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# EXCHANGE VIEWS, END CONFLICTS

## STATE COUNSELLOR ADDRESSES UPDJC MEETING

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) started at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon with an address by the chairperson of the UPDJC, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

In her speech, she said that the goal of the committee is to achieve peace, which means an end to conflicts. Prosperity is possible, she said, only when peace has been restored. As a result, the major responsibility of the committee should be to end conflicts and to build a prosperous Myanmar. Ending conflicts involves all of the armed forces, she added.

It is necessary to exchange views and to engage in discussions with one another in peace building efforts, she pointed out. Solutions can be reached only in this way. Then, agreements reached will be implemented step by step, she added.

The state counsellor said that national level dialogues are intended for all stakeholders, as there are many ethnic groups in Myanmar. Defining that inclusiveness means participation of those who can represent all.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee. PHOTO: MNA



She added that it can be assumed that the time has ripened for national level dialogues, and as it is impossible to hold all dialogues in the entire country simultaneously, three types of national level dialogues based on region, national cause and ethnic affairs will be held first before future plans are developed.

She called on all parties to nurture friendship, intimacy and mutual understanding and said that each party is responsible for

the inclusiveness of the peace process. The restoration of peace is the duty not only of people who are attending the meeting, but also of organisations, individuals and stakeholders that are endeavoring for peace.

She urged all to find the ways and means to enable non-signatories to the NCA to shoulder their responsibilities.

In addition, she clarified that the only way to peace is to end conflicts. As a result, priority

should be given to ending conflicts before urging the stakeholders that are outside the process not to delay. As the saying goes "Time and tide wait for no man," and it is necessary to use time beneficially, she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the second Panglong conference is expected to be held in February, and expressed hope that all parties would sign the NCA and participate in the process.

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## MoH holds press conference on first Zika virus infection in Yangon

MINISTRY of Health has advised women in Yangon to receive medical check-ups before getting pregnant in the next six months after the first case of Zika virus in the country's largest city.

The ministry held the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday one day after detecting the first case of Zika infection, disclosing that they would not allow the woman to leave her home in the next two weeks to prevent the mosquito-borne virus from spreading.

"The authorities have also been giving her psychotherapy because she's worried about her

pregnancy," said Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, Director-General of the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health at the press conference.

A 32-year-old pregnant foreign woman, who has been living in Yangon for two years, was detected on Thursday Zika positive in Yangon.

She was believed to be infected with the virus during her foreign trip over the last two weeks.

The ministry has also carried out medical check-ups to more than 30 suspects in the township where the infected woman is liv-

“Women asked to receive medical check-ups before getting pregnancy in next six months.”

ing.

"We have not yet found further suspected patient," said Dr Soe Lwin Nyein.

The authorities would also take preventive measures in Yangon and Mandalay.

The World Health Organization warned earlier this month that Zika causes mild symptoms

in most people, including fever, sore eyes and a rash.

The pregnant women can give birth to babies with microcephaly, a deformation that leads to abnormally small brains and heads.

It has so far been detected in 70 countries worldwide, including at least 19 in the Asia Pacific

region. Brazil has been the country hardest hit so far, with more than 1,900 reported cases of microcephaly.

At least 400 Zika cases have been detected in Singapore, while Thailand last month reported its first cases of Zika-linked microcephaly in two babies. There is no cure or vaccine for the virus.

A WHO report released this month warned that the virus is "highly likely to further spread in the region" which includes China, Japan, Australia, most South-east Asian nations and the Pacific islands.—GNLM





Speaker U Win Myint meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. PHOTO: MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with S-Korean President Park Geun-hye

U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, called on President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun-hye yesterday in the Presidential Palace in Seoul.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed matters on friendship and cooperation between parliaments of the two countries, legislation issues and democratic transition in Myanmar. The Myanmar delegation led by Speaker U Win Myint

visited the Samsung Innovation Museum yesterday.

In the afternoon, they visited Gang Nam Resource Recovery Facility, the energy-from-waste plant.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Three More Armed Attackers

IN an operation launched by the combined forces of the Tatmataw troops and border guard police force, two violent attackers namely Hamitusong and Notularmein who got involved in violent armed attacks were arrested in the village of Sarkaing, Buthitaung township of Rakhine State at 7:30 am yesterday.

Aryud who took part in the armed attack was also arrested at his house in the village of Koetankauk in an operation made by the troops at about 1:45pm yesterday.

They had already been handed over to Kyaungtaung and Inn-din police camps.

During the patrol in the riv-

er Nat, the vessel patrol group found 3 suspicious Bengalis swimming to the neighbouring country at about 5:20pm between Tan and Htan creeks and arrested Arbushama, Arlizawhtet and Sharkhunthali. It is reported they were handed over to Maungtaung Police Station.

—*Myawady*

## C-in-C of Defence Services pays goodwill visit to China

A Myanmar delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived Kunming yesterday to pay a goodwill visit to China at the invitation of Gen Fang Fenghui, the Chief of Joint Staff and member of the Central Military Commission of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the People's Republic of China.

They were welcomed at the airport in Kunming by Maj-Gen Wu Xiao Yu and Maj Gen Qu Xin Yong and Chinese senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Consul-Gen-

eral in Kunming U Soe Paing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Tint Hsan and officials.

The delegation visited Tibetan Village, Naxi Village, Bai Village, Yi Village and Dai Village.

The Commander-in-Chief and party also visited the agricultural firm in Guo Lin Village, Xi Shan.

Maj Gen Yu Kum, Commander of Yunnan Military Region, hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Zhongwei Hotel in Kunming.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the agricultural firm in Guo Lin Village, Xi Shan. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Crime NEWS

### Opium powder worth over Ks600 million seized in Hsenwi



Authorities discover opium speciosa in Hsenwi. PHOTO: POLICE

LOCAL police arrested two drug traffickers after they were discovered in possession of a cache of opium speciosa worth over Ks600 million on Wednesday, according to a police report.

During its surprise check programme near Oriental Toll Gate in Hsenwi Township, an anti-drug squad searched a suspected Toyota Hilux being driven by U Yan Yone Sein with another on board heading from Kutkai to Hsenwi.

Police found opium speciosa weighing 74 kilograms from the back of the car and collected

them.

U Yan Yone Sein and Maung Lout Law Myint have been charged by the police under Sections 15/19 (A/21) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

U Ko Win, a resident in Lashio, said that kind of cars mostly enter the region from Laukkai, the capital of Kokang in the northern part of Shan State. Driving those cars with highest speed led several traffic accidents. The majority of drivers are Chinese people.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Australian falls to death from four-storey building

An Australian identified by the police as Phodes Lachlan William fell from a four-storey building on Thursday. At about 11 pm, some residents of Building No. 97 at Nawarat Housing Complex heard something fall down to the ground and later found a man lying on the ground. They reported to the police, who rushed the unconscious man with head injuries to hospital.

On the roof of the four-storey building were a passport with the foreigner's name on it, a ticket for a Myawady-Yangon express car, a cinema ticket, a pair of shoes, an iPad, a charger, a black sling bag with Thailand and Myanmar currency notes worth Bahts 4,840 and over MMK 130,000 and other foreign currency notes, a credit card, a learner's permit card, a travel vaccination book, a pair of trousers and a pairs of shorts.

The unfortunate Australian succumbed to the injuries at 2.10 am yesterday morning.—*Myawady*

## Car fire incidents reached 82 over past nine months

OVER 80 motor vehicle fire incidents occurred across the country between January and September this year, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

Four people were killed in the car fire incidents over the past

nine months. In the case that happened in Hpa-an in Kayin State in January, one person died after a car hit a tree and burst into flames.

Two other people also died in the similar that have accidents occurred in Khamti Township in

Sagaing Region in May.

Myanmar Fire Services Department confirmed 13 cases of car catching fire that have happened in January, 13 cases in February, 10 cases in March, nine cases in April, 14 cases in May, five cases in June, five cas-

es in July, two cases in August and 11 cases in September.

The car fire is one of the most common causes of fire-related property.

Some cars were damaged by fire due to overheated engine and wire.—*Kyaw Kyaw*



# President arrives back as he concludes Viet Nam visit



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin visit Ho Chi Minh House in Hanoi, Viet Nam. PHOTO: MNA

A Myanmar delegation led by President U Htin Kyaw arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday concluding the three-day visit to Viet Nam.

President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin were welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice Presidents U

Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior-General Soe Win, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and diplomats from the Vietnam-

ese embassy in Yangon.

During their stay in Hanoi, President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin visited Ho Chi Minh House in Hanoi yesterday morning. During his visit to the traditional stilt house where Ho Chi Minh lived from 1958 to 1969



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin being welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

the president signed in the visitors' book.

Afterwards, they delegation headed by President U Htin Kyaw visited the One Pillar Pagoda, built by Emperor Lý Thái Tông, who ruled from 1028 to 1054.

The temple was destroyed in

1954 and it was rebuilt afterwards and completed in 1960.

The President also met with the ambassador and staff families of Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi.

The delegation also visited the Viet Nam National War Museum.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Union Minister for Information meets with IPRD's Divisional Heads

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint has called on divisional heads of the Information and Public Relation Department for turning the departments across the country into community centres.

"Our aim is for our department to be a community centre. It is important for implementing to shape our places as those accessible by every individual. At the same time, we need to make our libraries familiar to everybody and to make libraries work their activities more effectively," said the Union Minister at meeting with the divisional heads yesterday attending the refresher course 1/2016 in Nay Pyi Taw.

He also stressed the need for the IPRD to hold meetings, discussions and talk shows and to conveniently accommodate guests in department-owned buildings in co-operation with nationwide vil-



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addressing the meeting with IPRD's Divisional Heads. PHOTO: MNA

lage-originated civil societies, local and foreign NGOs so that the departmental places will become community centres.

While the government is carrying out the development and peace of the nation, the Ministry of Information is taking responsibility for broadening knowledge of the public, he added. He also urged the heads of the divisional offic-

es of the IPRD to do the office works based on the allotment of budget, hence to wisely and systematically spend allotted budgets.

Director-General U Maung Pe clarified plans to be implemented and district departmental heads also explained in detail about the activities performed in their respective areas.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Some schools reopened in Maungtaw district

FOLLOWING October 9 violent armed attack in Maungtaw district, Rakhine State schools were temporarily closed and teachers returned home. Now in some places that gained peace and stability, schools resumed teaching.

Out of 402 schools altogether—9 SHSs, 18 SMSs and 375 SPSs, only 50 schools—4 SHSs, 9 SMSs and 36 SPSs, are now operating their regular routine. Due to the situation of the secu-

rity of the area, there are still 352 schools in all—4SHSs, 9 SMSs and 339 SPSs to be reopened.

Maungtaw District Education Office is currently making necessary arrangements to reopen schools remaining closed, depending on the security of the area—24 schools as first priority, 49 schools as second priority and 82 schools as third priority, 183 in all, it is learnt.

In Maungtaw district, there

are 218 SATs, 639 JATs and 1803 PATs—numbering to 2660 in total. Out of them, 87 SATs, 151 JATs and 195 PATs—433 in all returned home.

According to Maungtaw District Education Office, 2 SATs, 3 JATs and 11 PATs—16 in all returned to their classes and 417—85 SATs, 148 JATs and 184 didn't arrive yet to their assigned locations.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## State Counsellor to visit Japan

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an official visit to Japan in the near future at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Union Minister for Information meets MACPJC

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met with Myanmar Anti-Piracy & Content Protection Joint committee (MACPJC) at the ministry yesterday.

They discussed the purpose, work procedures, formation of the committee and legal action against piracy.

The meeting was attended by officials of the Ministry of Information, and artistes including leading committee members U Lu Min, U Thein Shwe, U Myo Swe, Myanmarpyi Kyauk Sein, U Min Chit Thu, and Daw Kyi Phyu Shin.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## State Counsellor addresses . . .

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In conclusion, she said that friends and experts believe that development of Myanmar is synonymous with the world being ready to lend a helping hand to the peace process of the NRPC. She also urged all to cooperate.

After the State Counsellor's speech, UPDJC Vice Chairman for Ethnic Armed Groups Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said that armed conflicts that started with the independence of the country are not beneficial for the nation and have led to enormous losses for the state and ethnic peoples.

Therefore, it is necessary for the people to cooperate in the process as much as they can by shouldering whatever duty they

can perform, he added, before urging peace building leaders to end war bravely.

Members of the UPDJC for political parties also pointed out the lessons from peace efforts of successive governments.

UPDJC Secretariat explained the work related to political framework review while the process of political dialogues, guides for national level dialogues and work procedures for regions, states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, policies for formation of the UPDJC Office, topics for national—level dialogues and tasks related to political dialogues were approved at the meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*



# LOCAL Business

## Myanmar's earning from jade export declines this FY

EXPORT earning of jade was more than US\$230 million over the first half of this fiscal year, registering a decrease of over \$400 million compared to the same period last year.

The export of jade went down after China's limitation with heavy tax, an official of the Ministry of Commerce said. The country generated \$700 million from the export of jade and mineral resources over the same period last year.

Jade is a major earning in the export of mineral resources. Among other countries, China is

the largest jade buyer for Myanmar. About 99 per cent of the total jade export normally goes to the world's second richest country.

Between April and September this year, the country received over \$300 million from mineral export including jade, according to the figures of the Commerce Ministry.

Over the past six months this year, the export value between Myanmar and foreign trade partners reached about \$13 billion including over \$5.5 billion from export sector and over \$7.3 billion from import sector.—*Ki Ki*



Merchants appraising jade stones at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## USAID vows to offer technical aid to local entrepreneurs

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged to provide technical assistance to Myanmar entrepreneurs through Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), but the body secreted the amount of funds for one-year project.

To give encouragement to local entrepreneurs, the GEN will launch its global entrepreneurship week 2016 from 14 to 20 November in Yangon, with plans to take place 60 events in regions and states.

The week's discussions and events are designed to inspire and better equip current and future entrepreneurs with knowledge and resources to start a business, said Ms Winnie Khine of GEN.

The Global Entrepreneurship Week is a celebration of the innovators and job creators, who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare.

During one week each November, GEN inspires people everywhere through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators.

The GEN will also invite local businessmen to attend the global entrepreneurship conference in South Africa to be held between 13 and 16 March next year with the aims of creating new business links with international companies.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



## Digital Winners Asia to be held in Yangon

DIGITAL Winners Asia, the first-ever regional startup event of Telenor Group, will be launched on 1st and 2nd November in Yangon. The event is focused on merging the creativity, energy, and expertise of nine of the region's upcoming startups in a two-day platform designed to empower participants to achieve scale across markets.

Digital Winners Asia will bring nine startups and top-tier speakers together over the course of two days in Yangon to build and exercise the right skills, knowledge and tools to tackle digital business opportunities across markets. The format of the event will consist of a mix of keynote discussions from the startups and venture

capital communities.

The startup teams will hold case preparation sessions to compete for 100,000 Norwegian Kroner in initial expansion funds on the closing day of the event, it is learnt from Telenor group.

The participating startups come from a variety of industries including marketing services, energy, artificial intelligence, tourism, and education. Among them are MyanZen from Myanmar, a platform that empowers small and medium social media entrepreneurs to sell beyond traditional online marketplaces. MyanZen blends in with the existing selling behaviour of the social commerce and provides solutions at each part of the selling process, it is

learnt.

EcoEnergy, Edijunction and Fori Mazdoori are the selected startups from Pakistan. Vase from Malaysia, Skootar and TakeMeTour from Thailand, BuzzAlly and Socian from Bangladesh are also selected to participate in Digital Winners Asia, it is learnt.

"We believe there are promising startups with innovative and entrepreneurial spirit growing here," said Gunnar Sellaeg of Telenor Group. "The startups participating in this inaugural event represent the best of the best from our market-led accelerator programs and we are excited to build this platform for the next stage of their growth". —*Ko Htet*

## Agricultural equipment to be sold by instalment plan by MAPCO and SK Network

AGRICULTURAL equipment will be sold in instalment in cooperation with Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company (MAPCO) and South Korea's SK Network to enhance Myanmar's agricultural sector, it is learnt.

After sanctions are lifted, the export market will become wider, reaching the Middle East and European markets. The crops, especially rice, need to be systematically dried, which requires technical know-how and proper ma-

chinery. Therefore, MAPCO cooperated with SK to import grain dryers, it is learnt.

MAPCO placed an order of 100 grain dryers, which are expected to arrive in December and January. These dryers are expected to be ready to use in next summer's crop season. MAPCO provides agricultural facilities to the farmers.

There are two types of instalments provided by MAPCO for the farmers to purchase the grain dryers. The first one is that the buyers have to pay

a 30 per cent down payment through a bank and then must pay the remaining in one or two-year instalments. Another type of instalment plan is for those who cannot afford to pay the 30 per cent down payment. They can pay 10 per cent down payment and then make monthly payments.

MAPCO and SK Network entered into agreement by use of the Strategic Cooperation for the Development of Agriculture Sector of Myanmar.—*Mon Mon*



# Struggling Indian savers threaten Modi's growth ambition

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI — For India's dream of taking the baton of global growth from China, its savings rate is flashing a warning sign.

Gross national savings as a per cent of the South Asian nation's gross domestic product will slip this year to 30.2 per cent, the lowest since 2003, and fall further over the next two years, the International Monetary Fund forecasts.

Since companies use domestic savings to fund their capital spending, the fall would increase their vulnerability to external risks — such as uncertainty over the US presidential election or the prospect of monetary tightening there — that could staunch the flow of cheap investment dollars to emerging markets such as India.

It's a worry for Prime Minister Narendra Modi who aspires to achieve economic growth rates of 8-9 per cent — much higher than the current 7.1 per



Customers wait to deposit their money inside a post office in New Delhi, India, on 21 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

cent — not only to replicate China's growth miracle but also to create jobs for the one million people who join India's workforce every month.

Nearly two-thirds of India's 1.3 billion people are under 35 years old. But to fully harness the biggest youth bulge the world has ever seen, economists say

its saving rate needs to be around 35 per cent.

"Raising the savings rate is one of the main pre-conditions for India's long-term sustainable growth," said Hanna Luchnikava-Schorsch, senior economist for Asia Pacific at IHS Markit.

The tiger economies of China and East Asia real-

ized their economic potential by keeping their savings rates above 30 per cent for decades.

But India's economic travails stem from flagging investment, which as a proportion of GDP fell by about 3 percentage points to 29.6 per cent of GDP in the June quarter from a year ago.—Reuters

## China to unveil its J-20 stealth fighter at air show

BEIJING — China will unveil its new generation J-20 stealth fighter jet at an air show next week, the air force said on Friday, the first public showing of a warplane China hopes will narrow the military gap with the United States.

The ability to project air power is key for China as it takes on a more assertive stance on territorial disputes with neighbours in the East China and South China seas.

The Pentagon has said the fifth generation stealth aircraft China is developing, the J-20 and the J-31, are necessary for China's air force to evolve from a mostly territorial force to one that can carry out both offensive and defensive operations.

The J-20 will give a flight demonstration at next week's China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in the southern city of Zhuhai, the People's Liberation Army Air Force said

in a statement on its official microblog.

Air force spokesman Shen Jinke said the J-20's production was proceeding according to plan and would assist in the air force's mission to "safeguard sovereignty and national security".

"This is the first public appearance of China's indigenously manufactured new generation stealth fighter jet," the air force said.

In June, it said the jet would enter service "in the near future".

The new Y-20 military transport aircraft will also give a flight demonstration at the seven-day air show, which is held every two years and opens on Tuesday.

China showed off the J-31 at the last Zhuhai air show in 2014, a show of muscle that coincided with a visit by US President Barack Obama for an Asia-Pacific summit.—Reuters

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## Philippines' Duterte says God warned him off swearing

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has made a promise to stop swearing, saying God spoke to him during a flight from Japan on Thursday and warned him the plane would crash if he kept using bad language.

The maverick former mayor, famous for his profanity that has included outbursts aimed at Pope Francis and US President Barack Obama, said he heard a voice and realised it was God, telling him to clean up his act.

"I was looking at the skies while I was coming over here ... everybody was asleep, snoring, but a voice said that, 'you know, if you don't stop epithets, I will bring this plane down now'," Duterte said at a news conference late on Thursday upon arrival in his home city of Davao.

"And I said, 'who is this?' So, of course, it's God. OK.

"So, I promise God ... not to express slang, cuss words and everything."

Duterte, a former outspoken city mayor, emerged as a brash, crass, alternative candidate in a May election which he



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while answering questions during a news conference upon his arrival from a state visit in Japan at the Davao International Airport in Davao city, Philippines, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

won by a big margin, owing much to his earthy style and promises to tackle problems important to ordinary people, like drugs and crime.

Advice to act more presidential once he took office was not heeded for long, however, and he resumed his eruptions of profanity with gusto when he started hearing foreign criticism of his deadly drugs war.

He has called US President Barack Obama a "son

of a bitch" and chose the same words when criticising the pope.

He told Obama to "go to hell", called UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon a "devil" and said "fuck you" twice to the European Union, while raising his middle finger.

In Tokyo on Tuesday, Duterte used the same language when speaking about his anger with foreign criticism of his drug war.

It was not the first time Duterte has spoken of

his connection with God, whom he said had made him president.

Alan Peter Cayetano, Duterte's vice-presidential running mate and now his foreign affairs adviser, said Duterte was tired and appeared pensive during the flight back from Japan.

"He felt it was a message from God," Cayetano told reporters on Friday.

"I've always felt he's a deeply spiritual person, he's not religious, but he believes in God."—Reuters





Nobel Prize laureate Yoshinori Osumi attends a press conference in Tokyo, on 25 October 2016, after being named as one of this year's Order of Culture recipients.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Nobel laureate Ohsumi, artist Kusama among Order of Culture recipients

TOKYO — The government said on Friday it has selected Nobel Prize laureate Yoshinori Ohsumi, artist Yayoi Kusama and four other people as this year's recipients of the Order of Culture.

Ohsumi, 71, the winner of this year's Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for discovering and elucidating mechanisms for autophagy, was joined by renowned contemporary artist Kusama, 87, Japanese literature scholar Mitsutoshi Nakano, 80, geneticist Tomoko Ota, 83, award-winning novelist Yumie Hiraiwa, 84, and composer Toru Funamura, 84, on the list of recipients.

It is the first time that three women have been chosen as Order of Culture recipients in the same year, and Ota became the first woman in the field of natural science to receive the order.

They will receive the award at the Imperial Palace next Thursday, the Culture Day holiday.

In addition, the government said it has selected 15 recipients of the Person of Cultural Merit award, including actor and singer Ryotaro Sugi, 72, former Olympic champion gymnast Takashi Ono, 85, ethnologist Kazuhiko Komatsu, 69, and novelist Setsuko Tsunamura, 88.

The Person of Cultural Merit awards will be bestowed next Friday at a Tokyo hotel. —Kyodo News

# Philippine mayor among 10 killed in shootout as drug war enters new phase

MANILA — A mayor on Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's wanted list for alleged drugs links was killed along with nine of his guards in a shootout on Friday, police said, as a new phase of a bloody narcotics crackdown zeroed-in on high profile targets.

The 10 men succumbed to their wounds en route to hospital, police said, having opened fire on officers who tried to stop their two vehicles at a checkpoint in Duterte's troubled home province of Mindanao before dawn.

"It was a legitimate police operation," said Bernard Tayong of the North Cotabato police office, adding that no officers were hurt but a police vehicle was riddled with bullets.

"We have information the mayor and his men were transporting drugs so we tried to intercept them but they chose to shoot it out," he told reporters.

The killing of Samsudin Dimaukom, a powerful mayor, took place far from his predomi-

nantly Muslim town of Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

It came as police shift tactics in the controversial war on drugs by focusing on politicians, government officials, celebrities and high-ranking army and police suspected of involvement in the trade.

The new plan, called "Project Double Barrel Alpha", was reported exclusively by Reuters on Monday and aims to increase arrests and reduce the bloodshed in a campaign that has claimed more than 2,300 lives since Duterte took office on 30 June.

Duterte won a May election on the promises of killing criminals and campaigned under the logo of a clenched fist.

Duterte returned from a visit to Japan late on Thursday and during a news conference waved a thick book he said contained names of officials suspected of drug links. The book contains about 3,000 names.

"I do not want to make this public because it will just make the

Filipino cry," he said.

Of those killed in the anti-drugs campaign, more than 1,600 died during police operations, a toll that has drawn international concern about extrajudicial killings.

Duterte has fiercely defended the campaign and has repeatedly lashed out at his critics.

A recent poll showed public unease over the crackdown, with 94 per cent of respondents saying it was important that police take suspects alive.

Police investigators said seven guns, including an Armalite rifle and 13 small packs of suspected methamphetamines were recovered from the mayor's vehicle after Friday's firefight.

The mayor's wife, who is also the town's vice mayor, is also on Duterte's wanted list. National police spokesman Dionardo Carlos told Reuters on Thursday the drugs war had been expanded to go beyond poorer areas where low-level peddlers operate.

New targets were transport networks, show business circles, nightclubs and wealthier neighbourhoods to root out drugs like cocaine and ecstasy.

Carlos denied there was a deliberate sanctioning of extrajudicial killings. He said fatalities occurred when suspects refused to surrender and police were keen to avoid violence.

"That's why we are shifting to Alpha," he added.

Since late June, 750,000 drug users had surrendered, some 30,000 suspects were arrested. Of the "high value" targets, 201 had surrendered, 66 were arrested and 14 were killed.

He said 150,000 police had been drug tested and 164 gave positive results and would be dismissed. Police would soon receive a large consignment of body armor, Carlos said, adding instructions were being given "to make sure you are not giving (drug suspects) the chance to put your lives in danger". —Reuters

## Malaysia to buy navy vessels from China in blow to US

MANILA/KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia will sign a contract to purchase Littoral Mission Ships from China when Prime Minister Najib Razak visits Beijing next week, according to a Facebook posting by the country's Ministry of Defence.

The text of a speech to be delivered by Malaysian defence minister Hishammuddin Hussein was posted on Facebook on Tuesday, but was later removed after Reuters asked a defence ministry spokesman for comment.

The purchase of the patrol vessels, if it proceeds, would be Malaysia's first significant defence deal with China and comes amid rising tensions in the South China Sea and as the United States and China compete for influence in the region.

Malaysia's ties with the United States became strained after the Department of Justice filed lawsuits linked to a money-laundering investigation at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), which Najib founded and had overseen as chairman of its advisory council.

Najib is travelling to China on Sunday for a week-long visit.

"On 5 November 2016, the Defence Ministry will sign a contract for the procurement of Littoral Mission Ships (LMS) with SASTIND (the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence), which is an important part of the schedule during the Prime Minister's official visit to China," the Facebook post quotes Hishammuddin saying.

However, a video recording

of the speech at the Malaysian defence ministry by Hishammuddin does not mention this contract.

A defence ministry spokesman declined to comment and the prime minister's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Littoral Mission Ships are fast patrol vessels that can be equipped with a helicopter flight deck and carry missiles. They are primarily used for coastal security, maritime patrol and surveillance, but can also be deployed for disaster relief and search and rescue operations.

China claims most of the South China Sea as its territory. But Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have rival claims to parts of the waterway, which commands strategic sea lanes which carry some \$5 trillion worth of trade a year.

Ties between Malaysia and China reached a new peak in December when China came to Najib's rescue with a \$2.3 billion deal to buy assets of scandal-hit state fund 1MDB, helping ease Najib's concern over the firm's mounting debt.

Najib is travelling with dozens of government leaders and business people to China. In a statement on Wednesday, he said Malaysia was committed to strengthening friendship with China and pushing ties to "new highs".

The push to strengthen China ties come after July lawsuits filed by the US Justice Department implicating Najib in a money-laundering scandal.

The lawsuits allege over \$3.5 billion was misappropriated from 1MDB, some of which ended up



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak. PHOTO: REUTERS

with a 'Malaysian Official 1,' identified later by US and Malaysian authorities as Najib.

Najib has denied any wrongdoing and said Malaysia will co-operate in the international investigations.

Malaysia could buy up to 10 of the littoral mission ships at a cost of approximately 300 million ringgit (\$71.43 million) each, said Lam Choong Wah, senior fellow at REFSA, a Malaysia research institute. He is also the author of a book on Malaysian military capability.

"The truth is we could have bought these from a number of countries. But China is the only country that has provided political support for Malaysia during the 1MDB scandal. This is payback for that political support."

Najib's visit follows that of the Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte, who announced the country's "separation" from the United

States and signed a raft of memoranda of understanding for Chinese investment in the country.

Last week, Malaysia announced a 2 billion ringgit (\$476.19 million) cut to its 2017 defence budget from last year's levels.

A project to develop an amphibious corps was among those jettisoned, said Euan Graham, director of the international security program at the Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based think-tank.

"It was the US marines who were liaising with the Malaysians on that," Graham said.

"So a US-backed initiative has effectively died now," Graham said. "At the same time, a new bridge has been opened to China. If you put those together, whether it's been by Malaysia's design or not, it does send a combined signal of pulling back from the US and outreach to China." —Reuters





Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton brings birthday cake to members of the media, as she turns 69, inside her campaign plane en route to New York, US, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Clinton ad blitz outpaces Trump as his Super PACs bow out

NEW YORK — In the crucial last weeks of the US presidential campaign, Democrat Hillary Clinton has dramatically widened her advantage over Republican rival Donald Trump in ad spending, according to campaign finance reports released on Thursday.

The newest filings showed Clinton's campaign and Super PAC outspending Trump in the first three weeks of October by a factor of two to one on everything from national TV ads to local outreach on smartphone screens.

At the same time, the two Super PACs associated with Trump's White House bid have seen their fundraising start to stall out, with one of the groups reserving no broadcast or cable ads between 20 October and Election Day, according to data from ad-tracking firm SMG Delta.

Clinton and Priorities USA, the Super PAC that supports her, have spent \$360 million on all types of advertising since the beginning of the campaign, said the new reports, which covered spending through 19 October.

That total blows away the \$147 million spent on advertising by Trump and his two affiliated Super PACs during the same period.

What's more, for the period beginning 20 October and running through the 8 November election, Clinton and her Super PAC have reserved an additional \$55 million in TV ads, according to SMG Delta, including \$30.5 million from her campaign and \$25 million from her Super PAC.

A Super PAC is a fund-raising group that must operate separately from political campaigns but can raise unlimited sums.

The Trump campaign has committed to spending \$32.4 million during the same period, with the Trump Super PAC known as Great America PAC saying it would also contribute another \$2.35 million in broadcast and cable ads.

The newest batch of campaign finance filings also reveal that the celebrity businessman's recent vow that he would contribute in excess of \$100 million to his campaign out of his own fortune has also fallen short.

Trump contributed \$56 million through the end of September, chipping in an additional \$31,000 since then.

Spending on television commercials does not decide an election, and Trump, with his controversial statements and inflammatory tweets, has mastered the art of garnering free media coverage, which is expected to top \$5 billion by Election Day, more than double the amount Clinton is likely to earn, according to data analytics tracker mediaQuant.

But ever since Trump's campaign began to falter last summer after he criticized the family of a slain US soldier, Clinton has been able to use her ad spending juggernaut to repetitively pound at criticisms of Trump, which several strategists said had exacerbated his slide in polls, where he now lags Clinton by eight percentage points.

Trump could pour more money into his ad operation in the final 11 days of the campaign. Republican presidential campaign operatives said areas where Trump could still spend included battleground states, national ad buys and digital outreach and phone banking.

But they also said it may be

too late for such outlays to make a difference.

"The stations would gladly take his money," said Fred Davis, a major Republican ad maker. "I just don't think he will."

During the Republican nominating contests, Trump vanquished 16 opponents in part by eschewing campaign finance mainstays such as ads and pollsters.

"He felt he won the primary with basically no ad spending by being a larger-than-life TV personality. It worked," Davis said. But the general election, he added, was "a whole new ballgame."

Many of Clinton's TV ads have focused on upbeat messages featuring her work on behalf of women and children. She's also spent a large amount of her advertising budget attacking Trump, including a commercial that showed children listening to some of his most demeaning remarks about women.

Trump's ads, by contrast, paint a dark picture of America, besieged by violence and on the brink of economic destruction.

Rick Wilson, a former strategist for Republican Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign, said "ads don't matter, until they do," adding that comments by Trump that critics have called racist and sexist were providing maximum ammunition for Clinton.

Trump may not be able to rely on his small cadre of big donors, either: Make America Number 1 PAC — a super PAC formed by conservative mega-donor Robert Mercer — raised nothing between 1 and 19 October.

At the same time, Trump has also stopped doing high-dollar fundraisers.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hungary's PM threatens to sue EU over mandatory migrant quotas

BUDAPEST — Hungary will sue the European Commission and resist mandatory migrant resettlement quotas if Brussels does not take them off the agenda, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Friday.

Orban said his government would use a recent referendum in Hungary, in which the overwhelming majority of those who voted rejected the EU quotas, to challenge Brussels. Turnout for the vote was too low to make it legally binding.

He said there was a stalemate on the issue right now; Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, who holds the rotating EU presidency, is to propose a solution by the next EU summit in December. Orban told state radio that if the European Commission did not give up the idea of quotas, "then we will resist ... we will not carry out (the EU decision), we will sue the Commission". "There will be a serious legal debate on whether a foreign population can be imposed on the people of an EU member state against its will," he added. "This will be a big battle, and for this we need the (amended) constitution."—Reuters

#### Russia to receive the latest modification of Mi-28UB helicopters

MOSCOW — The Russian army will receive the latest modification of the Mi-28UB helicopters in 2017, the head of combat training of the Russia's Aerospace Forces, Major Gen. Oleg Chesnokov said on Friday.

"Currently, the Mi-28UB helicopters have passed state tests and their delivery to the Russian aviation units will begin in 2017," the Russian news agency RIA Novosti quoted Chesnokov as saying. He explained that firstly, the Mi-28UB will be delivered to the 344<sup>th</sup> Centre for operational use and pilots' retraining for army aviation in the Russian city of Torzhok, and then the newest helicopters will be delivered to the units of Russia's Aerospace Forces.—Xinhua

#### WB approves 124.9 million euros for two more projects in Serbia

WASHINGTON — The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Thursday approved two more projects for Serbia worth a total of 124.9 million euros (138.9 million dollars).

The first project is an 89.8 million euro (100 million dollar) development loan that will go to the Serbian budget as assistance aimed at reducing the role of the state in managing commercial enterprises and creating an environment for better-quality jobs, the World Bank said in a statement. The second is a 35 million euro (38.9 million dollar) investment project that will improve Serbia's connectivity with the region and mobility of goods, services and people through completion of the construction of the Corridor X highway.—Tanjung

#### China to launch Long March-5 carrier rocket in November

BEIJING — China's largest carrier rocket, the Long March-5, will make its first trip into space in early November this year.

The rocket, which arrived at the Wenchang launch centre in south China's Hainan Province in September, was transported to the launch area on Friday morning, after finishing final assembly and tests, said the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND). With the strongest carrying capacity in China, the rocket will receive functional examinations and further tests before launch. According to the SASTIND, the Long March-5 integrates top space technologies, including non-toxic environmentally-friendly fuel and a highly stable controlling system, representing a landmark in the country's carrier rockets.—Xinhua

#### Three killed, 10 wounded in artillery shelling in East Ukraine

KIEV — At least three civilians were killed and 10 others wounded during artillery shelling in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk city and its outskirts overnight from Thursday to Friday.

According to the insurgent-run DAN news agency, one person was killed during a shelling in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, while other casualties occurred in Makeevka town, which is 5 km in the northeast.

Two children were among those wounded in Makeevka, the agency said, accusing the Ukrainian army of perpetuating the shelling. Government troops and pro-independence insurgents have been blaming each other for the deadly incident. "The intensity of the attacks on our territory in the previous evening and night has risen tenfold — the Ukrainian army had fired about 600 shells and mines," said the news outlet, citing its source in law enforcement agencies of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic.—Xinhua



The last point I also would like to share you is about the role of civil society for the parliamentary oversight of the police force. The role of civil society is very crucial for every sector in the parliament. Now some civil societies played in important role by providing their valuable thoughts and ideas in some general debate in the parliament like the works of amending the Association Law, the National Education Law, and drafting for the four Nationalism Laws. Apart from that, we do not have any support from them and we do not have any case of police affairs so far. Here, I would like to point out that the governmental organization should welcome the CSOs when they introduce the Bill. If the CSOs do not have any opportunity to participate in the drafting process at the government side, they can come and support the legislative process in the parliament in the last chance before approve. So, we are welcome any civil society to help us to have a good law for the country.



# Shi'ite militias to join Mosul campaign soon

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Shi'ite militias said on Friday they would launch an offensive against Islamic State west of Mosul imminently, a move which would block any retreat by the Sunni jihadists into Syria but is likely to alarm Iraq's northern neighbor Turkey.

A spokesman for the Iranian-backed paramilitary groups said the advance toward the Islamic State-held town of Tal Afar, about 55 km (35 miles) west of Mosul, would start within "a few days or hours".

If successful, the offensive would leave Islamic State fighters -- and the 1.5 million civilians still living in Mosul -- encircled by an advancing coalition of forces which seeks to crush the hard-line Sunni militants in their Iraq stronghold.

Iraqi soldiers and security forces and Kurdish peshmerga fighters, backed by US-led air strikes and support on the ground, already control Mosul's southern, eastern and northern flanks, and have advanced on those fronts for nearly two weeks.

They have recaptured scores of villages on the flat plains east of Mosul and along the Tigris river to the south, but the battle for Mosul itself, Iraq's second largest city, could be the most complex military operation in Iraq since the US-led invasion to topple former president Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Adding to the challenges facing the advancing forces, retreating Islamic State fighters have forced women and children from outlying villages to march alongside them as human shields as they withdraw into the city, according to villagers who spoke to Reuters by telephone from Mosul.

Older boys and men of fighting age were taken off to an unknown fate, they said.

The United Nations said on Friday Islamic State had abducted 8,000 families from around Mosul to use as human shields. A spokeswoman also said they had killed 232 people near Mosul on Wednesday who refused to comply with orders.

Ahmed al-Asadi, a spokesman for the Shi'ite forces known



A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter takes a selfie with children after recapturing the Fadiliya village from Islamic State militants, in Nawaran north of Mosul, Iraq. REUTERS

**A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter takes a selfie with children after recapturing the Fadiliya village from Islamic State militants, in Nawaran north of Mosul, Iraq. PHOTO: REUTERS**

collectively as the Hashid Shaabi, or Popular Mobilisation, said the operation to cut off Mosul's western approaches was crucial to the battle against Islamic State, also known as Daesh.

"This is the most important and dangerous line because it connects Mosul to Raqqa and is the only supply line for Daesh," he told Iraqi state television.

Raqqa is Islamic State's bastion in Syria, and the two cities form the symbolic capitals of a cross-border "caliphate" declared by its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque in August 2014.

Iraqi and military sources say there has been a debate about whether or not to close off the western route in and out of Mo-

sul. Leaving it open would offer Islamic State fighters a chance to retreat, potentially sparing civilians inside the city who might otherwise be trapped in a bloody fight to the finish.

Some civilians fleeing Mosul have used the roads to the west to escape to Qamishli, in Kurdish-controlled northern Syria. —Reuters



**Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi salutes during a visit to the country's northern province of Marib, on 10 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

## UN peace plan for Yemen seems to sideline exiled president

SANAA — A UN peace proposal to end a 19-month war in Yemen appears aimed at sidelining exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and setting up a government of less divisive figures, according to a copy seen by Reuters.

Hadi fled the armed advance of the Iranian-allied Houthi movement in March 2015 and has been a guest of neighbouring Saudi Arabia ever since.

A UN Security Council resolution a month later recognised him as the legitimate head of state and called on the Houthis to disarm and quit Yemen's main cities.

But the Houthis and their allies in Yemen's army have said he will never return, accusing him and his powerful vice president, Ali Mushin al-Ahmar, of corruption. The latest peace plan submitted by UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed suggests Ahmar

would step down and Hadi would agree to become little more than a figurehead after a Houthi withdrawal from the capital Sanaa.

It was not immediately clear if the men had been consulted on the plan. But their supporters have in the past insisted that past agreements recognising Hadi as leader must be respected.

"As part of the signing of a complete and comprehensive agreement, the current Vice President will resign and President Hadi will appoint a new Vice President," the document says.

"After the completion of the withdrawal from Sanaa and the handing over of heavy and medium weapons (including ballistic missiles) Hadi will transfer all his powers to a Vice President, and the Vice President will appoint a new Prime Minister ... (who will form) a national unity government," it added. —Reuters

## Turkey says gives US new documents on Gulen extradition request

WASHINGTON — Turkey has handed over to the US Justice Department further documents to back its request for the extradition of US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara accuses of orchestrating a failed 15 July coup attempt, Turkey's justice minister said on Thursday.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said that in a meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch in Washington on Wednesday he gave US authorities three new folders of evidence they had sought over Turkey's accusations against Gulen.

Bozdag described his meeting with Lynch as "fruitful," saying it helped the two sides better understand each other's positions. But he told reporters Lynch expressed neither support nor opposition for Turkey's request that the United States extradite Gulen.

The Turkish cleric, who has

lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, has denied involvement in the coup attempt.

Turkey is a critical ally of the United States in its fight against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. Turkey's presidential spokesman said earlier this month that the United States does not appear to have understood the seriousness of Turkey's call to extradite Gulen. The Justice Department said in a statement that Bozdag and Lynch discussed that in both Turkey and the United States "extraditions are subject to the judicial process, and accordingly must meet the evidentiary standards of the requested country."

Bozdag said the folders he gave Lynch contained information and documents that US officials had requested when visiting Turkey in August. He declined to elaborate. The Justice Department



**US based cleric Fethullah Gulen at his home in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, US, on 29 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

also declined to comment on the material Bozdag said he provided.

The Justice Department has not taken any steps to initiate extradition proceedings against Gulen based on the information that Turkey has provided so far. Turkey has criticized the United States for not moving faster on the matter. —Reuters

## Syrian rebels launch Aleppo counter-attack to break siege

BEIRUT — Syrian rebels including jihadists began a counter-attack against the army and its allies on Friday aiming to break a weeks-long siege on eastern Aleppo, insurgents said.

The assault, employing heavy shelling and suicide car bombs, was mainly focused on the city's western edge by rebels based outside Aleppo. It included Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, a former affiliate of al Qaeda previously known as the Nusra Front, and groups fighting

under the Free Syrian Army (FSA) banner. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based war monitor, said more than 15 civilians had been killed and 100 wounded by rebel shelling of government-held western Aleppo. State media reported that five civilians were killed.

There were conflicting accounts of advances in areas on the city's outskirts. Aleppo, Syria's biggest pre-war city, has become the main theater of conflict be-

tween President Bashar al-Assad, backed by Iran, Russia and Shi'ite militias, and Sunni rebels including groups supported by Turkey, Gulf monarchies and the United States.

The city has been divided for years between the government-held western sector and rebel-held east, which the army and its allies put under siege this summer and where they launched a new offensive in September that medics say has killed hundreds. —Reuters



## Bond yields up, stocks sag on enhanced US rate hike prospects

TOKYO — Stocks sagged on Friday as global bond yields surged and pulled the dollar to three-month highs versus the yen, after the latest batch of US data increased chances for a near-term interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve.

Upbeat US data including jobless claims, manufacturing activity and pending home sales strengthened the case for the Fed to raise rates by the year-end and lifted Treasury yields that had already risen in the wake of a surge in British and euro zone yields.

The markets' focus was now turned toward third quarter US-gross domestic product data due out later in the global session.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was down 0.3 per cent, pressured by the prospect of easy money flows being crimped should the Fed tighten policy soon.

South Korea's Kospi .KS11 shed 0.3 per cent and Australian stocks fell 0.2 per cent. Hong

Kong's Hang Seng .HSI lost 0.4 per cent while Japan's Nikkei .N225 gained 0.7 per cent on a weaker yen.

Spreadbetters expected European stocks to track their Asian counterparts, forecasting a slightly lower open for Britain's FTSE .FTSE, Germany's DAX .GDAXI and France's CAC .FCHI.

Boosted by the spike in Treasury yields, the dollar scaled a three-month peak of 105.370 yen JPY=.

"105 (yen) was both a psychological and technical point, and it broke ahead of US GDP later today," said Kaneo Ogino, director at foreign exchange research firm Global-info Co in Tokyo.

"Some people did not want to be short ahead of that, also with the Bank of Japan and Fed meetings next week, and US nonfarm payrolls data one week from today."

In a week marked by deep slides in prices of US and euro zone debt, the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield US10YT=RR



People are reflected in a board showing market indices in Tokyo in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

climbed to a five-month high well above 1.8 per cent, helped along by the surging British Gilt and German bund yields.

A sell-off in Gilts had led the way on Thursday as strong third quarter UK growth data doused expectations for monetary easing by the Bank of England.

The 10-year Gilt yield GB10YT=TWB has risen about 20 basis points this week, its highest in four months.

The German 10-year bund

yield DE10YT=TWB on Thursday soared 10 basis points to 0.19 per cent, its highest since late May.

The bund yield plummeted a record low minus 0.20 per cent in July under the European Central Bank's extensive monetary easing. But it has recently risen amid concerns that ultra-easy policies practiced by the major central banks could have their limits and may not be continued indefinitely.

The rise was less pronounced

in the 10-year Japanese government bond yield JP10YT=JBTC, but it still made a five-week high of minus 0.050 per cent.

The Bank of Japan in September made a change of tack and now tries to control the yield curve rather than rely on adjusting the pace of its money printing.

The euro was steady at \$1.0904 EUR=, holding out better against the dollar compared to the Japanese yen thanks to the big rise in euro zone debt yields.—Reuters

## Apple adds touch screen keys to MacBook Pro, price jump startles some

CUPERTINO, (Calif.) — Apple Inc unveiled a revamped MacBook Pro on Thursday, adding a fingerprint reader, replacing function keys with a small touch screen and raising prices by several hundred dollars.

The first redesign in several years is a sign Apple still sees a role for the product that launched the company, even though its iPhone has become the flagship product.

Ben Bajarin, an analyst at Creative Strategies, described the changes as "important incremental upgrades" which would convince people with old Macs to trade up to the smaller, faster model.

But he noted that Microsoft Corp's competing Surface notebook allowed touch on its main screen.

"A lot of people spend a lot

of time on these machines. The key for them is incremental innovations that make their job easier," said Bajarin. "That's value."

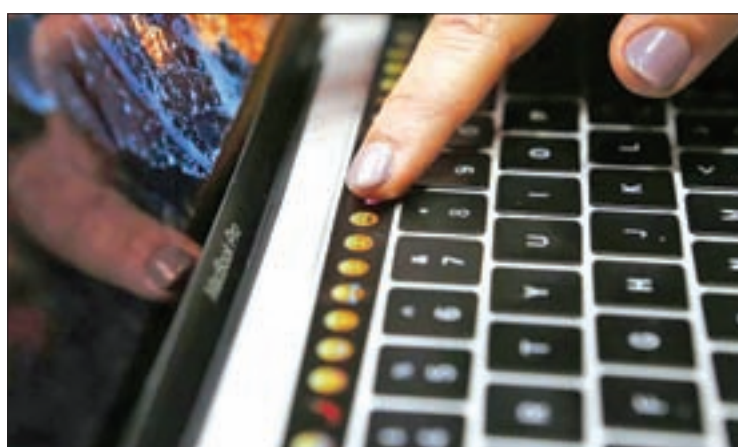
The new pricing is roughly line with expectations, Bajarin said, but it surprised some.

On Twitter, many potential buyers were underwhelmed by the new features and posted pictures of people crying about the new prices. Others tweeted that they hoped for more products.

Apple shares fell 1.2 per cent.

Customers will be able to access the new machines with Touch ID, the fingerprint reader also used on iPhones, and use the touch screen bar of keys, called the Touch Bar, to control programs on the main screen.

The buttons, which change depending on what programs the



A guest points to a new MacBook Pro during an Apple media event in Cupertino, California, US, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO REUTERS

user is running, effectively act as a second screen, showing older versions of a picture being edited, for example.

Other computer makers have

chosen to use touch screens for the main display screen, including Microsoft's first-ever desktop and a revamped Surface Book laptop, launched on Wednesday.

The MacBook Pro with Touch ID, Touch Bar and a 13-inch screen will start at \$1,799, compared with \$1,299 for the previous 13-inch product. Apple also will offer a 13-inch MacBook Pro without the Touch ID and Touch Bar for \$1,499.

The 15-inch notebook will start at \$2,399, compared with \$1,999 for the previous version.

The Mac line accounted for about 11 percent of Apple sales in the just-finished fiscal year, with the number of machines sold down by 10 percent to 18.5 million.

Apple has steadily upgraded components to the MacBook Pro, but the overall form has changed little, and PC Week described the unit being replaced as a "fossil" which had not had a major design change since 2013.—Reuters



A 3D printed Whatsapp logo is seen in front of a displayed stock graph on 28 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## EU privacy watchdogs warn WhatsApp on privacy policy, Yahoo on breach

BRUSSELS — European privacy watchdogs said on Friday they had sent letters to WhatsApp over its sharing of information with parent company Facebook and Yahoo over a 2014 data breach and its scanning of customer emails for US intelligence purposes.

European Union data protection authorities said they had serious concerns about WhatsApp's recent change in privacy policy in which it would share users' phone numbers with Facebook, its first

change in policy since Facebook bought the messaging service.

The authorities, known as the Article 29 Working Party, "requested WhatsApp to communicate all relevant information to the Working Party as soon as possible and urged the company to pause the sharing of users' data until the appropriate legal protections could be assured."

A spokeswoman for WhatsApp said the company was working with data protection au-

thorities to address their questions.

"We've had constructive conversations, including before our update, and we remain committed to respecting applicable law," she said.

The watchdogs also wrote to Yahoo over a massive data breach that exposed the email credentials of 500 million users, as well as its scanning of customers' incoming emails for specific information provided by US intelligence officials.—Reuters



# INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK				BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily	TG-303	7:55	8:50	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	Daily	TG-2301	13:15	14:10	Daily
TG-306	19:45	21:40	Daily	TG-305	17:50	18:45	Daily
PG-706	6:15	8:30	Daily	PG-701	8:50	9:40	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily	PG-707	13:45	14:35	Daily
PG-708	15:20	17:15	Daily	PG-703	18:25	19:15	3
PG-708	18:20	20:15	3	PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-704	20:00	21:55	Daily	PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-335	7:40	9:25	Daily	8M-336	10:40	11:25	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily	8M-332	19:15	20:00	Daily
UB-017	15:10	19:20	1,3,5	UB-020	11:00	11:30	7
UB-017	17:50	19:20	2,4,6,7	UB-018	20:20	20:50	Daily
UB-019	8:05	9:35	7	UB-020	9:15	9:45	1,2,4,5,6
UB-019	6:30	8:00	1,2,3,4,5,6				
RGN TO DMK				DMK TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily	FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily	FD-255	12:05	12:55	Daily
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily	FD-253	16:20	17:00	Daily
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily	FD-257	18:05	18:55	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily	DD-4234	10:25	11:15	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily	DD-4230	6:20	7:05	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	DD-4238	19:30	20:15	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily	SL-200	9:05	10:00	Daily
SL-207	20:05	21:45	"Daily"	SL-206	18:15	19:05	"Daily"
RGN TO CAN				CAN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-711	20:30	01:05+1	5	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
CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,6	CZ-3055	8:50	10:25	3,6
CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5	CZ-3055	14:40	16:30	1,5
RGN TO SIN				SIN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily	8M-232	13:50	15:20	Daily
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily	SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5	MI-522	11:00	12:20	4,6
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6	MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,5
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2	MI-533	11:00	12:20	2
3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5	3K-583	17:05	18:35	2,5
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7	3K-581	8:55	10:25	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily	TR-2822	7:20	8:45	Daily
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily	UB-002	13:15	14:45	Daily
RGN TO NRT				NRT TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	21:45	06:50+1	Daily	NH-813	11:00	15:40	Daily
RGN TO ICN				ICN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily	KE-471	18:45	22:25	Daily
RGN TO KUL				KUL TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily	AK-502	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-503	19:30	23:45	Daily	AK-502	17:50	19:00	Daily
8M-501	7:50	11:50	1,3,5	8M-502	12:50	13:50	1,3,5
MH-741	12:15	16:30	Daily	MH-742	13:40	14:50	1,6,7
MH-743	15:45	20:05	1,4,6,7	MH-740	10:05	11:15	Daily
RGN TO KMG				KMG TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:15	15:45	Daily	CA-415	10:45	11:15	Daily
MU-2032	15:20	18:40	2,4,5,6,7	MU-2031	14:00	14:30	1
MU-2012	12:25	18:40	3	MU-2011	08:15	11:25	3
				MU-2031	13:55	14:30	2,4,5,6,7
RGN TO TPE				TPE TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:45	16:15	1,2,3,4,6	CI-7915	7:00	9:45	1,2,3,4,6
RGN TO PEK				PEK TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7	CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,7
RGN TO HAN				HAN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	1,3,5,6,7	VN-957	16:50	18:10	1,3,5,6,7
RGN TO SGN				SGN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	15:00	2,3,4,5,7	VN-943	9:35	11:10	2,3,4,5,7
RGN TO HKG				HKG TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:10	5:45	1,2,3,4,6,7	KA-250	21:45	23:30	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA-251	1:30	5:55	5	KA-252	22:50	00:30+1	4
UB-8027	9:45	14:15	1,5,7	UB-8028	15:15	16:55	1,5,7
RGN TO DOH				DOH TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:15	10:55	1,4,6	QR-918	20:40	6:25	3,5,6
RGN TO CNX				CNX TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:10	15:05	Daily	PG-723	11:40	12:35	Daily
RGN TO DAC				DAC TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:15	18:00	1,3,6	BG-060	12:45	15:30	1,3,6
MDL TO DMK				DMK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:45	15:00	Daily	FD-244	10:50	12:15	Daily
MDL TO SIN				SIN TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:20	20:15	2	MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6
MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6	MI-533	11:00	14:25	2
MDL TO BKK				BKK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily	PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily
MDL TO KMG				KMG TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily	MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily
NYT TO BKK				BKK TO NYT			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	20:25	22:35	2	PG-721	18:25	19:35	2
PG-722	19:30	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7	PG-721	17:00	19:00	1,2,3,4,5,7

## AIRLINE CODES

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

DAY	4 = Thursday
1 = Monday	5 = Friday
2 = Tuesday	6 = Saturday
3 = Wednesday	7 = Sunday

# Scientists identify fossilised dinosaur brain tissue for first time

LONDON — British and Australian scientists have identified an unassuming brown pebble, found more than a decade ago by a fossil hunter in southern England, as the first known example of fossilised dinosaur brain tissue.

The fossilised brain, found by fossil enthusiast Jamie Hiscocks near Bexhill in Sussex in 2004, is most likely from a species similar to *Iguanodon* — a large herbivore that lived during the early cretaceous period, some 133 million years ago.

In a report of their analysis in a Special Publication of the Geological Society of London, the researchers said they believed this piece of tissue was so well-preserved because the dinosaur's brain was "pickled" in a highly acidic and low-oxygen body of water — like a bog or swamp — shortly after it died.

"The chances of preserving brain tissue are incredibly small, so the dis-



A handout photograph shows what scientists have identified as the first known example of fossilised brain tissue from a dinosaur, and say it resembles the brains of modern-day crocodiles and birds, released in London, Britain, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

covery of this specimen is astonishing," said Alex Liu of Cambridge University's department of earth sciences, who worked on its identification.

Cambridge's David Norman, who led the work, said the finding also raised questions about the common perception of dinosaurs as animals with very small brains.

In typical reptiles, the brain is sausage-shaped

and surrounded by a dense region of blood vessels and sinuses, meaning the brain itself only takes up about half of the space in the cranial cavity.

The tissue in the fossilised brain, however, appeared to have been pressed against the skull, the scientists said, raising the possibility that some dinosaurs had larger brains.

But Norman's team cautioned against drawing

any firm conclusions from this single fossil about dinosaurs' brain size or intelligence levels.

"As we can't see the lobes of the brain itself, we can't say for sure how big this dinosaur's brain was," he said. "Of course, it's entirely possible that dinosaurs had bigger brains than we give them credit for, but we can't tell from this specimen alone." — Reuters

# Living by busy road easier to have high blood pressure

LONDON — People living by busy road and consequently have long-time exposure to polluted air and loud noise should be careful as a recent study found that they have higher risk to develop high blood pressure.

The study, published Tuesday on the European Heart Journal, reached the conclusion through following over 41,000 people in five different European countries for five to nine years.

It said up to one extra person per 100 people of the same age group living in the most polluted areas of cities would develop high blood pressure compared to those living in less polluted areas.

Referring to traffic noise, the study found that people living in noisy streets had a 6 per cent increased risk of developing high blood pressure compared to those living in qui-

eter streets.

Here noisy streets are defined as those have night time noise levels of 50 decibels, which is described as light traffic or the sound of a running refrigerator according to the [www.noise-help.com](http://www.noise-help.com).

Air pollution and streets noise share many common sources but the measurements to restrain the two factors differ a lot, said Professor Barbara Hoffmann, who led the analysis and specialized in environmental epidemiology.

"One very important aspect is that these associations can be seen in people living well below current European air pollution standards. This means, the current legislation does not protect the European population adequately from adverse effects of air pollution," Hoffmann said. —Xinhua



# France, Britain bicker over child migrants stuck in Calais

CALAIS (France) — Five days into a French operation to clear the Calais “Jungle” France has lashed out at apparent British criticism of the way children are being treated while thousands of migrants are resettled across France and the camp is destroyed.

France’s home office minister Bernard Cazeneuve expressed “surprise” in a late Thursday statement about comments by his British counterpart and sought to remind Britain of its responsibilities with regard to the stranded young people.

British television group ITN said in a web site report British Home Secretary Amber Rudd had spoken to Cazeneuve “to stress the need for children who remain in Calais to be properly protected”.

The French government said Cazeneuve and his housing

minister, Emmanuel Cosse, “learned with surprise the declarations of Ms Amber Rudd, Britain’s interior minister”.

“The French ministers hope ... the United Kingdom will quickly execute its responsibilities to take in these minors, who hope to come to the United Kingdom. This is the best way to give them the protection they are due.”

The French statement followed widespread media reports of unsupervised children sleeping rough around the port town since the clearance operation was launched, even though some 1,451 minors have been housed separately near the camp.

France says Britain has accepted 274 children from among this group.

Thousands of migrants had until this week been camped near Calais in the hope of making the



Smoke rises the sky as migrants and journalists look at burning makeshift shelters and tents in the ‘Jungle’ on the third day of their evacuation and transfer to reception centers in France, as part of the dismantlement of the camp in Calais, France. PHOTO: REUTERS

short journey across the sea to Britain by leaping on trucks and trains or walking through the Channel tunnel.

European Union rules say

Britain must take in unaccompanied children who have family ties in the country under so-called Dublin rules.

An amendment to those

rules adopted in Britain this year states that such minors whose best interests are served by doing so should also be admitted.

—Reuters

## Police arrest 141 in crackdown on North Dakota pipeline protesters

CANNON BALL (North Dakota) — Police arrested 141 Native Americans and other protesters in North Dakota in a tense standoff that spilled into Friday morning between law enforcement and demonstrators seeking to halt construction of a disputed oil pipeline.

Police in riot gear used pepper spray and armored vehicles in an effort to disperse an estimated 330 protesters and clear a camp on private property in the path of the proposed \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline, according to photos and statements released by the Morton

County Sheriff’s Department.

Some protesters responded by throwing rocks, bottles and Molotov cocktails at police, attaching themselves to vehicles and starting fires, police said.

“It was a very active and tense evening as law enforcement worked through the evening to clear protesters,” the department said.

A female protester fired three rounds at the police line before she was arrested, the department said.

In another shooting incident, a man was taken into custody after

a man was shot in the hand. That “situation involved a private individual who was run off the road by protesters,” the department said in a Facebook post.

The 1,172-mile (1,885-km) pipeline, being built by a group of companies led by Energy Transfer Partners LP, would offer the fastest and most direct route to bring Bakken shale oil from North Dakota to US Gulf Coast refineries.

Supporters say it would be safer and more cost-effective than transporting the oil by road or rail.

—Reuters

## Colombia delays peace talks with ELN rebels until captive freed

BOGOTA — Colombia is delaying peace talks with Marxist ELN rebels until they free a politician held captive for six months, President Juan Manuel Santos said on Thursday, as he struggles to salvage a peace deal with FARC guerrillas that was rejected in a plebiscite.

The National Liberation Army (ELN), the nation’s second-biggest insurgent group, must release Odin Sanchez to the International Committee of the Red Cross before talks can begin in Ecuador, Santos said, reiterating a condition he set months ago.

The opening ceremony had been scheduled to take place in Ecuador’s capital at 6 pm EDT (2200 GMT) but it was canceled at the last minute. The government said the talks could still go forward as early as Friday or Saturday if the rebels free Sanchez, however.

The 2,000-strong ELN, considered a terrorist group by the United States and European Union, has kidnapped hundreds of people during its 52-year insurgency to raise war funds and use hostages as bargaining chips with the government.

Santos won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize earlier this month for his efforts to end a conflict with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a surprising choice given voters narrowly shunned the deal he

signed with them.

More than 220,000 people have been killed in Colombia’s long-running armed conflict, which has pitted leftist guerrillas against right-wing paramilitary groups and the security forces.

Founded by radical Catholic priests and inspired by Cuba’s 1959 revolution, the ELN has been in on-and-off closed-door talks with the government since 2014 on how the two sides would conduct negotiations.

The rebels have remained active during that time, kidnapping and bombing oil installations, though in recent months they have released some captives.

The government had previously demanded the release of all ELN captives before formal peace talks could begin and Sanchez is believed to be the group’s last remaining hostage.

The talks with the ELN would likely mirror those held with the FARC. The peace agreement, signed on 26 September with the FARC, was internationally lauded but criticized by many in Colombia for being too lenient on the rebels.

Former President Alvaro Uribe is now leading the effort to change the agreement that would have given the FARC guaranteed congressional seats and immunity from traditional jail sentences. The “no” side won the plebiscite by less than half a percentage point.—Reuters

## Venezuela opposition heaps pressure, Maduro scoffs

CARACAS — Venezuela’s Congress on Thursday heard emotional testimony from citizens accusing President Nicolas Maduro of violating their rights, in a political trial meant to pressure the socialist leader into accepting a recall vote.

Taking the podium one by one, speakers accused Maduro of responsibility for executions during police raids, the death of children in ill-equipped hospitals and denial of subsidized food to those supporting a recall vote.

“Nicolas Maduro is responsible for everything happening in our country,” said Brigit Duarte, adding that her son had been wrongly shot dead in a raid. “It’s not enough that they kill us with hunger, but they also execute our children.”

The National Assembly trial of Maduro for violating democracy is largely symbolic, given that both the government and Supreme Court say the legislature is illegitimate.

Maduro, 53, mocked the trial as irrelevant.

“Here I am, working hard despite having abandoned my position!” he quipped during a televised appearance to supervise state housing projects, referring to parliament’s plan to accuse him of abandoning his duties by violating the constitution.

The Democratic Unity opposition coalition has intensified protests since authorities last week effectively scuttled its drive for a plebiscite, with a national strike and march to the presidential pal-

ace set for coming days.

Opposition rallies on Wednesday, dubbed the “Takeover of Venezuela,” drew hundreds of thousands of people and triggered dozens of injuries and arrests as protesters clashed with police in provincial cities.

Congressional leaders also denounced early in the morning that power had been cut off to the legislative palace, forcing them to rely on an emergency backup generator.

The opposition says the Maduro government effectively staged a coup by blocking a recall vote that polls suggest he would lose. Maduro says opposition hot-heads are seeking to overthrow the government illegally with US assistance.—Reuters



# Plane carrying VP candidate Pence skids off NY runway, no injuries

NEW YORK — A plane carrying US Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence skidded off the runway after landing in the rain at New York City’s LaGuardia Airport on Thursday, halting flights for at least an hour, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident which occurred less than two weeks before the US presidential election, crucial campaign days for Pence and running mate Donald Trump.

Pence pledged to hit the campaign trail again on Friday.

“So thankful everyone on our plane is safe,” the Indiana governor said on Twitter after the incident. “Grateful for our first responders & the concern & prayers of so many.”

The Boeing 737 was coming in for a landing and went off the runway at about 7:40 pm local time (2340 GMT). The plane was stopped by a crushable type of concrete runway that arrested the aircraft’s movement, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said.



A campaign plane carrying US Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence rests after it skidded off the runway after landing in the rain at LaGuardia Airport in New York, US, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board said they will investigate the cause of the incident.

Trump called his running mate before a rally in Geneva, Ohio.

“I just spoke to Mike Pence and he’s fine,” Trump

told the crowd at the rally. “The plane skidded off the runway and was pretty close to grave, grave danger.”

Trump and Pence have slipped in the polls in recent weeks, in part due to negative public reaction to the release of a decade-old video in which Trump

made lewd comments about women and said he could grab them by their genitals because he was a celebrity.

Since then, numerous women have come forward to say that they were groped by Trump, claims that he has denied. On Thursday, Pence had been

scheduled to attend a fundraiser at Trump Tower in Manhattan, but was not able to make the event after his plane slid off the runway, a campaign aide said.

Pence will resume his normal schedule Friday using a different plane, the aide said. Live televi-

sion footage showed Pence standing in the rain near the plane among emergency vehicles, talking to police and other officials. Trump’s opponent, Democrat Hillary Clinton, on Twitter said she was glad Pence and the rest of the passengers and crew were safe.

There were about 30 people onboard the plane, including Pence’s wife, Karen, and daughter Charlotte, MSNBC said.

The plane was coming from Fort Dodge, Iowa, where Pence had participated in a campaign event.

The takeoff from Iowa was delayed for about two hours because of bad weather in New York. Pence had earlier posted on Twitter a picture of himself playing football in the bright sun on grass near his plane in Iowa, citing the delay in leaving for New York. In 2015 a Delta Air Lines Inc jet landing during a snowstorm at LaGuardia Airport slid off the runway and struck a fence before coming to rest on a snow-covered embankment just feet from the frigid waters of Flushing Bay.— Reuters

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV YUAN JIAN VOY. NO ( 0877 )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YUAN JIAN VOY. NO ( 0877 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-1 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 LOGISTICS**  
**(GUANGZHOU) HEAVY TRANSPORTATION**  
**CO LTD.**  
Phone No: 2301928

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS**  
**PTE LTD**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2016 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 YANG MING LINE**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER**  
**LINES**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2016 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING**  
**LINE**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ( )**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2016 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



## Japanese kabuki actor, silent film narrator keep traditions alive

TOKYO — For Kabuki actor Onoe Kikunosuke and silent film narrator Ichiro Kataoka, keeping old traditions alive and sharing them with as many local and foreign fans as possible remain their mission.

Kikunosuke, who performed in an “onnagata” female role in “Sagi Musume” (Heron Maiden) in an event Thursday as part of this year’s Tokyo International Film Festival, said he hopes people watching the traditional Japanese performing art for the first time will appreciate its beauty.

“Heron Maiden is a dance piece that captures all of what is beautiful in the features of an ‘onnagata,’” Kikunosuke told reporters in front of the Kabukiza Theatre in Tokyo prior to his performance at the venue.

It is the third consecutive year a Kabuki event was held in collaboration with the film festival, which is showcasing more than 200 films from around the world. The festival has also become a stage to introduce Japanese performing arts and culture.

Kikunosuke’s performance in one of the famous pieces for “onnagata” depicts a tragic love story of a heron that turns into a young woman and falls in love with a man. Their relationship eventually fails.

Kabuki, a tradition of more than 400 years, features male actors wearing elaborate makeup and costumes. The “onnagata”

female roles are also played by male actors.

Kikunosuke, who has performed overseas such as in London and Beijing, said he believes those who are watching Kabuki for the first time will also enjoy what is known as “hikinuki,” a technique involving a quick change of costumes on stage, which he performed multiple times Thursday.

Kataoka, one of Japan’s well-known traditional “benshi,” or live narrator for silent films, said he looks forward to see how an old film will “resonate” to the modern-day audience.

“Benshi narrates past films to people of the current times and revives the old films” into something that relevant to the present, he said.

At the same theater, Kataoka gave a lively narration for the classic Japanese silent film, “Chushingura,” accompanied by the music of shamisen guitar, taiko drum and piano.

Chushingura is a famous story of 47 samurais seeking to avenge their master’s death and has been adapted in many forms such as dramas, movies and plays.

Ichiro Furutachi, a well-known Japanese TV personality, also gave a more contemporary take in his performance as a guest “benshi” narrator for another silent film, “Blood’s Up at Takata-no-Baba.”—*Kyodo News*



(From L) “Benshi” silent film narrator Ichiro Kataoka, kabuki actor Onoe Kikunosuke and TV personality Ichiro Furutachi pose in front of Kabukiza Theatre in Tokyo, where they performed in an event in collaboration with the Tokyo International Film Festival, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Former ABBA member Bjorn Ulvaeus poses in front of an exhibit at the new ‘ABBA - The Museum’ in Stockholm, Sweden in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Swedish pop group ABBA to reunite for ‘new digital experience’

STOCKHOLM — Swedish pop group ABBA is set to reunite for a “new digital experience” in 2018, more than 30 years after their last public performance together, it was announced on Wednesday.

Band members Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad will team up with “American Idol” creator Simon Fuller and Universal Music Group for the collaboration.

“We are exploring a new technological world, with Virtual

Reality and Artificial Intelligence at the forefront, that will allow us to create new forms of entertainment and content we couldn’t have previously imagined,” Fuller said in a statement.

Over a 30-year-career, Fuller has managed singers Annie Lennox, The Spice Girls and Amy Winehouse, English soccer player David Beckham, tennis player Andy Murray, racing driver Lewis Hamilton and a trio of “American Idol” champions: Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and

David Cook.

ABBA, known for a string of 1970s and early 1980s hits such as “Waterloo”, “Dancing Queen” and “Take A Chance On Me”, split up in 1982.

“Our fans around the world are always asking us to reform and so I hope this new ABBA creation will excite them as much as it excites me!” Lyngstad said in a statement.

Further details of the collaboration will be announced next year.—*Reuters*

## Johnny Depp signs with CAA

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Johnny Depp has signed with Creative Artists Agency (CAA), the company has announced.

Depp, 53, was previously with the United Talent Agency.

His move comes after a series of failed movies and a very public split from Amber Heard. The pair reached a divorce settlement of USD 7 million after Amber accused Johnny of domestic assault, reported Deadline.

“We had a great 30-year run with Johnny and we wish him well,” said a UTA spokesman said.

Depp’s diverse perfor-

mances have earned him more than USD 7 billion at the worldwide box office, including films like “Edward Scissorhands,” “Blow,” “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Alice Through the Looking Glass” and “Black Mass.”

Disney’s “Pirates” films alone have earned more than USD 3.7 billion at the worldwide box office.

With his career spanning more than three decades, Depp has been nominated for several Oscars and won a Golden Globe for his 2008 performance in “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.”

Depp will next star in Uni-

versal’s “The Invisible Man,” an on-screen adaptation of HG Wells’ 1933 novel.

He is also set to star in “Murder on the Orient Express” and “Labyrinth,” which will explore the murders of Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.

Depp is managed by Christi Dembrowski and represented by attorney Jacob A Bloom at Bloom Hergott Diemer Rosenthal LaViolette Feldman Schenkman & Goodman.

Depp continues to be managed by Christi Dembrowski, his sister and producing partner in Infinitum Nihil, and he’s lawyered by Jacob A Bloom at Bloom Hergott.—*PTI*

## Actor Manfred Krug, a star in East and West Germany, dies at 79

BERLIN — German actor and singer Manfred Krug, one of the few performers to find fame on both sides of his divided country during the Cold War, has died in Berlin aged 79, his management company said.

Communist authorities banned him from performing in

East Germany in 1977 after he expressed support for a dissident folk singer and he asked to leave soon after.

In West Germany, his career picked up again, as he released songs, published books and starred in television series.

Krug became the public face

for Deutsche Telekom’s gigantic initial public offering in 1996 — only to burn his bridges with his corporate sponsors later by publicly apologising to shareholders who lost money.

“His greatest accomplishment was that he was first a star in East Germany and then be-

came a star in all of Germany,” said Berlin Mayor Michael Mueller. “Krug was never afraid to stand up for what he believed in.”

Krug was born in Duisburg, West Germany in 1937 and moved to Communist East Germany with his father, an engineer in the steel industry, in 1949.—*Reuters*



PHOTO: REUTERS



# World's largest marine park created in Antarctic Ocean

SYDNEY — Twenty-four countries and the European Union agreed on Friday to create the world's largest marine park in the Antarctic Ocean, covering a massive 1.55 million square km (600,000 square miles) of ocean.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, meeting in Hobart, Australia, said the Ross Sea marine park would be protected from commercial fishing for 35 years.

The Ross Sea is seen as one of the world's most ecologically important oceans.

The sanctuary will cover more than 12 per cent of the Southern Ocean, which is home to more than 10,000 species including most of the world's penguins, whales, seabirds, colossal squid and Antarctic tooth fish.

Fishing will be banned completely in 1.1 million

square km (425,000 square miles) of the Ross Sea, while areas designated as research zones will allow for some fishing for krill and sawfish.

Scientists and activists described the agreement as a historic milestone in global efforts to protect marine diversity.

"The Ross Sea Region MPA will safeguard one of the last unspoiled ocean wilderness areas on the planet — home to unparalleled marine biodiversity and thriving communities of penguins, seals, whales, seabirds, and fish," US Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement, referring to the marine park authority.

Scientists said the marine park would also allow a greater understanding of the impact of climate change.

Russia agreed to the proposal, after blocking conservation proposals on five previous occasions.



Adelle penguins stand atop ice near the French station at Dumont d'Urville in East Antarctica, in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

The 25-member commission, which includes Russia, China, the United States and the European

Union, requires unanimous support for decisions. "They all have diverse economic, political interests and to get

them all to align — especially in the context of there are divergent economic interests — is quite a challenge,"

Evan Bloom, director at the US Department of State and leader of the US delegation, told Reuters.—Reuters

## Chinese glass art exhibition held in Brussels

BRUSSELS — An exhibition of contemporary Chinese glass art under the name of "A Chinese Liuli Flower" was held in Brussels on Thursday.

On display were 12 glass works made through the technique "Pate de verre", a kiln casting method to make glass. These "dream-liked" glass reflects inconstant character of life which is common in Chinese philosophy, according to an introduction to the works.

"Liuli flower could perfectly express the Chinese concept of 'flower and Buddhism'," Loretta H. Yang, creator of these glass art said.

The exhibition also showed a glass work of flower-de-luce.

A 83-year-old visitor named Susan said it was her first time to see the Chinese

glass art, which is "fabulous and enlightening."

Loretta H. Yang was a household name in Taiwan in the 1970s as a result of her renowned acting career

and won the Golden Horse Awards for best actress.

She, together with partner Chang Yi, devoted nearly three decades to the Chinese contemporary glass

art. Their works have been collected in many renowned museums including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Palace Museum in Beijing. —Xinhua



Liuli (Chinese glass art) artists Loretta H. Yang and Chang Yi from China's Taiwan introduce the liuli work Imminent Spring Dance at a liuli exhibition in Brussels, Belgium, on 27 October 2016. Photo: XINHUA

## International tourists to Viet Nam soar in 10 months

HANOI — More than 8 million international tourists are forecast to arrive in Viet Nam in the first ten months of 2016, up 25.4 per cent year on year, said the General Statistics Office (GSO) on Friday.

Growth was seen in most markets, including China (up 55.2 per cent year-on-year), the Republic of Korea (up 40.1 percent), New Zealand (up 35 per cent), Thailand (up 30.8 per cent), and the United States (up 14.2 per cent) among others.

In October alone, Viet Nam is likely to see

some 812,000 foreign vacationers, up 23.3 per cent against the same period last year.

The tourism sector grossed 331.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (14.4 billion US dollars) in the 10-month period, a yearly increase of 19.1 per cent, said GSO.

Viet Nam aims to welcome 8.5 million foreign visitors and 60 million domestic travelers in 2016, pocketing a total of 370 trillion Vietnamese dong (16.8 billion US dollars) in revenue. —Xinhua

## Chile seeks help to protect world's oldest mummies

ARICA (Chile) — Chilean researchers are seeking conservation aid to protect a collection of mummified human remains found in northern Chile, the oldest mummies discovered in the world to date.

The nearly 300 "Chinchorro" mummies, which have been recovered in recent years from the dry coastal area near the Peru border, are thought to date from between 5000 BC to 1500 BC.

"The dates that we have for the bodies are from 7,000 years ago ... so they have more relative antiquity in terms of intentional work on the human body than that found in

Egypt," said Sergio Medina Parra, anthropologist and department head at University of Tarapaca in the northern city of Arica.

Medina is leading an attempt to get the Chinchorro mummies recognized by UN heritage body UNESCO as a world heritage site.

"The application is not a goal in itself, but the start of a process, of improved conservation tools, with the Chilean state and the international community," he said.

The mummies need to be kept under specific conditions of temperature and humidity to prevent deterioration. —Reuters



**Myanmar International**

(29-10-2016 07:00am ~ 30-10-2016 07:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon- The Exhibition Hall of The Great Chronicle of Buddha
07:53	Am	Myanmar Harpist
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Reviving and Promoting a Traditional Festival
08:54	Am	The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "Rvwang" Their Life and Customs (Part-1)
09:51	Am	Talented Musicians
10:03	Am	News

10:27	Am	Next Generation "Thin Wai Khaing (Golfer)"
10:35	Am	Caves of Myanmar

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

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Yathe Taung Township In A Nut-Shell
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Drone & RC Plane Technology
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Architect: U Thaw
08:51	Pm	Crocodile Keeper

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
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(For Detailed Schedule – [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



# Muguruza rallies past Kuznetsova for consolation win

Garbine Muguruza of Spain celebrates after defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia during Singapore WTA Finals Round Robin Singles at Singapore Indoor Stadium, Singapore, on 28 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



SINGAPORE — Garbine Muguruza ended her WTA Finals campaign with a 3-6, 6-0, 6-1 consolation victory over Svetlana Kuznetsova on Friday, the Spaniard rallying from a slow start to blow away her Russian opponent.

Despite her defeat, the 31-year-old Kuznetsova still won the White Group after round robin wins over defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska and Karolina Pliskova, the Russian advancing to face Dominika Cibulkova in Saturday's semi-finals.

Poland's Radwanska and big-hitting Czech Pliskova meet in the group finale later on Friday with the winner going on to face world number one Angelique Kerber in the second semi-final.

Kuznetsova started her previous two matches slowly but she was quick out of the blocks against Muguruza, breaking the Spaniard in the third game

to move ahead before she repeated the feat in the ninth to wrap up the opener in 29 minutes.

The Russian had been fairly untroubled on her serve, not even taken to deuce in the opener, but her radar was off target at the start of the second set when a second double fault gifted Muguruza a break in the first game.

The French Open champion was suddenly back in the contest as Kuznetsova appeared to lose her range and focus, the tall Spaniard breaking twice more while holding comfortably to race through the set without dropping a game.

Muguruza carried the momentum into the decider, breaking immediately and staving off seven break points as Kuznetsova ran out of steam and her opponent ran away with the contest, the 23-year-old winning 11 of the last 12 games to seal victory.—Reuters

## I do not underestimate Vargas, says Pacquiao

LOS ANGELES — Manny Pacquiao is regarded as one of the greatest boxers ever but says he will not be taking his opponent lightly when he faces World Boxing Organisation welterweight champion Jessie Vargas next week.

Seven months after defeating Timothy Bradley in his much trumpeted farewell to the sport, the Filipino southpaw will return to the ring on 5 November when he faces American Vargas at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

"I do not underestimate Jessie Vargas," Pacquiao, 37, told reporters after beginning his training camp in Los Angeles this week under the watchful eye of his Hall of Famer trainer Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Boxing Club.



Boxer Manny Pacquiao of The Philippines works out in advance of his WBO welterweight bout against Jessie Vargas, in Los Angeles, California, US, on 29 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

"He is a good strong champion. Every opponent gets my full attention and respect. I respect Jessie and that is why I trained hard. This is the most important fight because it will determine the direction of my boxing career."

The 27-year-old Vargas (27-1) beat fellow American Sadam Ali in March to claim the WBO welterweight crown and has won 10 of his bouts via a knockout or stoppage, with his only defeat coming via a points loss to Bradley in June 2015.

"I need to win convincingly," said Pacquiao. "We have three different plans for Jessie Vargas, but my first concern

is for the fans; that the people who are going to watch the fight will be happy and satisfied."

Pacquiao, an eight-division world champion, is excited by the prospect of adding another title to his bulging career resume, and his first since he was elected to the Philippines' senate in May.

"I am fighting for history," said the Filipino, who is renowned for his lightning hand and foot speed and has compiled a 58-6-2 career record in the ring. "I was the first sitting congressman to win a world title."

"For this one, it is not enough to be the first sitting senator to fight for a world title. I want to be the first senator to become world champion. For me, that would be quite an accomplishment.—Reuters

## Liverpool ready to challenge under Klopp — Ferguson

LONDON — Liverpool have found their identity under manager Juergen Klopp, who has transformed the Merseyside club into genuine Premier League title contenders this season, former Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson has said.

Liverpool have won nine of their 12 games in all competitions this season and are third in the league behind leaders Manchester City only on goal difference. "He has done a really good job and revived Liverpool's enthusiasm," Ferguson, who won the league 13 times, told British media. "It can happen that big clubs lose it. For two decades, Liverpool changed managers without building their own identity."

"You can now well

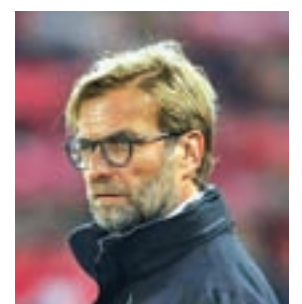


PHOTO: REUTERS

and truly sense that you have to count them in this year. You can see Klopp's dedication on the sideline, I'm convinced his work in training is similar. He's a strong personality. That's absolutely vital at a big club.

"I'm worried about him because the one thing United don't want is Liverpool to get above us." Liverpool face Crystal Palace (11th) at Selhurst Park on Saturday.—Reuters

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