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THE MEN OF THE MEKONG

PRESIDENT U HTIN KYAW DELIVERS SPEECH AT WEF



President U Htin Kyaw poses for a documentary photo with the leaders of the countries in Mekong Region. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw delivered a speech at the World Economic Forum on the Mekong Region held at the National Convention Centre in Ha-noi, Viet Nam, yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the president highlighted the importance of the forum in building unity and diversity and said that there were prospects as well as challenges for countries in the Mekong region, where people are fundamentally interconnected for progress and survival by the Mekong River. The President pointed out the need to enhance infrastructure, human resources development, production and competitiveness in the region before expressing his hope to find ways and means to promote co-operation and interconnectedness among the regional countries. In conclusion, he called for promotion of regional economic cooperation by effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Few schools reopened in Maungtaw District

ONLY some schools can reopen in Maungtaw District due to ongoing security concerns. Even though Thadingyut holiday period has ended, many school doors remain closed.

“There are some challenges to reopen schools. The main reason is security, including security for the teachers. Meanwhile, all schoolchildren have not yet gone back their homes,” said Deputy Director U Thet

Lay Oo of Sittway Education Office.

So far, 50 schools have been reopened while 365 schools are still closed since the violent attacks on border police outposts on October 9.

The Rakhine State government has planned to reopen 24 schools in Maungtaw Township, 26 schools in Buthidaung Township and 13 schools in Rathedaung Township.

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School children listening to the lecture of a teacher at a school in Sittway, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MIN THIT

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President U Htin Kyaw arrives in Hanoi for state visit



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin are seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio and Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin on Tuesday left Nay Pyi Taw for Hanoi, the capital of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to start his state visit to the Southeast Asian country.

During his visit, the President will attend the 8th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit (CLMV-8), the 7th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy Summit (ACMECS-7) and the World Economic Forum on Mekong (WEF-Mekong) in the host city of Viet Nam.

The Myanmar delegation was

seen off at the airport by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, vice presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win, chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Yangon Mr Nguyen Thanh Vinh and officials.

The President was accompanied by Union ministers Dr Aung

Thu and U Kyaw Win, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials. The President and party arrived in Hanoi at 10.55 a.m. local standard time on Tuesday.

They were welcomed at the airport by Vietnamese Minister of Education and Training Mr Phung Xuan Nha, the chargé d'affaires a.i. of Myanmar Embassy in Viet Nam and officials.

The President, wife and party were brought to Hanoi Grand Plaza Hotel, where they will reside during their stay in Viet Nam. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Essay competitions held to mark 71st Anniversary United Nations Day

ESSAY competitions to mark the 71st Anniversary of the United Nations Day were held in basic education schools in the entire country.

The title for the primary school level competition was “If I were the Secretary-General of the

United Nations”, for the middle school level was “the United Nations and the Sustainable Development” and for the high school level was “World Peace-keeping Role of the United Nations.”

Ma Mya Moe Pwint BEHS 3 Bago won the first prize in the

high school level while Ma Win Win Myat of BEHS (8) Zabuthiri Township won the first prize in the middle school level and Ma Narindra Aung of BEHS (5) Zabuthiri Township won the first prize in the primary school level. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon Region Hluttaw votes for rules for motorcycle users

YANGON Region Hluttaw approved issuing rules for motorcycle users by 66 votes.

U Kyaw Zeya, a representative of Yangon Region Hluttaw, submitted a motion to adopt rules

for motorcycle users in some townships in Yangon in early 2017. Motorcycles have been banned in 33 out of 45 townships in Yangon Region since the year 2000. However, in townships where public transpor-

tation service is poor, motorcycles are illegally used for travelling. As a result, the regional government is considering to permit motorcycles in satellite townships of Yangon Region. — *Ko Moe*

Few schools reopened in...

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According to the Sittway District Education Office, authorities are planning to assist schoolchildren who left their homes due to fear after the October-9 attacks in Rakhine State, to continue their education at suitable schools.

Authorities will hold a meeting with teachers on payday and

will make arrangement to reopen remaining schools, said Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Thar. “We have an idea to replace female teachers with male teachers or to provide security to teachers on their way from their places to schools,” he added.

“The mental security of teachers is also important to teach

schoolchildren in peace,” he added.

There are 1,361 teachers in Maungtaung Township, 1,299 in Buthidaung Township and 1,407 in Rathedaung Township.

There are 95,115 schoolchildren in Maungtaung Township, 69,246 in Buthidaung Township and 36,917 in Rathedaung Township. — *Min Thit (MNA)*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Notification 4/2016
9th Waning of Thadingyut, 1378 ME
25 October, 2016
Convening of 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

It is hereby announced that 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is to commence in Nay Pyi Taw at 1.30 pm on Wednesday, 16 November 2016 (2 Waning of Tazaungmone 1378 ME), under article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 13 of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and rule 3 and 3 (b) of Rules on Pyidaung Hluttaw.

Sd/ Mahn Win Khine Than
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw MPs invited to report to Hluttaw not later than 15 Nov

THE 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw will commence at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting room, Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on Wednesday, 16 November 2016.

It is reported that invitation cards have been delivered to Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, and they are required to

report their arrivals to building 12 (I- 12) of Pyithu Hluttaw Office Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on Monday 14 November 2016 and on Tuesday 15 November 2016 to make necessary preparations for the meeting regardless of whether they received invitation cards or not. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw
Notification 3/2016
9th Waning of Thadingyut 1378 ME
25 October 2016

Convening of 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw

It is hereby announced that 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw will commence in Nay Pyi Taw at 10am on Wednesday, 16 November 2016 (2 Waning of Tazaungmon 1378 ME) under article 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 35 of 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and rule 3 and 3(b) of Rules on Pyithu Hluttaw.

Sd/ Win Myint
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw MPs invited to report to Hluttaw not later than 15 Nov

THE 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw will commence at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting room, Nay Pyi Taw at 10am on Wednesday 16 November 2016.

It is reported that invitation cards have been delivered to Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, and they are required to

report their arrivals to building 19 (I- 19) Amyotha Hluttaw Office Affairs Nay Pyi Taw, on Monday 14 November 2016 and on Tuesday 15 November 2016 to make necessary preparations for the meeting regardless of whether they received invitation cards or not. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw
Notification 3/2016
9th Waning of Thadingyut, 1378 ME
25 October, 2016

Convening of 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw

It is hereby announced that 3rd Regular Session of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw is to commence in Nay Pyi Taw at 10am on Wednesday, 16 November 2016 (2 Waning of Tazaungmon 1378 ME), under article 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 35 of 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and rule 3 and 3 (b) of Rules on Amyotha Hluttaw.

Sd/ Mahn Win Khine Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

State Counsellor receives former PM of Norway, AIIB president



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway and the Founder and President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights. PHOTO: MNA

THE State Counsellor and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway and the Founder and President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on ongoing peace

process of Myanmar, matters related to Rakhine State and possible area of cooperation between Myanmar and Norway.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also received a delegation led by Mr. Liqun JIN, President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Hong Liang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of

China to Myanmar also accompanied the delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the cooperation between Myanmar and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) including developing infrastructure sector such as development of waterway and railways and economic development in Myanmar.—

Myanmar News Agency

President U Htin Kyaw delivers speech at WEF

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At the opening ceremony, Rick Samans, Head of the Centre for the Global Agenda, and Justin Wood, Head of Asia Pacific, delivered opening speeches before Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc made his opening address.

President U Htin Kyaw's ad-

dress was followed by speeches from Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Somkid Jatusripitak.

Later, President U Htin Kyaw and wife visited Silk Village in Hanoi and viewed the weaving of

silk and silk costumes.

In the evening, the president and wife attended a dinner hosted in honour of heads of state and government attending the 8th CLMV Summit and the 7th ACMECS Summit by the Prime Minister of Viet Nam.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Henry Van Thio attends prize-giving ceremony for Performing Arts Competitions

THE 22nd Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Contest held at Nay Pyi Taw with pomp and circumstance as of 18 October ended yesterday.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, patron of the leading committee for convening contests, attended the prize-giving ceremony held at Myanmar International Convention Center 2, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, awarding 153 gold medals followed by 132 silvers, 112 bronzes, 47 consolation prizes and 3 special prizes. At the ceremony, U Henry Van Thio said, "we felt honored to see winners from states and regions get prizes in groups or individually, and good losers who enthusiastically took part in competitions with their love for traditional cultures were recorded emphatically."

Aims and objectives of the contests held annually are to maintain traditional cultures and arts of ethnic groups and to

sustainably develop. The significant view of this year is competition of brethren groups in Kayah and Rakhine nationals' dances and this depicts the Union Spirit, said the vice president.

The Vice President also appreciated those who composed songs with the aim of pointing out for all brethrens the need to defend their Union for eternal existence in unison without heeding difficulties.

"These are our national heritages. Youths across the nation are responsible to pass the legacy to their younger generations. A country's future belongs to its honest and ebullient youths," said U Henry Van Thio. Prizes were conferred respectively by U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Union Election Commission chairman U Hla Thein, Lt Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Ministers U Thant Zin Maung, Dr Win Myat Aye and other dignitaries.— *MNA*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents prize to a winner of the 22nd Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Contest. PHOTO: MNA

Friends in better position to disagree than enemies

State Counsellor delivered remarks at reception to celebrate 71st Anniversary of United Nations in Nay Pyi Taw on 24th October

(Following is the transcription by the Global New Light of Myanmar)

My succession with the United Nations is going back to a long way. As a very young university graduate I joined the United Nations in New York serving at ACAPQ (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions). At that time, the United Nations was very young. The UN is 26 years old.

We all believe that United Nations has an important role to play in preserving peace to the world. We all believe the meeting of the leaders of the nations each year would ensure that our world lived in stability and peace. The General Assembly was always a time of great excitement and we looked forward to seeing all the great and the good who we assumed were going to do their best to make our future great and good as well.

After many years, the next



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers remarks at the ceremony to celebrate the 71st Anniversary of the United Nations. Photo: MNA

phase of my relationship with the UN started about 30 years ago, when I was leading the opposition party, the National League for Democracy. It was a different sort of relationship from the past one --- but extremely interesting. It gave me a different view of the

United Nations and its role in the workings of the internal affairs of its member countries. I became much more conversant with the United Nations development programme, various programmes of the UN agencies and how they engaged with different sectors of

society -- governments, the opposition, NGOs, CSOs and so on.

And now this is the third phase of my relationship with the United Nations as a member of the new government. Again this is rather different from the time when I was a leader of the opposition. You see different facets of the United Nations, and this has led me to believe that the organisation still has a very important role to play in the world.

I really appreciate those who arranged the essay competitions for United Nations Day. I read a few of the essays that won prizes. The first thing that struck me is that all the top prizes went to girls. I wondered why is this? Is the UN not reaching out enough to our boys? Or is it just that girls are more academically minded and inclined to go into such competitions? I was a little bit

disappointed that all the top prizes had gone to girls. I was a little disappointed that our boys are not as interested in peace as I would like them to be. The title of this year's essay was Peace and the United Nations. The girls, perhaps it is understandable, see peace in terms of beauty. They wrote about the natural beauty of the world and how it was destroyed by those who do not appreciate it and who put conflict and hatred and hostility above the preservation of the beauty of the world and ensuring that following generations will enjoy peace and stability. But still, I'm happy that the UN is still associated with the preservation of peace. We have tried to make this gathering less formal than previous ones so that we can exchange views on how we think we can go forward together.

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Arts Exhibition by NUCFA teachers in Yangon Public Square



Arts Exhibition by NUCFA teachers in Yangon Public Square. PHOTO: SOE WIN (SP)

TEACHERS of the Painting Department of the National University of Culture and Fine Arts (NUCFA) (Yangon) organized an Arts Exhibition titled "Spectrum of the Origin of the River" at the Yangon Gallery in Public Square in Yangon on 22 October.

At the event, the works of the teachers of the Painting Department of NUCFA were displayed for the students and the

artists, said Professor U Myat Tun Aung.

He added the exhibits would hopefully interest the public in Myanmar arts.

At present, painting is in a period of new development in Myanmar, he said.

He also urged the new generation of youths to put more effort to boldly create their works.

The three-day event, which featured 118 works — water-

colours, oils, acrylics — with different subjects created by 17 teachers of the Department of Painting, was held from 22 until 24 October. Students and artists visited the exhibition.

The Painting Department has arranged a plan for students to meet with artists from Switzerland in November and will organise workshops for development of the Myanmar Painting world. —*Soe Win (SP)*

MCDC submits its project to install water facilities to prevent floods

MANDALAY City Development Committee has submitted its project to construct reservoirs, water pumps, outlets and locks at targeted points in the region next year to prevent floods caused by heavy rains, especially in the east and west of Mandalay, a member said.

The MCDC projects to install locks at Mingala Canal in eastern Mandalay, a reservoir on 35th street between 65th street and 66th Street, five water pumps at Thingaza Creek in western part of the region, a new channel at the sewage filtration facility near Jivitadana Sangha Hospital.

The details of the project to put those facilities at designated places, including dams and major creeks, during the

2017-2018 fiscal year has been submitted to the regional chief minister and the mayor, said U Tun Win, head of the MCDC's sanitation department.

After completion of the new project, the region will reduce the possible risk of flooding caused by the increased water level of the Ayeyawady River to a certain degree, he added.

The major creeks and canals of Mandalay are Payandaw Creek, Nadi Creek, Thingaza Creek and Shweta Creek. Ngweta Creek, as well as Columbo Canal, Zaungkalaw Canal and Mingala Canal that flow into the Ayeyawady River through Kandawgyi Lake, Taungthaman Lake and Nankat Lake. —*Myit-makha News Agency*



PHOTOS: MMK

Thilawa low-cost housing project to start in early 2017

THE Urban and Housing Development Department will begin its project to build Thilawa low-cost housing in Thanlyin Township in early 2017 to meet the growing housing shortage in the commercial city.

Under the new scheme, the 1,720 low-cost housing units will be constructed on a large plot of government land located opposite the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The department has invited tenders for the development project, which is estimated to be initiated over the next three months, said U Nay Myo Hlaing, assistant director of the UHDD.

After completion of the project, people may buy the apartments through an instalment system, a credit sale in which payments are made in instalments over a period

of time, in connection with the Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB).

The CHDB allowed buyers to purchase a low-cost apartment via eight-year installments. The buyer needs to pay 30 per cent of the total expenses to the bank first.

The department also sells the flats to buyers through a full settlement plan. —200

Crime NEWS

Four injured after bus overturns on highway

FOUR people including the driver sustained minor injuries after an express bus overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay highway on Tuesday early morning, according to police.

The express bus owned by Wai Phyo Aung Bus Express Service, being driven by Chit Naing with 36 passengers on board en route from Yangon to Taunggyi, crashed into a bridge and overturned between mile post Nos. 256/2 and 256/3 at around 12.15 a.m. on 25 October.

The collision damaged the head and body of the bus and injured the driver and other three people on board. They all have received necessary health care at a nearby hospital.

The driver of the bus has been



Overturned bus express being seen. PHOTO: THAN Oo (LAYMYATNA)

charged under Sections 337/338 of the Penal Code by Paylaypin Police Station.

A similar incident occurred on the same road when a passenger bus collided with a cow that had wandered onto the highway between mile

post Nos. 320/1 and 320/2 at around 5 p.m. on Monday, but no injuries or deaths were reported.

In that case, police charged Ma Aye Aye Myint for tending farm animals near a highway under Section 18 of the Highway Law. —*Than Oo (Laymyatna)*

Police crack down on illegal trade along Muse-Mandalay route

THE Customs Department will continue its operation to crack down on illegal trading along the Muse-Mandalay trade route through special task forces, according to the department.

During its surprise check programme along the Myawady-Yangon trade route between 7 September and 7 October this year, the department seized 18 vehicles loaded with illegally imported goods within a month.

According to the announcement issued by the department, the estimated value of those different kinds of illegally imported goods were worth approximately over Ks500 million plus about

Ks490 million worth of those vehicles.

To eliminate illicit trade, the law enforcement agents who enforce customs laws have expanded their operation not only on Myawady-Yangon route but also on the Muse-Mandalay trade route.

The Central Committee for Control of Illegal Trade was founded by the government in December 2012 to prevent and reduce the illicit trade at border trade camps, sea and air freight trade routes as well as to promote the country's trade sector. However, the authorities abolished the body in late 2015. —*Khaing Khant*

LOCAL Business

Rice merchants from Kachin explore new market

CHINA's onions flowed into Yangon market, resulting from the high price of local onions.

Onions from China flowed into the Yangon market starting on 21st October after the price of domestic onions skyrocketed.

With a price of Ks900-1,000 per viss, onions from China are cheaper than those from Mawlamyine, which go for Ks1,200-1,400 per viss, said Ko Tu who is engaged in a warehouse on Yetamar road.

The onions from upper Myanmar are sent direct to Mawlamyine, said U Aye, an onion merchant from Mawlamyine.

Last year, the onion price

was on the rise. Therefore, the number of onion growers increased, which resulted in a high yield. The price of onions was not that high as of mid October, but the price has jumped in recent days, it is learnt.

"It is usual that the foreign onions enter the domestic market when the price of local onion is higher than that from the foreign countries. This way can reduce the high market cost of consumers", said a market observer.

About 126,000 viss of onions on 20th October and 96,000 viss of onions on 21st October flowed into Yangon market. The onions are selling briskly.—*Khin Saing*

NDCG to invest in Tada-U and Kinpun camp hotel zones

NATIONAL Development Company Group (NDCG) will make investments in the hotel zones of Tada-U in Mandalay and Kinpun camp in Mon State.

The NDCG will conduct hotel businesses in 2017 on 15 acres of land in the Kinpun camp hotel zone which has 250 acres of land.

Currently, the cable car system running to Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda is being carried out and the tourists and tour agencies are interested in it. More pilgrims, sightseers and the tourists are expected to flock to the pagoda, said Dr. Sein Myint, the vice chairman of NDCG.

The company is under negotiations with the regional government and the local authorities to be engaged in the Tada-U hotel zone, which is implemented on 5,000 acres of land. NDCG has purchased 500 acres of land, it is learnt.

NDCG is currently putting investments into trading, constructing businesses, travels and tour enterprises, industrial enterprises, service businesses and Thilawa Special economic zone. The company was founded in 1998 and has 2,137 shareholders, it is learnt.—*Myitmakha News agency*

Information center for investors to be built in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

AN INFORMATION Centre will be constructed within the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to provide real-time economic data to investors, said U Win Aung, chair of the Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co.

The centre will be staffed by knowledgeable workers who can answer queries in a friendly and polite manner about the SEZ raised by investors and shareholders. Priorities will be given to skilled workers who will soon be invited by the com-

pany.

The major objectives of the establishment of an information centre is to disseminate the latest news and data relating to the SEZ, especially to shareholders who have invested in the 2,500-hectare Thilawa SEZ, the biggest commercial city in the country that is being developed on the outskirts of Yangon.

Established in May 2013, the MTSH, the largest public company in Myanmar, is one of the listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange.—200

MTSH share trading to be suspended for four days

THE share trading of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) will be suspended from 31st to 3rd November, including non-exchange transaction transfer (NETT). Trading will resume on 4th November after splitting of the shares, according to an announcement from the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

The proposed share split of one existing ordinary share into 10 shares was approved by

shareholders by way of a special resolution at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the company held on 23rd October 2016, the MTSH announced.

There are a total of 3,892,915 listed shares of MTSH on the YSX.

The number of shares will total 38,929,150 after the split. An ordinary shareholder who bought one share will now own ten shares.

The value of each share will be changed from Ks10,000 to Ks1,000.

The split of MTSH's stock is aimed at boosting the share trading volume at YSX. The price of MTSH's share was Ks49,000 per share on 25th October, whereas the shares of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) is trading at Ks17,000 and that of Myanmar Citizens Bank, at Ks9,100, it is learnt from YSX.—*Ko Htet*



People seen outside Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Tomato jam and toffee from Inle give natural taste of tomato

TOMATO jam and toffee from the Inle area, famous for its natural tomato taste, attract both local travelers and foreigners. However, they are required to be well preserved, with an attractive package system, to attract more customers.

This business was started in April with a well-wishers group organising young people from 200 villages around the Inle area. These well-wishers will contribute to environmental activities to maintain Inle Lake, with the profit earned from the tomato jam and

toffee business, said Ma Thuzar Khaing, a leader of this group.

The price of tomato and toffee is Ks1,000 per bag. Many visitors who came to the Inle Phaug Daw Oo pagoda festival purchased jam and toffee as souvenirs.—*Sai Zaw Lat (Langkho)*

Myanmar to join hands with New Zealand to enhance dairy farming

MYANMAR will cooperate with New Zealand in conducting a development project for dairy farming, according to an announcement released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Dairy products worth US\$50million are annually imported from foreign countries. Efforts

are now being made to enhance the domestic dairy farming sector, said a local figure.

A delegation from New Zealand and authorities met to discuss the project on 19th October. The aforementioned project includes the opening of vocational centres to offer technical know-how, it is

learnt.

The course is reported to be opened with the assistance of New Zealand experts next year, providing the machines. Those who complete the course will receive certification, said an official from the Livestock breeding and Veterinary Department.—*Mon Mon*

Blast kills 14, injures 147 in northwestern China

BEIJING — A powerful blast at a prefabricated house in northwestern China on Monday killed at least 14 people and injured 147, state news agency Xinhua said.

The explosion occurred in the early afternoon in the town of Xinmin in Shaanxi province, damaging dozens of buildings including the local hospital, Xinhua said.

An initial police investigation indicated that

the blast was caused by illegally stored explosives, Xinhua said, adding that authorities had detained the owner of the building and were searching for the tenant.

Eleven of the injured were in intensive care.

Pictures carried by state media showed rescuers digging through the rubble of low rise buildings, though searches for the incident on Chinese social media were blocked on Tuesday.—Reuters



Rescue workers search at site after an explosion hit a town in Fugu county, Shaanxi Province, China, on 24 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Four killed on river ride at Australia's biggest theme park

SYDNEY— Four people were killed on Tuesday on a river rapids ride at Australia's biggest theme park, police said, after a malfunction threw two of the victims off the ride and left the other two trapped inside.

Media broadcast images of crowds of rescue workers at the Thunder River Rapids Ride at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast, the main tourist district in Australia's northeastern state of Queensland.

"One of the rides sustained a malfunction, causing two people to be ejected from a ride, and the other two were caught inside the ride," Gavin Fuller, an official of Queensland Ambulance, told reporters.

The four dead ranged in age from their early 30s to their early 40s. It was not immediately clear if they were locals or tourists, police said.

Shares in park owner and operator, Ardent Leisure Group, dropped 7 per cent in the final hour of trade after the incident, having spent most of the



Emergency services vehicles can be seen outside the Dreamworld theme park at Coomera on the Gold Coast, Australia, on 25 October, 2016 after a number of people were reported killed on a ride at Australia's biggest theme park. PHOTO: REUTERS

day little changed. Dreamworld said in a statement it was "working as quickly as possible to establish the facts around the incident".

It added, "Dreamworld's focus and priority is with the families of those involved in this tragedy and will be providing an update to the public as soon as information becomes available." Asked if there

were any earlier problems with the ride, Todd Reid, an inspector with Queensland Police, said, "I'm not aware, but that will be part of the investigation."

"We are now working together with the park to try to determine how this tragic incident occurred." Tuesday's tragedy ranks among the world's deadliest theme park accidents. Earlier in-

cidents include eight teenagers killed in a 1984 fire at the Six Flags Great Adventure amusement park in New Jersey in the United States; six people killed by a failed simulated rocket launch in Shenzhen, China, in 2010 and five children killed when the Battersea Park Big Dipper malfunctioned in Britain in 1972.—Reuters

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UN chief could win South Korean presidency, but contest would be bruising

SEOUL — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is the odds-on favorite to be the next president of South Korea — if he wants the job — thanks to high name recognition, a clean reputation and what is seen to be a lackluster field of rivals.

But vying for the December 2017 election would cast Ban into a political arena far more bruising than the genteel give-and-take of global diplomacy to which he is accustomed, exposing his family, finances and career to intense scrutiny.

Ban is coy about his plans.

He told Reuters on Friday that he will decide on his future when he returns to South Korea in January after his UN tenure finishes at the end of the year.

But in his clearest statement yet on his intentions, he said he was conscious of "expectations from many people in Korea that I should make myself available for a better future of Korea."

With the pride Koreans take in him as "president of the world" and absence thus far of strong competition, opinion polls show Ban as the front-runner for the election next year.



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is seen during an interview with Reuters at UN headquarters in New York, in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

However, his lack of a political base, a decade-long absence from South Korea to lead the United Nations, and his age — he is 72 — are potential liabilities.

Kim Chong-in, former leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Korea, said Ban many not be able to run a rigorous campaign after having been away for so long.

"In this day and age when the world changes so quickly and people's way of thinking changes dramatically, is it going to be easy for him to even grasp the reality here?" Kim said.

Some UN diplomats say the gentlemanly Ban has been a weak leader.

"He hasn't had the ability to really drive international opinion on any of these big issues and he's tried to do the job as sort of best friends of every member state," said a senior UN diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"You can't do that when there's a morally right position and a morally wrong position." Ban rejects the characterization that he is not a strong leader, arguing that he has stood up against injustice and violations of human rights and spoken up more strongly than other world leaders for the common good.

He said there was a misperception that a charis-

matic style was needed for effective leadership, and that there were "serious misunderstandings" about his leadership style.

"There are many different leadership styles," Ban said in an interview in his office at UN headquarters in New York.

Ban, a career diplomat who served as South Korea's foreign minister from 2004 to 2006, has never held elected office. He is expected to join the conservative Saenuri Party of President Park Geun-hye if he runs for president.

A complicating factor emerged on Monday when Park proposed amending the constitution to scrap the five-year single-term presidency in favour of two four-year terms, which would make Ban a less attractive candidate given his age.

Ban is the only potential candidate consistently polling above 20 per cent. Former software mogul Ahn Cheol-soo, considered a reformist who would inject fresh ideas and promote ethical politics, has seen his popularity dwindle after members of the People's Party that he founded were implicated in illegal campaign financing.—Reuters

San Diego to South China Sea: US Navy tested new command in latest challenge to China

TOKYO — The US Navy destroyer that sailed near Chinese-claimed islands in South China Sea last week was under orders from the Third Fleet headquarters in San Diego, a first aimed at bolstering US maritime power in the region, two sources said.

The USS Decatur on Friday challenged China's "excessive maritime claims" near the Paracel Islands, part of a string of islets, reefs and shoals over which Beijing has territorial disputes with its neighbours.

It was the first time such a freedom of navigation operation has been conducted without the Japan-based Seventh Fleet in command and was a test of changes aimed to allow the US Navy to conduct maritime operations on two fronts in Asia at the same time, two sources told Reuters. The sources spoke on condition they weren't identified.

Having the Third Fleet regularly command vessels in Asia, which it has not done since World War II, means the US Navy can better conduct simultaneous operations such as on the Korean pe-

ninsula and in the Philippines, said one of the sources, who is familiar with the goals of the reorganisation.

"It is the first iteration of what will be a more regular operations tempo," he said.

The guided-missile destroyer Decatur is part of a three-ship Surface Action Group (SAG) that was deployed to South China Sea six months ago, said Commander Ryan Perry, a spokesman for the Third Fleet in San Diego, who confirmed the Third Fleet's command role.

US Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Scott Swift last year signaled a wider role for the Third Fleet when he said he was abolishing an administrative boundary along the international date line that had separated the Third and Seventh fleets. Until then, Third Fleet vessels crossing the line came under Seventh Fleet command. Earlier this year, an official told Reuters more ships from the Third Fleet would be sent to East Asia. The reorganisation, which gives the Third Fleet a bigger frontline role, comes as momen-



Guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) operates in the South China Sea as part of the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) in the South China Sea on 13 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tum for the United States' Asian "pivot" falters and as Beijing's growing assertiveness fuels tensions in the South China Sea.

China claims most of the sea through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes a year. The Philippines, Viet Nam, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims. Beijing has accused

Washington of deliberately creating tension by sailing its ships close to China's islands.

The latest operation, the fourth so far, came as the Philippine's new president, Rodrigo Duterte, traveled to China seek deeper ties with Asia's biggest economy. Duterte is visiting US ally Japan this week. The Seventh

Fleet, which is headquartered at the Japanese port of Yokosuka near Tokyo is the most powerful naval fleet in Asia with some 80 ships, including the United States' only forward deployed carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan. The US Third Fleet consist of more than 100 vessels, including four aircraft carriers.—Reuters

Support for Australian PM falls, sets scene for potential leadership tensions



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks to the media during a news conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on 8 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Support for Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is at its lowest level since his election last year, according to an opinion poll on Tuesday, fuelling speculation of more political upheaval in a country that has seen four leaders in six years.

The Australian newspaper poll showed Turnbull's net satisfaction rating, which measures the difference between those who are satisfied and those who are dissatisfied, had fallen to 29 points, some 11 points lower than after his 2 July election.

Turnbull enjoys only marginal more support from the electorate than Australia's previous prime minister, Tony Abbott, whom he toppled in a party room coup year ago due to poor voter support.

When asked about the poll, Turnbull said he was unconcerned about the findings.

"The important thing for me, as prime minister, and for my government, is to get on with the job of governing and delivering, and that is what we're doing," Turnbull told reporters in Brisbane.

Turnbull, who's progressive reputation is seen at odds with the powerful conservative wing of his own Liberal Party, has been mired by recent internal divisions.

He and Abbott, now a backbencher, become embroiled in a public row over Australia's strict gun laws last week, while a spat between two of the country's senior legal officers further fueled tensions.

Australia's Solicitor-General Justin Gleeson, who is tasked with giving the government legal advice, on Monday resigned after accusing Senator George Brandis, the country's most senior legal officer, of failing to consult him around changes to terror laws and a proposed national vote for same-sex marriage. While Turnbull has sought to redirect focus towards delivering his agenda of "jobs and growth", his legislative agenda faces an uncertain future with the government holding only a slim majority in the parliament.

"Without changing course in policy, Turnbull's poll numbers will continue to go south and given he used them as justification to oust a sitting prime minister, he is going to find himself under pressure," said Haydon Manning, professor of political science, Finders University.—Reuters

Philippines Duterte tells US to forget about defence deal 'if I stay longer'

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte hit out at the United States on Tuesday, saying he did not start a fight with Washington and it could forget about a military agreement between both countries if he were to be in power longer.

Duterte said he was against the presence of any foreign troops in his country and the United States could "forget" an Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement

(EDCA) with the Philippines, if he stayed longer, without elaborating. The United States, he said, should not treat the Philippines "like a dog with a leash", adding to confusion about the future the longtime allies' ties.

"I look forward to the time when I no longer see any military troops or soldier in my country except the Filipino soldiers," Duterte said prior to his departure to Japan.—Reuters

Trial of Bangkok bombing suspects postponed over lack of interpreter

BANGKOK — The trial of two ethnic Uyghur Chinese men accused of bombing a shrine in Bangkok last year, killing 20 people, was postponed on Tuesday, after the court again failed to appoint them an interpreter.

Yusuf Mieraili, 27, and Bilal Mohammed, 31, also known as Adem Karadag, appeared in the dock at Bangkok Military Court, where they were told that officials had failed to find a Uyghur to Thai interpreter.

The court ordered that the Chinese Embassy be approached

to locate a Uyghur to English, or Mandarin to Thai interpreter, as both men hold Chinese passports.

The defendants had originally been due to have an interpreter from the World Uyghur Congress, a Munich-based group that seeks self-determination for China's far west Xinjiang region. However, this idea was scrapped by the court. Officials postponed the trial in September after the defendants complained that they could not understand their court-appointed interpreter, a woman who spoke Uzbek.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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

Seize the day to take part in nation-building!

Khin Maung Oo

A country's future belongs to its youth, as a well-known phrase goes. Undeniably, today's youths will one day replace our ageing statesmen. For more than half a century, we lost our way to a developed state, groping in the dark without an able and full-fledged leader to lead the nation.

Now we have the people's government, chosen by the people. Yet, subversive and destructive elements will usually besmirch the government's reputation. Among the representatives elected by the people, there may be those who are weak in educational qualifications. But it is a sure thing that

they were nominated by the leaders believing they would be good followers.

As stated by a pessimistic mind, an overseas-educated person, ipso facto, cannot be assumed to be qualified to lead a country. But, they are inarguably the better students who get the elite education compared to learners in least developed countries like ours, as it is.

It begs belief how many achievements reached the nation in such a short period, like the landslide victory in the previous 2015 general elections, managing to acquire the co-operation of the Tatmataw, discoveries and eradication of

drug-trafficking to a considerable extent, arresting violations of human rights and having international sanctions lifted. Who dare denies that these result from miraculous powers of the globally-recognized national figure?

Now we are marching towards a modernised federal democratic nation under the guidance of the national leader. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that we all are nation-builders and we are responsible for producing leaders-to-be to succeed the governing bodies.

What are our responsibilities? To reach our goal, it will take us ages. Our leaders need

to acknowledge the abilities and value of youths to be endowed with the faculty of understanding political, administrative and judicial affairs up to their respective levels. They are to be indoctrinated with the spirit of patriotism, nationalism and sense of responsibility and sense of accountability from the time they are young. Otherwise, our country's destiny will plunge into gloominess. While helping the government to build itself to become good governance and a clean government, we are required to guide our offspring not to go astray. The whole populace is invited to join willing hands in the nation-building as unsung heroes.

Junior, Senior and Myanma Culture

Dr. Nyan Tun

B UDDHISM and Myanmar people cannot be separated from each other, for Buddhism is the life blood of Myanmar people in literature, cult, arts, ways of life and culture. Since Myanmar has been embracing Buddhism, Myanmar has been adopting all Buddhist ways of life into its society. By adopting Buddhist ways of life and thinking, Myanmar has been possessing highly and lovely culture and has been exercising into life even today though multi-culture has been mushrooming in modern times in our Myanmar society.

Among those lovely cultures, paying respect to highly virtuous persons (gunavuddhi) such as teachers, officers, hierarchy and spiritual leaders to whom we keep in mind that we owed a debt of gratitude. Seniority in a family member or responsible respected persons (vayavuddhi) in a community and in any institutions is common scene in every corner of the country in the month of Thadingyut, especially on the Full Moon, in Myanmar calendar. This paying respect to the senior, the elderly family members and relations or highly persons can be traced from Buddhist literature and it has been exercising since the time of the Buddha formulated by the Buddha himself. Following that tradition, our ancestors Myanmar people created the culture of paying respect to elderly persons and teachers' respect-paying ceremony

in our society.

Actually, this tradition and custom have been derived from the community of the Sangha, Buddhist monks. Buddhist monks, especially in Theravada Buddhism, have to stay in their respective monastery compounds within rainy seasons lasting for three months and they have to perform their duties: learning (*ganthadhura*) and practicing the teachings of the Buddha (*vipassanadhura*). When rain retreat was over, the monks who are occupying the same monastery either junior or senior have to inform and request one another to point out the faults: physically, verbally or mentally if they have seen while staying together. This custom is well known as "Pavarana day" in Myanmar and it is performed by the community of the Buddhist monks in Myanmar. After requesting and paying respect to one another they can go freely wherever they wanted to because they don't have any sin to one another. Myanmar has been adopting this highly and valuable culture into its society. I believe those who introduced this unique culture are none other than Myanmar Buddhist monks who have been influencing the life of Myanmar people and who played the most important role in the education sector in the country in the past. We, Myanmar people, have been enjoying ancient, valuable and highly culture due to our respected spiritual leaders, Myanmar Buddhist monks.

This 'junior, senior paying respected culture' can be seen

commonly in education field from primary schools up to tertiary level in the country because everyone, especially Buddhists in Myanmar community, keeps in mind that there are five persons in the world that cannot be repaid their gratitude fully. They are the *Buddha*, the *Dhamma*, the *Sangha*, the Parents and the Teachers. Among the five, the culture that is prevailing in our community is 'the paying respect ceremony to the Teachers'. This event is being conducted in open season and every school or college or university alumni organizes to conduct this valuable tradition and culture in their respective institutions dedicating to the gratitude of their former, retired or serving teaching staff. This pleasant emotional feeling in gathering can create the atmosphere into re-united family at the moment. I think this 'junior, senior paying respected culture' can be seen only in our Myanmar society.

2015-2016 academic year of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (NRDC) comes to an end and the convocation and graduation ceremony will be held in 26th and 27th of October so the responsible persons are preparing and decorating in our college campus for the grand function. At this juncture, final year students, nationality human resources, who have been trained for civil servant hood, paid respect their teachers before leaving their Alma Mata at the convocation hall. All teaching staff attended the function. Although this func-

tion is in common, it attracts everyone's emotional feeling beyond word. This culture proves how teacher-pupil relationship plays the most important role in our Myanmar society. We are bound to love, compassion, duty and responsibility in our community so we are following and exercising our ancestor's steps in our daily life which shed light on Buddhist literature.

Dr.Min Thant, the principal of the college, gave admonishing to the students that he was proud of the function and thanked to those who arranged this valuable tradition which has been exercising since the ancient time and he exhorted the students 'You have been boarding in this campus for four years. Your teachers have trained you with earnest volition and guided you the pros and cons that you can encounter in your life by sharing their knowledge. Soon, you have to serve the welfare of the people in respective departments in regions and little by little you have to carry out the heavy duties in the future so wherever you are assigned try to convey the good message of your college and prepare and train yourselves to be reliable human resources for the nation.

On the following day, the **junior and little senior teaching and administration paying respect ceremony** was held at the community hall of the college. In our institution, we have great five dedicating the most important persons in the college: the Principal, Vice-Principal, Head of Academic Affairs, Head

of Engineering Department and head of Administration Department. We, all junior and little senior teaching and administration staff, paid respect to those great five and I think this junior to senior paying respect function can be seen only in this place even though paying respect to teachers are in common scene.

Dr.Min Thant, the principal, thanked the participants by saying that he was really happy and proud of to all who managed this function in unity with family spirit. He kept on saying that paying respect to the teachers or seniors is not the simple manner but it includes one of the ten highly respected companions known as "ခင်ပွန်းကြီးဆယ်ပါး" in Myanmar mentioned in Buddhist literature. As I mentioned earlier, our society is bound to love, compassion, duty and responsibility so does in junior and senior relationship. As ordinary people, from Buddhist social and religious aspects, what we keep in our mind is that we have committed actions especially verbal or mental actions to our teachers or seniority either by accident or intentionally. If we have done it, we must confess to our fault publicly or privately to them. By confession our faults, the two sides feel satisfied and forgive one another so the actions that we have done cannot affect on us. This is the truth accepting Buddhist ways of life. This is the way of lovely, highly and unique culture exercising in Buddhist philosophy especially in Myanmar.

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Vice president U Henry Van Thio presents certificates of honour to artistes

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech and presented certificates of honour to doyen artistes who performed as judges at the 22nd Myanmar Ethnic Traditional Performing Arts Competition in a ceremony held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

In his speech, the vice president highlighted the role of fine arts in preservation of culture which he said was the measure of the prestige of an ethnic and long history of a country.

"The long history of Myanmar and high prestige of Myanmar people have been proved by ancient cultural evidences that can still be seen even today and historical records of contemporary city-states," the vice president said.

Then, he added that the government organizes the ethnic traditional performing arts com-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio seen posing for a group photo. PHOTO: MNA

petitions every year spending large sums of money and making efforts. One of the objectives of the competition is to prevent the penetration of foreign cultures that are not appropriate to the country.

In conclusion, he said every-

one who helped organize the competition were performing a national duty and expressed his thanks for them, including doyen artistes who acted as judges.

Then, the vice president presented certificates of honour to the doyen artistes.

One of the judges famous singer Daw Tin Tin Mya said words of thanks to the vice president and artistes performed dances and music.

The vice president hosted a dinner in honour of artistes and guests.—Myanmar News Agency

C-in-C to honour those who risk their lives

THE Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services announced on 20 October that two members of the Tatmadaw, four members of the fire brigade and local divers would be honoured.

The members of the defence services and the fire brigade and local divers risked their lives to salvage bodies of victims of ferry copsize of Aung Soe Moe Kyaw-II, according to a statement issued by the office.

Pvt Aung Sun Oo and Pvt Kyaw Zeya of the Tatmadaw, Pvt Mya Naing, Pvt Tint Lwin Oo, Pvt Zaw Lin Maung and Pvt Zaw Htay of the fire brigade and local divers U Shwe Ba, U Zaw Oo, U Zaw Lwin, and U Nyo Aye will be presented with certificates of honour of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.

Similarly, the office will also honour U Pyay Phyo Aung and U Win Ko Ko, who climbed Mt Everest.—Myawady

Friends in better position to disagree than enemies

>> From page 3

An organisation that is made up of over 190 members will obviously find times when can we achieve consensus. But I think we should all learn to disagree in the most civilised and friendly way possible. We cannot agree all the time. I think it would be extremely boring if we agreed all the time. I think we should be able to disagree without becoming enemies. Friends are in a better position to disagree than enemies. A disagreement between enemies can lead to many dangers, but a disagreement between friends is just an opportunity for us to air different views and to work out new solutions that we are all having to face together. Because of this, we would like to promote as much as we can the activities of the UN and its various agencies in our country. We want our people to be aware of what the UN is about. I remember a time when, as a child, I was very proud of the fact

that our nation was represented by a delegation that went all the way from Rangoon to New York. We were very proud of the fact that the members of our delegation were able to represent the case of our country to the whole world with great aplomb and efficiency and with the kind of broad-minded intelligence that won everybody's respect. One of the reasons why the third secretary general of the UN is from our country is because the whole world accepted that Burma was a truly neutral nation and that we produce men of worth and men of standing who were able to address the problems of the whole world in the wisest and most efficient manner. This is a matter of great pride for us. I am aware that the prize winning essay has mentioned this fact more than once. We have this history of playing a very vital part in the work of the UN. We want to continue this forward. I feel that we have come to the point where

we should perhaps look anew at what the UN is today and decide for ourselves where we want it to go. That's what anniversaries are for – to assess the past as well as to contemplate what we think the future should be. And we should do it together. In a way that will better the whole living process for all human beings on this planet. Well I'm rather fond of animals. So I think I'll bring in all living beings on this planet. If we could all live together in peace and harmony, and if we could all work towards the sustainable development goals that have been laid down by the UN, I have no doubt that our future and the future of coming generations will be truly a golden and happy one. In this room are gathered diplomats and representatives of different countries and organisations. I hope that during your time here in this country you will be able to join with us in our great adventure which is the democrati-

sation of our country. A renewing of the energy of our people. The renewing of hope for our young people. And a gathering of friends to work together towards a happy ending. There is a lot of goodwill for our country today, because people want to see a happy ending. We do not want to waste this goodwill. When we think of coordinating donor efforts in order to optimise the results of aid, it's not in terms of material gain so much as optimising the goodwill that is available to us now. We hope that you will, like good friends, tell us when you think we are going wrong, and help us when you think we need help, and being true friends in the sense that you should be able to discuss with us your concerns and our concerns frankly, freely and with the united goal of improving the situation in this country. When I was in Norway a few years ago, what struck me most about the people there was how often they talked about

the fact that they were once a poor country. They were very proud of this. So many people said to me Norway used to be a poor country, we got to where we got to through our efforts and through our intelligent handling of the challenges that we needed to face. This is what they said to me again and again. And I thought this was very good. We must face the future in the same way. Our country at the moment is poor, but we should not be ashamed of it. We should look forward to the day when our people can say we used to be a poor country, now look where we are, through our efforts and with the help and support of our friends, this is what we have made of our nation.

I hope today, at this mini-gathering of nations, you will all join with me in realising our hopes. Not just for our country, but for the whole world.

Thank you.

Junior, Senior and Myanma Culture

>> from page 8

The principal kept on saying that we should consider that the life and work we are performing is noble and fortunate one because even though being born as human beings compared to others fellow in our area we have to earn our professional in teaching and administration carrier without any difficulty or hard work. Though we are conducting our works in different sections in our college: training, administration and teaching, we are all educated persons serving

the country as well as ourselves and being educated persons we have mature ways of thinking. From Buddhist dimensional point of view, this is due to the four causes in the past we had created. He pointed out the teachings known as the Blessing discourse 'Mangala sutta' taught by the Buddha that reflect our actions and those causes are to have done meritorious deeds in the past (*pubbeka katapunna-ta*); to reside in a suitable locality (*patirupadesavasa*); to associate with the wise

(*sappurisupanissaya*) and to set oneself in the right course (*attasamapanidhi*). Whatever performance we are doing we should set oneself in the right way in life. The principal wished to all the staff to be good citizens by carrying out their works dutifully.

Then, U Thein Htay, vice principal expressed his emotional speech that alarms us and what he said was that by occupying the respected seat among my colleagues he felt nervous and had much more thought in

life. He says, "I had a thought what I had done in my life for myself as well as for the welfare of others I did nothing solid proof." Recently I read the article published in Myanmar Alin written by Prof: Aung Tun Thet and I learned what he said was that living for the welfare of others is more valuable and giving is more precious than taking. Actually, we should sacrifice our life for others but I had accepted your presents with my two hands but one hand should be the welfare of others. The

vice principal's way of thinking reminds us that one should not be selfish but serve the welfare of nation.

In conclusion, we have been adopting and exercising highly Buddhist arts and culture in our Myanma society as our own. This is one of the ways of Myanmar's junior-senior mutual respect culture. I believe this valuable tradition and custom that inscribed in every Myanmar's heart will last long forever on the earth.

Kerry confident US and Philippines can 'work through' Duterte confusion

WASHINGTON/MANILA — US Secretary of State John Kerry is confident after speaking to his Philippine counterpart that the two countries can “work through” a period of confusion caused by anti-American rhetoric from President Rodrigo Duterte, the State Department said on Monday.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said Kerry expressed concern in his conversation on Sunday with Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay about the tone of remarks by the Philippine president, who has sharply criticised President Barack Obama and talked of separation from Washington.

At the same time, Kerry emphasized strong and stable ties between the longtime al-

lies, while Kirby said Washington had seen no practical action by Manila to move away from those.

Kerry's conversation with Yasay came after Duterte provoked alarm last week by announcing a “separation” from the United States and realignment with China during a visit to Beijing.

Although Duterte said later he did not really mean separation, his remarks added to concerns about the future of a US-Philippine military cooperation pact seen as crucial to projecting US power in Asia in the face of fast-rising China.

Earlier on Monday, the most senior US diplomat for Asia, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Daniel Russel, said in Ma-

nila that Washington remained a “trusted” ally to the Philippines and supported its blossoming ties with China.

Russel was the first high-level visitor from Washington since Duterte's remarks and Kirby said that both Russel and Kerry made clear the United States had every intention of continuing to meet its security commitments to the Philippines.

“The tone and tenor of the discussions that they had ... and the assurances that the Philippine side gave to their commitment to keeping the relationship going was enough to lead the secretary and the assistant secretary to believe that we were going to be able to work through this,” Kirby told a regular news briefing. —Reuters

UK set to back new Heathrow runway in long-awaited airport decision



A British Airways planes are parked at Heathrow Airport near London, Britain on 11 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May is set to end decades of indecision by backing the expansion of Britain and Europe's busiest airport, Heathrow, finally kickstarting a project made more pressing by the vote to leave the EU.

May and a small team of ministers will meet on Tuesday to choose between expanding Heathrow, to the west of London, or Gatwick, to the south — making a decision on airport expansion after more than 25 years of debate.

Key opponents of Heathrow expansion such as Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who as then London mayor said last year it would not solve capacity issues

and the scheme was doomed to fail, will not be present.

Both airports are running at close to full capacity and big business argues that Britain needs a new runway to build trade ties and better compete with Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

While there are three options on the table — a new runway at Heathrow, lengthening one of its existing two runways, or a new runway at Gatwick — the government has indicated it will opt for a new Heathrow runway — the more ambitious and expensive option.

In 2015, a three-year independent inquiry set up by the government recommended that option, subject to a list of condi-

tions over night flights, noise and air quality.

Last week May took the rare step of promising colleagues who oppose the decision that they would be allowed to publicly air their views, interpreted by the media as a strong signal it would be Heathrow as there are no high profile ministers who oppose Gatwick expansion.

The airports decision will be one of May's biggest moves since she became prime minister in July, and would contrast with the delaying tactics of her predecessor, who failed to act after having withdrawn a previous government's approval to expand Heathrow in 2010. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moscow says Russian and Syrian planes have not bombed Aleppo for a week

MOSCOW — Russian and Syrian military planes have not bombed militants in Aleppo for the last seven days or even flown over the devastated city, the Russian Defence Ministry said in statement on Tuesday.

It said six humanitarian corridors in eastern Aleppo which have been opened to allow civilians to flee were still operating and that 48 women and children had left the city late on Monday. —Reuters

Attackers kill 12 in Kenyan guesthouse blast near Somali border

NAIROBI — Attackers blew up part of a hotel in northeastern Kenya, killing at least 12 people on Tuesday, in a raid claimed by al Shabaab militants from neighbouring Somalia.

The group said it had set out to kill non-Muslims in Kenya's Mandera area - the scene of numerous assaults by the fighters seeking to overthrow Somalia's Western-backed government and punish Kenya for sending in soldiers to oppose it. Rescuers pulled at least six survivors from the rubble and were searching for more, North Eastern Regional Commissioner Mohamoud Saleh said in a statement that did not name the attackers.

Twelve people died in the attack, he said. “The Government of Kenya condemns this act of terror and condolees with families and friends of the bereaved,” he added. Al Shabaab's spokesman for military operation, Abdiasis Abu Musab, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the gunmen had targeted non-Muslims and killed 15 people. “I counted nine bodies being removed from the building by colleagues, those dead could be more. Most of them had what looked like gun shot wounds and for others it seems rubble from the building had collapsed on them,” said a police officer at the scene, who asked not to be named. —Reuters

Vucic: Defence industry, tourism could boost economic cooperation with Slovenia

BELGRADE — Military economic cooperation and tourism are offering a good opportunity for boosting Serbia's economic relations with Slovenia, Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic said on Monday.

Addressing a Serbia-Slovenia business forum at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (PKS), Vucic said there were no political obstacles between the two countries and that their relations were good, sincere and friendly. Vucic said he expected greater development in several sectors, adding that military economic cooperation could be boosted, too. “I am afraid the market for those goods will grow in the future. I think we have exceptional room for cooperation there,” he noted. —Tanjug

Some 2,200 migrants rescued in Mediterranean, 16 bodies recovered

ROME — About 2,200 migrants were plucked to safety in the central Mediterranean in 21 rescue missions on Monday and 16 bodies were recovered, the Italian Coast Guard said.

A statement said Coast Guard ships as well as fishing boats, merchant ships and vessels from humanitarian organisations took part in the separate operations under direction of the Coast Guard command in Rome.

The central Mediterranean route between North Africa and Italy is a highly perilous one for migrants. More than 3,100 people have gone missing or died this year while trying to use this route to reach Europe by boat, the International Organisation for Migration estimates.

Monday's missions rescued migrants trying to reach Europe on 18 rubber boats and three small crafts, the statement said. —Reuters

Six die in fire at Malaysian hospital

KUALA LUMPUR — Six people died and hundreds were evacuated after a fire on Tuesday at a hospital in the southern Malaysian state of Johor, officials said.

Seven people were trapped by the fire inside the second-floor intensive-care unit of the Sultanah Aminah Hospital in Johor Bahru, bordering Singapore, the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department said on its official Twitter account.

Only one person was rescued safely, it said.

It was unclear what started the fire, or whether the casualties were patients or hospital staff.

The evacuated patients were being taken to other hospitals in the state, Health Ministry director-general Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a statement. —Reuters

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK				BANGKOK TO YANGON				RGN TO ICN				ICN TO RGN				MDL TO DMK				DMK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily	TG-303	7:55	8:50	Daily	KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily	KE-471	18:45	22:25	Daily	FD-245	12:45	15:00	Daily	FD-244	10:50	12:15	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	Daily	TG-2301	13:15	14:10	Daily	RGN TO KUL				KUL TO RGN				MDL TO SIN				SIN TO MDL			
TG-306	19:45	21:40	Daily	TG-305	17:50	18:45	Daily	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-706	6:15	8:30	Daily	PG-701	8:50	9:40	Daily	AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily	AK-502	6:55	8:00	Daily	MI-533	15:20	20:15	2	MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily	PG-707	13:45	14:35	Daily	AK-503	19:30	23:45	Daily	AK-502	17:50	19:00	Daily	MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6	MDL TO BKK			
PG-708	15:20	17:15	Daily	PG-703	18:25	19:15	3	8M-501	7:50	11:50	1,3,5	8M-502	12:50	13:50	1,3,5	MDL TO KMG				KMG TO MDL			
PG-708	18:20	20:15	3	PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily	MH-741	12:15	16:30	Daily	MH-742	13:40	14:50	1,6,7	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-704	20:00	21:55	Daily	8M-336	10:40	11:25	Daily	MH-743	15:45	20:05	1,4,6,7	MH-740	10:05	11:15	Daily	PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily	PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily
8M-335	7:40	9:25	Daily	8M-332	19:15	20:00	Daily	RGN TO KMG				KMG TO RGN				MDL TO KMG				KMG TO MDL			
UB-017	15:10	19:20	1,3,5	UB-020	11:00	11:30	7	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
UB-017	17:50	19:20	2,4,6,7	UB-018	20:20	20:50	Daily	CA-416	12:15	15:45	Daily	CA-415	10:45	11:15	Daily	MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily	MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily
UB-019	8:05	9:35	7	UB-020	9:15	9:45	1,2,4,5,6	MU-2032	15:20	18:40	2,4,5,6,7	MU-2031	14:00	14:30	1	NYT to BKK				BKK to NYT			
UB-019	6:30	8:00	1,2,3,4,5,6	DMK TO RGN				MU-2012	12:25	18:40	3	MU-2011	08:15	11:25	3	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
RGN TO DMK				Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	RGN TO TPE				TPE TO RGN				AIRLINE CODES							
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	8M = Myanmar Airways International BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines MH = Malaysia Airlines MU = China Eastern Airlines NH = All Nippon Airways SQ = Singapore Airways PG = Bangkok Airways UB = Myanmar National Airlines VN = Vietnam Airline 3K = Jet Star AI = Air India CI = China Airlines DD = Nok Airline KA = Dragonair MI = Silk Air TG = Thai Airways				AK = Air Asia CA = Air China CZ = China Southern FD = Air Asia KE = Korea Airlines QR = Qatar Airways TR = Tiger Airline			
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily	FD-255	12:05	12:55	Daily	CI-7916	10:45	16:15	1,2,3,4,6	CI-7915	7:00	9:45	1,2,3,4,6								
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily	FD-253	16:20	17:00	Daily	RGN TO PEK				PEK TO RGN				DAY				4 = Thursday			
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily	FD-257	18:05	18:55	Daily	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7	HAN TO RGN				5 = Friday			
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily	DD-4234	10:25	11:15	Daily	VN-956	19:10	21:30	1,3,5,6,7	VN-957	16:50	18:10	1,3,5,6,7	SGN TO RGN				6 = Saturday			
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily	DD-4230	6:20	7:05	Daily	RGN TO HAN				HAN TO RGN				Flight no.				7 = Sunday			
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily	DD-4238	19:30	20:15	Daily	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,7	DOH TO RGN							
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	SL-200	9:05	10:00	Daily	VN-942	12:10	15:00	2,3,4,5,7	UN-943	9:35	11:10	2,3,4,5,7								
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily	SL-206	18:15	19:05	"Daily"	RGN TO SGN				SGN TO RGN											
SL-207	20:05	21:45	"Daily"	CAN TO RGN				Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days								
RGN TO CAN				Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	8M-711	20:30	01:05+1	5	8M-712	2:45	4:20	6								
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	8M-712	2:45	4:20	6	8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7	8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,7								
8M-711	20:30	01:05+1	5	8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7	CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,6	CZ-3055	8:50	10:25	3,6								
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7	CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5	CZ-3055	14:40	16:30	1,5												
CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,6	RGN TO SIN				SIN TO RGN															
CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days												
RGN TO SIN				8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily	SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily	MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5								
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily	MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6								
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily	MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5	MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6								
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily	MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6	MI-533	13:10	20:15	2								
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily	MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6	3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5	3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7								
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5	MI-533	13:10	20:15	2	TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily	UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily								
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5	RGN TO NRT				NRT TO RGN											
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6	3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days								
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2	TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily	PG-724	13:10	15:05	Daily	PG-723	11:40	12:35	Daily								
3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5	UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily	RGN TO DAC				DAC TO RGN											
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7					Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days								
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily					BG-061	16:15	18:00	1,3,6	BG-060	12:45	15:30	1,3,6								
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily																				
RGN TO NRT																							
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days																				
NH-814	21:45	06:50+1	Daily																				

Natural disaster may up dementia risk for elderly

WASHINGTON — Dementia should be considered a health risk for elderly survivors of natural disasters, a new study led by Harvard University researchers suggested Monday.

It found the number of elderly people with symptoms of dementia tripled after the 2011 tsunami in Japan, with those who were uprooted from damaged or destroyed homes and who lost touch with their neighbours at most risk.

“In the aftermath of disasters, most people focus on mental health issues like PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder),” Hiroyuki Hikichi, research fellow at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and lead author of the study, said in a statement.

“But our study suggests that cognitive decline is also an important issue. It appears that relocation to a temporary shelter after a



Survivors walk towards the evacuation centre to get relief goods after super Typhoon Haiyan battered Tacloban city, central Philippines on 10 November 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

disaster may have the unintended effect of separating people not just from their homes but from their neighbours—and both may speed up cognitive decline among vulnerable people.”

The study was published online by the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Harvard Chan researchers, working with

colleagues in Japan, were able to conduct a “natural experiment” among a group of elderly residents of the coastal city of Iwanuma, located about 80 kilometres west of the earthquake epicenter, where nearly half the land area was inundated by the tsunami.

Seven months before the disaster, elderly residents of Iwanuma had been surveyed about their health as part of an ongoing study of aging called the Japan Gerontological Evaluation Study. Two-and-a-half years after the tsunami, the researchers conducted a follow-up survey among the same group.

Out of 3,566 survivors of the tsunami disaster aged 65 or older — some who were able to remain in their homes and some who were forced out — 38.0 per cent said they lost relatives and/or friends and 58.9 per cent reported property damage.

In the pre-tsunami survey, 4.1 per cent of respondents had been assessed with dementia symptoms; after the tsunami, the percentage jumped to 11.5 per cent.

In addition, the percentage of people who reported not interacting with their neighbours — not even with greetings — nearly doubled, from 1.5 per cent to 2.9 per cent.—Xinhua

Australia has highest survival rates among breast cancer patients in the world

SYDNEY — One in eight Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer before their 85th birthday, a new report has found.

While survival rates among Australian women with breast cancer were the highest in the world, evidence have shown that Aussie women were still not receiving the most appropriate care when diagnosed, Cancer Australia said in a statement on Monday.

“Some patients are not getting the information they need about the options that are right for them,” Cancer Australia chief executive Professor Helen Zorbas said.

“This unwarranted variation in practice has the potential to have an impact on patient outcomes and experience,” she said.

At present, breast cancer was among the most commonly diagnosed cancer disease among Australian women.

Cancer Australia reports that for 2016 alone an estimated of 16,084 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in Australia of which 150 were males while the rest females.

Zorbas added that the mortality rate year on year has been dropping, with survival numbers increasing.

“Although more people are being diagnosed with breast cancer, it is because the population is increasing,” she said.

Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who was present at a function to commemorate the

Venezuela opposition bickers over dialogue with government

CARACAS/SAN CRISTOBAL (Venezuela) — Leaders of Venezuela's opposition coalition publicly argued on Monday as its major factions turned against a surprise plan to hold talks with the unpopular government of President Nicolas Maduro.

Opposition leaders were caught off guard by the announcement of the talks earlier in the day by coalition head Jesus Torrealba, splintering the disparate group just as it was preparing for a Wednesday street protest.

"No dialogue has begun in Venezuela," said two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles, adding he had found out about the talks on television. "These devils want to use the good faith of Pope Francis to buy more time."

The opposition Democratic Unity coalition's major parties mostly said they would not be engaging in the talks, which are to be mediated by the Vatican, regional bloc the Union of South American Nations, and three former international leaders on the Caribbean island of Margarita on Sunday.

The opposition was pushing to remove Maduro in a referendum this year as Venezuela undergoes a major economic crisis that has food running short and inflation destroying incomes. But the government nixed the signature drive last week, and a furious



Demonstrators shout slogans in front of riot police during a student rally demanding a referendum to remove Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela on 24 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

opposition vowed protests and a trial of the president for violating democracy.

Maduro himself was in Rome meeting with Pope Francis, after a tour of oil-producing nations.

"At last we are installing a dialogue between the opposition and the legitimate government," Maduro said, after the Pope urged him to alleviate Venezuelans' suffering.

Past conversations between the bitterly polarized opponents have led to little progress. The opposition says Maduro is an inept autocrat who must leave office before the crisis worsens. The former bus driver and union leader vows not to be pushed out by what he calls a power-hungry elite seeking a coup.

Torrealba was cautious. "Dialogue cannot mean a government

strategy to win time," he said after meeting a Vatican envoy in Caracas. "It's a space to fight for a better country for all."

The opposition is calling for nationwide protests for Wednesday as Venezuela's third year of recession has left many skipping meals because of widespread food shortages and spiraling prices.

Capriles said the protests would go ahead and would contin-

ue until the government "respects the constitution."

No official agenda of the talks was announced, but the opposition is bound to bring up complaints about the quashing of its referendum bid to remove Maduro and the sidelining of the National Assembly, while the government will likely detail charges its foes are guilty of fraud, violence and coup plans.

Among the mediators will be former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, former Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernandez and former Panamanian President Martin Torrijos.

During a protest on Monday, student leaders said 27 demonstrators were injured in clashes with security forces in the volatile border city of San Cristobal near Colombia.

"We want freedom!" chanted the several hundred protesters, who barricaded roads with burning rubble.

A hotbed of anti-Maduro sentiment, San Cristobal was the site of the worst violence during protests two years ago that led to 43 deaths around the nation.

Students also held scattered protests in other places, including the capital, Caracas, but most were holding fire for Wednesday's rallies, dubbed "The Takeover of Venezuela." —Reuters

Clinton slams Trump for comments on offensive against Islamic State

MANCHESTER, (N.H.)/ST. AUGUSTINE, (Fla.) — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton slammed rival Donald Trump on Monday for saying that the week-old effort to retake the Iraqi city of Mosul from the control of Islamic State was going badly. "He's basically declaring defeat before the battle has even started," Clinton said at a campaign event in New Hampshire. "He's proving to the world what it means to have an unqualified commander in chief." In a tweet on Sunday, Trump, the Republican nominee for the 8 November election, said the "attack on Mosul is turning out to be a total disaster. We gave them months of notice. US is looking so dumb." Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by the United States, have mounted a huge assault on the area surrounding the city, the last stronghold of Islamic State forces in Iraq. They have retaken about 80 Islamic State-held villages and towns since the offensive was launched on 16 October, but have yet to move on the city itself.

Trump reiterated his position during a rally on Monday in St. Augustine, Florida, where he also urged supporters to vote early and declared his campaign was winning the election.



Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. PHOTO: REUTERS

"So now we're bogged down in Mosul. The enemy is much tougher than they thought. They've had a lot of time to get ready," Trump said. "It's a horrible, horrible situation that's going on. Why did we have to tell them we're going in?" The operation could last weeks, or even months. Islamic State mounted counterattacks on Monday across the country against the Iraqi army and Kurdish forces, trying to deflect attention away from the Mosul campaign.

Trump suggested last week during the final 2016 presidential debate that the US-backed attack on Mosul was orchestrated to help Clinton in her White House bid.

With just over two weeks

to go until the election, Clinton, President Barack Obama's first-term secretary of state, leads the New York businessman in national opinion polls. Both candidates have been focussing on a small set of political swing states that could decide the contest. Seeking to cement a wide advantage she holds with women voters, Clinton enlisted the help of firebrand US Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who blasted Trump over allegations he tried to grope or kiss several women without their consent over a 20-year span. "He thinks because he has a mouthful of Tic Tacs that he can force himself on any women within groping distance," Warren told a raucous crowd of 4,000 at St. Anselm College in Manchester. "Well, I've got news for you, Donald Trump. Women have had it with guys like you."

At least 10 women have said Trump made unwanted sexual advances, including groping or kissing, in incidents from the early 1980s to 2007, according to reports in various news outlets. Trump has denied the women's allegations, calling them "totally and absolutely false" and promising on Saturday he would sue his accusers. —Reuters

Demolition of France's 'Jungle' migrant camp set to begin

CALAIS, (France) — France will begin dismantling the "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais on Tuesday as several hundred more inhabitants queued for temporary housing in centers across France.

More than 2,300 camp dwellers — more than a third of the total — left the filthy shantytown outside the northern port by bus on Monday, with French officials celebrating the peaceful start of the operation after sporadic weekend skirmishes.

An interior ministry spokesman said that the demolition operation would start by hand and that the bulldozers would not roll in immediately in an effort to minimize tensions.

For many of the migrants fleeing war and poverty, the closure of the "Jungle" marks the end of a dream to reach Britain, which lies a tantalizingly short sea crossing away, where most had sought to reunite with family or find work.

"We know the Jungle is over," said Aarash, a 21-year-old Afghan as he made his way to the hangar where immigration officials are processing the migrants.

"We will see if we can get on a bus today, but we want a good city, like one near Paris. If we can't go there we will come back to the Jungle."

The young migrant's words echo concerns held by some aid workers that migrants who remain defiant to reach Britain or become disillusioned with the resettlement process will simply regroup in Calais at a later date.

Nestled in the sand dunes, the Jungle is a symbol of Europe's failed migration policies as member states bicker over who should take in asylum-seekers and economic migrants. Many have fled countries like Afghanistan, Syria as well as Eritrea and Sudan. London and Paris have been at odds over the fate of about 1,300 unaccompanied child migrants. The French government last week urged Britain to step up its efforts and resettle child migrants.

On Monday, British Interior Minister Amber Rudd said Britain would take in roughly half of the camp's children who are alone.

"Then we will have done our commitment to the French," Rudd told lawmakers in parliament. Six months ahead of a presidential election in France, the camp and border controls with Britain are hotly debated campaign themes. Some right-wing opponents of President Francois Hollande want all the migrants transferred to Britain. —Reuters

Investigators seek data recorder in California bus crash that killed 13

INDIO (Calif.)—Investigators seeking the cause of a bus crash in California that killed 13 people, including the driver, examined wreckage on Monday for any data recorder to determine what might have led to one of the deadliest such US collisions in the last decade, officials said.

Authorities said they still do not know how fast the bus, which was carrying casino patrons, was traveling when it rammed into the back of a tractor-trailer early on Sunday near Palm Springs, which is about 100 miles (160 km) east of Los Angeles.

"It's so early on that basically we can't say definitely what the cause of the accident was," California Highway Patrol (CHP) division chief Jim Abele told reporters.

Investigators have not found any data recorder on the bus and National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said



Investigators confer at the scene of a mass casualty bus crash on the westbound Interstate 10 freeway near Palm Springs, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

it was not clear if the 1996 model-year vehicle was equipped with one.

NTSB investigators will look into factors such as whether the bus driver

was fatigued or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, as well as any mechanical factors, Weener said.

Thirty-one victims were taken to area hospi-

tals, with the most badly hurt going to Desert Regional Medical Centre in Palm Springs where, according to the facility, four remained in critical

condition.

The tractor-trailer's driver, who was injured in the collision, has told investigators he was crawling along at 5 miles per hour (8

kmh), Abele said.

But CHP officials said that was not unusually slow because traffic was heavy at the time, as CHP officers had been slowing cars and trucks for a utility project.

It was clear the driver of the bus did not slam on the brakes before hitting the tractor-trailer, because there were no skid marks from the vehicle, Abele said.

The bus was ferrying casino-goers back to Los Angeles from the Red Earth Casino in Thermal, which is about 30 miles (48 km) southeast of Palm Springs, Abele said.

The Riverside County coroner's bureau on Monday identified most of the 13 people killed in the crash. They were listed as ranging in age from 52 to 72.

The driver was identified as Teodulo Vides, 59. He was the owner-operator of a charter company called USA Holiday, officials said.—Reuters

Train collision leaves one dead, over 100 injured in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG — At least one person was killed and more than 100 others were injured in a train collision in South Africa, authorities confirmed on Tuesday.

The collision took place on Monday afternoon at Kaalfontein between Tembisa and Kempton Park on Gauteng's East Rand near Johannesburg, according to Metrorail, which manages the operation of the train.

The cause of the accident remained unknown and an investigation was underway, Metrorail spokesperson Lilian Mofokeng said.

Investigators suspect-

ed that high speed was to blame, as one train at high speed collided with another train from the opposite direction.

"Our priority is on the people that are affected. I am sure you will agree with me that 100 people injured and one dead is too much. So the details of what caused the accident will follow later," Mofokeng said.

Those who sustained minor injuries were treated at the scene, while others were taken to various hospitals nearby, rescuers said.

The collision left thousands stranded without transportation from work after the tracks were closed to traffic.—Xinhua

Chinese sailors freed by Somali pirates take flight home

NAIROBI — Nine out of the ten Chinese crew members freed by Somali pirates took a flight home on Monday from the Kenyan capital Nairobi, accompanied by officials sent from Beijing.

Twenty-six crew members, including the ten Chinese, were released on Saturday after almost five years in captivity. They arrived in Nairobi one day later with UN help.

The ten Chinese include nine from the Chinese mainland and one from Taiwan. One of them is receiving treatment in Nairobi. Chinese ambassador to Kenya, Liu Xianfa, had met them.

A total of 29 men were

in an Omani-flagged fishing vessel FV Naham 3, which was hijacked south of the Seychelles in March 2012, according to John Steed, a regional coordinator of Oceans Beyond Piracy, which is involved in the rescue operation.

They are from China, the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam. Three of them, including one from the Chinese mainland and one from Taiwan, had died.

The Chinese government has expressed thanks to "all the organisations and people involved in the rescue operation," and its condolences to the families of the deceased crew members.—Xinhua



Chinese crew members (wearing caps) freed by Somali pirates arrive at the airport before heading home, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24 October 2016. Nine out of the ten Chinese crew members freed by Somali pirates took a flight home on Monday from the Kenyan capital Nairobi, accompanied by officials sent from Beijing. PHOTO: XINHUA

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 30th OCTOBER 2016 (Dewali DAY), Loading, Unloading and delivery for the Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC CLOUD VOY. NO (002N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC CLOUD VOY. NO (002N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2016 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185



Singer Justin Bieber performs on stage in Telia Parken Stadium in Copenhagen, Denmark on 2 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

Justin Bieber storms off stage after being booed by fans

LONDON — Pop star Justin Bieber stormed off stage at his concert in Manchester, England, on Sunday, 23 October, after being booed by fans.

The 22-year-old singer was booed by the crowd as he spoke to them between songs, because they wanted him to get on with singing his hits, so he dropped his microphone and walked off the stage, reported Female First.

He soon returned and said, "Manc can't handle the talking so I won't talk." Bieber explained his behaviour at the end of the concert, before he played "Baby".

"The reason why I was getting upset earlier was because I travelled across the whole world to come here and I dedicate my life to performing and bring smiles to people's faces," he said.

"I feel that people were just not giving me the same respect back and it hurts a little bit so that's why. But we're gonna end it on this last song... 'Baby'. —PTI

Taylor Swift helps US Grand Prix to a record crowd

AUSTIN (Texas) — Sunday's US Formula One Grand Prix reversed a trend of declining audiences with its biggest crowd yet, according to organisers who said 269,889 attended over the three days at the Circuit of the Americas.

The numbers were boosted by singer Taylor Swift holding her long-awaited first concert of the year on Saturday night after race qualifying, with some 80,000 watching.

The race, now in its fifth

edition, reported a three-day crowd of 224,011 last year with the previous record of 265,499 set on its debut in 2012.

In 2013 and 2014 the official figures were 250,324 and 237,406 respectively.

Bad weather hit revenues significantly last year, with Saturday's final practice taking place behind closed doors due to flooded conditions and qualifying postponed to the Sunday.

That race turned out to be the title decider, with Britain's

Lewis Hamilton taking his third world championship with Mercedes.

State subsidies, which the circuit needs to keep the race on the calendar, are based on a formula for calculating how much economic activity the grand prix generates for Texas and attendances play a big part in that. —

Reuters

Taylor Swift celebrates 10-year-anniversary of debut album

LOS ANGELES — On this day, ten years ago, Taylor Swift released her self-titled debut album and the singer took to Instagram to mark the occasion.

"10 years ago today, my first album came out. I couldn't be more grateful today, thinking back on how much fun we've had and how you've encouraged me to change and grow. It's been such an adventure, guys. Thank you for all of it," Swift wrote.

The 26-year-old songstress,

who till now has five chart-topping albums, four world tours, and 10 Grammys to her credit, also posted a picture of her curly-haired teenage self playing guitar. —PTI

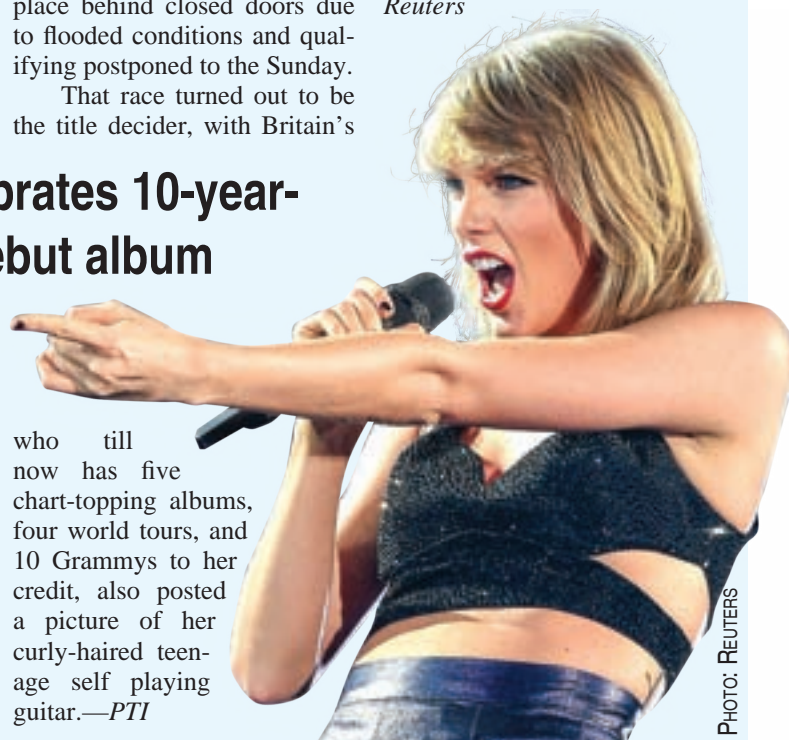


PHOTO: REUTERS

Kardashian, website resolve suit over claims robbery faked

NEW YORK — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian on Monday dropped a defamation lawsuit against a website that claimed she staged an armed robbery in Paris after the two sides resolved the issue, her lawyer said.

Kardashian withdrew the lawsuit filed this month in New York against US celebrity gossip site MediaTakeOut, according to a court document. The federal lawsuit was withdrawn without prejudice, meaning Kardashian could refile it.

"The matter has been resolved to the parties' mutual satisfaction. Consequently, we voluntarily dismissed the action today," Andrew Brettler, of the Los Angeles law firm of Lavelly and Singer, said in an email.

MediaTakeOut had reported that Kardashian, 35, had faked the robbery and then filed a fraudulent insurance claim. The website did not respond to a request for

comment.

French police said Kardashian was robbed at gunpoint of some \$10 million in jewelry by masked men who tied her up in her Paris apartment early on 3 October.

The lawsuit had sought unspecified damages for defamation. It named MediaTakeOut.com and its founder, Fred Mwangaguhunga, as defendants.

Kardashian had been criticised for making herself vulnerable by posting photos of her \$4 million dollar engagement ring and other jewelry in the days before the Paris attack. —

Reuters



Kings of Leon reign atop Billboard 200 chart with 'WALLS'



US rock band Kings of Leon. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Kings of Leon debuted at the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 chart on Monday with "WALLS," the first chart-topping record for the Nashville rockers.

"WALLS," the band's seventh album, sold 68,000 albums, 27,000 songs and was streamed nearly 10 million times, totaling 77,000 album units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan for the week ending 20 October.

Canadian rapper Drake's "Views" climbed one spot to No. 2 this week, with sales of nearly 40,000 album units that included 45 million album streams.

"Views" has clocked strong weekly sales during its 25 weeks on the chart through the strength of

its online streaming consumption.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard album chart this week includes rapper The Game at No. 4 with "1992" and pop singer JoJo at No. 6 with "Mad Love."

Last week's chart-topper, Green Day's "Revolution Radio," dropped to No. 10 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, The Chainsmokers' upbeat dance-pop hit "Closer" featuring Halsey remained at No. 1, selling 97,000 copies last week. —Reuters

Scholars use Big Data to show Marlowe co-wrote three Shakespeare plays

LONDON — A new edition of William Shakespeare's complete works will name Christopher Marlowe as co-author of three plays, shedding new light on the links between the two great playwrights after centuries of speculation and conspiracy theories.

Marlowe will be listed as co-author of the three Henry VI plays in the New Oxford Shakespeare, due to be published in several installments over the coming weeks by the Oxford University Press.

"Shakespeare has entered the world of Big Data and there are certain questions that we are now able to answer more confidently that people have been asking for a very long time," Gary Taylor, one of the project's senior editors, told Reuters.

The issue of whether Shakespeare wrote all the plays attributed to him has

been the subject of endless conjecture, with one persistent theory being that they were actually written by Marlowe — a notion rejected by Shakespeare scholars.

Taylor, a Florida State University professor, said academics had known for a long time that Shakespeare worked with other writers on some plays. The idea that he collaborated with Marlowe on the Henry VI plays had been debated for centuries, but had not been possible to demonstrate before.

Taylor said scholars had used databases of plays and other writings from the Elizabethan period, not just by Shakespeare or Marlowe but by many others working at the time, to search for distinctive words or combinations of words.

"That kind of Big Data was never available until very recently," he said.



Tourists watch actors perform at the house where William Shakespeare was born during celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death in Stratford-upon-Avon, Britain, on 23 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The academics who worked on the New Oxford Shakespeare, and others who had provided peer reviews of their findings, were extremely confident about Marlowe's authorship of some parts of the Henry VI plays, Taylor said. "There are parts that are very clearly by Shakespeare and there are parts that are very clearly by

Marlowe," he said, adding that most of the best-loved passages were by Shakespeare.

The New Oxford Shakespeare includes 44 plays, of which 17 are identified as having been written in collaboration with other authors. The previous edition of Shakespeare's complete works by the same publisher, is-

sued in 1986, identified eight of 39 plays as collaborative.

Taylor said that collaboration between playwrights was entirely normal in the Elizabethan period, and there was no suggestion of any great secret or conspiracy regarding Shakespeare's work with Marlowe.

The author of "The

Jew of Malta", "Doctor Faustus" and "Edward II", Marlowe passed into British popular culture as Shakespeare's great rival, but Taylor said that was speculation.

"It's possible they loved each other, it's possible they hated each other. We have no way of knowing," he said. "Rivals can collaborate."—Reuters

Children send birthday wishes to astronaut Jing Haipeng in space

BEIJING — Children from across the world have extended birthday wishes to taikonaut Jing Haipeng, who is currently orbiting the earth in lab Tiangong-2.

"Happy birthday Uncle Jing Haipeng, 'Tashi delek'," said a Tibetan primary school girl using the Tibetan greeting for good luck and best wishes. She also said that it was her

dream to become an astronaut.

Jing, commander of the Shenzhou-11 mission, turned 50 on Monday.

Xinhua has collected over 10,000 birthday wishes for Jing from children from all over the world, including messages, pictures and videos sent from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as coun-

tries including the United States and Sweden.

"I feel lucky to be this close to an astronaut," said a pupil in Beijing. "I'm more than willing to send my birthday wishes to Uncle Jing."

A student from Hangzhou school for the deaf sent her birthday message by sign language. Two days ago, she asked the astronauts in the space lab

whether they had seen aliens.

"I haven't seen aliens, yet, but I do harbor a hope that I will see aliens, and many other peculiar things aside," Chen Dong, Jing's teammate in the mission, replied in his Space Journal.

Xinhua has sent some of the children's messages, pictures and videos to Jing.—Xinhua

Cheese and wine festival in western Ukraine attracts thousands of visitors

LVIV — The 7th Cheese and Wine festival that was held in Ukraine's western city of Lviv during the weekend, has attracted some 15,000 of visitors, the event's organiser said on Monday.

"The popularity of the festival is growing each year. This is vividly demonstrated by the fact that this weekend, all hotels and hostels in Lviv were completely filled," Andriy Sydor, the director of Lviv Cheese and Wine festival, told Xinhua.

For three days from 21 to 23 October, the fest has offered its guests the opportunity to sample a variety of cheese and wine produced by big and small-scale producers in different parts of Ukraine and abroad.

The event featured dozens of wine types, ranging from dry grape wines to sweet fruit drinks, while cheese assortment included hard and soft cheeses in different shapes and sizes.

A total 62 food and wine-making companies took part in the festival,

with 15 of them presenting cheese and wine produced outside Ukraine.

Apart from testing sessions, the programme of the festival included cooking classes, workshops on pairing different kinds of cheese and wine and a concert of live music.

The organisers of the festival have also established a food market, where vendors were selling home-made liquor and milk products.

On Saturday, a Day of Syrnok, a fried pancake made of farmer cheese, was held in the framework of the festival. During the celebration, local bakers cooked a Syrnok weighing 100 kilograms and offered the guests of the fest to taste it.

The annual festival, which was launched in 2010, is aimed at popularization and promotion of Ukraine's cheese and wine making culture, which has been developing in the country's western and southern regions for centuries.—Xinhua

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Myanmar International

(26-10-2016 07:00am ~ 27-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	School For the Blind (Kyee Myin Dine)
07:52	Am	Myanmar Puppet
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon (Episode-1)
08:51	Am	Philatelic Pleasure
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Chef Life: Thit Htoo
09:39	Am	Buddha Image Built of Bamboo Strip
09:51	Am	Delicacies From Magwe
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township

10:51 Am A Precious Gift from waste

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:44	Pm	Super Myanmar Traditional Stick Form (Episode-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar- Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Art Students: Sculpture
08:47	Pm	Kayin Child Boxer

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

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Ronaldo and Messi go head-to-head for Ballon d'Or again

PARIS — Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi will resume their perennial battle to be crowned the world's best footballer after they headed the shortlist of 30 players for the 2016 Ballon d'Or announced on Monday.

Barcelona's Argentine great Messi, who took the honour for a record fifth time last year, or Real Madrid's Portuguese three-time winner Ronaldo have taken the coveted accolade every year since 2007, when AC Milan's Kaka won.

Despite a dip in form this season, Ronaldo, who inspired Portugal to the Euro 2016 title and Real Madrid to the Champions League crown last season, is hot favourite to regain his title.

He is one of six Real Madrid players on the list with Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos, Luka Modric, Sergio Ramos and Pepe as the European champions boast more candidates than any other club.

Messi and his two Barcelona striking partners, Neymar and Luis Suarez, scorers of more than a century of goals between them in 2016, also feature on the list along with team mate Andres Iniesta.

Romantics will be delighted to see that Leicester City, fairytale winners of the Premier League, are represented by pauper-to-prince striker Jamie Vardy and England's players' player of the year, Algerian Riyad Mahrez.

Mahrez and Borussia



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona's Lionel Messi. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dortmund's Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang are the only players on the list who hail from outside Europe or South America.

France, with Antoine Griezmann, Hugo Lloris, Dimitri Payet and Paul Pogba, and Ar-

gentina, with Messi, Gonzalo Higuain, Sergio Aguero and Paulo Dybala, are the best-represented nations with four players each.

France Football magazine, who have awarded the Ballon d'Or every year since 1956, an-

nounced the shortlist, with the winner set to be announced in January.

For the past six years it was the FIFA Ballon d'Or until world football's governing body ended its association with the award in September.—Reuters

Atletico Madrid forward Griezmann named La Liga Player of Year

MADRID — Atletico Madrid forward Antoine Griezmann beat stars including Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to be named La Liga player of the season for 2015/16 on Monday.

Atletico dominated the awards as Diego Simeone took the coach of the season award, Jan Oblak was best goalkeeper, Diego Godin top defender and Frenchman Griezmann claimed the fans' award.

Barcelona's Uruguay striker Luis Suarez was named the top non-EU player and Real Madrid's Luka Modric was named best midfielder.

Barca's Argentina international Messi was selected as the best forward at the award ceremony in Valencia.—Xinhua



PHOTO: REUTERS

Kerber turns on the style to overwhelm Halep

SINGAPORE — Angelique Kerber produced a polished display to claim her second straight win at the WTA Finals with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Simona Halep on Tuesday, the world number one virtually booking a spot in the semi-finals of the elite eight-woman event.

Kerber, who beat Slovak Dominika Cibulkova in her first match on Sunday, was at her resilient best against Halep, standing firm when her opponent threatened and putting her foot on the accelerator when she sniffed an opportunity to pull away.

The German entered the match trailing Halep, who beat Madison Keys in her Red Group opener, 4-3 in their head-to-head meetings but the 28-year-old showed flashes of the form that brought her two grand slam titles in 2016 to win in 82 minutes.

"I'm feeling very, very good here and it's just great to win my



Angelique Kerber of Germany (R) is congratulated by Simona Halep of Romania during Singapore WTA Finals Round Robin Singles at Singapore Indoor Stadium, Singapore, on 25 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

second match here playing my best tennis," Kerber said. "I'm trying to enjoy all my matches here and I hope the spectators can enjoy it as well."

Kerber came out flying,

pushing Halep all around the court with her pinpoint groundstrokes to manufacture an immediate break, which the German consolidated with a gutsy hold after the Romanian set about attack-

ing her opponent's second serve.

Halep was struggling to contain Kerber's main weapon, her whipped forehand, and while the world number four's athleticism and speed around the court kept her in the rallies, the German left-hander continued to dictate the early exchanges.

The Romanian, however, was showing more patience and opted to keep Kerber pinned on the baseline rather than going for winners, the strategy paying off as she worked her angles beautifully to break back then hold to love for a 4-3 lead.

Kerber was feeling the pressure but maintained her composure and consistency to first stave off her rampant opponent in the eighth game and then pressure Halep into a string of errors to cough up a decisive break of serve in the next.

The German held comfortably to seal a high quality opening

set in 43 minutes and carried the momentum into the second when she reeled off her fifth game in a row to open a 2-0 lead before Halep finally stopped the rot by holding. The Romanian threw everything she had at Kerber in the next game in an attempt to get the set back on serve but the top seed's remarkable retrieving skills and ability to hit winners while stretched out wide neutralised the threat.

Exerting all that effort for no reward seemed to knock the stuffing out of Halep and Kerber pounced again to seize another break against a demoralised opponent to give her the breathing room she needed to seal an ultimately comfortable victory.

Cibulkova takes on American Keys in the second Red Group encounter in a battle between debutants searching for their first victory of the tournament.—Reuters