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# A CAPITAL RETURN

## State Counsellor arrives in Nay Pyi Taw after recovering from illness

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening as she was recovering from a brief illness following her visit to the United Kingdom and the United States.

She will deliver an address at the opening ceremony of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Nay Pyi Taw today, according to the Myanmar News Agency.

"The State Counsellor arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw by plane at 5.45 pm today," said the report released yesterday.

The State Counsellor received a medical check-up in Yangon, with physicians concluding that she was weak and exhausted from the tight schedules she had to keep during her two-week visit to New York and Washington in the U.S. and London in the U.K.

It was her first visit to both countries after her party took power in March following its victory in an election last November.

Her office said a scheduled meeting between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar businessmen has been postponed, with an alternate date as yet unannounced.—GNLM



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives Yangon International Airport to leave for Nay Pyi Taw after recovering from a brief illness. PHOTO: YANGON REGION GOVERNMENT

## Kachin Hluttaw agrees to proposed end to ambushes among local armed groups

THE Kachin State Hluttaw has put on record a proposal calling for an end to ambushing among local armed groups.

U Naw Li, alias Zakhaung Kham Ral, of the constituency-2 of Waingmaw township, brought the proposal to the Kachin State Hluttaw's emergency meeting on Wednesday.

In his proposal, U Naw Li made an appeal to all armed groups in Kachin State to stop ambushing one another, saying that skirmishes among them would prove a serious obstacle to the success of the ongoing 21st Panglong Conference for peace. Local people trapped in the area of armed conflicts fall victim to landmines and other offensive weaponry, he added.

The proposal was put on record at the request of the minister for Border Affairs and Security.

"I do welcome and support it because I want the ongoing tension between the army, KIA and KIO to die down so those factions can work together for the success of the peace conference," Col Thura Myo Tin said in support of the proposal.—Mot Jay (Myitmakha)

## Next hearing on Ava Tailoring abuse case to be held on 6 October

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

YANGON West District Court will hear arguments from the plaintiffs involved in the Ava Tailoring abuse case on 6 October, said the district court judge yesterday during the second court appearance of six members

of a family in Yangon's Kyauktada Township accused of abusing two young maids and failing to pay wages.

The court will hear the case every Thursday at 10.30 am beginning from October, added the district court judge.

No (6) Anti-Human Traf-

ficking Division (Yangon) filed charges against the six family members — three women including Daw Tin Thuzar and three men— at Kyauktada police station under the anti-traffic-ficking in persons law on 20 September. Five accused members of the family made their

first appearance in Yangon West District Court on 23 September.

The sixth accused, Daw Thiri Latt, turned herself in to the Kyauktada Township police station on Wednesday night. She made her first appearance in court yesterday.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker hosts dinner for Viet Nam's National Assembly Chairperson

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than hosted a dinner for Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, who is in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, at

the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Also present at the dinner were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and his wife, Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, chairpersons and members of Amyotha Hluttaw committees and officials. —*Myanmar News Agency*



The dinner hosted in honour of Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. PHOTO: MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets with Viet Nam's National Assembly Chairperson



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan at a hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two representatives held discussions

on further relations and cooperation between the two parliaments and exchanged views on legislative procedures. Also present were Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, chairpersons and members of Amyotha Hluttaw committees and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with Viet Nam's National Assembly Chairperson

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan at Zabuthiri hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two representatives held discussion on promotion of relations between the two countries and exchanged views on promotion of the cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Also present were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Ti Khun Myat, chairpersons and members of Hluttaw committees and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Luan Thuy Duong also attended the meeting. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker U Win Myint welcomes Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. PHOTO: MNA

## Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Issues Assessment Commission meets General Secretary of AIPA



Thura U Shwe Mann receives General Secretary of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly- Hon. Periowsamy Otharam. PHOTO: MNA

CHAIRMAN of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues Thura U Shwe Mann met with General Secretary of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly- Hon. Periowsamy

Otharam at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting was Vice-Chairman of the commission U Ko Ko Naing. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Yangon Region Hluttaw resumes

THE Yangon Region Hluttaw resumed yesterday with questions being asked regarding infrastructure development and farmland issues.

Regarding the renovation of a sluice gate on Khayan Creek, U Han Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Energy said that the sluice gate

would be repaired next fiscal year when the budget allocation sought from the Yangon Region Government is approved.

The renovation is estimated to cost about K390 million. The budget allotment will be requested next fiscal year.

The sluice was constructed during the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

At yesterday's session, a proposal to honour all people involved in the successful holding of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong together with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was submitted. The session also submitted the Bill Amending the Budget Law of Yangon Region. —*Ko Moe*

## Mandalay to host traditional boat racing on 8-9 October

MANDALAY will host the Region/State Traditional Boat Race and Mandalay Chief Minister's Cup Rowing, Canoe and Kayak Competitions (Open) at the western end of Mandalay Moat on 8-9 October.

"Sports events organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports are aimed at promotion of sports and teamwork in regions and

states and ensuring an uplift of health and fitness for the entire nation," said a member of the organising committee. Hsu Nget, a well-known local writer, welcomed the boat race, saying that Mandalayans have not seen traditional boat racing in the waters of Mandalay moat for a long time.

However, the local writer opined, there are many things

which are more important than a sporting event for the country.

According to historical records, boat races were held in the Myanmar month of Nadaw during King Mindon's reign, and traditional boat racing was one of the sporting events to mark Independence Day Festival in Mandalay in the 1970s and around 1989-1990. —*Aung Thant Khaing*



# AIPA putting great emphasis on poverty reduction, bridging development gaps

President U Htin Kyaw sent a message to the the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Following is the full text of the message.

**The Honourable AIPA President,  
Members of ASEAN Parliaments,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

On the auspicious occasion of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), I have the pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Honourable AIPA President and all distinguished delegates. It is our honour and privilege to host the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

We have noted with delight that AIPA has chosen “Vibrant AIPA for a progressive ASEAN Community” as the theme of the 37th AIPA General Assembly. At present, ASEAN is making good progress in community building by intensifying its efforts to make the region more politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.

As you are all aware, ASEAN has opened up a new Chapter in the history with the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31st December 2015 and embarked on a new vision “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together” as a roadmap of the ASEAN Community. The establishment of the ASEAN Community has been a starting point of the goal of our community building process, and we should consolidate our efforts in order that ASEAN would emerge as a united and integrated regional organisation in the global community. I wish to urge all ASEAN Governments and Parliaments to work hand-in-hand in the implementation of ASEAN Vision 2025.

**Honourable Members of ASEAN Parliaments and Distinguished Delegates,**

The progress of the ASEAN Community relies not only on the achievement of targets of three pillars of ASEAN but also on the wide support of the people from all walks of life and stakeholders in ASEAN, including ASEAN Parliaments. Hence, I wish to commend the important role of AIPA and its contribution towards ASEAN Community building. For the successful ASEAN integration, ASEAN Member States need to be fully involved and engaged by sharing best practices and initiatives.

Since joining AIPA in 2011, Myanmar has been participating actively in the AIPA’s various activities. Myanmar has contributed to the inter-parliamentary cooperation not only at the regional level but also at the international level by engaging with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the UK’s House of Commons and the Parliament of Australia.

Myanmar is also participating regularly in the annual meetings of the AIPA General Assembly, AIPA Caucuses, workshops and seminars.

**Honourable Members of ASEAN Parliaments and Distinguished Delegates,**

Myanmar fully recognises the essential role of ASEAN Parliaments in ASEAN Community building, especially in enacting respective domestic legislations to fully implement ASEAN Agreements and Conventions. A strong cooperation between ASEAN and AIPA is instrumental in building ASEAN Community through harmonizing domestic laws in line with ASEAN Agreements and Conventions.

Today, our region is faced with many challenges including non-traditional security issues and bridging development gaps among some ASEAN Member States. In addressing those challenges, AIPA has a vital role to play in facilitating cooperation between the Governments and the Parliaments.

## Our region is faced with many challenges including non-traditional security issues and bridging development gaps among some ASEAN Member States.

We are encouraged to note that AIPA is putting a great emphasis on poverty reduction and bridging development gaps, which are prerequisites to achieve sustainable development and economic growth in the region. In this regard, our collective efforts to implement ASEAN Vision 2025 should complement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

As ASEAN Member States are nurturing an ASEAN Community where peoples are bonded together in friendship, cooperation, peace and security and prosperity, we highly appreciate AIPA’s continued contribution to the consolidation of ASEAN Community building and shaping ASEAN’s future.

We are confident that the remarkable achievements of ASEAN over the past 49 years will help move ASEAN Community building process forward.

May I extend my sincere best wishes for fruitful deliberations and successful outcome from the 37th AIPA General Assembly, leading to the fulfillment of aspirations of the peoples of ASEAN.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President’s Office  
Order 69/2016  
13th Waning of Tawthalin, 1378 ME  
(29th September, 2016)

## Formation of Regional Ministry

The Ministry of Social Affairs has been formed to deal with social matters in the Magway Region Government as approved by Magway Region Hluttaw.

Sd/Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Myanmar Gazette

### Transfer, confirmation and appointment of heads of service organisations

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as heads of service organisations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(A) Dr Win Tun Director-General Department of Human Resources and Educational Planning Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Education Research, Planning and Training Ministry of Education
(B) Dr Zaw Myint Director-General Department of Myanmar Language and Linguistics Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Myanmar Ethnic Languages Ministry of Education
(C) Dr Khaing Mye Director-General Department of Myanmar Education Research Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Alternative Education Ministry of Education
(D) U Tin Myo Kyi Director-General Department of Teacher Training Ministry of Education	Director-General Assessment and Evaluation Board (Research) Ministry of Education
(E) Dr Aye Myint Director-General Biotechnology and Material Science Research Department Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Technical and Vocational Education
(F) Dr Kyi Shwin Rector Bhamo University Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University of Foreign Languages Ministry of Education

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Sein Hla Htwe as Rector of Mandalay University of Pharmacy under the Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management, the Ministry of Health and Sport, on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following heads of service organisations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(A) U Maung Pe Deputy Director-General Information and Public Relations Department Ministry of Information	Director-General Information and Public Relations Department Ministry of Information
(B) U Hla Maung Thein Deputy Director-General Department of Environmental Conservation Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Director-General Department of Environmental Conservation Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

# MGG conducts administration course for its leaders

THE Myanmar Girl Guides conducted an administration course for its leaders in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the Asia Pacific Region.

The course started yesterday at No.2 Basic Education High School in Sanchaung township. At the opening ceremony, MGG

Chief Commissioner Dr Daw Tin Hla Kyi and APR-WAGGGS Regional Director Ms Ching Ching Wee-ong extended greetings.

At the event, Ms Ching Ching Wee-ong presented APR-WAGGGS Appreciation Award to Chief Commissioner Dr Tin Nyo of Myanmar Boy Scouts, who is also an advisor to

the Myanmar Girl Guides.

Net Ray Company’s Managing Director Dr Daw Khin Malar presented K1 million each for the centenary celebrations of the Myanmar Scouts Association and the Myanmar Girl Guides. The donations were received by Deputy Chief Commissioner Daw Khin Saw Ohnmar. –Ko Latt (MNA)



# LOCAL Business

## Yangon Northern Bus Public Company to sell shares

SHARES of Yangon Northern Bus Public Company, the reformation of Northern District Supervisory Committee for All Private Bus Lines, will be sold starting from the second week of October, at a price of Ks100,000 per unit, it is learnt from this company.

“We set the affordable price for a unit of share. There is no limit for the shares. The company has a plan to encourage the owners of the motor vehicles to invest in this”, said the managing director from the company.

There are a total of 825 buses in the Yangon Northern District Supervisory Committee for All Private Bus Lines, with a total of 22 bus lines running 33 routes. Only 140 buses are 2002 models, with the rest consisting of models older than

2002. The buses that will run under the public bus lines are set to be 2007 models or newer. If the owners purchase new vehicles, they will pay 35 per cent of the cost, with the remaining cost provided by the company.

Those owners will have to reimburse the money provided by the company in three-year installments.

The company will announce details of the buses and the bus lines only after receiving the directive from Yangon Public Transport Authority and Yangon Regional government.

The Bus Public Company Limited was registered on 16th September at the office of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration under the Ministry for Planning and Finance.—*Ko Htet*

## Port to handle fuel oil to be established in Mandalay

**Aung Thant Khaing**

MYANMAR Energy Sector Development Public Company Limited will establish a port in Mandalay which meets international standards in loading and unloading of fuel oil.

The project will be carried out near the confluence of the Ayeyawady and Dottawady rivers in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region. The construction of the buildings will take about a year. The handling of fuel oil business will be commenced six months after completion of construction.

“The project area was selected after evaluating the strength of land”, said U Ye Myint, the regional minister. “This place is not difficult in transportation and safe from fire danger. This port is expected to provide quality fuel oil for upper Myanmar at a cheap

price”.

Mandalay will distribute fuel oil to upper Myanmar through normal trade. The company will build the necessary piers and oil storage facilities in Mandalay, said Dr. Win Myint, the chairman of Myanmar Energy Sector Development Public Company Limited.

The port will occupy 41.1 acres of land, accommodating 32 storage facilities which can hold 2 million gallons of oil and will include 4 piers to accommodate cargo ships. The port is expected to fill 136 bowsers at the same time, it is learnt.

Myanmar Energy Sector Development Public Company Limited was organized with 52 companies on 1st January, 2013 to be engaged in import, export, distribution and selling of fuel oil.

## Exhibit to be up for auction delayed

A confiscated exhibit that was scheduled for auction will be delayed, even after the judge ordered the sale, it is learnt from a submission by U Kyaw Soe Naing, a Ngan Zun Township Hluttaw representative to Mandalay Regional Hluttaw.

There is a space problem in maintaining the exhibit, which will result in further losses, U Kyaw Soe Naing said. A list of all exhibits for the entire nation should be available to en-

sure a smooth and easier run, he stressed.

U Myat Thu, the minister for Mandalay Region Planning and Finance replied that they will proceed to submit this problem to the Union Government.

The delay for auction regarding the confiscated motor vehicles, cycles and other goods is attributed to the processing time to negotiate with the organisations concerned, it is learnt.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

## Drone importers need to ask for NRC and address of purchasers

PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

DRONE importers need a copy of the national registration card (NRC) and the full address of their customers, said U Nay Lin Tun, the township administrator of Lashio.

“If something happens concerning the flying drones, the contact information of the purchasers will help you connect with them. Additionally, it can help you inform the nearest authorities concerned if there is some dishonest use of the flying drone,” he added.

There should be no concern as long as users are in accordance

with the prescribed laws when they use drones to film documentaries or take photos. But some dishonest people can exploit the drone to threaten and harm the security of the public, such as carrying explosives on the drone, U Nay Lin Tun said.

No stores in Lashio sell drones, but they are regularly brought in from China and Yangon. Collecting the data of the buyers will be difficult, because the drones are bought from other places. Therefore, another idea is required to come up with to monitor the purchasers of the drone, said Ko Than Tun,

a drone user in Lashio.

To prevent dangers caused by the drones in Lashio, authorities from Lashio and sellers of electric goods met on 26th September.

“The meeting aims to control the use of drones to ensure the security of the locals. We have received the opinions from the locals concerning the drones”, said the administrator of Lashio.

“The authorities worry that the drones will threaten the public because of the ongoing conflicts in the surrounding areas. Therefore, the public’s cooperation is also a must have in order to protect from the damages caused by the flying drones”, said U Hlaing Htoo, a local in Lashio.

“We should not totally neglect the use of the drones because some are waiting to take advantage on drone to harm people”, he added.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Employees work at a production line of a garment factory in Mingaladon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Myanmar’s garment exports remain low compared to neighbouring countries: Messe Frankfurt

**Aung Thant Khaing**

DESPITE Myanmar’s textile and garment sector having experienced rapid growth in recent years, its garment exports have declined when compared to its regional neighbours, said CEO Mr. Michael Scherpe of Messe Frankfurt, one of the world’s leading trade fair organisers.

Development of the country’s garments-for-export industry lies with the financial and technological support of the government, added the CEO during a press briefing on the Paris Fashion Show at the Mandalay Sedona Hotel on Wednesday.

Myanmar’s clothing industry

has the potential to increasingly grow in the next 10 years but its exports are lower than other countries, said Mr. Michael Scherpe, stressing the need for financial and technological assistance to the sector as FDI alone cannot expand its development.

He expressed his view that Myanmar’s clothing exports are likely to become the best in the European market if European investors can expand their market share.

He suggested that Myanmar upgrade its apparel industry by developing production machinery and design, adding more value to its garment products.

“We want Myanmar’s clothing manufacturers to take part in

the Paris Fashion Show which is scheduled to take place in Paris, France’s capital, in February next year.” said Daw Thet Su Hlaing of Messe Frankfurt Myanmar.

She said Messe Frankfurt Myanmar will prepare Myanmar garment manufacturers for the global market. It is required that we focus on how many buyers can be attracted, rather than travel costs to a trade fair, she added.

According to sources, the textile and apparel sector of Myanmar has developed gradually since 2012 while European experts expect Myanmar to become one of the top textile and clothing exporters in the region, given the proper industry nourishment.



# Thailand cracks down on migrant workers as anti-immigrant sentiments rise

BANGKOK — Thailand is cracking down on migrant workers from neighbouring countries, saying they are “stealing jobs from Thais”, amid fears that anti-immigrant sentiment is rising as Southeast Asia’s second-largest economy stagnates.

In an operation led by the Thai labour department, police and troops on Wednesday raided a fresh produce market in Bangkok and arrested 14 people, most of them from neighbouring Myanmar.

“We have received many complaints about illegal immigrants working in markets including Vietnamese and even South Asians who were stealing jobs from Thais,” Thai immigration police chief Nathorn Phrosunthorn told Reuters.

“They should be doing

the jobs that Thais don’t want to do like work as house cleaners,” he said.

Under the terms of a 2015 memorandum of understanding Vietnamese citizens are restricted in their employment in Thailand and can work only as manual labourers in Thailand’s fishing or construction sectors.

Cambodians also have been nabbed in the raids, along with people from Myanmar and Viet Nam.

More than 3 million migrants work in Thailand, the vast majority from neighbouring Myanmar, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

Thailand became wealthy compared to its neighbours when its economy boasted annual growth rates of over 7 per cent in the 1980s and 1990s, draw-

ing migrant workers from across the Greater Mekong Delta region and other parts of Asia. They mostly did jobs Thais tend to spurn, including backbreaking work in the fishing and construction sectors.

But, more than two years after the military government seized power and with Thailand’s economy on shaky ground, rights groups also see rising resentment against immigrants in Thailand, mirroring such sentiment elsewhere in the world.

“There seems to be a surge of national sentiment in Thai immigration policy claiming migrants from Viet Nam, for example, are taking jobs that are reserved for Thai nationals,” Sunai Phasuk from Human Rights Watch told Reuters.

“We haven’t seen this kind of rise in anti-immi-

grant sentiment for decades. This has a lot to do with economic concerns.”

Sanit Choklamert, a shop keeper in Bangkok’s Silom business district, said migrants are seen as competitors for some Thais.

“There are too many Myanmar people here now and they’re fighting for the same jobs as us,” he said. “We need to send some back.”

Thailand’s economy is on course to grow 3.0 per cent in 2016 after expanding 2.8 per cent in 2015 and only 0.7 per cent in 2014.

Nathorn said the crackdown was not driven by an anti-immigrant policy. “We still need migrant labour. We just want to keep some order,” he said.

The raids have targeted fresh markets, restaurants, supermarkets and shop-



A migrant worker cries during a crack down on illegal migrant workers at a market in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ping malls. Around 153 immigrants were rounded up between 1 September and 26 September, according to labour department figures. Those caught face up to five years in prison, a fine of up to 3,000 baht (76 pounds) or deportation.

Migrants are often at risk of falling into the hands of human trafficking rings, who sell them into virtual

slavery on plantations, timber mills and fishing boats, human rights groups say.

Thailand was removed from the bottom rung of the US State Department’s annual list of worst human trafficking offenders this year despite what the department described as “widespread forced labour” in the country’s vital seafood industry.—Reuters

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# Rescuers pull 15 out from China landslide, 32 missing

BEIJING — Rescuers have pulled 15 people alive from a landslide that slammed into a village in China’s eastern Zhejiang Province after a typhoon but 32 people are still missing there and in another nearby village, state media said on Thursday.

Heavy rains brought by the remnants of Typhoon Megi caused the landslide

to crash into Sucun village on Wednesday.

Pictures on the microblog of official provincial news portal Zhejiang Online showed survivors being carried out on the backs of rescuers, while others dug through rubble to find survivors.

It gave no details of the 26 still missing in Sucun other than to say one

was an official who had been in the village to organise evacuations. A mass of debris rolled down a lush mountain towards the small village, according to images posted on Zhejiang Online.

Six people in Baofeng village in the same province were also missing after their homes were destroyed by a separate landslide, the official Xinhua news agency

said.

Mountainous Zhejiang, along with its neighbouring provinces, are frequently hit by typhoons at this time of year and are also highly susceptible to landslides.

Megi had already killed four people and injured more than 523 in Taiwan since it had roared in from the Pacific Ocean.—Reuters



People walk on makeshift walking paths along a flooded street as Typhoon Megi hits Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



## As Philippines' Duterte visits Viet Nam, US jibes hang over new partnership

HANOI — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte met Viet Nam's top leadership on Thursday, aiming to advance a burgeoning alliance that could become increasingly uncertain amid his defiance of the United States and overtures towards China.

Viet Nam and the Philippines have drawn closer as China asserts more vigorously its claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea, but Duterte's almost daily jibes against the United States and his positive rhetoric about China may not sit well with Viet Nam's leaders and their quieter, more calibrated diplomacy.

Duterte was greeted by an honour guard before he met his counterpart, Tran Dai Quang, for talks.

He was also due to meet Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and pay Communist Party Chief Nguyen Phu Trong a courtesy call. Viet Nam has a joint leadership and no paramount ruler.

Hanging over the meetings will be the stir caused by the maverick former Philippine mayor at a function for Filipinos in Hanoi on Wednesday, when he "served notice" to the United States by announcing a cessation of joint

military exercises, and ruled out joint navy patrols.

Philippine foreign minister Perfecto Yasay said on Thursday the Philippines would go ahead with the joint exercises with the United States in 2017, but the drills would be reviewed from 2018.

He said the Philippines did not want a military ally and wished to be friends with all countries, and alienate none, and that would be how it would settle disputes in the South China Sea. While there are questions over US-Philippine ties, thrown into question by Duterte's angry rejection of US concern about his bloody war on drugs, Viet Nam's relations with the United States have quickly expanded owing to some US opportunism in the wake of a bitter row in 2014 between Viet Nam and China over the South China Sea.

US President Barack Obama visited Viet Nam in May and announced the removal of a lethal arms embargo, the last major vestige of the war between them a half century ago, allowing for closer defence links and some joint military exercises.

Duterte's volatility has added to uncertainty about his foreign policy trajectory and experts antici-

pate that could weigh on a strategic partnership between Viet Nam and the Philippines agreed last year by his predecessor, Benigno Aquino.

"Viet Nam was quite enthusiastic about its new-found friend in the Philippines under Aquino, but Duterte's constant emotional outbursts against Washington has them a bit concerned," said Murray Hiebert, a Southeast Asia specialist at Washington's Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

He said Duterte might consult Viet Nam's leaders about how they manage relations with China, the United States, and Japan in what was now "a very complicated environment".

Viet Nam may be also be concerned about how Duterte approaches ties with China and whether that could jeopardise regional efforts to forge a unified position on its maritime activities.

"Viet Nam would not want Mr Duterte to strike a deal with China over the South China Sea at the expense of Viet Nam and other involved states," said political analyst Le Hong Hiep.

"The visit can be a timely opportunity for Mr Duterte to explain his South China Sea policy." — *Reuters*



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte (L) and his Viet Nam counterpart Tran Dai Quang (R) shake hands at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Mount Barujari, located inside Mount Rinjani volcano, is seen erupting from Bayan District, North Lombok, Indonesia, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Hundreds brought down from slopes of erupting volcano in Indonesia

JAKARTA — Hundreds of climbers have been brought down safely from the slopes of an Indonesian volcano that erupted this week, the disaster agency said on Thursday, although the fate of several daredevil tourists who declined to leave was not clear.

More than 1,000 tourists including 639 foreigners were in Mount Rinjani National Park when Barujari, a smaller volcano within Mount Rinjani, began erupting on Tuesday, sending a plume of ash into the sky which fell back to coat vegetation.

"They have all come down now. The Rinjani caldera is now clear," agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told Reuters via

mobile phone text message.

The crater is about 8-10 hours walk from the entrance to the park. The agency said in a statement on Wednesday several tourists hoping to document the eruption had declined to leave and hidden from rescue workers.

"They knew the dangers," it said. Nugroho was not available for comment on their fate on Thursday.

Mount Rinjani, on the island of Lombok, just to the east of Bali island, is one of Indonesia's most visited active volcanoes.

Authorities have closed the park gates and told visitors to keep at least three km (two miles) away. — *Reuters*

## Singapore court sends teen blogger back to jail for criticising religion

SINGAPORE — A Singapore court sentenced 17-year-old blogger Amos Yee to six weeks in jail on Thursday for "wounding religious feelings", his second prison term in a year, reigniting concerns about social controls and censorship in the conservative city-state.

Yee pleaded guilty to six charges of deliberately posting comments on the internet in videos, blog posts and a picture that were critical of Christianity and Islam.

Judge Ong Hian Sun told the district court that Yee's actions could "generate social unrest" and should not be condoned.

Yee, who was accompanied by his mother, described the sentence as "very fair".

"I am very remorseful", he told reporters outside the court, surrounded by a handful of supporters.

Yee was convicted on charges of harassment and insulting a religious group last year over comments he made about former premier Lee Kuan Yew and Christians soon after Lee's death. His sentence then amounted to four weeks in jail he had already served.

His latest month-long trial was attended by officials from the United Nations Human Rights Council and the European Union, and was closely watched by rights groups.

"By prosecuting Amos Yee for his comments, no matter how outrageous they may have been,

Singapore has unfortunately doubled down on a strategy that clearly violates freedom of expression," Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Right Watch's Asia division, said in an email.

"For a country that prides itself on efficiency, Singapore should re-examine its approach, because every time the authorities go after him, it just adds to his on-line audience who are interested to find out the latest thing," he said.

Critics say Yee's imprisonment may further deter freedom of expression in the Asian financial hub. Singapore's parliament passed a controversial bill last

month spelling out what constitutes contempt of court, drawing criticism from rights groups and foreign diplomats.

Amnesty International called on Singapore to "repeal or amend legal provisions that criminalise peaceful dissent and end the intimidation and harassment of bloggers and other critics". David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, said: "The lesson that somebody can be thrown in jail for their speech is exactly the wrong kind of message that any government should be sending to anybody, but especially to young people." — *Reuters*



Teen blogger Amos Yee speaks to reporters next to lawyer Nadarajan Kanagavijayan, after hearing his verdict, while leaving the State Courts in Singapore, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Most Americans say Clinton won first debate against Trump

NEW YORK — A majority of Americans say Democrat Hillary Clinton won Monday night's presidential debate, but her performance doesn't appear to have boosted her level of support among likely voters, according to a Reuters/Ipsos national tracking poll released on Wednesday.

The online poll, which gathered responses from more than 2,000 people on Tuesday, found that 56 per cent of American adults felt that Clinton did a better job than Trump in the first of their three televised debates, compared with 26 per cent who felt that Trump did better.

US presidential debates have historically been seen as a crucial test of candidates' poise and policies. They also provide a major platform for the candidates to try to win over millions of undecided voters.

Among those who are expect-

ed to take part in the 8 November general election, 34 per cent said they felt that the debate changed their view of Clinton in a positive way, compared with 19 per cent who said the same of Trump.

Some 31 per cent of likely voters said the debate improved Clinton's chances of winning the White House, while 16 per cent said the debate benefited Trump.

Even so, Clinton's performance seemed to have little impact on her support among America's likely voters. The poll showed 42 per cent supported Clinton while 38 per cent supported Trump. Over the past few weeks Clinton has maintained a lead of between 4 and 6 points over Trump.

Narrowing the focus to likely voters who watched the debate, Clinton led Trump 44 per cent to 39 per cent. The televised face-off attracted a record 84

million US viewers.

Of those who thought Clinton emerged the victor from the debate, 85 per cent were Democrats and 22 per cent were Republicans.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll is conducted every day in English in all 50 states. Monday's sample of 2,036 American adults included 1,336 people who were considered to be likely voters from their voting record, registration status and stated intention to vote in the election. Among those likely voters, 1,026 said they watched some portion of the debate on live TV, online or in media clips that were circulated after the debate.

The poll has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percentage points for the entire sample and the sample of likely voters. It has a credibility interval of 4 percentage points for the likely voters who watched the debate.—Reuters



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and US Senator Bernie Sanders take the stage to talk about college affordability during a campaign event at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire, United States, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Clinton enlists former foe Sanders in appeal for youth votes in US presidential race

DURHAM (N.H.) — US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton shared a stage with former rival Senator Bernie Sanders on Wednesday to appeal for youth votes in the 8 November election as opinion polls show a close race with Republican Donald Trump.

Clinton told an audience at the University of New Hampshire that she would make college affordable if she wins the White House, the kind of promise that won Sanders many young supporters during the Democratic nominating contest. "We should and we will make public colleges tuition-free for families earning less than \$125,000 a year," Clinton said. She vowed to help those who already have student debt to refinance.

Clinton's campaign is worried that some polls show voters under the age of 30 might not turn out in

great numbers at polling stations in November, potentially giving an advantage to Trump.

Members of the crowd on Wednesday waved signs that read: "I will vote."

Recent opinion polls have shown the race tightening between Clinton, a former secretary of state, US senator and first lady, and Trump, a New York real estate magnate.

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Republican did better.

Even so, Clinton's performance seemed to have little impact on her support. The poll showed 42 per cent supported her, while 38 per cent backed Trump.

Trump, often described as racist by Clinton, tried to turn the tables at a rally in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

He pointed to the Democrat's remark that "implicit bias is a problem for everyone, not just the police," when asked at the debate whether she believed police are implicitly biased against black people.

"She accuses the entire country, including all of law enforcement, of 'implicit bias,' essentially suggesting that everyone, including our police, are basically racist and prejudiced," Trump said.—Reuters



### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### North Korean soldier makes rare defection across DMZ to South

SEOUL — A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea on Thursday, the South's military said, making a rare crossing of one of the world's most heavily fortified borders amid heightened tension between the rival neighbours.

The soldier crossed the military demarcation line that runs through the demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, which remain in a technical state of war since their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

While on average more than 1,000 North Koreans defect to South Korea every year, most travel via China and it is unusual for a North Korean to cross the DMZ, which is heavily mined and lined with barbed wire and soldiers on both sides. The last such crossing was in June 2015. The soldier was unarmed and there was no exchange of fire, a South Korean military official said. He walked across an eastern part of the front line at around 10am (0100 GMT) and was being questioned over how and why he made the crossing, South Korea's Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.—Reuters

#### Train derails, crashes through New Jersey's Hoboken station

NEW YORK — A New Jersey Transit train derailed and crashed through the station in Hoboken, New Jersey during the morning rush hour on Thursday and there were reports of injuries, according to US media reports and photos on social media.

Dramatic pictures posted by commuters showed a train carriage that appeared to have smashed right through the station concourse, collapsing a section of the roof, scattering debris and wreckage and causing devastation. Hoboken lies on the west bank of the Hudson River across from New York City. Its station is used by many commuters travelling into Manhattan from New Jersey and further afield.—Reuters

#### Nearly 100 children killed in Aleppo since Friday: UNICEF

NEW YORK — UNICEF said on Wednesday at least 96 children have been killed and 223 injured in Syria's northern city of Aleppo since Friday.

"The children of Aleppo are trapped in a living nightmare," UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Justin Forsyth said. "There are no words left to describe the suffering they are experiencing."

US Secretary of State John Kerry told his Russian counterpart the same day that the United States will halt talks with Russia on Syria's civil war unless it ends an onslaught in Aleppo by Russian and Syrian government forces.—Kyodo News

#### Vucic invited to visit Kazakhstan

BELGRADE — Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic on Wednesday received Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurbach Rustemov, who handed to him invitations from Kazakhstan's president and PM to visit the country.

Vucic said he would be greatly honoured to go to Kazakhstan and that he hoped his visit, like President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Serbia last month, would significantly boost cooperation, a government statement said. Serbian and Kazakhstani businesses need more incentives to forge ties and EXPO 2017 in Astana will be an opportunity for Serbia, he said.

Serbia-Kazakhstan relations are good and without open issues - the traditional friendship was reflected by Kazakhstan's resolute vote against the so-called Kosovo's UNESCO membership, Vucic said.

He thanked the country for its principled position on non-recognition of the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo.—Tanjung



# Opinion

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## Efforts needed to encourage a reverse brain drain

**Khin Maung Aye**

**D**URING her visit to the United States, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi encouraged Myanmar citizens living and working there to lend a helping hand in the development of their motherland. Her idea to invite the people trained overseas to return is welcomed because these people can contribute substantially to the economic growth and development of Myanmar.

In this regard, China's effort to encourage a reverse brain drain is worth studying. While the central government of China sets broad guidelines for policy and moulds the

overall socio-economic and political climate, many institutions have been actively engaged in generation of a return wave. Besides, the different levels of governments and organisations have, during the past 20 years, changed the way they view and recruit the returnees largely due to their diversified interests. Nevertheless, the central government had to go through a serious learning process, where it recognised the best way to improve science and technology in China was by letting people go abroad freely, and then compete for them in the interna-

tional marketplace by creating a domestic environment that could attract them back. And while leaders of academic, scientific and business institutions initially may have harboured serious concerns about the returnees, because their knowledge threatened those who did not go overseas, China's internationalised economic, scientific and educational system has led most institutions to value, if not overvalue, the contributions that the returnees can make.

In Myanmar's case, the successive governments have relaxed policies regarding let-

ting people go abroad since early 1990s. However, they had no plans to create equal job opportunities offered to Myanmar citizens abroad with the result that Myanmar academics, scientists and economists were not motivated to return to their motherland and lead a lower quality of life.

Such being the case, it is the time now for the policy makers to formulate the national-level policies and programmes to change the environment for returnees by which Myanmar experts abroad can be pulled back home.

## Participating in Change: Promoting Public Sector Accountability to All

**Shabih Mohib, Soren Davidsen and Robert Boothe**

*Successful development is about making a reality of aspirations and ambitious ideas through effective implementation – Myanmar can achieve just that for its people by instilling the values of transparency, accountability and public participation in its public sector.*

Ideas and policies matter. They have the power to be transformative. A strong and efficient, transparent and accountable public sector is crucial for translating inspiring ideas and policies into real development outcomes. If we liken Myanmar to a car, then the public sector – a collection of institutions, processes and people which together function as the machinery of government – has an important role to play. The people of Myanmar sit in the driver's seat, the private sector is the engine which moves the economy forward – and the public sector acts as the car's transmission and gearbox. If it's running well, the car moves forward smoothly – but if it's poorly maintained, people may be in for a bumpy ride.

There are many examples of governments whose ideas inspired, but only a few manage to achieve their aspirations. In post-apartheid South Africa, the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, inspired the hopes and dreams of a nation with their vision for peace and prosperity. However, it took many years of challenging public sector reform to help achieve the success we see in South Africa

today. At this critical juncture, how can Myanmar's government ensure that its vision for growth and development is translated into real outcomes?

An important place to start is with public participation. In the past, lack of transparency and participation in the public sector had fueled inefficiencies in Myanmar, and compounded loss of public trust in government. Global experience suggests that citizen participation, especially from the poor, is a critical ingredient for good service delivery – as is accountability for results, where effective provision of services is rewarded, especially provision to those people with the greatest need. Both public participation and accountability for results are most effective in an environment of openness and transparency.

Myanmar has taken some important first steps towards a more accountable public sector, and better use of public resources to support growth and service delivery. Transparency has increased, with televised Union Budget debates, and published versions of both the enacted budget as well as a new, simplified Citizen's Budget. This has had a major impact on spending, with large increases for services like health and education. The tax system has become more equitable and transparent, with the introduction of a new self-assessment system of taxation by the Large Taxpayer's Office. In addition to building trust, this new system will likely increase revenues – when Vietnam undertook a similar phased approach introducing self-assessment in the

late 1990s, compliance costs for taxpayers dropped significantly, and government revenues as a share of GDP grew by more than 50 percent by 2011. Myanmar has also moved towards greater transparency in the use of natural resource revenues, successfully becoming a candidate of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) with the first report published in early 2016. Together, these reforms have helped revenues grow by almost double 2009 levels, providing crucial resources for services and public investment.

How can Myanmar build on the momentum of these different reforms? There are many opportunities to strengthen participation, transparency and accountability, but five options in particular seem promising.

First, continuing to promote a fair and transparent tax system will build public trust while also securing much-needed revenues. Authorities can achieve these objectives by continuing to roll out the self-assessment system to medium taxpayers, by continuing to strengthen taxpayer services and outreach, and by publishing and disseminating annual EITI reports, with the medium-term goal of expanding coverage to the jade and gems sectors.

Second, authorities can build trust and participation by enhancing transparency of public finances. This could include timely publication of key documents such as a Citizen's Budget, a Medium-Term Fiscal Policy statement with views on both availabilities and key commitments in the me-

dium term, and the Union Budget proposal when it is submitted to the Hluttaw. A further step would be to publish existing fiscal data on the Ministry of Planning and Finance website for use by academia and civil society, building trust and confidence in government.

Third, Myanmar can empower local governments to meet the needs of their people by considering an appropriate balance of Union-State/Regions government relations. Decentralization is a complex and often political process – and by establishing a technical secretariat within government to provide advice on key policy questions such as roles and responsibilities, spending and revenue raising powers, Myanmar can make informed decisions about the best path forward. Such a secretariat was established in Thailand in the early 2000s under the Office of the Prime Minister to support the decentralization program, and it proved very important in coordinating the decentralization program.

Fourth, authorities can seek more active public engagement and feedback on policy reforms. Conducting public consultations on key legislation, especially related to public finances, would help build trust and partnership with the people of Myanmar while also giving valuable feedback and ideas to government. A medium-term goal could include developing a general legal framework to govern the issuance, consultation and publication of legislation in order to entrench the principles of transparency and disclosure.

Finally, Myanmar can commit

to the principles of accountability by measuring and publishing performance figures for key public services like waste management, sanitation, and the provision of utilities like power and water. Moving forward, various government departments could adopt minimum standards which the people of Myanmar should expect for these and other key services – and establish channels for the people of Myanmar to report any issues and have them speedily resolved. Such standards not only strengthen trust and accountability – they provide crucial information which government managers can use to help in their work.

When a government has great ideas, the difference between success and failure hinges on the ability of the public sector to translate policies into outcomes. The people of Myanmar stand to benefit from a public sector which is transparent, participatory and accountable. The World Bank Group looks forward to continuing working with Myanmar on improving service delivery countrywide.

*Shabih Mohib is a program leader and lead governance economist, Soren Davidsen is senior public sector specialist and Robert Boothe is a public sector specialist at the World Bank. This op-ed is based on the World Bank Group's policy note "Participating in Change: Promoting Public Sector Accountability to all," prepared by Shabih Mohib, Robert Boothe, May Thet Zin, Soren Davidsen with inputs from Elizabeth Moorsmith and Corey Pattison.*

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## Myanmar negotiating 200 billion Euro loan from Belgium for riverbank upgrades

MYANMAR is in discussion with Belgium to receive a 200 billion Euro loan that will be used to achieve better water flow by digging a sandbank in the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers.

According to a representative of the department of water resource and river development, a sandbank is dug each year depending on funding. Loans from other foreign countries are being pursued.

Good water flow of the rivers is vital for Myanmar's transport and trade. The villages beside the

rivers are always moving as the erosion around the river banks increases.

The department has already planned to dig sandbanks in 34 low-lying areas in the Ayeyawady River and 20 places in the Chindwin River over the next five years.

These efforts will not only achieve better and cleaner water flow but will also protect endangered species living in the rivers and reverse the effects of pollution, in cooperation with international countries.— 200



A boat carrying passengers is running past a sandbank in the Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Two ministries to improve tourism industry in Chin State

THE ministry of road transport and communications and the ministry of hotels and tourism in Chin State will cooperate to upgrade the local tourism industry.

There are 15 towns in mountainous Chin State such as Falam, Mindat, Paletwa and Haka, but there are many difficulties in communication and transport through these towns. According to the local minister of hotels and tourism, they will begin an upgrade of local transport and communication. The authorities concerned will form a tourism system within Falam town, Tine son village, Sawlaung village of Kan Pet Lat, Tiddim town and

Lilone village.

"There is not good communication between the south and the north of Chin State because of the roads," said the minister of roads and communications for Chin State. "Now, the authorities concerned have plans for the road from Kyikhar to Paletwa. But, it also depends on the budget. After that, the road will be from Kan Pet Let to Paletwa".

The World Bank has supported USD 85 billion for the Kalay-Haka road and the Gantgaw-Haka road, so those roads will be constructed first, authorities said.— *Myat Moe Kyaw (MMK)*

## Singapore Festival to be held in Myanmar

THE Singapore Festival, held annually for the last 50 years, will be held in Myanmar for the first time, it was announced Monday at a press conference at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon.

The festival, to commemorate for the first time the bilateral relationship between Singapore and Myanmar, will be held on 8th and 9th October at Myanmar Plaza, according to Ms. Sherleen Seah, the Singapore Tourism Board's director for Myanmar and Thailand.

The board establishes offices around the globe to actively market Singapore as a travel destination and oversee all aspects of tourism, including resource allocation and long-term strategic planning.

The Singapore Festival will feature performances, games, Singapore food and souvenirs. There will also be special promotion for air tickets, attraction tickets and travel packages to Singapore.

Organisers said 2016 is an

important year for Myanmar and Singapore. Among other things, this is the year that Myanmar people will be able to take advantage of a free visa when they visit Singapore for not more than 30 days starting 1st December.

In addition, during two days of the festival, there will be special promotions of nine travel and tourism agencies from Myanmar, three international airlines and two famous places of Singapore.— *Lynn Htet*

## Crime NEWS

### Police seizes heroin, yaba pills



Yan Yar Kway is seen together with heroin and yaba pills. PHOTO: POLICE

POLICE discovered heroin and yaba pills on a passenger of a bus in Nawnshkio, Shan State on Wednesday.

During the search, police found 34,515 yaba pills and 10 grams of heroin hidden in the bag of one Yan Yar Kway.

On same day, a combined team comprising a local anti-drug squad and police searched the home of one Ma Nang Kham Mon in Nankham. They discovered 34,625 yaba pills.

Meanwhile, a local anti-drug squad discovered 7,850 yaba pills on a mini bus in Patheingyi Township.

Charges have been filed against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— *Myanmar News Agency*

### Woman's corpse recovered from river

A WOMAN was killed after crossing the river near Poesataw village on Sunday. According to an investigation, Ma Yinmin, 26, from Poesataw village crossed the river to return to her village on Sunday. Due to heavy rains she

was swept away by the water during her crossing. The next day, villagers found her body near the shore of Nga Lite creek. Police sent the corpse to the 1000-bed Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital for post mortem.— *IPRD*

### Aged hand grenade found in Thagon town

AN aged hand grenade was found by U Hlaing Myo Han from Nay Pyi Taw Thagon township as he was cultivating his farm near Kintar village on Thursday. He then informed local police sta-

tion. Police came to the scene and removed the explosive.

Police handed over the hand grenade to the No-2 military training school for safe destruction.— *Tin Soe Lwin*



An aged hand grenade. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN

### Landslide in Bamauk kills one man

A MAN was killed in a landslide incident on Wednesday in Nansaphat forest, near Tarkyay village, Bamauk township.

According to an investigation, three villagers went to

the forest to collect vegetables on Tuesday afternoon. While out, heavy rain caused the landslide which claimed the life of the man. Authorities from the village identified the man as

Tun Pyay, 24, from Nam Pon village.

The corpse was sent to the general hospital for post mortem. An investigation is ongoing.— *U Ye (Katha)*



# US to send more troops to Iraq ahead of Mosul battle

BAGHDAD/ALBUQUERQUE (N.M.) — The United States will send around 600 new troops to Iraq to assist local forces in the battle to retake Mosul from Islamic State that is expected later this year, US and Iraqi officials said on Wednesday.

The new deployment is the third such boost in US troop levels in Iraq since April, underscoring the difficulties President Barack Obama has had in extracting the US military from the country.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a statement that his government asked for more US military trainers and advisers. Obama called it a “somber decision.”

“I’ve always been very mindful that when I send any of our outstanding men and women in uniform into a war theatre, they’re taking a risk that they might not come back,” Obama said during a town hall event at a military base in Fort Lee, Virginia, televised on CNN.

The new troops will train and advise Iraqi security forces and Kurdish peshmerga forces, primarily in the Mosul fight, but also serve “to protect and expand Iraqi security forces’ gains elsewhere in Iraq,” US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said.

“We’ve said all along — whenever we see opportunities to accelerate the campaign, we want to seize them,” Carter said.

Though Iraqi forces will be in the combat role, “American forces combating ISIL in Iraq are in harm’s way,” Carter said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

Some of the 615 new service members will be based at Qayara air base, about 40 miles (60 km) from Mosul, Carter said. Iraqi forces recaptured the base from Islamic State militants in July and have been building it into a logistics hub to support their offensive into the northern city.

Other US troops will go to Ain al Asad air base in western Iraq, where hundreds of US personnel have been training Iraqi army forces.

Carter, who spoke to reporters while travelling in New Mexico, declined to name other locations where the new US forces will be based.

However, he said some of the forces would help enhance intelligence gathering efforts, particularly related to Islamic State’s plans to conduct attacks outside its own territory.

“We are prepared to continue to help the Iraqi security forces consolidate their control over the country,” Carter said.

“Mosul will be the last of the very large cities that needs to be recaptured, but they’ll need to continue to consolidate control over the whole city,” he added, leaving the door open for US forces to re-



Members of the Shi'ite Badr Organisation undergo training before the upcoming battle to recapture Mosul in Diyala Province, Iraq, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

main in Iraq after the fall of Mosul. Mosul is Islamic State’s de facto Iraqi capital.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said the troops would be deployed to Iraq in the coming weeks.

Three US service members have been killed in direct combat since the launch of the US campaign against Islamic State.

Abadi met with Obama and Vice President Joe Biden last week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, though it was not clear whether the agreement was sealed there.

The United States currently has 4,565 troops in Iraq as part of a US-led coalition providing extensive air support, training and advice to the Iraqi military, which collapsed in 2014 in the face of Islamic State’s territorial gains and lightning advance toward Baghdad.

Iraqi forces, including Kurdish peshmerga forces and mostly Iranian-backed Shi’ite militias, have retaken around half of that territory over the past two years, but Mosul, the largest city under the ultra-hardline group’s control anywhere across its self-proclaimed caliphate, is likely to be the biggest battle yet.

The United States has gradually increased the number of US troops in Iraq this year, and moved them closer to the front lines of battle. Obama approved sending 560 more troops to Iraq in July, three months after the United States said it would dispatch about 200 more troops there.

To send the new troops, the White House will raise its cap on US forces in Iraq from 4,647, to 5,262 troops, a senior US defence official said.

US and Iraqi commanders say the push on Mosul could begin by

the second half of October. Carter said the campaign to expel Islamic State from Mosul would intensify “in the coming weeks.”

The recapture of Mosul would be a major boost for plans by Abadi and the United States to weaken the militant group.

Current US troop levels in Iraq are still a fraction of the 170,000 deployed at the height of the nine-year occupation that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, sparking an al Qaeda-backed insurgency and throwing the country into a sectarian civil war.

Loath to become mired in another conflict overseas, the White House has insisted there would be no American “boots on the ground.” While coalition troops were initially confined to a few military bases, Americans have inched closer to the action as the campaign progresses. —Reuters

## Russia says US Syria statement shows Washington supports terrorism

MOSCOW — Russia is outraged by the threatening tone of the latest US statement on Syria, viewing it as tantamount to supporting terrorism, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Thursday, according to Russian news agencies.

Ryabkov was referring to a statement made by US State Department spokesman John Kirby who said on Wednesday that Russia had an interest in stopping the violence in Syria because extremists could exploit the vacuum there and launch attacks “against Russian interests, perhaps even Russian cities.”

“We cannot interpret this as anything else apart from the current US administration’s de facto support for terrorism,” Ryabkov was quoted as saying.

“These thinly disguised invitations to use terrorism as a weapon against Russia show the political depths the current US administration has stooped to in its approach to the Middle East and specifically to Syria.” US officials said on



A man inspects the damage outside a field hospital after an airstrike in the rebel-held al-Maadi neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wednesday that Obama administration officials had begun considering tougher responses to the Russian-backed Syrian government assault on Aleppo, including military options, as rising tensions with Moscow diminish hopes for a diplomatic solution.

Ryabkov was quoted as saying that Moscow saw no alterna-

tive to an original US-Russia plan to try to get a ceasefire in Syria and that Washington should focus on implementing it.

He said a seven-day ceasefire plan proposed by the United States was unacceptable however and that Moscow was proposing a 48-hour “humanitarian pause” in Aleppo instead. —Reuters

## Rights group urges Bangladesh to stop ‘kneecapping’ detainees

DHAKA — Security forces in Bangladesh are deliberately shooting members and supporters of opposition parties in the leg, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Thursday that compared the acts to “kneecappings” once meted out by the Irish Republican Army.

In its report, the advocacy group quoted victims as saying they had been shot in custody by security forces who then falsely said they had done so in self defence, in crossfire with armed criminals, or during violent protests.

“Security forces in Bangladesh have long killed detainees in fake ‘crossfire killings’, pretending the victim was killed when the authorities took him back to the scene of the crime and were attacked by one of his accomplices,” Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

The Rapid Action Battalion, the special security force of the Bangladesh police, denied the main findings of the

report that were put to it by the Thomson Reuters Foundation ahead of publication. “We have not seen the report yet, but if it claims so, then definitely it is false, fabricated and baseless,” said Mufti Mahmud Khan, a director and the spokesman of the unit.

Human rights groups have accused the Bangladeshi authorities of carrying out extra-judicial killings, disappearances and detaining suspects without charge and denying them access to a lawyer. Khan rejected these, saying that his special security force arrested or detained people only on the basis of specific allegations and evidence. “We investigate the allegations with due legal process and also follow the legal norms and accordingly we take follow up measures as per country’s law,” Khan said. Bangladesh, a South Asian nation of 160 million, is contending with a wave of attacks on foreigners, free thinkers and members of religious minorities by Islamist militants that it says are homegrown. —Reuters



# New Mitsubishi passenger jet arrives at test-flight base in US

MOSES LAKE (Washington) — A new passenger jet being developed by Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. arrived at its test-flight base in the United States on Wednesday, after being forced to turn back twice due to problems with its air-conditioning system.

Having flown about 8,000 kilometres, the first of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet test airplanes arrived at Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake in the state of Washington in the late afternoon, about a month after it was originally scheduled to arrive from Japan.

Two fire engines gave a water salute after the aircraft, which has been beset with production delays, landed on the 4,000-metre runway, the longest at the airport.

With the airport serving as

its base, the jet, Japan's first domestically developed aircraft in about half a century, will undergo extensive flight tests so Mitsubishi Aircraft can obtain safety certification for the twin-engine plane.

The Seattle-based airport was chosen to be the test base as a result of its favorable weather conditions and its long runway.

The aircraft left Nagoya airport in central Japan on Monday and made stops in Hokkaido in northern Japan, eastern Russia and Alaska before reaching Washington.

The jetliner, which seats 70 to 90 passengers, is intended for short- to medium-haul flights. It sports a slim body design that reduces air resistance, helping it consume around 20 per cent less



The Mitsubishi Regional Jet arrives at Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Washington, on 28 September 2016, for flight tests. The first domestically produced Japanese commercial passenger jet has been mired in a series of development delays. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

fuel than other aircraft of similar size. It made its maiden flight last November in Japan.

Mitsubishi Aircraft expects to deliver the aircraft to its launch customer, ANA Holdings Inc.,

the parent company of All Nippon Airways Co., in the middle of 2018.

Hitoshi Iwasa, a deputy head of Mitsubishi Aircraft's Moses Lake Flight Test Centre, said,

"Employees working here were moved as the aircraft finally arrived," adding that the workers will conduct the tests so as to meet the airplane's delivery schedule.—Kyodo News

# Cyber firm challenges Yahoo claim hack was state-sponsored

WASHINGTON — A cyber security company on Wednesday asserted that the hack of 500 million account credentials from Yahoo was the work of an Eastern European criminal gang, adding another layer of intrigue to a murky investigation into the unprecedented data heist.

Arizona-based InfoArmor issued a report whose conclusion challenged Yahoo's position that a nation-state actor orchestrated the heist, disclosed last week by the internet company. InfoArmor, which provides companies with protection against employee identity theft, said the hacked trove of user data was later sold to at least three clients, including one state-sponsored group.

Reuters was unable to verify the report's findings. Yahoo declined comment. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is investigating the hack, did not return a call seeking comment.

A US government source familiar with the Yahoo investigation said there was no hard evidence yet on whether the hack was state-sponsored. Attribution for cyber attacks is widely considered difficult in both the intelligence and research communities.

The task is made especially challenging by the fact that criminal hackers sometimes provide information to government intelligence agencies or offer their services for hire, making it hard to know who the ultimate mas-



A man walks past a Yahoo logo during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on 24 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

termind of a hack might be.

Yahoo said last week that it only recently discovered the intrusion, which it blamed on a state-sponsored actor without providing technical evidence. Nation-state hackers are widely viewed as possessing more advanced capabilities than criminal groups, a perception that could benefit Yahoo as it works to minimize fallout from the breach and complete its sale to Verizon Communications Inc.

InfoArmor concluded the Yahoo hackers were criminal after reviewing a small sample of compromised accounts, Andrew Komarov, the firm's chief intelligence officer, said in an interview.

The hackers, dubbed Group E, have a track record of selling stolen personal data on the dark

web, and have been previously linked to breaches at LinkedIn, Tumblr and MySpace, Komarov said.

"They have never been hired by anyone to hack Yahoo," Komarov, who is from Russia, said. "They were simply looking for well known sites that had many users."

In an illustration of the confusion about who carried out the hack and why, an NBC News report Wednesday interpreted Komarov's findings as pointing to the Russian government as the ultimate perpetrator.

A Wall Street Journal report, which said that InfoArmor was able to crack encrypted passwords for some Yahoo accounts provided by the newspaper, came to the opposite conclusion.—Reuters

# Oil prices retreat as investors wait for clarity on OPEC deal

SINGAPORE — Oil futures retreated on Thursday as the market grew more skeptical on how OPEC would implement a plan to curb oil output a day after the group agreed to limit production.

Benchmark prices had initially extended gains made in the previous session following the decision by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce its aggregate output by 700,000-800,000 barrels per day (bpd), or to around 32.5 million to 33 million bpd.

But Brent and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) retreated from their highest levels in more than two weeks as the market began to focus on the lack of hard facts about the deal.

"Investors and traders are skeptical — with good reason. More cynical traders are questioning the complete lack of detail, including the potentially problematic question of which nations will curtail production," Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at Sydney's CMC Markets, told Reuters.

OPEC said each member's output cuts will be decided at its next formal meeting in November, when an invitation to join the deal could also be extended to other producers such as Russia.

Goldman Sachs said the deal should add \$7 to \$10 to oil prices in the first half of next year, but added that longer term it was skeptical on the implementation of the proposed quotas.

Brent crude had fallen 17 cents to \$48.52 a barrel by 0646

GMT, after earlier climbing to a high of \$49.09 when the market opened, its strongest since 9 September. Brent settled up \$2.72 a barrel, or 5.9 per cent, in the previous session.

WTI crude dropped 4 cents to \$47.01 a barrel, after first hitting \$47.47, its highest since 8 September. The US oil rose \$2.38, or 5.3 per cent, on Wednesday.

"There is a lack of clarity and detail which is why people are taking profits," said Virendra Chauhan, oil analyst at Energy Aspects in Singapore.

Energy Aspects estimated the net effect of the production cuts would be around 400,000 bpd as output from Libya and Nigeria remained uncertain.

"A production freeze at a level that allows everyone to produce at or near maximum capacity will do very little to reduce the oversupply in the market," Peter Lee, oil and gas analyst at BMI Research, told Reuters.

Some support for prices came as US crude stocks fell 1.9 million barrels to 502.7 million barrels in the week to 23 September, against analyst expectations for a 3 million barrel increase, data from the US Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration showed.

Inventories were expected to rebound after a big drop a few weeks ago, but instead stocks have continued to decline, along with imports.

US inventories, however, still remain at historically high levels for this time of year, according to the EIA.—Reuters



# Colombia tipped for Nobel Peace Prize after deal to end war



Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (R) and Marxist rebel leader Rodrigo Londono, better known by the nom de guerre Timochenko, after signing an accord ending a half-century war that killed a quarter of a million people, in Cartagena, Colombia, on 26 September 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

OSLO — A Colombian peace accord ending a half-century of war is widely tipped for the Nobel Peace Prize next week, returning the award to its roots after a run of wins for organisations including the European Union.

The prize might be

shared by President Juan Manuel Santos and Marxist FARC rebel leader Timochenko — the nom de guerre of Rodrigo Londono — after they signed a deal on 26 September to end a war that killed a quarter of a million people.

“The agreement ... is

one of the most obvious peace prize candidates I’ve ever seen,” said Asle Sveen, a historian who tracks the awards. Still, he said a prize may hinge on a “Yes” to the agreement in a referendum in Colombia on Sunday.

It would be the first award for Latin America since Guatemalan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchu won in 1992.

Other candidates for the 8 million Swedish crown (£717,000) prize include Svetlana Gannushkina, a Russia campaigner for human rights and refugees, Syria’s White Helms, a civilian group that seeks to rescue victims of air strikes, or Greek islanders who have aided Syrian refugees.

Others tips include negotiators of a deal over Iran’s nuclear programme or former US spy contractor Edward Snowden who leaked details of US surveillance.

Kristian Berg Harpviken, head of the Peace

Research Institute, Oslo, puts Gannushkina as his favourite, with Colombia second, saying such a prize would be an overdue rebuke to President Vladimir Putin.

“Ten years into the future there’s a risk that it will be seen as major omission by the Nobel Committee,” he said of a lack of criticisms of Russian restrictions on human rights and the annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region in 2014.

An award for Colombia would shift the prize back to traditions of peace-making by individuals. The five-strong Nobel committee, comprising several former politicians, might also be swayed because Norway helped broker the accord.

Organisations have won three of the past four years in the strongest run since the awards were set up in the 1895 will of Sweden’s Alfred Nobel, a philanthropist and inventor of dynamite.—Reuters

## Three killed in electoral campaign shooting in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO — Three people were shot dead and a deputy state governor was wounded on Wednesday when a disgruntled city employee opened fire on a campaign rally motorcade in central Brazil ahead of municipal elections on Sunday that have turned violent.

A candidate for city council and a security guard were killed by the gunman, a 53-year-old driver, who also died in a shootout with Vice Governor José Eliton’s bodyguards, officials in the town of Itumbiara in Goiás state said.

The shooting follows a wave of killings of local politicians in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro in recent months that law enforcement officials said appeared to be the work of organised crime trying to get their candidates elected.

Eliton, who was leading the race to become the town’s mayor, was rushed to hospital for surgery to a shot wound in the stomach and his condition was not known, his press aides said.

“Everybody thought the man was coming to shake our hands when he suddenly drew a gun and began to shoot at us,” said federal lawmaker Jovair Arantes, who was on the open vehicle targeted by the gunman.

Sunday’s nationwide municipal polls will elect 5,568 mayors and renew town councils. The election will shape Brazil’s new political landscape following the ouster of the leftist Workers Party after 13 years in power last month, when President Dilma Rousseff was dismissed in an impeachment trial.

On Sunday in Rio a candidate for councillor was shot by assailants as he sought to flee by motorcycle. It was the latest killing of a municipal candidate in Rio’s suburbs, where drug traffickers and militia groups compete for dominance.

In July, assailants killed candidates planning to run for town council in the suburbs of Duque de Caxias and Magé.—Reuters

## Thousands of Israelis file past coffin of former president Peres

JERUSALEM — Thousands of Israelis filed past the flag-draped coffin of Shimon Peres outside parliament on Thursday, honouring the former president and prime minister who won worldwide praise for his efforts in peace talks with the Palestinians.

US President Barack Obama is among foreign dignitaries due to attend the funeral on Friday of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who died on Wednesday at 93, two weeks after a stroke.

But with Israeli-Pal-

estinian peace negotiations frozen since 2014, it was unclear whether Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who sent a condolence letter to Peres’s family, would travel to Jerusalem from nearby Ramallah for the ceremony.

The leaders of Egypt and Jordan, the only Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel, were not on the roster of participants issued by Israel’s Foreign Ministry. Tens of thousands of people were expected to walk past Peres’s coffin dur-

ing Thursday’s 12-hour memorial in the parliamentary plaza, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin laid wreaths. “We came to pay our respects to a wonderful man who we thought would carry on forever,” said Michael Leon, a British-born bank worker. “He was a man with a great dream to bring peace to this region, the new Middle East. Sadly, we have not reached that goal yet but we still carry on with his aims.”

Britain’s Prince

Charles, former US president Bill Clinton and French President Francois Hollande were due to attend Peres’s funeral in the “Great Leaders of the Nation” section of Jerusalem’s Mount Herzl cemetery.

Peres shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with the late former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for reaching an interim peace deal in 1993, the Oslo Accords, which however never turned into a lasting treaty.—Reuters



An Israeli man lays a wreath near a portrait of former Israeli President Shimon Peres, as a woman photographs nearby, as Peres lies in state at the Knesset plaza, the Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



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# Statewide blackout in Australia raises questions over renewable energy

SYDNEY — Power was restored to the state of South Australia on Wednesday after storms a day earlier caused an unprecedented statewide blackout which disrupted operations at mining majors like BHP Billiton, closed ports and halted public transport.

The blackout of the country's fifth most populous state, with 1.7 million people, prompted calls on Thursday for an inquiry into the power sector and questions over whether the state's reliance on renewable energy exacerbated the situation.

Authorities said power had been restored to 90 per cent of the state by Thursday morning, but further disruption was possible with gale force winds and heavy rain forecast.

"Let's focus now and take this incident as a real wake-up call...lower emissions is very important but it must be consistent with energy security," said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Coal-fired power plants dominate the country's power sector resulting in Australia being one of



Cars and buses drive in the central business district (CBD) of Adelaide after severe storms and thousands of lightning strikes knocked out power to the entire state of South Australia, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the world's biggest carbon emitters on a per capita basis. Renewable energy has struggled to increase its footprint in recent years due to scepticism over climate change amongst some of the country's leading politi-

cians.

South Australia, a major wine producer and traditional manufacturing hub, is one of the few state's with a heavy reliance on renewable energy. Wind power provides roughly 40 per

cent of the state's electricity supply.

"Questions have to be asked: Is their over-reliance on renewable energy exacerbating their problems and the capacity to have a secure power supply,"

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, a climate change skeptic, told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio on Thursday.

The blackout happened after strong winds destroyed major powerlines

north of the state capital Adelaide and lightning struck a power plant, causing a surge across the grid. The network and link to neighboring Victoria state shut down to prevent damage to infrastructure, causing a state-wide outage.

Power supply was disrupted to BHP Billiton's huge Olympic Dam copper-uranium mine, halting production until back power could be diverted to maintain "essential infrastructure". Oz Minerals Ltd suspended copper and gold production at its Prominent Hill mine north of Adelaide, which was not damaged.

South Australian independent Senator Nick Xenophon said an inquiry should examine whether the power failure could have been avoided if more gas-burning power plants had been on standby.

Australia wants to double its large-scale renewable energy generation to 33,000 gigawatt hours by 2020, which means solar, wind and hydro-electricity would have to make up nearly a quarter of power generation by then. —Reuters



Indian army's director general of military operations Lt General Ranbir Singh speaks during a media briefing in New Delhi, India, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## In escalation, India says launches strikes on militants in Pakistan

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD — India said on Thursday it had conducted "surgical strikes" on suspected militants preparing to infiltrate from Pakistan-ruled Kashmir, making its first direct military response to an attack on an army base it blames on Pakistan.

The cross-border action inflicted significant casualties, the Indian army's head of operations told reporters in New Delhi.

Pakistan said there

had been no such targeted strikes, but that it had repulsed a raid by Indian troops and returned fire across the Line of Control, the de facto frontier that runs through the disputed territory of Kashmir.

The Indian announcement followed through on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warning that those responsible "would not go unpunished" for a 18 September attack on an Indian army base at Uri, near the frontier, that killed 18 soldiers.

The strikes also raised the possibility of a military escalation between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan that would wreck a 2003 Kashmir ceasefire.

Lt General Ranbir Singh, the Indian army's director general of military operations, said the strikes were launched on Wednesday based on "very specific and credible information that some terrorist units had positioned themselves...with an aim to carry out infiltration and terrorist strikes".

Singh said he had called his Pakistani counterpart to inform him of the operation.

"India is doing this only to please their media and public," Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif replied in a statement.

"If India tries to do this again we will respond forcefully."

Pakistan said two of its soldiers had been killed and nine wounded in firing across the de facto border in the Himalayan region. —Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC MUMBAI VOY. NO ( 207W )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC MUMBAI VOY. NO ( 207W ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CONTAINER LINES

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

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

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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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# UK royal Kate's sister Pippa wins court ban on hacked photos

LONDON — Pippa Middleton, younger sister of Britain's Duchess of Cambridge, won a court injunction on Wednesday banning publication of 3,000 photos allegedly hacked from her iCloud account.

No details of the photos have been made public but newspapers have speculated they included images of the Duchess, Kate, her husband and future king Prince William and the couple's children Prince George and Princess Charlotte, who are currently touring Canada.

The injunction obtained at the High Court by Pippa Middleton, 33, and her fiancé James Matthews, 40, blocks publication of the photos or any other information that might have been taken.

"The evidence points toward this having been a flagrant and dishonest act which has caused the claimant some considerable

distress," said Middleton's lawyer, Adam Wolanski who said there was evidence that there had been a hack.

Neither Middleton nor Matthews were in court.

Website designer Nathan Wyatt, 35, of Wellingborough, central England, has been arrested and bailed on suspicion of a Computer Misuse Act offence in connection with the case.

He has been ordered to return to a south London police station in November.

The Sun newspaper reported last week it had been contacted via the WhatsApp encrypted messaging service and offered intimate pictures of Middleton in return for 50,000 pounds (\$65,000). Wolanski said they were not concerned about the photos appearing in Britain's national newspapers but that the problem was "rogue elements" on the internet.—*Reuters*



Britain's Pippa Middleton speaks on a telephone as dealers work on a trading floor during a charity day at BGC Partners in the Canary Wharf business district in London, Britain, on 12 September 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'All My Life' creator Agnes Nixon dies at 93

LOS ANGELES — Agnes Nixon, best known for creating the critically acclaimed soap operas "All My Children" and "One Life to Live", has died. She was 93.

Nixon, known as the 'queen of modern soap opera', died at The Quadrangle, a senior living community in Haverford, Pennsylvania, reported USA Today.

Nixon also enjoyed writing credits on a score of other shows, including "Studio One in Hollywood", "Cameo Theatre", "Somerset Maugham TV Theatre", "Another World", "Guiding Light", "Search for Tomorrow", and "Loving", which was later rebooted as "The City".

Nixon first demonstrated an interest in writing while studying at Northwestern University, a passion which she channeled on "One Life to Live" and "All My Children", which were heralded for their racial and social diversity.—*PTI*



Actor Ewan McGregor (R) and actress Jennifer Connelly take part in a photocall to promote the feature film *American Pastoral* at the San Sebastian Film Festival, in San Sebastian, northern Spain, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## McGregor says wife behind 'American Pastoral' directorial debut

LONDON — Scottish actor Ewan McGregor, in his directorial debut, brought an adaptation of Philip Roth's novel "American Pastoral" to the Zurich Film Festival this week and said his wife helped him get behind the camera.

McGregor also stars in the movie, set in late 1960s America, alongside Jennifer Connelly and Dakota Fanning, playing a man whose family starts to fall apart when his daughter becomes politically radicalized.

"I've always wanted to direct for a long time and I always want-

ed to wait to have a story that I felt I was burning to tell," McGregor told Reuters in an interview. "Then I was talking to my wife about the fact that I didn't think this one was going to happen and she said 'you should direct that one' (American Pastoral)." Asked about potentially playing the next James Bond — a role that has been linked to various actors — McGregor joked: "If there are auditions for James Bond, I don't know about them. So I am going to phone my agent immediately to find out." —*Reuters*

## Final trailer for 'Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them'

NEW YORK — Ahead of the film's November release, the final trailer for 'Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them' has been released. The film is an all-new adventure returning us to the wizarding world created by J.K. Rowling.

Eddie Redmayne takes the lead role of Magizoologist Newt Scamander in the film directed by David Yates, who helmed the last four "Harry Potter" films.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" opens in 1926 with Newt Scamander having just completed a global excursion to find and document an extraordinary array of magical creatures.

Arriving in New York for a brief stopover, he might have passed without incident...were it not for a No-Maj (American for Muggle) named Jacob, a misplaced magical case, and the es-

cape of some of Newt's fantastic beasts, which could spell trouble for both the wizarding and No-Maj worlds.

The film marks the screenwriting debut of J.K. Rowling, whose Harry Potter books were adapted into the top-grossing film franchise of all time. Her script was inspired by the Hogwarts textbook *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, written by her character Newt Scamander.

To coincide with the trailer's release, it's been announced that fans will get to experience some of the film's magic early at a global event. It will kick off on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2030GMT and simultaneously in major cities in the US and internationally.

Attendees will first be treated to a never-before-seen reel featuring some of the thrilling

moments from the much-anticipated film. Talent from the film will join the celebration, in person, at two IMAX theaters, in London and Los Angeles, to welcome the fans.

In London, Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Alison Sudol, Dan Fogler, and director David Yates will be on hand. In Los Angeles, Colin Farrell and Jon Voight will be in attendance.

Fans gathered at those locations, and others around the world, will be able to submit questions to the stars and director during the Q&A, giving them a rare opportunity to learn more about the story and their thrilling foray into a new era of the wizarding world.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" will open in theaters worldwide beginning 18 November, 2016.—*Reuters*

## Pitt voluntarily tests for drug amid child abuse investigation

LOS ANGELES — Actor Brad Pitt reportedly voluntarily took a drug test during the investigation into allegations of child abuse made against him.

"The DCFS [Department of Community & Family Services] wouldn't compel someone to provide the urine sample for the drug test; it would be voluntary," a legal source has told *Us* magazine.

TMZ also reported that Pitt, 52, had offered to take a drug test shortly after the jet plane incident to prove that he had nothing to hide. A second source has confirmed this.

The FBI is currently gathering evidence to evaluate whether to investigate Pitt on a federal level. It was reported that Pitt misbehaved with his kids on a

private flight.

Pitt "has cooperated [with the investigation]. He certainly wants what's best for his kids and for them to be in the best environment, and he'll do anything that will put them in the best position," a source said. Jolie, 41, filed for divorce on Monday, 19 September. The former couple has six children.—*PTI*



# California mosaic house is a romantic homage to two artists

VENICE (Calif.) — The Mosaic Tile House in Venice stands as a monument to two decades of artistic collaboration between Cheri Pann and husband Gonzalo Duran.

“It’s tchotchke heaven,” Pann, 76, told Reuters about her kaleidoscopic bungalow. “It’s turned out to be an homage to putting everything possible into cement.”

By “everything,” Pann means figurines of poodles and hula girls, commemorative china baseball bats and a sweeping arch of coffee cups, their handles pointing skyward. Smashed pottery and shards of mirror make up the more traditional mosaic patterns on the house’s interior and exterior surfaces.

The couple met in 1992 when Duran was working at an art supply store and Pann was in need of some acrylic paints. They still go back to the same store for supplies.

The house is on a quiet street, a 20-minute bike ride from the beach. Pann bought it in 1994 and wanted to build an art studio in it.

After the studio was built, Pann made tiles for the bathroom.

“It was so much fun doing it, we just kept on going,” said Duran, 72, who was born in Mexico and raised in East Los Angeles.

Tiles in the shapes of butterflies, camels and giraffes surround the sink. A ceramic cockerel sits

proudly atop the breakfast bar. One of the walls is covered in photographs of the couple. Kitchen appliances are decorated with paint.

The collaboration is, Pann said, the ultimate “honey-do” project. She makes the tiles, he lays them.

“He’s busy working, working, working and then I’ll come along and say, ‘Hon, hmmm, there is something wrong and I won’t know what it is.’ And then he’ll take a look back and he’ll say, ‘Ah, I know what it is,’ and then he’ll fix it,” Pann said.

Pann was encouraged by family and professors to pursue accounting, but at age 18 she went to a Van Gogh show and never



A visitor views the work of artists Gonzalo Duran and Cheri Pann at their Mosaic Tile House in Venice, California, US, on 26 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

looked back.

“The story behind the house is really about the love story behind Gonzalo and myself,” Pann said. “We salsa in the house, we kiss all day long, and if it weren’t toxic, I’d paint on him.”

Tours are available by appointment at a cost of \$12 per person. Pann hopes the Mosaic Tile House eventually will be preserved on the National Register of Historic Places. He is convinced the house will stay standing.

“To tear this down is a big job. So I mean it’ll be here forever,” he said. —Reuters

# Toyama man arrested over sale of ‘jailbroken’ iPhones

TOYAMA (Japan) — A man who allegedly sold iPhones modified to allow unauthorised apps to be installed was arrested Thursday on suspicion of breaking a trademark law, in the first such arrest in Japan over the sale of so-called “jailbroken” iPhones, police said.

Daisuke Ikeda, a 24-year-old resident of the city of Toyama in Toyama Prefecture, is alleged to have sold five modified iPhones online between 26 March and 23 May for a total of some 120,000 yen (\$1,180), while leaving the Apple Inc. trademark intact.

The devices come with restrictions which mean that only authorised apps can be downloaded

and installed. A modification through the jailbreaking technique, however, circumvents the restrictions, allowing users to install any app they like.

Ikeda had sold a total of some 200 iPhones prior to his arrest, raking in an estimated 5 million yen in sales, according to an investigative source.

“I did it to earn some pocket money,” he was quoted by the source as telling investigators during questioning he submitted to on a voluntary basis.

Apple does not allow users to modify their iPhones. Modification can increase the risk of infection with computer viruses, experts say. —Kyodo News



Photo taken on 29 September 2016, in Ichikawa, east of Tokyo, shows iPhones modified to allow unauthorised apps to be installed. Chiba prefectural police arrested Daisuke Ikeda, a 24-year-old from the city of Toyama, the same day on suspicion of breaking a trademark law, in the first such arrest in Japan over the sale of so-called “jailbroken” iPhones. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

# Perez keen to confirm 2017 seat in coming week

SEPANG, (Malaysia) — Force India’s Sergio Perez hopes to shed some light on where he will be driving in 2017 by the end of next week, with the Mexican conducting negotiations that he described as key to his Formula One career.

“I believe that next week is crucial to sort out my future,” Perez told reporters at the Sepang circuit on Thursday as he prepares for this weekend’s Malaysian Grand Prix.

“I really hope that by next weekend we will all know.”

Perez’s future has been the subject of speculation for some time with Force India team principal Vijay Mallya saying in July that both the Mexican and his German team mate Nico Hulkenberg would be staying at the team next season.

Shortly after, Hulkenberg confirmed he would



Force India’s Sergio Perez during practice during Hungarian Grand Prix 2016, Hungaroring, Hungary on 22 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

remain with the Silverstone-based team in 2017 but Perez’s situation has been complicated by the commercial deals his sponsors have to strike as part of any agreement for him to drive.

“My deals are quite complicated,” said the 26-year-old, who is strongly supported by Mexican telecoms billionaire Carlos Slim Domit.

“Obviously my sponsors have to do the deals first, etc, so we must make sure that everything is in place and hopefully they can come into an agreement soon.”

Perez has finished third twice this season and has been linked in the media with a move to the Renault factory team, who currently field Briton Jolyon Palmer and Dane Kevin Magnussen as their two drivers.

The Mexican, who has rebuilt his career at Force India after being dropped by McLaren in 2013, had also been mentioned as a possible Ferrari target but the Italian outfit opted to retain 2007 world champion Kimi Raikkonen for another season.

On Thursday, Perez, eighth in the overall standings and 20 points ahead of Hulkenberg, said he was negotiating with only one team.

“There are some other options on the table, quite interesting options but at the moment I hope that it works out with one team,” he said.

“And if it doesn’t by next week, obviously we will have to look (at) something else.”

Perez made his Formula One breakthrough in Malaysia when he drove his Sauber to a second-place finish behind Ferrari’s Fernando Alonso in 2012. —Reuters

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Myanmar International

(30-9-2016 07:00am ~ 1-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:27 Am Discovering Tribes “MUUN (Episode- I)”

07:52 Am Famous pagodas of Sagaing

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am “Myanmar’s Beauty and Nature” Beach

08:50 Am Next Weekend

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana

09:44 Am TECH School

09:51 Am Tea Leaves

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Green Corner (Episode- 5) Plastic Chandelier

10:36 Am Myanmar Betels

10:52 Am Orchid Lover

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:27 Pm A Tour in Korea ( Part- 3 )

07:38 Pm Visiting A Serene Village in The Northwest of Myanmar

07:53 Pm Now in Yangon

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin

08:48 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG

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

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

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

(11:00Pm~03:00Am)-ThursdayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00Am)

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

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





The opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics promotional event "Go for 2020 Street" in Tokyo's Nihonbashi shopping and business district, Japan, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tokyo government wants to reconsider plans for 3 venues

TOKYO — The Tokyo Metropolitan government aims to reconsider the construction of three venues for the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics after receiving a report from a review panel on Thursday.

The panel, set up by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, reported to a task force on metropolitan government reform that with costs to organise the Games possibly soaring past 3 trillion yen, plans for the swimming, volleyball and rowing/canoe sprint venues should be reconsidered — with not building the venues altogether an option.

As possible alternative sites to host the three sports, the panel suggested the existing Tokyo International Swimming Centre the Pacifico Yokohama for the volleyball and Tome, Miyagi Prefecture, for the rowing and canoe.

The panel also said costs for all temporary venues should

be footed by the metropolitan government, with the national government and municipalities paying for everything outside Tokyo.

"We need to decide how we can cut climbing costs while leaving behind the legacy that we need to," Koike said, following a coordination meeting for the Games. "There are a lot of issues that need to be resolved, and we will search for the best solutions."

However, Yoshiro Mori, president of the 2020 organising committee, was quick to pounce on the panel's proposals, saying that it would be difficult to make any changes to the current plans.

"I made it clear that it will be extremely difficult to overturn any decisions that have been made by the executive board of the International Olympic Committee," Mori said.

"We are not allowed to split up the athletes' village. The costs

involved would be staggering as well," the former prime minister said, referring to a potential move of the rowing and canoeing to Miyagi.

"The decisions have been taken with adequate reasoning behind them."

The Japanese government echoed Mori's sentiments.

"If we were to change the venues, or the scope of the organisation in any way, we would have to start discussions with the international federations and the IOC from zero again," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda said.

"We would end up needing additional costs for the infrastructure and manpower. If we don't look at the big picture, it will not be a solution to the problem."

The organizing committee will submit a budget draft to the IOC sometime this year. —Kyodo News

## Guardiola's perfect record falls in thrilling Celtic draw

GLASGOW — Pep Guardiola witnessed the end to his perfect record with Manchester City as his Premier League leaders had to come from behind three times to earn a 3-3 draw at Celtic in a dazzling Champions League Group C encounter on Wednesday.

Guardiola's men were taken aback by the fevered atmosphere at Celtic Park as they were denied an 11<sup>th</sup> straight win which would have equalled Tottenham Hotspur's 1960-61 landmark as the best start to a season by any English club.

The inspired Scottish champions, unrecognisable from the side humbled 7-0 at Barcelona in their opening game, sniffed a sensation after Moussa Dembele scored at the start of each half and when Raheem Sterling netted a first-half own goal.

Yet City simply refused to be subdued, responding with strikes from Fernandinho, the excellent Sterling and Nolito and coming close to a late winner before settling for the point that moves them into second place in the group on four points behind Barcelona, who won 2-1 at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"The support was amazing and that combination of the players' effort and the atmosphere made it a difficult night for Manchester City," said Celtic's manager Brendan Rodgers.

Yet Guardiola was left frustrated by the end of City's 100 per cent record, though proud of his side's resilience. "We should have won it," he said, reflecting on their squandered late chances.

Following their humiliation at the Nou Camp, Celtic vowed it would be very different at their famed Glasgow fortress and took only two-and-a-half minutes to become the first team to take a lead against City this season.

A well-aimed free kick from Scott Sinclair found James Forrest at the back post and his volley across goal was met by an Erik Sviatchenko header that brushed off the chest of Dembele, who actually looked offside.

City did well to regain a modicum of composure amid Celtic's whirlwind start, Fernandinho controlling a mis-hit Aleksandar Kolarov shot before firing in an 11<sup>th</sup>-minute equaliser. —Reuters



Celtic's Moussa Dembele scores their third goal against Manchester City during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group C at Celtic Park, Glasgow, Scotland, on 28 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tiger has 'passion' as a Cup vice-captain, says Snedeker

CHASKA (Minnesota) — Tiger Woods will not hit a single shot in competition at this week's Ryder Cup but he has already played a significant and passionate role for the United States as a vice-captain, according to Brandt Snedeker.

Former world number one Woods, sidelined for much of the past year while recovering from multiple back operations, is one of five assistants to US captain Davis Love III at Hazel-

tine and has established himself as the team's leading tactician.

"Tiger is 100 per cent in," Snedeker told reporters before the US players headed out on to the course for the second day of official practice on a cold, blustery Wednesday.

"He's probably spent more time in the last three weeks on this stuff than all of the other assistant captains put together. That's the kind of guy he is and how much he cares about it. It's

infectious."

Snedeker, an eight-times winner on the PGA Tour who is known for his fast-talking, has been taken aback by how much interaction he has had with Woods since he booked his spot on a second US Ryder Cup team.

"He called me two weeks ago and started talking to me then," said the 35-year-old from Tennessee. "We were on the phone for an hour and a half."

"He has called me several times since, and to say it's unusual to get a call from Tiger Woods would be pretty accurate. I don't get a lot of those calls."

"Got to the point where I was joking around, like, 'You're calling me more than my wife is right now, we need to figure something out.' But it's great to have that kind of commitment and that kind of passion from a guy like Tiger."

Snedeker said that Woods, a

veteran of seven Ryder Cups as a player, has been giving the US team advice on every aspect of the game, from the tactical and physical to the mental and psychological.

"We're talking about everything ... how I should be getting prepared as an individual, what our thought processes should be, how we are going to come together as a team ... like that," Snedeker explained. —Reuters