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## President holds talks with Rakhine State Advisory Commission

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received the Rakhine State Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting focused on three main issues: the importance of humanitarian aid for the two communities in Rakhine State; releasing information with transparency in quick response to rumours and fabricated news; and the need to promote understanding and cooperation between the two communities through positive interaction.

They also discussed matters

on promoting prospects for development of the economy and for conducting vocational training as part of efforts for development of the socio-economy of the people in Rakhine State.

They also exchanged views on the rights of the peoples in Rakhine State for citizenship in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law and fighting drug trafficking in the country.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes former UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan, chairman of the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Muslims in Myanmar decry Malaysian rally

MUSLIM community in Myanmar decried Sunday's rally led by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and expressed their disapproval of his interference on the internal affairs of Myanmar.

"We find the rally, led by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, was nothing but aiming at the political interests of the Malaysia's ruling party. We affirm that the unfortunate situation facing Myanmar need not, and should not, be exploited for self-interest and

political purposes," said the announcement released by the Coalition of Myanmar Muslim Civil Society Groups.

"We also disapprove of Mr Najib connecting the situation with a religious cause. We hereby reassert that the Muslim community in Myanmar does not take it as religious persecution, but a controversial ethnic issue," said the announcement.

But Najib has said his actions served to point out the rights abuses allegedly occurring in Rakhine.

Najib said Sunday's rally

“ Najib-led rally was nothing but an attempt to boost the political interests of Malaysia's ruling party: Muslim community in Myanmar

in Kuala Lumpur was meant to send a message to the Myanmar government that "enough is enough" as he vowed to fight for the rights of the Muslim community in Rakhine.

In response, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

accused the international community on Friday of stoking resentment between the two communities in northern Rakhine State.

She appealed for understanding of Myanmar's ethnic complexities, and said the world

should not forget the military operation was launched in response to attacks on security forces.

"I would appreciate it so much if the international community would help us to maintain peace and stability, and to make progress in building better relations between the two communities, instead of always drumming up cause for bigger fires of resentment," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told Singapore state-owned broadcaster Channel News Asia during a visit to the city-state.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw MPs raise eight questions

MEMBERS of the parliament of Pyithu Hluttaw raised eight questions including upgrading infrastructures of the health sector and sports.

MP U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency asked whether authorities have a plan to take back the sports ground in the township from the Myanmar Football Federation and Zeyar Shwe Myay soccer club.

In response to the question, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said currently, the ministry has no plan

yet to take it back, saying that the ministry has leased 24 sports grounds, including the grounds in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar National League for women is scheduled to be held at the sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, he added.

Regarding a question on upgrading a health clinic in Anauk Kan Phyu Village in Seikpyu Township raised by MP U Aung Thaik, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe pledged to upgrade the

rural health clinic in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, expecting that the health facility would help to extend medical coverage to 16 nearby villages including Anauk Kan Phyu Village.

According to the clarification of the union minister at the parliamentary meeting yesterday, the Ministry of Sports and Health would seek budget allocations in the coming fiscal year for renovation of the Honan Station Hospital and construction of staff quarters for the staff of the station hospital in Maukme Township. — Myanmar News Agency



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## 5 to 6 per cent of nursing, mid-wife training school slots go to students from far-flung areas

MINISTRY of Education said it grants 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the seats in nursing and mid-wife training schools to people from remote areas on recommendation of local authorities and needs of the populace every year, said Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

The remarks came as the deputy minister replied to a question raised by U Ko Ko Nang of Constituency 8 in Sagaing Region at the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, “Nursing, midwife diploma 3-year courses & multi-midwife 2-year courses are being conducted in respective training schools, and those who passed the training courses have

been appointed and posted at their locations.

“For admittance to universities and colleges under the higher education department, marks for admission were not limited, admitting students according to the acceptable number in major subjects in respective universities. The ministry has been implementing in every way the development of the education. Arts and science disciplines have been taught at the universities by upgrading former colleges and degree colleges to universities with the aim of having access to higher education for students from less-developed and distant areas. In addition, plans to

supply doctorate-laureate teaching faculties in universities for the effective teaching are under way.”

The deputy minister went on to say, “With a view to the emergence of qualified doctors who were actually interested in medicine and who could serve the duty in their respective regions, less than 3 per cent of the successful candidates from 6 self-administered zones — Naga, Danu, Paoh, Palaung, Kokant and Wa — were granted to the Institute of Medicine with their admission marks limited lower than the minimum admission marks in 2012-2013 academic year. Under that programme, from 2012 to 2015, 179



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

students in all from these areas were admitted to the institute of medicine. Previously, for the health assistant course (a degree of science on basic health) up to 150 were admitted with 200 to be

admitted in the academic year— 2016-2017, and until now, there is no plan to grant those from 6 self-administered zones and distant areas as a special case.” — Myanmar News Agency

## Mine Clearance Team Finds 6 IEDs Planted By Armed Groups

A TATMATAW special mine clearance team found 6 IEDs planted by armed groups in a culvert under the bridge near milestone 214 on Pyihtaungsu Highway between Hsenwi and



Kutkai, northern Shan State yesterday afternoon, according to the Office of Commander-in-Chief of the Defence

Services.

The government troops are clearing the area nearby, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency

## Food and healthcare provided to IDPs

FOOD and healthcare services have been provided to internally displaced persons in schools, monasteries, and churches, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Due to the incursions of joint forces of the KIA, the TNLA and the MNDAA, a total of 380 people including 8 monks are taking shelter in Aung Mingalar Monastery, Kachin Baptist Church,

Saint Peter's Church, B.E.H.S (2) and B.E.M.S (4) in Muse. Authorities also greeted one government employee and 10 IDPs from Mongkoe earlier in the morning. — Myanmar News Agency

## Accessories Used In Making Remote-Controlled IEDs Seized In Tarshwehtan Gate In Laukkai

SECURITY forces stopped a motorcycle at the Tarshwehtan Gate in Lauk Kai township, northern Shan State in the afternoon of December 4 and discovered

accessories used in making remote-controlled IEDs. Combined forces of Tatmatawmen and Myanmar Police Forces seized a dry battery and accessories used in

making remote-controlled IEDs inside the tool box of the motorcycle driven by U Li Kaung Ann to Laukkai from Nantkaw village. — Myanmar News Agency

## Arms and ammunition seized in Mongkoe

GOVERNMENT troops, while conducting area clearance operations in Mongkoe, seized arms and ammunition of joint armed groups yesterday, according to a press release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

The reinforced columns had arrived in Mongkoe the day before and have been launching area clearance operations since then. They seized the arms and ammu-

munition in a house in Ward-2. The arms and ammunition, which had been abandoned by withdrawing joint armed groups, included one RPG, three M-22s, assorted cartridges, six grenades and one land mine. Since the reinforcement, government troops have seized 22 assorted weapons, 300 rounds of bullets, 14 cartridges, six grenades and one land mine. — Myanmar News Agency



## President receives Malaysian army chief

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw held talks with the chief of the Malaysian armed forces yesterday over false news on efforts of the government for solving the issues in Rakhine State after violent attacks in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, and escalation of misunderstandings on the issue due to the erroneous news.

President U Htin Kyaw received General Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr) Haji Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zain, Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces, and party at 10:30 am yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

The president clarified the efforts of the new government in handling the Rakhine state

issue in accordance with the existing laws and human rights standards and norms and measures being taken by the Rakhine State Advisory Commission and investigation commission.

They also discussed matters on promoting friendship of the peoples and bilateral relations and investment and trade between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with General Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr) Haji Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zain, Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

## Union Minister for Information receives Netherlands Ambassador

DR Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, received Netherlands Ambassador Mr Wouter Jurgens and party at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed matters related to reforms in the media sector, releasing information on situation of current issues in Myanmar and conducting training on promoting skills of media personnel.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## 5 more suspects arrested in Maungtaw Region

SECURITY forces arrested five more suspects in the villages of Yekhatchaung Gwasone and Kyarkhaungtaungon Monday morning during an area clearance operation, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

Two suspects were arrest-

ed from Yekhatchaung Gwasone, Hamed Dusaung and Norusalam, and three others from Kyarkhaungtaung village, Norusalam, Hulamya and Adushuku. They are being investigated in accord with the law, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Muslims in Myanmar decry Malaysian rally

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"It doesn't help if everybody is just concentrating on the negative side of the situation, in spite of the fact that there were attacks against police outposts."

The Malaysian protest is a flouting of the long-standing policy of non-interference by ASEAN members in each other's affairs.

Some critics accuse Najib, who is in the midst of a financial scandal, of using the rally to win the support of his country's Muslim Malays ahead of general elections due in 2018, which may be held earlier.

The Muslim community in Myanmar stressed the need to take international cooperation and multi-faceted approaches to finding a lasting peaceful solution to the situation in Rakhine state saying it is a "delicate and

sensitive situation."

"At such a time, we are dismayed by poorly informed initiatives like the rally in Malaysia, which could further worsen the already difficult situation and be considered as a threat to the unity and stability of the ASEAN community," said the announcement.

The Muslim community said they appreciated the government's efforts, including the establishment of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The community invited support that would yield positive results and respect national sovereignty, reiterating that discrimination based on religion and race would not be tolerated.—*GNLM with Reuters*

## Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends closing ceremony of Mingalarbar Culture Festival

THE cultural exchange festival entitled "Mingalarbar" between Myanmar and France ended yesterday in Yangon with closing remarks by Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

"For the development of bilateral relations and increased multidisciplinary cooperation including the cultural sector, we invite all to join hands with each other," said the Vice President at the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the France-Myanmar Cultural Exchange held at People's Square at 8:30pm yesterday, under the sponsorship of French Cultural Centre and Yangon Region Cabinet.

"We want to thank all who helped to successfully observe the ceremony in every way. It is the Myanmar-based French Embassy that organised the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the France-Myanmar



Vice President U Henry Van Thio. PHOTO: MNA

cultural exchange. We hope the festival will bring the opportunities of cultural exchange of artistic works which were co-created by Myanmar and French artists. It is aimed at convincing residents in Yangon City, of the challenges which will emerge with urbanisation. A variety of artistic works were found at this festival."

Afterward, Mr Oliver Richard, the French ambassador to Myanmar, also made an address.

Present at the ceremony were Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, U Ohn Maung, Yangon Region Cabinet's Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, deputy ministers, Yangon Region Cabinet's ministers, departmental heads, patron of the National League for Democracy Thura U Tin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of France Mr Jean Marc Ayrault, ambassadors from foreign embassies, diplomats and invited guests.

The ceremony came to a close after entertainment by vocalists from the two countries with musical accompaniment and fireworks.—*Myanmar News Agency*



People visit the Mingalarbar Culture Festival in Yangon. PHOTO: YE HTUT

## Product & Package Innovation Competition (PPIC) Awards 2016 held in Yangon



Product & Package Innovation Competition (PPIC) Awards 2016 in progress with visitors observing.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE Business Innovation Facility (BIF), a programme of the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), has awarded support to 24 local tourism entrepreneurs from 10 states for their work in developing innovative, inclusive and socially responsible tourism products in Myanmar.

The Second Annual PPIC Award Ceremony, held on 29 November at the Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon, was hosted by BIF. BIF Country Manager Mr Sébastien Moineau explained that "The PPIC is BIF's flagship intervention, providing grants and technical assistance to encourage innovation, showcase best practice and support entrepreneurs

through networking and market access." He added "Of course there are financial, political and technological constraints, and this is why BIF is also building local capacity through training programmes and policy interventions to enable Myanmar's tourism industry to share its fantastic products and stories more widely."

Daw Kyi Kyi Aye, Senior Advisor to Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) gave the keynote address. In her comments, Daw Kyi Kyi Aye recognised excellence in Myanmar's growing tourism industry. She reflected that "In order to share the benefits of tourism and encourage inclusive growth, especially in rural areas, there is a need to en-

courage diversification of tourism products whilst also protecting the natural environment". She observed that "tourism must be sustainable and all stakeholders are involved in creating opportunities that are both responsible and innovative."

This year, the PPIC attracted 42 entries from across the country. The PPIC Awards are judged by a panel of industry experts who assess written submissions from tourism entrepreneurs. Tourism concepts are judged on their innovation, sustainability and social responsibility — specifically their ability to contribute to the social and economic well-being of the communities they impact.—GNLM

## Hospitals offer drug rehabilitation care for addicts

MYANMAR Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) accelerated its drug abuse control programme by providing necessary assistances to persons who are trying to abandon their drug habits at public hospitals around the country, according to its spokesperson.

Action will not be taken against those addicts who come to the government's general hospitals to quit their drug habits,

said Dr Aung Thaw, a member of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control.

He added that the social welfare department, non-governmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations and other civil society groups are ready to offer adequate care to those drug addicts, who will also receive psychological consultation services

by experts.

Registered drug users regularly undergo the hospital's methadone treatment, a medication used in medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to help people quit their abuse of heroin.

According to the official figures, there are over 70,000 in Myanmar who have registered as drug users between 1971 to date.—200

## Real estate expo on 16-18 December in Yangon

A REAL ESTATE exhibition is planned in Yangon in the middle of the month that will feature condominium projects and apartments worth less than K10 million that meet international residential standards.

Organized by iMyanmarhouse.com, an online website with free service for real properties, the new event will be held

between 16 and 18 December at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall in Yangon.

This is the fourth time iMyanmarhouse.com has organized such an event in Yangon.

The property expo will help house hunters find suitable flats which will be sold for less than Ks10 million at a minimum, planning to display condominium

apartments which will be sold through long-term instalment plans.

The press conference for the upcoming event will be held on December 7 at Central Hotel in Yangon.

For further information, dial the hot line number 09252605671~5 of the event organising body.—GNLM

## Crime NEWS

### Death toll in Thaton District exceeds last year's total

THE DEATH TOLL from the road accidents in Thaton District in Mon State over the past 11 months increased by nearly 40 compared to the same period last year, according to the district office of traffic police.

Between January and November of this year, 114 road accidents occurred in the district, leaving 175 people dead and 662 injured.

A total of 136 people lost their lives and 570 individuals sustained injuries during last year's traffic accidents of 343 cases.

The high numbers of fatal-

ities in traffic accidents is the result of drivers and pedestrians who fail to abide by traffic safety regulations, said Deputy Traffic Police Commander Myo Min Thein, saying that drug and alcohol use, fatigue and speed are the most common causes of traffic accidents.

Traffic rules enforcement efforts have been made throughout the district to reduce road accidents by educating residents through a wide range of awareness raising programmes carried out at schools, wards and villages.—Myitmakha News Agency

### Teenage boy arrested for drug dealing in Kengtung

AUTHORITIES arrested a 19-year-old boy near the point of entry in Kengtung Town, Shan State after he was found in possession of a cache of yaba pills yesterday.

After a tip-off by a member of public, police searched a motorbike being driven by Kyar Yone, who resides in Metmonhsankham Village, Kathlike Village-tract, Kengtung Township,

on Mongkhat Road at around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Investigators discovered 4,000 WY-brand yaba tablets on the suspect and confiscated them.

Kyar Yone has been charged under Section 15/19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Kengtung Myoma Police Station.—Myitmakha News Agency



Kyar Yone. PHOTO: MMK

### Young woman still missing after one week

A 22-year-old woman from Bonhtaung Village, Thitto Village-tract, Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Region is still missing after she vanished a week ago, her parents say.

Hla Hla Kyu, the daughter of U Hsan Oo, was last seen on 27 November when she went to a paddy field to cut mature rice straw, according to her father, who said his daughter has good social skills and has no adversities.

U Hsan Oo said that the mother of the missing woman passed away when she was a child. She has no boyfriend, he said. Her family continues to search for her.

Although the young woman was missing for a week, her family failed to inform the police.

Police Sergeant U Win Swe said no missing person cases have been reported at Kyaikpi Police Station.—Myitmakha News Agency

# LOCAL Business

## Automated cargo system to be used experimentally at Myawady border gate in 2017

THE Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) will be experimentally practiced at the Myawady border gate next year, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

The experiment will be conducted as a survey in Myawady, said U Win Thant, the director of Myanmar Customs Department.

The development of an e-Customs system started in July 2013 with support from the Government of Japan with MACCS adopted at international ports, Yangon Airport International Cargo Terminal, and Thilawa Special Economic Zone on 12 November in a bid to facilitate trade.

It aims to facilitate trade by automating most

of the manual processes at Yangon customs, including registration, payment of fees, and tax valuations. The goal is to have exporters, importers, customs officials, and other government agency representatives gain easy access to MACCS through the internet, saving time and lowering transportation costs, said a customs official.

Since MACCS is time saving, it is better that MACCS can be systematically adopted at all customs' entry points across the nation, said a person engaged in customs service. Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) provided over 3,990 yens for MACCS, plus technical assistance.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## High-end bamboo products to be made in mid 2017

WITH an aim to export high-end products of bamboo to foreign countries, bamboo furniture orders will be accepted in mid 2017, according to the Myanmar Bamboo Growers Association.

Currently, the association cannot manage to manufacture ordered products due to a lack of ready-to-use raw materials.

The bamboo association is currently receiving furniture orders from Mandalay, Pyin Oo Lwin, Tachilek, Nay Pyi Taw, Kalaw, etc. They

will accept a series of orders only after a training school is established in Mandalay, said U Kyaw Win, the secretary of the Myanmar Bamboo Growers Association.

The association aims to export high-value bamboo products to foreign countries manufacturing ready-to-install bamboo furniture. If year-old bamboo plants are systematically cut, there is not a risk of bamboo extinction, said U Kyaw Win.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Trucks seen at 105-mile trade zone Muse, Northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Trade value slumped by over US\$855million compared to similar period in last FY

TRADE value as of 25th September in this fiscal year slumped by US\$855.644million when compared to the similar period of last year, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The value of trade through sea trade as of 25th September in this fiscal year was US\$12,096.291million whereas that in the previous fiscal year was US\$13,127.214million. The fall in this year's normal trade was attributed to the decrease in import value.

In the same period, a total value of trade through border area

was US\$4,626.627million which is up from US\$4,451.348million in last fiscal year.

Out of export products worth US\$7,278.566million, manufacturing goods played a major role with an export value of US\$3,267.738million, followed by agricultural products with an export value of US\$1,735.225million and other products of US\$1,136.678million. Export of fishery products earned US\$327.077million whereas the values of export were US\$653.776million from mineral products and US\$153.41million

from forestry products and US\$4.662million from livestock, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Meanwhile, import value amounted to US\$9,444.352million which is down from US\$10,718.425 million from last year. Capital goods, raw industrial goods and consumer goods are imported into Myanmar.

Currently, there is a balance of trade deficit of US\$2,165.786million since exports are outdone by imports. To reduce the trade deficit, there is a plan to scrutinise luxury import

products, except for essential items, according to the 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 Organization (CSO). About US\$3.1billion is expected to show in trade deficit in this fiscal year, it is learnt from the Planning and Finance Ministry.—*Mon Mon*

## Inle hotel zone entrance fees to be collected in US dollars instead of local currency

WITH an appreciation of the US dollar price, entrance fees to the Inle Hotel zone will be collected in US dollars instead of local currency starting 10 December, said U Zaw Htay Aung, the chair of Myanmar Tourism Association (Taunggyi Zone).

Currently, entrance fees of Ks12,500 per head are being collected and the fees will be changed to US\$10, according to

Myo Group, which is responsible for collecting the entrance fees for the Inle zone.

Visiting groups usually plan their trips at least a month or up to six months in advance, resulting in a problem for tour agencies from changing entrance fees when the exchange rate is unfavourable. Therefore, there is a plan to negotiate about changing entrance fees in US dol-

lars to avoid losses due to currency exchange rates. In the high season, local tour companies have already sold their tour packages and collected the money, said U Zaw Htay Aung.

Last February, the entrance fee was changed into kyats due to the depreciation of the US dollar. With US dollar price now rising, the plan is to change back to the US dollar, said travel tour proprietors.—200

**AGRI'16 LIVESTOCK MYANMAR**  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS EXHIBITION & CONGRESS  
7-9 DECEMBER 2016 TATMADAY HALL, YANGON

မြန်မာ့အကောင်းဆုံး နိုင်ငံတကာ တိရစ္ဆာန်ကုန်းမားခရီး၊ အစာနှင့် မွေးမြူရေးလုပ်ငန်း ထုတ်ကုန်များဆိုင်ရာ ကုန်စည်ပြပွဲကြီး ဂျာနယ်မှ ဖြတ်တမ်းနဲ့ ဝင်ခွင့်ရရှိပါ။

- တိရစ္ဆာန်မွေးမြူရေး အစာ နှင့် မွေးမြူရေး ဆိုင်ရာ ကုန်ပစ္စည်း ထောင်သွင်းရေးခွင့် ရသည့် အမျိုးအစားမပိုင် (၀၅၅၀) နှင့် နိုင်ငံမပိုင် (၀၆) နိုင်ငံမှ ခန့်မှန်းဆောင်ရွက်ပေးမည့်ပညာများ အားမတွေ့နိုင်ပါ။
- တိရစ္ဆာန်ကုန်းမားခရီး နှင့် ကျွဲစက်ခရီးများ ကိုကာကွယ်နိုင်အောင် ခန့်မှန်းဆောင်ရွက်ပေးမည့်ပညာများကို လေ့လာနိုင်ပါသည်။
- ဇီဝပညာရေးလုပ်ငန်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု၊ စတင်လုပ်ငန်းများနှင့် နယ်ပယ်တိုးတက်မှု နည်းပညာပညာရှင်များ မတွေ့ဆုံနိုင်မည့်အခွင့်အရေး

## Nobel laureate Ohsumi awarded Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences

TOKYO — Japanese scientist Yoshinori Ohsumi, winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, has been awarded the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the prize foundation said Monday.

The Breakthrough Prize Foundation, launched by the founders of companies including Facebook Inc. and Google Inc., honored Ohsumi's research for elucidating mechanisms for autophagy, an intracellular process that degrades and recycles proteins.

"I am truly honoured. I will continue to make efforts for the development of research in this field," the honorary professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology said in a statement.

The awards celebrate outstanding research in three scientific fields — fundamental physics, life sciences and mathematics.—*Kyodo News*

# UN chief Ban may be unwitting loser in South Korea presidential scandal

SEOUL — Besides South Korean President Park Geun-hye, the biggest casualty of the country's mushrooming political corruption scandal may be the presidential aspirations of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Although he has not declared his candidacy, Ban was until a month ago the front-runner in opinion polls to win the election scheduled for 20 December, 2017, a race he was widely expected to contest from Park's conservative Saenuri Party.

But the scandal that has become known as "Park Geun-hye-Gate" and threatens Park's presidency has sowed division in the party. An impeachment vote is set for later this week, and Ban's standing in polls has declined, while the Saenuri has become a much less viable platform for a run.

"It doesn't make any sense at all now for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to join the Saenuri Party. Unless he is stupid, he would never join Saenuri,



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivers a speech after being awarded with the Legion of Honour (Legion d'Honneur) by the French president at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 17 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

would he?," said Choung Byoung-gug, a Saenuri lawmaker who co-heads an anti-Park faction that favours formation of a new conservative party.

It is not unusual for a major South Korean political party to break into factions, with the mainstream forming a new party. "If a new sound conservative party is set up, then it may be a different situation, but at this point it is too early to say," said Choung.

Ban, 72, was South

Korean foreign minister from 2004-2006 under the liberal President Roh Moo-hyun, but was a non-partisan career diplomat.

He now faces the prospect of having no party to join to make use of the political machinery crucial to running a campaign. That institutional support is especially important given that Ban has been based in New York for a decade and has never run for office in South Korea.

Time is also not on

Ban's side if Park is forced to exit sooner than later.

Last week, Park sought to head off calls for her immediate resignation or impeachment by asking parliament to come up with a plan and timetable for her to step down. The opposition dismissed the manoeuvre and has called for an impeachment vote for 9 December.

If parliament votes for impeachment, which is not a certainty given the two-thirds majority needed would require the support of roughly 30 members of Park's Saenuri party, the Constitutional Court would still need to uphold the motion, a process that could take months.

If Park leaves early, either by resigning or by being forced out by impeachment, a new election for a full five-year presidential term must be held in 60 days. An early election would be disadvantageous for Ban, since he cannot begin a campaign before his UN term ends on 31 December. If he had planned to run, his earlier political calculations would

have been based on nearly a full year to campaign.

Ban has been evasive about his plans after his UN tenure ends, but he told Reuters in October that he was conscious of "expectations from many people in Korea that I should make myself available for a better future of Korea." Asked to comment on Ban's intentions given the political crisis at home, UN spokesman Farhan Haq said: "The Secretary-General has already said repeatedly that he will concentrate on his work as Secretary-General until the end of the year." The main opposition Democratic Party already has a crowded field of potential candidates, headed by Moon Jae-in, who lost to Park in 2012 and now lead the latest Realmeter poll with 21 per cent support, ahead of the second-placed Ban, who has 17 per cent.

Lee Jae-myung, the mayor of Seongnam just south of Seoul and a member of the Democratic Party, is a dark horse rising in the polls, with 15 per cent, putting him in third place.—*Reuters*

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A man paddles a boat near a partially submerged house after a flood in Viet Nam's central Quang Nam Province, on 4 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Floods kill at least 13 people in central Viet Nam

HANOI — Floods brought by torrential rain since late November have killed at least 13 people in central Viet Nam while more heavy rain is expected in coming days, the government and state media said on Sunday.

Six people have died in floods in Binh Dinh province since Thursday and another four were killed in Quang Ngai province, while more than 10,000 homes in the

two provinces were submerged, the government said.

Three children aged between four and 13 were swept away in flood waters in Quang Nam province on Saturday, the *Thanh Nien* (*Young People*) newspaper cited a provincial report as saying.

A cold snap now moving southward is forecast to bring heavy rain to central provinces between now and next Thursday,

the government report said. Floods killed 65 people since October in central provinces, submerged 200,000 homes and damaged railway and roads, with losses valued at more than 7 trillion dong (\$309 million), the government said on Friday.

The flood-stricken areas are in the north, outside Viet Nam's Central Highlands coffee belt and Mekong Delta food basket.—*Reuters*

## At least 11 killed in hotel blaze in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — A fire at a luxury hotel in the Pakistani city of Karachi killed at least 11 people on Monday and injuring dozens, media reported.

The blaze broke out in a ground floor kitchen of the Regent Plaza hotel and trapped guests in upper floors, the English-language *Dawn* newspaper reported. The hotel has more than 400 rooms.

Video footage showed some hotel guests using a chain of bed sheets to climb down from windows of top floors as smoke filled the hotel.

Karachi Mayor Waheed Akhtar told reporters the cause of the fire was not clear. Many Pakistani buildings have lax health and safety standards, while the city's firefighters are often equipped with poor and inadequate equipment.

A Reuters cameraman said the fire had been contained by 9:30 a.m. (0430 GMT).—*Reuters*

# China says Trump clear about Taiwan, in touch with his team

BEIJING/WASHINGTON — US President-elect Trump is clear about China's position on the Taiwan issue and China has maintained contacts with his team, the foreign ministry said on Monday, as Trump took to Twitter to complain about Chinese economic and military policy.

Trump's unusual call with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen on Friday prompted a diplomatic protest on Saturday, though US Vice President-elect Mike Pence played down the telephone conversation, saying it was a "courtesy" call, not intended to show a shift in US policy on China.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang would not say directly who China had lodged "stern representations" with about Trump's call, repeating a weekend statement that it had gone to the "relevant side" in the United States.

"The whole world knows about the Chinese government's position on the Taiwan issue. I think President-elect Trump and his team are also clear," Lu told a daily news briefing.

"The Chinese side in Beijing and Washington lodged solemn representations with the relevant side in the US. The world is very clear on China's solemn position. The US side, including President-elect Trump's team, is very clear about China's solemn position on this issue."

Pressed on who the diplomatic protest was lodged with, Lu said: "I think it's easy to understand 'the relevant side'."

"In fact, China has maintained contacts and communication with the team of President-elect Trump," he added, repeating a previous assertion, though did not give details.

Lu also said he would not speculate on what



US President-elect Donald Trump looks towards the media as he arrives at a costume party at the home of hedge fund billionaire and campaign donor Robert Mercer in Head of the Harbour, New York, US, on 3 December 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

prompted the call, but described the matter of Taiwan as the most important and sensitive question between China and the United States. Trump, who vowed during his campaign to label China a currency manipulator, issued more tough rhetoric on Sunday.

"Did China ask us if it was OK to devalue their

currency (making it hard for our companies to compete), heavily tax our products going into their country (the US doesn't tax them) or to build a massive military complex in the middle of the South China Sea? I don't think so!" Trump said on Twitter.

China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Viet Nam,

Malaysia and Brunei claim parts or all of the energy-rich South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars in trade passes annually.

Lu would not be drawn on directly commenting on Trump's tweets, but defended the China-US relationship.

"The China-US economic and trade relationship has over many years always been a highly mutually beneficial one, otherwise it couldn't have developed the way it has today," he said. "China and the United States maintaining good relations, a steadily developing relationship, accords with the joint interests of both peoples." The diplomatic contretemps was one of several recently for the Republican president-elect, a real estate magnate who has never held public office and has no foreign affairs or military experience. Trump,

who takes office on 20 January, is still considering his choice for secretary of state. The call with Taipei was the first by a US president-elect or president with a Taiwan leader since President Jimmy Carter switched diplomatic recognition to China from Taiwan in 1979, acknowledging Taiwan as part of "one China". China regards Taiwan as a renegade province. China blamed Taiwan for the call, but also lodged the diplomatic protest with the United States, saying the "one China" policy was the bedrock of relations with the United States. Pence called the uproar over the call with "democratically elected" Tsai a "tempest in a teapot". He blamed the media for the controversy, saying the call was similar in nature to one between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping after the 8 November election. —Reuters

## China urges India not to 'complicate' border dispute as Tibetan figure visits



Karmapa Lama (C) alights from a car before his departure to Mumbai, at the airport on the outskirts of the northern Indian hilltown of Dharamsala in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China called on India on Monday not to do anything to complicate their border dispute after a senior exiled Tibetan religious

leader visited a sensitive border region controlled by India but claimed by China.

The Karmapa Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's third-

most-senior figure who fled into exile in India in 2000, last week went to Tawang in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, in the remote eastern Himalayas.

China disputes the entire territory of Arunachal Pradesh, calling it south Tibet. Its historic town Tawang, a key site for Tibetan Buddhism, was briefly occupied by Chinese forces during a 1962 war. Asked about the trip, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said India was clear about China's position on the eastern end of their border. "We hope the Indian side can respect the relevant consensus of both sides, and

not take any actions that may complicate the border issue," Lu told a daily news briefing. Maintaining peace and stability on the border and the healthy development of relations was in both parties interests, he added. Leaders of Asia's two giants pledged last year to cool their festering border dispute, which dates back to their brief 1962 border war.

India is home to a large exiled Tibetan community, including spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who China reviles as a separatist. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning monk says he simply wants genuine autonomy for his homeland.—Reuters

## Flash flood kills at least 11 in Thailand

BANGKOK — At least 11 have died and two remain missing from the heavy flood that resulted from downpours in southern Thailand, local media reported on Monday.

The disaster started last Thursday in the ten southern provinces affecting 157,580 families in 68 districts, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said.

With strong monsoon covering Thailand's southern region, torrential rain has been pounding the south in the past four days.

Local media said the flood has also paral-

ized four train routes, damaged 2,400 hectares of farmland and caused mudslides in the affected provinces.

The government has issued an urgent directive to all public disaster prevention centres to watch out for landslides and flash floods in the region and to be on standby to rush rescue and relief teams and materials to areas where they are needed.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has ordered local government agencies to coordinate efforts to help flood victims with utmost efficiency.—Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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# Opinion

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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.

## A mosaic of different cultures, beliefs and scenic beauties make our planet attractive

**Khin Maung Oo**

**N**ATURE is very strange and wonderful as known by all. Here I would like to say that we should be thankful for its fulfillment of what we ourselves can never create, for example the sun, the moon, stars, the sky, seas, mountains, natural landscape such as rivers, streams, open spaces, grasslands etc. Human beings, animals, beasts, birds and all other kinds of insects are creations of the nature. Nature gives places for us to live in, farm lands to grow, animals for us to feed ourselves as meat, beasts for us to use them as beasts of burden, mountains and beaches for us to enjoy the natural beauties and to relax ourselves there. As a matter of fact, humans are the most intelligent beings

out of all living things and in the most favor of the nature because of our abilities to exploit benefits from the situations created by nature.

Storms originate in seas and oceans occasionally, but by seeing this, we cannot say that the latter are not good. We mostly rely upon those, especially for global transportation and seafood. As per human nature, we—human beings—would like to possess what we do not have and what are not similar to us. Some introduce animals and plants that are neither in their homes nor in their countries from other places. We who belong to different places, races and religions meet to form unions. Why? That is because we are ready and willing to accept things of difference per se.

We have already had the Ayeyawady, but we want to enjoy the beauty of the Nile and the Ganges. And we have extinct volcano of Mt Popa but we want to watch the Mt Fuji. In fact, everywhere, everything and every being have a beauty respectively.

Each and every one of us has greed. Yet, we should keep in our mind that excessive craving can lead us to destruction. Thus, some try to rob others of their possessions, destroying our peaceful world, the place which are unavoidably destined to meet in. Keeping their interests alone in their minds, ultra-opportunists are never hesitant to kill elephants and tigers for ivories and skins. They are not above stealing other's lands and destroying natural

environment such as forests and mountains. We will never accept such deeds. To put it simply, we can share pleasure and enjoyment we are having, to anyone but it is incumbent upon us to protect our land and our world in which the heterogeneous population that is said to have descended from the Four Brahmas thought to be beings superior to man and spirits inhabiting the higher celestial abodes according to Myanmar traditional beliefs.

Provided that our land, our environment and our nature remain intact by protecting them from the dangers of destructive elements, our world with a mosaic of different cultures, beliefs and scenic beauties will exist for ever.

# Pokemon Go isn't that bad after all!

**Khin Maung Myint**

**R**EADERS, please don't be misled by the title. I'm not going to promote the ridiculous game that is causing much annoyance to many people around the world as mentioned in my previous article: "Pokemon Go: Entertainment or Nuisance?" (16/08/2016 GNLM). In that article I had condemned the craze it had created, which caused disruptions of traffic flows, trespassing of private and restricted areas and public annoyances around the world.

Now, I must admit I was a bit hasty in condemning it just by judging from the nuisances it imposed on the public. However, on further studies I came to realize that because of the Pokemon Go game, I came to know about the technology that could contribute in many ways to the human society in the real world.

Apart from the fun and games that the Pokemon Go provides to its users, I dare say that most of us are not familiar with the benefits that technology could provide. So, instead of being getting drawn into the virtual world that the Pokemon Go game provides, let's explore the other usefulnesses the technology behind the Pokemon

Go could provide us in the real world.

That technology is called the **augmented reality (AR)** technology. As it is not meant to be a scientific paper I'll not be stressing on the scientific details, but try to give a rough idea so that most of the readers would be able to grasp the ideas as to what that technology is. The **AR** technology create virtual reality and augments or supplements it to the physical reality

Hardware components required for **AR** technology are: processors, display, sensors and input device. The modern day smart phones and computer tablets have all these functions and cameras, so they are very suitable platforms for **AR** technology. However, as I have said above, I will not be elaborating here, how it works.

**AR** technology is a computer-backed technology that helps create virtual images in three dimensions (3D) and augments them to the real world environments, enabling the viewers to see them live. This technology was first used in games such as the Pokemon Go and similar ones. Later the **AR** technology spread to a variety of fields, namely: military, aviation, business, construction, industry, medical and many

more.

The military uses **AR** technology to develop new training tools and provide in-depth informations about the battlefield: pinpointing the locations of the mines laid and presence of the enemy laying in wait to ambush, behind covers, with the help of drones sending reality images to the special viewers designed for such purposes. It could save the lives of many soldiers.

In the aviation field, the **AR** technology is used in the state of the art simulators to train pilots. It also helps the pilots by providing virtual reality images of the runways augmented to the physical ones during darkness or low visibilities. This will help greatly, not only the commercial aviations but also the military flights too.

In the business field, there are many uses of **AR** technology. For instance the realtor use it to provide a prospective client the previews of the properties before checking them out on ground. It saves time for both the realtor and the client, making the business more efficient. With the aid of the virtual reality 3D images the client is given a walk-through vision of the house on sale, providing the client a very good idea what it will look like in physical reality.

Likewise in the construction

field, the contractors would be able to have a preview of what the building would actually look like on completion with the use of the **AR** technology. Also the engineers will not need to physically check the blueprints and schematic diagrams, but they can observe them with the viewers: a pair of glasses, headsets or head mounted display (HMD), leaving their hands free to be doing other works.

In the industry field, the manufacturers could build 3D models with the **AR** technology and see what the finished products would look like. It would also allow them to see how their products would function. They can also interact with the machineries though they may be far away from them.

As for the medical field, there are varied uses of the **AR** technology. A surgeon would be able to explain to the patients, with the aid of images created by the **AR** technology how the operations will be conducted. Thus the patient would know what to expect. The **AR** technology would also assist a plastic surgeon to provide the client a preview of his or her looks after the surgery.

For general purposes, some good examples of the use of **AR** technology are: in the cosmetic business and in emergency situa-

tions. The makeup artists would be able to show their clients how they will look after the cosmetic makeovers. The locating the nearest fire hydrants and nearest hospitals or clinics where a cardiovascular specialist or other types of specialists are in attendance at the particular moment in case of emergencies.

As the researches are still ongoing, chances are that more perfect and beneficial uses of the technology will surely emerge. I hope the goods it does for the mankind would outweigh the bads it had done and redeem itself. I admit that I was wrong to have indirectly condemned it, when I condemned the Pokemon Go game.

When I came to understand the diverse beneficial uses the **AR** technology could provide to mankind, I felt guilty for my rash actions. Thus I took it upon me to do justice to it by getting the records straight, so I have written this article as a redemption for my mistake. After all, Pokemon Go isn't that bad! The craze for the game was a first cut to appeal to the mass and later the **AR** technology, which is at the core of that game, found their ways into different fields that would benefit mankind.

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## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chief of Malaysia Armed Forces



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receiving Chief of Malaysia Armed Forces. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received General Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Haji Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zain, Chief of Malaysia Armed Forces, at the

Zayarthiri Baikhman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on sending delegations of the two Armed Forces to promote cooperation between

the Military Forces of Myanmar and Malaysia, for attending defence exhibitions, military training courses, for information and data exchanges for prevention of terrorism and the true situation concerning the incidents that occurred in Rakhine.

Present at the call together with Chief of Malaysia Armed Forces were Deputy Chief of Malaysian Military Intelligence Major General Dato' Mohd Sobri Paridaluddin Bin Ismail, Military attaché Colonel Mohd Yasin Bin Usop and officials.

The Chief of Malaysia Armed Forces will retire from his position in the coming months and will discharge the duty of Managing Director of Malaysia National Security Council, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## New Rakhine resort to start in early 2017

KYAUKPRU Township Development Affairs Committee plans to establish a recreation resort in Kyaukpuru, a major town of Rakhine State, early in the new year, its Chairman U Than Lwin said.

The new project will be implemented by the committee in partnership with South Korea-based Daewoo Company, which vowed to contribute Ks150 million to the scheme before the end of this year.

Several discussions for the

establishment of the development project were made between the South Korean group and local authorities including the Township Development Affairs Committee and officials from the township administrative bodies, with the result that all budgets will be allotted by the Korean firm this month.

The new plan will be similar to the Viewpoint, popularly known as Point, the principal attraction in the Rakhine State capital of Sittwe. The urban park pro-

vides excellent views of Sittwe beach and Sittwe harbour, and is a scenic setting to observe both the sunrise and the sunset.

Under the new project, a wide range of beach facilities will be developed along the Kyaukpuru beach and surrounding areas to attract more visitors from home and abroad.

Kyaukpuru is situated on the north-west corner of Rambre Island, and is 400 km north-west of Yangon.—200

## Vice Senior General Soe Win attends 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win attended the 17th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (17th ACAMM) at the Philippines International Convention Center in Manila yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by the Chiefs of Armies from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam and the Deputy Commander in Chief of Royal Thai Army.

At the ceremony, the Commanding General of the Philippine Army gave words of greeting and the event's opening speech, and special guest National Security Adviser Secretary Hermogenes C. Esperson Jr. delivered a speech and posed for documentary photos with the attendees. The gener-

als who are attending the meeting discussed subjects of their countries. After the evening session, the Commanding General of the Philippines Army made concluding remarks. Generals of ASEAN Armies then signed the ACAMM Protocol.

Singapore will host the 18th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (18th ACAMM) in 2017. Vice Senior General Soe Win met with the Commanding General of the Philippines Army and Deputy Commander in Chief of Royal Thai Army at the Sofitel.

Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife attended a dinner hosted by Commanding General of the Philippine Army Lt. Gen. Eduardo M. Ano and wife in the Luzon Hall of the Sofitel Hotel.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice Senior General Soe Win seen attending 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting. PHOTO: MNA

## Unsung heroes who sacrificed their lives for the countries

Min Thit (MNA)

A WOMAN with 2-year-old son's legs astride on her hip and concurrently 6-year-old son with her another hand, moved on to the gallant soldiers' mausoleum situated near the northern part of the sacred Shwedagon Pagoda, with solemn steps. She, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein, was here to attend the ceremony held for the third time in honor of unsung heroes who gave their lives for the nation during the reign of consecutive governments. The ceremony was observed at the gallant soldiers' mausoleum in Bahan township, Yangon at 9 a.m on December 4.

"My husband had fallen in the frontier area, and I came here today to greet and give words of condolence to my fellow families," said the widow standing up to difficulties in her existence, together with her sons.

Major Hein Thu, the lady's spouse was a Tatmatawman who sacrificed his life for the country, in Mongnaung area of Shan State on 10 November, 2015.

The ceremony was held in commemoration and honor of fallen soldiers, or rather unsung heroes, who did fight for Independence since the time before Myanmar had not gained her Independence and those killed unknown to public in frontier areas while fighting internal & external foes that harmed the sovereignty, peace and stability of the country.

The mausoleum was built with the aim of honoring the national heroes who had fallen in the battles while fighting against

colonialists, those who fought for gaining Independence of the country from the colonialists and the soldiers who were killed in battles fighting against destructive elements trying to harm the national sovereignty until now, it is learnt.

Lt-Gen Myint Soe (Rtd), a participant in the ceremony disclosed, "Holding such ceremonies may plant seeds of spirit that they did for the Tatmataw and for the country and the people will be convinced who sacrificed their lives for the country from such cer-

emonies."

In the ceremony held today, the poet named Ah Lin Yaung who prosed and recited herself the poet, "Heroes will never die" expressed her words of feeling, "I composed this poem from my vicarious feelings of soldiers' lives and their families' existences, aiming at honoring unsung heroes and giving message that heroes will never die." She went on to say, "It made me sad to see families of the fallen heroes attending the ceremony with gloomy faces."

Those present at the ceremony saluted the National Flag, giving 2-minute salute to Bogyoke Aung San and fallen unsung heroes and releasing doves, a symbol of peace.

The gallant mausoleum was set up as a symbol of a turning point in Myanmar history on 27 September 1943 near northern part of Shwedagon Pagoda in Bahan township by Bogyoke Aung San. Later, in June 1989, 11-foot-high monument made up from marble stone was built in honor of soldiers who gave their lives with noble spirits by the State Law & Order Restoration Council.

At the bottom of the monument, there is written the wording—"Heroes are saluted for their brave sacrifices in fighting colonialists & defending independence," with the wordings—"Soldiers will never die and go to hell upon death," on the left side of the entrance and "Incomparable virtue of the noblest sacrifice," on the right side written respectively.

U Tin Ko Win, a retired army captain, of the ceremony observance working committee said, "There was scarcity of such observance in honor of unsung heroes in previous reigns of governments, hence the arrangement to observe annually. Those killed in battles sacrificed their lives, not for getting awards and being recognized as heroes by the people. We will never forget their sacrifices and noble spirits."

While freeing a dove, a symbol of peace, into the sky, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein who came to honor her husband and fellow unsung heroes expressed her wish, "We want our nation to be peaceful as soon as possible, void of any fighting."



PHOTO: HLA MOE

## China says Iran nuclear deal participants should stick to pact, despite internal changes

BEIJING — Iran's nuclear deal with six major powers should continue regardless of changes in the internal situation of participant nations, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Iran's visiting foreign minister during a meeting in Beijing on Monday.

The future of the deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme has been thrown into jeopardy with US President-elect Donald Trump set to take office next month.

During his election campaign Trump vowed to scrap the pact, although the final details of his foreign policy strategy, including his stance on Iran, remain unclear.

"Maintaining the deal's continued, comprehensive and effective implementation is the responsibility and common interest of all parties, and should not be impacted by changes in the internal situation of each country," Wang said.

He did not name specific countries in his comments, carried on China's foreign ministry website.

Iran shared China's position, the Middle East country's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said.

"The JCPOA is a multilateral agreement and all parties should respect it. Iran and China have the same stance on this," he said, according to the Tasnim news agency.

"We will not let any country infringe the agreement unilaterally," he added. "But if they do, Iran has its own options."

The ministers also discussed greater cooperation on energy, trade and infrastructure under China's new Silk Road initiative, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Iran has said it seeks to expand economic and security ties with China, following a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping in January.—Reuters

## Recapture of Mosul 'possible' before next US administration: Pentagon chief

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT — While the fight to retake the Iraqi city of Mosul from Islamic State is going to be difficult, it is "possible" it could be complete before President-elect Donald Trump takes office, US Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Monday.

Some 100,000 Iraqi government troops, Kurdish security forces and mainly Shi'ite militiamen are participating in the assault on Mosul that began on 17 October, with air and ground support from a US-led coalition.

The capture of Mosul, the largest city under control of Islamic State, is seen as crucial toward dismantling the caliphate which the militants declared over parts of the Iraq and Syria in 2014.

"That is certainly possible and again it is going to be a tough fight," Carter said when asked if the recapture would be complete before 20 January, when Trump starts his presidency.

Islamic State fighters



Iraqi soldiers fire mortar shells towards Islamic State positions, in Shayyalah al-Imam near Mosul, Iraq on 5 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

retreating in the face of a seven-week military assault on their Mosul stronghold have hit back in the past few days, exploiting cloudy skies which hampered US-led air support and highlighting the fragile army gains.

In a series of counter-attacks since Friday, the jihadist fighters struck elite Iraqi troops spearheading the offensive in eastern Mosul,

and attacked security forces to the south and west of the city. "Obviously there (are) always weather issues ... the Iraqi security forces are prepared for any eventuality there," Carter said.

Iraqi officials say they continue to gain ground against the militants who still hold about three-quarters of the country's largest northern city.

But the fierce resistance means the military's campaign is likely to stretch well into next year as it seeks to recapture a city where the jihadists are dug in among civilians and using a network of tunnels to launch waves of attacks. Carter did not say how the recapture could be completed before 20 January in the face of resistance from Islamic State.—Reuters

## Syrian government forces seize more of Aleppo from rebels



Smoke rises from a damaged building after a strike on the rebel-held besieged al-Shaar neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces and their allies advanced into another rebel-held part of eastern Aleppo, a rebel official and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday, as the army drew closer to opposition-held parts of the Old City. A Reuters journalist in government-held western Aleppo said rebels had shelled government-held districts on Monday, especially near the frontlines, and plumes of smoke could be seen rising from an area of the Old City.

The Observatory said government forces had bombarded rebel-held areas of eastern Aleppo intensely since midnight.

Having captured swathes of eastern Aleppo from rebels in the last two weeks, the army and its allies are seeking to drive a wedge between the al-Shaar neighbourhood and the remaining part of rebel-held eastern Aleppo to the southwest. The rebels defending al-Shaar may be forced to abandon it or risk being cut off from the other areas, rebel sources say. The Syrian army could not immediately be reached for comment. "The regime advanced (into al-Shaar) and there were clashes all night. The clashes are still going on," said Zakaria Malahifji, a Turkey-based official with the Aleppo rebel group Fastaqim.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANI BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANI BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INLE STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INLE STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185



## SHWE BANK

### SPECIAL THANKS



Special thanks to those who attended the opening ceremony of the Bayintnaung branch of Shwe Rural and Urban Bank held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Our special thanks go to U Win Thaw, Director-General of the Foreign Exchange Management Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Zaw Min Win, Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and U Myint Oo, Chairman of the Committee for Bayintnaung Brokerage Centre Welfare and Disciplinary Committee, who cut the ribbon to formally open the latest branch of the “Shwe Bank”, Daw Thida Myo Aung, Director-General, Financial Institution Supervision Department, Central Bank of Myanmar, who pressed a button to unveil the signboard of the Shwe Bank, responsible personnel from the UMFCCI and its brotherhood associations, district- and township-level authorities, chairmen and senior officials of the local banks, local and foreign businessmen, responsible personnel from foreign banks, businessmen from the Bayintnaung Brokerage Centre, invited guests and organisations and individuals who sent commemorative gifts and those who helped to hold the opening ceremony successfully.

**Shwe Bank  
Board of Directors  
and Employees**

# California fire death toll rises to 33 in grim warehouse search

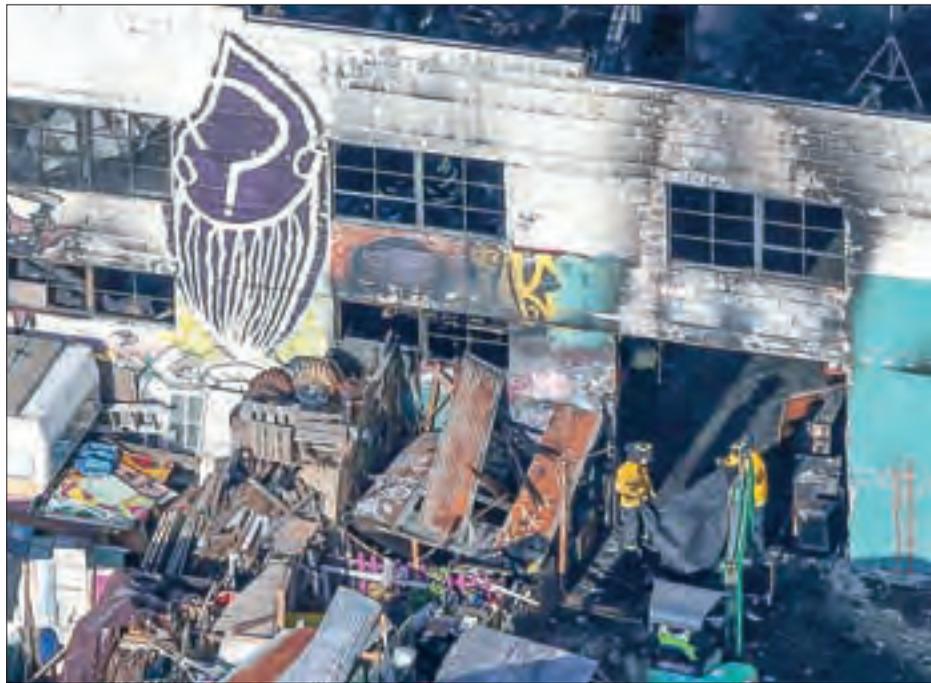
OAKLAND — A grim search for victims of a devastating fire that ripped through a converted warehouse in Oakland, California during a dance party entered a third day on Monday, with the list of 33 known deaths expected to grow.

The blaze, which erupted about 11:30 p.m. on Friday (0730 GMT on Saturday), ranks as the deadliest in the United States since 100 people perished in a 2003 Rhode Island nightclub fire.

As criminal investigators joined recovery efforts at the charred ruin, just east of San Francisco, firefighters found the remains of nearly three dozen victims at the weekend as they searched the debris-filled shell of the two-story converted warehouse being used by an artists' collective.

The cause of the fire was still undetermined, officials said. Arson is not suspected but investigators are checking whether the building, often used for music performances, had a history of code violations.

Mayor Libby Schaaf said the Alameda County District Attorney's Office activated its criminal investigation team at the fire scene. A representative of the prosecutor's office is monitoring the recovery process, she said, adding she was not authorised to say if a criminal probe was under way.



Firefighters work inside the burned warehouse following the fatal fire in the Fruitvale district of Oakland, California, US on 4 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The mayor said the city's first priority was finding the victims and supporting their families, adding, "We have delivered the unacceptable and horrific news of losing a loved one to seven of our families."

The warehouse, which served as a base for the Ghost Ship Artists Collective, was one of many converted lofts in the city's Fruitvale district, a mostly Latino area where rents are generally lower than in the rest of Oakland.

By Sunday evening, only 35 to 40 per cent of the building had been searched, said Sergeant Ray Kelly, spokesman for the Alameda County Sher-

iff's Office.

Officials are still unsure how many people were in the building at the time.

Recovery teams had yet to search an unspecified number of mobile homes parked on the first floor, Kelly said, illustrating the scope of the task. He said people appeared to have been living in them.

The building was designated for use as a warehouse only, according to the city, which was aware of reports that people were living there, although no permits had been issued.

The recovery operation was delayed for hours as the roof collapsed and the second story fell onto

the first in spots, making it unsafe to enter.

The effort has proceeded slowly due to mountains of debris, with victims apparently scattered throughout the unstable structure.

"We're finding victims in every quadrant of the warehouse," Kelly said. "We're finding victims where we least expect them." Exhaustion and the wide scale of the disaster were taking an emotional toll on crews who had been working around the clock since the fire broke out.

With many victims burned beyond recognition, families were asked to preserve items that might contain their DNA to aid identification. —Reuters

# UN launches record \$22.2 billion humanitarian appeal for 2017

GENEVA — The United Nations needs a record \$22.2 billion to cover humanitarian relief projects next year, covering the needs of 93 million people in 33 countries, UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien said on Monday.

"This is a reflection of a state of humanitarian need in the world not witnessed since the Second World War," he told a news conference, adding that 80 per cent of the needs stemmed from man-made conflicts, such as those in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria and South Sudan. —Reuters



Syrian refugee children play at Al Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan near the border with Syria, on 3 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

Invitation for Bids

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project

Reference No. : C1-G2

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of spun concrete pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 94,786 poles to be delivered in calendar year 2017 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 10 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in CD with English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Myanmar Kyats 100,000. The method of payment will be transferred to the following account:

Electricity Supply Enterprise, account no. SEE 10316 at Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The transferred slip shall be submitted with the above application. Once the application and the transferred slip received, the bidding documents will be provided in the CD.

In case of any difficulty in purchasing the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

1. Director General

Department of Electric Power Planning

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: Nay Pyi Taw

Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Email: [dep.pssp.info@gmail.com](mailto:dep.pssp.info@gmail.com)

2. Ms. Xiaoping Wang, Task Team Leader

The World Bank

Address: 30<sup>th</sup> Floor, Siam Tower.

989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Email: [xwang3@worldbank.org](mailto:xwang3@worldbank.org)

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning

Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above para 4 and 5 are :

Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning

Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone : +95 67 410203

Facsimile : +95 67 410077

E-mail : [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com)

Web site : <http://www.moep.gov.mm>

## TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

EA Pharma Co., Ltd. , a company incorporated in Japan, and having its registered office at 2-1-1, Irifune, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0042, Japan is the current owner of the Trademarks described below, by virtue of the Deed of Assignment dated **20 September 2016 (Reg. No. 4/11983/2016)** executed between **AJINOMOTO CO., INC.**, (Assignor), and **EA Pharma Co., Ltd.**, (Assignee), whereby Assignor, the original owner had registered the Marks in Myanmar, assigned it to Assignee:

# ATELEC

Reg. No. 4/8004/2013 (31 July 2013)

# ATEDIO

Reg. No. 4/8001/2013 (31 July 2013)

# CARENOTECT

Reg. No. 4/8000/2013 (31 July 2013)

All in respect of "Medicines for human purposes; pharmaceutical preparations" in **International Class 5**.

# AMIYU

Reg. No. 4/8002/2013 (31 July 2013)

# MORIAMIN-S-2

Reg. No. 4/2682/2015 (6 March 2015)

# MORIHEPAMIN

Reg. No. 4/16239/2015 (22 December 2015)

# MORIAMIN-ACE

Reg. No. 4/17237/2016 (12 January 2016)

All in respect of "Pharmaceutical drugs and medicines" in **International Class 5**.

# NIFLEC

Reg. No. 4/17288/2014 (19.11.2014)

In respect of "pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical preparations, pharmaceutical drugs and medicines, oral intestinal lavage preparation" in **International Class 5**.

# LIVACT

Reg. No. 4/4210/2008 (4 July 2008)

In respect of "Medicines for human purposes; pharmaceutical preparations; pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary substances; infants' and invalids' foods; plasters, material for bandaging; material for stopping teeth; dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin" in **International Class 5**.

# LIVACT

Reg. No. 4/8003/2013 (31 July 2013)

In respect of "Medicines for human purposes, pharmaceutical preparations, pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations; dietetic substances adapted for medical use, food for babies; plasters, materials for dressings; materials for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides" in **International Class 5**.



Reg. No. 4/7999/2013 (31 July 2013)

In respect of "Amino acid for medical purposes; Amino acid preparations; Mineral for medical purposes; Salt for medical purposes; Saccharide preparations; Dental materials; Lacteal flour (for babies); Tapes for medical purposes; Gum for medical purposes; Pharmaceuticals; Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; Sanitary preparations for medical purposes; Dietetic substances adapted for medical use; Food for babies; Plasters; Materials for dressings; Material for stopping teeth; Dental wax; Disinfectants; Preparations for destroying vermin; Fungicides; Herbicides; Medicines for human purpose; Medicines for veterinary purposes; Dietetic foods; Dietetic beverages; Dietetic substances; Supplementary foods consisting of mainly amino acids in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly; Health foods consisting of mainly amino acids in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly; Dietary supplements products consisting of mainly amino acids in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly; Nutritional supplement" in **International Class 5**.



Reg. No. 4/7998/ 2013 (31 July 2013)

In respect of "Amino acid for medical purposes; Amino acid preparations; Mineral for medical purposes; Salt for medical purposes; Saccharide preparations; Dental materials; Lacteal flour (for babies); Tapes for medical purposes; Gum for medical purposes; Pharmaceuticals; Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; Sanitary preparations for medical purposes; Dietetic substances adapted for medical use; Food for babies; Plasters; Materials for dressings; Material for stopping teeth; Dental wax; Disinfectants; Preparations for destroying vermin; Fungicides; Herbicides; Medicines for human purpose; Medicines for veterinary purposes; Dietetic foods; Dietetic beverages; Dietetic substances; Supplementary foods consisting of mainly amino acids in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly ( not for medical purposes); Health foods consisting of mainly amino acids in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly (not for medical purposes); Dietary supplements products consisting of mainly amino acids in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly (not for medical purposes)" in **International Class 5**; "Supportive bandages; Surgical catguts; Feeding cups (for medical purpose); Dropping pipettes (for medical purpose); Teats; Baby bottles; Vacuum bottles for nursing; Prosthetic filling materials (not for dental use)" in **International Class 10**; "Medical machines and apparatus; Metalwork; Processing of rubber; Processing of plastics; Ceramic processing; Food processing; Rental of chemical processing machines and apparatus; Refinement of a medical product or synthesis by trusting; Medicine manufacturing processing of chemicals by trusting, a medical product and cosmetics; Assembly processing with a mechanical adjustment of mechanical apparatus for medical treatment and the part; Refinement of a medical product, medicine manufacturing and production by trusting; Artificial bone prosthesis by trusting and production of a filling charge of materials; Production of a dental charge of materials by trusting; Production of mechanical apparatus for medical treatment by trusting; Production of food and processing by trusting; Production of a soft drink by trusting, a fruit drink and a milk Qing dynasty drink; Production of dry milk for babies by trusting; Production of a snack for infant's weaning by trusting; Synthesis of a medicine metabolic product by trusting and a middle raw material compound; Filling of the maximum weight of the medical product by trusting, the unregulated drug and the cosmetics; Crush and mix of inorganic medicine by trusting" in **International Class 40**; "Designing; Computer software design, computer programming, or maintenance of computer software; Technical advice relating to performance, operation, etc. of computers, automobiles and other machines that require high levels of personal knowledge, skill or experience of the operators to meet the required accuracy in operating them; Testing, inspection or research of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics or foodstuff; Test, check or study of chemicals for medical treatment; Offer of information about chemicals for medical treatment; Test of a medical product, cosmetics or a food, check, study or development, offer of information about these and consultation; Development, test or study about medical appliance apparatus; Test, check or study about treatment method and technology which affect medical treatment; Testing or research on apparatus and instruments; Rental of computers; Providing computer programs; Rental of laboratory apparatus and instruments" in **International Class 42**; and "Medical services; Providing medical information; Physical examination; Dentistry; Preparation and dispensing of medications; Collection of information and analysis about medical treatment; Dietary and nutritional guidance; Offer of information about the medical profession and dispensation; Offer of information about nutritional guidance; Animal breeding; Veterinary services; Rental of medical machines and apparatus" in **International Class 44**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said Trademarks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P  
For EA Pharma Co., Ltd.,  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,  
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Botataung Township, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
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Dated 6 December 2016

# James Taylor, Al Pacino and Mavis Staples feted at Kennedy Centre Honours

WASHINGTON — Washington celebrated singer-songwriter James Taylor, actor Al Pacino, and gospel vocalist Mavis Staples at the annual Kennedy Centre Honours on Sunday in a night of music punctuated by the approaching end of President Barack Obama's time in office.

Obama lauded the five honorees, including pianist Martha Argerich and rock band the Eagles, at a White House ceremony that will be his last before stepping down in January.

"The arts are always central to American life," he said, noting a string of performances his family had enjoyed over eight years at the White House. "This is one of the perks of the job that I will miss."

Politics and the recent election of Republican Donald Trump to the presidency influenced the atmosphere of the evening. Host Stephen Colbert opened the show with a welcome to "endangered swamp dwellers," a reference to Trump's pledge to drain "the swamp" of Washington when his administration begins.

The surprise appearance of former President Bill Clinton with a tribute to Taylor also underscored the results of the election, in which his wife, former Secretary of State and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, lost to Trump.

Still, the evening belonged to the honorees and the performers who feted them. Singers Darius Rucker, Sheryl Crow, and Garth Brooks sent up Taylor, who is known for hits such as "Sweet



2016 Kennedy Centre honorees pose for a group photo after a gala dinner at the US State Department, in Washington, US, on 3 December 2016. From L-R: (seated) actor Al Pacino, singer Mavis Staples, pianist Martha Argerich, singer-songwriter James Taylor; (standing) members of rock band Eagles, Joe Walsh, Don Henley and Timothy B. Schmit. PHOTO: REUTERS

Baby James" and "You've got a Friend."

"He has been and he still is the sweet and steady voice of our better angels," Clinton said of Taylor.

Actor Pacino, star of "The Godfather" and "Scent of a Woman," drew praise from friend and fellow actor Sean Penn for making the gods of acting smile.

"I'll Take You There" singer Staples told reporters she was

honoured to be part of the last group of awardees under Obama.

"It feels wonderful," she said. "I'm really happy."

Classical pianist Martha Argerich, a one-time child prodigy from Argentina, was feted by opera great Placido Domingo for her spirit.

Rock band the Eagles, famous for songs such as "Hotel California," "Take it Easy," and "Desperado," were honoured

with performances by singers including Vince Gill and Bob Seger. The night was shadowed in some sadness, however; band member Glenn Frey died in January.

Don Henley, Timothy Schmit, and Joe Walsh were present in his absence. "We miss him terribly," Schmit told reporters. The program will be broadcast by CBS on 27 December.—*Reuters*



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Patti Smith and a speech by proxy to fill Dylan void at Nobels

LOS ANGELES — Nobel literature laureate Bob Dylan will provide a speech and fellow American singer-songwriter Patti Smith will perform one of his best-known songs in his absence during Stockholm's prize celebrations, the awards body said on Monday.

Smith will perform "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" at the Nobel banquet on 10 December while Dylan's speech would also be read out at the event, the Nobel Prize organisers said on Twitter.

Dylan said in the wake of being awarded the 8 million Swedish crown (\$870,000) prize that he would accept the award but that he would not attend the ceremony in Stockholm.

Local news agency TT said the speech would be read by Swedish Academy member Horace Engdahl.

Other Nobel Prize winners who have not attended the prize ceremony include Britain's Harold Pinter and Elfriede Jelinek of Austria.—*Reuters*

## 'Moana' Tops Slow Post-Thanksgiving Weekend With \$28.4 Million

LOS ANGELES — "Moana" sailed to the top of the domestic box office for the second consecutive weekend. The Disney animated adventure picked up \$28.4 million to push its stateside haul to \$119.9 million.

Not that "Moana" faced much in the way of competition. The weekend after Thanksgiving tends to be a slow one for the movie business and this year's edition was in keeping with that tradition. The only major new release, "Incarnate," failed to sell many tickets, earning \$2.6 million and falling short of its expected \$4 million to \$5 million opening.

"Incarnate" centres on a scientist (Aaron Eckhart) who enters the mind of an 11-year-old boy to rid him of an evil spirit. The horror film is the latest offering from BH Tilt, which is trying to contain distribution costs by orchestrating more targeted marketing campaigns for certain theatrical releases. "Incarnate" used digital advertising to try to better reach



Alan Tudyk, Rachel House, Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Nicole Scherzinger and Temuera Morrison. PHOTO: REUTERS

younger horror fans, and debuted on 1,700 screens, substantially fewer theaters than most studio movies unfurl across. It cost \$5 million to produce.

"Believe," a faith-based dra-

ma about a Christmas pageant, grossed a quiet \$602,519 from 639 locations. Freestyle Releasing backed the film.

One bright spot was the limited release debut of Fox

Searchlight's "Jackie." The look at First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy's efforts to put on a funeral for Jack Kennedy that honoured her husband and cemented the president's legacy has earned raves for Natalie Portman's lead performance and Oscar buzz. It also did strong business in five theaters, picking up \$275,000 for a \$55,000 per-screen average.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," the Harry Potter spinoff from Warner Bros., took second place, earning \$18.5 million to push its domestic gross to \$183.5 million.

Paramount's "Arrival" came in third, earning \$7.3 million. The science-fiction thriller has made \$73.1 million. Coming in fourth, Paramount's "Allied" added \$7 million to its \$28.9 million gross. Marvel's "Doctor Strange" rounded out the top five, picking up \$6.5 million to bring its stateside bounty to \$215.3 million.

Among Oscar contenders, Amazon Studios and Roadside's "Manchester by the Sea" expand-

ed nicely, picking up \$2.4 million after moving from 48 to 156 screens. The acclaimed drama about a grieving janitor has made \$4.4 million.

A24's "Moonlight" continued to impress. The coming-of-age story made \$915,750, pushing its gross to \$9.9 million.

The domestic box office continues to outpace last year's revenues, with 2016 up roughly 4% over 2015. However, the weekend totals were off 3% from the same period last year, when the horror comedy "Krampus" debuted to a strong \$16.3 million.

The movie business continues to hold its collective breath for the opening of "Rogue One: A Star Wars" story on 16 December, which is expected to dominate ticket sales for the rest of the year. "This was the drama-free weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore. "It's the calm after the storm and the calm before the storm."—*Reuters*

# St. Nicholas, bringer of sweets, reaches Brussels



Saint Nicholas poses with a family during a traditional parade in central Brussels, Belgium on 3 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Children gathered with parents in Brussels's medieval main square on Saturday to await the arrival of St. Nicholas, a pre-Christmas tradition in Belgium, the Netherlands and other parts of northern Europe held in honour of the legendary gift-giver.

Every year in early December parades are held in towns across Belgium and the Netherlands, at which thousands of children cheer St. Nicholas, who sports a bushy white beard and carries a staff, as

he parades in with his entourage.

His arrival in the capital cities of the two countries is especially picturesque. In maritime Amsterdam, St Nicholas floats on a boat down the city's canals, while in Brussels he parades through the city's medieval streets, handing out sweets and chocolates along the entire route.

But one part of the tradition is under pressure to change. Traditionally St. Nicholas arrived accompanied by Black Pete,

his young sidekick, played by an actor wearing black facepaint — a tradition increasingly seen as racist.

In recent years, parades have regularly been interrupted by protests against the practice of having blacked-up actors portray Pete, raising hackles among defenders of what they see as a harmless Christmas tradition.

One legend has it that Pete's black facepaint represents the soot he picks up climbing down chimneys to deliver children's

presents. Others say it is a racist practice derived from 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Golden Age paintings depicting the fashion for wealthy families to keep a black house slave. But defenders of Black Pete are on the back foot. In Belgium, most municipalities have agreed that Pete will no longer wear black facepaint from next year. In the Netherlands, too, it is growing rarer, with many towns experimenting with Petes in different colours.—Reuters

# Severe rain causes flooding in southern Spain, one woman dead

MADRID — The heaviest rainfall in years along Spain's southern coastline has flooded the streets of the city of Malaga and nearby towns, killing one woman and prompting the Spanish government to issue a public safety warning.

A 26-year-old woman was found dead in the town of Estepona on Spain's Costa del Sol, a spokeswoman for Malaga's local government said.

Spain's meteorologi-

cal service on Sunday issued a "red alert", its highest level of warning for "extreme risk", although it since lowered the warning one level to "important risk". TV footage showed rainwater cascading down streets in towns such as Estepona, reaching as high as the tops of cars. The local government said more than 600 emergency incidents had been reported due to weather and 300 rescue workers were working on Sunday to help people.—Reuters

# Viet Nam to host one of Asia's largest fireworks festivals

HANOI — Viet Nam is expected to host an international firework festival in central Da Nang city in 2017, one of the largest fireworks festivals in Asia, said the organiser on Monday.

According to People's Committee of Da Nang city, some 600 km south of capital Hanoi, organiser of the event, the festival will take place from 29 April to 24 June, 2017 under the theme "Shining Ngu Hanh Son (Five-Element Mountains)."

The festival is projected to draw participation of eight teams from countries and regions with

strong firework arts like China, the United States, and France among others, reported the state-run news agency VNA.

Inspiring from Da Nang's iconic Ngu Hanh Son mountains, the event will include a series of five fireworks nights named Hoa (Fire), Tho (Soil), Kim (Metal), Thuy (Water) and Moc (Wood). All fireworks nights will be broadcast live on Viet Nam's state-run television.

The organiser set a target to lure some two million person-times of tourists during the event, said VNA.—Xinhua

# China's Spring Festival travel frenzy to see 3 billion trips

SHANGHAI — China's transport ministry said on Monday it expects travelers to make nearly 3 billion trips during the upcoming Spring Festival, putting road, rail and air links through their hardest test during the country's most important holiday.

The ministry predicted

that 2.98 billion trips would be made during the 40-day period, which includes the Lunar New Year, up 2.2 per cent compared with last year. The holiday is set to begin on 13 January.

The railway network is likely to see a 9.7 per cent jump in trips against 2015, while airlines will accom-

modate about 58.3 million trips, up 10 per cent, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

The majority of travelers will take to the roads to make an expected 2.52 billion trips, it said.

The ministry also said it expected further pressure on the transport network

from stronger-than-usual winter and spring demand for freight transport for coal, grain and fertilizer.

It said it would look to add capacity over the period by adding trains and flights, and would strengthen measures to guard against the sale of fake tickets.—Xinhua



**Myanmar International**  
Programme Schedule

<p><b>(6-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 7-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST</b></p> <p>07:03 Am News 07:26 Am 19 Hours 07:51 Am Kayah Style 08:03 Am News 08:26 Am A bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2) 08:45 Am .....Shan Novices To Be 09:03 Am News 09:25 Am The Strokes of Myanmar 09:52 Am Today Myanmar: Stop Sexual Violence 10:03 Am News 10:26 Am Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-2)</p>	<p><b>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b> <b>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b></p> <p><b>Prime Time</b></p> <p>07:03 Pm News 07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7) 07:54 Pm Paper Flower 08:03 Pm News 08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Shan - Flat -Rice- Noodle Soup)  08:42 Pm A Photographer's Life at Shwedagon Pagoda 08:47 Pm Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabai Phyu &amp; L.Hkawn Htoi</p> <p><b>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b> <b>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b></p> <p><b>(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</b></p>	<p><b>(6-12-2016, Tuesday)</b></p> <p><b>6:00 am</b> (Part-2) • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw <b>7:35 am</b> • Socio Economic Scenes <b>8:35 am</b> • Law Affairs <b>9:35 am</b> • MRTV's Youth Programme <b>10:35 am</b> • MRTV Education Programme <b>11:15 am</b> • Documentary <b>11:35 am</b> • MCN Debate <b>12:35 am</b> • Teleplay <b>1:40 am</b> • TV Drama Series <b>2:30 pm</b> • Yes or No Talk Show</p> <p><b>3: 15 pm</b> • TV Drama Series <b>4:35 pm</b> • Documentary <b>5:35 pm</b> • Money Talk Myanmar <b>6:35 pm</b> • Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than <b>6:45 pm</b> • Documentary <b>7:00 pm</b> • TV Drama Series <b>8:00 pm</b> • News/International News/ Weather Report <b>9:00 pm</b> • News/ Weather Report • TV Drama Series • Pyi Thu Ni TI</p> <p><b>Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)</b></p>
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**Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)**

# Liverpool and United thwarted in dramatic finales

LONDON — Premier League heavyweights Liverpool and Manchester United were caught by late sucker punches in two games that finished far more dramatically than they began on Sunday.

Juergen Klopp's Liverpool wasted a chance to return to second place in the table, a point behind Chelsea, twice surrendering a two-goal lead before losing 4-3 in added time in a thriller at Bournemouth.

United dropped two points at Everton after Marouane Fellaini conceded an 89<sup>th</sup>-minute penalty soon after the former Goodison Park favourite had come on as a substitute.

Third-placed Liverpool's defeat was their first in any competition since August and looked highly improbable when they built on a slow start to cruise into a 2-0 lead midway through the first half.

Sadio Mane and Divock Origi, starting his first league game of the season, scored for the visitors from successive attacks.

Although Bournemouth had strong claims for a penalty turned down as Roberto Firmino challenged Nathan Ake, they did not threaten until the introduction of Scotland Under-21 international Ryan Fraser 10 minutes



Everton's Leighton Baines scores their first goal from the penalty spot at Goodison Park on 4 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

after halftime.

He had been on for barely a minute when he won a penalty that Callum Wilson converted.

Emre Can restored Liverpool's two-goal cushion but they were stunned when, in the space of three minutes, Fraser drove in Wilson's centre and then defender Steve Cook brought down Fraser's cross like a striker before driving home the equaliser.

In the third minute of added time Bournemouth secured one of the best wins in their history — and first against Liverpool — as goalkeeper Loris Karius fumbled a shot from long range and Ake poked the ball in.

Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe said it was "a very special day" for his 10<sup>th</sup>-placed team.

"It would have been easy for

our players to give up and see out time but our group knows not to give up," he added.

Klopp said his side gave the points away although he was surprisingly sanguine about the outcome.

"Of course this can help us," the Liverpool manager explained. "If we learn, then it's OK."

"No road is without rocks

and stones. It's three points, no more, these things happen. The base is pretty good but we need to use our quality more."

United manager Jose Mourinho also tried to dwell on the positives after he had sent on Fellaini against eighth-placed Everton. The Belgian produced a clumsy tackle on Idrissa Gueye and could only watch as defender Leighton Baines beat the previously defiant David De Gea from the penalty spot.

Earlier, Zlatan Ibrahimovic continued his run of goals for sixth-placed United with a clever lob via the bar and post as goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg unwisely rushed out of the penalty area.

"We are not getting what we deserve," said Mourinho. "In every one of our draws we deserved to win."

"You have (other) teams playing defensive and counter-attacking football but getting results."

"I'm happy my team is playing extremely well. But this season what matters is the results."

With six draws in the last eight league games and only one victory, results are not going United's way, leaving them nine points behind Manchester City who are in fourth spot.—Reuters

## Matsuyama wins Hero World Challenge, Tiger Woods 15<sup>th</sup>

TOKYO — Hideki Matsuyama hung on to his overnight lead to win the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas at 18-under-par 270 on Sunday, while tournament host Tiger Woods finished 15<sup>th</sup>.

The victory was the first for the 24-year-old in the 72-hole stroke-play event which benefits the Tiger Woods Foundation, and

Matsuyama took home the \$1 million winner's check despite a round that featured only two birdies against a bogey and a double bogey.

"It means a lot to me that I was able to win in Tiger Woods' tournament. I am really happy," said Matsuyama.

Matsuyama has won four of

five individual play events since October, including the Japan Open in Iruma, the HSBC Champions in Shanghai and the Taiheiyo Masters in Gotemba. He finished second at the CIMB Classic in Kuala Lumpur in October.

In the final round at Albany Golf Club, Matsuyama wasted his seven-stroke advantage but managed to overcome the threat from Sweden's Henrik Stenson by saving par on the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> after two poor shots for a 1-over 73.

Stenson finished two shots behind in second place while three Americans, including Rickie Fowler, finished tied for third at 275. Woods, who was without a playing partner in the second round after Justin Rose withdrew due to a back injury, shot a 76 — his worst score of the four rounds — for a 4-under 284.

"I'm determined to win and am doing my very best, and that's maybe why the results are starting to show. My goal is to win the Masters, and I hope to win as many events as possible until then," Matsuyama said of the prestigious golf tournament held every spring.—Kyodo News



Hideki Matsuyama (R) of Japan acknowledges the spectators at Albany Golf Club in the Bahamas on 4 December, 2016, after winning the Hero World Challenge. Matsuyama, who finished with a total score of 18-under-par 270, won the tournament for the first time. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Wheelchair tennis: Kamiji loses at NEC Masters final

LONDON — Rio Paralympic bronze medalist Yui Kamiji suffered a straight-sets defeat to Rio gold medalist and world No. 1 Jiske Griffioen 6-4, 6-4 in the women's singles final at the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters on Sunday.

Kamiji, who led the Japanese delegation as the flag bearer at the opening and closing ceremonies in Rio, fought hard

against her Dutch opponent at the Valley Hockey and Tennis Center in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park but was pressed by her power-hitting arch rival. The third-seeded Kamiji missed a chance to go up 5-4 in the second set as she double-faulted on her serve, which proved a costly mistake. "Performance wise I'm quite happy with how I did," said the 22-year-old.—Kyodo News

## Extra value for Madrid's Classico draw as other title rivals slip up

MADRID — Sergio Ramos scored a last minute header to give Real Madrid a share of the points and keep them six points ahead of FC Barcelona following the 'Classico' in Barca's Camp Nou Stadium on Saturday.

Madrid were the better side in the first half, but failed to take their chance and paid the price when Luis Suarez headed Barca into a 53<sup>rd</sup> minute lead.

The introduction of Andres Iniesta on the hour saw Barca play their best football of a tense, but at times scrappy game, but Neymar and Leo

Messi missed good chances to add a second goal and it was Barca's to pay the price when Ramos headed home a 90th minute free kicks to ensure it ended honours even.

Sevilla wasted a great chance to close the gap at the top of the table as they lost 2-1 away to Granada, who had started the day bottom and without a win in 13 games.

Andres Pereira and Lomaban gave Granada a deserved win with Sevilla's goal coming from the penalty spot with the last kick of the game.—Xinhua