finding new lives across the short stretch of sea.

They have continued to come despite the high fences built over past months to keep them from crossing.

Local opposition to the presence of over 6,000 people at the squalid and insanitary camp and criticism from right-wing politicians has stung the government into action. More than 4,000 have been bussed out to reception centres across France since Monday.—Reuters

## Bollore executive says speed a factor in Cameroon derailment

PARIS — A train that derailed in Cameroon killing at least 79 people on Friday had recently had its number of carriages doubled and was travelling at twice the normal speed when it crashed, the chairman of the train operator’s parent company told Reuters.

Eric Melet, chairman of Bollore Africa Railways, a unit of French conglomerate Bollore Group which owns train operator Camrail, said the train was running at about 80 kilometres per hour (50 miles per hour) as it neared the station at Eseka.

“What we can say is that the train, while approaching the station where it derailed, was going at an abnormally high speed,” Melet said in an interview.

He said at least 428 people had also been injured in the crash around 120 km (75 miles) west of the capital Yaounde,

from where the train had departed with more than 1,300 passengers for the port of Douala. The official death toll is expected to rise. Melet confirmed that Camrail had recently doubled the size of the train to 16 carriages, with the permission of authorities, to accommodate extra passengers following the collapse of portion of a main highway on the same route.

Camrail usually adds wagons to its regular trains during periods of peak demand, like during school holidays, Melet said. He said the train had been full, but not overloaded.

“Yes, the train was packed due to demand, but the train was within its authorized capacity and in every wagon, there is a regulation for seating and standing space.” The company will carry out an internal investigation on top of the official judicial

investigation, he said, adding: “Hopefully, everyday, we’ll be able to inform the public on the investigation in coordination with Cameroon authorities.”

Cameroon’s President Paul Biya on Tuesday signed a decree giving a special investigating commission 30 days to look into the causes of the tragedy.

It will be headed by the prime minister and include the justice minister and other senior government officials. The transportation minister, who has been heavily criticised for his handling of the crisis, was notably absent from the commission.

Another train operated by Camrail derailed in 2009 near Yaounde, killing five people and injuring more than 200. Bollore Group’s local logistics and transportation unit also operates Cameroon’s two main ports of Douala and Kribi.—Reuters

## Leak at nuclear reactor in Norway is contained

OSLO — A leak at a small nuclear reactor in Norway has been contained, with no injuries sustained and no expected environmental damage outside the facility, the reactor’s operator and the country’s Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) said on Tuesday.

The leak at the research reactor operated by the Institute for Energy Technology, located in a mountain cave in the middle of Halden in southern Norway, began on Monday at 1145 GMT but the regulator said it was not alerted until Tuesday.

The crew of the reactor was evacuated after the leak was detected but some staff later returned to assess the cause and extent of

the accident, the NRPA said. Its operator said the reactor was isolated and the leak contained.

“We will investigate how this (leak) could happen and why we were not warned until the following day,” the regulator said in a statement.

A senior official at the regulator told Reuters the incident would “maybe” be rated a 1 on an International Nuclear Event Scale ranking from 1 to 7, where 1 is an anomaly and 7 is a major accident, such as Chernobyl or Fukushima.

“We need to gather more information ... But we are not happy with the situation, that we were not warned immediately. We will investigate further,” Per Strand,

the head of safety, preparedness and environment at the NRPA, told Reuters.

The reactor’s operator said the leak had been contained and there had been no injuries. “The reactor is shut. The leak is contained,” Atle Valseth, research director at the Institute for Energy Technology told Reuters.

He did not know how many staff were present when the leak occurred but said up to eight persons are allowed during this type of operation.

“There is no danger to health. The radioactive dosage they have received is low,” he said, adding the crew had not received hospital treatment.—Reuters



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. PHOTO: REUTERS

## NATO seeks troops to deter Russia on eastern flank

BRUSSELS — NATO will press allies on Wednesday to contribute to its biggest military build-up on Russia’s borders since the Cold War as the alliance prepares for a protracted quarrel with Moscow.

With Russia’s aircraft carrier heading to Syria in a show of force along Europe’s shores, alliance defence ministers aim to make good on a July promise by NATO leaders to send forces to the Baltic states and eastern Poland from early next year.

The United States hopes for binding commitments from Europe to fill four battle groups of some 4,000 troops, part of NATO’s response to Russia’s 2014 annexation of Crimea and concern it could try a similar tactic in Europe’s ex-Soviet states.

France, Denmark, Italy and other allies are expected to join the four battle groups led by the United States, Germany, Britain and Canada to go to Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, with forces ranging from armoured infantry to drones.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the commit-

ments would be “a clear demonstration of our transatlantic bond.” Diplomats said it would also send a message to Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has complained that European allies do not pay their way in the alliance.

The battle groups will be backed by NATO’s 40,000-strong rapid-reaction force, and if need be, further follow-on forces, for any potential conflict, which could move into Baltic states and Poland on rotation.

The strategy is part of an emerging new deterrent that could eventually be combined with missile defences, air patrols and defences against cyber attacks.

However, the alliance is still struggling for a similar strategy in the Black Sea region, which Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said is becoming a “Russian lake” because of Moscow’s military presence there.

Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey are expected to soon come forward with a plan to increase naval and air patrols in the area, as well as a multinational NATO brigade in Romania.—Reuters



## Aboriginal, environmental groups to sue Canada over Petronas LNG project

KUALA LUMPUR — Aboriginal and environmental groups will file lawsuits on Thursday against the government of Canada to overturn the permit for a controversial \$27 billion (22 billion pound) liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in British Columbia.

The lawsuits will name Malaysian state oil firm Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (Petronas) [PETR. UL], which owns a majority stake in the project, as an associated party, representatives of the aboriginal and environmental groups told Reuters this week.

Canada in September gave the green light for the Pacific NorthWest LNG project in northern British Columbia with 190 conditions, despite concerns

it would destroy a critical salmon habitat and produce a large amount of greenhouse gases.

The decision was a major test for Canada's Liberal Party, juggling the needs of an energy industry suffering from job losses and the concerns of environmentalists, who were courted by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in last year's election campaign.

The groups will file the lawsuits at the Federal Court in Vancouver. The legal challenge puts the future of the project at risk after it has already been hit with a three-year delay in getting its environmental permit and as Asian LNG prices have dropped by about two-thirds since 2014.

The Canadian govern-

ment was not available for immediate comment outside regular business hours. Petronas did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"We believe there are serious flaws in the environment assessment process," said Greg Knox, executive director of SkeenaWild, an environmental group filing one of the lawsuits.

Besides the defects in the environmental review, SkeenaWild also alleges that Canada failed to review the project's climate impact.

Knox said the project would be one of the largest sources of climate pollution in Canada, even if it met the conditions imposed by the government.

The Gitanyow and Gitwiltgoots aboriginal



A logo of a Petronas fuel station is seen against a darkening sky in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 10 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

communities have similar concerns and said they will sue Canada for failing to meaningfully engage with the groups before granting the approval.

"They totally ignored whatever we put forward to them," on salmon

destruction and climate change, Glen Williams, chief of the Gitanyow told Reuters.

The Petronas-led project plans to liquefy natural gas at a facility in the district of Port Edward, British Columbia, about 1,600

km (1,000 miles) northwest of Vancouver. It would then export about 12 million tonnes a year of LNG to consumers in Asia.

Firms in China, India, Japan and Brunei are minority stakeholders in the project.—Reuters

## France opens development agency office in Cuba to boost cooperation

HAVANA — The French Development Agency (AFD) on Tuesday opened an office in Cuba, a new sign of the increasing economic cooperation between the two countries.

French Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Matthias Fekl and his Cuban counterpart Rodrigo Malmierca inaugurated in Cuba the office of the French agency, which will carry out economic development projects to boost cooperation between Paris and Havana.

Fekl said the opening of the office is a result of the visit by

French President Francois Hollande to Cuba in May of last year.

Hollande's visit to Cuba was the first by a European president after the United States and Cuba re-established diplomatic relations.

"Relations between Cuba and France are strong and have been strengthened over the last two years.

We have signed joint agendas for economic and tourism development," he said.

The French official said the AFD will support investment in areas of common interest to support Cuba's economic

development.

"The agency is already involved in a joint project to further develop Cuba's livestock industry in the central province of Camaguey and we look forward to participating in many other investment opportunities," said Fekl.

Malmierca said that cooperation between Paris and Havana has always been "productive," and in the last two years it has been strengthened through the exchange of high level visits.

Cuban President Raul Castro made a state visit to Paris last December that helped deepen

commercial and economic ties between the two countries, said the minister.

"With this first joint investment to develop Cuba's livestock industry, we are showing the importance of bilateral cooperation.

Other areas like infrastructure and renewable energy could be fields where we can work together," Malmierca added.

France is Cuba's second largest trading partner in Europe and over 185,000 French tourists visited this Caribbean country last year.—Xinhua

## Six face trial in France over topless photos of British royal Kate

PARIS — Six people including photographers and senior media industry officials are to face trial in France under privacy laws over the publication of photographs of Britain's Duchess of Cambridge topless in 2012, according to French media reports.

The reports, citing French national news agency Agence France Presse and a judicial source, said those covered by the case would include senior staff at French regional newspaper La Provence, Closer Magazine, and Closer's parent company — Silvio Berlus-

coni's Arnoldo Mondadori Editore publishing group.

Neither La Provence nor Mondadori could immediately be reached for comment.

The Duchess, Kate Middleton, and her husband Prince William pressed at the time for criminal charges in France

to try to prevent wider publication of the pictures, which were taken of them on a balcony of a private residence while they were on holiday in the southern Luberon region.

According to Le Parisien newspaper the trial is likely to start next year.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV TYGRA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TYGRA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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## 'Hamilton' star Odom Jr., Queen Latifah win Grace awards

NEW YORK — "Hamilton" star Leslie Odom Jr., actress Queen Latifah and choreographer Camille Brown were honored at the annual Princess Grace awards ceremony in New York City on Monday night for their work in the arts.

Odom Jr., who won a Tony Award in June for his role in the smash Broadway hit "Hamilton," and Brown, a choreographer and dance educator, received the 2016 Princess Grace Statue Award, named after the late American actress Grace Kelly.

Singer and actress Queen Latifah received the Prince Rainier III Award, named after the awards founder and late husband of Princess Grace, for her contribution to the arts.

The three African-American artists were honored at a gala ceremony on Broadway hosted by British supermodel Naomi Campbell and attended by Monaco's Prince Albert II and his wife Princess Charlene.

Speaking to reporters, Odom Jr. recalled the signifi-

cance of standing alongside three other African-American artists who also won in the musical category at the Tony Awards a few months ago.

"So, if some little kid sees that image of us holding our Tony awards or holding our Princess Grace award, it gives them the willingness to dream for themselves, then that is a beautiful thing," he said.

In a recent interview with People magazine, Odom Jr. said he had received a \$25,000 grant from the Princess Grace Foundation in 2002 which allowed him pay his college tuition bills. The programme for aiding emerging artists "was a huge help to my family and it changed my life," he said.

The foundation said on its website it has awarded over \$11 million to more than 800 recipients since it started in 1982, after the death of Grace Kelly.

The American actress became a princess after marrying Prince Rainier III of Monaco in 1956.—Reuters

## Shinzo Abe proves he's a Meryl Streep fan at Tokyo Film Festival

TOKYO — Oscar winner Meryl Streep joined the star-struck Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the red carpet on Tuesday as the 29th Tokyo International Film Festival got under way.

"This red carpet is a lot more exciting than the red carpet at the parliament building," said Prime Minister Abe, who admitted to having watched many of Streep's films.

"I'm feeling very excited, and it's sinking in that the Tokyo International Film Festival has finally kicked off."

Abe said he particularly

enjoyed Streep's portrayal of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady" a film which he said "left a very deep impression on me", and for which Streep won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 2012.

Korean singer and actor Yesung and Japanese actress Nozomi Sasaki were also on the red carpet along with a procession of figures clad in decorative costumes carrying pumpkins as Halloween approaches at the end of the month.

The Tokyo International Film Festival will run until 3 November.—Reuters

# American Paul Beatty's race satire wins Man Booker Prize

LONDON — Paul Beatty was on Tuesday named as the first American to win the prestigious Man Booker fiction prize, for "The Sellout", a biting satire on race relations in the United States.

The narrator of "The Sellout", an African-American called "Bonbon" tries to put his Californian town back on the map, from which it has been officially removed, by re-introducing slavery and segregation in its high school.

The 289-page novel begins with "Bonbon" facing a hearing in the Supreme Court, looking back over the events that led up to that point.

The language is uncompromising and may offend some readers. So might some of the content — one old black film actor asks to become Bonbon's slave — as Beatty lampoons racial stereotypes. The protagonist's father is unjustly shot by police.

"This is a hard book. It was hard for me to write, it's hard to read," said a tearful Beatty immediately after winning the award at a ceremony at London's historic Guildhall. "For me, it's just really gratifying that something that's important to me is also important for other people," he later told a

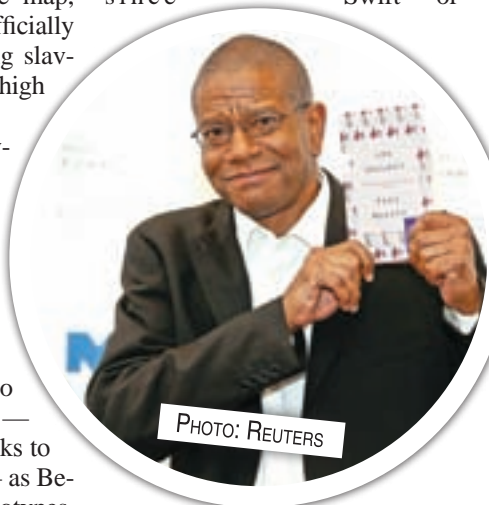
news conference. Chair of the five judges for the 50,000 pound prize Amanda Foreman said "The Sellout" had been a unanimous choice, reached after a meeting lasting some four hours. "It plunges into the heart of contemporary American society with absolutely savage wit of the kind I haven't seen since Swift or

That's his answer to the reader," Foreman said. "The Sellout" is 54-year-old Beatty's fourth novel. He has also edited an anthology of African-American humour.

It was publisher Oneworld's second Man Booker victory after winning the 2015 prize for "A Brief History of Seven Killings" by Jamaican Marlon James.

Beatty said he would not have written the book had his partner not persuaded him to apply for a grant that allowed him time to complete the book. "I don't like writing," he said. "I'm a perfectionist in some ways and I get easily disgruntled and discouraged with what I'm doing."

—Reuters



Twain," she said. "It manages to eviscerate every social nuance, every sacred cow, while making us laugh and also making us wince ... It is really a novel for our times."

Asked about the language, Foreman said, "Paul Beatty has said being offended is not an emotion.

## Hollywood actresses celebrate women's progress in film, politics

BEVERLY HILLS — A host of female stars have turned out to celebrate the Elle "Women in Hollywood" awards in Beverly Hills as the US election, which could provide the United States with its first female president, draws near.

Actresses Felicity Jones and Lupita Nyong'o as well as "Twilight" co-stars Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning hit the red carpet on Monday for the annual awards that celebrate the contribution of women to the film industry. Many of the actresses touched on the US election, just two weeks away, which could see Hillary Clinton become America's first female president. "I think the power and the presence of America on the international stage in the world it will really be sending an amazing message if there is a female president," said British actress Hel-

en Mirren. "I've been to these events before and it is a lot of fun to get women together to tell their stories ... especially now during this election process when women have had some dirt kicked on them," said Oscar winner Kathy Bates, alluding to the rhetoric that has marked the political campaign. "Enchanted" actress Amy Adams was also among the actresses honored by Elle and she struck a forward-looking note. "There is always more work to be done, but I choose to focus on the positive," said Adams.

"There are so many wonderful women who are making great strides to create change and I think we need to focus on that."—Reuters

Actor Michelle Monaghan poses at the 23rd annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Awards in Los Angeles, California US, on 24 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS





# Young Egyptians scream their stress away in Cairo bookshop

CAIRO — Visitors to a bookshop in Cairo are being invited into a dark, sound-proof room to scream at the top of their lungs in an effort to relieve their frustrations and escape from the stresses of daily life.

The new “scream room” is tucked away in the “The World’s Door” bookshop and is also equipped with a full drum kit allowing customers to let go of their worries through deafening screams.

“When you enter the room it’s like you’ve entered a whole other world, without your phone and without anything else that can have an effect on you,” said one user, Ahmed Sharaf.

Owner AbdelRahman Saad offers each visitor ten minutes inside the private scream room, free of charge. He believes it is the first room of its kind in the Middle East.



Visitors play music and talk together in the bookshop where the new ‘scream room’ is found, in Cairo, Egypt, on 23 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

dle East.

“I entered it at a time when I was really stressed and came out much more re-

laxed,” said frequent visitor, Mohamed el-Debbaby.

“What’s even better is that I was able to find solu-

tions to the problem I was facing, those realisations came as I was screaming.”—Reuters

# Brazil orders millions of Zika rapid testing kits

RIO DE JANEIRO — The Brazilian government announced on Tuesday it had bought 3.5 million rapid testing kits for Zika virus.

In a press conference, Health Minister Ricardo Barros said the tests would allow to detect Zika virus in a patient in under 20 minutes.

The tests were all manufactured in the country and will be distributed to principally test pregnant women and children under 2 years old.

The government’s expectations are that 2 million tests will be deployed to health clinics by December, with the rest to be delivered nationwide over the next 12 months.

The purchase in-

volved a deal between the government and the Fundacion Bahiapharma, a public laboratory, worth 119 million reais (38.2 million US dollars). The laboratory will supply kits to the Brazilian public healthcare system for a year.

The health minister stated that the success rate for Zika detection stands at 95 per cent and that it can pick up the Zika virus at any stage of its development, by testing antibodies. Brazil is currently in a state of healthcare emergency since Zika has reached an infection rate of 98.1 cases per 100,000 inhabitants and has been blamed for thousands of cases of microcephaly among newborns.

—Xinhua

# Michelin hands stars to 54 San Francisco restaurants

SAN FRANCISCO — Michelin awarded stars to 54 San Francisco-area restaurants in the 2017 edition of its eating guide on the City by the Bay that will be launched on Wednesday.

Michelin, whose anonymous reviewers rate restaurants in 28 countries and whose stars are a recognized sign of quality dining around the world, awarded 50 eateries with stars in the prior year’s guide.

“We just see the San Francisco Bay area continuing to become an even more exciting dining destination,” said Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin Guide, on Tuesday. “You have a lot of chefs using fantastic local ingredients and using cooking techniques from all over the world, es-

pecially Asian influences.”

Michelin also rates US restaurants in Washington, Chicago and New York City. Quince became the sixth restaurant in the northern California region to achieve three-star status, Michelin’s highest rating for “exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey.”

Quince’s co-owner and executive chef Michael Tusk is “doing tremendously refined, technically precise food with roots in Italy and also with great international flair,” Ellis said.

The other three-star establishments were Benu and Saison in San Francisco, the French Laundry and the Restaurant at Meadowood in the wine-producing Napa Valley and Manresa in Los Gatos which is south of San

Francisco.

There are more than 100 restaurants in the world with the three-star distinction. Three-star dining does not come cheap.

The French Laundry’s current \$310 chef’s tasting menu more than doubles in price with the additions of optional caviar, foie gras, truffles and wagyu beef, according to its website.

While its top-rated restaurants are expensive, Ellis said most restaurants Michelin reviews are wallet friendly.

“Most of what we do is geared toward moderately priced restaurants,” he said.

It listed 75 “Bib Gourmand” restaurants that serve top-notch food at affordable prices in its latest guide, up from 74 last year.

Meanwhile, Lazy Bear, cited for its “sophisticated, often experimental cooking style using supremely high quality ingredients,” gained a star, entering into Michelin’s two-star category for “excellent cuisine, worth a detour.”

It joined Acquerello, Atelier Crenn, Baumé, Campton Place, Coi and Commis. Forty-one area restaurants achieved one star from Michelin for being “a very good restaurant in its category,” three more than a year ago.

Michelin recognised several Asian restaurants, Hashiri, ju-ni, Mister Jiu’s and Mosu, for the first time with one star. Other one-star debuts included Adega, Madera and The Progress.—Reuters

# Russian BASE jumps from 7,700 metres in Himalayas

CHO OYU (Nepal) — Russian daredevil Valery Rozov leapt from a height of 7,700 metres (8,421 yards) off the Himalayan mountain Cho Oyu and spiralled without a parachute for 90 seconds in a BASE jumping world record attempt.

The 51-year-old extreme sports enthusiast eventually opened his parachute to land safely on a glacier below in the 5 October jump, whose footage was released Monday, that had been delayed a week after heavy snowfall on the world’s sixth highest

peak. Rozov had spent three weeks climbing close to the summit of the mountain on the Nepal/China border for the jump, which has yet to be ratified as a BASE (buildings, antennas, spans and earth) jumping highest exit point world record.

Rostov’s previous best mark of 7,220m was set in 2013 when he leapt from Mount Everest.

The Russian dedicated his Cho Oyu jump to climber and friend, Alexander Ruchkin, who died tackling a climb in Peru last year.—Reuters



Russian base jumper Valery Rozov prepares to leap off a 29 storey-high (116 m) building, in attempt to express his solidarity with Pakistan for fighting against the Islamist militancy, in Pakistan’s southern city of Karachi on 1 November 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS



10:51 Am Famous pagodas of Sagaing

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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	Travelogue: “Anyar Myay” or Upcountry (Part- III)
07:43	Pm	Myanmar Betels
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode-1) The Culture of Pennant Pillar
08:41	Pm	Mobile House
08:52	Pm	Traditional Snacks

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

(For Detailed Schedule – [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

**(27-10-2016 07:00am ~ 28-10-2016 07:00am) MST**

**Today Fresh**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana
07:44	Am	Natural Mineral Water
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	The Legend of An Ambulatory Surgeon (Episode-2)
08:52	Am	Hip-Hop and Design
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar- Stone of The Heavens
09:51	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	“Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Myanmar’s Secret Beautifier



# Sturridge brace helps Liverpool down Spurs, Arsenal through

LONDON — Daniel Sturridge sent Liverpool into the League Cup quarter-finals and gave his manager a reminder of his talents with two clinical goals in a 2-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday.

The England striker has struggled to convince Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp this season, but he was a livewire all night at Anfield where his double put the hosts in charge before Vincent Janssen pulled a goal back with a penalty for the visitors.

Klopp's side are joined in the last eight by Arsenal, who eased past second-tier Reading 2-0 with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scoring twice, while Newcastle United romped to a 6-0 win over 10-man Preston North End and Hull City won 2-1 at Bristol City.

Leeds United beat Norwich City 3-2 on penalties, while the quarter-final lineup will be completed on Wednesday with three more ties including Manchester United hosting local rivals and holders City in the pick of the fourth round matches.

With no European football to occupy his squad this season, Liverpool manager Klopp raised a few eyebrows by making 11 changes to the side that beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday.

Spurs, who are midway through a run of seven games in 23 days and have the Champions League to worry about, had more justification for retaining only Eric Dier from the side that drew 0-0 with Bournemouth at the weekend.

Liverpool, record eight times League Cup winners and last season's beaten finalists, were ahead after nine minutes when Sturridge,

who has started just two of their last six games in all competitions, showed predatory instincts to poke home.

While his work rate often comes under scrutiny, Sturridge's eye for goal has never been in doubt and when Marko Grujic's shot deflected into his path, he showed lightning reactions to beat Spurs keeper Michel Vorm to the ball.

"He did what he has to do. It was brilliant, he could have scored three or four," said Klopp, who regularly prefers Brazilian Roberto Firmino in attack in the Premier League.

Sturridge passed up two chances either side of halftime, but he made amends by doubling Liverpool's lead in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute. Georginio Wijnaldum played him through on goal and Sturridge squeezed his finish through Vorm's legs in front of the Kop.

It had been smooth sailing for Liverpool until that point but Lucas Leiva nibbled the heels of Erik Lamela to

concede a penalty, which Janssen slammed home with 14 minutes remaining.

Alberto Moreno was then lucky to avoid conceding a second spot kick

opening weekend of the Premier League season, were frustrated for large periods of the first half before Oxlade-Chamberlain put them ahead against Reading after 33 minutes.

He doubled the lead with 12 minutes left when he drove a shot from distance that was deflected in off a Reading boot.

Hull City took a two goal lead at second-tier Bristol City when Harry Maguire and Michael Dawson scored within four minutes either side of halftime before Lee Tomlin pulled back a stoppage-time goal for the hosts. Newcastle thrashed Preston in an all-Championship battle with Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrovic and Senegal's Mohamed Diame both scoring twice while Matt Ritchie netted a penalty and Ayoze Perez scored in stoppage time to round off the rout.

Ronaldo Vieira scored the winning penalty for Leeds United against Norwich City in another all second-tier contest after the match finished 1-1 at fulltime and 2-2 after extra time. — Reuters

after tangling with Lamela again, but the match ended with Liverpool back on the front foot as Sturridge struck the crossbar and substitute Danny Ings had an effort saved by Vorm.

Arsenal, who are unbeaten in all competitions since the



Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum in action with Tottenham's Tom Carroll. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Life in Manchester 'bit of a disaster', says Mourinho

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has said he has struggled to adapt to life in Manchester, labelling his living arrangement in the city as "bit of a disaster".

The Portuguese has endured a mixed start to his stint as United boss, having lost three of his nine league games, including a 4-0 hammering at the hands of Chelsea on Sunday.

Away from the pitch, the 53-year-old said he was far from settled in England's north west city, staying without his family for the first time.

"For me it's a bit of a

disaster because I want sometimes to walk a little bit and I can't. I just want to cross the bridge and go for a restaurant. I can't, so it is really bad," the former Chelsea boss told Sky Sports.

"Buy a house? I do not know, I do not know. The reality is that my daughter will be 20 next week, my son will be 17 in a couple of months."

"They are very stable. University in London. Football in London. Friends. So they are in an age where they can't chase me like they did before. So for the first time the family lives in a different way." — Reuters

## Brazil great Carlos Alberto dies following heart attack

RIO DE JANEIRO — Carlos Alberto, who scored one of the greatest goals in World Cup history while captaining Brazil to glory in the 1970 final against Italy, has died aged 72 following a heart attack.

The marauding right back scored his team's fourth goal in a 4-1 win over Italy in Mexico's Azteca Stadium, a thumping drive that ended a move involving eight players, before hoisting the Jules Rimet trophy as Brazil won the title for the third time.

"I am saddened by the death of my friend and brother Carlos Alberto, our beloved Captain, and I remember the times that we were together at Santos, Brazil and the (New York) Cosmos,

where we formed a winning partnership," Pele said in one of the many tributes from former greats.

Carlos Alberto was a classy defender who played for Fluminense, Santos, Flamengo and the Cosmos and earned the nickname 'The Captain' for his leadership qualities.

He won his first titles at Fluminense in his home city of Rio de Janeiro but his best days were at Santos where, alongside his friend Pele, he won two first division titles and five Sao Paulo state trophies.

The full back was also one of the first major football talents to play in the US when he joined the Cosmos. — Reuters

## World kickboxing champion plans Thai onslaught

NAIROBI — World Kick-boxing Federation middleweight champion, Golola Moses has his eyes trained on the Thailand low-kick national title as he inches closer to finishing the establishment of a kickboxing academy back home in Uganda.

Moses, who added the African Muay Thai title to his name during the Xtra Kombat Africa fight series held in Nairobi, said Tuesday the anticipated bout scheduled for January 2017 will probably be his most difficult fight ever.

"I know it will be tough for me since the officials from Thailand have only sent me an intimidating photo of my expected opponent whose name I don't even know, and since I cannot even research on him from the internet, I will go to Thailand for intensive training in two weeks' time ahead of the fight," he told Xinhua in Nairobi.

Moses overcame a spirited challenge from Tanzania's Emmanuel Shija to win in the five-round bout that was the key highlight of the inaugural Xtra Kombat Africa fight series.

During the bout, Shija brought Moses down before the Ugandan sprung to his feet to find Shija unprepared for a double punch on target in the third round to the applause of the Ugandan and Kenyan fans that had waited all afternoon to cheer him on. — Xinhua



Former Brazilian soccer captain Carlos Alberto Torres holds the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil trophy on 21 November 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS