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## GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS

### Myanmar ratifies Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanism

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved Myanmar's ratification of the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (Appendix Contract) at yesterday's meeting.

The decision came after MPs and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs discussed the issue at the parliament.

U Zaw Thein of Wakema Constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin Constituency and U Kyaw Aung of Setoktara Constituency discussed in support respectively.

U Myo Zaw Aung said, "The above Appendix contract is born out of unavoidable conditions, thus member countries are required to approve it unanimously."

"The ASEAN region sees many problems with border disputes, trade, human rights, migrant workers and disagreements between employers and employees," he added.

"If and when some problems arise, some may be settled in a bilateral diplomatic way, failing that, a jury court or an arbitration board is essentially needed," the MP said.

The MP also suggested that Myanmar involve itself in its emergence, saying that in the contract it is promulgated that the



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 7th October, 2016. PHOTO: MNA

contract shall never harm rights of member countries and all countries are to accept the decision by the Arbitration jury.

U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that all member countries agreed on the principles of no-intervention

between countries described in the ASEAN Charter.

"Every country is under duty to follow arbitrary decisions that are decided. It one of the two countries involved in the dispute disobeys the decision, the other party is able to

complain about it to the ASEAN consulting council comprising ASEAN foreign ministers," he said.

"If the complaint is unsuccessful at this level, the dispute can go up to the summit of ASEAN and the final decision is com-

pulsorily to be obeyed. So, Myanmar should take part in it," said U Kyaw Tin.

Following the debate, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought approval from the parliament and announced the approval.—*Myanmar News Agency*

### Restoration, preservation of quake-hit pagodas in Bagan to be under rules for World Heritage list

VICE President U Myint Swe has stressed the need to pay attention to professional suggestions and opinions in the restoration and preservation of damaged pagodas in Bagan.

Speaking at the meeting on the preservation of ancient pagodas, stupas and religious edifices damaged by the earthquake that struck on 8 September, he underlined the importance of the work in having the Bagan archaeological zone listed in the World Heritage list.

"It is important for working committees to carry out the work systematically. There has not been such an event in Bagan since July, 1975," the Vice President said.

A leading committee, formed under the notification issued by the President's Office,



Vice President U Myint Swe chairs the meeting on restoration and preservation of ancient pagodas, stupas and religious edifices in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA

with a view to preserving ruins of damaged pagodas and religious edifices operates with two working committees and five sub-committees.

Duties include sheltering ruined pagodas under cover not to allow any more damage, making arrangements for pilgrims to pay homage to pagodas safely and

making consultations with experts and architects to preserve the pagodas in their original state.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior Gen-

eral Min Aung Hlaing and party visited there on 27 August while Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party on 5 September, giving guidance.

Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religions Affairs and Culture, Secretary of the Leading Committee clarified the restoration and preservation works in compliance with international standards.

Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, U Kyaw Oo Lwin, Director-General of Archaeology and National Museum Department, Union Ministers U Win Khaing and Dr Pe Myint discussed the issue respectively.

Upon discussion, the vice president gave closing remarks.—*Myanmar News Agency*



## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urges MPs to obey democratic practices in their constituencies

THE 47-day long session of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw adjourned yesterday, with Speaker U Win Myint calling on MPs to try harder to act within democratic practices in their respective constituencies during the Hluttaw's interval time.

During the session of the 2nd parliament, 225 star-marked questions and 407 questions (with no star markings) were questioned and replied. 16 proposals including two of importance were tendered while there were 4 proposals approved, 9 recorded, 2 rejected and one proposal deemed unworthy of discussion.

As regards bills, the Hluttaw approved 10 bills out of 19 which commended to be discussed in its sessions, with 9 bills to be tabled until the following meeting. With effect from 1 February 2016 when the parliament commenced to take office until now, activities of the respective Hluttaw Committees were clarified by the speaker.

The parliament formed 19 parliamentary committees, held 125 interviews with 2,740 local guests and 327 alien guests on Hluttaw premises with 18,072 local visitors and 1,828 from abroad present at 202 interviews. So far there have been 20 overseas meetings including excursions and trips in which meetings were held between 54 parliamentarians and 916 foreign guests.

The speaker urged the MPs to convince themselves of their responsibilities, to thoroughly



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

understand the essence of the role of legislature, to abide by the principles of existing laws in compliance with the saying that it is vital for lawmakers not to become law breakers, to be cautious about exercising check and balance so as not to intervene by going beyond limited framework, to listen to the voices of the people in their own constituencies so that they may know the people's needs and desires, to share Hluttaw experiences with the populace widely, to implement township development works with government subvention and to take part in scrutinising confiscated farm land and other lands and to come cheerful-

ly and healthily to the next session.

U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction, replied to queries raised by U Aye Naing of Dagon (south) constituency, U Kyaw Htay of Leishi constituency and U Kyaw Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency.

In reply to the question of MP U Kyaw Htay of Leishi constituency, the Union Minister said the Yangon Region Government has planned to sign an agreement with Japan's Sumitomo Company to carry out a survey to improve the sewage system in six downtown townships and to extend the waste water treatment plant.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pyithu Hluttaw holds press conference



Speaker U Win Myint and Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

A press conference on the Second Regular Session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw said at the press conference that the regular session lasted 47 days and representa-

tives were able to raise 602 questions and approve 10 bills into laws. The regular session also met 2,740 local guests and 327 foreign guests until its recess at the Hluttaw Building. Outside the Hluttaw Building, it was able to meet with 18,071 local guests and 1,828 foreign guests. Rep-

resentatives have also visited foreign countries 20 times and 54 representatives met with 916 foreign guests. After his speech, Speaker U Win Myint and Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat of the Pyithu Hluttaw responded to questions raised by the media.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## Regular session of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw ends

THE Second Regular Session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw successfully concluded yesterday. The Hluttaw session lasted 45 days from 25 July to 7 October, 2016. The representatives were able to raise 239 questions and approve 14 bills into laws while sending 9 bills to the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for their approval.

At yesterday's session, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than of the Amyotha Hluttaw urged representatives to learn the lives, wishes and opinions of the public for themselves during the recess in order to promote the interests of the people.

Representative also raised questions on upgrading communication systems for mobile phones in Laikha.

U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State Constituency 1 asked the government if it has a plan to upgrade the ferry service between Sittway and Rathedaung townships.

U Maung Kyaw Zan of the Constituency 9 of Rakhine State, asked the government if it has a plan to take action against illegal logging in the forests in Maungdaw District, Rakhine State.

In his reply to the question, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said the ministry has not permitted logging or timber trading in Maungdaw District and local authorities are also cracking down on illegal business in the district.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Ohn Win. PHOTO: MNA



U Maung Kyaw Zan. PHOTO: MNA

## Aungmyintha villagers moved for Myitsone project not received full amount of loan from cooperative

According to some local members of cooperative society, among the villagers from three villages who have moved from their places because of Myitsone project, some Aungmyintha villagers, members of cooperative society, have not received the full amount of loan from cooperative.

"Those who have not planned to do agricultures and animal farming received Ks three Lakh, on the other hand, they only got Ks one Lakh although they have planned to breed the pigs," said a villager who moved to Aungmyintha village from Laphae village.

The cooperative department of Myitkyina gave second half year loan (Ks 337.7 million) of 2016 to 265 members of cooperative from Aungmyintha village. The interest rate is one and a half kyat per one hundred kyat.

Aungmyintha village is

the combination of Tan pha ye village, Padankwin village and mazut village which are the ones moved for Myitsone project. The villages, who can submit full data recommendation of local cooperative organizations, only will get the full amount of loan.

The authorities concerned from the township carry out giving loan to the ones who had the recommendation of their village's association. They will also give Ks one lakh up to Ks five lakh depending on the recommendations of the regional authorities.

The cooperative department of Myitkyina is distributing Ks 17,470 lakh loan of Export Import Bank of China (EXIM) to the locals within Myitkyina Township, they are from 145 cooperative organization member villages. This function is being done once in six months.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



## State Counsellor honors truthful taxi driver

THE Office of the State Counsellor issued a statement honouring a taxi driver who returned jewellery, worth over K100 million and which was left in his car, to its rightful owner.

According to the statement signed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, nation-building tasks to enhance the lives of the people must be carried out with the strength of the people which not just means physical and intellectual assets of the people but also moral standards.

The statement said that the government is placing an emphasis on fulfilling the fundamental rights of citizens as well as on the laying the foundation of the state such as raising the abilities, capabilities and moral standards of the people.

U Than Htike Kyaw, who lives in Thaketa Township in

Yangon Region, immediately returned the jewelry left by a passenger in his car, despite having a clear opportunity to enrich himself by keeping it. Although his family is not financially capable, he followed the moral principles strictly regardless of his personal interests. The owner of the jewelry, as a gesture of appreciation, bought a taxi for the man, according to the statement.

The State Counsellor urged the people to follow U Than Htike Kyaw's example and highlighted that leading an honest life by abiding by moral principles amounts to protecting the interests of the country.

In conclusion, the State Counsellor requested that all citizens cooperate with the government to lay a sound foundation for the state by abiding by moral standards and bestowing honesty.—GNLM

## U Thant Zin Oo honored for control of outbreak of infectious disease

U THANT Zin OO, a health assistant from the town of Lahe, was selected by the State Counsellor as the honorable man for August, according to an announcement from the office of the State Counsellor yesterday.

The State Counsellor has been selecting outstanding individuals from among citizens and social organisations every month in order to honor their good deeds.

The announcement of the office of the State Counsellor said that primary health care is especially important to ensure personal health and a strong society as citizens are human capital in justification of selecting the health assistant from Karro Nant Nyo village in Lahe township in the Naga Self-Adminis-

tered Region.

The announcement also emphasised that the key to success in the providing of community-based health care is very much dependent upon dedication and devotion on the part of health personnel to the tasks they are assigned. U Thant Zin OO, 37, is a native of Daze in Sagaing region. He has shown his devotion to work, patience, perseverance, compassion, loving kindness, sacrificing spirit and relentless effort amidst difficult access to his area, the language barrier, a lack of medical facilities etc. Despite these constraints, U Thant Zin Oo managed to bring the situation under control, preventing children from dying of severe measles.—GNLM

## US\$ 98 million loan from ADB to be used in education sector development

MINISTRY of Education will borrow more than US\$98.5 million from the Asia Development Bank to upgrade the infrastructure and promote the education sector, according to an official of the ministry.

That loan will be used for upgrading the middle and high school level education sector, technologies sector and professional education sector. Curricula will be reviewed, classrooms will be extended and industrial schools will be upgraded.

In addition, more teachers will be added for the basic ed-

ucation sector, and these educational staff members will be sent to the regions where upgrades in the education sector are needed. Staff members will be hired annually and school buildings will be rebuilt.

The government will give promotions to the teachers from the basic, middle and high education schools if they have fixed degrees and teaching experience. The authorities concerned will ensure that the same opportunities will be available to the civil and village education sector.—200



Vice president U Henry Van Thio and dignitaries formally open Myanmar e-Government Conference and ICT Exhibition Nay Pyi Taw-2016. PHOTO: MNA

## Myanmar e-government conference and opening ceremony of ICT exhibition kicks off

THE Myanmar e-Government Conference and ICT Exhibition Nay Pyi Taw-2016 was opened yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, showcasing the government's policy on establishing digital government strategy and e-government systems.

Present at the opening ceremony of the event was vice president U Henry Van Thio with Union Minister U Thant Zin Maung, chairman of the Computer Technology Development Council and U Khun U, Chairman of the Myanmar Computer Association cutting the ribbon.

U Khun U clarified at the ceremony, "Today's exhibition shows e-government solutions and ICT knowledge combined, sharing techniques and paving the way for exchanging experience among CIOs co-operating in the e-government field. This event will allow observers to have

access to get new ideas and solutions."

Afterward, he said, "The MCA is currently implementing programmes for advising the drafting of the ICT law and principles, giving suggestions to Inter-State and Region Government for the emergence of e-government systems, convening ICT shows and contests for the progress of the development of human resources and computer knowledge, holding examinations on IT technique sponsored by ITPEC which consists of 8 countries, launching e-village projects for the rural populace to gain effective access to ICT, collaborative effort to make the Myanmar Unicode Standardised system in computers in consultation with Myanmar scholars and IT experts."

U Thant Zin Maung disclosed, "The present ceremony plays an important role in speeding

up the implementation of setting up Digital Government Strategy and e-government, one of the Myanmar's 12 economic principles/policies. It will help for smooth and speedy communication between government and public and inter-department communication. To lessen Digital Divide, a gap between urban and rural areas, The Transport and Communication Ministry is making arrangements in co-operation with internal internet operators, the AFAI (Alliance for Affordable Internet) and other international organisations".

After the ceremony, the vice president and Union Ministers, deputy ministers, parliamentarians, departmental heads invited guests posed for a documentary photo and visited booths.

In the afternoon, scholars exchanged ideas. The exhibition will be held for two days.—Myanmar News Agency

## YSX has higher potential than Laos and Cambodia: Chairman

THE Yangon Stock Exchange has better potential than its counterparts in Laos and Cambodia but there is still more to do for tax incentives and deregulation, Chairman of Yangon Stock Exchange U Maung Maung Win said in his speech at the coordination meeting on the development of the Myanmar capital market and Yangon Stock Exchange on 30 September.

The meeting discussed a wide range of issues including short, mid and long term plans for the YSX, service charges of the YSX, impacts of online share-trading, taxes on share trading and allowing foreign investors to participate in the stock market.

At the meeting, the deputy minister and chairman told the participants that stock market development could



People seen outside the Yangon Stock Exchange in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

contribute to economic growth of the country and its development could lead to the development of a capital market in Myanmar.

Mr Akira Kurita, one of the consultants from the Financial Service Agency, Japan, who is working for the YSX, also pointed out the need to supervise initial public offerings, reference prices

of shares and ways and means to facilitate the process to list at the YSX.

Participants also discussed attracting institutional investors, foreign investors and tax barriers.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the deputy minister and chairman of the YSX.—Myanmar News Agency



## Joint Public Accounts Committee holds meeting with British delegation



Joint Public Accounts Committee's chairman U Aye Thar Aung holds talks with Mr John Bercow. PHOTO: MNA

U Aye Thar Aung, Chairman of the Joint Public Accounts Committee, held talks with a British delegation led by House of Commons Speaker Mr John Bercow at

the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Also present at the meeting were chairmen of six parliamentary committees of Pyithu

Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and officials of the offices of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## American car companies to invest in Myanmar in 2017 fiscal year

ACCORDING to a local businessman, large scale American car companies are planning to invest in Myanmar in the 2017 budget year.

"American car companies aim to sell to local customers who want to buy their cars easily in Myanmar. In this function, they will undertake a joint investment but also private investment," said U Kyaw Win, local businessman.

Hudson and VLF, both American car companies, will begin their investment by opening showrooms in Yangon, Myanmar.

The Hudson Motor Car Company made Hudson and

other brand automobiles in Detroit, Michigan, from 1909 to 1954. In 1954, Hudson merged with Nash-Kelvinator Corporation to form American Motors (AMC). The Hudson name was continued through the 1957 model year, after which it was discontinued.

The name "Hudson" came from Joseph L. Hudson, a Detroit department store entrepreneur and founder of Hudson's department store, who provided the necessary capital and gave permission for the company to be named after him. A total of eight Detroit businessmen formed the company on February 20, 1909, to produce an au-

tomobile which would sell for less than US\$1,000 (equivalent to approximately \$26,337 in today's funds).

VLF Automotive is a small American-based automotive company formed in January 2016. It follows VL Automotive, founded in 2012 by Bob Lutz and Gilbert Villarreal, and was renamed after Henrik Fisker joined the company.

The company was founded by legendary designer & entrepreneur Henrik Fisker, ex General Motors vice chairman Bob Lutz and industrialist Gilbert Villarreal. The company's name is taken from the initials of their surnames.—200

## Myanmar to take part in 1st Mister of Asian 2016 competition in Indonesia

THE Mister of Asian 2016 competition will be held for the first time in Indonesia, it has been learned. U Tay Za will take part in that competition representing Myanmar.

Only regional representatives from ASEAN countries can take part. The event aims to improve relationship between member nations and promote the exchange of

cultures.

"The representative is taking great care of his skin. And then, he will also use Pyu costume as National costume to show off at the competition. He will dance in Myanmar traditional style.

This is the first time for him and the competition. He is studying all culture and habits of Myanmar for it. The audience will vote

for the best act," said U Tay Za.

Mister of Asia 2016 will be held in Indonesia from 19 to 26 November. Over 60 countries will participate in the competition.

Selecting the representative from among the top twenty in the Grand Final competition for Mister of Asian Myanmar 2016 was held at the Excel Treasure Hotel on Tuesday.—*Wah wah (MMK)*

## Freshwater fish breeding technological research centre at Thayetkone fish breeding centre, Patheingyi

ACCORDING to the Fisheries Department, at Thayetkone fish breeding centre, Mandalay region, a research center for fresh water fish breeding is being constructed with the help of South Korea.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency

will provide US\$ 4.41 million to construct the fresh water fish breeding technological research centre.

In the 2014 FY, South Korea and the Myanmar Fisheries Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build

the centre. Construction began this year. The breeding centre will be the first in its field using international standards of technology. Construction will end in 2017 FY, said an official from the Myanmar Fisheries Department.—200

### POEM:

### "Wonder Woman"

- For luxurious things, she takes no time to stand and stare. Now, she has loving ones to take share and care. But, in the world, I thank she's the lady who's very rare. Our State Counsellor of Myanmar.
- In Myanmar, she's taking the most important role. Such a lady can't be found on wide world whole, She's the perfect leader, leading us to the democracy pole. Our State Counsellor of Myanmar.
- "Like father, like daughter" she has great perseverance. "Like grandmother, like granddaughter", she has patience. "Like great grandfather, like great granddaughter", She has diligence. Our State Counsellor, of Myanmar.
- What I'm very impressive is her ability of patient mind. What I'm amazed is, to her comrades she's very kind. What I appreciate is she never leaves the weak and poor behind. Our State Counsellor, of Myanmar.
- Under her guidance, let each of us give a hand! In near future we'll have a new, modern developed land. Everyone has to be a piece of brick or a grain of sand. Thinks to our State Counsellor of Myanmar.

*Daw Aye Aye Pyone*  
(Retired Teacher)

## Crime NEWS

### Heroin, yaba pills seized in three areas

A combined team comprising members of a local anti-drug squad and police, discovered 3,700 yaba pills from a passenger bus in Nawnghkio on Thursday, according to police sources yesterday.

The team, acting on a tip-off, stopped and searched the bus and seized the drugs from Chit Min Zaw in Nawnghkio.

Similarly, local police in

Momeik searched a house owned by Ma Mya Aye in the town and found 231 g of heroin and 58 yaba pills.

On 4th October, a local police force also discovered 110 g of heroin and three home-made arms from the house of Kyaw Hla, in Taryaw Village in Lashio Township.

Action has been taken against drug traffickers.—*GNLM*



Ma Mya Aye being seen together with drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

### Children charged for stealing property from vacant home

FIVE children under the age of 15 have been arrested by police after they were found in possession of a cache of stolen items, according to a police report.

Police inspected a motorcycle carrying five young children with bags near a vacant house in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay Region while making regular patrols at around 10.30 a.m on Wednesday. They found a

machine and sets of quality kitchen utensils in their possession.

The children reportedly admitted that they had stolen the property from a vacant home located at the corner of Thingazachaung in the township.

Action is being taken against the young suspects by police under Section 380/54 of the Penal Code.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



# LOCAL Business

## External trade value has reached approximately \$13 billion over past six months: MoC

THE total trade value between Myanmar and her trade partners over the past six months has reached almost US\$13 billion, a decrease of \$483 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and the end of September this year, the external trade value hit over \$12.9 billion, including over \$5.5 billion from the export sector and \$7.3 billion from the import sector, while the country has racked up over \$1.8 billion in trade deficit.

Myanmar exported \$1.37 billion worth of agriculture products, \$228 million worth of fisheries products, \$382 million worth of mining products, \$113 million worth of forest products and \$2.6 billion worth of industrial goods during the first six months of this FY.

The country saw an increase of over \$360 million compared with the same months last FY. However, the import sector fell by \$500 million compared with last year.

The country normally im-



Containers seen at the Asia World port in Yangon in May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ports industrial raw materials, personal goods, construction equipment, automobiles, capital goods, etc. mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.

The authorities expect that

the trade value of Myanmar with partner countries is likely to reach over US\$30 billion over the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

According to the second five-year National Development Plan between 2016-2017 and

2020-2021 FY, efforts are being made by the ministry to promote the country's export sector by shipping new value-added products from manufacturing sector within the next five years.—*Kyu Kyu*

## New border trade camp to be established in Mae Sot District

THE Thai government plans to establish a new border trade camp in Mae Sot, a district located on the western border of Thailand next to Myanmar, to promote bilateral trade relations, according to traders.

The plan is for the new border trade camp to be constructed on 237 acres of land within the Special Economic Zone of Mae Sot District in Tak Province.

Negotiations have been undertaken between the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) and relevant bodies, according to Mr Chankkrit of the Treasury Department of the IEAT, with plans to implement a development project to construct an industrial zone in the SEZ.

As part of its trade promotion programme, tax rate within the special economic zone is likely to be reduced by authorities.

The trade value between the two countries reached US\$7.74 billion last financial year. It is expected to hit \$10 billion this FY.—200

## Paddy land development project to be conducted in Ponnagyun Township

THREE years will be taken to make an assessment to carry out projects like the lower Myanmar paddy land development project-1976 in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, said Dr. Tun Win, the deputy minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Concerning the question raised by U Khin Maung Lat of constituency 3 of Rakhine at the 42nd session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw held on 4th October, the deputy minister replied that it will take at least three years to make the necessary observations

and assessments. If the project is likely to bring a fruitful result after evaluation, it will be carried out with government subsidies or using the government's allocated budget or monetary assistance from international organisations and developed countries.

The government has to carry out activities with an allocated budget in each fiscal year after making resolutions about which project should be given priority, depending on the regions and states.

U Khin Maung Lat stressed

that the monetary assistance from World Bank, Asia Development Bank or other banks should be spent on paddy land development in Ponnagyun Township.

To distribute freshwater to Ponnagyun Township, the Kha Mee Kyain Chaung reservoir was built and the Takhoe saltwater embankment and Makalakya saltwater embankment were renovated. Dikes were also reconstructed, with more dikes to be renovated in the future, it is learnt.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

## National attitude survey for life insurance to be conducted under MoU

A Memorandum of Understanding between Myanma Insurance and Taiyo Life Insurance Co aims to boost life and health insurance services in the country, it has been learnt. The state-owned Myanma Insurance company and Japanese insurance company on Thursday inked the MoU to improve the country's insurance industry through bilateral cooperation.

This is the first time an MoU with a foreign life insurance company and the MI has been signed.

Under the new MoU, both companies will carry out promotion, popularisation, revision, examination and development of

life insurance products as well as raising awareness about health insurance to improve public interest.

Their agreement also covers the conducting of a national attitude survey for life insurance. According to the MoU, the Japanese company will provide the state's firm with technical assistance and other supports. The first health insurance service in the country was launched by the MI last year but met with very low public interest.

The Myanma Insurance is the biggest of its kind in Myanmar. The state-owned insurer has been collaborating with Taiyo Life Insurance since 2011.—*Kyu Kyu*

## Myanmar's border deals with China hit \$500 million over 40 days

MYANMAR'S border trade with China via Muse trade camp recorded more than US\$500 million over 40 days between August and September this year, it is learnt from the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Muse, the main trade route from northeast Myanmar into China, handles the largest amount of trade among border towns.

A wide variety of goods including raw materials of traditional medicine weighing 500

tonnes, were imported to the neighbouring country through Muse. But, the export volume dropped when compared to the last fiscal year, said Henry, a local merchant in Muse town.

From 12 August to third week of last month, the value of trade from 15 border trade camps—Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, Kengtung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhi, Mawtaung, Sittway and

Maungtaung—amounted to nearly \$800 million including \$531.485 million from the Muse trade camp.

The total trade value of border trade via 15 camps included \$474.737 million from the import sector and \$323.561 million from the export sector.

Myanmar authorities plan to make negotiation with the countries concerned to open more trade camps to increase cross-border deals.—200



Muse trade camp. PHOTO: MYAWADY



# Satellite images show activity at North Korea nuclear test site

SEOUL — An increase in activity at North Korea's nuclear test site could signal preparations for a new test or a collection of data from its last one, a US-based monitoring group said on Friday, citing satellite images.

The 38 North group, run by Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, said there was activity at all three tunnel complexes at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site involving a large vehicle and personnel.

"One possible reason for this activity is to collect data on the 9 September test although other purposes cannot be ruled out, such as sealing the portal or other preparations related to a new test," the group said, referring to the last nuclear test.

The North is believed to be ready for another nuclear test at any time and



The Punggye-ri test site in North Korea is seen in an image from Airbus Defence and Space and 38 North taken on 5 May 2016 and released on 6 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

there has been speculation it could mark the 10 October anniversary of the founding of its Workers' Party with another under-

ground detonation.

North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in 2006 and has since then defied UN sanctions and

rejected international talks to press ahead with the development of the weapons and missiles to carry them, which it says it

needs for its defence.

In January, it conducted its fourth nuclear test and last month its fifth and biggest, on the anniversary of the nation's founding.

The United States and South Korea are pushing for tighter sanctions against North Korea by closing loopholes left in a UN Security Council resolution in March.

South Korea's Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee told a briefing there were no particular indication of a plan for a nuclear test timed to coincide with the 10 October anniversary.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited an unidentified government official that there was activity at the North's rocket launch station near the west coast that could be preparations for a long-range missile launch.

Last month, the North

said it had successfully conducted a ground test of a new rocket engine that would be used to launch satellites.

South Korea said the engine could be used for a long-range missile.

North Korea last month fired three missiles that flew about 1,000 km (600 miles). In August, it tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile that international experts said showed considerable progress.

Japan said the possibility of further "provocative action" by North Korea could not be ruled out.

"The government is taking all possible measures in gathering information, exercising vigilance and taking surveillance activities to be able to respond to any situations," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference. —Reuters

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## Philippines' defence minister says military can cope without US aid

MANILA — US-Philippines ties are going through "bumps on the road" and the Philippine military could manage if treaty ally the United States were to withdraw aid, the defence minister said on Friday.

The Philippines intended to buy arms from China and Russia and there had been no adverse reaction from within the military to President Rodrigo Duterte's vows to scale back defence ties with the United States, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana's remarks suggested he was following other top officials in rallying behind the maverick president's tough an-

ti-US agenda after weeks of scrambling to manage the fallout from his outbursts and threats to downgrade the alliance.

Lorenzana had on Wednesday set a conciliatory tone, saying Duterte may have been misinformed when he said US-Philippine military exercises were no benefit to his country. But on Friday Lorenzana said the value of US military aid to the Philippines was "not that much", and the military could ask Congress to make up for a shortfall of some \$50 million-\$100 million a year in US military aid.

"We can live without (that)," Lorenzana told a foreign correspondents' forum. Duterte, well known for a ruthless stand against

crime from his years as mayor of a southern city, won election in May on a promise to wipe out drugs and drug dealers.

Some 3,600 people have been killed in his anti-drugs drive and he has been enraged by questions about human rights, from the United States and others, that the bloodshed has raised. Duterte said on Thursday if the United States and European Union objected to his drugs war and wished to withdraw aid, they should do so, and the Philippines would not beg.

US State Department spokesman John Kirby responded to that saying total US assistance to the Philippines in the fiscal year that

began on 1 October was \$180 million "and we're committed" to delivering that. Lorenzana said he believed Duterte's objective was to diversify Philippines' foreign ties and cut dependency on former colonial ruler the United States.

"The president is trying to develop a relationship with the US that is not too dependent on one country," he said.

Duterte has caused a diplomatic storm by declaring that joint US-Philippines military exercises would cease, a defence agreement would be reviewed and, at an undisclosed time, he might "break up" with the United States.—Reuters

## Malaysia says debris found in Mauritius is from missing Flight MH370

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia said on Friday that a piece of plane debris discovered in Mauritius was from missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which disappeared in March 2014 with 239 passengers and crew on board.

The Boeing 777 disappeared on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, sparking a two-year search has turned up few leads.

Analysis by the Australian Transport Safety

Bureau had found that the debris was consistent with the trailing edge of an aircraft wing, Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said in a statement.

Two pieces of plane debris were previously confirmed as being from the missing jet. The first was recovered from the French island of Reunion in July 2015, while the second was found on the island of Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania. —Reuters



A woman leaves a message of support and hope for the passengers of the missing Malaysia Airlines MH370 in central Kuala Lumpur, on 16 March 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS





Two Indonesian jet fighters get ready to take off for air maneuvers during the Indonesian air force's largest-ever military exercise above its territorial Natuna waters at the southern tip of the disputed South China Sea on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Indonesia air force holds exercise in show of force to China

JAKARTA — The Indonesian air force on Thursday conducted its largest-ever military exercises above its territorial Natuna waters at the southern tip of the disputed South China Sea in an apparent show of force against China, deploying about 2,000 soldiers and dozens of jet fighters.

Observed by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and all military chiefs of staffs, the drill showed most of the air force's jet fighters, including Sukhoi and F-16s, in air maneuvers above the Natuna Sea, which overlaps China's "nine-dash lines."

Its Hawks, T50is and EMB-314 Super Tucanos also performed "an operation," bombing "targets" that simulated attempted trespassing into Indonesian territorial waters.

Despite the scale of the exercise, Indonesia denied that it was intended to display the country's force to China.

"The military exercise is a part of routine ones conducted by the Indonesian Defence Force," Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told journalists, saying a similar exercise also took place in Natuna in 2013.

According to Marsudi, the Natuna Islands are among the outer Indonesian islands that must be strengthened by means of activities like this to improve the military's capability and readiness.

Indonesian Defence Force Commander Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo shared a similar view, saying that any military exercises held in Natuna and other Indonesian islands are not specifically intended to respond to the tension with China over the area.

"This is not a show of force. Military exercises have been done more than once in Natuna... since I was a one-star general," he stressed.—*Kyodo News*

## Cambodian opposition resumes parliamentary boycott after 'threats'

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) resumed a months-long parliamentary boycott on Friday despite promising to return to parliament, after party members said they had received threats from the ruling party.

The CNRP said this week it would end its boycott, sparked by what it considers trumped up charges against its leaders, and return to the National Assembly.

But CNRP lawmakers said they had received threats from members of Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party over protests planned in Australia against the visit of Hun Sen's son, Hun Manet, by members of Cambodia's community there.

"There was a positive sign that the CNRP members of parliament would be able to attend parliament but today, we did not," CNRP lawmaker Yim Sovann told reporters.

Yim Sovann said that threats were made against party officials. He did not specify the threats or who he believed made them.

The CNRP said it was not involved in the Australian protests. Ruling party lawmaker Sok Eysan denied that threats had been made.

Tension between the ruling



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen arrives before a plenary session at the National Assembly of Cambodia, in central Phnom Penh, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cambodian People's Party and the CNRP has risen in recent months, with the opposition complaining of a crackdown on critics in a bid to intimidate it before a general election in 2018.

CNRP's top leader is in self-exile to avoid arrest over a case he says was raked up for political reasons, while Kem Sokha, the acting leader, had stayed at the party's headquarters since 6 May to avoid what he said were separate

trumped-up charges.

Authorities did not arrest Kem Sokha on Wednesday when he emerged from months of being holed up at the party's headquarters, in what opposition members said was a sign political tension had cooled.

Hun Sen said on his Facebook page on Friday that Friday's parliamentary session went ahead despite the opposition boycott.—*Reuters*

## Work starts in Viet Nam's largest waste water treatment system

HANOI — Work at a waste water treatment system project, which is said to be Viet Nam's largest of this kind, started in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi on Friday.

The system with a capacity of dealing with 270,000 cubic meters per day and night, will collect waste water in an area of

nearly 4,900 hectares in Hanoi's seven districts of Ba Dinh, Tu Liem, Dong Da, Thanh Xuan, Hoang Mai, Ha Dong and Thanh Tri.

Currently, waste water in the Vietnamese capital is collected through a system of drains and canals and then discharged into

lakes and four main rivers including Kim Nguu, Set, To Lich, and Lu, reported Viet Nam News Agency.

The project is said to help improve water quality in Hanoi and revive three out of four above-mentioned rivers.—*Xinhua*

## Australia to launch independent review into state-wide blackout

SYDNEY — Australia will conduct an independent review into a blackout last week across South Australia state, although a meeting between state and federal energy ministers failed to resolve their differences over renewable energy targets.

South Australia state, a major wine producer and traditional manufacturing hub, had no power last week for nearly 24 hours after a series of severe storms and lighting strikes.

But while energy officials agreed on Friday at an emergency meeting on the need for an independent review, political divisions over renewables targets still persisted.

"The Australian government would like to see greater harmonisation of renewable targets, and I made that clear to the state energy ministers," said Josh Frydenberg, Australia's federal energy minister.

Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull — leader of

the country's ruling conservative government, which supports traditional coal and natural gas power generation — has blamed South Australia's high dependence on renewables for the outage.

Turnbull's assessment has drawn criticism from state leaders, who accused the prime minister of letting ideology drive his comments.

The federal government wants 23.5 per cent of Australia's energy mix to come from renewables by 2020.

Nearly all states, though, have set more ambitious renewables goals to cut carbon dioxide emissions from their power sectors.

Australia's government has sought to clarify Turnbull's comments about renewables, saying that because South Australia relies on intermittent renewables for 40 per cent of its power, when those sources fall short there is not an alternative such as gas or



Police direct traffic 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

coal to pick-up the slack.

Gas-fired power generation has struggled to complete with cheaper-to-operate renewables, and that has led to up to 15 per

cent of Australia's natural gas power capacity being mothballed.

Besides looking at the role played by renewables in the power outage, the independent

review will also examine measures supported by Australian power generators for increase the competitiveness of natural gas, Frydenberg said.—*Reuters*



# Opinion

## Write for us

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

## Development approaches in developing countries

**Khin Maung Aye**

Concerning the concept of development, the standard of living of the mass of the population in developing countries is singled out as the key issue in development. The development of income per capita over time and the factors, which have influence over economic development of stagnation are important topics. Nevertheless, the interplay between economic factors and non-economic factors is of great importance for people to understand the dynamics of socio-economic development, for economic development cannot be explained simply by economic factors. Mat-

ter-of-factly, the development concept includes more than mere changes in economic indicators.

When the issues surrounding development are discussed, there are two approaches in general (Myint 1980): the fight against poverty and the analysis of long-term economic and social development.

The former approach concentrates upon the problems of widespread poverty, hunger and misery as well as upon the question of what can be done in order to realise plans for improvement in the short term whereas the latter approach focuses upon compar-

ing developments in different countries, regions and historical periods in order to better understand the factors, which have long-term effects upon the dynamics of socio-economic development.

One characteristic of the former approach is a strong involvement with the problems of developing countries and their inhabitants. This approach is closely linked with development policies and strategies at local, regional, national and international levels. On the other hand, the long-term approach emphasises that economic growth in its modern form is closely linked with the economic de-

velopment of Western countries (Landes, 1998) (Madism, 2001). Such being the case, the history of economic development of prosperous European and North American countries will often serve as a point of reference in making contrastive analyses of the experiences of developing countries. This is not merely to advocate the copying of Western solutions by developing countries. It is rather hoped to gain an insight into the similarities and differences in development processes.

To sum up, the choice between the said two approaches is not a matter of all or nothing. Both are important.

## The Life Gardener

(This article is dedicated to all teachers the author met throughout her life and to Saya U Aung Pyae in particular.)

**Su Su Myint (Paoh Mu)**

He is a man of versatility who had played life in a wide variety of parts. Once he had been a politician, a journalist, then, a writer, then an actor, at the same time, an artist and so on. True, he is a patron of the 'Cherry' magazine and also a permanent member of 'KantkawYwar' Art Gallery. Such is he known to the pedagogic world as Myanmarsar Saya AungPyae and also to the artistic world as Saya Aung Pyae or Saya Pyae.

I first knew him as a Myanmarsar teacher. To the best of my knowledge, he used to take on an odd appearance even from a good distance. Right inside his red bag were blended miscellaneous of his needful items\_ red pen, blue pen, black pen, a sketch-board, and pieces of his manuscripts. Under his significant pairs of black-eyebrow, his narrow eyes were keen. He was so true to a Myanmar Saya, shabbily dressed and not ceremonial. I found him never meticulous about his dress. Although others counted dress and appearance a lot in one's personality, he was always seen in long-sleeved white shirt, in-

cluding his longyi not well ironed.

When I came across his teaching, to my wonder, I came to notice that he was a guru in ways of presentation. He used to play with his highly distinctive voice depending on the context of the lessons. And that was especially apparent in storytelling. His breathtaking narration about the story - 'Sonuthora the Hunter and Saddam King of elephants - got the whole class dead silent and enchanted. Due to his eloquence, each character of the play was clearly engraved in our minds. I still remember the classroom scenario; schoolgirls verging on tears, some gulping back sobs and some boys fighting back the tears. Another remembrance still called to my mind was his teaching of how to write an essay. He said "composing an essay goes always against the way of meditation". We must widely scatter all our thoughts. And based on an idea, we must approach towards other steps. Then, we will have to recollect all kinds of thoughts that raced through our mind and try an essay. However, I was heedless towards his excellent message and instead, I took to my own style of composition. At last, it

turned out that I came to request copies of his essays to learn by heart. All of a sudden, anger flushed on his face. In the presence of the students, he yelled that there was no point in learning by heart and that I should be aware of the fact that fraudulent result had no guarantee as authentic ones did. Ashamed, I hung my head. Simply speaking, I got used to rote learning and was quite convenient with that throughout my school life. I memorized most of the lessons including Myanmar and English essays for any incoming exam. At that time, I thought he purposely cut me to the quick. I was deeply mortified.

Another point still lingered on my mind. He always kept betel quit inside his mouth and I sat aloof him. I thought he would especially English speak in ramble as my daddy once told me that the one who chewed betel would get thick tongue and delay in learning language. Sometimes, thoughts and practicality turned out to be contrary. One day, a NGO called upon our school to share the educational assistances. We students witnessed that his accent in English was incredibly nice when he appeared a fair deal with the foreigners. As time

went by, I progressively came to acknowledge his gratitude. By his patience in storytelling, I learned to love Myanmarsar; with his exuberant teaching sometimes coated with a trace of discontent, writing essays could scare me no more.

By the end of the matriculation examination, we were separated. A Day in April 2006 was an unforgettable day to me. A friend called to inform me of Saya's death. I could not believe my ears and I was at a loss for words. My sorrow knew no bounds. In fact, I thought of visiting him lately. Now, my hopes crumbled to dust. I did not know that my once-and-last paying homage to him would correspond to our last bow to him and also the last goodbye between us.

Although April used to glow in the light of the rising sun, on the day of Saya's funeral, the clouds-in-waiting were marching the sky across towards the southwestern hemisphere. With the pouring rain, everything hesitated my going to his funeral. I wept bitter tears of sorrow remembering everything of him. Nothing can compensate for his death. I stood in silent paying homage on the road and also praying for peace in his life to come.

Later I came to realize his other sides from a friend (who is his niece) and in the journals and magazines that his real name is U Khin Maung Myint. He was a versatile writer and a

great composer as well. For his mind is flower-like gentle in literature, some of his literary works such as "ပြီမှာလေးလား မိုးရဲ့" (I Wonder if Rain is Darkening) and "နေရပ်တော့ မြသီလာ" (Adieu Mya Thi Lar!) can soften and move the readers. In the film "တပြည်သူမရွေးထား" (Htar! You're Getting Foreign to Me), he disclosed his talent as an excellent supporting character. Being a steel-hearted politician, he devoted most part of his life to politics and most of his rebellious poems were centered on such theme. He tried to stand against all sorts of oppression. He is a renowned journalist as well. He is greatly honored as a guiding star for the junior journalists.

He expired on 28th April 2006, a gloomy Friday. Now he is no more. But I, as one of his students, feel his presence in every corner of the academic world. For me, he means a great benefactor as he has brought me to light in ways of proper learning. Every year, especially when the World Teachers' Day is approaching, memories of his impressive personality, his exemplary behavior and his interest in all kinds of student activities come to me. In my knowledge, Saya U AungPyae is of unique character. Although he was dead, he remained unchanged in the bottom of our heart. I am definitely sure that he will be remembered in our academic society forever.



# US watchdog questions money spent on Afghan 'ghost' soldiers

KABUL — A US government watchdog is pressing the Pentagon to explain reports of tens of thousands of "ghost" soldiers and police on the payrolls of the Afghan security forces, which are heavily funded by international donors.

The US government has allocated more than \$68 billion (54.59 billion pounds) since 2002 to help support Afghan security forces battling Taliban insurgents and other militants. The United States and its NATO allies pledged earlier this year to provide around \$5 billion per year until at least 2020 for the army and police.

Some of that money could be fraudulently wasted by funding non-existent positions in the security forces, John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, wrote in a letter to the US Defence Department.

The letter was sent in August but released publicly on Friday.

"Persistent reports indicating discrepancies between the assigned force strength of the (Afghan security forces) and the actual number of personnel serving raise questions regarding whether the US government is taking adequate steps to prevent taxpayer funds from being spent on so-called 'ghost' soldiers," Sopko wrote.

Afghan forces are struggling to defend against Taliban militants seeking to reimpose a fundamentalist Islamist government in Afghanistan, as well as other militant groups.

In northern Afghanistan, government troops have been battling since Monday to try to clear Taliban fighters from positions they seized in key city of Kunduz.

Nationally, the Afghan army and police have an approved strength of about 320,000, but officials say the real number is much lower than that.

Heavy casualties and sol-

diers and police deserting or not reporting for duty mean security forces lose thousands of personnel every month, which they struggle to replace.

The shortage of personnel has been most acutely felt in hot spots like Helmand Province in southwest Afghanistan, where a lack of troops has undermined efforts to blunt Taliban gains.

Officials in Helmand have said as many as half the security forces on the rolls did not exist, with much of the salaries for the non-existent troops going to corrupt leaders, Sopko said, citing media reports.

The US Department of Defence has taken steps to try to prevent fraud by automating some systems and collecting biometric data to track police and soldiers, but Sopko said such measures would only be effective if accurate data on Afghan force levels was collected and maintained.

—Reuters

## Security Council nominates Portugal's Guterres as United Nations chief

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council on Thursday unanimously nominated former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres to be the next Secretary-General, recommending that the 193-member General Assembly appoint him for five years from 1 January 2017.

The General Assembly is likely to meet next week to approve the appointment of Guterres, 67, who would replace Ban Ki-moon, 72, of South Korea. Ban will step down at the end of 2016 after serving two terms.

"Humility (is what I feel) about the huge challenges ahead of us, the terrible complexity of the modern world," Guterres said in a short statement in Lisbon, which he repeated in various languages.

"But it is also humility that is required to serve the most vulnerable, victims of conflicts, of terrorism, rights violations, poverty and injustices of this world," he said. Ban, speaking during a visit to Rome, described Guterres as a "super choice" as his successor.

"I am sure he will carry the torch on the full range of key challenges, from strengthening peace operations to achieving sustainable development, upholding human rights and easing humanitarian suffering," Ban told reporters.

Guterres was prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002 and served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015.



Nominated UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attends a news conference at Necessidades Palace in Lisbon, Portugal on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"He has great United Nations credentials ... and being High Commissioner for Refugees means travelling the world and seeing some of the most gruesome conflicts we have to deal with and then of course he is a high-level politician," said Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, president of the council for October.

"He is a person who talks to everybody, listens to everybody, speaks his mind, a very outgoing, open person so I think it was a great choice and I'm glad that we rallied around Mr Guterres," Churkin told reporters.

The council met behind closed doors on Thursday to adopt a two-paragraph resolution recommending to the General Assembly that Guterres be ap-

pointed.

"Antonio Guterres has shown ... that he is the strongest candidate, he has a vision and a moral authority and integrity that put him at the top of the league table," British UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft told reporters.

French UN Ambassador Francois Delattre said Guterres was "the right leader able to bring the nations and the community of nations together." US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said Guterres was "an excellent choice" to oversee the United Nations during uncertain times because of his "extensive track record solving real world problems, his deep empathy for those in need, and the respect he has earned in all corners of the world."—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Banner of Russia's Putin hung from New York City bridge

NEW YORK — New York City police are looking for whoever draped a gigantic banner featuring a portrait of Russian President Vladimir Putin over the side of the Manhattan Bridge on Thursday.

The 20 by 30 feet banner appeared on the side of the bridge between lower Manhattan and the borough of Brooklyn, featuring the Putin dressed in a suit in front of the Russian flag with the word "Peacemaker" in capital letters.

The New York City Police Department received a call about the banner at 2:45 pm and removed it about a half hour later, a spokesman said.

"There are no details on why or who, it has to be investigated," the spokesman said. Police have made no arrests but are looking at surveillance video on the bridge and in nearby areas to identify a suspect.

In a similar incident in 2014, a large Palestinian flag was suspended from the Manhattan Bridge by solidarity groups during a protest march across the nearby Brooklyn Bridge.—Reuters

#### Russia mulls restoring military bases in Viet Nam and Cuba: agencies

MOSCOW — Russia is considering plans to resume its military presence in Viet Nam and Cuba where Moscow earlier had military bases, Russian news agencies quoted Russian Deputy Defence Minister Nikolai Pankov as saying on Friday.

"We are dealing with this issue," the agencies quoted Pankov as saying in the State Duma lower house of Russia's parliament.

He said the Defence Ministry was currently "rethinking" the past decisions on the closure of these bases, but declined to go into more detail.

Russia lowered its flag at the Lourdes signals intelligence base in Cuba and the Cam Rahn naval base in Viet Nam in the early 2000s as part of a drawing down of Russia's military presence around the world after the demise of the Soviet Union.

But since then, Moscow's foreign policy has become more assertive, leading to rows with the United States and its allies over, among other issues, the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, and the presence of NATO troops in eastern Europe.—Reuters

#### At least three killed in southwestern Pakistan train bombing: minister

QUETTA, (Pakistan) — A bomb killed at least three people on a train in Pakistan's restive Baluchistan Province on Friday, the railways minister said, as media reported 16 people were wounded.

"Three innocent people have been killed in this attack," said Khwaja Saad Rafique, addressing reporters outside parliament in the capital Islamabad. He said it was a bomb.

No group had claimed responsibility for the explosion near the town of Mach, about 65 km (40 miles) southeast of the Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta. In the past, ethnic Baluch rebel forces have targeted transport infrastructure in the province.—Reuters

#### Vucic: We will try to improve telecommunications agreement

SENTA — Serbia will continue the discussions with Pristina on the agreement on telecommunications and try to improve the situation, PM Aleksandar Vucic said on Thursday.

"We will have many more contacts, we will talk to everyone, and try to see if there is anything we can improve or everything is set in stone, in layman's terms," Vucic told reporters in Senta, northern Serbia.

When asked what would happen if everything remained "set in stone", Vucic replied the decision was yet to be made.—Tanjug

#### Truce between Philippine gov't, leftist rebels holding as peace talks resume

MANILA — The Philippine government said on Friday that the respective unilateral ceasefire declarations of the Duterte administration and the leftist National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) are holding as their peace talks resumed in Norway.

Government peace panel head, Labour Secretary Silvestro Bello III, made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the second round of talks in Oslo, the third party negotiator in the peace process.

"The significant impact of the indefinite ceasefire declared by the parties cannot be overemphasised, including the confidence of our peace constituency on the peace process. We note that the ceasefire is holding until this day, with no major violations reported by either party," he said.—Xinhua



# Assad offers rebels amnesty if they surrender Aleppo

BEIRUT/GENEVA

Rebels holed up in Aleppo can leave with their families if they lay down their arms, President Bashar al-Assad said on Thursday, vowing to press on with the assault on Syria's largest city and recapture full control of the country.

The offer of amnesty follows two weeks of the heaviest bombardment of the five-and-a-half-year civil war, which has killed hundreds of people trapped inside Aleppo's rebel-held eastern sector and torpedoed a US-backed peace initiative.

Fighters have accepted similar government amnesty offers in other besieged areas in recent months, notably in Daraya, a suburb of Damascus that was under siege for years until rebels surrendered it in August.

However, rebels said they had no plan to evacuate Aleppo, the last major urban area they control, and denounced the amnesty



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad speaks during an interview with Denmark's TV 2, in this handout picture provided by SANA on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

offer as a deception.

"It's impossible for the rebel groups to leave Aleppo because this would be a trick by the regime," Zakaria Malahifji, a Turkey-based official for the Fasta-

qim group which is present in Aleppo, told Reuters. "Aleppo is not like other areas, it's not possible for them to surrender."

Washington was also sceptical of government motives: "For

them to suggest that somehow they're now looking out for the interests of civilians is outrageous," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, citing the heavy civilian toll from air strikes and bombardment.

The army announced a reduction in shelling and air strikes on Wednesday to allow people to leave. It backed that up with an ultimatum: "All those who do not take advantage of the provided opportunity to lay down their arms or to leave will face their inevitable fate."

The government also sent text messages to the mobile phones of some of those people trapped in the besieged sector, telling them to repudiate fighters in their midst. More than 250,000 people are believed to be trapped inside rebel-held eastern Aleppo, facing dire shortages of food and medicine.

Speaking to Danish televi-

sion, Assad said he would "continue the fight with the rebels until they leave Aleppo. They have to. There's no other option."

He said that he wanted rebels to accept a deal to leave the city along with their families and travel to other rebel-held areas, as in Daraya. Neither Assad nor his generals gave a timeline for rebels to accept their offer.

Washington accuses Moscow and Damascus of war crimes for intentionally targeting civilians, aid deliveries and hospitals to break the will of those trapped in the besieged city. Russia and Syria accuse the United States of supporting terrorists by backing rebel groups.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the relentless Russian and Syrian bombardments could result in the fall of rebel-held eastern Aleppo within "weeks if not days".

—Reuters

## UN body tells Saudi Arabia to end child stonings, executions

GENEVA — A UN human rights watchdog called on Saudi Arabia on Friday to end "severe" discrimination against girls and to repeal laws that allow the stoning, amputation, flogging and execution of children.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child condemned the Saudi-led coalition's air strikes in Yemen, which it said had killed and maimed hundreds of children, and its "use of starvation" as a tactic in that war against Iran-backed Houthis.

The committee's 18 independent experts examined the kingdom's record of compliance with a UN treaty protecting the rights of people under the age of 18.

Bandar Bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, chairman of the Saudi Human Rights Commission, who led a Saudi delegation to the committee's review, told the body that sharia, Islamic law, was above all laws and treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. But the kingdom had the political will to protect children's rights, he said.

The UN experts voiced deep concern that Riyadh "still does not recognise girls as full subjects of rights and continues to severely discriminate (against) them in law and practice and to impose on them a system of male guardianship".

Traditional, religious or

cultural attitudes should not be used to justify violations of their right to equality, they said.

Children of Shi'ite Muslim families and other religious minorities are persistently discriminated against in their access to schools and justice in the Sunni-ruled kingdom, they said.

Children over 15 years are tried as adults and can be executed, "after trials falling short of guarantees of due process and a fair trial", the report said.

Out of 47 people executed on 2 January, 2016 — the biggest mass execution for security offences in decades, that included a prominent Shi'ite cleric, at least four were under 18 when sentenced to death, it said.

The experts urged Saudi authorities to "repeal all provisions contained in legislation which authorise the stoning, amputation and flogging of children".

Saudi Arabia should "unambiguously prohibit the use of solitary confinement, life sentences on children and child attendance of public execution".

All forms of sexual abuse against children should be a crime and perpetrators prosecuted, the experts said.

They cited the case of Muslim preacher Fayhan al-Ghamdi, saying his charges were reduced and he was released from jail "after having raped, tortured and killed his five-year-old daughter" in 2012.

—Reuters

## German official calls for sanctions against Russia over Syria

BERLIN — A German official on Friday called for new sanctions against Russia over its role in the bombardment of Syria, saying Moscow's involvement in war crimes could not go unpunished.

Syrian government forces backed by Russian air power have stepped up an offensive on rebel-held parts of the city of Aleppo. Conflict monitors said hospitals had been hit and water supplies damaged in the most lethal bombardment in nearly six years of war.

Moscow and Damascus say they target only militants and deny they have bombed hospitals.

Norbert Roettgen, a member of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Bundestag, told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung that Russia's responsi-

bility was beyond dispute.

"A lack of consequences and sanctions for the most serious war crimes would be a scandal," Roettgen said, adding military measures would be the wrong approach.

"Imposing economic sanctions wouldn't work in the short term, but in the long term they would certainly have some influence on (Vladimir) Putin's subsequent calculations," he added.

While some European lawmakers — including Elmar Brok, who is also a member of Merkel's CDU — have called for sanctions, a senior European diplomat has said sanctions could prove extremely difficult for Europe.

A German foreign ministry spokesman told reporters on Wednesday, shortly before Western officials met in Berlin to discuss the Syrian conflict,

that there were no international proposals to impose sanctions on Russia over its role in Syria.

The EU has sanctions in place against Moscow over the conflict in Ukraine. Italy and some other EU states have said these should be eased, but the prospects for any relaxation of those sanctions had dimmed, given the crisis in Syria.

Roettgen criticised Europe for not clearly condemning Russia's involvement: "The least that Europe should do is use clear language which calls a war crime a war crime."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Wednesday that those using "ever more destructive weapons" in Syria are committing war crimes and that the situation in the Syrian city of Aleppo is worse than a slaughterhouse.

—Reuters



People inspect a damaged site after airstrikes in the rebel held Karam Houmid neighbourhood in Aleppo, Syria, on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Colombian President Santos wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday in a surprise choice after Colombians voted “No” to an agreement he signed with Marxist rebels to end 52 years of war.

Santos has promised to revive the peace plan even though Colombians, in a referendum on Sunday, narrowly rejected the accord. Many voters believed it was too lenient on the FARC guerrillas.

“The award should also be seen as a tribute to the Colombian people,” committee leader Kaci Kullmann Five said when announcing the prize.

Voters did not say “No” to peace but to the agreement, she said.

The award pointedly excluded FARC guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londoño, better known by his nom de guerre Timochenko, who signed the deal with Santos.

Some Nobel watchers had taken Colombia off their lists of favorites after

the referendum “No”.

“The fact that a majority of the voters said “No” to the peace accord does not necessarily mean that the peace process is dead,” the committee said.

“This makes it even more important that the parties, headed by

President Santos and FARC guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londoño, continue to respect the ceasefire,” the committee said.

The Nobel Peace Prize, worth 8 million Swedish crowns (\$930,000), will be presented in Oslo on 10 December.—Reuters



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos talks during a news conference after a meeting with Colombian former President and Senator Alvaro Uribe at Narino Palace in Bogota, Colombia, on 5 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## IMF, global finance leaders fret over populist backlash

WASHINGTON — World finance leaders on Thursday decried a growing populist backlash against globalisation and pledged to take steps to ensure trade and economic integration benefited more people currently left behind.

Their comments at the start of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank fall meetings signaled frustration with persistently low growth rates and the surge of public anger over free trade and other pillars of the global economic system.

The meetings are the first since Britain voted in June to leave the European Union and US billionaire Donald Trump secured the Republican presidential nomination with a campaign that attacked trade deals.

“More and more, people don’t trust their elites. They don’t trust their economic leaders, and they don’t trust their political leaders,” German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schae-



Bank of England Governor Mark Carney and IMF Director General Christine Lagarde field questions during a panel discussion at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank Group in Washington, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

uble said during an IMF panel discussion in Washington.

“In the UK, everyone from the elites told the people, ‘don’t vote for a Brexit.’ But they did.”

Schaeuble said Germany was trying to “hold Europe together” in the face of rising nationalism, and failure to do so would

bode poorly for global economic cooperation.

Last week, the World Trade Organisation slashed its global trade volume growth forecast to the slowest pace since 2007, saying it expected it to rise just 1.7 per cent this year, down from the 2.8 per cent it forecast in April.—Reuters



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## Scottish nurse tests negative for Ebola after readmission to hospital

EDINBURGH — British nurse Pauline Cafferkey, who contracted Ebola in 2014 while caring for patients in Sierra Leone, has tested negative for the virus after she was readmitted to hospital in Scotland, Glasgow's health service said on Thursday.

"We are pleased to report that tests for the Ebola virus are negative. She remains in a stable condition in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. We want to repeat our previous reassurance that there is no risk to the public," NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said in a statement. Cafferkey, 40, was infected during an outbreak of the highly contagious disease that killed more than 11,300 people in three West African countries.

On her return to Britain in 2014, she was treated at a special isolation unit in London but has continued to suffer from ill health linked to the consequences of her Ebola infection.

She was admitted to Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital for routine monitoring.



**Pauline Cafferkey (L) a nurse who volunteered to treat Ebola patients in West Africa, then survived the disease herself, leaves a hearing after being cleared of misconduct charges in Edinburgh, Scotland, Britain, on 14 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

Last month, she was cleared of allegations that she had put the public at risk by hiding the fact she had a raised temperature when she

first returned from Sierra Leone.

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon tweeted: "Sending my very best wishes to Paul-

ine Cafferkey. She has already suffered way too much — and all for trying to help others. Thoughts with her." —Reuters

## Finland flags two airspace violations by Russian jets

HELSINKI — Finland said on Friday it took seriously two suspected violations of its airspace by Russian aircraft in which it scrambled jets to identify SU-27 fighters over the Baltic Sea.

The incidents on Thursday took place as Finland and the United States prepared to sign an agreement of closer defence collaboration, and followed a string of similar breaches which Finland has accused Russia of since the Ukraine crisis erupted in 2014. "We take these incidents seriously. Having two suspected violations on the same day is exceptional," Defence Minister Jussi Niinisto told Reuters by phone. Finland was investigating the incidents, he said.

Helsinki said two different SU-27s planes were involved in separate incidents on Thursday.

Commenting on the first case, Moscow denied its aircraft was involved in any violation.

"The plane did not veer off its route during the flight, which is confirmed by data of the control monitor system," the Russian Defence Ministry said according to RIA news agency, adding that the plane was on a training flight.

In April, two Russian warplanes flew simulated attack passes near a US guided missile destroyer in the Baltic Sea. Concerned about Russian military activity in the region, militarily non-aligned Finland — which has a land border of more than 1,300 km (812 miles) with Russia — has tightened defence cooperation with Sweden and fostered closer ties with NATO. US Deputy Secretary of Defence Robert Work was due in Helsinki on Friday to sign a cooperation deal with Finland that would not contain obligations for military assistance but would cover areas like military training and information sharing. —Reuters

## Want to save the rainforest on the cheap? Give land to the indigenous, report says

RIO DE JANEIRO — Giving indigenous people land title deeds is one of the most cost-effective ways to preserve South America's endangered rainforest, a research group said on Thursday.

Deforestation rates in Brazil on land formally owned by indigenous groups were 2.5 times lower than on other comparable territories, said a report from the World Resources Institute (WRI), a Washington, D.C.-based group.

Similar figures hold true for forests in Bolivia and Colombia, said the report, which drew its conclusions from World Bank data, official statistics and research from Brazilian universities.

As governments across South America struggle to balance their budgets following a crash in com-

modities prices, the report said giving formal title deeds to people who have lived on the land for generations is one of the cheapest ways to protect forests and combat climate change. This is because indigenous communities who own the territory are more likely to conserve the forest than other land users, the report said, echoing other studies on forest protection.

The Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest, plays a key role in sucking climate-changing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, acting as a bulwark against global warming.

"There is a sound economic argument for meeting climate mitigation targets by securing indigenous land rights," WRI researcher Peter Veit told the Thomson Reu-

ters Foundation.

"There is still a significant amount of land that needs to be formally recognised," he said.

About 13 per cent of Brazil's territory, mostly in the Amazon rainforest, has been demarcated for the country's indigenous people, according to government data.

But a considerable portion of this land has not been formally titled to specific tribes or communities, which means that many indigenous residents do not have secure ownership over the territory.

Formally recognising specific tracts of indigenous territory costs about \$5.50 per hectare, the report said, as government officials need to travel to remote areas to conduct surveys and consult residents to determine who should receive

land titles. The report's conclusions on the benefits of formal land ownership in South America apply to other large developing countries where most of the world's tropical forests are located, Veit said.

More than 30 per cent of the world's land is held informally by indigenous people and local communities under customary tenure agreements, he said.

If more of this land was formally recognized and residents had title deeds to the territory, communities would have an easier time protecting forests, the WRI said.

"This huge amount of land is vulnerable to being acquired in unwelcome ways," Veit told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. —Reuters

## Theresa May pitches Brexit 'quiet revolution' to turn Britain's course



**Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: REUTERS**

LONDON — For Prime Minister Theresa May, Britain's vote to leave the European Union is a demand for the biggest change in at least a generation in the way the United Kingdom is run.

This week May cast the Brexit vote as a "quiet revolution" that exposes the failings of modern Britain in a way that can no longer be ignored by a leader who looks to Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee for inspiration.

The prime minister promised fundamental — though yet to be detailed — reforms to fix problems

ranging from arrogant elites and venal bosses to workers' rights, immigration and Britain's obsession with privilege.

"This is a turning point for our country. A once-in-a-generation chance to change the direction of our nation for good," May told members of her ruling Conservative Party.

"Change has got to come too because of the quiet revolution that took place in our country just three months ago — a revolution in which millions of our fellow citizens stood up and said they were not prepared to be ignored any-

more," she said. May, who said the poor had made the biggest sacrifices since the 2008 global financial crisis, said Britain needed selective schools to help talented poor students, a new industrial strategy, workers on company boards and more house-building.

The 60-year-old former interior minister won the top job in the turmoil which followed the 23 June Brexit vote, despite having been a low-key supporter of the 'remain' camp. May is an unlikely radical, but her words indicate she plans some of the biggest changes to British society since Thatcher's

1979-1990 premiership, even as she embarks on one of the most complex negotiations in recent European history: Britain's EU exit.

The clearest reality check for May's ambitions this week came from the currency markets, where sterling has fallen more than 5 cents to a 31-year low against the dollar since her announcement on Sunday that she would trigger the formal EU divorce process by the end of March.

In Asian trade on Friday, sterling faced a so-called "flash crash" of selling, diving about 10 per cent before recovering. —Reuters



# Hurricane Matthew batters Florida as it chugs up the coast

ORLANDO, (Fla)/MIAMI — Hurricane Matthew, carrying winds of 120 miles per hour (195 kph), lashed Florida on Friday and cut power to hundreds of thousands of homes as it hugged the state’s Atlantic coast on a northward track after killing hundreds of people in Haiti.

Matthew, the first major hurricane to threaten a direct hit on the United States in more than a decade, triggered mass evacuations along the coast from Florida through Georgia and into South Carolina and North Carolina.

At 8:00 am EDT (1200 GMT), Matthew’s eye, or center, was 35 miles (55 km) east of Cape Canaveral, home to the country’s main space launch site.

“The winds are ferocious right now,” said Jeff Piotrowski, a 40-year-old storm chaser from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who was near Cape Canaveral early on Friday. “It’s fierce.”

The storm downed power lines and trees and destroyed billboards in Cape Canaveral, he said.

NASA and the US Air Force, which operate the



A pedestrian runs across a street as the eye of Hurricane Matthew approaches Daytona Beach, Florida, US, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cape Canaveral launch site, had taken steps to safeguard personnel and equipment. A team of 116 employees was bunkered down inside Kennedy Space Centre’s Launch Control Centre to ride out the hurricane.

No significant damage or injuries were reported in West Palm Beach and other communities in south Florida where the storm had brought down trees and power lines earlier in

the night, CNN and local media reported.

But Craig Fugate, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told media he was concerned that relatively light damage in southern parts of the state could give people further north a false sense of security.

“People should not be looking at the damages they’re seeing and saying this storm is not that bad,” Fugate told NBC. Fugate

also said people should be aware the hurricane carried more than just ferocious winds.

“The real danger still is storm surge, particularly in northern Florida and southern Georgia. These are very vulnerable areas. They’ve never seen this kind of damage potential since the late 1800s.”

Speaking on NBC’s “Today” program, Fugate said few people were really prepared for the storm’s

effects and that while it was too late for some to move to safer ground, those who could still evacuate now should do so, unless they were in areas affected by hurricane-force winds.

“It’s still a very dangerous situation.”

About 300,000 Florida households were without power, local media reported. In West Palm Beach, street lights and houses went dark and Interstate 95 was empty as the storm rolled through the community of 100,000 people.

Matthew lessened in intensity on Thursday night and into Friday morning, the National Hurricane Center said. From being an extremely dangerous Category 4 storm, it became a Category 3 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity, but was still a major storm.

It could either plow inland or tear along the Atlantic coast through Friday night, the Miami-based center said.

The National Hurricane Center warned of “potentially disastrous impacts” and the US National Weather Service said the

storm could be the most powerful to strike northeast Florida in 118 years.

Some 339 people were killed in Haiti, local officials said, and thousands were displaced after the storm flattened homes, uprooted trees and inundated neighborhoods earlier in the week. Four people were killed in the Dominican Republic, which neighbors Haiti.

Damage and potential casualties in the Bahamas were still unclear as the storm passed near the capital, Nassau, on Thursday and then moved out over the western end of Grand Bahama Island.

The NHC’s hurricane warning extended up the Atlantic coast from southern Florida through Georgia and into South Carolina. More than 12 million people in the United States were under hurricane watches and warnings, according to the Weather Channel.

The last major hurricane, classified as a storm bearing sustained winds of more than 110 mph (177 kph), to make landfall on US shores was Hurricane Wilma in 2005.—Reuters

## Ethiopian protesters damage factories, vehicles in unrest

ADDIS ABABA — Some 11 factories and flower farms and more than 60 vehicles have been damaged in unrest in Ethiopia in recent days, a local broadcaster said on Friday, adding to the list of businesses hurt by a wave of protests over land grabs and political rights.

The latest violence follows the death of at least 55 people in a stampede sparked when police tried

to disperse protesters using teargas and shots in the air at a cultural festival on Sunday in the Oromiya region near the capital.

Fana Broadcasting, seen as close to the state, reported on its website that companies affected by the unrest had created 40,000 jobs in the nation, where an industrial drive has fueled one of Africa’s fastest growing economies.

The list of damaged

factories included Turkish textile firm Saygin Dima, whose manager said this week a third of his plant was destroyed by fire.

The radio also said two flower farms, a textile company and plastics maker had sites damaged.

Fana Broadcasting blamed the destruction “perpetrators of violence”, echoing the government line, while locals say they have agitating for property

and political rights. People from Oromiya, a region at the heart of the state’s industrialisation efforts, accuse the government of seizing their land and offering tiny compensation, before selling it on to companies, often foreign investors, at inflated prices. They also say they struggle to find work, even when a new factory is sited on property they or their families once owned.—Reuters

## At least 478 died in Haiti from Hurricane Matthew

PORT-AU-PRINCE — The number of people killed by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti rose to at least 478 people on Friday, as information trickled in from remote areas previously cut off by the storm, officials said.

With the numbers rising quickly, different government agencies and committees differed on the

total death toll. A Reuters tally of deaths reported by civil protection officials at a local level confirmed 478 had died.

Haiti’s central civil protection agency, which takes longer to collate numbers, said 271 people died because of the storm. Some 61,500 remain in shelters, the agency said.—Reuters

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE**  
Phone No: 2301185

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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.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**  
Phone No: 2301185



# Tom Hanks enjoys playing 'smartest guy in the room' in 'Inferno'

FLORENCE, (Italy) — Actor Tom Hanks said the real draw for him to reprise his role as fictional symbolologist Robert Langdon in the film adaptation of Dan Brown's thriller "Inferno" was the chance to be "the smartest guy in the room."

"You give me the right amount of verbiage and just enough time to do the right amount of research, and I can convince you that I may be the smartest guy in the room," the actor said with a laugh to reporters on Thursday.

"The gift that Dan Brown gave me as an actor is to play a guy who's always curious, who's always opinionated and who's always searching for an answer."

Hanks joined cast members including Felicity Jones and Irfan Khan, director Ron Howard and author Brown at a news conference for the film in Florence's Palazzo Vecchio.

Hanks and Howard previously brought Brown's "Da Vinci Code" and "Angels and Demons" to life in hit blockbuster films.

Sony Pictures' "Inferno," due in theaters on 28 October, follows Langdon as he wakes up in Florence with amnesia and has to decipher clues to stop a plague being released by an elusive billionaire who tries to tackle overpopulation.

Hanks said the film's take on overpopulation suggests "we are creating our own version of Dante's inferno here in the real



Actor Tom Hanks poses at a screening of his film 'Inferno' in Florence, Italy, on 6 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

world."

He added that there were places in the world where "the environment is hellacious and the people are held in slavery and there is any numbers of degrees of misery that are in fact created by ourselves one way or another."

Much of the film showcases Florence's historic buildings and piazzas, as Langdon speeds through the city's rich history,

solving riddles related to Florentine poet Dante Alighieri's famed 14th century saga "Divine Comedy," about a man's journey through 'Inferno,' or hell.

Brown said framing Dante as prophecy and not as history made the story relevant to a modern audience, drawing threads between overpopulation and real world issues such as immigration or lack of natural resources.

Director Howard said he was inspired by the powerful imagery of Dante's "Inferno" and how it has resonated through centuries and generations. "I felt that he was giving us the vocabulary of every horror movie we've ever seen and admired and you begin to look at it not only on a kind of philosophical level but also as a cultural, a huge cultural and political shift," Howard said.—Reuters

## 'Mirzya' win accolades at BFI

LONDON — Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's "Mirzya" got a thumbs up from the audience at the 60th BFI London Film Festival.

Marking Bollywood debut of Anil Kapoor's son Harshvardhan and actress Saiyami Kher, the movie is inspired by the story of the star-crossed lovers Mirza-Sahiban, a popular folklore from Punjab.

The film set in Rajasthan has been shot by cinematographer Pawel Dyllus.

The story revolves around Munish and Suchi, who are confidants since childhood, but an untoward incident separates them. Years later, their paths cross. But this time around Suchitra is on the verge of getting married.

The musical, which has a melodious score by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy with additional tracks by Daler Mehndi, unfolds languidly in a Broadway-style format.

Interspersing the present-day track with a period folklore, Mehra and Gulzar (credited with screenplay and lyrics) give viewers an engaging and lavish big-screen experience.

After the premiere, Rohit Khattar, Chairman, Cinestaan Film Company, one of the producers of the film hosted a Celebration Party at Chor Bizarre, which was attended by actor Anil Kapoor, his actress daughter Sonam, Harshvardhan, Saiyam and a host of dignitaries.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

## TV show on hold as Kim Kardashian leaves New York after robbery

NEW YORK — Production on the TV reality show "Keeping up with the Kardashians" is on hold, the E! Network said on Thursday, just days after the show's star, Kim Kardashian, was robbed at gunpoint in Paris.

"Kim's well-being is our core focus right now. No decision has been made as to when production will resume," a spokeswoman for the network, which broadcasts the show, said in a statement.

Flanked by multiple security guards, Kardashian and her family on Thursday left their Manhattan apartment, where they have been closeted since she returned from Paris.

News video and photos showed Kardashian, 35, her face partly hidden by a hoodie and baseball cap, getting into a car with her two young children and rapper husband Kanye West.

It was the first time Kardashian had been seen since returning to New York after masked robbers held a gun to her head and stole some \$10 million worth of jewelry in Paris early Monday morning.

Celebrity website TMZ and

magazine Us Weekly reported on Thursday that a badly shaken Kardashian was taking about a month's break from work.

The Kardashian family was not filming for their reality show at the time of the robbery, the spokeswoman for the E! Network said.

Kardashian's personal bodyguard, Pascal Duvier, who was protecting Kardashian's sisters at a nightclub at the time of the robbery, was among a handful of security staff keeping media at bay and helping stash suitcases into waiting cars on Thursday. The family were thought to be heading to their Southern California home.

The celebrity family, whose lives are chronicled in the TV show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and on their busy social media accounts, have been uncharacteristically quiet since the robbery. No arrests have been made. TMZ, quoting an unidentified source close to Kardashian, said that when she does return to work she will cut down on her use of social media and displays of her wealthy lifestyle.—Reuters

## 'Birth of a Nation' confronts America's racial past and present

LOS ANGELES — When "The Birth of a Nation" opens in theaters this week, its backers are hoping the film's buzz will finally shift away from the controversy dogging its creator and toward the slavery drama's powerful message about race relations in America.

The film about Nat Turner, a slave who led a rebellion in Virginia in 1831, was once hailed as an awards front-runner but has been overshadowed by headlines about a 17-year-old rape case involving the writer, director, producer and lead actor, Nate Parker, who was acquitted at a 2001 trial.

As Parker has sought to address the rape case in recent weeks, marketing for the film has shifted to promote the relevancy of the little-known story of Turner to today's Black Lives Matters movement.

Television ads shown nationally interweave scenes of slaves running through cotton fields in 1831 with recent news images of protesters, with lips taped and "I Can't Breathe" signs, demonstrating over the



Actor Nate Parker attends the premiere of 'The Birth of a Nation' in Hollywood, California, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

killings of unarmed black men by US police.

The stakes are high for studio Fox Searchlight, which bought the movie in the midst of the controversy over lack of diversity in Hollywood that prompted the resurgence earlier this year of #OscarsSoWhite.

But Parker, 36, said he knew right from the start that he wanted to make a film that "changes the conversation around race in this country."—Reuters



# Workers at 1 in 5 Japan firms report over 80 hours overtime per month

TOKYO — The central government on Friday approved its first-ever white paper on death from overwork, known as “karoshi” in Japanese, providing data on extended work hours logged at many businesses, as well as recognised cases of work-related fatalities and suicides.

According to the report, 23 per cent of companies in a survey between December 2015 and January 2016 said some of their regular workers logged over 80 hours overtime per month.

This grouping was divided into 11 per cent that saw workers logging a maximum of between 80 and 100 hours overtime per month, and 12 per cent with a maximum exceeding 100 hours per month.

The study is based on replies from 1,743 companies and 19,583 workers in a questionnaire targeting around 10,000 companies and 20,000 workers.

The white paper was produced in line with the law holding the state responsible for promoting measures to prevent death and suicides caused by overwork. It took effect in November 2014.

The law requires the government to report to parliament about karoshi situations and measures taken to encourage efforts at eliminating karoshi, but is equipped with no provisions on regulations or penalties.

Emiko Teranishi, head of a national association of families raising awareness about karoshi who called for the legislation, said, “I would like to commend concrete action taken in the form of compiling a white paper.”

She added, however, “Given the importance of objective investigations and research, I would like to see more detailed studies on the backgrounds of individual cases, leading to specific measures.”

In fiscal 2015 ended in March this year, the number of suicides and suicide attempts that were recognized as workers’ accidents by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry stood at 93, according to the white paper.

But the Cabinet-endorsed report also noted that data from the National Police Agency and the Cabinet Office show there were 2,159 suicides in 2015 which were attributable to problems related to work, among other reasons, reflecting that the number recognised by the labor ministry may have represented just the tip of the iceberg.—*Kyodo News*

# Hopes for revival pinned on Afghan palace restoration

KABUL — After years of abandonment, the ruined Darul Aman palace in Kabul, one of the most recognizable symbols of Afghanistan’s decades of war, is to be restored in a project authorities hope will come to symbolize revival instead of destruction.

The aim is an ambitious one, with Afghan forces fighting the Taliban insurgency across the country, Kabul regularly hit by suicide attacks and the broken economy seemingly in no better shape than the bombed-out palace itself.

The project was launched by President Ashraf Ghani in May and Urban Development Minister Sadat Mansoor Naderi said the government hoped the site, next to a new, Indian-financed parliament, can become the center of a new government quarter as well as a tourist attraction.

For the moment, such goals remain a long way off and the most visible sign of renewal is a crew working on preparing the site for the full reconstruction to come later.

“In the team we’ve built here, we’ve got over 100 young graduates,” Naderi told Reuters during a visit to the site this week.

“Twenty percent of the technical engineers you see here are female,” he said.

In a country where opportunities for women to develop careers are severely limited, the restoration effort, which will depend heavily on support from foreign donors, is a showcase for young graduates.

“This is a historical site and of course it’s a new experience,” said Sofia Roshan, 24, a structural design engineer who graduated recently from a private university in Kabul and has been working at the site for four months. She said the fact the restoration was so unusual meant there was more freedom for younger engineers and women in particular than there would be in a standard construction project.—*Reuters*



Afghan engineers discuss inside the ruined Darul Aman palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 2 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Historic London toy store predicts top Christmas picks

LONDON — Historic London toy store Hamleys on Thursday unveiled its top 10 gift picks for children this Christmas, as British retailers start preparing for the crucial shopping season.

Its list of expected popular gifts includes a magic set, a game in which players get can get hit in the face with whipped cream or a wet sponge, a troll doll, smartwatches and a “Star Wars” virtual reality viewer.

British stores tend to gear up early for the winter holidays, with London department store Selfridges opening its Christmas shop in August.—*Reuters*



The Alpha 1S Robot is copied by Tristan Robertson-Jeyes, aged five, during a photo-call at the launch of Hamley’s predicted top ten toys that will be on children’s lists this Christmas, in London, Britain, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Exit, Sea Dance running for festival ‘Oscars’

BELGRADE — After this year’s successful “Exit Adventure” edition, both Exit and Sea Dance have been nominated for the prestigious European Festival Awards.

Exit, which won in 2013 and has had top-three finishes in the past three years, has once again been nominated for Best Major Festival, with Sea Dance nominated for Best Medium-Sized Festival.

The voting for the EFA starts Thursday and will remain open until 31 October. Voters have the opportunity to win VIP tickets for the winning festivals.

Exit is competing against 32 festivals from 16 countries and Sea Dance against 75 from 21 countries.

The decision will be made by a panel of expert judges consisting of prominent individuals from the music industry and in a public vote.

The winners will be announced at the award ceremony at the opening of Eurosonic Noorderslag in Groningen, The Netherlands, on 11 January.—*Tanjung*

mitv

Myanmar International

10:26 Am

Next Generation “Nyan Lin Htet (Football)”

10:36 Am

A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Ep-2)

10:53 Am

Soft Drinks without Vendor

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

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

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts

07:48 Am Grow Back For Posterity “The Dawn of Development”

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Reviving and Promoting a Traditional Festival

08:55 Am Dances of Myanmar “Pre Kayaw Dance”

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Discovering Tribes Pre Kayaw: Their Life and Customs (Part- II)

09:52 Am Paper Art Creator

10:03 Am News

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm Travelogue: To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung) (Part-2)

07:42 Pm Yoghurt Vendor

07:49 Pm Today Myanmar “Zika Virus Disease”

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-2)

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

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

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

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# Sloppy Korea to keep focus on attack ahead of Tehran test

SEOUL — South Korea were caught out by two Qatari counter attacks before fighting back for a 3-2 win in their World Cup qualifier on Thursday, and while coach Uli Stielike is concerned about defensive lapses he will not change their attacking focus.

The Koreans had been held to a dismal 0-0 draw with Syria in their last Group A encounter and were determined to get a quick goal to settle their nerves against Qatar in Suwon.

Skipper Ki Sung-yueng duly obliged with a rifled 11th minute opener but the hosts' frailties at the back was exposed by Andres Quintana, who earned a converted penalty before scoring Qatar's second to put the visitors 2-1 ahead. The Koreans, aiming for a ninth consecutive appearance at the World Cup finals, equalised through Ji Dong-won before Son Heung-min grabbed the winner in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute and the 10-man hosts held on in the closing minutes.

With a difficult trip to Iran up next on Tuesday for the Koreans, tightening up at the back

must be a priority for Stielike but the German said he would not temper his side's attacking style.

"We focus on attack and this means we can be vulnerable against counter attacks," he was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency on Friday.

"However, we're not going to change our style of play and philosophy, although we do need to carefully boost our defence."

South Korea trail leaders Iran on goal difference with seven points from three games, with Uzbekistan a point behind.

The top two in Group A and B qualify directly for the 2018 World Cup while the third-placed teams meet to decide who goes into a CONCACAF-Asian Zone playoff for another place at the finals. The Koreans will be without defender Hong Jeong-ho in Tehran after he was dismissed in the 66<sup>th</sup> minute following the second of two fouls on Quintana, though Stielike may have been tempted to drop him regardless for his poor performance on Thursday.—Reuters

Ki Sung-yueng of South Korea celebrates with his teammates after scoring a goal against Qatar during World Cup 2018 Qualifier in Suwon, South Korea, on 6 October 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Argentina's Ramiro Funes Mori (2nd L) shoots to score against Peru during World Cup 2018 Qualifier at Nacional Stadium, Lima, Peru, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Argentina drop two more qualifying points without Messi

LIMA — Argentina were held 2-2 by Peru in the 2018 World Cup qualifiers on Thursday, their second successive away draw without injured talisman Lionel Messi, which dropped them to fifth in the South American group.

Defender Ramiro Funes Mori put Argentina ahead after 15 minutes but was responsible for Peru's late penalty equaliser that was converted by Christian Cueva.

In between, Peru's veteran striker Paolo Guerrero equalised early in the second half and Gonzalo Higuaín restored Argentina's lead in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute.

After nine matches, the half-way point in the South American qualifiers, Uruguay top the table with 19 points followed by Brazil on 18 and Ecuador, Colombia and Argentina all on 16. Peru climbed one place to eighth with eight points.

The top four go through to

the 2018 finals in Russia while the team in fifth place, currently Argentina on goal difference, qualify for an intercontinental playoff against the Oceania winners for another berth.

Peru almost scored early in an entertaining, even match at the Estadio Nacional when defender Renato Tapia sent a glancing header from a corner just wide in the ninth minute.

At the other end, Pedro Galles made a diving save from Sergio Aguero's 10<sup>th</sup>-minute free kick in front of the posts.

Five minutes later Argentina were ahead when Peru failed to clear a corner and Funes Mori steered a shot into the bottom corner.

Sergio Romero blocked a stinging shot from Guerrero as Peru built quick counter-attacks and Cueva was close with a free kick.—Reuters

## Imperious first half helps Brazil thump Bolivia

SAO PAULO (Brazil) — Brazil hammered Bolivia 5-0 in World Cup qualifiers on Thursday, giving coach Tite his third successive win in the most convincing performance from the five-time world champions for some time.

Bolivia had not won a World Cup qualifier away from home since 1993 but Brazil were still excellent, particularly in the first half, when they scored four of their five goals.

Neymar opened the scoring after just 10 minutes when he dispossessed Ronaldo Raldes on the halfway line and then worked a one-two with Gabriel Jesus, who left him with a simple tap in.

Philippe Coutinho doubled their lead 15 minutes later when he capitalised on great work from Giuliano and Dani Alves to poke home from close range.

Filipe Luis started the move for the third in his own half and after feeding Neymar, got the return pass and slotted the ball inside Carlos Lampe's near post.

Gabriel Jesus gave them a 4-0 lead two minutes before half time when he deftly chipped Neymar's pass over Lampe.

Substitute Roberto Firmino scored the fifth from a corner after 75 minutes, meaning Brazil stay in second place in the 10-team South American qualifying group.

The top four qualify automatically for Russia 2018 with the fifth place side playing the Oceania champions in an inter-continental showdown.

Uruguay maintained their place at the top of the group on 19 points, one ahead of Brazil with a 3-0 win over Venezuela.

Nicolas Lodeiro headed home the opener in 28 minutes and then Edinson Cavani doubled their lead just seconds after half time before adding a third 12 minutes from time.

Ecuador eased past Chile by the same scoreline with Antonio Valenzuela and Cristian Ramirez scoring in the first half before Fe-

lipe Caicedo made it three a minute into the second period to move into third on the standings on 16 points. Copa America champions Chile are struggling with 11 points from nine games.

Edwin Carmona gave Colombia a 1-0 win in Paraguay when he dinked home a lovely chip in injury time.—Reuters



Brazil's Neymar in action. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Late Yamaguchi strike gives Japan cause to celebrate

TOKYO — Sitting fourth in Group B and outside the World Cup qualifying places, Japan have little cause to celebrate at the moment but coach Vahid Halilhodzic was ready to break out the champagne after Hotaru Yamaguchi's late winner against Iraq on Thursday.

Already under pressure after losing their group opener to United Arab Emirates at the same

Saitama Stadium, Japan's qualifying campaign looked to be heading deeper into trouble after Saad Luaibi cancelled out Genki Haraguchi's opener. However, with five minutes of stoppage time on the clock, midfielder Yamaguchi latched onto a headed clearance on the edge of the Iraqi area and smashed the ball home through a crowd of players to earn Japan the 2-1 win. The vic-

tory gave Japan six points from three games, tied with UAE and a point behind co-leaders Australia and Saudi Arabia, who drew 2-2 in Jeddah on Thursday.

The top two teams in Group A and B qualify automatically for the World Cup in Russia while the third-placed teams meet to decide who goes into a CONCACAF-Asian Zone playoff for a place at the finals.—Reuters