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## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoys breakfast hosted by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who is currently in Singapore, attended the breakfast at Grim Moh Hawker Center & Market, hosted by Mr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

Afterward, State Counsellor replied to the queries raised in the interview with the Channel News Asia at the Shangri-La Hotel at 11 am.

State Counsellor and party who will leave for Myanmar were seen off at the Changi Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Myanmar ambassador to Singapore U Htay Aung and responsible personnel of the Myanmar embassy and military attaché office.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party were welcomed by U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Cabinet, U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Mayor and responsible officials.

Together with the State Counsellor, Union Minister Dr Than Myint, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials came back, it is reported.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visiting Grim Moh Hawker Center & Market, Singapore. PHOTO: MNA

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues press release on State Counsellor's Singapore visit

*The following is an unofficial translation of the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the official visit of the State Counsellor to Singapore.*

1. At the invitation of Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid an official visit to the Republic of Singapore from 30-11-2016 to 2-12-2016 and arrived back in Yangon on 2-12-2016.
2. The State Counsellor met with businesspeople in Singapore at the Shangri-La Hotel on 30 November afternoon and clarified economic and investment policies and investment opportunities of Myanmar to them. The State Counsellor told them that the new Investment Law of Myanmar is transparent and provides more opportunities to local and foreign investors; that higher investment will create more job opportunities, one of the priorities of the government, and will generate a qualified labour force, which will contribute to the sustainable

economic development of the country; that in order to achieve sustainable economic development, it is necessary for Myanmar to build an economy based on human resources as most of the current businesses in the country is based on natural resources; that internal peace and stability is essential for attracting foreign investment; and that the peace process and national reconciliation are important for Myanmar as the country has been suffering from instability, and the State Counsellor also responded to questions raised by the businesspeople.

3. At 17:30 in the evening, the State Counsellor attended welcoming ceremony held at the Istana Presidential Palace and held talks with Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong. The two leaders discussed signing of the investment treaty to promote trade and investment, update of an avoidance of double taxation

agreement signed by the two countries in 1999, the start of bilateral negotiations between authorities concerned to allow a 6-month period of own stopover rights for Silk Airs to operate Singapore-Yangon-Mandalay flights to promote tourism for Myanmar, 3-year extension of the MoU on vocational training between the two countries and implementation of visa exemption starting 1st December in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Then, the State Counsellor and the delegation attended the dinner hosted in her honour by the prime minister of Singapore at the Istana Presidential Palace.

4. On 1-12-2016, the State Counsellor attended the working breakfast with Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong at the Shangri-La Hotel and held frank discussions with the senior

minister on promotion of economic cooperation between the two countries, penetration of Myanmar entrepreneurs into the international market and regional and international issues. Then, the State Counsellor and the delegation attended the Orchid Naming Ceremony at the National Orchid Garden. At the ceremony, a new species of orchid was named Papilionanda Aung San Suu Kyi after the State Counsellor in accordance with the tradition of Singapore that was introduced in 1956.

5. At, 11:00, the State Counsellor paid a courtesy call on Acting President HE Mr Joseph Yuvaraj Pillay (Chairman of Presidential Advisory Council) at Istana Presidential Palace and discussed promotion of cooperation in education, health, urban development and socioeconomic development.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Amyotha Hluttaw 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session holds its 10th day meeting

AS regards the question raised by U Aye Bo of constituency 11 of Yangon Region, Brigadier-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs clarified, "In Hlinethayar township, the most populated in Yangon Region, police forces are positioned more than the number allowed, with police forces from Yangon Region and the office of northern district added to the actual number. And, community policing with local residents joining in security work of the area is being performed, in ensuring the security, peace and stability of the area and enforcing rule of law."

In addition, the deputy minister went on to say, "Hlinethayar township consists of 20 wards, 9 village tracts, 134036 houses, 149717 households and 686848 population. There are 838 factories and 68668 labour force. Being a place which is abundant with job opportunities, most come here for jobs, thus those coming in and going out of the area are enormous. Accordingly, there were 47 major crimes and 1156 were others in 2014

with 48 major crimes and 1131 others in 2015 and up to October 2016 52 major crimes and 1118 others. For crimes not to take place in the township, 11 kinds of prevention were carried out, 2041 cases can be arrested as a prevention of crimes, up to the end of September 2016.

"Police forces are cooperating with ward administration members, village and ward elders, youths with a view to implementing peace and stability of the area, preventing and reducing crimes and rule of law. Up to the end of October 13 lectures on educating the danger of drugs, 21 lectures on crimes including child rape," the deputy minister said.

Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Brigadier-General Aung Soe, the deputy minister replied to the questions raised by parliamentarians U Min Oo, U Thet Tun Aung and U Win Aung.

11th Meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on December 5, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

## Ward and Village –Tract Administration Third amended bill signed into law

THE President has signed the third amended bill for the Ward and Village –Tract Administration into Law.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the enactment of the Law yesterday. —Myanmar News Agency

## The Certificate Course in Advanced Diplomatic Skills (ADS – 4/2016) concluded at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, delivered the closing remarks at the Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Advanced Diplomatic Skills — ADS (4/2016) held at the LawKaNat Hall of the Ministry, at 3 pm today.

Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and responsible officials from the Ministry and fifty trainees were present at the ceremony.

This course comprises the prevailing issues and subjects relating to diplomacy, international relations, international

law, economy, general knowledge and some of these subjects were conducted in the form of simulated exercises. And the duration of the course is seven weeks.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is carrying out its duties in enhancing capacity of private and public sectors by conducting the advanced and basic diplomatic skills courses. With this objective, the Certificate Course in Advanced Diplomatic Skills (ADS) is conducted and targeted for graduates of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS). —Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Pyithu Hluttaw



Lt-Gen Sein Win. PHOTO: MNA



U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe. PHOTO: MNA

## Defence minister urges Pyithu Hluttaw to announce four armed groups as terrorist organizations

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe told the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday that four armed groups that launched attacks in Shan State including the KIA, the MNDAA, the TNLA and the AA can be announced as terrorist organization in accordance with the law.

The session was discussing the emergency motion urging the Hluttaw to express concerns over sovereignty, stability and peace process of the country due to attacks of the four armed groups in Shan State that led to the losses of

lives and property submitted by Dr Maung Thin, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Meiktila Constituency.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe also explained the activities of the four armed groups, saying the four armed groups launched attacks on people and vehicles of social service organization and towns with the use of heavy weapons, blew up bridges and roads, destroyed vehicles, extorted people of money and abducted people.

The attacks claimed 18 lives including army troops, members of the police, local militiamen and civilians and injured 73 people, the union minister added.

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win also echoed the claims of the union minister for home affairs and urged the Hluttaw to announce the four armed groups as terrorist organization.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied to questions on education including president's scholarships. —Myanmar News Agency

## Delegation led by Kofi Annan, chairman of Advisory Commission On Rakhine State, Arrives At Rakhine



Kofi Annan and commission members being greeted upon arrival at Sittwe. PHOTO: MNA

THE delegation led by Kofi Annan, chairman of the advisory commission on Rakhine State and former secretary-general of the United Nations, left Yangon by Myanmar National Airways, arriving at Sittwe at 8:25 am yesterday.

The commission met with Rakhine State Cabinet members led by Chief Minister U Nyi Pu at the State Guest House of the Rakhine State Cabinet at 10 am on December 2.

In addition, the commission met with 10 people from Rakhine Civil Societies at 1 pm, and 4 muslims from Thet-

keyyin rescue camp at 2:45 and 10 members from Rakhine Fisheries Allied Association, Rakhine Thaharya Association and Arrakkha Foundation at 4 pm.

In the evening, Kofi Annan replied to questions raised by news media from home and abroad as to where the commission will go and what kind of tasks the commission will perform.

Afterward, the delegation led by Kofi Annan went to Bodhomaw shrine for a god and viewed points of prominence in the town.

The advisory commission on Rakhine State has been meeting with those involved in the current issue and international experts on the matter and very important persons from international institutions in order to seek their opinion with a view to solving deep and sober affairs in Rakhine State and finding the best ways.

The advisory commission on Rakhine State chairman and party will move on to Maungdaw, Buthitaung, Marauk U, and Myaybon, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency





Vice President cutting the ribbon to open the festival. PHOTO: MNA

## Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends Mingalarbar Cultural Festival

PEOPLE of Myanmar always appreciate the friendship with the people of France, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said in his opening speech at the Mingalarbar Cultural Festival to commemorate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cultural exchange between Myanmar and France organized by the French Cultural Section and the Yangon Region Government yesterday.

The festival was held at Warden Jetty in Seikkan Township in the evening.

Then, the vice president said that he was glad to see the promotion of cooperation between the two countries. French Foreign Minister Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault visited Myanmar after the new government assumed office, he said.

Afterwards, the vice president expressed his hope for further strengthening of relations between the two countries and promised closer relations with France.

In conclusion, the vice president thanked the French Embassy for their efforts for promotion of cooperation in various areas and relations.

Later, Mr Olivier Richard, the Ambassador of France to Myanmar delivered a speech.

Then the festival was formally opened by the vice president, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint and U Ohn Maung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister

of Foreign Affairs of France Mr Gautier Migmot and the French ambassador.

The vice president also enjoyed the entertainment programs of the festival.

The festival is being organized with an aim of bringing back the city to its residents, contributing to the economic development by attracting tourists through cultural activities and highlighting the role of arts.

The festival will continue until 4th December at Botataung Jetty, Dala Jetty, Maha Bandoola Park, Myaynigon Overpass and People's Square.

Two bamboo puppet of about 20-foot height named L'Homme Debut will also be displayed during the festival.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Ms Faith Doherty

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khine Than received a delegation led by Ms. Faith Doherty, Forest Team leader of Environmental Investigation Agency based in London at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed environmental

conservation and forest depletion.

Present at the call were U Aye Tha Aung, vice speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, the chairman of Metal and Environmental Conservation Committee, the Secretary and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Mahn Win Khine Than receives Ms Faith Doherty. PHOTO: MNA

### Myanmar Gazette

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Ko Ko Naing	Director-General Protocol Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Win Naung	Principal Central Transport and Communications School Ministry of Transport and Communications

### Corrigendum

PLEASE read attacks that occurred on 9 October and 12-13 November in the Notification issued by the President's Office on columns 1 and 2 of Page 4 of 2<sup>nd</sup> December issue.

## Ceremony for paper reading on contemporary historical literature held for 2<sup>nd</sup> day

UNDER the sponsorship of the Ministry of Information, ceremony for paper reading on contemporary historical literature and winter season book fair festival was held at 9 am on December 2 for the second day in the compound of the central press of the Printing and Publishing department on Theinbyu Road in Botataung Township.

The morning session of the paper reading ceremony was co-chaired by U Ko Lay (Ko Lay-Innwa Gonyi/ penname), U Aye Cho (U Aye Cho-MA) and Dr Kyaw Win with Dr Toe Hla, the presenter of the paper introduced by U Ko Lay.

Dr Toe Hla read the paper titled, "History & Politics," and replied to the queries raised by the audience. Afterward, the presidents made their respective conclusions.

The afternoon session of the paper reading ceremony was co-

chaired by U Kyaw Win (Mano-tetha-Kyaw Win/ Anthropology), U Mya Han (Mya Han) and U Antt Kyaw with U Aye Cho, the presenter of the paper introduced by U Kyaw Win.

U Aye Cho read the paper titled, "The Contemporary Literary works & Chronicles' Outlook toward 1948 Independence," and replied to the questions made by those present at the ceremony.

In the session co-chaired by U Antt Kyaw, U Kyaw Win and U Mya Han, U Ngwe Toe (Maung Kyaw Kyaw/ Kwin Kauk) read the paper titled, "Analysis of Basic Education Sector."

Afterward, responsible persons presented panel of chairman of the ceremony and those who read the papers with gifts and honoraria respectively.

Third-day paper reading ceremony will be held on December 3, it is learnt.—*Yee Yee Myint, Ohnmar Thant*



Students observing the books at a stall in the book fair. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT





Woman sells the flowers to customers in Maungtaw district, Rakhine State. PHOTO: A 1 SOE

## Mosaic of Scenes in Maungtaw

IT has been nearly two months since the violent armed attacks occurred in Maungtaw district, Rakhine State. In this time we have the area become active again.

As dawn broke, there were morning meal takers seen sitting at breakfast tables in tea shops. Most of the customers in the shops belong to the departmental staff — permanent jobs in Maungtaw as well as those coming to temporarily work for the departments. As there are not many stalls here for fried rice, tea and coffee, Myanmar traditional foods such as Monthinkha, Nangyithote, and other kinds of food are available in one place, making it a natural gathering place for many people to assemble. Some were found having their meals in the eatery while enjoying the premier league soccer match that was played last night.

Some of the staff were found to have been sharing their experiences while chatting. Inside the Myoma monastery nearby, we heard a group of women reciting paritta, sacred sermons. In the neighborhood of Myoma Zay, vegetable markets and meat bazaars were crowded with buyers

and sellers.

Near Myoma Bazaar, there are fruit stalls and second-hand clothes tables. Most shops in the Myoma Bazaar seldom open early in the morning, starting their business after 9 a.m. Though being a town near the border area, Myoma Zay sees the sale of clothing, foodstuffs and cosmetics ordered mostly from Myanmar. Only a few shops sell imported goods.

One of the most crowded places in the mornings are the vegetable and meat bazaars. Local residents depend on this market for their shopping. Most of the sellers here are local ethnics from the surrounding villages near Maungtaw, coming to sell chilli, eggplants, tamarind, betel nuts, corm of taro and green groceries. In meat and fish stalls, salty fish is sold along with shellfish.

U Ottama Street and Zaylan (Bank street) is the most crowded place in the afternoons. The corner of Myoma Bazaar and U Ottama Street is busy with lorries and passenger buses. Shops such as barber shops, drug shops, eateries and beauty salons that belong to local nationals and other

believers are situated on U Ottama.

Zay Lan is mostly occupied by shops of other believers, which sell travelling bags, spectacles, hats, watches, slippers and utensils. Gold shops and banks are numerous on this street. In Maungtaw, there are four main streets —Alaungphaya Street, U Ottama Street, Zay Lan & Construction Street. Of these, U Ottama Street and Zay Lan are mostly crammed with people. Departmental offices are located on the way to Buthitaung in the eastern part of Maungtaw. The clock tower at the top of Zay Lan is a grand feature of the town. In the evening, we saw trucks loading and unloading at the corner of Myoma Zay and U Ottama Street and passenger buses bound for Buthitaung. Air tickets and waterway ticket selling depots are found in U Ottama street. Privately owned cars are rare in Maungtaw with departmental vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles and trishaws mostly used.

A breeze comes after a storm. Now we are seeing the atmosphere of peace and stability in Maungtaw and nearby areas. — *Myint Maung Soe*

## Job opportunities to create for the women in Shan and Kachin States

A CANADA-BASED Menonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) will implement an agricultural project for five years to create the job opportunities for women in Shan and Kayin States.

“We launched the project for women to get the jobs. We will conduct the agricultural training courses, too. Also, we will connect with the agricultural companies to enable access to the market. We have been implementing the project since 2015,

said Allan Sauder, Chairman of MEDA.

We have professionals to conduct the agricultural training courses. Also, we have a plan to export our products, he added.

Currently, MEDA has already contacted over 200 women from Shan and Kayin. The project will be implemented in five townships of Shan State and three townships in Kayin State.

If more women from rural areas participate in agricul-

ture, we can plant more crops. I want it the same nationwide,” said Daw Nan Yee, a local from Myawady township.

The project will spend US\$ 16 billion. Those interested in this project, can contact [www.meda.org](http://www.meda.org).

MEDA was founded in 1953 and has been operating in 62 countries since its foundation. Myanmar is the first country to implement the project among the Asian ten counties. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

## U Aung Lynn concurrently appointed as ambassador of Panama

THE PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United

States of America, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Panama. — *Myanmar News Agency*

## Mass walking to mark the World AIDS Day

A MASS walking to mark World AIDS Day was held on 2nd December under the organization of anti-HIV and venereal diseases project office under the Mandalay Region Public Health Department.

The event kicked off in front of Mandalay City Hall at the corner of 26th street and 71 street, Chanayethazan Township, attended by Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, Dr Yu Yu May, Patron of Region Maternal and Child Welfare Association Superviso-

ry Committee, Dr Win Naing, Head of Mandalay Region Public Health Department, U Myo Myint Aung, Principal of Sport and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay), the students from Universities and Colleges, staff from medical companies and the interested people.

The activity was launched by Dr Soe Than, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The mass walk involves entertainments and distribution of educative pamphlets. — *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Participants are ready to walk to commemorate the World AIDS DAY 2016. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

## Crime NEWS

### Highway accidents this year edge toward 700

THE number of traffic accidents along the Yangon-Mandalay expressway over the past 11 months has reached nearly 700, according to the Myanmar Highway Police.

Between January and November of this year, there were 649 road accidents, according to traffic police.

The total number of people killed on the road was 149, with 1,191 people suffering injuries.

In November alone, 61 cases of vehicle accidents occurred on the expressway, leaving 15 people dead and 117 others injured.

Investigators say 23 traffic accidents out of 61 happened last month due solely to tyre explosions, prompting officials to urge drivers to check their wheels and tyres before driving on the highway.

Drug and alcohol use, fatigue and speed are the most common causes of traffic accidents, said Police Major Yan Naing Win from Myanmar Highway Police.

To reduce traffic-related deaths, highway police frequently conduct traffic rules enforcement programmes and educative activities along the road. — *Than Oo (Lay Myathnar)*



# LOCAL Business

## Tenders to invite for Myitsone resort in mid-December

MYITKYINA Township Municipal Affairs Committee announced it will invite tenders for running a Myitsone resort at a floor price of Ks6 million in mid-December.

The committee hopes to see competitive participation of local firms than before, said the deputy head of the Revenue Department of the committee, saying that the department yearly received about extra Ks500,000 tax from the resort business because only a few companies involved in the tender process previous years.

New entrepreneurs have been encouraged to apply for the resort project permit. Winner will have the right to impose taxes on commercial filmmakers and photographers who capture the beauty of the resort. The winning firm will also be permitted to collect toilet fees and to make a sale in some parts of the resort.

The winner will have to carry out sanitation across the resort without collecting any other fees.

The Myitsone recreation resort has been established in Tanphaye and Myitsone villages within the Myitsone hydropower development project. The resort area was divided into two parts—prohibited area and restricted area.

The state government has the right to carry on the resort business in restricted area. The Myitkyina District General Administration Department announced that action will be taken against those who enter the prohibited area of the resort.—*Myitmakha News Area*

## Muse border trade value drops by over US\$ 210 million



A panoramic view shows 105-mile Trade Zone, Muse, Northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE TRADE value of Muse border trade camp over the past eight months declined to over US\$3.2 billion from US\$3.411 billion last year, a decrease of US\$210 million, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 25 November, the trade value of Muse border trade camp reached \$3.201 billion including \$2.163 billion from the export sector and \$1.038 billion from the import sector.

The total trade value of

Muse in the same period last fiscal year was US\$3.326 billion including US\$2.3 billion from the export sector and US\$1.005 billion from the import sector.

The border trade camps with China include Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. Among others, Muse border, has the highest volume and value of total border trade, handling as much as 70 per cent of cross border trade with China.

Trade was suspended for

five days because of recent attacks by a combined force of ethnic armed groups near 105-mile trade zone starting on November 20, with innocent civilians including cargo truck driver killed in the assault.

The trade camp reopened on November 25 after a suspension following fighting.

According to the official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, the trade value of Muse was US\$2.829 billion in FY2012-2013, US\$3.517 billion in FY2013-2014, \$5.318

billion in FY2014-2015 and US\$5.377 billion in FY2015-2016.

The overall border trade value over the past eight months of this year increased to over US\$4.6 billion from US\$4.451 billion previous year, an increase of US\$175 million.

Myanmar exports agriculture products, forest products and fisheries products to its neighbours and imports personal goods, construction materials and many different items.—*Khine Wah*

## First Private Bank's stock trading to commence in December

FOURTH-listed First Private Bank at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) will reportedly start its stock trading in December, with a price of around Ks40,000 per share, said U Myint Zaw from the First Private Bank.

The company is gearing up to commence its stock trading at YSX as soon as possible. However, the exact date of stock trading has not yet been released. The company is helping to open security accounts for its shareholders.

Shares of First Private Bank were traded at Ks30,000 per share over the counter (OTC), which is currently closed.

When listed at YSX, First Private Bank will initially trade 500,000 shares, with a total cap-

ital of Ks74,664.49million. The bank is also engaged in international banking enterprises, My Kyat and other bank operations, it is learnt.

The anticipated initial price surprised some stockholders.

"As far as I am concerned, this share price is high when compared to that of the other three listed companies", said U Maung Myint, a shareholder. "Besides, stock trading has not attracted much attention these days".

Currently, three listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) are trading shares at YSX.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Sugarcane price high in domestic market

LOCAL sugarcane growers get a handsome profit for their product this season because of high domestic demands, farmers say.

A grower from Yedashe Township, Bago Region, said local farmers received Ks55,000 per tonne of sugarcane this year including transportation expenses. "We, Bago Region sugarcane growers, enjoy a healthy prof-

it from the sale of the crop this season. This year's sugarcane price increased to over Ks50,000 from Ks40,000 per tonne," said a female grower from Ayethaya Village.

She continued to say that an acre of sugarcane plantation normally produces at least 30 tonnes worth over Ks1.6 million.

According to a broker, the

price of sugar is steadily high in global market as the production of sugarcane from the neighbouring India and China, the world's leading producers, declined this year.

"That is why sugarcane price is high in local market," he added.

There were a total of 25,000 acres of sugarcane plantations over the past three years in Yedashe Township. Authorities are now arranging to disburse agricultural loans to sugarcane growers.

Sugarcane is one of the major industrial crops under cultivation in Myanmar. The sugarcane has become part of the crop production of more than half of the world, including Asia and America because of its health benefits. Sugarcane includes proteins, phosphorus, iron, zinc, and potassium, and vitamins A, B-complex, and C.—200



PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



# Thailand's new king makes first public appearance

BANGKOK — Thailand's new king on Friday made his first public appearance since ascending the throne the previous day, ending a period of uncertainty since the death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, on 13 October.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, 64, took part in a merit-making ceremony at Bangkok's Grand Palace to mark 50 days since his father's death plunged the country into grief.

Civil servants dressed in black and white, the official colours of mourning, lined the streets to the palace as the new king's convoy passed.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who was then

the crown prince, surprised some when he asked to delay his succession following the death of his father, leaving the throne unoccupied for seven weeks.

His official taking of the throne, in a brief ceremony televised late on Thursday, ends that unprecedented interregnum while raising new questions about the palace's relationship with the generals who have been in power since a 2014 coup.

The military government has made it clear it wants to oversee economic and political developments for years to come, even after a general election it has promised to hold in 2017.

Critics say a military-backed constitution, which will need the new

king's stamp of approval, will consolidate the army's power, but financial analysts were upbeat about the outlook.

"Forget about Game-of-Thrones intrigue. With a new constitution in place and the royal succession behind, the conditions for institutional stability are in place," Tim Condon, chief economist for Asia at ING in Singapore, said in a note.

"We blame its absence since 2013 for the dismal economic performance and we consider its return an important turning point."

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy has suffered over more than a decade of on-off political unrest stemming from confrontation between the old



Thailand's new King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun is seen on his way to the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

royalist establishment and new populist political forces. Since taking power in 2014, the junta has struggled to revive an economy hobbled by weak exports and slack domestic demand.

"Thailand remains politically fragile and it remains to be seen how the new king will navigate un-

certain waters," a senior Western diplomat based in Bangkok, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter, told Reuters.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy but the palace is one of its most influential institutions.

On a street near the

Grand Palace, shops on Friday displayed gold-framed portraits of the new king alongside pictures of his father. Criticism of the monarch, the regent or the heir, known by the French term *lese majeste*, is a crime that carries a jail sentence of up to 15 years in Thailand. —Reuters

## Some 7.87 million Cambodians register to vote in upcoming elections

PHNOM PENH — Some 7.87 million out of total 9.66 million eligible voters had registered to cast their ballots in two major elections in upcoming years, according to a National Election Com-

mittee (NEC) press release on Thursday.

The NEC launched a nationwide computerized voter registration on 1 September and ended on 30 November. According to

the press release, about 7.87 million citizens, or 81.47 per cent of the eligible voters, had registered during the three-month voter registration period. NEC's member Em Sophat estimated on

Wednesday that more than 1 million citizens have not come to register for the upcoming elections.

"Over one million migrant workers living abroad have not returned to regis-

ter to vote in the upcoming elections," he said in a meeting with stakeholders.

He added that some hospitalized patients, elderly people, and disabled persons have also failed to register.

The Southeast Asian country is gearing up for two major elections, namely the commune election on 4 June, 2017 and the national election on 29 July, 2018. —Xinhua

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

**Chief Editor** - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Deputy Chief Editor** - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Expatriate Consultant Editor**

Mark Angeles

markangeles@gmail.com

**Senior Translators**

Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Editor**

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**International Editors**

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

**Translators**

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

**Chief Reporter**

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Computer Team**

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

**Circulation**

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

**Advertising inquiry**

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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## South Korea, Japan impose new unilateral sanctions on North Korea

SEOUL/TOKYO — South Korea and Japan said on Friday they would impose new unilateral sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, following a fresh UN Security Council resolution imposed on the reclusive country this week.

North Korea has rejected the UN resolution, aimed at cutting Pyongyang's annual export revenue by a quarter after its fifth and largest nuclear test in September, as a conspiracy masterminded by the United States to deny its sovereignty.

Both South Korea and Japan already have comprehensive unilateral sanctions in place against North Korea. South Korea said in a statement its expanded measures would blacklist senior North Korean officials, including leader Kim Jong Un's closest aides, Choe Ryong Hae and Hwang Pyong So.

Hwang, at one point considered North Korea's second-most powerful official outside the ruling Kim family, is already subject to



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives a speech at the 9th Congress of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 29 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US Treasury sanctions.

South Korea also said it would ban entry from the South by foreign missile and nuclear experts if their visits to North Korea were deemed to be a threat to South Korean national interests.

Japan said on Friday it too would add to its own list of unilateral sanctions, including a ban on all ships that have called at ports in North Korea, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga

told a news conference.

"It is a new phase of threat that North Korea forced, carrying out nuclear tests twice this year and launching more than 20 missiles, and it is enhancing capability. Japan absolutely cannot tolerate these acts of violence," Suga said.

"Japan will consider further measures depending on moves by North Korea and the international society," he said. Tokyo will freeze the assets of more

groups and individuals connected to North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, he said.

The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, told the Security Council on Wednesday the United States was realistic about what the new sanctions on North Korea could achieve.

"No resolution in New York will likely, tomorrow, persuade Pyongyang to cease its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons. But this resolution imposes unprecedented costs on the DPRK (North Korea) regime for defying this council's demands," she said.

In February, Seoul suspended operations at a jointly run factory park just inside North Korea, ending the only significant daily interaction across the heavily fortified inter-Korean border.

In March, Seoul released a list of companies and individuals it said were connected to North Korea's weapons trade and nuclear and missile programmes. —Reuters



## South Korea's scandal-tainted Park to face impeachment vote next week

SEOUL — South Korean opposition parties said on Friday they will hold a parliamentary impeachment vote on scandal-tainted President Park Geun-hye next week, while her own party remains undecided on whether to force her out of office.

Park has offered to resign and asked parliament on Tuesday to decide how and when she should step down over the influence peddling scandal but the opposition has rejected it as a delaying tactic to avoid impeachment.

If Park is forced out of office or resigns, she will be the first democratically elected South Korean president not to serve a full term. A large rally is expected on Saturday, the sixth weekend protest in succession, calling on her to resign immediately.

The three opposition parties, with a combined 165 seats in the 300-member parliament, can bring the impeachment but will need some members from Park's Saenuri Party to bring the vote to the two-thirds majority required



South Korean President Park Geun-hye visits the scene of a fire (not pictured) at a traditional market in Daegu, South Korea, on 1 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to pass the bill.

"The three opposition parties will pursue the impeachment through close cooperation and without wavering," a spokesman for the main opposition Democratic Party, Ki Dong-min, said.

"The motion will be pro-

posed today. It will be reported to the plenary session on 8 December and we will bring the impeachment motion to a vote on 9 December," he said.

Park is accused of colluding with a friend, Choi Soon-sil, who has been accused of abuse

of power, to put undue pressure on conglomerates to contribute money to foundations that were set up to promote her policy initiatives.

Park has denied wrongdoing but has apologized to the nation.

Some Saenuri members had earlier said they would join the opposition parties to impeach Park but changed their position after Park offered to quit, saying she should be given the chance to step down of her own accord by April.

"The president has offered to step down, so I don't get what the motive is for insisting on impeaching her when we know there's going to be uncertainties and confusion and side-effects," Saenuri leader Chung Jin-suk said at a meeting.

It was not clear whether there would be the needed 28 Saenuri members to support the vote. There are seven non-party affiliated members who are expected to give their backing.

Some opposition members

have said a failed impeachment could vindicate Park's claim to have done nothing to benefit personally and help her survive politically.

"If the motion is voted down, it is effectively a remission of her sins," People's Party chief Park Jie-won told a party meeting on Thursday.

If it passes, the Constitutional Court has 180 days to approve or reject it. If approved, a new election must be called in 60 days to elect a new leader for a full five-year term.

Park has come under intense pressure to step down, with hundreds of thousands of people streaming into the streets demanding her resignation at successive weekend rallies, which have remained peaceful.

Her approval rating remained at a record low of 4 percent, according to a Gallup Korea opinion poll released on Friday. Gallup Korea, based in Seoul, is not affiliated with US-based Gallup Inc.—*Reuters*

## Tens of thousands protest in Jakarta amid fury over Christian governor

JAKARTA — Tens of thousands of Muslims poured into central Jakarta on Friday to protest against the city's governor, a Christian accused of insulting the Koran, fueling tension that has alarmed Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Widodo has blamed "political actors" for exploiting the popular fury over Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama to destabilize his government. Underlining those concerns, police announced on Friday that 10 people had been detained for suspected treason.

A sea of white-clad protesters built up around the National Monument and, with no more room there, the roads around filled up with protesters chanting, praying

and carrying banners demanding that Purnama be jailed.

Police officials estimated the crowd at least 150,000, including many who traveled to Jakarta from towns and cities across the island of Java and beyond.

Widodo addressed the rally after Friday prayers and praised the peaceful protest, before urging the crowd to leave safely.

"Thank you and safe travels on your return from where you came from. God bless you," said Widodo, who was flanked by ministers and Islamic leaders.

As the president was helped down from the stage, some in the crowd joined the head of the hard-line Islamic Defenders Front in

chanting slogans calling for the crushing of Purnama.

Under rainy skies, the crowd later started to disperse.

National news agency Antara said 22,000 police personnel were deployed to avoid a repeat of violence that flared during a protest led by hardline Islamists last month when more than 100 people were injured in clashes with police.

A health care volunteer at the protest said Widodo had earned their respect by joining the rally after some had criticized him for going to inspect an airport during the 4 November rally.

"This sends a message that he is with the people and that makes people happy, calm," said Maya

Sandra, 50.

Purnama, a long-time ally of the president, is running for re-election in February against two Muslim candidates.

The contest has generated high political tension for weeks, with rumors of plots to undermine Widodo and scupper his chances of winning a second term in 2019.

Police spokesman Rikwan-told a news conference that 10 people he identified only by their initials had been detained before dawn, citing articles of the criminal code that cover conspiracy and acts of treason. Two of them were charged under the law of information technology for hate speech.—*Reuters*

## Australia boosts spending to keep Great Barrier Reef off 'in danger' list

SYDNEY — Australia will spend A\$1.3 billion (\$965.3 million) in the next five years to improve the water quality and wellbeing of the Great Barrier Reef to prevent the World Heritage Site being placed on the United Nation's "in danger" list.

But activists say the money — in addition to the A\$1 billion fund announced earlier — is insufficient and want the government to take more concrete action to protect the reef.

A negative rating for the Great Barrier Reef — located off the country's north east coast — would be embarrassing for the Australian government and damage its lucrative tourism industry.

In the first progress report to the UN's scientific arm, UNESCO, after it stopped short earlier this year of listing the reef as "in danger", Australia said it would spend A\$1.3 billion improving the world's largest living ecosystem.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull pledged a A\$1 billion fund for the Great Barrier Reef in June.

Much of the accelerated spending will address water quality and ecosystem health, Australia said in the UNESCO report, including programs to minimize spillage of chemicals from farming and tightening oversight of connected waterways.—*Reuters*

## China rescues Filipinos near disputed South China Sea shoal

MANILA — China's coastguard rescued two Filipino fishermen from a capsized boat near a disputed South China Sea shoal on Friday, underlining the fast thawing of ties between two countries long at odds over sovereignty.

A Philippine coastguard vessel navigated choppy waters to collect the two fishermen from the Chinese ship, in what would be the first time in four years both countries' coastguards were in close proximity in the Scarborough

Shoal, a rocky outcrop at the heart of years of diplomatic tension.

"As we speak, the Chinese vessel is linking up with our own ship to turn over the two Filipino fishermen," said Philippine coastguard spokesman Commander

Armand Balilo. "It is taking some time because the waters in the area are very rough."

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the fishermen were in good health and that efforts were continuing to get them on to the Philippine ship.

China "will continue to patrol and keep watch in waters around Huangyan Island and faithfully carry out its responsibilities and mission to safeguard the peace, tranquility and order in relevant waters", he said, using the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal.

The rescue illustrates the rapid changes in the relationship between the two countries under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who in only a few months has sought to turn a historic foe into a friend. He visited Beijing in October and has met twice with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, to whom he has expressed admiration.—*Reuters*



A fisherman repairs his boat overlooking fishing boats that fish in the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, at Masinloc, Zambales, in the Philippines on 22 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Opinion

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

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

## Learning from society

Myint Win Thein

**A**T least in principle, telling a lie is not acceptable in the society and every religion teaches their followers not to tell a lie and to love the truth. Children are told by their parents to avoid telling lies and to love the truth even before they can read or write. Students are taught not to tell lies at early stages of their schooling and made to love the truth.

No one is entitled to tell a lie in their entire lives and everyone is responsible to love the truth.

However, people encounter liars who do not love the truth at every corner of the society, in every field of human activities and in every social stratum. As a result, there are also their victims elsewhere although most of them are ashamed of themselves for

being the victims. However, they try to avoid known liars all their lives.

It can be said that almost every victim of lies hates them. This is because the victims lose something, serious or trivial, due to a lie or at least feel sad or angry for some unmet expectations from someone. However, it is only one side of a coin.

In fact, not everything

resulting from being a victim of lies is bad. They can give at least one benefit to their victims: hatred to lies and love for truth. Repeated victims may even rise against their liars and may demand that justice be done. A world full of lies is the breeding ground for the love for truth. From the society, people will be able to learn what they failed to do so at school.

## Education: Academia's Resurgence on the Horizon?

Phoeclaing

**T**HIS is the report of a rare glimmer in Myanmar higher education

Myanmar higher education has been in bad shape for decades. It is well known that, under a succession of conceited bigoted dictators, university academics have been humbled, down-trodden, and their knowledge made worthless. The sorry state hasn't changed yet under the new democratically elected government. As a member of the former Hluttaw Committee for Upgrading Yangon University chaired by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the author can say that its efforts to boost the university's stature has not been successful. But this failure, the author wishes to point out, is due to the refusal of previous President U Thein Sein's government to co-operate with the committee. And generally the overall blueprint for the new education system is still in planning and legislation stage.

### Few Stars in Moonless Sky

Despite the gloomy sky, an indicator of coming progress twinkles. It is seen as the arrival in Yangon today, November 28, of a high profile Myanmar physicist. Professor Khin Maung Maung, head of physics department, University of Southern Missouri, USA, comes as a Fullbright Fellow, to teach at Mandalay University. The fellowship is a highly admired award for the recipient as well as for the host institution. Prof. KMM will also give part-time courses in Yangon University from where he got his first degree. Please note I delete the title Dr. from his name in preference to professor, as it is usual international practice.

If Myanmar education scenario is compared to a moonless

night, then Prof Khin Maung Maung is the morning star of physics. He heralds daybreak for physics in Myanmar; but as he works in USA he is also the evening star, the familiar twinkle in western sky. Mind you, the morning star in the east and evening star in the west are one and the same.

### Good old days for physics in Mandalay

A visiting professor from USA supported by Fullbright Foundation is not altogether new for MU. Flashback 50+ years – Professor Robert Crozier Williamson of Florida University had been given the same honor. He taught the first four batches of physics honors students in Mandalay from 1959 to 1962. I was one of his students, from the fourth batch. Student numbers were few in those days - only two in the first batches; also in my class only two students plus three instructors attending as M.Sc. qualifying candidates.

The staff in Mandalay in my days was strong and highly qualified. Apart from Prof Williamson, who gave two lectures a day every day, we had Professor Ali Ahmad, an exemplary Myanmar-Bengali, who I admire as a superb specialist of classical physics. He used to join our class, sitting as a student, to attend Prof Williamson's Quantum Mechanics course! (He sets the example that it's never too late to learn.) In addition, there were three lecturers – U Kyaw Myint, U Tin Oo Hlaing and U Thar Hlaing, all of them great physics masters. U Kyaw Myint, London trained, was most enthusiastic in teaching, and attractive in style of lecturing. In spite of his handsome looks and also good salary, he remained a bachelor, strongly bonded with students. U Tin Oo



Phoeclaing and wife in research laboratory in KMM's department (June 2010).

Hlaing, a postgrad of Michigan University, also a bachelor for life, doesn't let us go easy either, despite his hearty personal nature. U Thar Hlaing, last of the trio, tends to be stiff, a little dictatorial, but with good intentions. He happens to be the best electronic experimentalist in Myanmar I have known! And all three guided us in laboratory work! Well, just imagine how close we were with teachers – two professors and three senior lecturers taking care of classes of only four or five students each. No wonder, they produced the best cadres of physics for the country. The number is not large, just fifteen B.Sc. (honours) plus M.Sc. (Q) graduates; but the quality was high, nay lofty indeed. Compare them to any graduate of any top university; they will not let MU down.

### A country-run-away repays his country

Professor Khin Maung Maung had been a pyi-pyay (literally country run-away). After getting his first degree, and finished M.Sc., KMM couldn't get a

teaching job, nor could he go anywhere for further study which he seriously wished to pursue. The 1970's were bad days. With the economy in shambles, the government of dictator U Ne Win didn't allow citizens easily to leave the country. Unable to get an official passport, KMM just crossed the border to Thailand with a friend. He spent many days in the forest, the area of rebels. Luckily, he was helped by a French missionary worker. "The priest got me a Myanmar passport," KMM told me; "and the priest told me, 'don't ask how I got this passport for you'". The priest took KMM inside Thailand, helped him with a little money. KMM applied for admission in American universities, got assistantship and graduate training. His rise to professorship is a long story.

### Strangeness, the key word of hypernuclear-physics

I began with the sentence, 'Myanmar higher education has been in bad shape for decades.' In spite of that, Mandalay University physics is faring not too

badly. The department has got a glimmering spot, stars in moonless sky, which is admirable for people who are aware. The MU physics department excels in a highly esoteric specialty known as hypernuclear physics. Yes, a strange name indeed, and very little known even among practicing physicists. But there are few physicists, particularly in Japan, who pay attention to it.

Hypernucleus! What's that? It is an atomic nucleus, the tiny core of an atom, which contains at least one strange particle (also called hyper-particle). But what does it mean by strange? When it comes to breaking down matter into the ultimate level of smallness, theoretical physicists have found six most basic particles known as quarks, and their counterparts, six anti-particles or anti-quarks.

One of the quarks is given the name 'strange' – yes, physicists have invented a particle characteristic known as 'strangeness'! A particle with strangeness, or anti-strangeness is a strange particle. And an atomic nucleus which contains at least one strange particle is called a hypernucleus. Well, I have said this area is esoteric. Originally strangeness is a purely theoretical entity; but these days hypernuclei can be produced using big machines called high energy accelerators. There are only few accelerators in Japan, Europe and USA capable of producing hypernuclei.

The intellectual level of this kind of physics is so deep and demanding that the work has to be divided between two types of specialists – experimentalists who do practical work and obtain data, and theoreticians who do just thinking and calculating.

to be continued



# Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Parade held in Honour of the Graduation Ceremony of 58<sup>th</sup> intake of Defense Services Academy



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives salute of graduating cadets at Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services addressed the parade held in honour of the graduation ceremony of 58th Intake of Defense Service Academy held at the parade ground in Pyin Oo Lwin, at 7:30 am on December 2.

Present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Dr Zaw

Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, General Mya Tun Oo, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) and wife, Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, General Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, high ranking officials from Commander-in-Chief (Army) and their wives, Commanders of Commands, Principal of De-

fense Services Academy, foreign ambassadors, diplomats, invited guests and parents of the cadets.

Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services took the salute, inspecting the cadets.

Afterward, C-in-C of Defense Service presented awards to outstanding cadets.

After presenting awards to the cadets, the senior general made a speech, saying that the Tatmadaw

is standing firmly on its six-point policy on restoring genuine and sustainable peace and it is important for ethnic armed groups to abide by the provisions of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and to sign the truce. Myanmar is a country of various national races and any youth of the national race are entitled to perform duties of national defence in the Tatmadaw in accordance with the rules and

regulations of the defence services. There is only one army in every country and the Tatmadaw is performing its duties of protecting the country. Then the senior general received the salute of the graduating cadet.

Later, the senior general met with outstanding cadets and their parents at the guest house of the defence services academy.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Avid Myanmar Travelers can now pay with Mastercard and CB Bank credit

As Myanmar continues to see positive economic growth projections, its people are increasingly seeking overseas destinations. The latest Mastercard research revealed that Myanmar is the fastest growing outbound travel market in Asia Pacific with a growth projection of 10.6 per cent for the next five years.

In light of this, Mastercard has once again partnered Co-operative Bank Ltd (CB Bank) to launch Classic, Gold and Platinum Mastercard, which will be made available to Myanmar residents and citizens when travelling abroad.

Mr. Kyaw Lynn, Executive

Vice Chairman and CEO of CB Bank said: "A paperless and cashless society is an important goal for CB Bank. Although still a work in progress, we are working hard to achieve that goal through increased usage of ATMs, POS terminals and e-commerce capabilities. For starters, we are already seeing a great shift from over-the-counter withdrawals to ATM withdrawals. And on average, there are 50,000 transactions being made monthly via electronic payment at the point-of-sale."

Mr. Antonio Corro, country manager, Thailand & Myanmar, Mastercard, said: "For a country that had only opened its doors



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

not too long ago, Myanmar's economic and outbound travel projections are very encouraging. To meet the increasing demands for travel, we have deepened our partnership with CB Bank to launch our first credit card in the country. This

signifies a big step towards the greater development of the electronic payments infrastructure and it also means that consumers are able to make more secure and convenient payments for their purchases when travelling abroad."—*GNLM*

## International Law Experts meet Myanmar Police for border area management

INTERNATIONAL law experts from the United Nations met with Police Major-General Zaw Win in Nya Pyi Tawon Wednesday at Myanmar Police headquarters for a discussion about management of the affairs of the border area and international law.

The delegation from the United Nations Office of Drugs & Crime was led by Mr. Scott Beazley. In the meeting, they discussed matters concerning the Country Programme for Myanmar 2014-2017 and the mutual assistance in Criminal Matters Law.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues press release on State Counsellor's Singapore visit

>> From page 1

6. Afterwards, the State Counsellor attended the luncheon hosted in her honour by Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security HE Mr Teo Chee Hean at the Shangri-La Hotel and in the afternoon, the State Counsellor and the Delegation visited the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau and heard clarification on work and procedure of the bureau before raising questions on some areas she was interested in.

7. In the evening, the State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of "Cities and Kings: Ancient Treasures from Myanmar" at the Asian Civilization Museum (ACM) and the State Counsellor was welcomed there by Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong and the minister for Culture, Community and Youth. The museum is displaying cultural artefacts from Pyu Era, Eras of Mon Kings in lower Myanmar, Bagan Era and the Mandalay Palace until March 2017 in

commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

8. In the evening, the State Counsellor visited the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore and met with staff and families of the embassy and the Office of the Military Attaché (Army, Navy, Air Force). She also attended the dinner hosted by the ambassador before delivering a speech to Myanmar community in Singapore and responding

to their questions frankly at the Big Box Hall in Jurong East.

9. On 2-12-2016, the State Counsellor, together with Minister for Foreign Affairs HE Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, visited the Ghim Moh Hawker Centre and Wet Market and attended the breakfast. At 13:00, the State Counsellor and the delegation left Changi Airport for Yangon International Airport and arrived in Yangon at 15:30 in the evening.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



# Tatmadawmen fighting in the battle of Mongkoe with valour

COMBINED forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) started to attack camps of the government troops, Myanmar Police Force outposts, camps of people's militias in Mongkoe-Phaungsai-Kyugok-Muse and Kutkai in northern Shan State starting from November 20, trying to occupy the Tatmadaw troop's camps in Mongkoe, People's Militia camp and southern Hemoelon with large numbers of troops attacking with prepared plans.

In spite of their fierce fighting, the government troops and militiamen fought against the

enemies with valour, forcing the battle abate at about 4 pm without losing the camps.

In the course of the fighting on the ground, aerial bombing and artillery attacks helped the government troops and militiamen to not lose the land close to the camps with great courage.

Armed groups wearing mufty waging to occupy the camps attacked the troops under the cover of houses and buildings in Mongkoe. Tatmataw troops responded with bombings, unavoidably causing some houses of civilians to be destroyed, it is learnt.

After the 20 November attacks, people from Mongkoe fled to Manhai in the neighboring country of Bangladesh as

displaced victims, so there were no casualties of civilians in this fighting. In time of peace and stability, rehabilitation will be made for the ruined buildings, it is learnt.

In today's fighting, government troops have fought to not lose their camps and security area, responding with aerial attacks in accordance with army law. According to the basic law of the war, the hideouts of enemies, the target of the fighting, were attacked proportionally. Tatmataw troops made efforts to not destroy civilian buildings, and if necessary will be employed for the needs of the war in accord with the law of the war.

—Myanmar News Agency

## KIA armed group attacks Tatmataw troops and 2 trucks with artilleries and firearms



The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services released a news that Tat-

mataw troops serving the duty of road safety in the township of Kutkai in northern Shan State were attacked by KIA armed group by shooting with firearms and artilleries and two trucks as well.

KIA armed group shot at the Tatmataw troops taking responsibilities of road safety between the villages of Namphalon and Manlwe in Kutkai township with firearms and artilleries at 5:30 am or so yesterday, and the government troops' cross-fire pushed them to retreat, it is learnt.

The attack of the KIA armed group hit two 12-wheeled trucks bound for Muse from Kutkai to destruction and the government troops were clearing the area with vehicles moving as normal without any blockage, it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

## Donations offered for police killed & injured

A CEREMONY for offering monetary assistance to policemen killed and injured in the fighting at the Nampaw bridge police outpost in Muse and in the 105 mile trade zone was held at the office of the Deputy Commander of the

Shan State Police Force, Lashio on Wednesday.

The Myanmar-China friendship association, the Myanma Yadanar Shwekhith Company, the Sinhnakaung Construction Material Selling Company and

the Lashio Gold Merchants Association donated Ks 14 lakh and Royal Heart Purified Water Company offered 300 bottles of purified drinking water, it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

## Action taken against suspected violent attackers in accordance with law

A total of 528 people suspected of involvement in violent attacks that broke out in Maungtaw on 9 October and subsequent attacks

were detained for questioning, according to the Information Committee of the State Counselor's Office.

Violent attackers ambushed, planted mines and attacked government troops and the border guard police who we conducting

## 91 repatriated illegal fishing laborers accepted from Myanmar side

A ceremony to accept 91 Myanmar illegal fishing workers repatriated by Bangladesh government was held near the friendship bridge at the border area of Taungpyo Letwe in Rakhine State at 10 am on December 1. They had been sent back to Myanmar after having imprisonment in Bangladesh. Hand-over ceremony was made between Border Guard Bangladesh's Lt Col Imaran Oolarsakar and party and Lt Col Lin Lin Nang, of Myanmar Border Guard

and deputy director U Kyaw Kyaw, head of Maungtaw district immigration department and party. And then they have their finger printed and profile recorded under rules and regulations of the immigration, it is learnt.

The 91 repatriated include 62 from Sittwe, 21 from Rambre and 8 from Pauktaw township, and arrangements are being made to send to their respective locations via Sittwe.

—Myanmar News Agency

## 5 suspects, 56 travellers detained

FIVE people suspected of involvement in violent attacks in Yathedaung and Maungtaw in Rakhine State and 56 people travelling illegally in two boats in the Naf River were detained, according to the Information Committee of the State Counselor's Office.

Ten thousand tablets bearing WY letters were also found on the illegal travellers.

Security forces conducting area clearance operation in Yathedaung detained Adula

at Kanseik Village, Zarphaw Ramauk and three others at Maunghnama (South) Village and Karma at Pharwutchaung Village.

Action has been taken against them in accordance with the law.

Patrolling along the Naf River, security forces found two boats sailing in the river. The security forces fired warning shots before detaining them. They are being questioned.

—Myanmar News Agency

## Fierce fighting between the government troops and KIA, TNLA, MNDA & AA armed groups in Mongkoe & Kyukok/ Pansang

According to the Office of Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services, there took places fierce fighting between the government troops and KIA, TNLA, MNDA and AA combined groups in Mongkoe and Kyukok/ Pansang, northern Shan State, taking seizure of weapons and amphetamine tablets and dead bodies from the combined groups.

In the news released yesterday, KIA, TNLA, MNDA and AA armed groups made frequent attacks on the camp of the government troops in Mongkoe, people's militia camp and southern part of Haymoelon starting from 9 am or so on December 1 with greater numbers of the troops, hence the need to get backup from aerial bombing and artillery attack on the Tatmataw troops. In the morning and afternoon on December 1, about 12 people from KIA, MN-

DAA armed group attacked in the town of Kyukok/ Pansang with 20 or so from MNDA attacking from 1000 meters away from the village of Lwegein and into the village of Haymoelon from 1000 meters south west of the village attacked by 100 people of KIA, MNDA armed group with some of MNDA armed groups attacking from 500 meters south west of Lwegein village by launching artilleries. The government troops made cross-fire responses.

In the fighting, Tatmataw troops captured 14 dead bodies, 4 firearms including RPG rocket launcher, 616 various kinds of bullets, 40 AKK bullets, 4 bombs, 3 magazines, 3 grenades, 1600 amphetamine tablets valued at K 26 lakhs in street value. There were some casualties from the government troops, it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

Progress of trials				Detained under remand								
Cases opened	On trial	Sentenced	Police Custody	Total detainees	Police Custody	Sentenced	Released under Section 169	On bail	Died during interrogation	Found dead	Released	Remarks
88	1	20	67	528	466	48	9	1	4	70	49	





# INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

MDL TO SIN				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MI-533	15:20	20:15	2	
MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6	

SIN TO MDL				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6	
MI-533	11:00	14:25	2	

MDL TO BKK				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily	

BKK TO MDL				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily	

MDL TO KMG				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily	

KMG TO MDL				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily	

NYT to BKK				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-722	20:25	22:35	2	
PG-722	19:30	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7	

BKK TO NYT				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-721	18:25	19:35	2	
PG-721	17:00	19:00	1,2,3,4,5,7	

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International	AK = Air Asia
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	CA = Air China
MH = Malaysia Airlines	CZ = China Southern
MU = China Eastern Airlines	FD = Air Asia
NH = All Nippon Airways	KE = Korea Airlines
SQ = Singapore Airways	QR = Qatar Airways
PG = Bangkok Airways	TR = Tiger Airline
UB = Myanmar National Airlines	



# A year after San Bernardino attack, investigators still seek answers

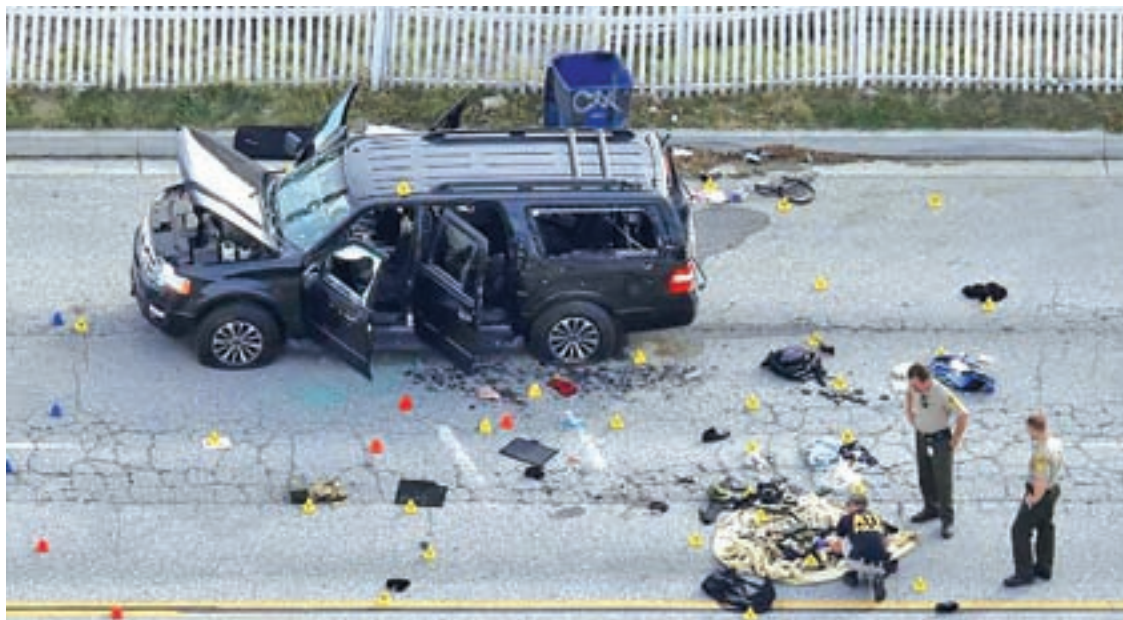
LOS ANGELES — One year after two Islamic militants shot dead 14 people in a massacre in Southern California, FBI investigators are still seeking to answer key questions such as the location of the married couple's computer hard drive and whether anyone helped them, an official said.

Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 29, opened fire on 2 December during a party and training session for San Bernardino County employees, who were co-workers of Farook, injuring 22 people in addition to the 14 killed.

It was one of the deadliest attacks by militants in the United States since the 11 September, 2001, hijacked plane attacks.

Authorities have said that US-born Farook and Malik, a native of Pakistan who lived most of her life in Saudi Arabia, were inspired by Islamic extremism. The couple, who were parents of a 6-month-old daughter, both died in a shootout with police four hours after the massacre.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is still seeking to determine if anyone assisted the couple, such



Law enforcement officers look over the evidence near the remains of a SUV involved in the Wednesday attack is shown in San Bernardino, California, on 3 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

as in financing the attack or helping to plan for it, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

"While we have not charged anyone with providing support to Farook and Malik, we certainly will continue to investigate to determine if they were supported in any way," she said in a tele-

phone interview. To that end, the FBI is still hoping to find the hard drive from the couple's computer, Eimiller said.

A search by FBI divers in the weeks after the attack of a small lake at a park where Farook and Malik stopped in the hours after the shooting failed to turn up the hard

drive.

In addition, the FBI still has an 18-minute gap in accounting for the whereabouts of Farook and Malik in the hours they spent driving around San Bernardino in a sport utility vehicle after the attack at the city's Inland Regional Centre.—Reuters

## Death toll from devastating Tennessee wildfire climbs to 11

GATLINBURG (Tennessee) — The death toll from a devastating blaze in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee rose to 11 on Thursday, the highest loss of civilian life from a single US wildfire in 13 years.

Investigators have determined the so-called Chimney Tops 2 fire, which laid waste to whole neighbourhoods in the resort town of Gatlinburg earlier this week, was caused by unspecified human activity, officials said.

Total property losses from the fire have been put at more than 700 structures, with most of the destruction in Gatlinburg, known as the "gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains," in eastern Tennessee, about 40 miles (64 km) southeast of Knoxville. A total of 11 people were killed in the fire, up from seven deaths reported Wednesday, according to Dean Flener, a spokesman for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

That made Chimney Tops 2 the nation's single deadliest wildfire since 2013, when 19 firefighters died near Prescott, Arizona.

It also ranks as the largest civilian death toll from a US wildfire since 15 people, including a firefighter, were killed in Southern California's Cedar Fire in 2003, according to Jessica Gardetto, a spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Centre in Boise, Idaho. None of the Tennessee victims has been publicly identified, but all were presumed to be civilians, officials from the fire command centre told Reuters. As many as 45 people have been reported injured.—Reuters

## Helicopter aid reaches 45,000 in Boko Haram-hit northeast Nigeria: UN

DAKAR — Flying in aid workers by helicopter to remote, hard-to-reach areas previously cut off from help by Boko Haram violence across northeast Nigeria has provided more than 45,000 people with aid over the past week, the United Nations said on Thursday.

Many of those receiving aid have received little or no assistance so far, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) said.

A military push against the jihadist group Boko Haram has enabled troops to enter remote parts of northeast Nigeria in the last few

months, but insecurity and the fear of violence has restricted access to some areas by road for many aid agencies.

Some 4.6 million people are going hungry across the region, of whom two million need food aid urgently, the WFP said.

"These missions help avert famine and aim to reach tens of thousands of hungry people stranded in remote areas or in areas difficult to access due to insecurity," WFP's country director for Nigeria, Sory Ouane, said in a statement. Around 400,000 children are

at risk from a famine in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe — 75,000 of whom could die from hunger within months, the United Nations says.

"Our teams will carry out emergency missions as long as needed," Ouane added.

The WFP plans to fly in teams of aid workers across the northeast a dozen times a month — backed up by food delivered by road where possible — to provide support to some 300,000 people.

In some parts of the region, more than half of children under

the age of five are malnourished, according to the WFP. But hunger and malnutrition rates have improved hugely in areas that have become accessible in recent months, Ouane said.

Boko Haram militants have killed about 15,000 people and displaced some 2.6 million in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria during a seven-year campaign to carve out an Islamist caliphate. The Islamist group still launches deadly attacks despite having been driven out of much of the territory it held in 2014.—Reuters

## Trump takes populist message to US heartland in 'thank you' tour



US President-elect Donald Trump speaks at a rally as part of their 'USA Thank You Tour 2016' in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 1 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CINCINNATI — President-elect Donald Trump kicked off his post-election "thank you tour" on Thursday by railing against globalization, promising the return of manufacturing jobs to American workers, and vowing to shut US borders to some Middle East migrants.

Speaking in an arena that was about three-quarters full, Trump rallied the crowd by repeatedly attacking the "extremely dishonest" media and invoking the populist message that resonated with millions of voters.

"There is no global anthem, no global currency, no certificate of global citizenship. We pledge allegiance to one flag and that flag is the American flag," Trump said. "From now on it's going to

be America first, okay?" Trump said as he stressed job-creation spurred by trade deals he intends to renegotiate, including the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The New York real estate magnate also announced that he would nominate Marine General James Mattis — calling him "Mad Dog Mattis" — to be his secretary of defence.

Noting an attack on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus earlier this week by a Somali immigrant, Trump said such threats against Americans were "created by our very, very stupid politicians; refugee programmes."

In order to keep the United States safe from further attacks, Trump said he will suspend immigration "from regions where

it cannot be safely processed," including some countries in the Middle East.

"People are pouring in from regions of the Middle East. We have no idea who they are, where they come from, what they're thinking and we're going to stop that dead, cold flat," Trump said.

In the past, Trump also has said he would stop the entry of all Muslims into the United States.

In a Twitter message earlier on Thursday, Trump said: "ISIS is taking credit for the terrible stabbing attack at Ohio State University by a Somali refugee who should not have been in our country."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations accused Trump of seeking to exploit the "tragic situation in Ohio."—Reuters



# UN chief sorry for UN role in deadly Haiti cholera outbreak

UNITED NATIONS — Outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon apologized to the people of Haiti on Thursday for the world body's role in a deadly cholera outbreak that has killed more than 9,300 people and was blamed on Nepali U.N. peacekeepers.

Haiti was free of cholera until 2010, when the peacekeepers dumped infected sewage into a river. The United Nations does not accept legal responsibility for the outbreak of the disease that causes uncontrollable diarrhea and has sickened 800,000 people.

But for the first time, Ban said sorry.

"The United Nations deeply regrets the loss of life and suffering caused by the cholera outbreak," Ban told the 193-member UN General Assembly in Creole, French and English. "We apologize to the Haitian people."

"We simply did not do enough with regard to the

cholera outbreak and its spread in Haiti. We are profoundly sorry for our role," said Ban, who steps down at the end of 2016 after two five-year terms.

While Ban acknowledged that the outbreak was "a blemish on the reputation of UN peacekeeping," he did not specifically say that UN troops were responsible for bringing the water-borne disease to Haiti.

An independent panel appointed by Ban issued a 2011 report that did not determine conclusively how cholera was introduced to Haiti.

However, in 2013 the panel members independently published an article that concluded personnel associated with the UN peacekeeping mission were "the most likely source."

"As a father and grandfather, I felt tremendous heartache at the pain so many families have had to endure.

I will never forget it," Ban said on Thursday of a



Haitians watch a broadcast of outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's apology to the people of Haiti for the world body's role in a deadly cholera outbreak, on a screen at the Office of International Lawyers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 1 December 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

visit to Haiti.

A US federal appeals court upheld the United Nations' immunity in August after a lawsuit was filed in the United States on behalf of cholera victims.

Deputy UN Secretary-General Jan Eliasson

told reporters on Thursday that the court decision had allowed Ban to apologize before the end of his term.

On Thursday Ban also outlined a new approach to try and wipe out cholera in the Caribbean country.

The United Nations hopes to raise \$200 million

for families and communities worst-affected by the disease outbreak.

Ban described it as "a concrete expression of the regret of our organisation for the suffering," proposing that material assistance and support be based on priorities established in

consultation with communities, victims and their families.

UN special advisor David Nabarro said in October that raising those funds through donations would be "highly unlikely." The General Assembly could instead be asked to add the cost to the UN budget, which is paid through assessed contributions.

"Without your political will and financial support, we have only good intentions and words," Ban told the General Assembly.

A further \$200 million would be raised to fund rapid response teams and build water and sanitation systems in a country where only a quarter of Haitians have toilets and half have access to clean drinking water.

Nabarro noted on Thursday that the cholera in Haiti had spread to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, but those countries had been able to wipe it out.—Reuters



Ben Hooper, 38, looks out to sea before starting a swim across the Atlantic from Dakar, Senegal, on 13 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sharks and jellyfish slow British man's attempt to swim Atlantic

DAKAR — A British man aiming to be the first person to swim across the Atlantic said on Thursday he is grappling with sharks, jellyfish stings, choppy water — and a sea moth that tried to nest in his left ear.

Ex-policeman Ben Hooper, 38, says he embarked on the nearly 2,000 mile (3,200 km) crossing from Senegal to Brazil to prove that nothing is impossible, inspired by explorers like Ranulph Fiennes, who crossed the Antarctic on foot.

But since setting out on 13 November he has only swum 67 nautical miles, meaning that at the current

rate he will not arrive until early 2018, many months behind schedule. A former crew member said a support vessel had only packed food for 140 days.

"Yes, this is far tougher than envisaged," said Hooper in a Facebook post. "Jellyfish sting me repeatedly every day and we have now seen sharks on two confirmed occasions," he said, adding that he remained committed to swimming every mile.

Hooper told Reuters in an interview shortly before his departure that he had repellent made from rotting shark cartilage which is supposed to keep them at bay.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GOLDEN TRADER VOY. NO ( 481 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GOLDEN TRADER VOY. NO ( 481 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DA HUA VOY. NO ( 153 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA HUA VOY. NO ( 153 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of OEA/MITT 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 SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INNWA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185



## 'Fast and Furious' stars pay tribute to Paul Walker

LONDON — Actor Paul Walker's "Fast and Furious" co-stars, including Vin Diesel, Tyrese Gibson, Rapper Ludacris and Jordana Brewster have paid tribute to him on his death anniversary.

The late actor, who starred as Brian O'Conner in the action film franchise, tragically died at the age of 40 in 2013 after his car crashed into a lamppost and burst into flames.

Diesel paid his respects, opting to simply change his Facebook cover picture to an image of himself and Walker.

While, Gibson, who played Romance Pierce in "2 Fast 2 Furious", hailed him the "nicest" person and asked people to pray for his family.

Alongside a montage of Walker's photos posted on Instagram, he wrote, "This week is always rough for those of us who really knew him personally 14 years of laughter, hugs and love literally one of the nicest people on HUMAN FEET!!!!

"Nov 30<sup>th</sup> we lost an angel! Paul treated everyone with the

upmost respect and went out of his way to make everyone feel like they mattered..... I love and I miss you dearly .

We simply ask of you prayer warriors around the world pray for his daughter our niece Meadow Walker."



PHOTO: PTI

Ludacris also shared a touching tribute to the late actor, sharing a photo of him, with the message "Always in our hearts."

The photo was captioned, "Gone but never forgotten. #love (sic)."

Brewster also wrote, "Love you forever, miss you forever (sic).—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Selena Gomez becomes Instagram's most-followed celebrity

LOS ANGELES — Selena Gomez overtook Taylor Swift as the most-followed celebrity on Instagram, as two of pop's leading women once again dominated the social networking site in 2016.

In Instagram's annual rankings released Thursday, Gomez was the most-followed celebrity with 103 million followers, while Swift was second with 93.9 million.

Ariana Grande and Beyonce came in third and fourth with 89.6 million and 88.9 million followers respectively, while reality TV star Kim Kardashian took fifth place with 88.2 million followers.

All five women were the top-followed Instagram accounts last year as well, but the order shifted as Kardashian dropped

from second to fifth.

"Same Old Love" singer Gomez, 24, also had the most-liked celebrity photo and video on Instagram, and was the most-mentioned artist on the social media network.

'Hip hop' was the most-buzzed about US music hashtag during the year on Instagram, and key top moments included tributes pouring in for David Bowie after he died in January, and fans mourning Prince after his sudden death in April.

Facebook Inc.-owned Instagram, which is centered on users sharing photos and videos, has grown to more than 500 million global users this year.

Instagram's year-end statistics spanned across a variety of categories, such as the 'most-instagrammed' day of 2016 — Halloween — and the most-used emoji in posts, which was the heart emoji.—Reuters

## First Hollywood entertainment tech festival held in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — The first Hollywood Entertainment Technology Festival was held Thursday, focusing on innovation.

The festival gathered over 30 entertainment and technology companies and venture funds representatives together with film and entertainment related

teachers and students.

The festival was jointly hosted by Hanhai Studio, a Burbank-based Chinese invested company, and the Los Angeles Film School. "Hollywood has many high-tech ways of story-telling, and I believe, to combine the good technologies with Chinese

5,000 years of culture and history, there will come out some good stories," Wang Hanguang, CEO of Hanhai Studio, told Xinhua.

"It's an exciting time in our industry," said Diana Derycz-Kessler, president and CEO of The Los Angeles Film School.

"The ties between Holly-

wood and China are expected to grow in the future, and the Los Angeles Film School is looking forward to future cross-cultural collaborations. Being a part of this international business movement will benefit our students both here and abroad," she said.—Xinhua

## 'La La Land' leads Critics Choice, wins over New York film critics

LOS ANGELES — "La La Land," a modern-day musical love story of two struggling artists in Los Angeles, cemented its Hollywood awards season front-runner status on Thursday by simultaneously leading the nominees for Critics' Choice Awards and being named best picture by New York film critics.

"La La Land" scored 12 Critics Choice nominations, including best picture, best actress for Emma Stone, best actor for Ryan Gosling and best director and screenplay for Damien Chazelle.

Sci-fi drama "Arrival" and independent drama "Moonlight" both landed 10 nominations each, including in the best picture race, as well as best director for Denis Villeneuve and Barry Jenkins respectively.

The New York Film Critics Awards, a separate critics organisation, named its 2016 winners on Thursday, with "La La Land" taking best picture. Jenkins was named best director.

The Critics' Choice Awards are chosen by the 300-plus mem-



Director Damien Chazelle and cast member Emma Stone pose at the premiere of "La La Land" during AFI FEST in Hollywood, California US, on 15 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

bers of the Broadcast Film Critics Association (BFCA). Winners will be announced at a televised ceremony held in the Los Angeles coastal town of Santa Monica on 11 December.

Both the New York Film Critics and BFCA members rarely cross over into the film Academy and industry guilds that picks nominees and winners

for the majority of Hollywood's awards shows, but the critics' awards help to build buzz for potential Oscar front-runners.

Also in the Critics Choice best picture race is Denzel Washington's "Fences," Mel Gibson's war drama "Hacksaw Ridge," crime thriller "Hell or High Water," adoption tale "Lion," "Loving," about an in-

terracial married couple, family grief drama "Manchester by the Sea," and Clint Eastwood's "Sully."

Stone will be contending for best actress opposite Amy Adams for "Arrival," Natalie Portman for "Jackie," Ruth Negga for "Loving," Annette Bening for "20<sup>th</sup> Century Women" and Isabelle Huppert for "Elle."

Gosling will face Casey Affleck for "Manchester by the Sea," Washington for "Fences," Tom Hanks for "Sully," Joel Edgerton for "Loving" and Andrew Garfield for "Hacksaw Ridge" in the best actor race.

The Critics Choice Awards divides the movie categories across drama, comedy, action, animated and sci-fi/horror, to include the bigger budget studio films sometimes overlooked during awards season.

In the action movie categories, superhero films "Captain America: Civil War," "Deadpool" and "Doctor Strange" will compete against "Jason Bourne" and "Hacksaw Ridge."—Reuters

## Salman to appear on 100<sup>th</sup> episode of 'Koffee With Karan'



PHOTO: PTI

MUMBAI — Superstar Salman Khan will be the guest on the 100<sup>th</sup> episode of celebrity chat show "Koffee With Karan" along with his brothers Arbaaz and Sohail.

The 50-year-old actor took to Twitter to share a picture from the sets of the show hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar.

"At Koffee with Karan shoot #koffeencentury," Salman captioned the photo which features him along with his brothers and Johar.

While Salman, Sohail and Johar were dressed in black, Arbaaz opted for blue blazer and teamed it up with denim.

This is the second time the "Sultan" star will appearing on the show. Last season he was the guest at the first episode.—PTI



**Condolence****Prof Daya Ram (80) Years**

Prof Daya Ram, son of sri Baboo Lal and Smt. Soni Devi of Myitkyina, fifth of seven brothers, husband of Smt Sushilla (alias) Cecillia James, father of Ashok D. Ram; Arvind D. Ram, Nanda Min; Radhika D. Ram, Paul Gill and grand father of Jason Gill; expired at 11:10 AM on 28.11.2016 at his UK Wigan residence.

May God bless the family to bear the grief.

**Members of Arya Samaj, Yangon and  
Members of Arya Samaj Free Dispensary**

## mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

**(3-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 4-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogodas
07:53	Am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Ar Khar New Year Festival
08:48	Am	The Iron Rider
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Welcome to Naga Land
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation: Nyan Kyal Say
10:33	Am	Gold from Garbage
10:44	Am	.....Changes

(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
07:26	Pm	Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
07:44	Pm	Graffiti: Portraiture
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Seatbelt & Road Safety
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose — Min Thu Wun (Ep-2) Student Life & Early Literary Career
08:52	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass - Aung Thiha

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

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



**(3-12-2016,  
Saturday)**

<b>6:00 am</b>	INSTITUTE (My Son, Angry Studio)
• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	<b>3:15 pm</b>
<b>7:35 am</b>	• TV Drama Series
• Hyper Sport	<b>4:45 pm</b>
<b>8:45 am</b>	• Teleplay
• Pan Pyo Khin (Part-8)	<b>5:15 pm</b>
<b>9:35 am</b>	• Football Magazine
• Business News	<b>6:35 pm</b>
<b>10:35 am</b>	• Tasty Trip
• Poem for Children	<b>7:15 pm</b>
<b>11:15 am</b>	• TV Drama Series
• Health and Vegetables	<b>8:00 pm</b>
<b>11:35 am</b>	• News/ International News/ Weather Report
• Game for Children	<b>8:35 pm</b>
<b>1:20 pm</b>	• Documentary
• Weekly Entertainment News	<b>9:00 pm</b>
<b>1:45 pm</b>	• News/ Weather Report
• Teleplay	• <b>Gitadagale Phwintbaohn</b>
<b>2:20 pm</b>	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
• HUMAN DIGNITY FILM	

**Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)**

# Hiroshima Carp's 'kamitteru' feat shines as Japan's 2016 top buzzword



Seiya Suzuki (R), an outfielder of Japan's Hiroshima Carp baseball club, speaks at an award ceremony at a hotel in Tokyo on 1 December 2016, after "kamitteru," a coined word that means being godlike or superhuman, which was used to describe the team's feat this season, was chosen as this year's top buzzword. Hiroshima manager Koichi Ogata used the term in June when he described Suzuki's performance as "kamitteru" after the outfielder hit sayonara home runs, or walk-off home runs, in two consecutive games against the Orix Buffaloes. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — The Hiroshima Carp hit yet another home run as "kamitteru," a coined word that means being godlike or superhuman which was used to describe the baseball team's feat this season, was selected as Japan's top buzzword in 2016, the award's organiser said on Thursday.

The word highlights the Carp's achievements, including winning their first Central League pennant in 25 years on 10 September and finishing the season with a 17.5-game lead over the runner-up Yomiuri Giants.

Hiroshima manager Koichi Ogata renewed the trend of using the term in June when he described Seiya Suzuki's performance as "kamitteru" after the outfielder hit sayonara home runs in two consecutive games against the Orix Buffaloes.

The expression, which had already been used mainly among young people for years, became even more

popular after Ogata used it and the second-year manager described the entire ballclub as "kamitteru" at the end of the season.

This is the second straight year in which a top buzzword in Japan was related to baseball, with last year's co-winner being "triple three," used to describe a player posting at least a .300 batting average with 30 steals and 30 homers in a season, after two players achieved the feat in 2015.

Among the top 10 this year was "Trump gensho" (Trump phenomenon), "PPAP," and "Pokemon Go," reflecting trending topics in Japan and worldwide.

The Trump phenomenon refers to US President-elect Donald Trump, known for his inflammatory remarks during his presidential campaign, and "PPAP," pertaining to the addictive, viral hit "Pe-Pine-apple-Apple-Pen," written and performed by Japanese comedian Piko Taro. —Kyodo News

# Ali's boxing gloves, Fidel Castro cigars highlight sports auction

NEW YORK — Muhammad Ali's fight gloves and a box of cigars signed by the Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro are among some of the highlights in an auction of memorabilia steeped in sporting history.

Ali's gloves from the 1970 match at Madison Square Gardens in which he defeated Oscar Bonavena are expected to fetch upwards of \$60,000, auctioneer Darren Julien of Julien's Auctions said.

"They are really important gloves, because obviously they are fight-worn gloves, but also, a lot of his fight-worn items don't come up for auction very often," Julien said.

Another key item belonging to the late Ali is a box of cigars autographed by Castro, who died last

week at age 90. Ali was given the gift when he and longtime friend Howard Bingham visited Cuba on humanitarian efforts in 1998.

"This has really become an important lot now because of Fidel's recent passing," Julien said.

The two items are among the top draws at the "Icons and Idols: Sports 2016" auction that will be held in Los Angeles on Saturday and will feature more than 500 lots of sports memorabilia, from baseball to racing.

The Ali items come from photographer Bingham, and include both personal and professional items of the late boxing legend, who died in June at age 74, after a long battle with Parkinson's syndrome.



**A box of cigars autographed by Fidel Castro is displayed by Julien's Auctions in New York City, US, on 1 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

An autographed mouthguard that Ali wore during the 1974 "Rumble in the Jungle" fight is projected to bring in upwards of \$5,000. "Because it's from the historic fight and such a unique item, it will sell for a lot more," Julien said. Also to be sold at the auction are items belonging to retired Brazilian football

star Pele, including his shirt from a 1971 football match between Santos and Chelsea, estimated to fetch upwards of \$8,000, and a recent personal passport, expected to fetch around \$2,000. "Pele is still alive, fortunately. He and Muhammad Ali are the greatest athletes of all times," Julien said. —Reuters

# Moonwalker Buzz Aldrin medically evacuated from South Pole

NEW YORK — Buzz Aldrin, the former US astronaut and the second person to walk on the moon, was in stable condition after being evacuated from the South Pole to a New Zealand hospital because of a medical problem, a US agency and his tour company said.

Aldrin, 86, arrived by cargo plane in Christchurch, New Zealand, early on Friday local time, according to the US National Science Foundation, which manages the US Antarctic Programme.

He was visiting the South Pole as part of a tourist group when his condition deteriorated, the tourism company White Desert said in a statement.

Aldrin had fluid in his lungs but was in good spirits and responding well to anti-

biotics, the company said. He would be kept in the hospital for observation. Aldrin was a fighter pilot during the Korean War before joining the US astronaut programme. On 20 July 1969, he stepped on the moon about 20 minutes after Neil Armstrong had

taken the historic first step. Their moonwalk was part of the Apollo 11 lunar landing was watched by a then-record television audience of 600 million people. Aldrin last year helped to launch a research institute at the Florida Institute of Technology

aimed at paving a path toward Mars exploration and settlement. On Tuesday, he wore a T-shirt saying "Destination: Mars" as he prepared for the trip to Antarctica, according to photographs on his Twitter account. —Reuters



## Emirati Abdulrahman named Asia Player of the Year

WELLINGTON — United Arab Emirates playmaker Omar Abdulrahman's disappointment at failing to win the Asian Champions League with Al Ain last weekend was tempered when he was named the continent's best player on Thursday night.

Abdulrahman's club were beaten 3-2 on aggregate by South Korea's Jeonbuk Motors with the midfielder nonetheless named the tournament's most valuable player.

The 25-year-old went one better on Thursday in

Abu Dhabi when he was won Asia's Player of the Year award ahead of Iraq and Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya striker Hammadi Ahmed and China and Shanghai SIPG forward Wu Lei.

"It is a great achievement to have been given this honour," the UAE international told reporters.

"Despite this I did not win the AFC Champions League title so this is what I am hoping to achieve next year.

"My aim is to also win the AFC Player of the Year for another time."

—Reuters



Senegal's Pape Souare (R) fights for the ball with UAE's Omar Abdulrahman during their Men's first round Group A preliminary soccer match in the London 2012 Olympic Games at the City of Coventry stadium, on 1 August 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

# 2024 bid cities upbeat on costs as Tokyo struggles

TOKYO — Budapest, Los Angeles and Paris have expressed confidence in their ability to control costs as they prepare for the final phase of bidding for the 2024 Summer Olympics, unworried by steep overruns at next host Tokyo.

Top officials from the 2024 candidate cities, visiting Tokyo this week, told Reuters they were being vigilant on costs from the onset and were focusing on utilising existing infrastructure to limit financial risk.

"It's an important thing to get right at this stage," John Harper, chief operating officer of Los Angeles 2024, said of the need to deliver in the bid a reasonable and rigorous budget.

Their preparations come as Tokyo 2020 grapples with spiralling expenses. Japanese organisers this week said overall costs could run as much as 2 trillion yen (\$18 billion), almost three times initial estimates.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The logo of the Paris candidacy for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games is pictured in Paris, France, on 17 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

is fretting such a lofty figure could scare off future bidders, after cities like Rome and Boston dropped out of the 2024 race, and has called for a sharp reduction.

The IOC is keen for cities to embrace its "Agenda 2020" initiative, which calls for, among other things, creating a more compact Games and using a high percentage of existing venues to lower costs.

Harper called Los Angeles "Games ready today"

and said it would use only existing facilities, including the UCLA campus for the Olympic village, or a handful of temporary ones.

"I think that is a huge budget risk that gets taken off the table by having that in existence today," he said, referring to the Olympic village plan.

Laszlo Vajda, vice chairman of the Budapest bid team, said the Hungarian capital would provide a new alternative as a mid-size city to host the Games after the mega cit-

ies of Beijing, London and Tokyo, noting the compact nature of its plan.

"We believe because of this proximity, cost in terms of transportation, infrastructure and urban overlay is much smaller than would be necessary for a much larger city," he said.

Paris is highlighting its status as a top cultural and tourist destination with not only sports infrastructure but strong access to public transport and high hotel capacity already in place.

"The financial impact of the Games in Paris is relatively low because of all the investment that has already been done in the past," said Etienne Thobois, chief executive of the Paris bid team.

"We're confident that we can deliver the Games on a reasonable scale."

IOC members will select the 2024 host at the 130<sup>th</sup> International Olympic Committee Session in Lima next September. —Reuters

## Zidane and Luis Enrique get little credit despite feats

BARCELONA — Despite being former midfield heroes for the clubs they now manage, Barcelona coach Luis Enrique and his Real Madrid counterpart Zinedine Zidane are afforded little credit for their achievements in management.

The duo famously clashed on the pitch in a heated 'Clasico' in 2003 when Zidane grabbed Luis Enrique's face following a rough tackle from Barca's Carles Puyol and they will stand metres apart on the Nou Camp sidelines on Saturday.

In less than 11 months since succeeding Rafael Be-

nitez, Zidane has revitalised a side that had become stale. He won the Champions League last season and has taken Real six points clear at the top of the league in this campaign.

Under the Frenchman in September, Real equalled the Liga record of 16 consecutive wins set by Barcelona in 2011 and they are two games from equaling the club's longest-ever unbeaten streak of 34 games, which dates back to 1989/90.

Luis Enrique holds the longest unbeaten run in Spanish history, set earlier this year when Barcelona

went 39 games without defeat.

"Zizou" has also won more points in his first 33 games than any other manager in the history of La Liga, but doubts still hang over his true abilities as a coach. Zidane came in for plenty of criticism after Real drew four games in a row earlier in the campaign, being accused of failing to stamp an identity on the team or offer tactical solutions to their problems.

Redemption came with a tactical masterclass last month in which they beat Atletico Madrid 3-0, Real's first league win over their

city rivals in more than three years. With Karim Benzema not yet fully fit, Zidane shuffled his pack, swapping his usual 4-3-3 for a 4-2-3-1, with Cristiano Ronaldo the centre forward and Isco behind him.

The Spaniard pulled Real's strings, while Ronaldo netted a hat-trick in a deserved win.

The merits of that strong display were quickly forgotten, however, as Real forgotten to a 2-1 win at Sporting Lisbon and almost dropped two points in a haphazard display against Sporting Gijon in their last league game, with only a

squandered penalty by the visiting side sparing a huge embarrassment.

Luis Enrique has also faced plenty of questioning despite amassing silverware with Barca.

The Catalans have won nine out of 11 competitions entered under his guidance, the crowning jewel being the 2015 Champions League.

A lot of the credit for those triumphs has not gone to the coach, however, but to the front three of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez who scored 131 goals last season and 122 in their first campaign together.

As the magic of the trio has faded this season, with Barca registering their worst points total at the same stage of the season since 2004, there has been a clamour in the Catalan media for a change in the team's style of play in order to exert greater control in midfield.

The threat of Real marching nine points clear at the top of La Liga come Saturday evening will certainly test the mettle of both coaches but whichever team wins the Clasico, neither Luis Enrique nor Zidane will expect much adulation from the media the morning after. —Reuters



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**CNQC**  
QINGJIAN INTERNATIONAL (MYANMAR) GROUP DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

Tel : +95 1 8604597/ +95 9 43181656/ +95 9 5405687 | Email : enquiry@cnqc.com.mm  
Add : No.22, U Chit Mg Housing, U Chit Mg Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Union of Myanmar