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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 7 October 2017

## State Counsellor in Brunei

A Myanmar delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived yesterday in Brunei Darussalam to attend the Royal Jubilee marking 50 years on the throne of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadduwa.

The delegation left for Brunei from Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, where they were seen off by diplomats and officials.

The State Counsellor and members of her entourage were welcomed at Brunei International Airport by the Brunei Attorney General, Her Excellency Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati, officials from the Brunei Royal Army and Police Force, the head of the diplomatic corps of the Royal Palace, U Cho Tun Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and personnel from the Myanmar Embassy and their families.

The delegation led by the State Counsellor was then taken to the Guest House of His Majesty in Bandar Seri Begawan, where she would stay for the evening.

Yesterday afternoon, the State Counsellor met with Myanmar citizens living in Brunei, conversing, replying to their questions and posing for photos.

**SEE PAGE-3**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by dignitaries at the Royal Palace as she arrives to attend the Royal Banquet. **PHOTO: MNA**

## No discrimination in providing aid to IDPs

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, reiterated to the world refugee body yesterday that there was no discrimination in providing humanitarian aid to refugees in northern Rakhine State affected by the recent terrorist attacks.

He made the remarks in

his speech at the 68th Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR held in Geneva, Switzerland from 2nd October to 6th October, also pledging that the country would systematically repatriate those who fled to Bangladesh.

"It will be conducted according to the Myanmar-Bangladesh

1993 agreement on repatriating refugees. While welcoming fair cooperation, best endeavour will be made toward providing education, health and other necessary aid (to the refugees)," said the Union Minister.

At the opening ceremony held on Monday with Ms. Rosemary McCarney, the Canadian

Permanent Representative to the United Nations, presiding over the meeting, Mr Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees made an opening address.

Afterwards, ministers and deputy ministers from the countries represented at the meeting and high ranking officials made

speeches on general principles and matters on refugees to collectively find solutions.

In his address, Dr Win Myat Aye said, "Myanmar is a country in its nascent stage of democratic transition. The incumbent government is making concerted efforts for national peace and development. **SEE PAGE-2**



# No discrimination in providing aid to IDPs

## FROM PAGE-1

National reconciliation is also the task to be performed as a priority. In implementing the tasks of socio-economic development, less-developed regions and states are being prioritised. Now I would like to discuss the situation in Rakhine State being presently of interest by international countries. Since prior to the events of the extremist terrorists' attacks, a committee was formed for performing the tasks toward Rakhine State peace and development. Moreover, the advisory commission on Rakhine State led by Mr. Kofi Annan was formed to find solutions for the controversial conflicts between Rakhine nationals and Muslims living in the region. During this period, ARSA extremist terrorist attacks took place on August 25. Due to those terrorist attacks, 30 security outposts were attacked, in which many security forces were killed, with others severely wounded. And local residents of Hindu origin and Rakhine national minority groups sparsely populated in the region were killed and displaced."

The Union Minister added, "In launching the operations against these terrorist attacks, security forces paid special attention for innocent people not to be harmed. Simultaneously, tasks of providing humanitarian aid to the victimized people were carried out. Controversial conflicts happening currently in Rakhine State got involved



Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attending 68th Session of the Executive Committee of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. **PHOTO: MNA**

with various kinds of matters. In providing humanitarian aid, security and freedom are to be considered. Negotiations with internationally aligned countries were made on 4 September at the Ministry of the State Counselor's Office for effective and fair provision to victims. At the meeting, Ambassadors from the USA, the UK and Denmark, in-charges of Australia and EU countries, the UN regional representative, representatives of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, IFRC and ICRC took part. From 5 September on, clearance operations came to an end. Programmes are underway to perform the tasks of long-lasting peace, unity and development. The Office of the

President of the State formed a committee to implement the suggestions and recommendations of the advisory commission and investigation commission on Rakhine State. I myself chaired the committee while the Chief Minister of Rakhine State co-chaired and Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of respective ministries taking part as members. The tasks are commencing to be performed."

While attending the meeting, the Union Minister met with Mr. Kofi Annan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Mr. Filippo Grandi, a delegation led by United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Mr.

Simon Henshaw, a delegation led by UNHCR director Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, and a delegation led by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) director Mr. Dominik Stillhart. The Union Minister explained security matters, the progress of Rakhine State affairs, the repatriation of refugees, resettling matters, working with the Red Cross Movement in providing humanitarian assistance, drawing up a master plan for Rakhine State development, matters in which international business companies can participate in implementing development programmes, cooperation with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance

on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). He expressed his desire for cooperation based on fairness and urged them to observe the situation realistically instead of being critical of the people's government.

The Union Minister and party were informed by officials in the office of UNHCR on 4 October of the background history and current works in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, the reintegration and repatriation to their places of origin, and the strengths, weaknesses and challenges faced. The Union Minister and party commented on the discussions of the present Rakhine State situation in Myanmar and repatriation of refugees in Thailand.

At noon, a luncheon hosted by UNHCR was attended where informal meetings with representatives from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand were held.

Yesterday at noon, the Union Minister attended the preparation for the 69th Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR, confirming the outcome of the meeting, decisions and the closing ceremony.

During the trip, the Union Minister explained the incidents in Rakhine State with supporting facts and video files. These facts and files were distributed to attendees, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

## Rakhine State Government meets with Maungtaw villagers

AUTHORITIES met with villagers in Maungtaw region who remained in their homes after the 25 August attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists and gave words of encouragement, provided cash assistance and discussed Maungtaw region development.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state ministers spoke about the Union Government, state government and departments that are conducting short-term and long-term projects for security, health, education, agriculture, livestock breeding, electrification, road communication, factories and shops, hotel zones, job opportunities and the general uplifting of the socio-economic situation

while implementing reconstruction works and asked for the wishes and comments of the local people.

Locals in turn discussed about businesses that are suitable for their present situation.

The Chief Minister and party then provided Ks10,000 per household to help meet the needs of villagers from Kyaukpandu, Mawyawadi, Shwe Baho, Yanaungmyin, Yaynautngartha, Tamantha and Minkamaung.

Local people in Maungtaw region can individually or as a group make proposals to relevant township and district administrative offices about businesses that they want to conduct.

In the afternoon, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu

and state government members discussed security measures at No. 1 Border Police Command commander's office for the Maungtaw region. The Chief Minister emphasised cooperation on regional security matters and Border Police Command commander Police Brig-Gen Myint Toe explained security conditions.

The State Chief Minister was accompanied by Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Phone Tint, Finance, Revenue Planning, and Economy Minister U Kyaw Aye Thein, Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and departmental officials from the state government.—Myanmar News Agency



Chief Minister U Nyi Pu meeting with local people. **PHOTO: MNA**



## State Counsellor in Brunei to attend sultan's Royal Jubilee

FROM PAGE-1

Last night, the State Counsellor attended the royal banquet held at Istana Nurul Iman, the official residence of the Sultan of Brunei, in Brunei Darussalam Bandar Seri Begawan. The dinner was held in honour of the Royal Jubilee marking 50 years on the throne of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiyah Mu'izzaddin Wadduwa, the world's second-longest reigning monarch. In addition to the State Counsellor, also in attendance at the royal banquet last night were other Southeast Asian leaders such as Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and Middle Eastern royalty.—Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with Myanmar nationals in Brunei on 6 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

## Yangon water buses begin operation

There's now another form of public mass transit available for Yangon residents

By Ko Moe

A ceremony to launch the water bus service was held yesterday morning at Botahtaung jetty.

Yangon water bus operations were put in place in order to reduce traffic jams and improve the city's transport system, officials said.

"Our government had laid down strict guideline for the Yangon water bus operating company, instead of giving them a free hand to do as they like. This is an attempt to improve transportation by using the rivers. We are improving the people's situation at a minimum cost to the people. Any difficulties faced in the water bus operation will be closely administered", said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies will start operating the water taxis free of charge today. Starting tomorrow, the price is set at Ks300 per person.

"We are happy to participate in a small way in the government's reforms. Our company has experience in providing riverine service to foreigners along the Ayeyawady River. We want to provide good service to our



Two water buses are seen in the Yangon River at the ceremony to launch. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

people in the same way as we have provided good service to the foreigners", said Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies Chairman Daw Tint Tint Lwin.

As a first step for Yangon Water Bus, the Yangon River route will be from Insein to Botahtaung with jetties in Insein, Shwe Padauk, Latha (Lanthit jetty), Pansodan (Nanthida) and Botahtaung.

Departure time from the jetties will be shown on LED

boards in each jetty. The travel time from start to finish is about one-and-a-half hours. The route will be plied from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

CCTV and GPS Monitoring systems used in Hungary will be used to monitor the voyages, while insurance for the traveller is arranged with IKBZ Insurance, it is learnt.

Depending upon the number of travellers, voyages will be increased in Water Bus Phase 1.

Phase 2 will be the addition of a route to Ngamoyeik Creek and Phase 3 will be another route to Thanlyin.

At a press conference held in May, Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies CEO Daw Tint Tint Lwin said the company had invested between US\$20 to \$37 million to run the Yangon water buses.

Four types of vessels with a capacities of 60, 80, 180 and 200 passengers will be used. ■

## Number of aged might reach 13 million by 2050

About 4.5 million of Myanmar's population are senior citizens, and number of the aged is likely to reach 13 million by 2050, according to research based on the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census (2014 MPHC).

Demography, number of the aged and their living status, economic conditions, life expectancy, and other factors were researched. In 2050, Myanmar's growing population of the aged is likely to be similar to those of the young under 15, according to this research.

Between 1973 and 2014, the year-on-year population growth rate was only 1.4 per cent, but the rate of elderly people above 60 increased 2.4 per cent annually. Senior citizens are mostly found in urban areas rather than rural places, especially in Mon State, Magway, Bago, Mandalay, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions.

This research on the elderly aims at contributing valuable information to policymakers to make decision on how to enhance the living status of the Myanmar people. —GNLM ■



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



Commuters are struggling to ride a circular train at Yangon Central Railways Station.

**PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

## Number of daily commuters on Yangon circular trains increase to 100,000

MYANMA Railways, the state-owned railway transport enterprise, said the number of daily commuters on Yangon circular trains has increased to 100,000, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Friday edition.

According to the official record, the average number of regular commuters on circular trains was about 70,000 per day last year. That figure increased to nearly 90,000 by January.

Beginning in the last week of September, the number of commuters has risen to about 100,000 a day, with the trains always packed with passengers, especially rush hours, said an official from the MR.

"Increased travel time is the most direct consequence of road traffic congestion. That is why people choose railways services rather than road transport", the official said.

Myanmar Railways' circu-

lar train is currently running 215 times a day using 28 carriages.

In collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency, the MR continues to implement railway improvement projects including repair of tracks, replacement of carriages, and installation of modern signals and communications systems to run all railway yards and workshops to full capacity.—GNLM

## Modern medicine factory to be opened at Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone

A new private modern medicine factory will be opened in the compound of Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone in Yangon Region, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"We constructed the first modern medicine factory at Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone. We are making arrangements to open the new private modern medicine factory at the corner

of Ka Naung Min Thar Gyi and Inn Wa roads in the compound of the industrial zone to be able to manufacture to a high standard modern medicines and more new medicines," said U Phay Hlaing, the managing director of Silver Shine International Co.

The new factory will manufacture around 50 to 60 medicines, including home-use medicines, painkillers, fever

relievers and medicine for the children.

"Although the first factory manufactures only around 40 types of medicines, the new factory will be opened with an aim to produce more new medicines," he added.

The private company has invested around US\$8 million in the new enterprise and will open the factory in the current fiscal year.—GNLM

## Clothing fire engulfs nine houses in Mandalay

A FIRE that broke out in Aungmyaythazan Township in Mandalay Region yesterday destroyed nine houses, according to the township fire services department.

According to an investigation, the fire started from mosquito repellent coils being used in the upper level of a house owned by Ko Han Min Latt,

31, of Ward-52 located between 74th and 75th streets and 10th and 11th streets in the early morning hours.

Investigators said the owner was operating a screen printing business from his home. Fabric, clothing and leather used in the business caught fire, investigators said. The blaze then quickly spread

to neighbouring houses.

With the assistance of local police and residents, firefighters successfully controlled the flame within 25 minutes. Action is being taken against the house owner by Aungmyaythazan police station for his negligence under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

## \$3 million to be spent on tourism development in Mon State

TOURISM authorities expect to spend US\$3 million on developing the tourism industry in Mon State, which has large green areas and many famous sites, with the monetary assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Friday.

U Hauk Kyin Mone, head of the hotels and tourism department of the state, said new tourism development schemes will be implemented in four townships, including Kyeikto, the nearest town to Kyeiktiyo Pagoda, a famous Myanmar landmark.

Promoting the local production of handicrafts as well as traditional food is a part of this scheme to find new export markets for these products using a good packaging system, he added, saying that technical training will be offered to local foodstuff manufacturers to promote the quality of their products in anticipation of penetrating international markets. Mawlamyine, Chaungson, Kyeikto and Mudon townships have been chosen for implementation of the three-year development plan starting this year. Further implementation of tourism development in other townships will be based on the success of this project.—GNLM

## Ten passengers injured from overturned express vehicle

TEN passengers were injured on Thursday after a Shwesin Setkyar passenger bus overturned near milepost 2/6, Hlaing Kar village, Hpa-An township, Kayin State.

According to the investigation, the Shwesin Setkyar passenger bus en route to Myawady from Yangon driven by Tayza Soe, 36, with 32 people onboard was trying to evade a motorbike, causing the bus to overturn on the left side of the road when its brakes failed. The investigation is ongoing by the traffic police.

Ten passengers from the passenger bus were injured and are undergoing medical treatment at Hpa-An General Hospital. Tayza Soe has been charged by the police for reckless driving.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)





An aerial view of downtown Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

## Domestic investments mostly flow into real estate development sector

Since FY 1988-1989, domestic investments have reached Ks14.6 trillion so far, with the real estate development sector at the top of the list, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

The real estate development sector accounted for Ks2.9 trillion of domestic in-

vestments. The transport and communication sector placed second with investments of Ks2.69 trillion with 46 projects, followed by the manufacturing sector with estimated investments of Ks2.63 trillion from 764 projects.

A total of 110 enterprises were permitted by the MIC in

the hotel and tourism sector which, attracted Ks1.46 trillion. Estimated citizen investments of Ks1 trillion went into the construction sector.

Domestic investments also flowed into sectors such as industrial estates, power, mining, livestock and fisheries, and agriculture.—Ko Khant

## Inflation rate shows steep drop in August

The inflation rate in Myanmar was recorded at 4.7 per cent in August, a sharp decline compared to 11.46 per cent of the similar period of last year, according to an announcement released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) 2012 as of August 2017 was 4.7 per cent, showing a slight decline against last month's rate of 4.91 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate

was 2.40 per cent in August 2017 versus August 2016.

During August, Rakhine State recorded the highest inflation rate at 9.45 per cent, followed by Kayah State at 8.29 per cent and Shan State at 6.24 per cent, according to an announcement of the CSO.

The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 6.4 per cent in Mandalay and a minimum rate of 0.59 per cent in Chin State.

Previously, the inflation rate was evaluated based on a 2006 survey and then, the

base year tuned to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012.

The inflation rate in the first five-year plan from 2011-2012 FY to 2015-2016 FY rose. In an attempt to reduce the inflation rate, the authorities concerned are made efforts on the basis of the policies of finance, currency, trade and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development plan.—Htet Myat

## Tanyingon market to open next month

The Tanyingon fruit, flower and vegetable retail and wholesale market situated in Insein Township will be opened next month, with stalls to be leased to sellers starting Monday, according to the Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Limited (MAEX).

The sellers and vendors in

the stalls of Tanyingon market are reported to be favoured to lease the new stalls first. The new Tanyingon fruit, vegetable and flower retail and wholesale market was jointly constructed by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and MAEX since April, 2015. This is the

first-ever fruit and vegetable market that meets international standards, including warehouses and cold storages. In a bid to set up this market, up to 600,000 shares were traded, well beyond its expectation of 500,000 shares, with an estimated share price of Ks10,500 per unit.—Ko Htet

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)  
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar  
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

**"Sunday Special"**  
အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ  
ပေါင်သည့်

**နေပြည်တော်**  
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊  
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊  
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၁၈

**နေပြည်တော်**  
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)  
ဇယားသိမ်းခြွင်း၊ ခရစ်လမ်းဆွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

**ရန်ကုန်**  
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊  
ဗိုလ်တန်းကြီးတန်းလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၁၀၅၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၄၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

**မန္တလေး**  
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၁၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ  
ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

**တောင်ကြီး**  
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

**မကွေး**  
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊  
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

**ကချင်ပြည်နယ်**  
မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပေါ်လမ်း၊  
ကချင်တိုင်း၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

**ကလေး**  
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊  
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

**မြန်မာပြည်**  
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေစက်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊  
မြန်မာပြည်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

**စစ်တွေ**  
ရဲဘော်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊  
စစ်တွေမြို့အနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

**လားရှိုး**  
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An Mi-17 helicopter of the IAF. **PHOTO: PTI**

## IAF chopper crashes in Arunachal, seven dead

NEW DELHI — An Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force crashed near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh yesterday, killing seven military personnel, a senior IAF official said.

Five IAF personnel, including two pilots, and two army men were killed in the crash near the remote town of Tawang, close to the China border, around 6 am, the official said.

The Russian-manufactured

Mi-17 V5 helicopter was carrying supplies to a forward post of the Indian Army in the mountainous region. "A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," he said.

Earlier in the day, an IAF official had said five personnel were killed and one person was critically injured.

The crash comes two days ahead of Air Force Day on 8 October, celebrated in a big way by

the force.

"Our losses in the peacetime are a cause of concern. We are making concerted efforts to minimise accidents and preserve our assets," Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa had said yesterday, referring to a string of crashes of IAF choppers and military jets in recent years.

The Mi-17 V5 is a Russian built medium-lift military transport chopper.—PTI ■

## Indonesian president stands strong re-election chance in 2019

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo is the favourite to win the 2019 presidential election, with his presumed challenger trailing far behind, a recent public opinion poll shows.

In the September survey by Saiful Mujani Research & Consulting, 38.9 per cent of respondents said they would vote for Jokowi, with Prabowo Subianto, his opponent in the 2014 presidential election, preferred by 12.0 per cent.

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Jokowi's predecessor who served two five-year terms as president and is thus no longer eligible to run again, polled 1.6 per cent.

With 68 per cent of respondents also saying they were satisfied with the president's administration, the survey suggests Jokowi's strong electability.

And it suggests there is no significant competitor to the first-term president other than Prabowo Subianto, a retired army general.—Kyodo News ■

## Japan, Philippines updates currency swap deal to promote yen use

TOKYO — Japan and the Philippines have updated a bilateral currency swap agreement to provide liquidity, enabling Manila to exchange the peso for the yen in the event of an emergency, the Finance Ministry said Friday.

Under the \$12 billion arrangement taking effect Friday, the Philippines can swap its own currency for the yen and the US dollar. Japan has access to \$500 million.

"It's the first case in which a bilateral swap agreement has been reached to enable yen withdrawals in times of financial crisis," Finance Minister Taro Aso told reporters.

"From a medium-term perspective, we believe it will help reduce excessive dependence on the US dollar," Aso said.

After pumping US dollars into the financial system, the Federal Reserve is seen to be moving toward normalizing its monetary policy by unwinding its balance sheets and raising interest rates as economic recovery gains traction.

The latest arrangement comes as Japan has been seeking to bolster ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, at a time when the world's second-largest economy China is also courting the bloc.—Kyodo News ■

## Australians give up 51,000 illegal guns as government stands by tough laws

SYDNEY — Australians turned in 51,000 illegal firearms, ranging from 19<sup>th</sup>-century weapons to a rocket launcher, during a three-month amnesty that ended on Friday, and which Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said had helped avert Las Vegas-style mass shootings.

The cache, representing about a fifth of illegal firearms, was collected during Australia's second amnesty since its worst ever massacre, when a lone gunman killed 35 people in the island state of Tasmania in 1996.

There has not been a mass shooting since the then conservative government banned all semi-automatic rifles and semi-automatic shotguns that year, and introduced tougher

background checks on gun purchases.

The firearms gathered in this year's amnesty will be destroyed. Those who still own such guns face jail time, and the government is pushing for harsher penalties for gun traffickers.

"Every single one of those 51,000 guns could be used, could have been used in a crime where Australians could be killed - now they can't," Turnbull told reporters in Sydney.

"The killer there had a collection of semi-automatic weapons which a person in his position would simply not be able to acquire in Australia," he added.

Turnbull was referring to the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history, when Ste-

phen Paddock, 64, armed with numerous assault rifles, fired this week on an outdoor country music festival in Las Vegas, killing 58 people and himself.

The attack has focused attention on gun ownership rules in the United States, and in Australia, where gun ownership restrictions are seen to have worked.

In Tasmania in 1996, Martin Bryant killed 35 people at the former prison colony of Port Arthur, using military-style weapons bought without background checks. In response, conservative Prime Minister John Howard convinced Australia's eight provincial governments to toughen their laws, despite opposition from his own side of the political divide.—Reuters ■



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull looks with Australian Federal Police Commissioner (AFP) Andrew Colvin and Australian Justice Minister Michael Keenan at firearms on display in Sydney, Australia, on 6 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



# Debris and dust: Raqqa 'sacrificed' to defeat Islamic State

RAQQA, (Syria) — The ancient mud brick walls circling Raqqa's deserted old city are almost the only structure still intact. Inside, shops and homes spill crumbling concrete onto either side of the narrow roads, block after block.

Fighting between US-backed militias and Islamic State in the jihadist group's former Syria stronghold has peppered mosques and minarets with machine-gun fire while air strikes flattened houses. No building is untouched.

"The old clock tower could be heard from outside the walls once. It's damaged now. It's silent," Mohammed Hawi, an Arab fighter from Raqqa, said at a nearby home occupied by the Syrian Democratic Forces alliance (SDF).

Raqqa, where Islamic State plotted attacks abroad during its three-year rule, is almost captured in a months-old offensive backed by US air cover and special forces. But driving militants out has caused destruction that officials say will take years and cost millions of dollars to repair.

The nascent Raqqa Civil Council, set up to rebuild and govern Raqqa, faces a huge task. It says aid from countries in the



A fighter of the Syrian Democratic Forces guards a road at the frontline in Raqqa, Syria, on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

US-led coalition fighting IS is so far insufficient.

Raqqa's uncertain political future, as it comes under the sway of Kurdish-led forces which neighbour Turkey opposes, and is still coveted by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, is partly what has made coalition countries hesitate, diplomats say.

But failure to quickly return services to the city that was once

home to more than 200,000 people, mostly now displaced, risks unrest, they warn.

"Infrastructure is completely destroyed, water, electricity networks, bridges. There's not a single service functioning," said Ibrahim Hassan, who oversees reconstruction for the Raqqa council at its headquarters in nearby Ain Issa.

"We gave our city as a sac-

rifice for the sake of defeating terrorism. It's the world's duty to help us," he said.

A major bridge leading into eastern Raqqa lies collapsed after a coalition air strike. Beyond it, damaged water towers and the skeletons of teetering residential blocks dot the skyline.

Awnings hung by militants to hide their movements flap in the wind.—Reuters ■

## Hurricane relief efforts delay deployment of US troops to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON — US military assistance for hurricane relief efforts has delayed the deployment of additional forces to Afghanistan, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

"Forces are flowing to Afghanistan, they have been slightly delayed by ongoing hurricane relief efforts," Lieutenant General Kenneth McKenzie, joint staff director, told reporters.

US officials have told Reuters that the United States will send about 3,500 additional troops to Afghanistan.

Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands were battered by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Hurricane Maria knocked out power to Puerto Rico's 3.4 million residents last month, devastating the island's already dilapidated electric power infrastructure.

There are about 11,000 US troops assisting in relief efforts to Puerto Rico, along with a number of naval vessels, according to the Pentagon.—Reuters ■

# Trump expected to decertify Iran nuclear deal, official says

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is expected to announce soon that he will decertify the landmark international deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme, a senior administration official said on Thursday, in a step that potentially could cause the 2015 accord to unravel. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Trump is also expected to roll out a broader US strategy on Iran that would be more confrontational. The Trump administration has frequently criticized Iran's conduct in the Middle East.

Trump, who has called the pact an "embarrassment" and "the worst deal ever negotiated," has been weighing whether it serves US security interests as he faces an 15 October deadline for certifying that Iran is complying with its terms. "We must not allow Iran ... to obtain

nuclear weapons," Trump said during a meeting with military leaders at the White House on Thursday, adding: "The Iranian regime supports terrorism and exports violence, bloodshed and chaos across the Middle East. That is why we must put an end to Iran's continued aggression and nuclear ambitions. They have not lived up to the spirit of their agreement."

Asked about his decision on whether to certify the landmark deal, Trump said: "You'll be hearing about Iran very shortly."

Supporters say its collapse could trigger a regional arms race and worsen Middle East tensions, while opponents say it went too far in easing sanctions without requiring that Iran end its nuclear programme permanently.

Iranian authorities have repeatedly said Tehran would not

be the first to violate the accord, under which Iran agreed to restrict its nuclear programme in return for lifting most international sanctions that had crippled its economy.

If Trump declines to certify Iran's compliance, US congressional leaders would have 60 days to decide whether to reimpose sanctions on Tehran suspended under the agreement.

Whether Congress would be willing to reimpose sanctions is far from clear. While Republicans, and some Democrats, opposed the deal when it was approved in 2015, there is little obvious appetite in Congress for dealing with the Iran issue now.

The prospect that Washington could renege on the pact, which was signed by the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, the European Union and Iran, has worried

some of the US allies that helped negotiate it.

"We, the Europeans, we have hammered this: the agreement is working," said a European diplomat who asked to remain anonymous. "We as Europeans, have repeated ... it's impossible to reopen the agreement. Period. It's impossible."

French President Emmanuel Macron said last month there was no alternative to the nuclear accord, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

A senior Iranian diplomat told Reuters on Thursday the end result of Trump's expected move would be to isolate the United States since the Europeans would continue to support it.

"Many foreign investors told us that they will not be scared away from Iran's market if Trump de-certifies the deal,"

the diplomat said.

Trump has long criticized the pact, a signature foreign policy achievement of his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama.

The administration was considering 12 October for Trump to give a speech on Iran but no final decision had been made, an official said previously.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a close ally of Trump, last month said that unless provisions in the accord removing restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme over time are eliminated, it should be cancelled. "Fix it, or nix it," Netanyahu said in a speech at the UN General Assembly annual gathering of world leaders on 19 September.

Many of Trump's fellow Republicans who control Congress also have been critical of the deal.—Reuters ■



# Reasonable Solution and Approach

By Khin Maung Oo

It has been learnt that H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momem, the Bangladeshi Ambassador to the United Nations called for the United Nations Security Council not to avert its attention from the Rakhine State affair, up to the stage of getting reasonable solution to their demands. This statement meant “To put continuous pressure over Myanmar.” Bangladesh and Myanmar are neighboring countries sharing a border. As a matter of fact, if I had to present as done by the said “Person” I sure would say like this—“we will negotiate between the

two countries until a reasonable solution is achieved.” Such a kind of approach will be a friendly and positive one. On the other hand, to ask the UN to put pressure on Myanmar continuously, as presented by the Bangladeshi Ambassador to the UN is an approach void of trust and a negative attitude.

There is not a government in this world which can fully defend itself against the dangers of terrorists who dare to kill innocent people inhumanely. That is because terrorists never value human life and they absolutely have no regard for human dignity or morality. There is nothing in this world they

would not do to advance their cause.

They are not above doing blasphemous actions against other religions. They are never reluctant to destroy historical heritages.

The Bangladesh government has been learnt to have allowed Bengalis who fled Rakhine State to go nowhere apart from the places temporarily permitted to live currently. And, no one is allowed to purchase telephone SIM Cards as a protection against connections with terrorists. The so-called Bengalis are similar to Bangladeshi citizens in race and religion. In other words, they are like blood relatives

who have been living separately on each side of the border line. Had there been worries about dangers of terrorists even in the refugee camps on the Bangladesh side of the border, worries over dangers of terrorists in the midst of different communities are reasonable. What we hereby want to point out is that regrettably Bangladesh fails to acknowledge complex and very difficult situations which are very sensitive, between different communities. To sum it up, we should surely choose the reasonable approaches provided that we really want to achieve reasonable solutions.

# Myanmar's Economy is Projected to Pick Up Amid important Risks

**D**ESPITE important risks, Myanmar's economy is expected to recover this year, with growth rising from 5.9 percent in 2016 to 6.4 percent. Public and private investments in priority infrastructure services such as power and transportation are projected to pick up and inflation is expected to ease further, according to the October 2017 edition of the Myanmar Economic Monitor.

The country has the potential to capitalize on major investment opportunities as global growth continues to recover, but faces several risks to growth. The country's recent deterioration in security in Rakhine State could negatively affect investment flows already affected by investor perceptions of slowing reforms, and exacerbate existing risks related to vulnerability to shocks including natural disasters.

Despite notable reforms and strong foreign investment commitments in Myanmar, implementation is lagging. The Myanmar Economic Monitor suggests Myanmar build on, and communicate, important reforms already underway, for instance in access to finance, electricity and land, business regulations and labor force skills, to boost investor confidence.

Improved global growth prospects and continued strong domestic demand underpin a positive outlook for the broader region, says the October 2017 edition of the East Asia and Pacific Economic Update also launched today. Stronger growth in advanced econo-

mies, a moderate recovery in commodity prices, and a recovery in global trade growth, will support the economies of developing East Asia and Pacific to collectively expand by 6.4 percent for 2017.

The report states that the uptick in growth in 2017 relative to earlier expectations reflects stronger than expected growth in China, at 6.7 percent, the same pace as in 2016. In the rest of the region growth in 2017 will be rise to 5.1 percent in 2017 and 5.2 percent in 2018, up from 4.9 percent in 2016.

Several external and domestic risks could impact this positive outlook. Economic policies in some advanced economies remain uncertain, while geopolitical tensions centered on the region have increased. Monetary policies in the U.S. and the Euro Area could be tightened more quickly than expected. Many countries in the region have high levels of private sector debt while fiscal deficits remain high or are on the rise.

“The recovery of the global economy and the expansion of global trade are good news for the East Asia and Pacific region and its continued success in improving living standards,” said Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific Region. “The challenge will be for countries to strike a balance between prioritizing short-term growth and reducing medium-term vulnerabilities, so that the region has a stronger foundation for sustained and inclusive growth.”

Thailand and Malaysia are expected to grow more rapidly than expected, due to stronger exports, including

tourism, for the former, and increased investment in the latter. Gains in real wages are fueling strong consumption in Indonesia, and a rebound in agriculture and manufacturing is boosting growth in Vietnam. In the Philippines, the economy is projected to expand at a slightly slower pace than in 2016, partly due to slower than expected implementation of public investment projects.

Growth in Cambodia and Lao PDR is moderating compared to 2016, but its pace remains higher than other countries in the region; trade and FDI in Cambodia and expansion of the power sector in Lao PDR are the main drivers.

“The improved prospects for global growth offer a window of opportunity for countries to reduce vulnerabilities while pursuing reforms that can yield growth dividends over the longer term,” said Sudhir Shetty, World Bank Chief Economist for the East Asia and Pacific region. “Reducing risks to financial sector stability and strengthening competitiveness, including through deeper regional integration, remain priorities.”

To maintain resilience against risks, the report calls for a move away from measures aimed at short-term growth towards policies that address financial sector and fiscal vulnerabilities. These measures include: strengthening supervision and prudential regulation in countries experiencing rapid growth in private-sector credit and debt; reforming tax policies and administration to help boost revenue collection; and

being ready to tighten monetary policy if warranted by the pace of interest rate increases in advanced economies.

Structural reform priorities differ across countries. Sustained reforms of the state-owned enterprise sectors in China and Vietnam can improve growth prospects. The Philippines, Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia will benefit from continued improvements in public investment management systems to support expanding public infrastructure programs. In Indonesia, liberalizing the regulations for foreign investment remains important.

The report also highlights the potential that tourism development and deeper regional integration offer to offset the risks of protectionism. Growth in tourism, if well managed, has the potential to yield substantial benefits to the region, including for the Pacific Island Countries. The ASEAN Economic Community offers one avenue for promoting further regional integration, including by further liberalizing trade in services and reducing non-tariff barriers.

Despite success in reducing poverty, high and rising inequality is a growing concern, as are falling mobility and growing economic insecurity. For lasting inclusive growth, measures to reduce extreme poverty where it still exists must be accompanied by policies that broaden access to quality services and more productive jobs, and stronger social protection systems that reduce the consequences of adverse shocks.—World Bank ■



# Last rites for Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Dhammathaya Sayadawgyi

The last rites for State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Dhammathaya Sayadaw was held yesterday morning at his monastery in Mingaladon Township in Yangon Region.

The ceremony was attended by State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sanghamahanayaka Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Central Working Committee Sanghas, Region Sanghanayaka Sayadaws, Township Sanghanayaka member Sayadaws, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone and high ranking officers, Department of Religious Affairs Director General U Myint Oo, Department for the Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Deputy Director General U Ba Hein, nuns, yogis and donors of the Saydawgyi.

The attendees first took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilawka Bhivamsa, Ovadacarya of Insein Township Ywama Pariyati Monastery State.



The congregation pay obeisance to Buddhist monks as they attend the last rites for State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Dhammathaya Sayadaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Next, State Sangha Maha Nayaka member Shwepyitha Township Shwepyitha Pariyati Monastery chief patron Agga Maha Gandaka Wasaka Pandita, Dwi Pitikadara Bhaddanta Nagita read the biography of the deceased Sayadaw.

Union Minister for Religious

Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko then read a message of condolence, followed by a donation of offering to attending Sayadaws by the Union Minister, departmental officials and donors.

A water libation ceremony for the donations made was then conducted in the presence of

State Sanghamahanayaka member Bhaddanta Gunika Bhivamsa (Agga Maha Pandita).

The Andima Aggi ceremony was continued by placing the Sayadawgyi's remain onto the Karaweik barge while religious verses were recited it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Man found dead near Inwa Bridge in Sagaing on Friday

A MAN with wounds to his face was found dead near Inwa Bridge in Sagaing District at around 7 am yesterday, according to a police report.

The victim has been identified as 35-year-old Moe Gyi, son of U Shin Tha, of Kyabannanmyar Village, Nganzon Township, Mandalay Region.

According to a preliminary police investigation headed by Police Lt-Col Mya Thin of the Sagaing District Police Force, the dead man was found injured with cuts on his left eyebrow, left cheek, chin and upper lip.

The body of the man was taken to the town's 200-bed general hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Police say that the investigation is ongoing to find the cause of death and possible perpetrators.—Khine Zeya ■



## Traditional boat race held in Aunglan

Annual traditional boat race was held in the Ayeyawady River in Aunglan, Magway Region, yesterday marking the end of the three-month Buddhist Rain Retreat. More than 20 teams participated in the 153rd annual celebration. **PHOTO: AUNGLAN IPRD**



## New elephants to arrive at Ngalaik Sakhantha Elephant Camp

SOME elephants from the Bago Yoma timber production camps will be moved to Ngalaik Sakhantha Elephant Camp in Nay Pyi Taw at the end of this year due to the increased number of visitors, according to a report of the Myawady Daily on Friday.

The 20-acre Ngalaik Sakhantha Elephant Camp opened near Ngalaik Dam in the capital Nay Pyi Taw in May with five male and two female elephants from the Bago Roma timber production camps and other forest reserves. This is the fourth elephant camp opened along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway organised by the Myanma Timber Enterprise.

Plans are underway to open restaurants, a recreation centre and bird-watching camps within

the compound of this elephant camp.

An official of the camp said the entrance fee is Ks1,000 per local visitor and Ks20,000 for foreigners. The extra charge for an elephant ride is Ks20,000 per foreigner, saying that a plan is underway to extend the land area of the camp from 20 acres to over 500 acres in negotiation with the forest department, with the aim of creating the best natural setting for visitors.

More elephants will be retired from timber felling work and sent to the camp, as the camp is becoming increasingly popular among travellers. On the weekends, the number of visitors to the camp increased to about 200 per day, officials said.—GNLM

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office



## Anti-nuclear campaign ICAN wins 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO — The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, as the Norwegian Nobel Committee warned that the risk of a nuclear conflict is greater than for a long time.

ICAN describes itself as a coalition of grassroots non-government groups in more than 100 nations. It began in Australia and was officially launched in Vienna in 2007.

“We live in a world where the risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time,” said Berit Reiss-Andersen, the leader of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

In July, 122 nations adopted a UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, but nucle-



Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and Daniel Hogsta, coordinator, celebrate after winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ar-armed states including the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France stayed out of the talks.

The Nobel prize seeks to bolster the case of disarmament amid nuclear tensions between

the United States and North Korea and uncertainty over the fate of a 2015 deal between Iran and major powers to limit Tehran's nuclear programme.

US President Donald Trump has called the Iran

agreement the “worst deal ever negotiated” and a senior administration official said on Thursday that Trump is expected to announce soon that he will decertify the landmark pact. — Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Prince Akishino to visit Thailand for late king's funeral

TOKYO — Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko will visit Thailand for two days from on 26 October to attend the country's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's funeral ceremony, the Japanese government said Friday.

The Cabinet approved the visit the same day. Prince Akishino, the younger of Emperor Akihito's two sons, had met several times with the late Thai king who died in October last year, according to the Imperial Household Agency. —Kyodo News ■

### Both pro and anti-Brexit lawmakers back ousting PM May: former Conservative chairman

LONDON — Former Conservative Party chairman Grant Shapps said on Friday that both supporters and opponents of Brexit were among the 30 lawmakers who back a plot to topple British Prime Minister Theresa May.

Divisions over May's future burst into the open on Friday after her conference speech was ruined by a comedian, coughing fit and even letters falling off the slogans behind her on stage.

Shapps told BBC radio that there was a broad range of lawmakers urging May to step down. —Reuters ■

### Man arrested carrying suspected explosives at Swedish airport

STOCKHOLM — A man in his 20s was arrested on suspicion of trying to carry explosives onto a plane in western Sweden, police said.

The man was stopped as he tried to get onto a flight to another European Union state at Gothenburg's Landvetter airport on Thursday morning, police spokesman Peter Adlersson said.

A regular security check flagged up signs of explosive material in his luggage which was being tested, Adlersson added. —Reuters ■

## US gun lobby agrees to examine ‘bump stocks’ after Las Vegas massacre

LAS VEGAS — The US gun lobby, which has seldom embraced new firearms-control measures, expressed a willingness to support a restriction on the rifle accessory that enabled a Las Vegas gunman to strafe a crowd with bursts of sustained gunfire as if from an automatic weapon.

The gunman Stephen Paddock, police said, fitted 12 of his weapons with so-called bump-stock devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to operate as if they were fully automatic machine guns, which are otherwise outlawed in the United States.

Authorities said his ability to fire hundreds of rounds per minute for 10 minutes from a 32<sup>nd</sup>-floor hotel suite was a major factor in the high casualty count of 58 people killed and hundreds wounded. Paddock, 64, killed himself before police stormed his suite.

The carnage on Sunday night across the street from the Mandalay Bay hotel ranks as the bloodiest mass shooting in modern US history, surpassing the 49 people shot to death last year at a gay nightclub in Orlan-



A broken fence is pictured leading from the parking lot near the site of the Route 91 music festival mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

do, Florida.

The influential National Rifle Association (NRA), which staunchly opposed moves to tighten gun control laws after the Orlando massacre and others, said on Thursday bump stocks, which remain legal, “should be subject to additional regulations.”

“Gun control is a failed policy. We’ve tried it and it is safe to say that it doesn’t keep people safe,” Chris Cox, the executive director at the NRA,

said on Fox News on Thursday. “There needs to be an honest conversation about solutions that work and one of those solutions is to make sure the Second Amendment is supported and protected.”

Democrats were urging new legislation, as the shooting reignited the long-standing US debate over regulation of gun ownership, protected under the Second Amendment of the US Constitution.

The NRA called for the US

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to address bump stocks by regulation, rather than opening up the issue to the legislative process.

Senior Republicans also signaled they were ready to deal with the sale of bump stocks - an accessory gun control advocates regard as work-arounds to bans on machine-guns.

“Clearly that’s something we need to look into,” House Speaker Paul Ryan told radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt.

US Representative Steve Scalise, a member of the Republican House leadership who is himself a victim of gun violence, voiced concern that hasty congressional action to restrict bump stocks could lead to wider limits on “the rights of gun owners.”

“There are people who want to rush to judgment,” Scalise said in an MSNBC interview on Thursday.

US President Donald Trump, an outspoken proponent of gun rights during his campaign for the White House, suggested he was open to curbs on bump stocks. —Reuters ■



# Sixteen people killed in Russia after train collides with bus

MOSCOW — Sixteen people were killed on Friday when a train slammed into a bus that had broken down at a level crossing near Moscow, Russia's investigative committee said in a statement.

The bus, which was carrying migrant workers from Uzbekistan, was shunted several hundred metres down the track,

Russia's Rossiya 24 TV channel reported. Footage showed fragments of what was left of the bus strewn across the track. The train itself appeared to have sustained no visible damage.

"The bus stalled on the track," Vladimir Myagkov, a spokesman for Russian Railways, told Rossiya 24 at the crash site.

"Some people say the passengers tried to push the bus off the track. At that moment the train approached and a collision occurred," he said.

Though carrying workers from the Central Asian nation of Uzbekistan, the bus had a license plate registered in Kazakhstan, Russian news agencies reported. — Reuters ■



The wreckage of a passenger bus is seen after it was hit by a train at a crossing near the town of Pokrov, in Vladimir region, Russia, on 6 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## New Zealand military sends more flight for Vanuatu's erupting volcano

WELLINGTON — New Zealand Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee on Friday announced a further New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF) C-130 flight to Vanuatu to deliver relief supplies for communities evacuated from Vanuatu's erupting volcano.

"The Vanuatu government has completed the precautionary evacuation of Ambae and more than 10,000 people are now in temporary accommodation on other islands," Brownlee said in a statement.

"New Zealand is commit-

ted to helping the government of Vanuatu meet the needs of those who have been evacuated and we are working closely with the local authorities and international partners to coordinate our response," Brownlee said. — Xinhua ■



Iraq's Mohammad Bahr Aluloom (C), chair of the UN General Assembly committee charged with tackling disarmament and international security issues, and Sueichi Kido (R), secretary general of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations, Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN high representative for disarmament affairs, join hands in New York on 5 October 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Hibakusha hands UN petition for nuke-free world signed by 5 million

NEW YORK — A Japanese atomic bomb survivor on Thursday handed to disarmament officials at the United Nations headquarters a petition signed by over 5 million people around the globe calling for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Sueichi Kido, secretary general of Nihon Hidankyo, or the Japan Confederation of A-and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations, presented the "Appeal of the Hibakusha" to the chair of the General Assembly committee charged with tackling disarmament and international security issues.

The word "hibakusha" is used to describe atomic bomb survivors in Japan, whose numbers are dwindling due to their age, with many in their 80s and 90s.

"As A-bomb survivors, we are convinced that prohibiting nuclear weapons and eliminating them protect mankind," Kido said.

The 77-year-old was 5 when he was exposed to the atomic

bomb blast over Nagasaki on 9 August, 1945. Three days earlier, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first of the two A-bombs dropped by the United States on Japan during the closing days of World War II.

Kido also expressed appreciation for the more than 50 countries that endorsed a nuclear ban treaty on 20 September. In order to go into effect, it must be ratified by at least 50 nations, which many supporters hope might happen next year.

The treaty is opposed by nuclear-umbrella nations such as Japan and nuclear-possessor nations such as Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

"I welcome the treaty from the bottom of my heart," Kido said.

The signature drive began in spring last year to mark the 60th anniversary of Nihon Hidankyo. The group's ultimate aim is to collect hundreds of millions of signatures by 2020. — Kyodo News ■

## Pope tells web companies — use profits to protect children

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis told executives of leading internet companies on Friday to use "their great profits" to defend children from sexual exploitation and other dangers lurking online.

The pontiff, speaking at a conference in Rome, said the Catholic Church needed to accept responsibility "before God,

victims and public opinion" for its own sex abuse scandals, but wanted to share the lessons it had learned.

Speaking to participants including representatives from Facebook (FB.O) and Microsoft (MSFT.O), he said social media businesses had to do more than set up filters and algorithms to block harmful content.

The 80-year-old pope spoke out against the spread of extreme pornography, the dangers of so-called "sexting" between young people and between adults and children, and cyber bullying, calling it "a true form of moral and physical attack".

He said "heinous, illicit activities" such as the commission-

ing and live viewing of rape and violence against minors via the so-called Dark Web had to be stopped.

The Church-organised conference - called Child Dignity in the Digital World - was held two months after a monsignor was recalled from the Vatican's Washington embassy in August after the US State Department

said he may have violated child pornography laws.

Church officials have been caught up in a series of scandals around the world - two years ago, the Vatican put its former ambassador to the Dominican Republic, an archbishop, on trial for child sex offences. He died before a verdict was reached. — Reuters ■



# Spain apologises, tone softens in Catalonia independence crisis

BARCELONA/MADRID — Spain apologised on Friday for a violent police crackdown on Catalonia's independence referendum, in a conciliatory gesture as both sides looked for a way out of the nation's worst political crisis since it became a democracy four decades ago.

Spain's representative in northeast Catalonia, which accounts for a fifth of the national economy, made the apology just as Catalonia's secessionist leader appeared to inch away from a plan to declare independence as early as Monday.

"When I see these images, and more so when I know people have been hit, pushed and even one person who was hospitalised, I can't help but regret it and apologise on behalf of the officers that intervened," Enric Millo said in a television interview.

Spanish police used batons and rubber bullets to stop people voting in Sunday's referendum, which Madrid had banned as unconstitutional. The scenes brought worldwide condemnation and fanned separatist feeling but failed to prevent what the



Spanish Civil Guard officers remove demonstrators outside a polling station for the banned independence referendum in Barcelona, Spain, on 1 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Catalan government described as an overwhelming yes vote.

Moments earlier, a Catalan parliament spokeswoman said the regional government's leader, Carles Puigdemont, had asked to address lawmakers on Tuesday, in timing that appeared at odds

with earlier plans to move an independence motion on Monday.

Puigdemont wanted to speak on the "political situation".

The softer tone contrasted with remarks earlier on Friday from Catalonia's head of foreign affairs who told BBC radio it

would go ahead with an independence debate in the regional parliament.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has offered all-party political talks to find a solution, opening the door to a deal giving Catalonia more au-

tonomy. But he has ruled out independence and rejected a Catalan proposal for international mediation.

The stakes are high for the euro zone's fourth-largest economy. Catalonia is the source of a huge chunk of its tax revenue and hosts multinationals from carmaker Volkswagen to drugs firm AstraZeneca.

Secession could also fuel separatist-nationalist divisions across the rest of Spain, which only this year saw ETA guerrillas in the northern Basque region lay down their arms after a campaign lasting almost half a century.

Spanish ruling-party lawmakers say Rajoy is considering invoking the constitution to dissolve the regional parliament and force fresh Catalan elections if the region's government goes ahead with an independence declaration.

The spokeswoman for Catalan parliament said Puigdemont would speak in the assembly next Tuesday, with parliamentary leaders to meet on Friday at 1330 GMT to decide on the exact timing.—Reuters ■

## North Korea 'restarts' operations at closed, South-invested factory zone

SEOUL — North Korea has restarted operations at the Kaesong industrial zone, state-run web sites said on Friday, after the joint venture with South Korea was suspended last year amid disagreement over the North's nuclear and missile programmes.

The South ended more than a decade of cooperation at the factory park on the North Korean side of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) after the North launched a rocket that put an object into orbit, closing the last remaining window of interaction between the two sides, still technically at war.

At the time, South Korea said it would no longer allow funds paid for Kaesong to be used in the North's missile and nuclear programmes. Since then, a South Korean official has said there is no evidence that North Korea diverted wages paid to its workers by South Korean companies operating in the park to its weapons programmes.



A South Korean security guard stands guard on an empty road which leads to the Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC) at the South's CIQ (Customs, Immigration and Quarantine), just south of the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, in Paju, South Korea, on 11 February 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"They do not even see our proud workers labouring vigorously working in the Kaesong industrial complex," North Korea's propaganda web site Meari (arirangmeari.com) said in a post dated Friday.

Another propaganda web site, Uriminzokkiri, said "it is nobody's business what we do in an industrial complex where

our nation's sovereignty is exercised".

An official at South Korea's Ministry of Unification said that North Korea must not violate South Korean firms' property rights within the complex, wire service Yonhap reported. The Ministry of Unification could not be immediately reached for comment.—Reuters ■

## Debt-ridden Mongolia asks IMF to resume economic bail-out

ULAN BATOR — The newly appointed prime minister of Mongolia has asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to continue its 5.5-billion-US-dollar economic bail-out programme for his cash-strapped country.

Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, in his first meeting with Neil Saker, IMF resident representative, said he will continue cooperation with the IMF. He asked Saker to convey the request for resumption of the bail-out programme, called "Extended Fund Facility," to IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

The IMF suspended the program in mid-September when the earlier government of J. Erdenebat was dismissed by parliament and said it needs to see if the new government is willing to continue the programme.

Mongolian President Battulga Khaltmaa and some lawmakers from both the ruling and opposition parties are, however, critical of the programme, saying it did not reflect Mon-

golian specifics and was tantamount to borrowing more just to pay previous loans, which is contrary to the government's plan.

According to the Mongolian Ministry of Finance, the country's foreign debt stands at 25.2 billion US dollars. The government is due to pay back 500 million dollars in January 2018.

Finance Minister Choijilsuren Battogtokh has warned that if the government uses the hard currency reserve for foreign debt repayment, it may deplete the currency reserve necessary for keeping the national currency, the tughrig, stable, and may lead to its devaluation.

Currently, one US dollar is equal to over 2,462 Mongolian tughrig. Currently, with all the financial problems arising from the shortage of cash reserves, analysts predict that the government has no choice but to request resumption of the IMF's bail-out programme.—Xinhua ■



# Tropical Storm Nate kills 22 in Central America, heads for US

SAN JOSE — Tropical Storm Nate killed at least 22 people in Central America on Thursday as it pummeled the region with heavy rain while heading toward Mexico's Caribbean resorts and the US Gulf Coast, where it could strike as a hurricane this weekend.

In Nicaragua, at least 11 people died, seven others were reported missing and thousands had to evacuate homes because of flooding, said the country's vice president Rosario Murillo.

Emergency officials in Costa Rica reported that at least eight people were killed due to the lashing rain, including two children. Another 17 people were missing, while more than 7,000 had to take refuge from Nate in shelters, authorities said.



People look at a street collapsed by the Tiribi river flooded by heavy rains from Tropical Storm Nate in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 5 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Two youths also drowned in Honduras due to the sudden swell in a river, while a man was killed in a mud slide in El Salvador and another person was missing, emergency services said.

"Sometimes we think we think we can cross a river and the hardest thing to understand is that we must wait," Nicaragua's Murillo told state radio, warning people to avoid dangerous waters. "It's better to be

late than not to get there at all." Costa Rica's government declared a state of emergency, closing schools and all other non-essential services. Highways in the country were closed due to mudslides and power out-

ages were also reported in parts of country, where authorities deployed more than 3,500 police. The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Nate could produce as much as 15 inches (38 cm) in some areas of Nicaragua, where schools were also closed. Nate is predicted to strengthen into a Category 1 hurricane by the time it hits the US Gulf Coast on Sunday, NHC spokesman Dennis Feltgen said.

At about 11 pm EDT (0300 GMT) Nate was some 95 miles (153 km) east-southeast of the Honduran island of Guanaja, moving northwest at 12 mph (19 kph), the NHC said. Blowing maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (64 kph), Nate was expected to move across eastern Honduras on Thursday and enter the northwest-

ern Caribbean Sea through the night. The storm will be near hurricane intensity when it approaches Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula late on Friday, where up to 8 inches (20 cm) of rain were possible, the NHC said.

Nate is expected to produce 6 to 10 inches (15 to 25 cm) of rain in southern Honduras, with up to 15 inches (38 cm) in some areas, the NHC said.

The NHC said a hurricane watch was issued from Morgan City, Louisiana, to the Mississippi-Alabama border, including metropolitan New Orleans, Lake Pontchartrain, and Lake Maurepas. US officials from Florida to Texas told residents on Thursday to prepare for the storm. A state of emergency was declared for 29 Florida counties and the city of New Orleans.—Reuters ■



People wait at subway station Alexanderplatz during stormy weather in Berlin, Germany, on 5 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## German storm kills six, stops trains

BERLIN — Strong winds swept across Germany on Thursday, killing six people and forcing the cancellation of trains in Berlin and the north.

Police said a woman died when a tree fell on a car carrying her in the northern port city of Hamburg. The driver was taken to hospital with serious

injuries, the force added.

A spokesman for the Berlin fire service said a woman was also killed in the capital when a tree fell on a car she was in.

Three people died in the state of Brandenburg surrounding Berlin, police said on Twitter. In the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpom-

mern a man in a lorry was killed, again by a falling tree.

German national rail operator Deutsche Bahn [DBN.UL] said trains on some routes, such as between Hanover and Hamburg, Hanover and Berlin and Dortmund and Hamburg, had been cancelled.—Reuters ■

## Transport industry workers suffered most from brain, heart disorder

TOKYO — Transport and postal businesses had the highest number of workers recognized to have suffered from brain and heart disorders including death by overwork, the government said in a white paper approved Friday. The transport and mailing businesses comprised about 30 per cent of the total cases between 2010 and 2015 with 464 workers affected followed by the wholesale and

retail businesses with 229.

The manufacturing industry ranked top in terms of work-related mental disorders at 349, according to the white paper. The paper comes at a time when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government is seeking to improve working conditions in the wake of the suicide of an overworked new recruit at Japanese advertising giant Dentsu Inc. and the work-related

death of a reporter at the country's public broadcaster NHK. The white paper mentioned initiatives taken by the government and businesses to overhaul working styles such as limiting extra working hours. It also mentioned the government's urgent measures announced in December in response to the Dentsu worker's death in 2015, which called on businesses to monitor

employees' working hours and also prevent power harassment. Health, Labor and Welfare Minister Katsunobu Kato told a press conference, "We will continue to take measures by applying maximum efforts with the mission of eradicating death by overwork and realizing a society where people can continue working in good health and with a sense of fulfillment."—Kyodo News ■

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES  
Phone No: 2301185



## 'Mudbound' filmmaker on movie's exploration of racial divide

LONDON — The saga of two families pitted against a barbaric social hierarchy in the Mississippi Delta after World War II explores a racial divide that is relevant even today, the filmmaker of new movie "Mudbound" said. "I feel like 'Mudbound' kind of comments on who we are now," director and co-writer Dee Rees told Reuters at the "Mudbound" premiere in London on Thursday. "It's about family, it's about what it means to not be able to come home, it's about citizenship, who's an American, who's not and so like those things would be, like timeless," she added.

"Mudbound," based on Hillary Jordan's novel of the same name, stars Jason Mitchell, Garrett Hedlund, Carey Mulligan and Jason Clarke and follows the struggles of two farming families

— one black, one white - in the heart of the American South in the 1940s. "Mudbound," which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival for independent movies, is already garnering strong reviews and Oscar buzz, and will debut on Netflix on 17 November. The film explores the friendship of two men, one from each family, as they return from war and find common ground while their families face an unending struggle for and against the unforgiving land.

"What this film does so cleverly is it creates empathy," Mulligan said. "It gets you in the mind of all the different characters. It makes you look at so many people's different perspectives and it asks you to ask the right questions, but it's not prescriptive. It's not telling you what to think."—Reuters ■



Actor Carey Mulligan. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Bon Jovi, Radiohead among Brit-heavy Rock Hall of Fame nominees

LOS ANGELES — "Livin' on a Prayer" rocker Bon Jovi, British singer Kate Bush and influential English alt-rock band Radiohead were nominated on Thursday for induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on a list heavy with British artists.

Eight of the 19 nominees for 2018 induction, including 1980s rock band Dire Straits, electro-pop band Depeche Mode and progressive 1960s rockers the Moody Blues — best known for "Nights in White Satin" — are British musicians.

Artists must have released their first recording at least 25 years ago to be eligible for nomination. Music fans and industry experts will vote on the list, which will be reduced to five or six Hall of Fame inductees whose names will be announced in December. The 2018 induction ceremony will take place in Cleveland in April.

Posthumous nominations this year included American blues singer-songwriter and activist Nina Simone, 1940s gospel singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the J. Geils band, whose founder J. Geils died in April, and 1950s American guitarist Link Wray. Other nominees included British heavy metal band Judas Priest, British 1980s duo Eurythmics, US rapper and actor LL Cool J and The Cars.

The inductees are chosen by fans voting online and by an international body of more than 900 artists, historians and members of the music industry who are asked to consider musical influence, innovation, and length and depth of career.— Reuters ■

## Protests disrupt London Film Festival in cinema wage dispute

LONDON — Protesters chanted and waved banners at the opening of the BFI London Film Festival as a long-running staff pay dispute with a cinema chain spilled over into red carpet territory.

Around 50 staff of London's Picturehouse cinemas, owned by Cineworld, have been demanding their pay be brought in line with the 9.75 pounds per hour recommended by the Living Wage Foundation, a campaigning group.

British Hollywood actor Andrew Garfield, known for playing Spider-Man in the Marvel film franchise, spoke out in support of the protesters in a red carpet comment to reporters on Wednesday evening.

"I'm very, very happy and I wish I could go and bang a drum," he said.

"They are protesting for a living wage. They are protesting for basic human rights. They are protesting for full and rich lives, and they're not getting paid enough

to create that for themselves," he said.

Strikes and demonstrations are set to continue throughout the star-studded 12-day film festival, organising officials from the Bectu media and entertainment union told Reuters.

Ushers will stage walkouts during screenings held at Picturehouse cinemas, and picket lines will call on festival-goers to boycott venues owned by the company.

The wage dispute has been

going on for many months, with the cinema chain, known for showing indie and foreign-language films, saying it already pays the London living wage if breaks are taken into account.

"We're one of the few cinema companies who choose to pay for breaks," Picturehouse cinemas said in a statement.

"After legal advice, we believe the current strikes would be unlawful and have informed Bectu of our view," it added.— Reuters ■

## I have never done anything for the love of money: Shah Rukh



PHOTO: PTI

MUMBAI — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has said money has never been the prime motivator for him to take on a project - be it films or a business venture.

The 51-year-old actor, who is one of the highest-paid actors in Bollywood, said he is the same lower middle class boy, who still believes he got more than what he desired. "(Money) never did and it never will. I am well to do and God has been kind to me in every aspect of my life - profes-

sionally, economically and financially and more than that emotionally I have never ever done anything for the love of money. "I say this from the point of view of a lower middle class boy, who has had much more than he had imagined or dreamt of in the wildest of dreams. People may think I am an entrepreneur, but I have never done anything for the liking or love of money. I do things because I love doing them," Shah Rukh told reporters here at the launch

press conference of his upcoming show "TEDTalks India - Nayi Soch". The actor said youngsters today must understand that money is the least important thing that should drive them towards their goals. "I would say this to every youngster that if you desire to do something one of the things that we surely follow is money but (I think) it is the least important gaps that we try to fill in when we try to do something as work, job or love and hobby."—PTI ■



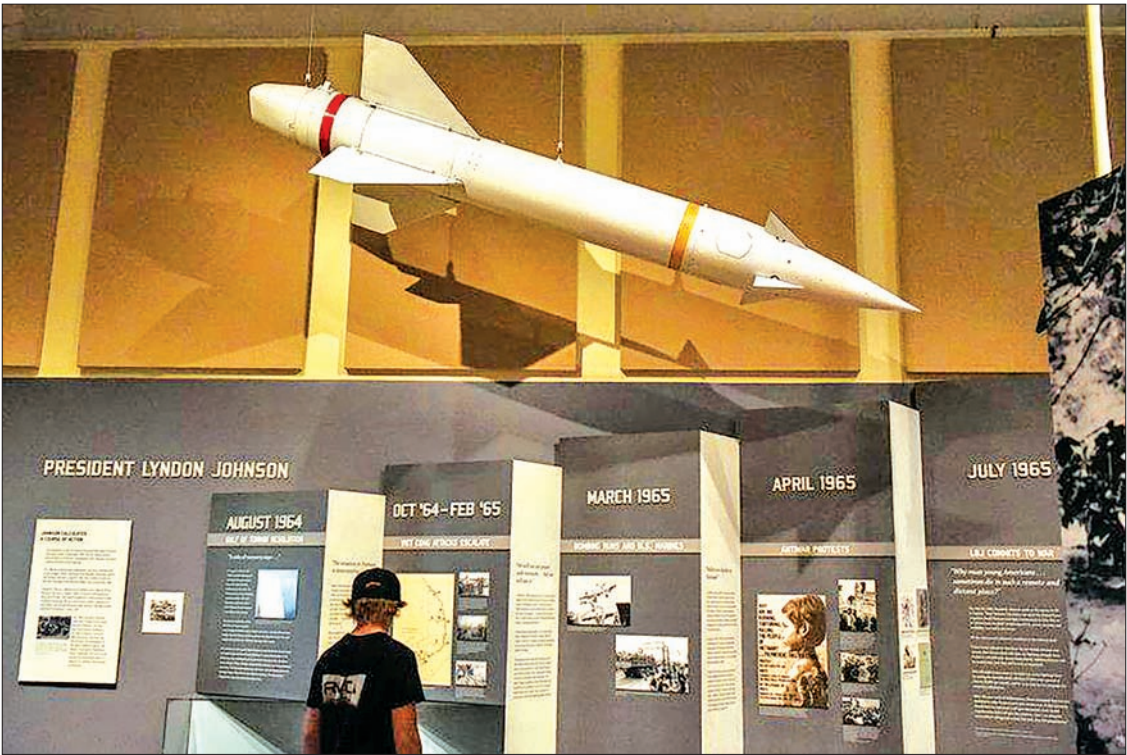
# Highlighting Viet Nam War's relevance, exhibit opens in New York

NEW YORK — When the idea for a Viet Nam War exhibit came up at the New-York Historical Society a few years ago, Trustee James Grant recalls that even after more than four decades, passions about it were strong.

“I got into a lively discussion with another member of the executive committee about America’s motive and about the nature of the struggle and whether it was all for naught or not,” said Grant, a Navy veteran who served off Viet Nam in 1965 and 1966.

The war, which divided the United States and exposed the limits of its military might, is the subject of a new exhibit that resonates with today’s divisive politics. Nearly three years in the making, “The Viet Nam War: 1945-1975” opens on Wednesday at the 200-year-old institution. The interactive exhibit has relevance to current times, said its curator, Marci Reaven.

“It may be that much of the political polarization since then may in fact derive from the conflicts that arose among Americans around the war,” said Reaven.



An exhibit about the Viet Nam War is seen at the New York Historical Society in New York City, US, on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Through artefacts, video, audio and photographs, the exhibit tells the story of the conflict from its post-World War II origins when the United States backed French troops trying to retain colonial rule over Indochina. It depicts the escalation and de-escalation,

as it was called at the time, of American troop numbers in Viet Nam and the growing anti-war movement at home, as well as demonstrations supporting the war effort. The exhibit tells the story of the war from both sides. It includes a 1962 North Vietnamese

propaganda engraving in lacquer, which the still-living artist, who later fought in the war, recreated exclusively for the historical society.

It also includes a Bullpup missile from an F-105 fighter-bomber, a Jeep, and two 24-

foot long artistic renderings of a 1966-67 timeline that visitors can touch to get video clips of moments in history.

There is also a draft card, which every 18- to 26-year-old male was required to carry at the time, and which many young men burned in public displays of defiance. The draft, which made the war all the more real for millions of would-be conscripts, ended in 1973, shortly after the last American troops left Viet Nam.

When it was over, the war had cost 58,315 US servicemen their lives, the United States had dumped more explosive tonnage on Southeast Asia than it dropped during World War II, and South Viet Nam was overrun by the communist North in 1975.

If the exhibit sounds a little like the 10-part documentary by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that just aired on public television, it is only partly a coincidence. Researchers on the two projects worked independently, except for the sharing of some archival film footage but agreed to coordinate the launch of their works, Reaven said.—Reuters ■

# Geneva watch fair steals the show as brands desert Baselworld

ZURICH — More and more brands are deserting the Baselworld watch fair held every March, blaming high costs and insufficient returns, while high-end players seek refuge at the rival fair in Geneva.

The number of exhibitors dropped to 1,300 this year from 1,500 in 2016, and participation is expected to fall further as more brands announce their retreat, the latest deserters being independents Eberhard & Co and Louis Erard.

“Baselworld organizers were expecting the number of exhibitors to drop by 30-60 per cent next year,” Mario Peserico, head of the Eberhard brand, told Reuters on Thursday.

Eberhard is ending 70 years of participation at Baselworld, which traces its history back to 1917.

“It was a painful decision,” Peserico said, “but the costs were so high — 1 million Swiss francs (\$1.02 million) last year — and there are fewer buyers and journalists there each year.”



Visitors on the HYT stand look at a model watch during the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) watch fair in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17 January 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Swiss watchmakers are only slowly emerging from a severe downturn in demand, making it hard for smaller and independent brands to pay the high costs in Basel.

Baselworld organizers declined to comment, saying only that “decisive adjustments to the show concept are being worked out”.

But while Baselworld

shrinks, the SIHH Geneva watch fair — held in January and dominated by Richemont’s high-end brands — is growing to 34 exhibitors next year.

French luxury group Hermes is exhibiting its timepieces in Geneva instead of at Baselworld next year, citing “the spirit of openness shown by the SIHH over the last two years”.— Reuters ■

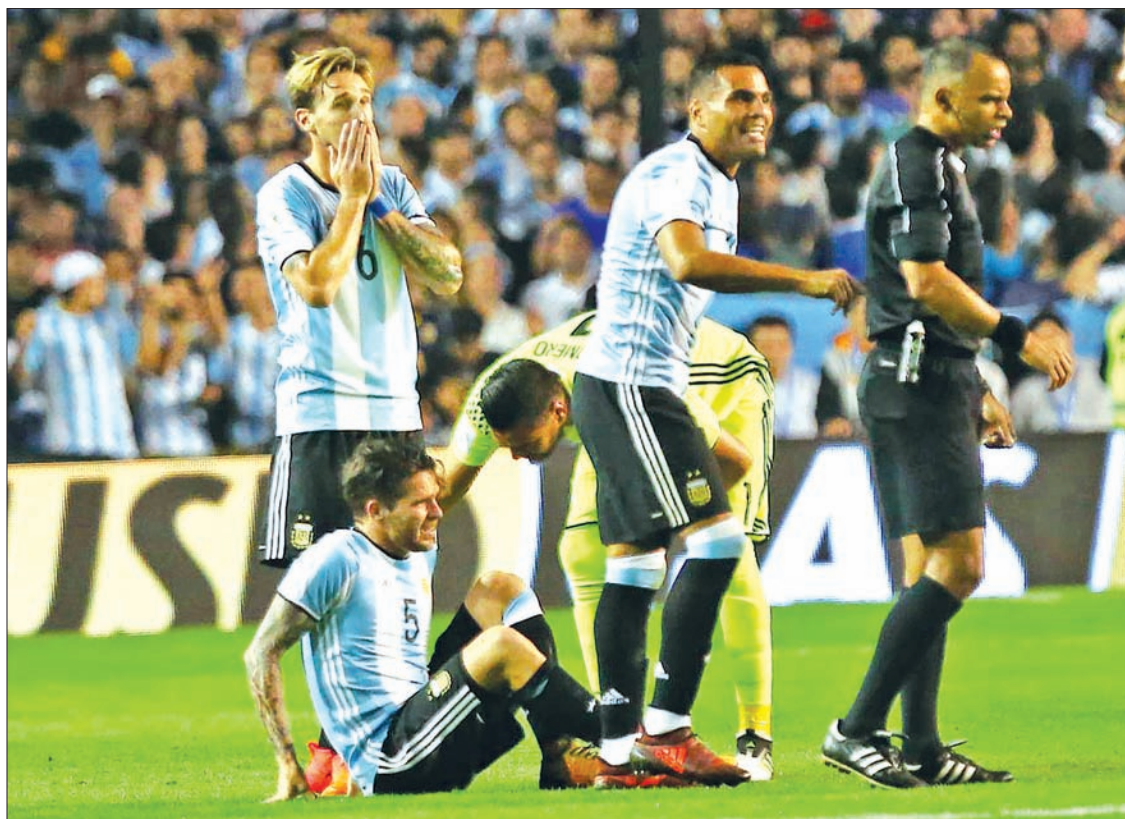
MRTV

Programme Schedule  
(7-10-2017, Saturday)

- 6:00 Am
  - ♦ Paritta Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:00 Am
  - ♦ Breakfast News
- 7:35 Am
  - ♦ Weekly Sport Info
- 8:35 Am
  - ♦ Pan Pyo Khin (Part-25)
- 8:50 Am
  - ♦ Documentary
- 9:10 Am
  - ♦ World of Innovations
- 9:20 Am
  - ♦ Documentary
- 9:30 Am
  - ♦ Health Magazine
- 9:40 Am
  - ♦ Documentary
- 10:30 Am
  - ♦ Damsal’s Note
- 10:45 Am
  - ♦ Poem for Children
- 11:00 Am
  - ♦ NHK Programme “Pythagora Switch I” (Base of Length)
- 11:20 Am
  - ♦ Health and Vegetables
- 11:35 Am
  - ♦ Game for Children
- 12:30 Pm
  - ♦ TV Drama Series

- 1:30 Pm
  - ♦ Talk On Old Film
- 2:10 Pm
  - ♦ TV Drma Series
- 4:35 Pm
  - ♦ NRC Programme
- 5:05 Pm
  - ♦ Travelling to Pyin Oo Lwin (Part-1)
- 5:20 Pm
  - ♦ ASEAN Programme
- 5:35 Pm
  - ♦ NHK Programme “Beautiful Landscapes of Japan” (Symphony of the snowy Plains: The Tokachi Plain, Hokkaido)
- 6:20 Pm
  - ♦ MAPDDR
- 6:35 Pm
  - ♦ Tasty Trip
- 7:15 Pm
  - ♦ TV Drama Series
- 8:00 Pm
  - ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35Pm
  - ♦ Peace Music Festival (Kalay)
- ♦ Dramatic Arts (Part-4)





Fernando Gago of Argentina reacts during 2018 World Cup Qualifications South America at La Bombonera stadium, Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Argentina midfielder Gago ruptures knee ligaments in Peru draw

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's faltering 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign has been dealt another blow as midfielder Fernando Gago sustained a serious knee injury during Thursday's 0-0 draw against Peru.

Gago replaced Ever Banega an hour into the game but was forced off within 10 minutes after twisting his knee and having to be replaced by Enzo Perez.

The team later said on their official Twitter account he ruptured ligaments in his right knee.

The 31-year-old was mak-

ing his first international appearance since sustaining an Achilles tendon rupture in 2015.

Argentina's hopes of advancing to the World Cup finals in Russia are hanging in the balance as they lie sixth in the 10-team South American group. Only the top four teams automatically qualify.

Jorge Sampaoli's side are level on 25 points with fifth-placed Peru and one point behind third-placed Chile and Colombia, who are fourth.

Argentina play Ecuador in Quito in their final game on Tuesday.—Reuters ■

## Myanmar to play Kyrgyzstan in 2019 AFC Championship Qualification

Kyaw Zin Lin

In one of the qualifying matches for the 2019 AFC Championship to be held in the UAE, the Myanmar national football team will play against Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. Myanmar Head Coach Gerd Zeise said he will change some players and game tactics from the friendly match against Thailand

on Thursday in Mandalay.

Myanmar Star Aung Thu, who scored the lone goal for Myanmar in the loss to Thailand Thursday, will likely participate in the match against Kyrgyzstan. The 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification is the qualification process organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to determine the participating teams for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, the 17th

edition of the international men's football championship of Asia. For the first time, the Asian Cup final tournament will be contested by 24 teams, having been expanded from the 16-team format that had been used from 2004 to 2015. The qualification process will involve four rounds, where the first two doubled as the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification for Asian teams. ■



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during the men's singles quarter-final match against John Isner of the United States of America at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on 6 October 2017. Rafael Nadal won 2-0 and advanced to the semifinal. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Nadal into 4th China Open semifinals

BEIJING — World No.1 Rafael Nadal survived 22 aces from John Isner of the United States in the quarterfinals of the China Open here on Friday, overcoming the big server 6-4, 7-6(0) to advance into the semifinals for the fourth time in Beijing.

"I think I played a solid match. I played very well, changing good directions, playing very focus all the time," said the 2005 China Open winner, "It is an important victory for me, against a player that arrived here so well, winning two great matches."

Nadal broke Isner's serve in the 9th game of the first set, which was the only break for

the two players during the 104-minute fight. The sixth seed could have taken a lead in the second set when he held two break points in the 2nd game, but squandering both of them.

The back and forth continued and the second set was pulled into a tiebreak, in which the top-ranked Spaniard stormed seven points in a row to claim the victory.

"In general terms, I think I played with not many mistakes. I don't remember a lot of mistakes. I don't know how many I had. I went to the net very often. I think I did the things that I want to do, and I did it well," Nadal said.—Xinhua ■

## Late Kane goal fires lacklustre England to World Cup

LONDON — Harry Kane's stoppage time goal earned England a 1-0 victory over Slovenia on Thursday and a place at next year's World Cup finals although his last-gasp effort barely masked a sterile Wembley display by the hosts.

The England skipper pounced from close range to convert Kyle Walker's cross in the 94th minute after a night of frustration for Gareth Southgate's misfiring team in a half-full stadium.

A draw would have sufficed thanks to Slovakia's 1-0

defeat away to Scotland but Kane's effort, his 14th of the season in all competitions for club and country, at least prevented the inevitable boos that would have greeted a goalless stalemate.

It was Kane's second real chance of the evening — his other effort being well saved by Jan Oblak early in the first half.

England top Group F with 23 points to second-placed Scotland's 17 and have one game to go in Lithuania on Sunday. They have now not lost in 38 qualifying matches.

While England's display will not raise too many hopes of great things in Russia, at least in Kane they have a striker who gives them a puncher's chance of making progress.

He now has 11 goals from 22 appearances for England.

"We have qualified, and that's all that matters. We had to be patient and in the last 10 minutes they were getting tired," Tottenham Hotspur's Kane, who wore the captain's armband for the third time and the first time at home, said. — Reuters ■