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Monday, 31 October 2016

# Northern Rakhine: Stable, but strenuous

Min Thit

"I was born and brought up in this village. I can't abandon my hometown for any reason," said U Maung Mya Sein, a 65-year-old resident of Phawarchaung Village in the Maungdaw District of Rakhine State.

U Maung Mya Sein said he was not afraid of anyone, and didn't leave the village when local residents fled to Sittway, Buthidaung and Maungdaw as soon as they heard that border guard police posts in Yathetaung and Maungdaw had been attacked.

Although the situation in the area has become stable, it is difficult to resume farming and other businesses because people are still worried.

**Security is of utmost importance for the local villages because, without safety, local people cannot live there peacefully and without fear.**



Rakhine Buddhists who have fled from violence in Maungdaw are passing their time in a temporary shelter at a stadium in Sittwe, Myanmar on October 25, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN

To help ease some of the worries, the Rakhine State Hluttaw formed an 11-member investigation body into the 9/10 attacks on Yathetaung and Maungdaw on 24 October, according to U Aung Win, chairman of the body.

"First of all, we found people who abandoned their villages and left for Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Sittway for fear of the attackers. They had difficulty returning home, especially after violent attackers looted police weapons," the chairman said.

After the attacks, the Tatmadaw and the police were hot on the

heels of weapons looters and security was tightened in local villages, according to authorities.

In addition, Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin told local villagers that they would be trained to protect their own villages in accordance with Myanmar law and international rules, but would not be allowed to do anything they wanted.

"I didn't flee because of the attacks as I didn't have any money to flee, but I had to live in fear. However, there were no males of different religions nearby since they had already fled to

Thechaung. Only their families were left," said Daw Aye Aye Khaing of Launglon Village as he walked on the road to the Kyikanpyin Police Post, one of three that were attacked on 9 October.

Although some schools in areas affected by the violent attacks have been reopened, the majority are still closed, according to locals.

Moreover, locals said attackers fell tall trees along their routes of withdrawal so that they could not be easily followed by security forces.

When the investigation committee made field trips to the

scene, they found only women and children along the route of the attacks.

Residents of Kyikanpyin Village, which is near the border police outpost that had been attacked, burnt down their village by themselves and made it look as if the village were set on fire by the Tatmadaw and the police, according to one of the findings of the committee.

"Members of the Tatmadaw and the police have to follow their own rules and regulations as well as the law. They can't do anything they want; otherwise they will

have to face legal action," Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin said to locals in villages in Maungdaw District.

"The attacks showed that they intentionally did it. They planned for a long time and launched coordinated attacks on various posts," according to the chairman of the committee.

"The recent issue is not between the two communities, but is concerned with the sovereignty of the union. Raids on headquarters amount to rebellion," the chairman said.

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Amateur cyclists at the starting line for the community event promoting fitness and environmental improvement.  
PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDY)

## Mass cycling event held in Mandalay

UNDER the direction of the Ministry of Education and Health, the Myanmar Cycling Federation and the Mandalay Region Sport and Physical Education Department, a mass cycling event was organized recently in Mandalay.

With the aims of ensuring

national physical fitness, energy conservation, reduction of air pollution and easing of traffic congestion, the event was held in Mandalay on 29 October.

The event began in front of the Mandalay City Development Committee and concluded at the town hall of Mandalay.

Two-hundred amateur cyclists, among them Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, participated in the event.

The mass cycling event will be held during the last week of every month as a community activity in Mandalay, it is learnt.

—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

## 9 types of passports to be issued for Myanmar citizens

THE Myanmar passport board has announced that nine types of passports in different colours will be issued to Myanmar citizens.

The nine types will be: PB - Business Passport; PT - Dependent Passport; PJ - Job Passport; PR - Religious Passport; PS - Seaman Passport; PE - Student Passport; PV - Visit Passport; PD - Diplomatic Passport and PO - Official Passport. A red passport will be issued for citizens, a

blue passport for diplomats and a green passport for governmental officials.

A Myanmar citizen will be able to get a passport in 10 days at a cost of Ks25,000 (\$25).

Myanmar citizens in Thailand who want to apply for passports will have to come to Myanmar and can obtain passports in Yangon, Mawlamyine, Pha-An, and Dawe, it is learnt.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)



A man holding a passport. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG)

## Transformers to be installed in Katha District next year

LOCAL authorities plan to install transformers across Katha District in Sagaing Region next year to increase access to electricity in the region.

Funded by the Union government, the project is estimated to cost over Ks7.8 billion.

Under the new scheme, Katha District electrical engineers will construct a 33/11 MVA sub-power station, 13 miles of 33 KV power lines and 15 miles of 11 KV power lines in Pinlebu Township; Katha-Moetagyi 66/11 KV 5 MVA sub-power station and two miles

of 66 KV power lines as well as Katha-Indarant 33/11 KV 5 MVA sub-power station and 18 miles of 33 KV line.

The project also covers upgrading of existing power facilities in Kawlin Township and replacement of the supporting structures

of Htigyaing-Kyaunggon power lines.

Public participation also plays a vital role in implementing the installation of 400 voltage power lines in the rural areas, said U Hsan Tint, township electrical engineer.

Local authorities have re-

ceived budgets for a project to build 10 miles of 11 KV power lines from Minkaunggon to Moetagyi this fiscal year. It is estimated that the project is likely to start before the end of 2017 after completing the tender process.

—Myitmakha News Agency

## Crime NEWS

### 27,000 tonnes of illegal timber seized this year

AUTHORITIES seized over 27,000 tonnes of illegal logs and timber over the first seven months of the year, according to official figures issued by the Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The government has accelerated its efforts to eliminate illegal logging, which includes the har-

vest, transportation, purchase and sale of timber in contravention of the laws and regulations of the country. Among the seizures was a case in PutaO District in Kachin State, where over 7,000 tonnes of logs were seized, according to the department.

The Bago Region Forest Department announced that illegally felled logs of teak and hardwood

weighing over 3,000 tonnes were collected by local authorities from timber smugglers between April and September this year, arresting over 500 traffickers.

The number was an increase of 600 tonnes compared with the same period last year. The department collected over 2,400 tonnes of timber from smugglers last year.—Khine Khant

### Heroin worth Ks77.76 billion and weapons seized in Shan State (North) and Mon State

A COMBINED team comprising members of Tatmadaw Region Battalion, police from the Anti-Drug Squad Unit 21 based in Kunlong and members of Kunlong Myoma Police Station searched a motor vehicle driven by Nyi Ryin at the Kunlong Suspension bridge on 29 October and seized 144 kilos of white heroin and 50 kilos of brown heroin.

At the same time, the team

searched a car driven by Leekhinephone and seized 154 kilo of white heroin and 150 kilos of brown heroin powder worth Ks77.760 billion (local price). On the same day, a combined team comprising police from the Aint-Drug Squad Unit 38 based in Mawlamyine and members of the Mon State Police Force raided a house owned by Kyi Soe in Kawpanaw village of Kyaikmaraw township.

Police found Kyi Soe together with Kyaw Ngwe and Ma Ei Ei Phyu. Police seized 344 yaba pills and Ks6.295 lakh, one AK-47 gun with 361 bullets, one .22 rifle, one M-16 rifle, two pistols, a hand grenade, 361 rounds of various ammunition and 11 magazines containing bullets. Police are preparing to charge them with illegal possession of weapons and drug trafficking.—Myanmar Police Force

## Illegal jade stones seized in Moehyin

POLICE seized illegal jade stones weighing 826 g and 22 jade bracelets in Moehnyin yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police discovered the jade stones and jewelries from a vehicle en-

route from Hpakant to Mandalay.

Bo Bo Aye, 51, the driver of the vehicle, and Rein Aung Yun, 22 who was on board, have been charged at the Moehyin Police Station under the Myanmar Gems Stone Law.—Salai Mang Ngai





# C-in-C of Defence Services arrives in Beijing

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Fa Men Si (Famen Temple) in Bao Ji, Shan Xi Province, China, yesterday and paid homage to the finger bone relic of the Buddha.

In the afternoon, the delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Xian for Beijing by a special aircraft.

In Beijing, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with staff families of the Myanmar embassy and military attaché and presented souvenirs to them.

The staff families of the embassy hosted dinner to the delegation. During their stay in Xian on the evening of 29 October, Commander of Shan Xi Province military region Maj-Gen Gao Dongfu hosted dinner to the delegation. — Myanmar News Agency



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Fa Men Si (Famen Temple) to pay homage to the finger bone relic of the Buddha. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Traffic deaths reach over 3,400

MORE THAN 3,400 people were killed in road accident across the country over the past nine months, and 19,095 sustained injuries in the same period, according to traffic police.

This year's number of road fatalities has increased by 400 compared to the same period last year. A total of 11,375 cases occurred in regions and states over the first nine months of 2015, leaving 3,062 people dead and 19,194 people injured.

Police made concerted efforts to reduce road casualties around the nation through effective programmes. Between January and September this year, the number of registered motor vehicles nationwide reached over 5.9 million. There are only 2,853 traffic policemen. —Kyaw Kyaw

## Workshop for Korea Volunteer program in Yangon

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) held a Workshop for Korea Volunteer program (WFK) in Yangon on 28th October.

The WFK programme of KOICA focuses on improving human resources in the developing world and promoting mutual understanding between South Korea and other countries.

The program has dispatched 2,000 volunteers to 46 countries, including Myanmar, where 65 KOICA-WFK volunteers are currently performing their missions at 52 organisations under 9 ministries in various sectors such as agriculture, IT, livestock, sports and education.

The workshop aims to strengthen the relationship between KOICA and respective

governmental organisations. In this event, participants heard presentations of KOICA and the WFK program, World Friend Advisor (WFA), and discussions on WFK volunteers.

In addition, a new programme of Sae Maul Undong (SMU) specialists, which began this year, was introduced so that the area of WFK volunteers can more easily be expanded according to the demands of the local people.

The workshop was successfully accomplished with the presence of Chief Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office, Dr. Shin Euicheol, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs Dr. Nanda Hmun and 85 government representatives. —GNLM



Workshop for Korea Volunteer program (WFK) is in progress. PHOTO: KOICA

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visits Gyeongbok Palace



Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint visits Gyeongbok Palace. PHOTO: MNA

A MYANMAR delegation led by U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, visited Gyeongbok Palace and Museum in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday.

Responsible person-

nel conducted them around the palace and museum. — Myanmar News Agency

## Northern Rakhine: Stable, but strenuous

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In addition, the chairman suggested a scenario in which residents left the village with their valuables before setting it on fire as if security forces had burnt it down.

Security is of utmost importance for the local villages because, without safety, local people cannot live there peacefully and without fear. Ethnic villages are located among other villages, and it is important to provide security and patrol for villages, according to the chairman of the committee.

"The security of the western gate is not enough just with barbed wire because they can be cut with a wire cutter. It is necessary to build a concrete wall to reinforce security forces there and arm the locals before setting up agricultural and livestock breeding farms for them," the chairman said.

The investigation committee will submit its report to the Speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw, the Rakhine State Government

and the Union Government.

While many villagers are still living in fear due to armed violent attacks, the villagers in Kyeinchaung Village, where communities of different faiths reside, are experiencing community peace and stability. There have been no conflicts in the village, even in the emotionally charged events of 2012, when there were clashes between Buddhists and Muslims.

"We don't like any forms of violent attacks. We want to work in peace for our livelihoods," said Rawbi Arlaung, a Muslim from the village.

The trading in Maungtaw Market also declined dramatically since the 9 October armed attacks.

"Our customers have not come to us since the violent attacks due to instability of the region," said U Su Tin, who sells clothes at the Maungtaw Market.

From 2008 to 1991, the then government has established 36 villages in the border areas in

Maungtaw and Buthidaung, and assisted ethnic populations to settle there. But, it is difficult for the residents to thrive due to scarcity of jobs. In recent years the population has decreased dramatically.

"It's urgently needed to create job opportunities there, so ethnic villages can exist. Besides, ethnic businessmen should invest in these areas to create job opportunities for residents," said U Than Shwe, who is carrying out philanthropic works in Sittway.

The number of villagers who fled their villages due to armed attacks has decreased, resulting in fewer people at the shelters, according to the Rakhine State Government. But hardships still persist.

"I have no land for growing crops. Despite anxiety for my security, I will have to catch fish tomorrow for my livelihood," said U Maung Mya Sein, 65, of the Village of Hparwutchaung in Maungtaw District.



# LOCAL Business



The price of fuel increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent in the domestic market. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Fuel price high in domestic market

THE price of fuel increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent in the domestic market in October, according to filling stations in Yangon.

The retail price of diesel on 29 October was Ks650 per liter, while a liter of premium diesel went for Ks680, 92 Octane for Ks650 and 95 Octane for Ks705, a local fuel seller said.

The price of one liter of die-

sel increased by Ks80 (14 per cent) while the price of premium diesel also rose by Ks80 (13.3 per cent), 92 Octane by Ks70 (12 per cent) and 95 Octane by Ks 65 (10.15 per cent) compared to the price on 30 September.

The increase of the fuel price is directly related to the growing price of foreign currency. The foreign exchange rate reached Ks1,265 per US dollar

on September 30. The price has increased by Ks26 (2%) on 29 October.

The global crude oil price rose to US\$49 on 29 October from around \$48 on 30 September. Crude oil stayed at above \$100 a barrel until June last year.

Local customers can expect declines in the price of diesel, octane and premium diesel. —*Kyu Kyu*

## IMF says Myanmar making economic progress

THE IMF is upbeat on progress being made with Myanmar's economy.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team led by Yongzheng Yang visited Myanmar October 14-28, to undertake the 2016 Article IV Consultation discussions. At the end of the visit, Mr. Yang made the following statement:

"Myanmar remains a fast-growing economy with real GDP increasing by 7.3 percent in FY2015/16 (ending March 31). Growth softened in the first half of FY2016/17, reflecting a correction in the real estate market, an adjustment in the construction sector, slowing demand from major trading partners, and weak commodity prices. However, with expected increases in FDI and aid inflows growth is expected to recover in the second half of the year and the full-year growth is projected at 6.5 percent. Inflation is projected to stay at around 9 percent on average for FY2016/17, and the external current account deficit to increase to about 7.6 percent of GDP.

"The authorities have made important progress since the last Article IV consultation, including the enactment of the Financial Institutions Law, the

passage of the Investment Law, and continued improvements in revenue administration, including the successful introduction of income tax self-assessment at the large taxpayer office. That said, macroeconomic imbalances persist. Inflation remains high, the fiscal deficit has increased significantly, and the external current account deficit continues to widen.

"Therefore, safeguarding macroeconomic stability remains the top priority, which means bringing down inflation, strengthening Myanmar's external position, and fortifying the banking system. In particular, the fiscal deficit needs to be kept in check, monetary conditions tightened, and the exchange rate allowed to move more flexibly in line with market conditions. Phasing out central bank financing of fiscal deficits is a priority. To safeguard financial stability and improve financial inclusion, prudential regulations should be issued soon, and state-owned banks reformed to reduce risks to public finance and the financial system.

"To build a resilient and inclusive economy, Myanmar needs to focus on domestic revenue mobilization, including by

rationalizing tax exemptions and investment incentives, and passing the draft Tax Administration Procedure Law. It also should initiate sustained public education on the importance of taxation for economic and social development and accelerate reforms of state economic enterprises. Carefully phased liberalization of the financial sector will help improve financial inclusion, especially for agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises. Continued efforts to streamline business regulation will help create an enabling environment for the private sector.

"We would like to thank the authorities for their openness and hospitality. It is expected that the IMF's Executive Board will consider the 2016 Article IV consultation in January 2017."

The team had constructive meetings with the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Governors U Set Aung, Daw Khin Saw Oo, and U Soe Min, Deputy Planning and Finance Minister U Maung Maung Win, and other senior officials. The team also held discussions with parliamentarians, private sector representatives, and civil society. —*IMF*

## Myanmar records trade deficit of over \$2 billion in past seven months

THE Commerce Ministry recorded a trade gap of over US\$2 billion in the first seven months of the year, falling by over 700 million compared with the same period last year.

The export value between April and October 21 this year was \$6,210.023 while the import value surpassed \$2.06 billion, whereas the country's import value reached \$8,798.774 million last year while the export value was \$6,001.872 million, with a trade deficit of over \$2.7 billion.

According to the Central Statistics Organization, the country re-

corded a trade deficit of over \$5.4 billion in FY2015-2016, about \$5 billion in FY2014-2015, \$2.5 billion in 2013-2014 and \$91.9 million in 2012-2013.

Myanmar's export includes fruits and vegetables, wood, fish, clothing, rubber, mineral products and natural gas. The country mainly imports fuel, vegetable oil, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, construction equipment, polymers, tires and machinery.

China, India, Japan, Indonesia, Germany and Hong Kong are the main trading partners of Myanmar. —*Chan Myae*

## Technical training aims to produce quality mangoes for healthy export

TECHNICAL training has been given to mango growers across Mandalay Region by a local organisation working on development of the mango market, said its secretary U Kyaw Soe Naing.

Since mid 2016, the organisation has offered a technical training course designed especially for mango farmers in anticipation of healthy exports in the coming years.

Local agriculturists made field trips to several mango plantations in upper Myanmar such as Maeza, Katha, Bhamo, Madaya, Kyauktada and Yenatha townships since October, with plans to visit Patheingyi, Singaing, Monywa and Debayin in the future.

The organisation also conducted a market survey to explore little-known native species of mango in the project areas.

Growers normally sell their high-quality mangoes to foreign buyers, while low-quality fruits go to local food and beverage producers, said U Aye Zaw, a domestic farmer, who suggested that local food production firms put more effort into manufacturing value-added products to enter the international market.

Among the hundreds of varieties of mango in Myanmar, Seintalone, also known as diamond solitaire mango, is the best known and most popular because of its rich flavour, aroma and colour. This variety of fruit is exported mostly to China.

Mango is a seasonal, tropical fruit. It thrives in a wide range of climates, altitudes and soils. The mango tree is a hardy evergreen tree and can grow very large. —*Aung Thant Khaing*



Mangoes being seen at a shop. PHOTOS: ATK





South Korean President Park Geun-hye releases a statement of apology to the public during a news conference at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, on 25 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## South Korea's Park accepts resignations of top aides amid crisis

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye has accepted the resignations of her top presidential aides, including the chief of staff, the presidential office said on Sunday, amid a deepening political crisis.

The departure of the top presidential officials comes as Park is grappling with a recent influence-peddling scandal involving an old friend, Choi Soon-sil.

Choi returned to South Korea from Germany on Sunday as the political crisis engulfed Park over allegations that she allowed Choi to use her friendship to exert improper influence and benefit personally.

Jeong Yeon-guk, a spokesman for the presidential office, announced on Sunday that three long-time Park aides had also stepped down. —Reuters

## Huge crowd fills Grand Palace to mourn over late Thai king on 1<sup>st</sup> opening day

BANGKOK — The first opening day of the throne hall of Thailand's Grand Palace saw a total of 29,480 mourners pay respect for the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Bureau of the Royal Household (BRH) said on Saturday.

As Thailand entered into third of week of mourning its late King who passed away on 13 October, tens of thousands of mourners flocked to Bangkok's Sanam Luang, the 30-acre open field in front of the palace where the late king's body is placed. They are being allowed to enter the throne hall to pay tribute before the

funeral urn of the deceased king.

The bodies of high-ranking Thai royals are reportedly used to be kept in a golden urn. However, the palace officials are no longer planning to uphold the tradition. Instead, the late king's body would be placed in a coffin with the symbolic urn nearby. Black-clad crowds have streamed into the capital from provinces across Thailand since Friday. They began to occupy spaces at the tents arranged by authorities for rest with hope to get the first queue for entry to the throne hall.

The BRH has planned

to allow only 10,000 people daily to enter the throne hall from 8 am local time onwards. The plan has to be changed since the tremendous crowd of mourners unceasingly poured into the field.

The first group of 1,600 people were granted entry with no queue numbers since 4 am. Later at 8 am, queue numbers were applied. Free rides of shuttle buses to the palace were offered. Hundreds of volunteers also worked tirelessly, offering ammonia and balms for weakened queuers and collecting garbage around the tightly crammed field.

The death of the 88-year-old King Bhumibol, the world's longest reign, has plunged the country into sorrow. The government has set a mourning period of one year for the passing of the late king. Mourning ceremonies are held across the country. More than 300,000 mourners in black packed Sanam Luang and the surrounding areas in front of the Grand Palace on 22 October, to sing a special version of the Royal Anthem in honour of King Bhumibol. It is estimated that there are more than 40,000 daily visitors to the palace to mourn over the late king.—Xinhua

## China tries to 'divide and rule' Taiwan by befriending pro-Beijing towns

TAIPEI — China is embarking on a divide-and-rule campaign on self-ruled Taiwan, offering to boost tourism to pro-Beijing towns and counties while giving the new pro-independence government the cold shoulder, government officials and politicians say.

Whether Beijing's promises materialize remains to be seen, but the political rift is pressing Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to come up with measures of its own to counter an alarming decline in mainland tourists.

Eight Taiwanese local government officials, mainly representing counties controlled by the China-friendly opposition Nationalist Party, were promised greater tourism and agricultural ties when they met China's top Taiwan policymaker in Beijing last month.

And this week, Communist Party Chief and Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to meet Nationalist Party chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu when she visits Beijing during an annual party-to-party gathering about economic and cultural ties. In contrast, Beijing has withheld official communication with the government of DPP leader and President Tsai Ing-wen, until it agrees to recognise the "one-China" policy.

"The Chinese government has put political conditions relevant to Taiwan surrendering our sovereignty and our right to determine our own future on the outflow of tourists to Taiwan and that's what makes this a



Pro-China supporters (red-cap) clash with police officers as they try to approach members of a Taiwanese independence group at the airport in Taoyuan, Taiwan, as Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang (KMT), chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu departs for her first trip to China, where she is expected to meet China's President Xi Jinping, on 30 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

very politically complicated issue," said Hsiao Bi-khim, a DPP lawmaker for Hualien, on Taiwan's east coast.

Hsiao and the Hualien county chief, an ex-Nationalist who went to Beijing last month, do not see eye to eye on tourism development.

"We have to condemn this divide-and-conquer strategy and also individual politicians who seek to play into the Chinese divide-and-conquer strategy," Hsiao said.

China says Taiwan is part of one China, ruled by Beijing. It regards the island as a renegade province, to be united by force if necessary, and ties have become strained since Tsai took office in May.

The previous Nationalist administration agreed to recognise the "1992 consen-

sus", which states that there is only one China, with each side having its own interpretation of what that means.

The eight officials who went to Beijing came home to a storm of criticism for being lackeys to Beijing's one-China policy.

One of them, Liu Tseng-ying, chief of Matsu, a group of small islets off China's Fujian province but held by Taiwan, told Chinese officials that he wanted more Chinese to visit Taiwan's smallest county.

"I said I hoped Chinese tourists can increase to 40 per cent of the total," Liu told Reuters.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office head Zhang Zhijun agreed to expand trade and travel specifically between China's Fujian province and Matsu and Kinmen. Both Taiwan-controlled islands

lie closer to China than Taiwan. Group tourists from mainland China, which Beijing can effectively control via state-run Chinese travel agencies, fell 71 per cent year-on-year from 1-18 October, Taiwan data showed, coinciding with China's National Day holiday, a Golden Week for travel for Chinese.

The sector was also hit by a bus fire in Taiwan in July that killed 24 mainland tourists. The driver, among the victims, had poured petrol inside the bus and locked its emergency exits before setting it alight, prosecutors said. The severity of the decline in tourism led to a major protest in September and prompted the government to pledge T\$30 billion (\$960 million) in loans to the industry and work on attracting tourists from other Asian countries.—Reuters

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## Over 1,000 China COSCO Shipping ships join force in search for Chinese sailor Guo Chuan

BEIJING — Over 1,000 ships affiliated to China COSCO Shipping Corporation have been informed to keep an eye on the sea along their travel routes in a hope to find missing Chinese mariner Guo Chuan.

In a message from the COSCO Shipping to Guo's support team on Sunday, on-duty general manager Zhu Liyong said the group is willing to help search for Guo, who has been missing for five days during a solo non-stop trans-Pacific adventure.

"I myself is also a captain," started Zhu.

"COSCO Shipping attached much importance and informed over 1,000 vessels affiliated to the group traveling within the concerned area help search for Guo," Zhu said.

A commercial vessel, named "Ruian City" from COSCO Shipping, was already conducting the job. It was on its routine route between Hawaii and Japan when

it received messages for help on Saturday Beijing time.

"I received calls both from Guo Chuan's team and the China Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, asking for our assistance in searching for Guo Chuan," said Ruian City captain Ding Jianwu on Sunday.

At the request, five more lookout positions were added on the ship while the ship already scoured several spots where the 51-year-old mariner could possibly drift to. Guo was suspected of having fallen overboard on 25 October Beijing time 900 kilometres off Hawaii and his team said he might wear life jacket then.

"We are using every possible tools, the radar, binocle and our naked eyes in a bid to find Guo. We will spare no effort in the search of the captain," said Ding. "I hope there will be a miracle and pray for Captain Guo."

Guo's support team and his family were desperate on looking

for other ways to keep the search going after the US Coast Guard suspended their effort on Thursday. The USCG located Guo's trimaran and then sent a boat and crew aboard the vessel but found no trace of Guo except his life jacket.

The team said a travel company in Hawaii has offered to provide five to 10 helicopters to search the missing sailor, but they need larger ships with helipads.

"These helicopters can fly 500 kilometres without stopping but the site of the accident is 900 kilometres off Hawaii. We need large ships which have helicopter platforms and equipment to refuel the choppers."

Before the accident, Guo was attempting to sail from San Francisco to Shanghai in 20 days or less for a new solo trans-Pacific world record. Guo already had a world record to his name for a 138-day solo non-stop circumnavigation in 2013.—Xinhua



Guo Chuan preparing for his trans-Pacific sailing on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Australian government plans lifetime ban for illegal asylum seekers

CANBERRA — Asylum seekers who use people smugglers to illegally come to Australia by boat will be given a lifetime ban from entering the country, under a government plan set to be put to Parliament next week.

Even if they are found to be legitimate refugees, those who employ the use of illegal people smugglers to make their way to Australia will never be allowed into the country, even as a tourist.

According to the government, the lifetime ban will extend to those who have been sent to Australian detention centres on Nauru or Manus Island since 19 July 2013, however the laws will not affect children.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the law was a follow-up to former Labour Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's pledge in

July 2013 that any asylum seeker who comes to Australia by boat without a visa would "never be settled in Australia".

"They must know that the door to Australia is closed to those who seek to come here by boat with a people smuggler," he told the press on Sunday.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the laws would send a "tough message" not only to people smugglers, but to those thinking of coming to Australia illegally.

"This is a tough message we are sending to the people smuggling syndicates and those who pay people smugglers to try and enter Australia," Bishop told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Sunday.

"They will not be settled in Australia and they won't be visit-

ing Australia."

Meanwhile Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told News Corp the Labour opposition should have "no excuses" not to support the laws in Parliament, as it was Rudd — a former Labor PM — who first announced such a plan.

He added that Australia would continue to fight the illegal people smuggling trade which has resulted in hundreds of "deaths at sea".

"This puts into law that crucial aspect which has been central to stopping the boats and stopping deaths at sea," Dutton said on Sunday.

"It sends a clear message to people smugglers that the government's resolve in protecting Australia's borders is as strong as it has ever been."—Xinhua



Lee Kyung-jae, a lawyer of Choi Soon-sil, leaves after a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, on 30 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Friend at centre of South Korea presidential crisis to answer probe

SEOUL — The woman at the centre of a deepening political crisis around South Korean President Park Geun-hye will cooperate with prosecutors investigating allegations that she had improper control over state affairs, her lawyer said on Sunday.

Choi Soon-sil returned to South Korea early on Sunday from Germany, where she had been staying, her lawyer told reporters.

"Choi has expressed through her attorney that she will actively respond to prosecutors' investigation and will testify according to the facts," Lee Kyung-jae, her lawyer, said on Sunday morning.

"She is deeply remorseful that she had caused frustration and despondency among the public," Lee said.

Choi left Europe on a flight from London to avoid media camped out in Germany, Lee said. She would make herself available for questioning by prosecutors, he said.

In the midst of the political crisis, Park has accepted the resignations of five of the top presidential aides, including the chief of staff, the presidential office said on Sunday.

Three long-time Park aides, the insular core of advisors who have been criticised of tightly controlling the access to the president, had also stepped down, according to the presidential office.

Park's office said on Friday she ordered her senior secretaries to tender their resignations.

Choi was under intense pressure to return to South Korea as the political crisis engulfed Park over allegations that she allowed Choi to use her friendship to exert improper influence and benefit personally.

Thousands of South Koreans rallied in Seoul on Saturday night demanding Park's resignation over the scandal. Angry Koreans say Park betrayed public trust and mismanaged the government, and has lost a mandate to lead the country.

The protest came as prosecu-

tors investigate presidential aides and other officials to determine whether they broke the law to allow Choi to wield undue influence or gain financially.

Park said last week she had given Choi access to speech drafts early in her term and apologised for causing concern among the public.

In an interview with South Korea's *Segye Ilbo* newspaper published on Thursday, Choi said she received drafts of Park's speeches after Park's election victory but denied she had access to other official material, or that she influenced state affairs or benefited financially.

Park is in the fourth year of a five-year term, and the crisis threatens to complicate policymaking during the lame-duck period that typically sets in toward the end of South Korea's single-term presidency. Opposition parties have demanded a thorough investigation, but have not raised the possibility of impeaching her.

The crisis has sent Park's public support to an all-time low. In one opinion poll, more than 40 per cent of respondents said Park should resign or be impeached.

The ruling conservative Saenuri Party said on Sunday it had urged Park to form a coalition government with various political parties, which would mean the appointment of a new prime minister approved by the ruling and opposition parties.

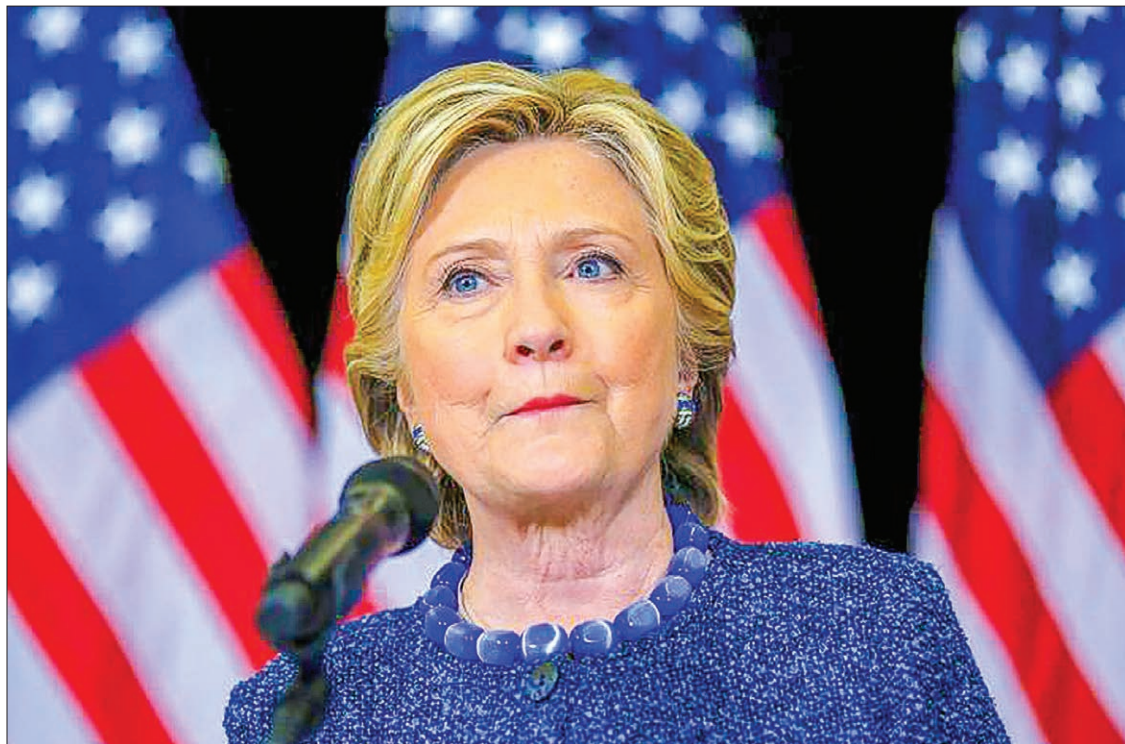
Choi was seen in photographs with Park from 1979 when Park, as eldest daughter of then-President Park Chung-hee, was filling in as first lady for her mother who had been killed five years earlier by an assassin intending to kill her father.

Park's father, who took power in a military coup in 1961, was shot dead by his disgruntled spy chief later in 1979.

Choi was someone "who gave me help when I was going through a difficult time," Park said in a brief televised address on Tuesday.—Reuters



# Clinton enjoys solid lead in early voting



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton holds an unscheduled news conference to talk about FBI inquiries into her emails after a campaign rally in Des Moines, Iowa, US on 28 October 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — With 11 days to go before the US presidential election, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton leads Republican Donald Trump by 15 percentage points among early voters surveyed in the past two weeks, according to the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project.

Though data is not available for all early voting states, Clinton enjoys an edge in swing states such as Ohio and Arizona and in Republican Party strongholds such as Georgia and Texas.

An estimated 19 million Americans have voted so far in the election, according to the University of Florida's United States Election Project, accounting for as much as 20 per cent of the electorate.

Overall, Clinton remained on track to win a majority of votes in the Electoral College, the Reuters/Ipsos survey showed.

Having so many ballots locked down before the 8 November election is good news for the Clinton campaign. On Friday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that it is examining newly discovered emails belonging to Clinton's close aide, Huma Abedin. Those emails were found on a computer belonging to Anthony Weiner, Abedin's estranged husband, during an unrelated investigation into illicit messages he is alleged to have sent to a teenage girl. The Reuters/Ipsos survey was conducted before the news emerged Friday afternoon.

It remains unclear whether the FBI inquiry will upset the balance in the race. The bureau disclosed nothing about the Abedin emails, including whether any of the messages were sent by

or to Clinton. Over the summer, the FBI said it was closing its investigation into Clinton's use of a private email system while secretary of state. Until Friday, her campaign seemed to have weathered the initial FBI email probe.

Clinton has held a lead averaging four to seven percentage points in polls in recent weeks as the Trump campaign wrestled with accusations by women of groping and other sexual advances. Trump has said none of the accusations are true. He also struggled in the recent presidential debates and faced questions about his taxes.

As of Thursday, Clinton's odds of receiving the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency remained at greater than 95 per cent, according to State of the Nation polling results released Saturday. The project estimated she would win by 320 votes to 218, with 278 votes solidly for the Democrat.

Clinton's lead among early voters is similar to the lead enjoyed by President Barack Obama over Republican Mitt Romney at this point of the 2012 race, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken at the time. Obama won the election by 332 electoral votes to Romney's 206.

But even before the latest email news, it had been a difficult week for Clinton. News coverage of Trump's accusers had diminished, while Clinton confronted the almost daily release by WikiLeaks of emails purportedly hacked from her campaign manager's account. This week's leaked messages raised questions about former President Bill Clinton's finances.

And her lead in the States

of the Nation project fell slightly from last week. Though the projected Electoral College votes hardly moved, the number of states solidly for Clinton slid from 25 to 20 this week. Trump didn't see any additional states tilt solidly to him, but he did see some gains: The swing states of Pennsylvania, Colorado, Iowa and Nevada all moved from leaning to Clinton to being too close to call.

Still, Trump's path to a victory is narrow, and any realistic chance rests on his winning Ohio, North Carolina and Florida. As of Thursday, Ohio remained a toss-up. Florida and North Carolina were still tilting toward Clinton, according to the States of the Nation results.

Early voting data for Florida and North Carolina was not yet available this week. In Ohio, Clinton led Trump by double digits among early voters. The project's broader polling suggests the state is deadlocked between the two candidates.

In Arizona, Clinton also was solidly ahead among early voters. In the past month, Arizona has gradually moved from a solid Trump state to a marginal Clinton state, although it is still too close to call, according to the project results.

In Georgia, she enjoyed a similar lead among early voters. Overall, Georgia leans to Trump, but his lead narrowed to five percentage points this week, down from eight points last week and 13 points a month ago.

Even in Texas, where Trump enjoys a sizable lead, Clinton has a double-digit edge among early voters, according to project results.—Reuters

## UN Secretary-General's message on World Cities Day

31 October 2016

CITIES are increasingly the home of humanity. They are central to climate action, global prosperity, peace and human rights. More than half of all people live in cities and human settlements, and that proportion is projected to grow to two thirds by 2050.

To transform our world, we must transform its cities.

Crime, pollution and poverty are taking their toll on hundreds of millions of city-dwellers. At the same time, urban areas are hubs of energy, innovation and economic dynamism. By investing in cities, we can advance progress across societies.

Momentum is building. The recently concluded Habitat III Conference adopted the New Urban Agenda, a vision for cities that are just, safe, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable. This marked a milestone in setting global standards for sustainable urban development, sparking new thinking on how we plan, manage and live in cities.

Together with the other new global frameworks and Agendas – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda for Humanity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – this New Urban Agenda will put sustainable urbanization at the centre of our efforts to eliminate poverty and achieve development and prosperity for all. It can also complement the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Local action is essential to realizing the potential of these global agreements. On World Cities Day, let us renew our resolve to confront urban problems and forge lasting solutions. Together, we can show how success in cities inspires change across the world.

— UNIC/ Yangon

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Abe Cabinet's support rate down 1.8 points at 53.9%

TOKYO — The support rating for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet slightly declined from the previous month to 53.9% in a nationwide telephone survey conducted Saturday and Sunday by Kyodo News.

The approval rating compares to 55.7 per cent in September, while the disapproval rating rose 3.2 points to 33.2%.—Kyodo News

#### IMF gives Serbia green light for 2017 wage, pension hikes

BELGRADE — The International Monetary Fund agreed to the Serbian government's plans for increases to public-sector wages and pensions in 2017, but insisted it push on with plans to consolidated troubled state companies, the prime minister said.

Speaking at a Belgrade briefing on Sunday following a visit by an IMF delegation to review the IMF's 1.2 billion-euro loan to Serbia, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said discussions with a "cautious" IMF had been "long and difficult", but that Serbia could be "proud of its great results."

Public-sector wages would rise 5 to 7 per cent next year, while pensioners would get a one-time payout this year followed by a pension increase in 2017, he said.

The IMF agreed Serbia had a further six months to resolve difficulties at the indebted RTB Bor copper mine, he added.—Reuters

#### Airstrikes kill eight militants in Afghanistan northern province

MAIMANA — Up to eight Taliban militants were killed and similar number injured as the Afghan government's aircrafts pounded militants' hideout in the northern Faryab province Saturday, police said. The province has Maimana as its capital, which is located 425 km north of Kabul.

"Government forces aircrafts targeted a hideout of Taliban rebels in Qala-e-Wali area of Ghormach district Saturday evening killing eight rebels on the spot and injuring eight others," Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, police spokesman in the northern region, told Xinhua. Two more militants were captured in the neighbouring Pashtunkot district on the same day Saturday, the official said.

Taliban militants who are active in the said districts have not commented.—Xinhua



# Opinion

## Write for us

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

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

## Who will stop the inexorability of bribery and corruption?

**Khin Maung Oo**

**T**o our dismay, we have same stories about crimes including bribery and corruption, almost everywhere we go today. Mass media and social network pages share us with all kinds of news & information. It may ask the question if I claim that we are likely to have such feelings even when we go to places assumed to be pleasant ones. As per human-nature, we keep our secrets to ourselves for some time only, eventually yielding them up by confiding to our best friends or relatives, thus having no room for hiding everything. It beggars description that some in our ever-respected noble profession — especially in urban area are not above forcing our children to give them gifts and presents. These kinds of people will never ever set an example

for them.

Each and every one of crimes and malpractices can be said to be attributed to anger and greed. Undeniably, all beings are tending to think only about themselves compared to others' affairs. But excessive self-centeredness may lead us to moral destruction, then begetting the ruin of the peaceful existence of our society. Our Lord Buddha teaches greed/craving, anger and ignorance are defilements that blacken our pure minds.

Inflation and skyrocketing commodity prices are problems challenging our planet. In the pretext of surrendering themselves to these problems due to difficulties to survive with their scanty amount of income, most got involved in moral bankruptcy.

The incumbent govern-

ment was left with a legacy of mosaic problems — anti-corruption, *inter alia*.

Superficially speaking, it seems to be less important. They assume corruption is concerned with only two people or two groups. It is totally wrong. Both parties accumulate wealth from benefits received, then trying to control existence of other people. Their desire will never cease. To fulfill their needs, they are never reluctant to do anything: legal or illegal. Thus rule of law will disappear before our eyes. Who can build a peaceful state without rule of law? We all are responsible for helping emergence of rule of law. How and what are we to do? While the government and authorities are implementing nation-building, we are required to live under the frame of ethics.

Do we need to rob and steal for keeping body and soul together, to exploit others' labor and wages for us to live in luxury, to deracinate others for us to reach the top? What we want is a pleasant world to live in, not a utopia. To build our edifice of hope may take us one or two decades, not eons. Our youths need to be indoctrinated with the spirit of deep hatred of moral corruption, social stigma of dubious ways and taking evil deeds as disgusting practices. So as to accomplish this mission, we need to co-operate with our government in campaigning for school-age children to come to classrooms to receive righteous conception of loving truth as if by osmosis. Suffice it to say that we ourselves are those who can stop the inexorability of bribery and corruption.

## The Strategic Value of Myanmar

**Khin Maung Myint**

**M**yanmar's geographic location on the world map place it in a very strategic position. It is bordered on the east, the north, and the west by five neighbouring countries, including the two most populous countries in the world and on the south and south-west by the Bay of Bengal that provides easy access to the world's major shipping lanes. Blessed with such situations, Myanmar could become the axis of the hub for trades and transportations in the region. It could also serve as a gateway to the Far East, South East Asia, and South Asia.

If we look back to our distant past, the then super maritime powers, such as the British, the French, the Portuguese and the Dutch had their eyes on our country, known to them as Burma, Birmanie, Birmin or Birmania. They vied to get the favours of the Burmese Kings to be able to trade with Burma. They must have envisioned that if they could control the trade with Burma, it would be to their advantage.

Though the British were the last on the Burmese scene, behind the Persians and the other Europeans, they had a secret de-

sign in their minds to annex it as they realized the potentials of our country. Even before they could achieve their ambitions, they were interested to explore whether there was a trail they could use as an overland trading route to China. If there was one, it would save them much time, in those days of sails, and also be spared from the dangers of the pirates terrorizing the merchant ships sailing through the Malacca Straits enroute to the Far East. They sent an expedition with the

excuse to annex Burma and they succeeded in the long run. Another evidence of the strategic importance of our country was the construction of the famous Burma Road, linking the railhead town of Lashio and Kunming in the Yunnan Province. That road was a strategic road built by the Nationalist Chinese government in 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese war (1937--1945), to facilitate the delivery of military aids from the United States of America to the Chinese Na-

tionalist Army of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, which was resisting the Japanese invasion. As the Japanese had occupied and closed all the sea ports along the coast on the China Sea, the Chinese army was deprived of the use of their sea ports. It was a great blow and disadvantage to them, as the use of shipping was the only option in those days, and still is useful today, to convey the bulk of the cargoes including the necessary weapons, equipments, vehicles, fuels, supplies and other commodities re-

quired for the war efforts. Thus, it became necessary to establish an alternative line of logistic support. Thus Rangoon (Yangon) was chosen to transport the US aids to China overland from the Rangoon Port via the Burma Road. For that reason Burma was recognized as the back door to China since the old days. That fact expedited the Japanese occupation of our country. Today, two of our great neighbours, namely China and India are wooing our country for favours. We should not take them at face value, but try to identify what their hidden agendas might be. My opinion is they are trying to get access to the Bay of Bengal and hence to the world's shipping lanes. This would provide them easy transportation of the exports and imports for their land locked provinces: Yunnan in China and Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and many more states in North-East India. Also, the overland trade between China and India could flourish via the Ledo Road, another strategic road built during the Second World War by the US Army.

By giving them freedom of passage to trade through our country we stand to gain a lot, but there are also some drawbacks too. One such drawback is the confrontations in the South Chi-

na Sea over the dispute of ownership or sovereignty over some tiny coral reefs could thrust us into a dire strait. If they couldn't resolve by diplomatic means, war could breakout. Though it may take the form of a limited war in the beginning, it could flare up if any super power should take sides. If that should be the case, though we are far from the place of conflict, we could be indirectly drawn into it. There could be restrictions to ships entering and leaving our sea ports. My analysis may sound a bit far fetched and my fears may be unfounded, but that possibility shouldn't be ignored.

In conclusion, I would like to humbly request our law makers, the politicians, government officials and citizens, especially the young generations, to familiarize themselves with the geo-political situations. We should not favour any one country over the other, for any reason. Thorough evaluations of the situations should be made, and walk the political tightrope with great caution. We should be mindful of the lessons from the past and tread with great caution so as not to let the history repeats itself. We should also endeavour to take advantage of our strategic value to develop our country and steer tactfully and diplomatically without provoking anyone. The peaceful co-existence with the neighbours is the best policy.

**“Though it may take the form of a limited war in the beginning, it could flare up if any super power should take sides.”**

permission of the Burmese King. That expedition managed to get only a short distance into the Yunnan Province, before they were all massacred. The timing was not right as there was a Panthay Rebellion taking place there. I am citing this incident as an example to point out the strategic importance of our country, which the British realized since the nineteenth century.

Later, as those periods in history were the eras of colonization, the British resorted to all means of provocation to get an



## Gamone Pwint contributes K100 million to education fund of Yangon Region Government

WITH K100 million contribution to the education and social welfare fund of the Yangon Region Government, Gamone Pwint Shopping Mall was opened yesterday in Kamayut Township.

The shopping mall with the name of Gamone Pwint (San Yeik Nyein) becomes the fifth one under the name of Gamone Pwint. The opening ceremony was graced by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Chairman of the Yan-

gon City Development Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein pledged that the education fund would ensure transparency for providing assistance to students.

As part of economic reforms, the Yangon Region Government would not be involved nor control businesses, said the Chief Minister, pledging that the government would boost the

country's economy with the co-operative efforts of the local and foreign investors.

Meanwhile, the Gamone Pwint's Chairman U Nay Lin Oo donated K10 million to the fund for assisting the families of the soldiers and police who sacrificed their lives for the country in the violent armed attacks in Rakhine State.

The newly opened shopping mall has created more than 2,000 jobs there.—GNLM



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and Chairman of Gamone Pwint Co Ltd U Nay Lin Oo officially open the 5th Gamone Pwint Shopping Mall. PHOTO: HTAY AUNG

## Myanmar migrant worker raped in Thai rubber plantation

A Myanmar migrant worker was allegedly raped by two Thai men in a rubber plantation in Hat Yai on 27 October, according to U Chit Htoo, Director of Thai-based Foundation for Education and Development (FED).

The woman and her husband were working in the rubber plantation at about 10:30pm when two Thais approached and allegedly beat the husband before allegedly raping the woman

as a gun was held to the head of her husband, according to the FED.

"They kicked me in the chest and back. Then, they pointed me on the head with their gun and raped my wife. I wanted to fight them back but we have a three-year old child at home," the husband told the foundation.

The criminal case has been filed at Hat Yai Police Station with the assistance of the FED.

The husband and wife were transported to a nearby hospital in part to prove that they were attacked and raped.

The FED is coordinating with other human rights organisations and Thai lawyers to help them.

U Moe Aung Khaing, the Myanmar labour attaché in Bangkok will provide necessary documents for the victims, it is learnt.—Soe Win (MLA)

## Three muslims found to be uninvolved in attacks released

THREE young members of the Muslim community in northern Rakhine State who are dependents in their families and found to have no part in 9 October violent attacks in Maungdaw were released yesterday.

They are among five people who were captured by Navy Seals and Border Guard Police Force in the Natt River on 27 October.

They were transferred to the head of Latha Village yesterday.—Myawady



Authorities hand over released three young members of the Muslim community to town elders. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Fruit processing vocational training concludes in Pyinbongyi, Bago

A vocational training course on the processing and production of fruit products that was organised by Bago Region Small Industry Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation concluded with a ceremony held at the No. 1 Recruitment and Resettlement Unit in Pyinbongyi in Bago Township on 30 October.

At the closing ceremony,

commander of No. 1 Recruitment and Resettlement Unit Lt. Col. Hla Myo Oo said that the trainees will be able to produce value-added food products from raw fruits that are hygienic and safe to consume upon completion of the training.

A total of 22 people who are members of Tatmadaw families attended the training, which lasted for 7 days from 24 to 30 October.—Shwe win (Pyay)



The vocational training course on the processing and production of fruit products in progress. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)



The opening ceremony of the 7th Asian Seniors Chess Championship tournament in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

## 7th Asian Senior Chess Championship Tournament opens in Mandalay

The opening ceremony of the 7th Asian Seniors Chess Championship tournament, jointly organised by the Asian Chess Federation and the Myanmar Chess Federation, was held in Hazel Hall on 53rd Street in Maha Aungmye Township in Mandalay on Friday 28 October.

Present at the ceremony were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung,

Mandalay City Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin and members of Mandalay Region Government, U Maung Maung Lwin, the president of the Myanmar Chess Federation and executive committee members, judges, supervisors and players.

At the ceremony, the Mandalay Chief Minister gave the opening speech and Mr. Bharal, the vice president of the Asia Chess Federation and president

of the Myanmar Chess Federation, gave words of greeting. The Mandalay Region Chief Minister and the vice president of the Asia Chess Federation exchanged gifts to mark the opening of the tournament.

The event is held from 28 October to 5 November. Chess players from across Asia are participating in the tournament.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



# Iraqi forces edge closer to Mosul on southern fronts

BAGHDAD — Iraqi troops and security forces advanced towards Mosul from the south and south-east of the city on Sunday, Iraqi officials said, backed by air and ground support from a US-led coalition as they edged closer to the Islamic State stronghold.

A military statement

said the army's ninth armoured division took the village of Ali Rash, about 7 km (4 miles) southeast of Mosul, and raised the Iraqi flag.

Further south, an officer said Interior Ministry security forces were advancing from the town of al-Shura, recaptured from Islamic State on Saturday, along the Tigris river valley towards Mosul, about 30 km (20 miles) to the north.

The officer said they were heading in the direction of Hammam al-Alil, midway between al-Shura and Mosul, and the last major town before Mosul itself, Iraq's second largest city.

The army and security forces are part of a wider force, which also includes

Kurdish peshmerga fighters and Shi'ite militias, which are seeking to encircle Mosul and crush Islamic State fighters in the largest city of their self-declared caliphate in Iraq and Syria.

The loss of Mosul would mean the effective defeat of Islamic State in Iraq, but the battle itself could become the biggest in more than a decade of turmoil since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled former president Saddam Hussein.

Around 1.5 million people are still living in Mosul, and the United Nations has warned of a humanitarian crisis and possible refugee exodus as the fighting closes in on the city.—Reuters



Members of Iraqi special forces police unit fire their weapons at Islamic State fighters in al-Shura, south of Mosul, Iraq on 29 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Country : MYANMAR

Project : Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project

Credit No. : IDA 55590 MM

Project ID : P146482

Assignment Title : International Waterway Engineering specialist for component 3

Reference No : C 3.10

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ayeyarwady Integrated River Management (AIRBM) Project. Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), under Ministry of Transportation and Communications, is the implementing agency of the AIRBM through the Project Management Unit (PMU) established under the supervision of the secretary of NWRC and DG of DWIR, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Project Management Unit now invites expressions of interest from qualified candidate for International Waterway Engineering specialist position.

### Consultant Experience Requirements

The Consultant shall meet all of the following experiences and qualifications:

#### A/ Experience and Qualification Requirements

- Have at least a Master's Degree in Civil or Hydraulic engineering, or the equivalent.
- At least 10 years of river engineering experience, including at least five years with project management responsibility.
- Experience in the following areas would be desirable
  - a) River engineering sector – especially on infrastructure works such as constructing groynes and dikes, and conducting dredging works;
  - b) River and waterway design;
  - c) River modeling (morphology and hydraulics) for channel design, river and bank stabilization, river hydraulics;
  - d) Experience in preparing engineering designs, plans, specifications, quantity take-offs, cost estimates, and comprehensive design reports for all of the above features;
  - e) Knowledge in geomorphology and sediment transport, and watershed management.
  - f) Good knowledge of river transportation and ports;
  - g) Experience with environmental and social aspects of river engineering.

#### B/ Skills Requirements

- Excellent computer skills;
- Knowledge of Computer Aided Design and Drafting programs such as AUTOCAD, ArcGIS or equivalent software;
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English;
- Excellent project writing skills;

#### C/ Preferable Requirements

- Experience in providing capacity building in modeling;
- Working Experience in the region as an advantage;
- Experience with projects funded by international organizations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, or similar institutions.

Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments.

The contract period will be 1 year with an estimated input of 5 months per year with the possibility of extension. The location of the services will be the PMU office in Yangon, Myanmar with possible site visits. An individual consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines. The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) can be obtained at the address below during working days from 10:00 to 16:00 hours. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail on or before Nov.14, 2016. AIRBM Project, Project Management Unit Attn: Mr. Aung Myo Khaing, Component 3 Director, No.400, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, DWIR Campus, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Phone: +95-9-5150213, Email: component3director@gmail.com, With a copy to following e-mail addresses: dwir.airbm@gmail.com; eikyipyarsoe@gmail.com;

## Turkey sacks 10,000 more civil servants, shuts more media in post-coup crackdown

ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities have dismissed more than 10,000 civil servants over their suspected links with US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, blamed by Ankara for orchestrating the failed coup in July.

Thousands of academics, teachers and health workers were among those removed through a new emergency rule decree published on the Official Gazette late on Saturday while 15 media outlets, almost all of which reported from the largely Kurdish southeast, were shut down.

Through the decrees, elections to choose a rector at the universities have also been abolished. President Tayyip Erdogan will directly appoint the rectors from the candidates nomi-

nated by the High Educational Board (YOK).

Turkey has formally arrested more than 37,000 people and has already sacked or suspended 100,000 civil servants, judges, prosecutors, police and others in an unprecedented crackdown the government says is necessary to root out all supporters of Gulen from the state apparatus and key positions.

A state of emergency imposed right after the bloody failed coup in July has been extended for another three months until January after Erdogan said the authorities needed more time to eradicate the threat posed by Gulen's network as well as Kurdish militants who have waged a 32-year insurgency.

The total number of media outlets shut down since the start of the state of emergency has now exceeded 160.

The extent of the crackdown has worried rights groups and some Western allies, who fear Erdogan is using it to curtail dissent. The government says the actions are justified by the threat to the state on 15 July, when more than 240 people died.

Ankara wants the United States to detain and extradite Gulen so that he can be prosecuted in Turkey on a charge that he masterminded the attempt to overthrow the government. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, denies any involvement.—Reuters



US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whose followers Turkey blames for a failed coup, pauses before speaking to journalists in this still image taken from video, at his home in Saylorburg, Pennsylvania on 26 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Soybean exports power US economy to best performance in two years

WASHINGTON — The US economy grew at its fastest pace in two years in the third quarter as a surge in soybean exports and a rebound in inventory investment offset a slowdown in consumer spending.

Gross domestic product increased at a 2.9 per cent annual rate after rising at a 1.4 per cent pace in the second quarter, the Commerce Department said on Friday.

That growth rate was the strongest since the third quarter of 2014 and beat economists' expectations for a 2.5 per cent expansion pace. Business investment improved last quarter, though spending on equipment remained weak.

But with exports and inventories accounting for almost half of the increase in output, economists warned the growth spurt would likely be temporary.

Still, the data helped dispel any lingering fears the economy was at risk of stalling. Over the first half of the year, growth had averaged just 1.1 per cent.

"While the economy may not be ready to take off, today's GDP suggests the economic expansion is not at risk of ending," said David Donabedian, the chief investment officer of Atlantic Trust Private Wealth Management in Baltimore.

Coming ahead of a Federal Reserve policy meeting next week, economists said the data was unlikely to change views that the US central bank would wait until December, after the 8 November presidential election, to raise interest rates.

The labour market is near full employment and price pressures have been steadily increasing, raising confidence that inflation will gradually move towards the Fed's 2.0 per cent target.

Less than two weeks before the election, the GDP report was seen as bolstering Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, who has positioned herself as the best candidate to continue the more than six years of growth under President Barack Obama.



Lower Manhattan including the financial district is pictured from the Manhattan borough of New York, US on 1 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"This is good news for the Clinton campaign, which has tied itself closely to the Obama administration's record on the economy," said Robert Murphy, an economics professor at Boston College.

Clinton's campaign team welcomed the growth pick-up and warned that policies proposed

by Republican candidate Donald Trump would "would take us backwards." Trump's campaign team described the growth numbers as "dismal" and said they underscored the need for change.

US financial markets were initially little changed after the publication of the mixed data, but US stocks ended lower after the Fed-

eral Bureau of Investigation said it would review additional emails that have surfaced related to Clinton's use of a private email server to determine whether they contain classified information.

US Treasury yields also ended slightly lower and the dollar fell against euro and the yen. —Reuters

## Google tries new approach with voice on Pixel phone

SAN FRANCISCO — About six months ago, people working on hardware and the voice-activated Google Assistant for the Pixel phone started sitting next to each other at the company's Mountain View, California headquarters, hammering out minute details of its first phone.

The new seating arrangement illustrated a much larger shift underway at Alphabet Inc's Google, which crashed Apple Inc's smartphone revolution eight years ago by giving away its Android software and letting handset makers do the rest.

Google software now runs on 85 per cent of the world's smartphones, but as voice control threatens to replace touch as the primary means of using a hand-held device, the company is experimenting with a different approach — more akin to Apple's tight integration of hardware and software.

The Pixel's hardware and Assistant teams gather for happy hour every Friday and have already received a prototype for the camera on next year's phone, said Brian Rakowski, vice president of product for Google's Android operating system.



The Google Pixel phone is displayed during the presentation of new Google hardware in San Francisco, California, US on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Their ambition: to make the company's voice-powered digital assistant better than rivals such as Apple's Siri and Microsoft Corp's Cortana.

"We really wanted the Assistant on the phone to feel like a natural extension of the ways you ask Google for information," Rakowski said in an interview.

The fusion of hardware and

software is key to that goal. Certain specifications are crucial for a high-performing assistant, such as a well-placed microphone and a powerful processor to crunch reams of data.

Creating an app isn't enough; that requires a few clicks for users to get to it.

The hardware and software teams worked closely on details such as the graphics that appear when users call up the assistant, settling on a flurry of colourful dots, which Rakowski called a "whimsical touch to give a little bit of life to the home button."

The Assistant is always at the ready on the Pixel phone and can be summoned by pressing the home button or saying the words "OK Google."

By integrating the Assistant into the Pixel, Google "doesn't have to do negotiations with another handset maker — they can make it as tight as they want," said Charles Jolley, chief executive of Ozlo, which offers a digital assistant by the same name.

To make sure users get the best possible experience, the Assistant will live only on Google products such as the Pixel, at

least for now. In the long term, however, it is unclear whether Google will keep it that way, or return to its original phone strategy and try to push the product out to the millions of smartphones running on other manufacturers' Android phones, at the risk of offering a slightly lower-quality experience.

Rakowski said making sure the Assistant works well on other phones would require a close level of integration with handset makers, beyond the typical work that happens on the Android operating system.

"We want all these features of the Assistant to work well and work quickly and be nicely integrated so it gives the right idea of what the Assistant can do," he said "We don't want it to feel limited or bolted on in any way."

He admits it could be challenging to execute the Assistant on some current Android phones.

"You can't do some of the always-on 'OK Google' detection on some phones because they don't include the right hardware to do that," he said. "In some cases, the microphone is not in a great position." —Reuters

## Robot competition kicks off in central China

CHANGSHA — A robot competition kicked off Friday in the central Chinese city of Changsha, with robots battling it out in 17 events.

Smart robots will try to edge out each other in simulated rescue missions as well as on the soccer pitch, according to the organiser in Hunan Province. Robot experts from around the world will convene during the competition to discuss the industry.

Launched in 1999 and headed by the China Association of Automation, the competition drew about 1,200 teams from more than 240 colleges this year.

With an aging workforce and rising labour costs, China is determined to lead robot development worldwide. According to statistics released by the Qianzhan Industry Research Institute, the output value of China's homegrown robots in 2015 stood at 1.64 billion yuan (243 million US dollars), a year-on-year increase of 55 per cent.

The Chinese market for industrial robots is huge. According to the China Robot Industry Association, 68,000 industrial robots were sold in China in 2015, up 20 per cent compared to the same period of 2014. China accounted for about a quarter of robot sales globally in 2015, making the country the biggest market for industrial robots for three consecutive years. —Xinhua

## Sony unit loses 900m yen through billing scam by 5 employees

TOKYO — A Sony Corp. affiliate designing microchips lost around 900 million yen (\$8.6 million) through a billing scam involving one executive and four employees, Sony said Friday.

Bills from suppliers to Sony

LSI Design Inc., based in Atsugi, Kanagawa Prefecture, were falsified from February 2012 through September 2016, and the scammers embezzled a part of the amount paid out, the major Japanese electronics com-

pany said, adding that the five employees have been dismissed.

The former employees allegedly also received money and goods from the suppliers, and other employees may also have been involved and the amount of

damages may be greater, a Sony official said.

The money has not been returned to their company and Sony is considering filing a criminal complaint, the official said. —Kyodo News



# New strong earthquake hits central Italy, buildings collapse

ROME — A strong earthquake measuring 6.6 magnitude struck central Italy on Sunday, causing the collapse of more buildings in small cities and towns already shaken by tremors in the past two months, although there no immediate reports of casualties.

It was a bigger quake than one which hit central Italy on 24 August, killing almost 300 people. There have been thousands of aftershocks in the weeks since then, including two particularly strong tremors last Wednesday.

Italy's emergency services said there was serious damage in multiple loca-

tions in the central regions of Marche and Umbria on Sunday. State broadcaster RAI said three people were rescued from rubble in the town of Ussita, but there were no reports of deaths.

The ancient Basilica of St Benedict in the walled town of Norcia, almost 100 kilometres from Perugia, was devastated by the quake, the monks said. Images on television showed one side of the church reduced to rubble, and another church in the town centre also collapsed.

Local authorities said many towns and villages already battered by the 6.2 quake in August had seen

further significant damage.

"This morning's quake has hit the few things that were left standing. We will have to start from scratch," Michele Franchi, the deputy mayor of Arquata del Tronto, told Rai television.

Many of these places were evacuated after the August disaster and were largely deserted on Sunday morning when the quake hit at around 7.40 am (0640 GMT)

The earthquake was felt as far north as Bolzano, near the border with Austria and as far south as the Puglia region at the southern tip of the Italian peninsula.—Reuters



People are evacuated from a hospital following an earthquake in Rieti, Italy, on 30 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Electric Power Generation Enterprise  
**INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION (EPGE G-02)**  
**Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I)**  
**Loan Agreement No. MY-P2**

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 on-line.

The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar has received a credit from Official Development Association (ODA) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the *Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I), (MY-P2)* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Package 2 "Renovation Works of Transmission System" which includes Rehabilitation Work to four Substations at the existing Gas Turbine Power Plants (Ahlone, Hlawga, Ywama and Tharkayta) in Yangon Region. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) intends to prequalify contractors for supply and rehabilitating of four Substations which will supply as much electricity as possible to the grid.

It is expected that invitations for bid will be made after prequalification. Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in JICA Guidelines: Procurement under Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans dated April 2012 and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Prequalification notice with following contents;

1. Package Name:	Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I) Package two (2) "Renovation Works of Transmission System"
2. Prequalification Document issuance time:	10:00 to 15:30 on 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016.
3. Prequalification Document fee:	<b>Three Hundred Thousand (300,000) kyat only</b>
4. Application submission closing date and time:	26 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 by 14:00 (Myanmar Standard Time)
5. Submission place:	Procurement Department Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6. Others:	Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, and be clearly marked " <b>Application to Prequalify for Renovation Work to Four Substations in Yangon Region (ICB EPGE-G-02)</b> "

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document between 10:00 -15:30 hrs at;

Thermal Power Department  
Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE),  
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Phone : + 95 67 8104282  
Facsimile number : +95 67 810 4280  
E-mail : [epgethermal@gmail.com](mailto:epgethermal@gmail.com)

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**  
**(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**Country:** MYANMAR

**Project:** Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project

**Credit No:** IDA 5559

**Project ID:** P146482

**Assignment Title:** Development of the Hydro-Informatics Center (NWRC) Decision Support System and the Ayeyarwady Basin Master Plan; **Reference No:** C1.17

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project. Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC), is the implementing agency of the AIRBM through the Project Management Unit (PMU) established under the supervision of the DG of DWIR, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The AIRBM project includes three components: i) Water Resources Management Institutions, Decision Support System, and Capacity Building; ii) Hydro-Meteorological Observation and Information Systems Modernization; and iii) Navigation Enhancement of the Ayerwady River.

Component 1 of the project includes the development of a modern decision support system (DSS) for the Hydro-Informatics Center (HIC) which was established in 2014. HIC operates under the auspices of the National Water Resources Management Committee (NWRC), and is managed by Component 1. Component 1 also supports the formulation of a dynamic river basin planning process for the Ayeyarwady Basin. The main elements of the process include the preparation of the State of the Basin Report (ongoing), the development and application of the Decision Support System, and the formulation of the Basin Master Plan. The planning process will take place under the authority of the NWRC. A Multi-Stakeholder Platform will also help guide the planning process.

The assignment is anticipated to start in mid-2017 and finish in mid-2020. The objectives of the assignment are:

- 1) To develop a contemporary and modular Ayeyarwady Basin Decision Support System (DSS) which comprises databases, river basin simulation models, and associated analysis, interfaces, and reporting tools for basin development planning and management. Training and capacity building of the HIC in the utilization of the DSS is an important element of the assignment; and
- 2) To prepare the first Ayeyarwady Basin Master Plan, in coordination and collaboration with the HIC and other government agencies, for presentation to the NWRC and other stakeholders. The Consultant shall work with HIC to utilize the DSS to provide the analytical foundation for the Master Plan. The Consultant shall help ensure that the planning process incorporates best practices with respect to stakeholder engagement, social and environmental analysis, and comprehensive assessment of development pathways for sustainable basin development and management.

The PMU now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. This information should include specific information about previous assignments, including clients, dates, costs, and specific role in assignments in the case of Joint Venture or Sub-Consultancy. The criteria that will be taken into account in the selection of the short-list include:

- i) Experience in the design and implementation of decision support systems for water resources planning and management in large river basins;
- ii) Experience in the formulation of basin plans for large river basins;
- iii) Experience with technology transfer and capacity building of organizations similar to the HIC; and
- iv) Experience in a developing country context for all three of the above criteria would be preferable.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications and ensure the consortium is well placed to achieve the assignment objectives. The Consultants are requested to clearly identify in their Expression of Interest, the nature of the association and the role of each member (i.e. JV member or sub-consultant). A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 14 Dec. 2016, 4:00 p.m.

**Contact:**

Mr. Win Hlaing, AIRBM Project Director, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), Ministry of Transportation and Communication. Address: No-400, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Post Office, Postal Code 11171, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Phone: +95-(0)1- 292961, Fax: +95-(0)1- 290230,

Email: [dwir.airbm@gmail.com](mailto:dwir.airbm@gmail.com), With a copy to: Prof. Dr Khin Ni Ni Thein, AIRBMP Component 1 Director, Email: [component1hlc@gmail.com](mailto:component1hlc@gmail.com), and Procurement Officer [ekyipyarsoe@gmail.com](mailto:ekyipyarsoe@gmail.com)

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# Hollande says UK must take share of responsibility for Calais minors

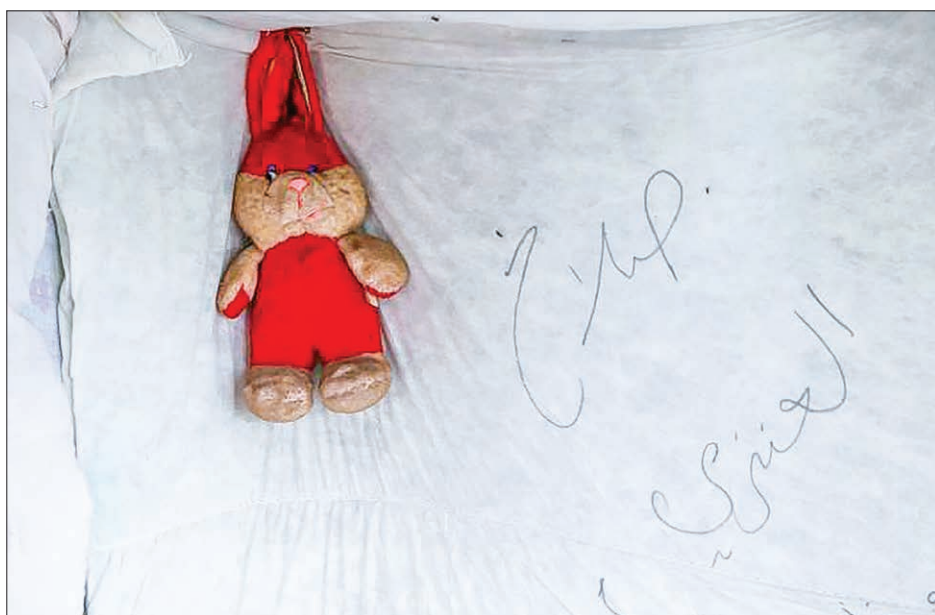
DOUE-LA-FONTAINE, (France) — French President Francois Hollande said on Saturday he had spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May to convey the message that Britain should take its share of responsibility for minors from the “Jungle” migrant camp of Calais.

There was tension this week between the two countries over how to take care of young migrants after bulldozers flattened the camp that had been home to over 6,000 refugees and migrants hoping to cross the Channel to Britain.

Hollande said 5,000 people had been evacuated from Calais and that there were 1,500 unaccompanied minors left, who would be transferred swiftly to other reception centres.

“I talked yesterday with the British prime minister, as (French Interior Minister) Bernard Cazeneuve did with his British counterpart, so that the British can go to those centres with those minors and take their share (of responsibility) to welcome them in Britain,” Hollande said.

Late on Thursday, British Home Secretary Amber Rudd was quoted by a spokesman as telling France it must guarantee the protec-



An abandoned stuffed rabbit is seen on a wall inside a makeshift shelter during the dismantlement of the camp called the ‘Jungle’ in Calais, France on 29 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tion of these youngsters.

The issue is sensitive in both countries and the head of France’s Ofpra refugee agency, Pascal Brice, responded bluntly on Friday: “We’ve done Britain’s work in tending to the adults.”

“The least they can do is take care of the isolated minors who are now at the CAP (temporary lodgings) and who have an interest in going to Britain,” he told Reuters.

European Union rules say Britain must take in unaccompanied children who have family ties there.

An amendment to those rules adopted in Britain this year states that such minors whose best interests are served by doing so should also be admitted.

Britain has so far accepted 274 children from among this group, France said on Thursday.

Hollande, speaking in western France after visiting one of the 450 reception centres set up to welcome Calais migrants, said a sprawling camp in northeastern Paris would also be dismantled and those eligible for asylum sent to those same shelters.

There are some 2,000-2,500 sleeping in tents in the northeast Paris camps, up from around 1,500 before Calais started being dismantled, a local official told Reuters on Friday, adding that some came from the “Jungle” and others from other areas. “We will carry out the same operation as in Calais,” Hollande said. “We will evacuate the Paris camps.”

Hollande said most of the newcomers in the Paris camps did not come from Calais but from a new wave of arrivals via Libya.—Reuters

# South African prosecutor says hasn’t decided to drop Gordhan fraud charges

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa’s state prosecutor said on Sunday he has yet to decide whether to proceed with fraud charges against Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, denying a newspaper report that the charges may be dropped after a review.

Gordhan is accused of fraudulently approving, in a previous post as head of the revenue service, early retirement for a deputy tax commissioner and re-hiring him as a consultant, costing the tax agency 1.1 million rand (\$79,586).

Gordhan has denied any wrongdoing, saying the case is politically motivated. The state prosecutor has rejected allegations of political interference.

His two co-accused, Oupa Magashula and Ivan Pillay, who worked under Gordhan during his tenure as head of the South African Revenue Service from 1999 to 2009, asked the state to review the charges. Gordhan refused to request a review.

The City Press newspaper reported on Sunday that the office of state prosecutor Shaun Abrahams had drafted a letter indicating his intention

to drop the charges. The letter was to be sent to the lawyers of the three accused before they appear in court on Wednesday, the newspaper said.

“They are talking rubbish,” Abrahams told Reuters. “I am applying my mind to it and I hope to make a decision soon.”

National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku said Gordhan’s refusal to apply for a review would not affect the process.

“If the national director decides to review on the basis of their (the co-accused) representations and say I am not proceeding with prosecution, automatically for all three it applies,” Mfaku.

Worries that Gordhan could be removed from his job have rattled markets and increased the risk that credit rating agencies would downgrade South Africa to “junk” status, undermining efforts to revive economic growth.

The turmoil around the minister caused the rand to sink by 4 per cent, but the currency has since recovered because of the support the minister has received.—Reuters

# Tribe vows to fight North Dakota pipeline through winter

CANNON BALL, (N.D.), — Native American leaders vowed on Saturday to protest through the winter against a North Dakota oil pipeline they say threatens water resources and sacred lands, and are weighing lawsuits over police treatment of arrested protesters.

A group of at least 200 Native American demonstrators meanwhile returned to the scene of an earlier confrontation with police to stage a peaceful ceremonial prayer vigil near the town of Cannon Ball, at the edge of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

A smaller crowd of 25 to 50 rallied on the grounds of the state capitol in Bismarck, about 30 miles to the north, in a separate protest of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline, police said. No arrests were reported at either location.

At a news conference in Mandan, just outside

Bismarck, Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault II said he and other tribal leaders were devising ways to furnish food, heat and shelter for protests to continue through the cold-weather months.

“We’re just working through some technical details as far as where the land is, and the type of land that can be used for some permanent structures,” Archambault told reporters.

At least 10 shelters were being readied on tribal land against temperatures that can plunge to less than 35 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (-37 Celsius) for days at time, he said.

“Let’s reroute the pipeline. It doesn’t have to put our water at risk,” said Archambault, who was flanked by Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier.

The planned 1,172-mile (1,885-km) path of the pipeline, the project of

a group of companies led by Energy Transfer Partners LP, would skirt the Standing Rock reservation by about a half mile. But the Standing Rock tribe and environmental activists say it threatens water supplies as well as sacred Native American sites.

Supporters say the pipeline, construction of which was halted by the federal government in September, offers the fastest and most direct route for bringing Bakken shale oil from North Dakota to US Gulf Coast refineries.

More than 400 protesters have been arrested in protests against the pipeline since 10 August that have attracted support from such actors and celebrities as Mark Ruffalo, Shailene Woodley, Susan Sarandon and Chris Hemsworth.

Archambault said his tribe may pursue a class-action over police tactics on Thursday.—Reuters

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The Metropolitan Opera House is pictured at Lincoln Centre in New York July, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

## New York Met cancels opera after suspected cremated ashes sprinkled in orchestra pit

NEW YORK — New York City's Metropolitan Opera canceled its Saturday afternoon performance of "Guillaume Tell" after an audience member sprinkled an unidentified powder, which police believe was cremated ashes, into the orchestra pit.

New York City Police officials said witnesses had heard a man say he was at the opera to spread the ashes of his mentor.

"An individual from out of town ... indicated that he was here to sprinkle ashes of a friend, his mentor in opera, during the performance," John Miller, Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Counterterrorism told report-

ers at Lincoln Centre.

The Met said on its Facebook page that it also canceled the Saturday evening performance of "L'Italiana in Algeri," while police investigate the incident which happened in the second intermission.

There were no reports of any injuries or any bad reactions to the substance, though the theater was evacuated and the New York Police Department dispatched a special unit to investigate, Officer Tiffany Phillips said.

The suspect, a man who was not identified, had fled the scene and no arrests have been made, Phillips said. —Reuters

## John Mayer to make music with Katy Perry?

LOS ANGELES — Singer John Mayer has admitted he would like to work with his ex-girlfriend Katy Perry in the future.

The 39-year-old guitarist dated the "Roar" hitmaker on-and-off between 2012 and 2015, during which time they recorded 'Who You Love' together, and, despite their shock

split, he would be "open" to doing a song with her again in the future, reported E! Online. "If the right song came around. I look at great musicians — you write the right song, you send it to somebody, but I don't have anything in mind at the moment. —PTI



John Mayer.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## David Leitch in talks to direct 'Deadpool 2'

LOS ANGELES — "John Wick" director David Leitch is one of the top contenders to helm "Deadpool 2".

Recently Tim Miller, who directed the first part, dropped out due to creative differences with star Ryan Reynolds, reported Variety.

Miller had not formally signed on to direct "Deadpool 2,"

but was in the process of developing the script and was widely expected to return. Most of the creative team had been set to return for "Deadpool 2". Fox Film chief Stacey Snider confirmed that screenwriters Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick would be back to handle script.

The Studio has not set a release date for the film yet. —PTI

## I'm proud to be a part of One Direction: Zayn Malik



Singer Zayn Malik. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Singer Zayn Malik may have left One Direction but he says he had an amazing time making music with the boy band.

The 23-year-old star said he will always be thankful to the fans of 1D, who have supported him throughout, reported Ace-Showbiz.

"I got to meet amazing fans, and I can never thank all of them enough for the love and support they gave me during the good times, and the bad.

"I can honestly say I'm proud of a lot of stuff from the One Direction days. I'm not sure people realise that, but I am," Zayn said. The singer said the band will always be an incredible part of his life, adding, "I've got the memorabilia — the platinum discs we received with every album — all over my house. I have a wall dedicated to displaying them. —PTI



Cast member Benedict Cumberbatch (2nd L) walks by co-stars (L-R) Benjamin Bratt, Benedict Wong, Mads Mikkelsen, Tilda Swinton and Rachel McAdams at the premiere of "Doctor Strange" in Hollywood, California US, on 20 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'Dr Strange' cast inspired by teaching from Buddhist monk on set

BEVERLY HILLS (Calf) — Tutelage from a Buddhist monk helped British actor Benedict Cumberbatch with his starring role in "Doctor Strange", the latest film from Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Cumberbatch stars as Stephen Strange, an arrogant surgeon who draws on powers of mysticism and spirituality when his glamorous life is taken away from him after damaging his hands in a car accident.

"That's a great practice to have in your life - full stop," said Cumberbatch, referring to the mindfulness training the monk, Gelong Thubten, provided on set.

"As an actor it's great because it brings you into that moment of stillness and presence. You've got a lot of people demanding your attention in film making." The Tibetan Buddhist monk was invited on set by British actress Tilda Swinton, who plays mystical character "The Ancient One", who transforms Strange from incompetent student to a magic-wielding sorcerer. "I introduced him to the project and he's been hanging out with us and teaching everybody, if they don't know, about mindfulness and about how to still the mind," Swinton told Reuters. —Reuters



## Miss Earth 2016 crowned in the Philippines



Miss Ecuador Katherine Espin (2<sup>nd</sup> L), newly crowned Miss Earth 2016, reacts during the coronation night along with other contestants in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 29 October 2016. A total of 84 contestants vied for the Miss Earth 2016 crown to promote environmental awareness. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Migratory bird can fly nonstop for 10 months straight

WASHINGTON — Scientists had long ago proposed that common swifts, a medium-sized migratory bird, might spend most of their lives in flight, but it is only now that they have managed to prove that these birds can actually fly for most of the year — 10 months — without landing.

“This discovery significantly pushes the boundaries for what we know about animal physiology,” lead author Anders Hedenstrom of Lund University in Sweden, said in a statement.

“A 10-month flight phase is the longest we know of any bird species — it’s a record.”

Previously, scientists have found frigate birds and alpine swifts can remain in flight for up to seven months.

The new findings were published this week in the US journal *Current Biology*.

For this study, the researchers followed 13 individual birds, some of them for two years in a row, using a microdata log that was attached to each bird in southern Sweden.

These data loggers enabled the researchers to determine whether the birds were in the air or not, their acceleration, and where they had been at any given time

after leaving their breeding site in August for a migration to Africa and before returning for the next breeding season 10 months later.

The results showed that some of the birds landed during short periods at night, sometimes during an entire night. But even these birds spent more than 99.5 per cent of their 10-month migration and hibernation period in the air.

Data from other birds showed that they did not land a single time in ten months.

The birds’ flight activity often appeared lower during the day than at night, most likely because the birds spent their days soaring on warm air currents, the researchers said.

Hedenstrom said the researchers don’t yet know whether or how the birds sleep but “the fact that some individuals never landed during 10 months suggests they sleep on the wing.” Perhaps they find time to nap during slow descents at dawn and dusk, he suggested. Despite the high energetic costs associated with all that flight, common swifts also manage to live surprisingly long lives, contrary to popular notions about living hard and dying young. —Xinhua

## Guangxi’s snail noodles invade the world’s menus

NANNING — Rice noodles cooked with snails, a signature street food of Liuzhou in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region, are becoming a popular snack around the world.

On Thursday, Guangxi Luobawang Food Co. Ltd. became the first company authorised to export large quantities of the specialty.

Combining traditional foods of the Han, Miao and Dong people, “luo-sifen” is a dish of pickled bamboo shoots, dried tur-

nip, fresh vegetables and peanuts, served over spicy noodle broth flavoured with river-snails.

Listed as part of Guangxi’s intangible cultural heritage in 2008, the dish became popular after being featured in the hit foodie-travel show “A Bite of China” in 2012.

In Liuzhou, “luo-sifen” is usually sold from roadside stands or in night markets. Now packaged versions are being sold by more than 5,000 online stores on e-commerce platforms like Ta-

obao, with daily sales as high as 200,000 packets, according to Li Jianhong of Liuzhou’s commerce commission. Several big commercial players have applied for export certificates.

The growth of the market can be traced back six years, when a government project began encouraging “luosifen” restaurants to open outside Guangxi.

According to Li, the number of instant noodle manufacturers offering river snail varieties has

increased from one in late 2014 to more than 60 today.

Online revenue from the noodles was more than 500 million yuan (74 million US dollars) last year, with daily sales averaging more than 100,000 packets.

New food safety standards specifically targeting snail noodles took effect in May, and the local government hopes to see more than 5,000 snail rice noodles restaurants all over the country by 2020. —Xinhua



<b>6:00 am</b>	Paritrt by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	<b>3:35 pm</b>	Tasty Trip
<b>7:35 am</b>	People’s Talks	<b>4:10 pm</b>	University of Distance Educations (TV Lecture) — First Year (English)
<b>8:35 am</b>	Women in Myanmar Society	<b>4:35 pm</b>	Socolo Economic Scenes
<b>9:35 am</b>	Life Struggles	<b>5:15 pm</b>	This Week’s special Interest
<b>9:50 am</b>	Documentary	<b>5:35 pm</b>	Yes or No Talk Show (Season-2, Part-8) “View on Mountaineering Sport or Adventure”
<b>10:35 am</b>	Solution for Agriculture	<b>6:35 pm</b>	Law Affairs
<b>11:35 am</b>	MRTV’s Youth Programme	<b>7:15 pm</b>	TV Drama Series
<b>12:35 pm</b>	TV Drama Series	<b>8:00 pm</b>	News/ International News/ Weather Report
<b>1:10 pm</b>	Once Recorded Arts	<b>9:00 pm</b>	News/ Weather Report
<b>1:35 pm</b>	TV Drama Series	<b>9:00 pm</b>	TV Drama Series
<b>2:20 pm</b>	“KARAOKE World Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016”		

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)



(31-10-2016 07:00am ~ 1-11-2016 07:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3)
		The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar
07:41	Am	Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image In Rakhine
07:53	Am	Temple Stalls
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2)(Jivitadana Hospital)
08:51	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Tin Moe Lwin”
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	The Man and The Elephant ( Part- I )
09:41	Am	The Man and The Elephant ( Part- II )
09:55	Am	Goldsmith

10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)
10:39	Am	Product Of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
10:55	Am	Scented Buddha Images

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

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-2)
07:54	Pm	Creations of a Designer: Fashion
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes Kayaw: Their Life and Customs (Part- I)
08:53	Pm	A Traditional Doctor

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

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



# Ronaldo hat-trick keeps Real Madrid top

BARCELONA — Cristiano Ronaldo answered his critics with a hat-trick as Real Madrid came from behind to win 4-1 at Alaves and go two points clear at the top of La Liga.

Champions Barcelona moved up to second with a lacklustre 1-0 win over bottom side Granada, while 10-man Atletico Madrid are third after a 4-2 win at home to Malaga, capitalising on Sevilla's 1-1 draw at Sporting Gijon.

Alaves forward Deyverson pounced on an error by Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas to give the home side a shock lead in the seventh minute but the Brazilian conceded a controversial penalty in the 17<sup>th</sup> for handball, which Ronaldo calmly converted.

The Portuguese put the European champions in charge in the 33<sup>rd</sup> with a powerful strike that deflected off Zouhair Feddal beyond the reach of former Real goalkeeper Fernando Pacheco.

Pacheco did manage to turn away another penalty by Ronaldo in the second half but Real's all-time top scorer netted his first treble of the season in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute after substitute Alvaro Morata had stretched Real's lead four minutes earlier with a delightful chip.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane praised his side for their reaction to going behind, although their third straight victory was tainted by the sight of defender Pepe going off injured in the first half.

"If you do not suffer, you



Deportivo Alaves' Alexis Ruano in action with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) during Spanish Liga BBVA at Mendizorroza, Vitoria, Spain on 29 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

cannot win La Liga. We kept our heads cool even in difficult moments, which always occur in this league," said Zidane.

Real are top of the standings with 24 points, two ahead of Barca and three clear of city rivals Atletico, and Sevilla, who drop to fourth. In Barcelona, an acrobatic strike from midfielder Rafinha early in the second half gave Luis

Enrique's side the points in a soporific game.

The breakthrough came in the 48<sup>th</sup> minute, when Barca attacked Granada's box en masse.

Rafinha had the chance to shoot but instead squared to Neymar, who could only fire against the near post, but the Brazilian midfielder reacted quickly to swivel and volley home on the

rebound.

"It wasn't a brilliant game on our part but you expect that from time to time," said Barca coach Luis Enrique. "These type of games need freshness and finesse, we lacked both things at times."

"The game was not dangerous even though we wanted to seal it a lot sooner. But I liked the attitude of the team."—Reuters

## Nishikori edges Muller, to face Cilic for Basel title

BASEL (Switzerland) — Kei Nishikori saved two match points to defeat Gilles Muller on Saturday, reaching the Swiss Indoors final for the first time in five years. The third-seeded Japanese came from behind to win 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3 against the Luxembourgian and will face Croatian Marin Cilic in Sunday's final. Nishikori has seven wins in 11 career meetings with Cilic, who was on the winning end in the 2014 US Open final.

"I was calm throughout and played with confidence," said world No. 5 Nishikori, now 3-for-3 lifetime against the 37<sup>th</sup>-ranked Muller. "I was sure of what I was doing, but it was just a really tough match."

Nishikori started the match well, breaking Muller in the third game of the opening set. But he then let up, dropping the last four games to give away the set. With his booming serve, Muller continued to hammer away in the second set — he planted 20 aces over the three sets — and twice had match point in the 10<sup>th</sup> game.

Yet Nishikori survived, taking the set in a tiebreak. In the final set, he broke Muller in the sixth game before going on to advance after nearly 2 hours, 15 minutes.—Kyodo News

## Man City, Arsenal, Liverpool hit four as Mourinho suffers

LONDON — Manchester City won 4-0 at West Bromwich Albion to end Pep Guardiola's worst run as a manager and stay on top of the Premier League table on Saturday.

Yet his old rival Jose Mourinho's woes continued as Manchester United's manager was sent to the stands and Ander Herrera shown the red card in a goalless draw with Burnley at Old Trafford.

Toothless United, with one goal in four games and a solitary win in seven, were left to see the other big guns with title aspirations pull away as City, Arsenal and Liverpool all struck four goals away from home.

There were also doubles all round at the top as Sergio Agueero and Ilkay Gundogan scored twice each for City while Alexis Sanchez and Olivier Giroud also struck braces for Arsenal, 4-1 winners at Sunderland.

Liverpool maintained their challenge with a thrilling 4-2 win at Crystal Palace, which meant the three teams that started the day on

top remain locked on 23 points, with City leading on goal difference ahead of second-placed Arsenal. The trio opened a three-point lead over Tottenham Hotspur, who lost ground after their 1-1 draw with champions Leicester City.

Guardiola was all smiles after his first win in seven games and was full of praise for Agueero, the key striker whose future at City had been questioned after he was dropped for City's Champions League game at Barcelona.

"We need Sergio. We know how important he is for us when he can convince us how good he is and how important he is for this club," Guardiola said.

"He is part of the history for this club. I would like to help him. Still he can write the most brilliant images for himself in this club. He is one of the best."

Mourinho's relief after United's midweek League Cup derby win over City was short-lived as he began the second half behind the dug-out before being moved to the directors' box.—Reuters



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Kyrgios accepts 'care plan', ban could be cut

MELBOURNE — World number 13 Nick Kyrgios looks set to have his two-month ban from the ATP Tour cut to three weeks after agreeing to a "care plan", Australian media reported on Sunday.

Kyrgios received the ban and a \$25,000 fine after being found guilty of "conduct contrary to the integrity of the game" after "not giving his best effort" in a match at the Shanghai Masters earlier this month.

The ATP said the ban would be cut if the Australian agreed to "a plan of care under the direction of a sports psychologist, or an equivalent plan approved by ATP".

Although largely academic because Kyrgios is not scheduled to play again this year, the governing body of men's tennis said the player had accepted help.

"Nick has taken up the care

plan on offer to him from the ATP," the ATP told the Australian Associated Press.

"The details and contents of the plan are strictly confidential."

Kyrgios was beaten 6-3, 6-1 by Mischa Zverev in the second round in Shanghai after a bizarre display in which he delivered a series of half-hearted serves and walked off court before the German returned the ball to him.

The tempestuous 21-year-old also clashed with a spectator before being booed off the court.

The original ban would have ruled Kyrgios out of men's tour events until the Australian Open but he was only scheduled to play at the 1-7 January, Hopman Cup, which is not an ATP event, before the year's first grand slam in any case.—Reuters