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## NATIONAL

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Monday, 7 November 2016

## Border guard forces tighten security along the Naf River

*UN Resident Coordinator Ms Renata Dessallien says no credible evidence of rapes or human rights abuses by troops found.*

Following the 9 October violent attacks on border guard posts in northern Rakhine state, Myanmar border guard forces have boosted patrols on full alert with watercraft along the Naf River at the country's western border in an effort to heighten security and reduce illegal migration, arms smuggling, drug trafficking and illegal fishing.

Border forces have been conducting area clearance operations along the 32-mile river while cooperating with border guard forces of Bangladesh, said an officer of the Pass of Entry and Exit (POE). The forces are also alerted for search and rescue operations.

Border guard forces have also stopped and searched boats in the river for suspected violent attackers and handed them over to police stations to take action against them under the law.

"For aggressive attackers not to sever communication including river routes, security arrangements were increased," said Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin.

Following accusations of human rights abuses by security forces during the area clearance operations, diplomats recently visited Rakhine state.

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Myanmar border guard forces patrol along the Naf River. PHOTO: MNA

## Local residents' accounts differ from fabricated media stories

THOSE who were involved in violent attacks on border guard police outposts are fabricating stories for foreign news agencies and destabilising the situation with the aim of scaring away local people who are beginning to return home and scapegoating security forces by setting houses on fire, according to the Myanmar

News Agency.

Some border guard police force members were killed and a number of weapons and ammunition stolen during the violent assaults of 9 October on border guard outposts.

The news agency interviewed local people who have returned to their homes in Kye-

**Security forces did not burn down houses and in fact had to put out the arsons of others.**

tyoepin, Pyaungpaik, Ngasakyu and Ngakhuya villages.

An elder from Pyaungpaik village said that he had never heard of women being raped by security forces.

"There are about 230 households in our village. We left our village because we were afraid of the situation without under-

standing the real situation. Now we have returned home. No one was raped by the security troops. We have never heard of such cases. We live peacefully here," said U Nu Hussein of Pyaungpaik Village.

Concerning the rumours that houses were burnt down by security forces, who were also

SEE PAGE 4 >

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## Campaign aims to protect Ayeyawady River against negative impacts

ENVIRONMENTALISTS from the Myanmar Green Network (MGN) on Saturday protested against the Myitsone dam project at the Ayeyawady River near Seinpangon Village in Madaya Township in Mandalay Region, part of a campaign to spread the word about risks to the country's largest river through before an announcement is issued by the new commission for the dam project.

"The Myitsone dam project will seriously impact the natural environment and create socio-economic issues. That is why we made a campaign to protect the Ayeyawady River," said U Maung Maung Oo, a campaigner from the Myanmar Green Network.

"The hydropower development project will not produce positive outcomes for the country," he remarked.

The conservationist said the MGN made a survey of crop growers, fishermen and traders. He said he also wants the authorities to discontinue the project.

U Maung Maung Oo said the latest activity aims to send a

message to the government about the objectives of the campaigners including public, civil society organisations and non-governmental bodies, all of whom wish for the project to be permanently halted.

Local residents have fought against the project since the days of the previous government, said Environmental Activist Ko Aung Gyi, who asked that authorities take the public's opinion into account.

He added that illegal gold mining has also been occurring along the Ayeyawady, the country's main commercial waterway.

According to Article 45 of the 2008 constitution, the government shall protect and conserve natural environment and Article 390 stated that every citizen has the duty to assist the Union in carrying out environmental conservation.

The then military government and China Power Investment Corporation inked an MoU to build the dam in 2006. After completion, 90 per cent of the power generated will be sold to China. —Aung Thant Khaing



### Warning

1. Don't run away in case of fire. Seek help from the people nearby.
2. Prompt extinguishing of fire reduces losses and damages.
3. Keep dry chemical powder extinguishers and/or fire extinguishers in all apartments, buildings and shops to put out fire promptly and protect against the danger of fire.



Keep a fire extinguisher in your car to make people on board and the car free from the danger of fire.

Fire Services Department

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

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, arrived in Brussels, Belgium, yesterday to attend the European Union Military Committee-EUMEC at the invitation of the Chairman of the European Military Council Gen Mikihail Kostarakos.

He was welcomed at the Zaventem International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to EU U Paw Lwin Sein and officials.

During the trip, he will also meet with EU heads and Chiefs of staff and visit places of attractions in Belgium.—Myanmar News Agency



Senior General seen upon arrived at Zaventem International Airport in Brussels. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

## CT Scanner for Mingaladon Specialist Hospital

A COMPUTERIZED tomography (CT) Scan machine will be installed at the Mingaladon Specialist Hospital for communicable diseases, especially HIV, with the purpose of providing one-stop service to patients.

Dr Ko Ko Naing, medical superintendent of the hospital, said authorities have already approved the installation of the CT scanner. There is currently no scanning machine at the hospital to help diagnose patients.

The medical superintendent estimated that the scanning ma-

chine will be delivered later this year or at the beginning of next year.

The CT scan is a specialised X-ray test that creates detailed images of the inside of the body. Doctors use the scan to look for broken bones, cancers, blood clots, and more.

Apart from the CT scan, the hospital has been outfitted with essential medical equipment for treating people living with HIV and related diseases.

The specialist hospital has been taking care of over 10,000

HIV patients who are participating in lifelong ant-retroviral therapy (ART) treatment. Normally, the hospital provides ART to 60 and 120 in-patients daily while it receives 250 to 500 out-patients.

There are three hospitals for transmissible diseases in North Okkalapa, Thakayta and Mingaladon townships.

The hospital has made plans each year to protect the shortage of anti-retroviral drugs by submitting its requirement to the Ministry of Health and Sports.—200

## Four men suspected of violent armed attacks arrested in Maungtaw

BORDER guard police arrested four men on suspicion of their participation in the violent armed attacks of 9 October.

They were apprehended while police were conducting area clearance operations in Maungtaw, according to authorities.

Police detained Nu Arlaung on 2 November near Yedwin Village in Maungtaw Town-

ship. After interrogation, police arrested Muhamad Bu Phike, an acting administrator of Dunyaungpingyi Village-tract, on 5 November for further interrogation.

During an area clearance operation at Thawunchaung Village yesterday, police discovered a wooden gun, which was used for a military training, hidden under the bamboo silo and arrested Abu

Saw Yauk.

Similarly, the forces discovered five knives and one spear buried under the soil in Kotankauk Village and arrested Nu Ar Laung in connection with the case.

The four suspects were handed over to Maungtaw and Indin Police Station. They will be charged in accordance with the law.—Myawady

## Policies for aged to be finalised in early 2017

LAWS to codify the rights of the aged population in Myanmar being developed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are estimated to be finalised at the beginning of next year.

There is currently no policy regarding the senior citizens in the country. The ministry, relevant departments and partner organisations are planning to submit the elderly-related law to provide special rights and protections for elderly individuals.

The new policy will cover special programmes to offer healthcare, accommodations and security support to the older persons.

The policy will help create employment opportunities for

healthy older persons and offer special care for the elderly who are unhealthy.

The elderly population has increased in Myanmar at a higher rate than other Southeast Asian nations.

A survey conducted by the ministry in cooperation with Help Aged International in 2012, shows that nine per cent of the country's total population is above 60 years of age, 10 per cent of whom are in need of care.

According to initial data from the 2014 nationwide census, Myanmar has 2,897,563 people above 65 years of age, 415,349 of whom are from Yangon.

Myanmar's biggest city has

seen an increasing number of elderly on the street, according to Save the Aged, a philanthropic organization caring for the elderly.

Dr Ye Yint Tun, one of the volunteers from the STA, said the most common diseases found in the senior citizens who are under its care are heart-related diseases. Some others are suffering from tuberculosis (TB), paralysis and kidney diseases.

Undernourishment and TB infection as well as mental illness are mostly found in the abandoned street elderly, said U Tun Lin, Medical PR Officer, Medical PR Department at Yangon General Hospital.

—Khine Khant

# Union Government offers Kathina robes to monks



**President U Htin Kyaw offers robes to Bhaddanta Kavisara.**  
PHOTO: MNA



**State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers paraphernalia to Bhaddanta Kumara.**  
PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the 2016 Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held at the Sasana Beikmandaw of the Uppatasanti Pagoda and offered Kathina robes to monks yesterday morning.

Kathina, a Buddhist holiday, takes place every year in the four weeks following the end of the rainy season.

It is a traditional time for laypeople to offer robes and other necessities to monks.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

chief Presiding Monk of Bhamo Kyaungtaik Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Mahasaddhamajotika, Dr Bhandanta Kumara Bhivamsa and abbots attended the ceremony.

On hand to offer Kathina robes to monks were State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and wife, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and

wife, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife, union ministers, the union attorney-general, the union auditor-general and the chairman of Union Civil Service Board and their wives, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers and officials.

At the start of the ceremony, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered a meal in an emerald bowl along with flowers, water and lights.

The president and the congregation then received nine precepts from the Bhamo Sayadaw and listened to the recitation of Parittas by monks.

Afterwards, the president

offered Kathina robes and offerings to Maha Visutarama Zaygon monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Next, the state counsellor offered Kathina robes and offerings to the Bhamo Sayadaw.

Then, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and wife, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife, Deputy Speaker

of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Pyithu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues chairman U Shwe Mann and wife and union ministers offered robes to monks.

Later, the president and the congregation listened to a sermon by Chief Presiding Monk of Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Pariyatti Sarthintaik Agga Maha Panditta Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa and shared the merit gained.

Offertories and cash worth over Ks58million were donated to the monks at the ceremony. — *Myanmar News Agency*

## Vice President U Myint Swe visits Khamti, Sagaing

VICE President U Myint Swe, together with union ministers Dr Myint Htwe and Dr Myo Thein Gyi and deputy ministers, left Nay Pyi Taw for Khamti and inspected the Women's Vocational Training School and the People's Hospital yesterday.

The principal and instructors at the training school reported to the vice president on training and job opportunities.

The vice president said that people who live in border areas have fewer job opportunities than those who live in urban areas and the development gap between rural and urban areas is also caused by a lack of job opportunities.

The government is trying to provide education, health and vocational education to all parts of the country, especially vocational education for women in border areas, he added.

In conclusion, the vice president said that regional govern-



**Vice President U Myint Swe views hand-made bags during his visit to Women's Vocational Training School in Khamti.** PHOTO: MNA

ments are also required to conduct vocational training courses like the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The vice president also inspected clothes made by trainees at the school.

Later, the vice president proceeded to the hospital and met with the medical superintendent (MS) and staff.

The MS reported to the vice president on salient points of the

hospital, its expansion and supplies of medicines.

The vice president said that the staff have participated actively in the recent infectious measles outbreak, helping bring the disease under control in a short period of time and urged them to continue to do so in future.

The vice president later inspected the recent extension of the hospital. — *Myanmar News Agency*

## Border guard forces tighten security along the Naf River

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"We didn't find alleged military rapes of women in Rakhine State", said UN Resident Coordinator Ms Renata Dessallien at the press conference in Sittway held at the end of her two-day visit to the areas where armed violent attacks resulted in the deaths of nine police officers.

"We did not hear anything about recruitment nor rape cases in Maungtaw District following the armed attacks," said U Shar Alaung, a local Muslim man from Maungni Village in Maungtaw.

Al Hussein, a Muslim man from Myomataung Ward, Maungtaw, has blamed on joblessness and non-education for the violent attacks, saying that not respecting the rule of law due to non-education caused the deadly attacks.

"The situation here would become stable if the government created job opportunities in the

future," said Hussein.

Socio-economic sectors including education, economy, health and agriculture stopped due to the deadly armed attacks, said Dr Hla Myint of Ward 4, Maungtaw, adding that those who are living on the soil of this country should respect the law of this country.

Chris Carter, UN Senior Advisor for Rakhine, who is currently in Rakhine to provide aid to displaced people from both communities, said the UN would provide dry rations including rice, edible oil, peas and salt as humanitarian aid to families of the displaced people for four to five weeks.

The violent attacks have badly impacted the local people, and both local ethnic people and the Islamic community should respect the rule of law to prevent any form of violent attacks in the future, she added.

— *Thabyay*

## Message sent to the 61st Anniversary Kayin State Day by President U Htin Kyaw on 7-11-2016

Dear ethnic brethren in Kayin State,

I am delighted with the opportunity to send a message to the 61st anniversary Kayin State Day, which falls on today, the 7th November. Today is an auspicious occasion for my indigenous brethren residing in Kayin State. On this auspicious Kayin State Day, I would like to wish not only the Kayin race but also all other indigenous races born within the union physical and mental well-being.

In establishment of states and divisions after attainment of independence, the then parliament considered the designation of the areas inhabited by Karen people as Karen State, and Papun area in Salween district was designated as Karen State according to the 1951 Constitution Amendment Act. Karen State was then extended to include Kyain Seikkyi, Kawkareik, Hlaingbwe, Pa-an and Thandaung townships under the 1952 Karen State Ex-

tension Act. Again on 1st March, 1960, Myawaddy was designated as a township and Karen State was constituted with the following seven townships—Pa-an, Papun, Hlaingbwe, Thandaung, Kawkareik, Kyain Seikkyi and Myawaddy.

**Lack of trust between and among the national brethren has caused armed conflicts, thereby resulting in slow growth of Kayin State. In addition to losses and damages caused by the battles, the future of successive generations have also been lost, which overwhelms us with sorrow.**

In fact, 7th November is the day on which the then president signed the 1951 Constitution Amendment Act, which designated the Salween District, and commencing from 1955, Karen State Day is annually celebrated, and this year is the 61st anniversary.

Retrospecting the history,

we will see that we have lost independence as our motherland was invaded by the colonialist imperialists. And in the aftermath of independence, our brethren were divided, causing conflicts for a very long time, resulting in Myanmar lagging behind her

Dear ethnic brethren in Kayin State,

Out brothers and sisters inhabiting the Kayin State have got through an ordeal for a very long time. Lack of trust between and among the national brethren has caused armed conflicts, thereby resulting in slow growth of Kayin State. In addition to losses and damages caused by the battles, the future of successive generations have also been lost, which overwhelms us with sorrow. Today, the indigenous armed organizations within the Kayin State have come to co-operate with us by participating in the union peace process with the result that the people in this state can now enjoy the fruits of peace with new development opportunities available now. It is quite heartening to look forward to Kayin State being busy with factories and mills instead of hearing the reports of the gun. I am delighted to hear the good news that preparations are being made to hold the Kay-

in-State-level political dialogues very soon.

It is specially important for all indigenous people to have a level playing ground in building up of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, developed, democratic federal union. We firmly believe that we can lay down the basic principles for building up of our aspired democratic federal union through political dialogues, which seek peaceful solutions to the political problems of the union via discussions and negotiations.

With this message, I would like to urge Kayin brethren, who have already trodden on the path of peace with courage and wisdom to continue to exert concerted effort in unison for national reconciliation, union peace and national modernization and development.

(Sd) Htin Kyaw  
President  
(Unofficial translation by the Global New Light of Myanmar)

## Local residents' accounts differ from fabricated ...

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accused of detaining local people, Village Administrator U Mammad Saulin said that security forces were just looking for those who were involved in violent attacks and some people misunderstood the situation and ran away from their homes. The security forces had neither raped nor forced an-

yone to work as porters for them. Local people felt worried only because of the violent attacks."

U Shu Taw Shaung, an elder from Ngakhuya Village, said that security forces did not burn down houses and in fact had to put out the arsons of others. It was just a fabrication," he added.



U Shu Taw Shaung.



U Mammad Saulin.



U Jaugi Aung.

Another native of Ngakhuya village said that two people who are accused of arson had taken suspicious steps before the fires occurred.

"They had already brought everything of value in their shops before the arson," U Jaugi Aung of Ngakhuya Village said.

—Myanmar News Agency

## Over 4,000 villages in Sagaing region to receive electricity

SAGAING Regional government will enable over 4,000 villages to receive electricity, said U Than Nyunt Win, Minister for Electrical, Industry and Transportation.

Previously, most of the villages within Sagaing region relied on diesel-powered generators, solar power, mini hydroelectric power and biomass/ husk power for electricity.

"The Sagaing regional government has already invited tenders to generate electricity for the 2016- 2017 fiscal year. We will supply electricity to the villages where there is no electric power supply," said U Than Nyunt Win, Minister for Electrical, Industry

and Transportation.

There are over 1,500 villages receiving power from electric generators, over 1,400 villages, from a solar-powered system, over 1,500 villages from diesel-powered generators, over 140 villages from biomass/ husk power and over 190 villages from mini hydroelectric power.

Over 4,000 villages out of over 6,000 villages receive the electricity in different ways in Sagaing region. According to the 2014 census, 75.8 per cent in the region receive the electricity from private sources while only 24.2 per cent receive electricity from the government power supply.—Myitma News Agency

## Crime NEWS

### Heroin, yaba pills seized in Loilem, Mabein

A combined team comprising members of a local anti-drug squad and members of the Myanmar Police Force in Loilem discovered 1.144 kilos of heroin and 22,000 Yaba pills from a car on the Kholam-Namsan Road on 5 November, 2016.

The police arrested Myint Htay, the driver of the car, with Sai Matt on board the car when the authorities stopped it.

Similarly, the police from Mabein Police Station, acting on a tip-off, searched a shop owned by Nyi Hsar in Moehmawngky, Yanbo Village-tract, Mabein Township, and seized 60 g of heroin and 10,000 Yaba pills.

Action has been taken against all drug traffickers under the anti-narcotic and psychotropic substances law.—GNLM

### British man found dead in downtown Yangon

A British teacher was found dead inside his colleague's apartment in downtown Yangon yesterday.

Wounds were found on the head and chest of the 47-year-old victim, according to the police.

The two men had been drinking on Friday night before fighting began between them, said the wife of the victim to the police.

She told the police that a girlfriend of the accused phoned her around 4 am on Saturday night and told her that the two men were arguing and fighting.

When the girlfriend called her boyfriend's mobile phone, the accused allegedly picked up her call around 6:30am and told her that the victim was asleep, she said.

She contacted police yesterday after she discovered his body inside his 25-year-old colleague's apartment.

The 25 year-old man remains at large. It is not yet known if anyone has been arrested and the identity of the man, who is understood to have been an international teacher, has not been released.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "We are providing help and support to the family of a British national following a death in Rangoon, Burma, and are in touch with the local authorities."

According to local reports, police want to question a 25-year-old British man who is said to be on the run but has not been identified. —Soe Win (MLA)

# LOCAL Business

## External trade value hit over US\$15billion

THE value of external trade as of 28th October in this fiscal year 2016-2017 reached over US\$15billion, very close to that of last fiscal year, according to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade value from 1st to 28th October in this fiscal year was US\$15,067.626million, and in the same period last fiscal year was US\$15,140.136million, a difference of only US\$72.510million.

The value of exports as of 28th October in this fiscal year amounted to US\$6,515.886million, with imports worth US\$8,551.740million, resulting in a trade deficit of US\$2,035.854million.

External trade is carried out through normal trade and border trade. The value of sea trade in the same period in the 2016-2017 fiscal year was US\$ 10,917.883million, while that of border trade was US\$4,149.743million, it is learnt.

To reduce the trade deficit, there is a plan to scrutinise luxury import products, except for essential items, according to the



Containers are seen at Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

second five-year national development plan.

There were trade deficits of US\$91.9million in 2012-2013, US\$2,555.5million in 2013-2014,

US\$4,912.559million in 2014-2015 and US\$5,407.464million in 2015-2016 respectively, according to the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organiza-

tion (CSO). About US\$3.1 billion is expected to show in trade deficit in this fiscal year, it is learnt from the Planning and Finance Ministry.—Ko Htet

## the Norway-based telecom Telenor global earnings in 2015 topped US\$15billion

TELENOR, the Norway-based telecom, earned over US\$15billion in 2015, and Telenor Myanmar's income as of the end of September 2016 reached over US\$641million, according to Telenor's third quarter results.

However, the income from Telenor Myanmar accounted for a third of the income for Telenor-owned DTAC, the second

largest GSM mobile phone provider in Thailand. Telenor Myanmar's income is lower when compared to that of Digi, Malaysia's leading telecommunications service provider with the widest 4G, and Grameenphone, the leading telecommunications service provider in Bangladesh. Telenor India earned only US\$188million, it is learnt.

The third quarter showed

good performance, with continued revenue growth.

Telenor group earned US\$4billion in the third quarter of 2016, whereas its earnings in the same period in the previous year was only US\$3.8billion. In the third quarter, Telenor Myanmar earned over US\$211million, it is learnt from Telenor group.

Telenor has expanded its tel-

ecommunication network across the nation with nearly 18million users. Sixty per cent of Telenor's users surf the internet.

They are making efforts to be close to consumers with a full range of products and services, regardless of where they live.

Telenor aims to reach 90 per cent of the population of Myanmar within five years.—Ko Htet

## CIF value for imported vehicles in 2017 to be announced by Myanmar Customs

The value of Cost, Insurance and Freight for imported vehicles in 2017 will be released by Myanmar Customs Department in the third week of November, it is learnt.

The CIF values are used to calculate the tax levied on car imports, depending on the model. If importers fail to pay CIF, their vehicles will be confiscated by Myanmar Customs

Department.

Currently, mostly Japan-made cars come into the Myanmar automobile market. The CIF value is said to be set on the basic models of the Japanese cars.

The yearly CIF values are much anticipated by car dealers and consumers because the CIF affects car prices in automobile market.—200

## Merchants pessimistic of 10 % deposit

MANDALAY Commodity Depot Society has introduced a 10 per cent deposit system to prevent cheating, said an executive committee member recently.

The new system that requires the advanced payment of 10 per cent of the transaction price was instituted on 1st November. But some society members expressed concerns about its effectiveness and about the lack of input from traders.

"I am not optimistic of this system", said U Soe Win Myint,

a trader. "Legal action is the most effective way to prevent cheating. Actually, they should have implemented this plan only after seeking the opinion of all members. Some members do not agree with this".

"This system also requires hiring of a lawyer and employment of office staff. It is a waste of the funds of the Commodity society", he added.

There are three types of agreements. The first type requires terms of agreement being

## Imported cars a year older than permitted model to confiscate

IMPORTED cars that are one year older than the permitted model year in 2017 will be confiscated, said an official from the Customs Department.

Earlier this year, cars that are a year older than import permit were shipped into Myanmar. The Customs Department allowed the car importers to take their cars after paying fines. After this, the import volume of those type of cars was found to be increasing.

As a result, the Customs department will no longer permit importers to withdraw the cars, and will instead confiscate them starting in 2017, it is learnt.

According to current rules, only imported cars that are two or more years older than permitted cars are being confiscated. Cars only one year older are liable to only fines. This exception was being exploited and was the probable cause of the large number of cars imported this year that were only one year older than permitted.

The action will be effective from January, 2017. The aforementioned department will scrutinise imported cars on the basis of a vehicle identification number (also called a chassis number) to check the manufacturing date of the vehicle. If the imported vehicles cannot be identified using this unique code, the cars will be claimed by the Road Transportation Administration Department.—200

imposed by both parties whereas the second and the third types require terms of agreement being imposed unilaterally by either party. The deposit shall be kept at the bank.

But no one has started to follow this rule yet, said U Htay Maung, chairman of the ten per cent deposit supervising committee.

Three major cases of loss have occurred during the last ten years in Mandalay Commodity depot.—Aung Thant Khine

# Bangladesh police tighten security, arrest scores after Hindu attacks

DHAKA — Police in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria district, 109 km northeast of Dhaka, have heightened security and arrested scores of men days after a violent mob vandalized dozens of Hindu temples and homes over alleged blasphemy.

A police official told Xinhua Sunday that "53 people have so far been arrested in connection with the attacks."

The official who did not like to be named said security has been beefed up in the violence ridden Hindu main areas of the district.

The situation is completely under control, he said.

Additional security measures were put in place amid media reports that several Hindu houses and temple were also torched early Friday, he added.

Bangladesh authorities say the 30 October mob attack in the district was prompted by allegations that a resident of the Hindu colony through a Facebook post did something disrespectful about Islam's a most sacred place.

Hundreds of people on that day reportedly ransacked 15 temples and looted and vandalized more than a hundred houses of Hindus over the purported Facebook post.

The post from the account of Rasraj Das showed a photo of Hindu God Shiva placed on the photo of Kaaba, the most sacred and holiest place in Islam, which is located in the Muslim holiest city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The Hindu youth has already been arrested and sent to jail by a court in a case filed over the matter.

Bangladesh Police's counter-terrorism unit began probing the origin of the Facebook post that sparked the communal violence.

Three more separate investigations have also been launched by the government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Bangladesh Awami League (AL) party.

Bangladesh police has already suspended a senior officer for negligence of duty in handling the entire situation.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, also a minister, has warned of stern actions against the culprits who were behind the attacks on the Hindus.

He said attackers will be brought to book as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government is in a tough position against such criminals.—Xinhua

# Ex-Thai PM Yingluck helps farmers sell rice amid falling prices

BANGKOK — Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra Saturday helped farmers sell 10 tonnes of rice to hundreds of people waiting in line in Bangkok as prices of jasmine rice have tumbled to its lowest since January 2008.

Yingluck said at the scene that she felt the obligation to continue to help farmers who are struggling with low rice prices.

"I think in the overall the world economy has an

impact (on falling prices of rice). The other issue also is domestic (falling prices of rice at home) and that is why we worry that the situation is getting worse. So when you see news about farmers in trouble, we tend to want to help farmers and I am helping them on my own. So I hope that everybody will want to help the farmers," said Yingluck. Yingluck told Xinhua that she just returned from the northeastern Ubon Ratchathani Province and

trucked in 10 tonnes of jasmine rice to Bangkok, hoping that Bangkok residents would be interested in buying the jasmine rice.

The 10 tonnes of rice were sold out in about an hour. A buyer said he came here because he felt the urge to help farmers. Yingluck said she will launch similar events at a bigger scale, so northeastern rice farmers will have more opportunities to sell rice to city buyers. —Xinhua

# Hong Kong police use pepper spray in Beijing oath-taking protest

HONG KONG — Hong Kong police fired pepper spray at protesters on Sunday, as hundreds of activists rallied outside the office of Beijing's representative in the territory to demonstrate against the central government's impending legal intervention to curb a fledgling independence movement. Minor scuffles

broke out as some protesters hurled bottles at police, some armed with batons.

At least one protestor was arrested. Around 20 protesters were hit with pepper spray, some protecting themselves with umbrellas — the symbol of the 79-day street protests that rocked Hong Kong in 2014. "This is about our

future," said one teary eyed young woman.

A ruling on Monday from a top committee of China's parliament, the National People's Congress, is expected to effectively bar the recently elected lawmakers Yau Wai-ching, 25, and Baggio Leung, 30, from taking office. —Reuters

# Amid South China Sea tension, defence exporters flock to Indonesia



Indonesian navy vessel KRI Todak (F) is seen next to a Chinese Coast Guard vessel (B) while it was trying to detain the fishing boat Han Tan Cou in the waters near Natuna Islands, Riau Islands province, Indonesia, on 17 June 2016 in this Indonesian Navy handout photo provided. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — From rescue helicopters to air surveillance equipment, defence manufacturers jostled in Jakarta this week to claim one of the region's biggest prizes: a slice of Indonesia's shopping list as the country updates its ageing air and sea security capability.

While it is not part of the dispute over claims in the South China Sea, Indonesia objects to China's claim to waters around the Natuna Islands and has been ramping up military exercises and patrols in the region. At this year's annual defence gathering, just weeks after the largest Indonesian exercise to date off the Natuna archipelago, corridors were jammed and industry executives reported one of their busiest years at a time of high interest across the region after a lull of over five years.

Indonesia, which faced a US arms embargo until just over a decade ago, has yet to nail down a winner for the highest profile item on its wish list — a squadron of jets to replace its ageing Northrop F-5 fighters, as talks continue with Russia to buy Sukhoi Su-35 jets.

Rival contenders for the deal include the Saab Gripen combat jet, the Eurofight-

er Typhoon and Lockheed Martin's F-16s, according to industry stakeholders. Most offers include the jets and industrial cooperation.

"The situation here is obviously concentrating people's minds," said Robert Hewson, spokesman for Saab.

"So we have found a lot of interest in people talking to us about our radar products, our airborne surveillance products, because they need to be able to extend their horizons."

Indonesian President Joko Widodo had promised to double the country's defence budget, clean up procurement and modernize its ageing military equipment. Since he took office,

the country's total defence spending has jumped around 26 per cent — though next year should actually see a slight dip to 108 trillion rupee (\$8.3 billion).

Much of the effort, as with other countries in the region, includes a push to bring skills to Indonesia through joint ventures and partnerships, like a deal with South Korea which analysts initially said could cost up to \$8 billion, to develop a mid-level fighter jet programme.

Korea Aerospace Industries said this week it is working with Indonesia's state-owned aerospace company Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) on joint marketing efforts, as well as a drone

development programme for surveillance.

French defence firm Thales said it was getting interest in its air defence offerings, after selling to Malaysia last year, as other countries consider how to upgrade existing technology with lasers to improve accuracy. Indonesia will also seek to upgrade its heavy-lift helicopters, and the annual show saw Boeing promoting additional Apache helicopters and its Chinook.

"Maritime surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities are moving to the forefront around the world and we certainly see that in Southeast Asia," a Boeing spokeswoman said. —Reuters

# S Korea issues arrest warrants for two ex-presidential aides



Former senior presidential secretary for policy coordination, Ahn Jong-beom, is surrounded by media as he arrives for questioning as part of the investigation into a political scandal involving President Park Geun-hye and Choi Soon-sil, at a prosecutor's office in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## India to buy rescue aircraft from Japan for \$1.5-\$1.6 bln - Nikkei

TOKYO — India's Defence Ministry will agree on Monday to purchase 12 amphibious rescue aircraft from Japanese manufacturer ShinMaywa Industries worth \$1.5 billion-\$1.6 billion, the Nikkei news paper reported on Sunday.

Japan and India have been holding talks on the purchase for more than two years. It would one of Japan's first sales of military equipment since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a 50-year ban on arms exports and it reflects growing defence ties between the two countries.

India's Defence Ministry

will approve the purchase of 12 US-2 aircraft at a Defence Acquisitions Council meeting scheduled for Monday, the Nikkei reporting, citing senior ministry officials it did not name.

The deal will be included in a memorandum of understanding to be signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan from Thursday to Saturday, the Nikkei said, citing the officials.

During the visit, Abe will also urge Modi to expand its usage of Japan's high-speed train technology, the Nikkei reported.

—Reuters

## Water-discharge drill at Shirakawa-go in central Japan



Columns of water reaching up to 30 metres high are discharged over traditional "gassho-zukuri" farmhouses during an annual water-discharge drill in the village of Shirakawa in the central Japan prefecture of Gifu on 6 November 2016. The drill is aimed at preparing for a fire at the wooden farmhouses with steep thatched roofs designed to withstand heavy snow in winter in the Shirakawa-go area, designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. PHOTO:

SEOUL — A South Korean court said on Sunday it had issued arrest warrants for two former presidential aides under investigation in an influence peddling scandal that has sent President Park Geun-hye's approval rating to a record low.

Tens of thousands of South Koreans demonstrated at a rally on Saturday evening in central Seoul demanding that Park resign over the scandal involving an old friend, Choi Soon-sil, who is alleged to have used her closeness to the president to meddle in state affairs.

Park's approval rating has fallen to just 5 percent, the lowest since such polling began in 1988, according to a Gallup Korea survey released on Friday.

The Seoul Central District Court said in a statement that it granted a warrant to prosecutors to arrest An Chong-bum, a former senior advisor for Park, who faces charges of abuse of power and attempted extortion. An was already in custody under an emergency detention order.

Prosecutors are looking into allegations that An and Choi forced South Korean conglomerates to donate funds to non-profit foundations.

The court said it also issued an arrest warrant for a second former presidential aide, Jeong Ho-seong, who also had already been held in temporary custody.

Prosecutors apprehended Jeong late on Thursday on suspicion of leaking classified information.

mation.

An and Jeong both stepped down late last month amid the deepening crisis.

In a televised address on Friday an apologetic Park said her "heart was breaking" over the scandal, pledging to cooperate with prosecutors in their investigation.

Choi's lawyer has said he expects prosecutors to look into whether she inappropriately received classified documents.

Choi told South Korea's Segye Ilbo newspaper last month that she received drafts of Park's speeches after Park's election victory but denied she had access to other official material, influenced state affairs or benefited financially.—Reuters

## Bangladesh arrests four Islamist militants

DHAKA — Bangladesh police on Sunday arrested four suspected Islamist militants, including two linked to the slaying of a Japanese man one year ago, in a raid on their hideout in an abandoned brick kiln.

The Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militants threw home-made bombs, wounding three police, before they were overpowered, according to police. Guns, explosives and other weapons were found at the scene. The arrests were made some 300 km (186 miles) north of Dhaka in Rangpur district, where Kunio Hoshi, a 65-year-old agriculturalist, was killed while working on a farming project in the impoverished, mostly Muslim country.

Mizanur Rahman, a police superintendent in Rangpur, told reporters that two of the men arrested, Belal Hossain and Ershad Alam, had helped train the militants who had killed Hoshi. The other men arrested, Ashraful Islam and Al Amin, were JMB activists, he said.

In July, police lodged a



Army soldiers atop an armored military vehicle drive near the Holey Artisan restaurant after Islamist militants attacked the upscale cafe in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 2 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

charge sheet against eight JMB members, including ringleaders Saddam Hossain and Masud Rana, who were said to be involved in Hoshi's killing. A JMB splinter group, that has aligned with Islamic State, claimed responsibility for the attack in July on a restaurant in an upscale neighborhood of Dhaka that killed 22 people, mostly foreigners. Two police and five gunmen were also killed during the gunbattle at the restaurant.—Reuters

## Viet Nam to import coal, liquefied natural gas for electricity generation

HANOI — Viet Nam plans to import coal and liquefied natural gas to feed its power plants as the country strives to meet growing demand for electricity, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said on Saturday.

Starting from 2017, the country will import large amount of coal to feed its thermoelectric plants, with the amount gradually increasing to some 85 million tons of coal by 2030, a ministry official

said at a seminar entitled "Thermoelectricity technology and environment" here. Domestic sources of coal in the coming years can supply 45-50 million tons for thermoelectricity development to generate a total output of some 15,000 MW, but that will not be sufficient in the longer term, said the official.

The country also plans to import liquefied natural gas after 2023 to jointly feed some gas-

fired power plants in its southern region. Viet Nam has now fully tapped its potential of large and medium-sized hydroelectricity, it will start to develop small-sized hydroelectric plants after 2020, according to the ministry. Viet Nam is now preparing to build its first nuclear power plant with a capacity of 4,000 MW in the central province of Ninh Thuan, which is scheduled to become operational by 2028. Enditem—Xinhua

# Opinion

## The importance of literature for children

**Myint Win Thein**

THE Ministry of Information recently organised the Children's Literature Festival in Nay Pyi Taw. Last year, a similar festival was organised in Yangon, with the assistance of foreign donors. It was a very successful festival, with many attending. It is an encouraging sign that the new government has hosted literature festivals with both of them being successful.

Children's literature plays

a very important role in nurturing moral, hardworking and innocent adults for the country. This has been proven in Myanmar, where a man who was immersed in children literature in his childhood became president. In fact, his father is one of the greatest poets and storytellers for children in Myanmar. All citizens know the pen name "Min Thu Wun" even before they complete primary education

in Myanmar.

Children's literature is often the only education for children who cannot go to school. There are still those children who have to engage in child labour in Myanmar. They are often neglected, abused and exploited. Therefore, it is important that children's literature should not be out of reach of such children. They have to work even in the middle of the night, when al-

most all other people in the country are soundly asleep or dreaming of their future.

Therefore, it is important that those children who have to work in unfavourable environments where they are neglected, abused or exploited have access to children's literature. All citizens would be proud of the success of anyone who achieves success in life even though they lose the right to go to school.

## Where the Myanmar Garment Industry is heading

**Pyi Thit Nyunt wai  
@ Maung Maung**

THE 2016 Oct 28 publication of the Global New Light of Myanmar reported that the CMP garment industry exported US \$ 2 billion worth of goods for 2016. It was 1.56 US \$ billion in 2015.

And, on 28 October 2016, the Commerce Ministry stated that up to 2016 September 9, the garment export reached \$745.49 million, a triple growth compared to \$232.81 million for August 2015 .

These figures are a result of the lifting of sanctions from the EU, granting of GSP from the EU, support from the EU funded SMART Myanmar program (2013 -2019 ), trainings of the management by GIZ, Swisscontact ect.

The Value Chain Analysis report of 2103 September done by the Government of Netherlands, the MGMA Code of Conduct and a Ten Years program aiming to employ 1 million workers are good indicators. Positive / impressive indicators for the MGMA and the member factory owners.

Why are these positive / impressive news never mentioned within the workplace, the factories, the industrial zones ?

In our trainings, workshops, discussions CTUM has found that employees never hear these kind of good news. They only hear negative news of "loosing money", "Lay offs" ect.

The MGMA and the garment factory owners must share the good news with their employees. More importantly, now that the export volume has gone up at least 50%, explain on the increase

in profits and discuss to provide a fair allocation of the profits to the employees so that a loyal work force emerges. By having these gestures, the Employers will be showing there is Job Security, avoid unnecessary workplace disputes on the annual wage issue will lead to stable employment, and stopping workers look for probably better job security as a migrant or with international brands.

Inspite of the growth in the Garment export factories like Charming (103 workers out of 800 ), Sakura (361 out of 800) are laying off workers stating " not getting contracts ".

Are these employers not part of the export growth ?

Is the export growth having an impact only on a certain part of the Garment Industry ?

Factories like Zulian, K World, A1, all garment factories from Hlaingtharyar Industrial zone are still violating the Minimum Wage law. Hangyo pai li / Shipcut garment ect . Closing shop in Yangon and opening in Pathein to avoid Trade Union formation or to avoid paying the Minimum Wage is not the answer.

Then we also know of factories that employ hundreds of workers, collect Social Security Funds but did not contribute to the local social welfare office .

Since 2012 there were total 3,200 disputes. The Arbitration Body solved 420 and the Arbitration Council solved 250. Then 30 cases went up to the Supreme court. Of them in 9 cases, Employers gave a penalty of 1 million kyats and refused to abide by the decision of the Arbitration Council.

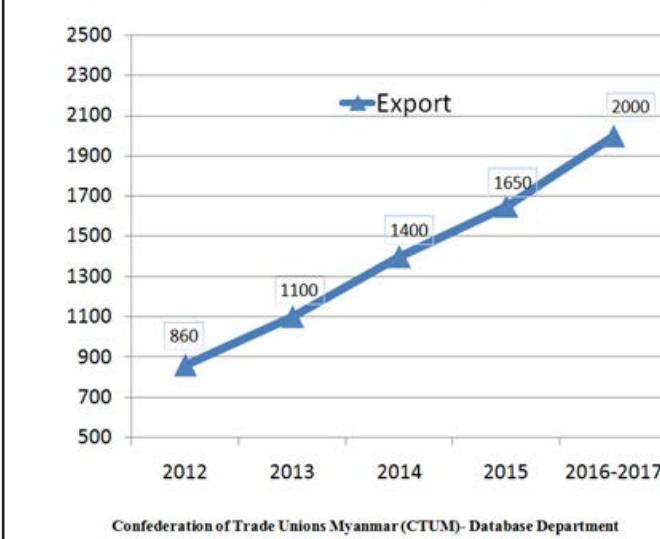
Are these factories not members of the MGMA ? And, even if they are not, the MGMA as an

### Write for us

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

Growth of Garment product exports of Myanmar 2012 to 2016



industry representative Association should be monitoring and advising appropriate changes for all factories to follow the Rule of Law, the Code of Conduct and not to take unfair advantage over other employers.

Is it because the penalty is too low for the employers or are the employers decided that if — "we do not agree, we will not follow the law" ? The National Tripartite Dialogue Forum should not be arguing whether to put in the " jail sentence for those who do not follow the decisions of the Arbitration process". Since there are very few factories that have refused to abide by the Arbitration Council decisions, CTUM suggests the UMFCCI and the MGMA take responsibility and discuss with their members on the fact that the rest of the employers are having a bad reputation due to them, and that "the jail sentence" is being argued as a penalty due to their actions.

Industrial Relation trainings abound, Industrial Social Dia-

logue with different modules are being introduced. Yet if the garment factory owners do not have the political will, as it takes two hands to clap, the workers cannot carry on their own to develop a sustainable garment industry.

There is a big amount ( by Myanmar standards ) of funds and assistance being pushed into the Myanmar garment industry to develop the Employers for some years . And the export growth is the result.

But, as the funders and donors for the Garment Industry do not care about industrial disputes, and are not willing to invest in the both the Skills and the Knowledge of the garment workers, the sustainability of the Myanmar Garment Industry is in jeopardy.

The plan of the consortium to train only the management, without training the majority of the workers in Skills and Industrial Relations will give Myanmar only a low level labor force doing CMP. We can expect the Myanmar garment Industry / the workforce to be at the same level we

are in now in 2024.

CTUM wants our workforce to be trained so that they will be ready for upscale work and be aware of their rights.

Now that the MIC Law is being changed to accommodate the Political Transition, there is also another possibility that International Brands ( who are now sourcing in Myanmar now ie H M, C A, GAP, Primark ) could be arriving with whole new setups that will involve more machines in the process, even for the CMP part.

This will not happen right now but there is a possibility before 2024.

From what we have seen over the last few years, even though there has been talks ( Bipartite, Tripartite ), the majority of the Myanmar garment manufacturers do not seem to be willing to accept the needed Industrial Relations standards. Change to meet the International Labor Standards has been discussed many times but it is now getting to the point where all concerned (the majority of the NGOs, Foundations that are working and helping) have come to the undeclared agreement that the Myanmar Employers either do not want change in Industrial Relations or they do not see the need to change.

This refusal to want to change is driving the Myanmar garment industry to a scenario where the garment export will show increasing volume of money ( due to new factories ) but the industry itself, including CMP will be run by the International Brands with local employees. Not a good landscape but people will be employed, will enjoy Minimum Wage have certain good Industrial Relations, which is the objective of any government.

# SpaceX aiming to return to flight next month: CEO Musk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX Chief Executive Elon Musk said on Friday his space launch company is aiming to return its rockets to flight in mid-December following a launch pad accident two months ago.

During an interview with CNBC, Musk said investigators had figured out why a Falcon 9 rocket burst into flames on 1 September as it was being fueled for a routine, preflight test.

The accident destroyed a \$200 million Israeli communications satellite and grounded the Falcon 9 fleet for the second time in 14 months.

The cause of the accident was a fueling system issue that inadvertently produced solid oxygen inside the rocket's upper stage tank. The oxygen then reacted with a carbon composite bottle containing liquid helium

that sits inside the oxygen tank, triggering an explosion.

"I think we've gotten to the bottom of the problem," said Musk, who is also chief executive of Tesla Motors Inc (TSLA.O). He added that the issue had never been encountered in the history of rocketry.

Musk did not specify what mission would launch next, nor whether SpaceX would fly from a new launch pad at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, or from its West Coast site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

SpaceX's primary launch pad, located just south of Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, was damaged in the 1<sup>st</sup> September accident. SpaceX has declined to release details on the extent of damage.

The company has a backlog of about 70 missions, worth more



SpaceX CEO Elon Musk unveils his plans to colonize Mars during the International Astronautical Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

than \$10 billion.

Also on Friday, NASA and Orbital ATK Inc (O.N.A.) said Orbital's next cargo run to the International Space Station would use the heavier-lift Atlas 5 rocket, made by United Launch Alli-

ance, rather than Orbital's Antares booster. The switch will allow NASA to fly an extra 660 pounds (300 kg) of cargo to the station while SpaceX returns to flight.

NASA hired Orbital and SpaceX to fly cargo to the station

after the shuttles were retired in 2011. Terms of Orbital's contract with United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and Boeing Co (BA.N), were not released. The launch is targeted for early 2017,

# Men's long working hours, short sleep may harm health in old age

JYVÄSKYLÄ, FINLAND — Working long hours and skimping on sleep in midlife may lead to poorer physical health in old age, according to a study from Finland.

A quarter-century study of Finnish businessmen found those who worked more than 50 hours a week and slept less than 47 hours weekly when they were middle aged were in worse physical health as old men than peers who had healthier work and sleep habits when they were in their prime.

"The results are in line with what we hypothesized, but we were not sure if we would be able to detect these long-term associations," said lead author Dr Mikaela Birgitta von Bonsdorff of the University of Jyväskylä.

She and her coauthors examined a very unique cohort of old businessmen, Dr von Bonsdorff told Reuters Health by email.

The researchers used data from the Helsinki Businessmen Study to follow the health outcomes for more than 3,000 white men born between 1919 and 1934. About 1,500 of the men had provided clinical characteristics of health, self-rated health, working hours and sleep duration in 1974 when they were in their mid to late 40s, on average, and completed health related quality of life surveys in the year 2000, when most were in their 60s and 70s.

During their working years,

nearly half of the original group of men had what researchers considered normal working hours of less than 50 hours per week and 352 men worked more than 50 hours a week. Similar proportions of men had normal sleep of at least 47 hours per week, versus shorter sleep totals.

Researchers found that men with long work and short sleep or long work and normal sleep in midlife had poorer scores for physical functioning, vitality and general health than those with normal work and normal sleep,

October 25 in the journal Age and Ageing.

Midlife smoking and self-rated poor health at that time explained some of the association with the results at older ages, but not all.

"My thought is that official working hours are not that long today but the time that people actually work (e.g. email etc.) is not included in the official working hours and thus my thought is that people actually today work quite long hours," Dr von Bonsdorff said. "I think that this is true for several professions, particularly

for white-collar jobs, businessmen, entrepreneurs and managers."

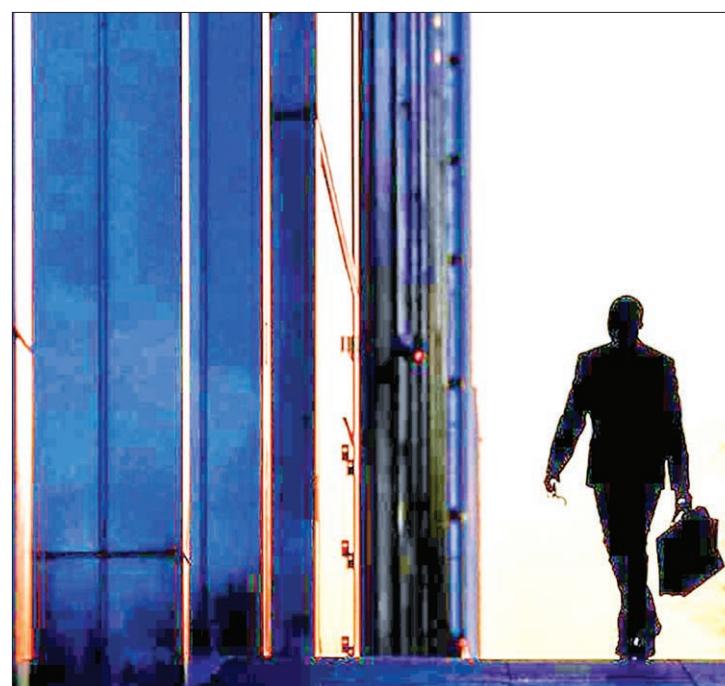
Short sleep increases stress and strain, which are important aspects of quality of life, she said, and sleep problems might be related to an unhealthier lifestyle as well.

Professionals with disturbed sleep or experiencing sleep deprivation will experience physical, cognitive and emotional changes, in addition to a drop in immune function, said Dr Marco Tulio de Mello of Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, who was not part of the new study.

"This is an exciting study because the follow-up is unusually long, 26 years," said Dr Mika Kivimaki at University College London in the UK who also was not part of the new study. "It also adds a new element to the research on long working hours as overwork in combination with short sleep captures a stressful lifestyle much better than long working hours alone."

The effects of working life may persist into older ages and affect the quality of retirement, Dr Kivimaki told Reuters Health by email.

"The results indicate that it is important to rest if working long hours," and employers should promote healthy living habits which contribute to better sleep quality, Dr von Bonsdorff said.—Reuters



A worker arrives at his office in the Canary Wharf business district in London, Britain on 26 February 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Dinner with TV may be a recipe for less healthy meals

MINNEAPOLIS — Families that eat dinner with the TV on tend to eat less healthy food and to enjoy the meals less than families who leave the TV off, according to a recent US study.

This was true even for families that were not paying attention to the TV and only had it on as background noise, the researchers write in the journal Appetite.

"Family meals are protective for many aspects of child health," lead author Amanda Trofholz said by email, adding that parents can take this time to check in with children and teach them about setting limits on their diets.

"Having the TV on during the family meal may reduce the opportunity for this connection between family members and blunt the protective effects of the meal," said Trofholz, a researcher at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

To explore the link between TV watching during meals and risk factors for childhood obesity, the study team analyzed video recordings of 120 families that included a child aged 6 to 12. The families were recruited from primary care clinics in Minneapolis between 2012 and 2013 and were mostly from low-income and minority groups. The families recorded two of their family meals using an iPad and reported to the research team what they had eaten and how much they had enjoyed it.—Reuters

# Trump, Clinton court voters in swing states three days before election



US presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton attend campaign rallies in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, on 10 October, 2016 and Manchester, New Hampshire US, on 24 October, 2016 in a combination of file photos. PHOTO: REUTERS

**WILMINGTON**— Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton traded barbs as they entered the last three days of campaigning in the US presidential election with competing events on Saturday in Florida, a swing state that could prove decisive in Tuesday's vote.

Clinton and Trump are making their closing arguments to American voters, crisscrossing the United States in hopes of winning over last-minute undecided voters and rallying their bases to turn out enthusiastically on Election Day.

Opinion polls show Clinton still holds advantages in states that could be critical in deciding the election. But her lead has narrowed after a revelation a week ago that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was looking into a new trove of emails as part of its probe into her handling of classified information while she was secretary of state.

A McClatchy-Marist opinion poll released on Saturday of voters nationwide showed Clinton leading by 1 percentage point compared to 6 percentage points in September. A Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll on Saturday showed Clinton ahead by 4 percentage points nationally compared to 5 points on Friday.

The state opinion polls have found Florida to be one of the most competitive among battleground states — those that are hotly contested because their voters can swing either to Republicans or Democrats. The 2000 presidential election was decided in Florida after a dispute over votes and recounting of ballots went to the US Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Republican George W Bush over Democrat Al Gore.

The Real Clear Politics average of Florida opinion polls found Clinton with a lead of about 1 percentage point — indicating the race there is a virtual tie.

Trump spoke at a rally on Saturday morning in Tampa, Florida, where he continued to criticize Clinton for supporting the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, in the wake of an announcement that premiums are going to rise next year.

"It's not going to matter because if we win I'm throwing it out anyway," Trump said.

Shortly before Clinton took the stage in Pembroke Pines, Florida, rained poured down. People in the crowd waiting for Clinton at the outdoor rally remained in place, taking out umbrellas and fashioning garbage bags into head coverings.

"I'm thrilled to be here and boy is this a hardy group, rain or shine you are ready," Clinton said, her voice cracking with hoarseness.

She cut her speech short as she became soaked in rain, saying, "I don't think I need to tell you all of the wrong things about Donald Trump."

At the JFK library in Hialeah, Florida, people lined up outside for early voting. Nearby, supporters of both candidates waved signs and shouted slogans, urging passing drivers to honk their horns. "We want someone to come in and clean house," said Cuban-American Ariel Martinez, 42, a Trump supporter. In North Carolina, Trump campaigned along with wife Melania, who has been nearly invisible in the campaign after her speech at the Republican National Convention in July that had passages lifted from a previous speech by Michelle Obama. She took a more active role this week with a speech in Pennsylvania.

"It is a movement for all of those who are left behind by a broken and rigged system," Melania Trump said on Saturday of her husband's campaign. "This is a movement which is inspiring and inclusive."

Early voting began in Sep-

tember and the data firm Catalyst estimates more than 30 million ballots have been cast in 38 states. There are an estimated 225.8 million eligible US voters. Saturday is the final day for early voting in many Florida counties.

Trump will also campaign Saturday in Nevada and Colorado. Trump told the crowd in Tampa that there would be a campaign event in Minnesota this weekend, although one had not previously been scheduled. Minnesota has not voted for a Republican since 1984. His campaign confirmed a rally scheduled for Wisconsin on Sunday has been canceled.

Clinton started the day by stopping by the West Miami Community Center, a Cuban American neighborhood, with telenovela star Jencarlos Canela, a Miami native of Cuban descent.

She then visited her campaign's office in Little Haiti where there is a large concentration of Haitian-American residents. Clinton was joined by Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black teenager who was shot dead in 2012 by a Sanford, Florida neighborhood watchman, George Zimmerman.

While Trump prefers large-scale rallies, Clinton has filled her campaign schedule with targeted appearances meant to court voters in specific demographics. Cuban voters have historically favored Republicans, but younger generations have shifted toward Democratic Party candidates.

Clinton heads to Philadelphia, where she will appear with pop singer Katy Perry for an evening rally.

In what was seen as an effort to defend typically Democratic turf, Clinton on Monday will campaign in Grand Rapids, Michigan, before returning to Pennsylvania for a rally in Philadelphia with President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, and former President Bill Clinton. —Reuters

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Shots fired at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, two men detained: TV

ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities briefly barred cars from entering and leaving Istanbul's main Ataturk Airport on Sunday after police fired shots when a motorcycle refused an order to stop, CNN Turk said.

One of two men aboard the motorcycle was wounded and detained and the second was apprehended by police after a pursuit, the private broadcaster reported. No police or civilians were reportedly hurt. In June, suicide bombers suspected of belonging to Islamic State killed 41 people and wounded some 240 others with gunfire and explosives at the airport.

The latest incident did not affect flights at Ataturk, Europe's third-busiest airport, the channel reported. Ataturk is the hub of state-run carrier Turkish Airlines. It was not immediately clear why the police ordered the men to stop.—Reuters

### Secret Service says no weapon was found in Trump incident

WASHINGTON — The US Secret Service said on Saturday night an incident at a campaign event for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Reno, Nevada, began when someone shouted "gun" but no weapon was found.

"Immediately in front of the stage, an unidentified individual shouted 'gun.' Secret Service agents and Reno Police Officers immediately apprehended the subject. Upon a thorough search of the subject and the surrounding area, no weapon was found," the Secret Service said in a statement.

"A thorough investigation is ongoing at this time by the US Secret Service and the Reno Police Department," it said.—Reuters

### Japanese man dies in paragliding accident in India

NEW DELHI — A Japanese man died on Friday in a paragliding accident in northern India's Himachal Pradesh state, local police said on Saturday.

The Japanese Embassy in New Delhi is attempting to confirm the identity of the man, believed to be in his late 30s and from Chiba Prefecture near Tokyo.

According to the police, the man lost control of his glider and crashed into a mountain. He was taken to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

The area is a well-known paragliding hotspot in the Himalayan mountains, and the Paragliding World Cup was held there in 2015.

According to a local newspaper, a Russian man also died in a paragliding accident in Himachal Pradesh state on Tuesday.—Kyodo News

### More than 2,200 migrants rescued in Mediterranean, 10 bodies recovered

MILAN — More than 2,200 migrants were rescued in the Mediterranean on Saturday as they tried to reach Europe and 10 bodies were recovered, Italy's coast guard said in a statement.

The migrants were picked up from 13 rubber dinghies, two small boats and one large vessel in 16 separate rescue operations.

The International Organization for Migration's said this week that 4,220 migrants had died in the Mediterranean so far this year, compared with 3,777 in the whole of 2015.

As of 2 November, 159,496 people had reached Italy by sea this year, the IOM said.—Reuters

### UK police arrest nearly 50 at Anonymous protest in London

LONDON — British police said they arrested 47 people on Saturday at an anti-capitalism demonstration in central London organised by the Anonymous hacking group.

Hundreds of protesters, many of them masked, took part in the protest which began in Trafalgar Square and moved to parliament.

Demonstrators chanted "Whose streets? Our streets" and "One solution, revolution" as they marched accompanied by police.

In a breakdown of an earlier tally of the arrests, when 33 people had been detained, police said 14 people were arrested for drug offences and 11 for obstruction. One person was arrested for criminal damage.

Similar marches linked to Anonymous were due to take place in other cities around the world on Saturday.—Reuters

# Germany investigates 60 possible Islamists in armed forces

BERLIN — Germany plans security investigations of all military recruits from July 2017 after its military counter-espionage service (MAD) identified 20 Islamists in the country's armed forces, German media group Funke reported on Saturday.

A spokesman for the agency confirmed the figure, adding that 60 additional potential cases were under investigation.

Draft legislation to be considered by the German parliament in the coming weeks would mandate investigations of all recruits to counter efforts by Islamic State to infiltrate the military and get weapons training, Funke Mediengruppe reported.

A German Defence Ministry spokesman said existing law required investigations of soldiers

after they were recruited. Before that, recruits had to provide police records and agree to unlimited access to their records in the federal register.

Recruiting offices had received an undisclosed number of queries from people who wanted to join the military for only a few months and expressed a keen interest in intensive weapons and equipment training, the MAD spokesman said.

In a statement provided to the Funke media group, the agency said it was concerned about a July 2014 internet posting by Islamic State in which the group urged those with military training to join its ranks, and other calls for supporters to learn to shoot and to become familiar with weapons.

German security services are



Young men line-up after their arrival at the Bundeswehr barracks 'Donnerberg' in Eschweiler near the western German city of Aachen on 3 January 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

on high alert after two Islamist militant attacks this summer.

Almost 900,000 migrants arrived in Germany last year and while many Germans initially welcomed them, security con-

cerns have since increased.

Last week, German police arrested a Syrian man in Berlin on suspicion of being a member of a foreign terrorist organization.

In October, another Syrian refugee was arrested on suspicion of planning a major attack in Berlin after police discovered explosives in his apartment.  
—Reuters

# Iraqi forces fighting Islamic State say nearing Mosul airport



Flames and smoke rise from oil wells set ablaze by Islamic State militants before they fled the oil-producing region of Qayyara. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEAR HAMMAM AL-ALIL/BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces drove Islamic State fighters from the centre of a town just south of the militants' main stronghold of Mosul on Saturday and reached within a few km (miles) of an airport on the edge of the city, a senior commander said.

Lieutenant-General Raed Shakir Jawdat said security forces were in control of the centre of Hammam al-Alil, about 15 km (10 miles) south of Mosul, although he did not say whether the militants had been pushed out completely.

The advance on the southern front comes days after Iraqi special forces fought their way into the eastern side of Mosul, taking control of six neighbourhoods according to Iraqi officials and restoring a foothold in the city for the first time since the army retreated ignominiously two years ago.

Another unit advanced further north up the western bank of the Tigris river on Saturday, Jawdat added. "Our elite forces have reached an area just 4 km (2 1/2 miles) from Mosul airport," he told Al-Hurra television channel.

Recapturing Mosul would crush the Iraqi half of a caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque in 2014. His Islamist group also controls large parts of east Syria.

There were no reports of further gains in the east of the city on Saturday, and officers said the military was clearing areas it took in recent days.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, speaking on a visit to the eastern front, said he brought "a message to the residents inside Mosul who are hostages in the hands of Daesh (Islamic State) —

we will liberate you soon".

Abadi said progress in the nearly three-week-old campaign, and the advance into Mosul itself, had been faster than expected. But in the face of fierce resistance, which has included suicide car bombings, sniper fire and roadside bombs, he suggested that progress may be intermittent.

"Our heroic forces will not retreat and will not be broken. Maybe in the face of terrorist acts, criminal acts, there will be some delay," he said. General Jawdat said his forces had destroyed 17 bomb-laden cars which had targeted them on their advance north. So far the army controls only a small part of Mosul which was home to 2 million people before Islamic State took over in 2014. More than 1 million remain in the city — by far the largest under Islamic State control in either Iraq or Syria.

A Reuters correspondent in the village of Ali Rash, about 7 km (4 miles) southeast of the city, saw smoke rising from eastern districts on Saturday, while air strikes, artillery and gunfire could be heard.

The United Nations has warned of a possible exodus of hundreds of thousands of refugees. So far only 31,000 have been displaced, of which more than 3,000 have already returned to their homes, said William Lacy Swing, head of the International Organization for Migration.

"The numbers are not as large so far as had been expected. We'd heard figures all the way up to 500,000 or 700,000," he told Reuters.—Reuters

# Turkey orders trial for newspaper staff, detains more pro-Kurd officials

ANKARA/ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities ordered on Saturday that the editor and senior staff of a leading opposition newspaper be arrested pending trial, as more pro-Kurdish officials were detained sparking protests against the widening state crackdown.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon on a crowd of around 1,000 protesters in central Istanbul who were trying to get to the offices of the secularist Cumhuriyet newspaper. Nine of its journalists and executives were detained on Monday.

Prosecutors said staff at the paper, one of the few still critical of President Tayyip Erdogan, were suspected of crimes committed on behalf of Kurdish militants and US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who is accused of instigating a coup attempt.

Since the failed coup in July, more than 110,000 judges, teachers, police and civil servants have been detained or suspended in a crackdown that Erdogan's critics say is quashing legitimate opposition. "The international community is outraged. What are you trying to do? Are you trying to create a Turkey where everyone is in jail?" the head of the main opposition party, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, said. "What has the Cumhuriyet newspaper done? Have they planted bombs somewhere?"

On Saturday, authorities appointed a new mayor to Sirnak municipality, part of a campaign

over recent weeks of replacing pro-Kurdish officials in the mostly Kurdish southeast.

A bomb in Sirnak province on Saturday killed two children and wounded four, an attack that the local governor's office blamed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). A second bomb later exploded at the municipal office before the new mayor's arrival, wounding one security force member, the governor's office said. A total of 17 PKK militants have been killed since Friday in Sirnak, it said.

On Friday, the co-leaders of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) were jailed pending trial and several others were arrested. Erdogan has accused Turkey's third-largest party of links to the PKK which has carried out an insurgency for three decades. The HDP denies that and says it is working for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. It says it is being targeted by Erdogan in a drive to help the ruling AKP push through a constitutional change that would give him the executive presidential powers he has long sought.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has said the HDP lawmakers were detained after refusing to give testimony in a probe linked to "terrorist propaganda". One HDP member of parliament detained on Friday and then released said the party had no intention of cooperating.—Reuters

## Trump hustled off stage in Nevada by security agents

RENO, (Nevada) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump was hustled off the stage by security agents at a campaign event in Reno on Saturday after a perceived threat in the crowd.

Two security agents grabbed Trump by the shoulders and rushed him back stage. The threat was unclear, but a man near the front of the crowd was pounced on by other security agents.

TV video showed the man being escorted away by a group of police officers, with his hands behind his back.

Trump returned to the stage a few minutes later to continue his rally speech, three days before Tuesday's election. "We will never be stopped," Trump said. —Reuters



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is hustled off the stage by security agents during an incident at a campaign rally in Reno, Nevada, US on 5 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Parliament must accept Brexit vote was legitimate — UK PM May

LONDON — Parliament must accept that Britain's vote to leave the European Union was legitimate and let the government get on with delivering Brexit, Prime

Minister Theresa May said on Sunday. May has said she is confident of overturning a British court ruling that the government needs parliamentary approval to start the process of leaving the EU.

The government, which has given little away about its plans for Britain's future relationship with the EU, has said that having to set out a detailed negotiating strategy to parliament would put it at a disadvantage in talks with the bloc. "While others seek to tie our negotiating hands, the government will get on with the job of delivering the decision of the British people," May said in a statement ahead of her first trade trip to India on Sunday.

"It was MPs (members of parliament) who overwhelmingly decided to put the decision in their hands. The result was clear. It was

legitimate. MPs and peers who regret the referendum result need to accept what the people decided."

May will use her first bilateral trade trip since taking office to try to boost ties with India before Britain leaves the EU and to pave the way for a free trade deal as soon as possible once Brexit is completed.

Parliament could in theory block Brexit as most members supported staying in the EU in June's referendum, although it is unlikely to do so. The ruling could allow lawmakers to temper the government's approach, however, making a "hard Brexit" — where tight controls on immigration are

prioritised over remaining in the European single market — less likely. A government appeal against the High Court ruling is expected to be considered by Britain's Supreme Court early next month. May has said she still plans to launch talks on the terms of Brexit by the end of March. "We need to turn our minds to how we get the best outcome for our country," she said. "That means sticking to our plan and timetable, getting on with the work of developing our negotiating strategy and not putting all our cards on the table — that is not in our national interest and it won't help us get the best deal for Britain." —Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos (not shown) speak to journalists after their bilateral meeting at 10 Downing Street in London, November 2, 2016. R

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**Myanmar Global Law Firm**  
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## Car wash septic tanks in Fukushima contain highly radioactive sludge

TOKYO — Some septic tanks at car wash facilities in Fukushima Prefecture contained highly radioactive sludge exceeding by up to seven fold the government-set safety ceiling, auto industry officials said Saturday.

An inspection found sludge containing up to 57,400 becquerels of radioactive material per kilogram, compared with the government-set allowable limit of 8,000 becquerels per kg, according to a document Kyodo News obtained.

The radioactive ma-

terial is believed to come from ash and soot which stuck to vehicles shortly after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster in 2011, the officials said.

Fukushima Prefecture has some 1,700 auto maintenance facilities where a growing number of septic tanks are filled to capacity, the officials said, adding the amount of polluted sludge from washing cars is estimated at several thousands of tons.

To prevent polluted sludge from overflowing already full septic tanks,

some operators manually scoop up the mud, prompting industry groups to warn authorities about the health hazards workers face, the officials said.

The Japan Automobile Dealers Association, Japan Automobile Service Promotion Association and Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association have been urging the central government and Fukushima Daiichi operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. to address the issue.

However, those calls have not been heeded, the

## Int'l Red Cross chief visits Nagasaki A-bomb memorials

NAGASAKI — Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, visited on Sunday the Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum commemorating the victims of the 1945 US atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Maurer laid flowers at the ground zero monument in the park and met with atomic bomb survivors in the southwestern Japan city. Maurer told reporters that he was impressed by Nagasaki citizens' strong hearts and peace messages while remembering the atomic bombing.

In a meeting with Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, Maurer said he intends to advance the process to eliminate nuclear weapons in cooperation with Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the first city devastated by a US atomic bombing. Taue responded, "We want the leaders of nuclear nations to understand what happened beneath the mushroom cloud." The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, three days after dropping one on Hiroshima. An estimated 74,000 people had died from the Nagasaki atomic bombing by the end of that year. Maurer is scheduled to meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Monday and Senior Vice Foreign Minister Nobuo Kishi, younger brother of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on Tuesday, according to the Red Cross' Japan office.—Kyodo News

Environment Ministry and the utility admitted.

The issue has failed to gain attention in part because the decontamination law only requires operators to report to the government the radiation concentration levels of sewage sludge and incinerated ash, but not other waste products.

Although operators in charge of installing septic tanks knew about the sludge issue, they could not go public about the radioactive contamination for fear of losing customers.—Kyodo News

# Moscow warns of possible attacks by Russian jihadists on return home from Syria

MOSCOW — Thousands of Russians have been fighting in Syria in anti-government ranks, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview published on Saturday, issuing a warning of possible attacks by them on their return home.

Last year, Moscow launched an air campaign to hit the targets of militants who have waged a war against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. There are also numerous jihadists from Russia who filled the ranks of anti-government forces.

"You probably know that thousands of Russian citizens and individuals from other post-Soviet republics are fighting in Syria," Medvedev told Channel 2 Israel ahead of a visit to Israel next week, according to the interview transcript.

"These completely brainwashed people return home as professional murderers and terrorists. And we don't want them to stage something similar in Russia after their Syrian stints expire." "We have already experienced this, including in the context of the Caucasus war in the 1990s. First of all, we want them to stay there. Second, the Syrian Govern-



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev gives an interview at the Gorki state residence outside Moscow, Russia, on 1 November 2016. Picture taken November 1, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment asked Russian leaders to help them reinstate law and order," Medvedev said about the wars Moscow waged in Chechnya.

By December 2015, some 2,900 Russians had left to fight in the Middle East, Alexander Bortnikov, director of the FSB, the Russian security service, said at a sitting of the National Anti-terrorist Committee late last year. According to official data, more than 90 percent of

them left Russia after mid-2013.

Moscow is now fighting Islamic State and other militant groups in Syria that the Kremlin says pose a threat to the security of Russia and the world. The Kremlin has justified its campaign of air strikes in Syria by saying its main objective was to crush Islamic State.

Medvedev reiterated that Syrian people should decide their political future and system of the country

themselves.

"We don't know whether this system would have any place for Bashar al-Assad or someone else, this is not our business, and it must be decided by the people of Syria. But we don't want Syria to disintegrate into a number of enclaves and sectors (in line with a Libyan-style scenario), where each sector would be controlled by separate terrorist groups," Medvedev said.—Reuters

## Three killed, three wounded in 'horrific' stabbing at NJ home

NEWARK — Three people were stabbed to death, two of them children, and three others wounded at a house in Newark, New Jersey on Saturday and authorities asked for the public's help in finding a man acquainted with at least one of the victims.

Officers summoned to the house at about 3:30 pm (1930 GMT) on Saturday found all six stabbing victims on the second floor, one of them already deceased, Anthony Ambrose, Newark's director of public safety, told an evening press conference.

Two of the victims later died of their wounds while the remaining three were hospitalized, authorities said.

The deceased were identified only as an 8-year-old girl, an 11-year-old boy and a 23-year-old woman.

The wounded victims were described as a 29-year-old woman and

two 13-year-old children, a boy and a girl.

The woman, the mother of at least one of the younger victims, was listed in stable condition, while there was no information immediately available on the status of the children.

"It is difficult for me to even speak about this, having young children of my own," Newark Mayor Ras Baraka told the news conference. "It kind of makes my stomach churn to imagine the kind of horrific scene that took place early this evening."

No arrests had been made for the stabbings as of Saturday evening.

Authorities said they were seeking to question 26-year-old Jeremy Arrington, who they said was the subject of unrelated warrants for sexual assault and aggravated assault and acquainted with at least one person who lived at the home.—Reuters

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# Anti-government protesters clash with police in Florence

FLORENCE — Hundreds

of hooded anti-government protesters clashed with police in Florence on Saturday just weeks before a referendum on a constitutional reform on which Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has staked his political future.

There have been protests against the Renzi government and the referendum before, but these were the first involving violence.

The young protesters were marching through the centre of Florence trying to reach the premises where 41-year-old Renzi, also a former mayor of the Tuscan city, was expected to attend his Democratic Party's annual convention called "Leopolda".

Television pictures showed officers in riot gear and with batons charging hundreds of protesters who threw smoke bombs, stones and firecrackers and tried to separate from the police by dragging metal fences into the streets. One officer was hurt in the leg during the clashes, Italian

media said.

Florence mayor Dario Nardella condemned the protests after crossing the demonstrations to reach the Leopolda venue.

"Demonstrating is a right, but the use of violence is despicable and unacceptable," he told his fellow party members from the podium.

With four weeks to go to the 4 December referendum on his plan to reduce the role of the Senate and cut the powers of regional governments, Renzi is campaigning furiously to try to turn around opinion polls that suggest he may lose the vote.

During the unauthorised protests, campaigners were holding up "No to Renzi" and "No to Leopolda" banners, challenging the proposed constitutional reform which they said would reduce democracy and lead to an excessive concentration of power.

Out of the last 33 opinion polls, only one put the "Yes" camp ahead.

—Reuters

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# Kabir Bedi supports Hillary Clinton

MUMBAI — After superstar Salman Khan, actor Kabir Bedi has now come out in support of Hillary Clinton for President of the United States in the upcoming poll and wished the politician "all the best" for the elections.

The 70-year-old veteran star tweeted that a woman President in America would be a "historic landmark".

"Wishing @HillaryClinton all success in #USElections2016! A woman President of #US would be a truly historic landmark."

#ImWithHer #USElec-

tion," he wrote.

Clinton, 69, is the Democratic Party nominee and is competing with Republican candidate Donald Trump in the election scheduled to happen November 8.

She has a lot of celebrity endorsements with Leonardo DiCaprio, Beyoncé, Kim Kardashian, Kanye West, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Katy Perry, Waka Flocka, Ariana Grande and America Ferrera backing her.

—PTI

**Singer Katy Perry sings during a concert and campaign rally for US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US, on 5 November, 2016.**

PHOTO: REUTERS



# Maren Morris stunned by fan call from Elton John



Country music sensation Maren Morris. PHOTO: PTI

LONDON — The young country star is still recovering after winning the Best New Artist trophy at the 2016 CMA Awards.

Country music sensation Maren Morris is still pinching herself after receiving a phone call from her idol Sir Elton John.

The young singer-songwriter's star is well and truly on the rise after she picked up the Best New Artist trophy at Wednesday's (02Nov16) CMA Awards in Nashville, Tennessee, but she already felt like a winner after the Rocket Man got in touch with her. "You know, it's crazy, but Elton John called me one day," the My Church singer tells Taste of Country, revealing the Brit told her he was a big fan of her break-out album Hero, which was nominated for a Best Album award at the CMAs.

"He was just a big fan of the music."

Maren admits she didn't pick up the first two times El-

ton called, because she didn't recognise the number on her cellphone, and when she finally answered, she refused to believe the Nikita singer was on the other end of the line until her manager texted her confirmation she was chatting to a music legend.

"He was so cool, he was so nice," Morris recalls, admitting she was speechless for much of the phone chat. "I couldn't even form words except for, like, 'Thank you'. It was amazing."

Morris was overcome with emotion as she picked up her first CMA on Wednesday night, minutes after performing her hit My Church with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Fighting back tears during her acceptance speech, she said, "Y'all! I can't win this award right after performing. I'm going to fall apart. Last year, I sat across the street at a bar and watched this show. I never thought as a songwriter I'd be standing here today." —PTI

# INAS Nepal Film Awards in Sikkim from 9 November

GANGTOK — Sikkim is all set to host the 4th edition of INAS Nepali Film Awards 2016 from November 9.

Over 200 delegates from across 65 countries will be present at the event organised by the Sikkim chapter of International Nepalese Artists Society (INAS) in association with the state government.

The event will see over 200 Nepali film artists representing the Nepali Film Industry competing for the prestigious 16 cate-

ries while there will be delegates from 65 countries as participants.

The Governor of Sikkim will be attending this event as the chief guest, while the Chief Minister will be the guest of honour.

The special guest at the function is Surendra Kumar Karki, Minister for Information and Public Relations, Government of Nepal. Veteran Bollywood actor and son of the hills Danny Denzongpa will be conferred with the 'Life Time Achievement Award' for his contribution to films in Indian Film Industry.

The CM Pawan Chamling will also be honoured with INAS Global Personality Award for his achievements in the field of Literature and Politics alongside

The objective behind hosting this event is to make the younger generation aware of the contributions being made by the artists if Sikkim and neighboring states in the Nepali film industry.

Promoting Sikkim as a new film shooting destination is also a major objective.—PTI

# Stephen Merchant praises actor Hugh Jackman

LONDON — Actor Stephen Merchant, who has worked with Hugh Jackman in "Logan," says the actor is a formidable talent.

The 41-year-old British actor, who plays Caliban opposite the Jackman as Wolverine in the third standalone movie about the metal-clawed superhero, was

blown away his performance, reported Contactmusic. "Oh yeah, that was enormous fun, he's one of the nicest men you could work with, all the rumours you have heard about how lovely and accommodating and lovely he is, is all true, he's just formidable talent," Merchant said. How-

ever, he kept tight-lipped when asked about the injuries that took place on the set of the film.

"I'm not allowed to tell you anything about it unfortunately, I am sworn to secrecy, otherwise I think 21st Century Fox can hang, draw and quarter me if I said anything.—PTI

## Priyanka Chopra is a superhero, says sister Parineeti

MUMBAI — Actress Parineeti Chopra has praised her star cousin Priyanka Chopra for her Marathi singing debut in "Ventilator", saying she is a superhero, who can do anything.

The 28-year-old actress, who herself is a trained singer, congratulated the "Quantico" star for her first Marathi song by calling it "the best debut".

"Mimi didi you are a superhero. Excel at everything you do. This is the bestttt debut!!! Love you," she wrote.

Parineeti is also look-



Actress Parineeti Chopra. PHOTO: PTI

ing forward to her Bollywood singing debut in her upcoming romantic drama "Meri Pyaari Bindu" and also all excited for her sister's first project as a film producer. "Ventilator" is

produced by Priyanka under her production company Purple Pebble Pictures. It stars director Ashutosh Gowarikar in a lead role and other veteran Marathi actors.—PTI

# Worsening pollution: City schools to remain shut for 3 days

NEW DELHI — As pollution levels worsened in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said schools in the city will remain closed till Wednesday and announced a raft of "emergency" measures to deal with the situation including ban on construction and demolition activities for next five days and temporary closure of Badarpur Power Plant.

Emerging from an emergency cabinet meet, Kejriwal said the government will discuss with the Centre the possibility of engineering artificial rain in the city that has turned into a "gas chamber" mainly due to large-scale crop burning in Haryana and Punjab.

The AAP government was also mulling the possibility of bringing back the odd-even scheme.

The Chief Minister also appealed to people to stay indoors and if possible work from home considering the situation.

He said all construction and demolition work in the city will banned for



PHOTO: PTI

five days and water will be sprinkled on roads to deal with dust pollution, adding strict action will be taken against those found burning garbage.

"Schools will be closed for the next three days. Health department will issue the first pollution advisory tomorrow.

We also appeal to people to stay indoors and work from home, if pos-

sible. We are also starting the preparation for odd-even. We will make an assessment in the next few days and implement it, if need be," he told reporters at his residence.

The Chief Minister said the Cabinet had received a proposal to go for artificial rain through cloud seeding. "We have asked the Chief Secretary and the Environment Secretary to

work with the Centre and assess its possibility and effectiveness," he said.

On Saturday, Kejriwal had met Union Environment Minister Anil Dave and discussed series of measures to deal with the alarming air pollution.

Dave has called an emergency meeting of environment ministers of Delhi and neighbouring states tomorrow.—PTI

## China's Wanda extends Hollywood push with Dick Clark deal

SHANGHAI/SANFRANCISCO — China's Dalian Wanda has agreed a \$1 billion takeover of Dick Clark Productions, the company that runs the Golden Globe awards and Miss America pageants, extending the Chinese property-to-entertainment conglomerate's buying spree in Hollywood.

Wanda, run by China's richest man, Wang Jianlin, said in a statement on Friday it would buy all of Dick Clark Produc-

tions, an iconic name in US entertainment that also produces the Academy of Country Music Awards and the Billboard Music Awards.

Dick Clark's owner, media investment holding company Eldridge Industries, had said it was in talks with Wanda in September. Founded by TV presenter Dick Clark, host of the "American Bandstand" pop music TV show from 1957 to 1987, the eponymous firm went

public in 1986 before being taken private 16 years later.

Wanda's deal is its latest move in a cruise into Hollywood. It already owns Legendary Entertainment, co-producer of film hits such as "Jurassic World", and US cinema chain AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc. It also has business ties with Sony Pictures and Sony Corp's film unit in China.

The drive has raised concern among some US

lawmakers about China's influence in Hollywood and the impact it might have on media in the United States. Wang has said his motivation comes from a "business perspective" and not a political one.

Wang Jianlin (L), chairman of Dalian Wanda Group, and Atletico Madrid's President Enrique Cerezo arrive for a signing ceremony in Beijing, 21 January, 2015. —Reuters

# Shanghai Culture Week opens at Edinburgh Festival Fringe

EDINBURGH — The opening ceremony for the Shanghai Culture Week at Edinburgh Festival Fringe was held here on Thursday to highlight Shanghai culture and arts.

The free event mainly includes public open day of traditional Shanghai culture and opening orchestral concert led by one of China's most distinguished conductors, Cao Peng, on Friday and an exhibition of Chinese contemporary design from Saturday to Sunday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at the city chambers, Donald Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, said August is the busiest season of festivals in the city, and Shanghai Culture Week will not only promote the government-to-government and people-to-people exchange, but also strengthen the links between the two cities of Edinburgh and Shanghai.

Pan Xinchun, Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh, said this is

the first time for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to hold a culture week event in the name of a Chinese city. However, there are more than a dozen of Chinese cultural and art groups attending the Edinburgh Festival Fringe each year.

Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener at Edinburgh city council, said the event was conceptualized during his visit to Shanghai in November 2015.

Running from 5 August to 29 August, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016 features more than 3,000 incredible, unique and inspiring events in around 460 sites including theaters, bars and churches.

Welcoming its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe maintains its open-access principle that makes the festival such a compelling and unique experience, according to Shona McCarthy, chief executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.—Xinhua



A girl looks at paintings at an art event for Romanian artists living in Frankfurt, during the Intercultural Week in Frankfurt, Germany, on 5 November 2016. The Intercultural Week was held here from 29 October to 12 November. PHOTO: XINHUA

## mitv Myanmar International

(7-11-2016 07:00am ~ 8-11-2016 07:00am) MST

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08:51	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
09:03	Am	News
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09:42	Am	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
09:53	Am	Guiding Star of Song Birds
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
10:43	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf

10:53 Am My Life & My Art

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
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### Prime Time

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08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "A stir about of Rainbows"
08:52	Pm	Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin

(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))

## Bayern draw, Dortmund's Aubameyang scores four

BERLIN — Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich stumbled to a 1-1 home draw against Hoffenheim on Saturday but stayed three points clear at the top as Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired four goals past Hamburg SV following his midweek ban.

Bayern fell a goal behind when Kerem Demirbay's thundering shot in the 16th minute left keeper Manuel Neuer rooted on the spot.

Hoffenheim were doing well to contain the Bavarians' attacks but could do nothing when Steven Zuber slid into the box to clear a cutback from Douglas Costa but instead sent the ball into his own net. Carlo Ancelotti's men were more aggressive after the break with both Mats Hummels and Thomas Mueller hitting the post but Hoffenheim managed to hold on to snatch a point. Bayern remain top on 24 points with RB Leipzig, in second spot on 21, hosting Mainz 05 on Sunday. Hoffenheim are third on 20.

Aubameyang, surprisingly banned from their midweek Champions League win over Sporting following an unauthorised trip to Italy, redeemed himself with a four-goal performance in their 5-2 victory at Hamburg. It took only four minutes for the Gabon international to open his account before recording a first-half hat-trick in just 27 minutes and scoring again early in the second half to put Dortmund 4-0 up, while taking his season's tally of league goals to 11.

Hamburg's Nicolai Mueller scored twice, either side of Ousmane Dembele's fifth goal, to make the scoreline slightly more respectable for the hosts.

The win lifted Dortmund to fifth on 18 points and left Hamburg anchored in last place on two, having failed to win a game so far. Germany forward Mario Gomez scored twice for Wolfsburg in a 3-0 victory at Freiburg to help them earn their first league win since August and move out of the relegation zone into 13th spot.—Reuters

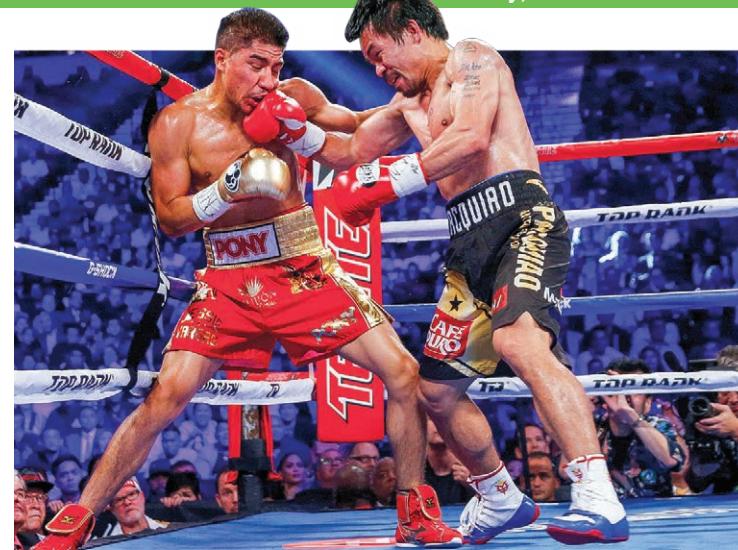
## Filipinos cheer Pacquiao's comeback victory over Vargas

MANILA — Filipinos in cinemas, bars, restaurants, and basketball courts erupted into jubilation on Sunday as they watched boxing icon Manny Pacquiao scored a unanimous decision over Jessie Vargas to win the WBO welterweight title in Las Vegas.

The 37-year-old Philippine senator put on a dazzling display in his return to the ring after a brief retirement, even fighting with more intensity and energy, and dominating the 27-year-old American in the final rounds to close out an emphatic victory.

The presidential palace led the nation in sending a congratulatory message to Pacquiao, though it did not say if President Rodrigo Duterte, Pacquiao's political ally, watched the fight.

But it did say "the courage and grit displayed by our Filipino boxers in Las Vegas are the same qualities we must demonstrate as a nation to rid society of drugs, criminality and corruption."



Manny Pacquiao (R) of the Philippines punches WBO welterweight champion Jessie Vargas of Las Vegas during their title fight at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 5 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Once again, Manny's triumph united and brought joy to our people and our nation," a statement issued by the Office of the Communications Secretary said. "The discipline, the determination, and the hard work of our People's Champ are truly what make him a National Treasure in Global Sports."

During Pacquiao's fight, streets in the Philippines were deserted as his legions of fans packed into cinemas, bars and res-

taurants, and basketball courts to watch on big screens, bringing the country to a virtual standstill.

Troops in army bases also watched how Pacquiao, an army reservist, beat the much younger Vargas. "Army Lt Col Manny Pacquiao of the Reserve Force has truly been a source of inspiration, not only to our troops, but also to our organization (that) aspires to be a world-class Army by 2028," said Col Benjamin Hao, Philippine Army spokesman.—Reuters

## Sparkling Chelsea go top after City are held

LONDON — Chelsea crushed Everton 5-0 on Saturday to storm to the top of the Premier League with a vintage display after Manchester City were held 1-1 at home by a last-minute goal from promoted Middlesbrough.

It was the first time City had been knocked off the top all season. Chelsea's sparkling performance sent them a point clear, although Arsenal and Liverpool will have an opportunity to overtake them by winning home games on Sunday.

Successive losses to those teams in September raised questions about whether Antonio Conte's side were ready for a serious attempt to regain the title

they lost last season.

But Chelsea produced an irresistible performance with Belgian forward Eden Hazard scoring twice to inspire a fifth successive win for his team without conceding a goal.

Marcos Alonso, Diego Costa and Pedro completed Chelsea's biggest victory

under Conte and sixth-placed Everton's heaviest defeat by far since Ronald Koeman became manager in the close-season. "When you win in this way,

it's fantastic," Conte told BT Sport. "It's a pity that

now we have to stop for the international break." Koeman was philosophical after his team's heavy defeat. "You have to accept sometimes in life your opponent is by far the better team," the Dutchman said. All had seemed

well for City when Sergio Aguero scored his 150th goal for the club, converting Kevin de Bruyne's pass, to put them ahead just before halftime. City, who

had dominance pay and were stunned when Boro's Martin de Roon headed home powerfully in the 91st minute.

"We did absolutely everything to win the game, controlled the game and in the last minute we concede a goal.

It is a pity," City manager Pep Guardiola said. He denied, though, that his side had suffered a hangover after their thrilling triumph over Barcelona. "Not really, we started amazing and played really good in the first half. We created six or seven chances and didn't score," Guardiola said.

Sunderland, bottom of the table and without a win all season, fought back for a shock 2-1 victory at Bournemouth. Victor Anichebe equalised Dan Gosling's early goal for the home side and despite being under pressure with 10 men after midfielder Steven Pienaar was sent off for a second yellow card, the Black Cats claimed three points at last thanks to Jermain Defoe's penalty.—Reuters



Everton's Seamus Coleman in action with Chelsea's Oscar during the match between Chelsea and Everton at Stamford Bridge on 5, November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS