

Vice President U Nyan Tun arrives back from Thailand

PAGE 3

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Myanmar Air Force

PAGE 3

ANALYSIS

Revolutionaries, politicians and statesmen

PAGE 8

# AWARD US DIGNITY

## Court ruling on Benjina trafficking case to be made in Feb 2016

Aye Min Soe

A COURT ruling on the Benjina trafficking case involving Myanmar enslaved fishermen will be made in February 2016, according to the fishermen who arrived back to Yangon yesterday after acting as witnesses at a trial against a fishing company accused of committing human trafficking crimes.

“The situation at the court is favourable, we believe we will receive compensation. The judge also told us that our case is now famous in Indonesia and he will consult with lawyers from the United Nations and the embassies concerned,” said Tun Win Naing, one of the 13 fishermen who gave evidence as a witness at the Indonesian court, to *the Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Prosecutors from the Indonesian Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) have also pushed to allow victims to claim unpaid salaries and other compensations, said Police Col Khin Maung Hla of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. LPSK took the Silver Sean fishing company in Indonesia to court for trafficking Myanmar fishermen in an attempt to claim lost wages and financial compensation for the victims.

LPSK met with 22 returned slave fishermen in Myanmar during its visit in September, reaching an agreement with the Myanmar authorities to send 14 fishermen who are related to the



Thirteen fishermen who presented witness evidence in the Benjina trafficking case arrive back to Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

case to Indonesia, said Police Col Khin Maung Hla.

More than 500 fishermen who arrived back from Benjina about six to seven months ago did not receive salaries from their employers because Myanmar and Indonesian authorities had to give priority to repatriating them

as soon as possible due to accommodation and food problems, according to the police source.

“However, the two countries will cooperate further to resolve the issue of unpaid salaries and to address the grievances of the remaining Myanmar fishermen,” Police Col Khin Maung Hla said.

He added that 176 out of more than 300 Myanmar fishermen stranded on Indonesia’s Ambon Island returned to Myanmar in September where they received their due salaries from the companies as they were repatriated only after the issues between the employers and workers was

resolved by Myanmar and Indonesian authorities.

During its visit to Myanmar, the LPSK expressed its readiness to cooperate with Myanmar to resolve the human trafficking case in Benjina, Aru Island and Maluku Province, promising the safety of witnesses during the trial.

## KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities ready to launch services

Aye Min Soe

FOLLOWING the debut of the Yangon Stock Exchange on 9 December, Kanbawza Stirling Coleman Securities announced yesterday that it is planning to sell securities from six listing companies to public.

Out of 10 underwriter companies chosen by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar-SECM, Kanbawza SC Securities has already received a permit

for running the business, said U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of the Kanbawza Co Ltd, at a press conference yesterday.

KBZ SC Securities is the joint-venture company between Kanbawza Co Ltd from Myanmar and Stirling Coleman Securities Co Ltd, Singapore.

KBZ SC Securities has become the first official underwriter company in Myanmar and it will work to boost the capital of the listed companies and to sell securities

to people in an effort to help business and investment, said U Nyo Myint. KBZ Bank has been chosen as the Authorised Fund Settlement Bank of the Yangon Stock Exchange by the SECM.

KBZ SC Securities will provide services for brokerage agreements, deals, mergers and acquisitions, said U Nyo Myint.

The Yangon Stock Exchange was inaugurated on 9 December with plans for six companies to begin trading in March.

Japan’s Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd signed an agreement with the Myanmar Economic Bank to help establish and run the exchange in December 2014.

The market will be run by the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company, with a 51 percent stake owned by the Myanmar Economic Bank under Myanmar’s Finance and Revenue Ministry and the remainder by Japanese partners.



U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of Kanbawza Co Ltd. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY KBZ

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Finance Ministry proposes Union Tax Law Amendment

THE Ministry of Finance put forward the Union Tax Bill for 2016 to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

The Union Tax Bill for 2016, which is based on the Union Tax Law 2015 with new amendments and added content, includes eight chapters and 39 sections, according to Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein.

The bill includes proposals such as adding a new tax system, abolishing a tax system, amending the commercial tax for specific goods and adding goods and services which would be free from tax.

The ministry also added that tax for mobile phones top-up cards will be collected next fiscal year, netting a possible 80 million kyats revenue.

The ministry expects to collect over 6.1 trillion kyats next fiscal year—a 269 million kyat increase from this year. The Bill Amending Criminal Law, the Bill Amending Insurance Permission Law and the Bill Amending Banking Law were approved. Amendments to laws relating to crime, insurance and banking were approved at the Tuesday session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## UPDJC approves draft framework, sets ratio of stakeholder groups in political dialogue



Three groups comprising the Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee of 16 representatives from political parties, the government and ethnic ceasefire signatories meet on Day 2 of the meeting at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: CREDIT TO MYANMAR PEACE CENTRE

### Ye Myint

THE third plenary session of the Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee concluded yesterday with the committee approving a draft political dialogue framework and determining the ratio of representation of stakeholders in the dialogue.

The UPDJC meeting reached an agreement to hold the upcoming political dialogue no later than 14 January 2016 with the participation of 700 representatives from the country's stakeholder groups and other players.

U Hla Maung Shwe, one of participants of the meeting, told The Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday that the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organisations (EAO) and political parties will have 150 seats each in the political dialogue, 75 seats each will be given to the government and Parliament and 50 seats each are set for ethnic leaders who are not

from EAOs and other invitees.

U Hla Maung Shwe, who is also senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre, confirmed that the EAOs' demand for 150 seats was approved at the meeting following the facilitation of U Nyan Win who was representing the National League for Democracy, the winning party in the 2015 general elections.

"The number of seats for the EAOs, Tatmadaw, the government and Parliament was previously suggested by stakeholder groups representing the government, Tatmadaw and Parliament at 100 each but ethnic ceasefire signatory representatives demanded 50 more."

The NLD representative negotiated the number of seats for the Tatmadaw and EAOs to 150 in political dialogue by agreeing to reduce the number of seats for the government and Parliament, he added. According to the MPC senior adviser, the committee is

preparing for the submission of the approved political dialogue framework to the President.

Those present also agreed at the meeting that the ratio of representation is open to re-negotiation in future, the MPC adviser added.

Whether or not the non-signatories receive special invitee status to participate in political dialogue, it is planned that the two sides of the UPDJC—ethnic signatories and the government—will seek the approval of the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting set for tomorrow.

Three groups comprising a committee of 16 representatives from political parties, the government and ethnic ceasefire signatories held its third meeting at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting lasted for two days to approve the draft framework and set the ratio of representation of stakeholders in political dialogue.

## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw Round-Up

IN Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) yesterday bills amending the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Citizen Investment Law were approved with amendments made by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House).

MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw did not agree to 26 amendments made by the Amyotha Hluttaw for the Legal Supportive Bill.

The Legal Supportive Bill will be debated in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun. PHOTO: MNA



U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA



U Aung Mya Than. PHOTO: MNA



U Sai Kyaut. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Tin Nwe Oo. PHOTO: MNA



U Khin Maung Nyo. PHOTO: MNA

# Vice President U Nyan Tun arrives back from Thailand

VICE President U Nyan Tun, who was attending the 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting on the Implementation of the Dawei Special Economic Zone and Related Projects, arrived back in Yangon on Tuesday. He was welcomed back at the International Airport by members of the Yangon Regional Government and officials.

Earlier that morning the vice president attended the meeting

of the SPV, the mechanism for the implementation of the Dawei Economic Zone and Related Projects, together with the directors of the Dawei Economic Zone Development Company and Thai officials.

They discussed establishing Dawei SEZ Co., Ltd and opening bank accounts with the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Nyan Tun being welcomed back by Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint. PHOTO: MNA

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Myanmar Air Force



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sprinkles scented water on a new aircraft. PHOTO: MYAWADY

IT is necessary for the armed forces to acquire more human resources, more advanced weapons and greater funding in addition to the stricter discipline of its members, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said in his speech at the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Air Force and the inauguration of new aircraft on Tuesday.

The senior general wore the uniform of the Air Force in honour of its members.

Present at the ceremony were the wife of the senior general, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the Joint Chief of General Staff and Commander-in-Chief (Air)

General Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Admiral Tin Aung San and senior officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

General Khin Aung Myint explained the inauguration of new aircraft.

The senior general delivered a speech in which he explained that a total of 37 aircraft of five different types and nine helicopters have been added to the air force arsenal.

He added that it is necessary for the Tatmadaw not only to utilise modern weapons but also to train personnel to operate them.—*Myawady*

## Agreement signed for the development of SMEs

A CEREMONY marking the signing of the Administrative Agreement on the Project for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises between the Myanmar Economic Bank and the Treasury Department was held on Monday.

The Japan International Co-

operation Agency offered loans for the project. Present on the occasion were the Deputy Minister for Finance Maung Maung Thein, Permanent Secretary Maung-Maung Win, Managing Director of the Myanmar Economic Bank Yin Zaw Myo and officials of the ministry.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Mitsubishi Corporation to establish distributor in Myanmar

THE Mitsubishi Corporation has announced that it will establish a Joint-Venture with Yoma Nominee Ltd (YNL) of Myanmar as soon as the license has been approved by authorities for the wholesale and retail sale of cars including after-sale services and maintenance services as well as making available car parts manufactured by the Mitsubishi Mo-

tors Corporation.

The YNL is a branch of Serge Pun & Associates (Myanmar) Limited enlarged group of companies (SPA Group). MC and YNL will each hold 50 per cent shares in MMCM and it will serve as the official distributor of automobiles manufactured by Mitsubishi Motors Corporation.—*GNLM*

## Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee meets Indonesian delegation

ON behalf of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Indonesian Upper House H.E. Mr. Iqbal Parewangi in the hall of No. (I-1) Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Hostel yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on discussing matters related to the measures taken by the three Hluttaws.

Present on the occasion were the Secretaries of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee U Maung Toe, Dr. Soe Yin, and U Tin Maung Oo, members of the Foreign Affairs Committee



Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo receives Iqbal Parewangi, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Indonesian Upper House. PHOTO: MNA

U Khin Maung Shwe, U Sai Kyauk, and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Assessment Commis-

sion U Nyi Nyi Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Rakhine's 'Kyin' wrestling competitions attract hundreds

Zaw Moore

FOLLOWING the traditional 'Kyin' wrestling competitions at the National Races' Village on Saturday and Sunday, Rakhine people in Yangon celebrated the 41st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day.

U Zaw Aye Maung, minister for Rakhine national people's affairs in Yangon attended the event, delivering the opening speech of the celebrations.

The traditional sports game attracted more than 5,000 spectators, mostly Rakhine ethnic people.

"It's strange for us to see fighting between a Bamar national and a professional Rakhine Kyin wrestler," said Aung San Linn, a migrant worker from Rakhine State. There are more than 300,000 Rakhine people in Yangon.

Rakhine State Day falls on 15 December. Marking the Rakhine State Day was granted in line with the State Constitution of 1974.

Rakhine State Day has previously been celebrated in Yangon in 1975, 1976 and 1980.

The celebration resumed after 2010.—GNLM



Rakhine Traditional wrestling matches, Kyin competitions, in progress in National Races Village on 13 December. PHOTO: ZAW MOORE



Eye patients receiving free treatment in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

## Free Medical Services for Eye Patients in Sittway Rakhine State

An eye specialist team led by Professor Doctor Aye Tun and Professor Doctor Kan Nyunt provided free eye care services to patients with eye diseases at Shwe Grunar Clinic Sittway.

The medical team comprising four eye surgeons, Prof Doctor Kan Nyunt, Dr Htay Htay Lwin, Dr. Nu Nu Yin and Dr Zaw Zaw. Naing and 4 Nurses. They performed eye operations for 162 patients with

cataract from 11th to 13th December.

The patients are from the nearby townships — Ponnar Kyun, Pauktaw, Kyauktaw and Mrauk OO.

They are collected by Shwe Parami Health Foundation Programme.

Overall expenditure for the team is sponsored by Shwe Parami Health Foundation.—Myanmar News Agency

## Transformer installed in Western Bago

A TRANSFORMER and set of 11KV and 400V power lines were recently established in Htaintaw Township, Thayawaddy District in Western Bago Divisional Region according to a Township Electricity Officer. Funded by the government, the development project was implemented by the Township Electricity Supply Enterprise with the aim of supplying more electricity to the local populace.—017(Shwe Win)

## Crime News

### Man charged for motorbike theft in Mandalay

A MAN wanted for stealing a motorbike has been charged under Section 379 of the Criminal Law after an investigation, police reported.

Soe Min Tun, 29, of Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay admitted to stealing a motorbike that was stopped near Zay-

gyo Market early this month. Police retrieved the stolen motorbike.

The suspect was already in custody at No 6 Police Station in Chanmyaythazan Township in connection to a different theft case when he was charged.—Police IPRD

### Four arrested for playing cards in Mandalay

AUTHORITIES arrested three men and one woman who were playing cards for money on 12 December in Mandalay Divisional Region.

U Tin Hsan, U Aye, U Chit Ko, and Daw Aye Moe, who live in Pehlawpho Village in

Patheingyi Township, were arrested. The stake amounts to K31,500(US\$24.3) in cash, which was found at the public lodging in the village. Those suspects have been charged under the law by police at Patheingyi Myoma Police Station.—Police IPRD

## Illegal logs seized in Sagaing

AUTHORITIES seized a shipment of illegal logs weighing 12.3446 tons in Sagaing Divisional Region on Saturday according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team com-

prising officers and staff from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry searched a vehicle on Sagaing-Shwebo Road near Sartaung Village. They discovered 95 Tanmalan logs stored on the vehicle being driven by

one U Myint Thu together with passenger U Soe Lin Khaing. The two suspects are being charged under Section 6 (1) of the Public Property Protection Act by he Sartaung Township Police Station.—Myo Win (Sagaing)



Officials inspect seized illegal sawn timber in Sagaing Divisional Region. PHOTO: MYO WIN (SAGAING)

# Central Philippines in darkness as typhoon Melor hits

MANILA — Wide areas of the central Philippines were plunged into darkness yesterday as powerful typhoon Melor barrelled into the coconut-growing region, causing flooding, storm surges and forcing almost 800,000 people to evacuate their homes, officials said. Known locally as Nona, the storm packing winds of 140 kph (87 mph) was about 40 km (25 mile) north-northeast of Romblon island early yesterday, moving west and weakening.

“Melor will continue to weaken as it crosses the central Philippines into Tuesday,” weather provider Accuweather said. “However, damaging wind gusts higher than 130 kph will target the rest of southern Luzon to Mindoro.” Romblon residents reported heavy rain and strong winds from midnight. Power was cut as transmission lines and electric posts came down. Alexander Pama, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said nearly 800,000 people had been evacuated to shelter



Volunteers pack relief rations at a Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) warehouse in Pasay city, metro Manila, on 15 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

areas. “So far, we have not received any report of typhoon-related casualties,” he said.

Media reported that three people had been killed on Samar island, where Melor first made landfall on Monday, although this could not immediately be confirmed. Power services in six cen-

tral provinces were disrupted and emergency teams were assessing damage to agriculture and infrastructure, Pama said. Schools and some offices were closed. Dozens of domestic flights and ferry services were cancelled, and the fishing fleet took shelter due to waves as high as 14 metres (46 ft). Another

potential tropical system will hit the southern Philippines later this week, Accuweather said. An average of 20 typhoons pass through the country every year. In 2013, typhoon Haiyan struck the central Philippines, killing more than 6,300 people and leaving 1.4 million homeless.—Reuters

## Indonesia's volcano in East Java continues eruption

JAKARTA — Mount Bromo volcano in East Java of Indonesia erupted yesterday, spewing column of ash by up to 1.5 km to the sky, official said here.

Powerful bursts of hot ash and gravel erupted from the rumbling volcano at 06:00 am local time, heading to west to north-west as far as 2.5 km from the crater, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the national disaster management agency said.

Tourist and visitors are banned from entering the slope by up to 2.5 km from the crater, Sutopo said. “Residences are warned to keep vigilant over continuation of the eruption and possible greater eruption,” he told Xinhua via phone. The agency and local community have prepared for any emergency to counter possible risks of greater eruption, according to Sutopo. The 3,829-metre-high Mount Bromo last erupted in January 2011, forcing airlines to ground their planes. Mount Bromo is one of Indonesia's 129 active volcanoes.—Xinhua

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## Abe dines with 24 foreign envoys for external communication



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends a luncheon with 24 ambassadors to Japan who speak Japanese, including those from Britain, China and South Korea, on 15 December 2015, at his official residence in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — In an effort to promote Japan's external communication and deepen mutual understanding with other countries, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hosted a luncheon meeting yesterday with 24 Japan-based foreign ambassadors with proficiency in the Japanese language.

“By boosting (Japan's) soft power, the Abe administration would like many people (in the world) to know Japan as it is,” Abe told the meeting at his official residence, part of which was open to the media.

The 24 ambassadors included those from Australia, Britain, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, South Korea and Turkey, according to a list of participants in the event.

“It is very encouraging for us to have people like you who can understand and speak Japanese,” Abe said. “I would like people like you, ambassadors, to speak about the true colours of Japan and charms of Japan in what I hope will become a powerful force” in promoting understanding of Japan, he said.

While promoting Japan's advanced technology, pop culture, “washoku” cuisine and traditional arts, the Abe government has been making efforts to enhance Japan's diplomatic clout and communicate its views overseas in a strategic way.

These include perceptions of the nation's wartime history and its position on the Senkaku Islands, a group of East China Sea islands administered by Japan but claimed by China and Taiwan, according to Japanese officials.—Kyodo News

## China, ROK to start maritime demarcation negotiation next week

BEIJING — China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) will hold the first round of negotiations on maritime demarcation in Seoul on 22 December, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and his ROK counterpart Cho Tae-yul will jointly chair the negotiation, spokesperson Hua Chunying told a routine press briefing.

“To solve the maritime demarcation issue through negotiations is of great significance in maintaining China-ROK maritime stability and cementing cooperation,” she said.

It also reveals China's consistent position to solve disputes with the country directly concerned, based on history and in accordance with international law, she added.

China hopes its negotiations with the ROK will set an example for regional countries to solve similar issues, Hua said.

China and the ROK announced they would start maritime demarcation in 2015 during President Xi Jinping's ROK visit in July, 2014.—Xinhua

# New Zealanders choose silver fern design as possible new flag



Factory workers Garth Price (R) and Andrew Smith (L) hang new designs of the national flag of New Zealand at a factory in Auckland, New Zealand, on 24 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY— New Zealand voters have chosen a design with a silver fern on a black and blue background with four red stars representing the Southern Cross as a possible new national flag, according to the final results of a recent referendum released yesterday by the New Zealand gov-

ernment. The chosen design will compete against the current flag in the second of two national referenda on changing the country's national flag, scheduled next March.

In the first referendum held for three weeks from 10 November, voters picked their choice from five designs that had been

selected from about 10,000 entries submitted from the public.

The winner closely defeated an almost identical design with some different colours — the silver fern on a red and slightly darker blue background with the four red stars. Many supporters of a flag change favor the symbol

of the silver fern, a plant endemic to New Zealand and commonly associated with the country both domestically and overseas.

The silver fern is already used for various official purposes including on the New Zealand coat of arms and on the country's one dollar coin, while it is popularly used by its many sporting teams, most notably by the "All Blacks," its national men's rugby union team. Prime Minister John Key, who considers the current national flag as representing New Zealand's British colonial past and not its modern identity, has called for a change.

But a recent poll showed that around 60 percent of people wanted to keep the existing flag, which was first used in 1869.

The current flag features Britain's Union Jack on the upper-left quarter and red Southern Cross stars on the right half on a blue background, and is similar in appearance to the Australian national flag. Nearly half of the more than 3 million registered voters cast their ballots in the first referendum, according to the Electoral Commission. The second referendum is scheduled 3-24 March.—*Kyodo News*

## Another US patrol in South China Sea unlikely this year

WASHINGTON — The US Navy is unlikely to carry out another patrol within 12 nautical miles of Chinese-built islands in the South China Sea this year as officials had initially suggested, three US defence officials said on Monday.

Naval commanders had hoped to carry out another "freedom of navigation" exercise in the region as early as December as part of a plan to regularly send vessels into the area and exercise what the United States views as its rights under international law, officials have said.

But the Obama administration, which is weighing the risks of raising tensions with Beijing at a time when the United States is focussed on the fight against Islamic State, has not approved the next such patrol, said the officials,

who asked not to be named.

One official said the next US Navy sail-by was likely to come in January, in what would be the second direct challenge to the territorial limits China effectively claims around seven artificial islands in one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

The Navy conducted a similar exercise in October to underscore the US position that the crucial sea lane should be treated as international waters.

In that exercise, the guided missile destroyer Lassen sailed close to one of China's manmade islands in October, drawing an angry rebuke from China and a shadowing patrol.

Pentagon spokesman Bill Urban on Monday declined to comment on future plans for Navy

operations. "As Secretary (of Defence Ash) Carter has stated, the United States will fly, sail or operate anywhere international law allows," he told Reuters.

The Lassen's October mission came after months of frustration within the Pentagon at what some defence officials saw as unnecessary delays by the White House in approving the mission.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of world trade ships every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

While the US Navy is expected to keep its technological edge in Asia for decades, China's potential trump card is sheer weight of numbers, with dozens of naval and coast guard vessels routinely

deployed in the South China Sea, security experts say.

President Barack Obama last month demanded that China halt land reclamation work that is turning seven reefs into artificial islands, including some where China is building airfields and other facilities.

China's navy has carried out more exercises in the South China Sea in recent days, its defence ministry said on Sunday.

China views the US patrols, along with flights last month of American B-52 bombers near some of the islands, as a provocation. Last week, China also said an agreement between the United States and Singapore to deploy a US P-8 Poseidon spy plane to the city-state was aimed at militarize the region.—*Reuters*

## Delhi CM Kejriwal says office raided, calls Modi a psychopath

NEW DELHI — Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his office was raided by the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) yesterday on the orders of Narendra Modi, in the latest clash between the feisty local politician and the prime minister.

The CBI was not raiding Kejriwal's office, said a senior official of the investigating agency, who declined to be identified as he was not authorised to speak to the media. CBI investigators were search-

ing the office of Rajendra Kumar, principal secretary of the Delhi government, near Kejriwal's office, the official said. Kumar is under investigation for corruption.

"Modi is a coward and a psychopath," Kejriwal said on his Twitter page. "When Modi couldn't handle me politically, he resorts to this cowardice."

The central government rejected Kejriwal's allegations, and said it had no role to play in the police investigation.

Kejriwal and Modi's central government have been involved in a power struggle over the appointment of bureaucrats and the control of police since Kejriwal's party came to power in the capital earlier this year.

That election victory in New Delhi smashed the aura of invincibility built around Modi in his first major electoral upset since being appointed prime minister.

Kejriwal says Modi has been attempting to sabotage his govern-

ment to stem his popularity and destroy his chances of breaking the dominance of India's two national parties. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Venkaiah Naidu told reporters the CBI is an independent organisation and does not act under the orders of the government. "It has become a fashion of the Delhi chief minister to quarrel with the central government and take the name of the prime minister for each and everything," Naidu said.—*Reuters*

## Police mull sending investigators to S Korea over Yasukuni blast

TOKYO — Police are considering sending investigators to South Korea by the year-end to seek more information about a South Korean man arrested in connection with a suspected blast at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo last month, investigative sources said yesterday.

The Japanese police asked for the cooperation of the South Korean police through the International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, on Monday in their investigation into Chon Chang Han, 27, the sources said.

In Seoul, South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June Hyuck confirmed it to reporters, saying, "On Monday, Japan made the request to our police for cooperation in the investigation through Interpol."

But he did not say whether South Korea would accept the Japanese request to send investigators to the country.

Chon was arrested on his arrival in Japan last Wednesday on a charge of entering the premises of Yasukuni Shrine with unlawful intent. The shrine is seen as a symbol of Japanese militarism before and during World War II.

Tokyo police hope to learn more about what Chon may have had in his belongings when he left for Japan as they probe when and how he allegedly acquired the explosive materials that were set off in a shrine restroom, according to the sources.

Japanese investigators suspect Chon procured some parts of an explosive device in South Korea, the sources said.

Police suspect he set off explosives in a men's restroom at the shrine on 23 November and was planning to cause another blast there, according to investigative sources. No one was injured in the incident.

Chon at one point admitted to setting off explosives at Yasukuni but now denies involvement, the investigative sources said.

The Shinto shrine has long been at the center of diplomatic friction, particularly with China and South Korea, whenever high-ranking Japanese politicians pay homage there as it honors convicted war criminals along with around 2.5 million war dead.—*Kyodo News*

# UN watchdog set to close nuclear weapons probe of Iran

VIENNA — The UN nuclear watchdog is expected yesterday to close its 12-year investigation into whether Iran had a secret nuclear weapons programme, a key step towards normalising Tehran's international status after a landmark deal with major powers.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) produced a report earlier this month that strongly suggested Iran did have a nuclear weapons programme for years up until 2003, but the international response has been muted, even from the United States, which had long accused Tehran of lying.

Iran has always denied plans to develop nuclear weapons.

The six major powers — the United States, Russia, China,

France, Britain and Germany — are now focussed on implementation of the deal struck in July whereby Tehran will restrict its nuclear activities in exchange for a lifting of many of the international sanctions weighing on its economy.

With companies from the six powers and other nations lining up to do business in Iran once sanctions are lifted, there has been little opposition to a draft resolution of the IAEA's Board of Governors that would close the investigation of Tehran's past while ensuring the agency can keep policing Iran's activities.

"Iran will become an agenda at the IAEA Board which we hope focuses on its compliance with the Iran Deal — allowing it to

move away from consideration alongside the Syrian and DPRK (North Korean) programmes, which it has historically been bracketed with," said one Western diplomat.

Supporters of the July deal argue that it gives the IAEA far more intrusive powers to inspect Iran's facilities and to monitor what it is doing, and that it extends the time Tehran would need to build an atom bomb if it chose to do so.

Others see the closure of the so-called "possible military dimensions" (PMD) file as absolving Iran too easily of stonewalling the probe into its nuclear past for the sake of pushing ahead with the political deal reached in July.—*Reuters*

# IMF sees migration crisis lifting Austrian economic growth



An Austrian soldier fixes the fence as migrants wait to cross the border into Spielfeld in Austria from the village of Sentilj, Slovenia, on 31 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — The wave of refugees flooding into Austria could bolster the country's economic growth if Vienna continues to work on integrating them quickly, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Monday.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants, many of them fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Afghanistan and elsewhere, have reached Austria since early September, most continuing on into neighbouring Germany.

A fraction, however, have stayed — the IMF said 80,000 to 90,000 asylum applications were expected this year, a number equivalent to about 1 percent of the population, and a similar number was expected next year.

"While still in early stages,

measures to integrate refugees are timely and well-targeted," the IMF said in a statement on the conclusion of an official staff visit, which usually happens once a year. While Austrian politicians and even President Heinz Fischer, whose role is largely ceremonial, have said the country is reaching the limit of what it can manage in terms of immigrants, there has been little public discussion of the economic upside to taking in so many people, many of them young.

"We estimate that the increased immigrant inflows over 2015-20 could lift potential GDP growth by 1/4 of a percentage point by 2020 and reduce net pension and health spending by a similar amount," it said, referring

to gross domestic product.

The IMF mission chief for Austria, Nikolay Georgiev, told a news conference the estimate was "a bit conservative". "We also have a scenario with higher employment ratios that could in the best case add another quarter point in five years," he said.

The IMF praised efforts to provide immigrants with language training and setting up systems for skill certifications and apprenticeships. But it said more should be done to ease restrictions on asylum seekers working while their applications are being processed. It also said affordable housing was "crucial" to ensuring immigrant labour is available in areas where it is needed most.—*Reuters*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japan to support building of new children's hospital ward in Cairo

CAIRO — Japan agreed with Egypt on Monday to provide up to 1.56 billion yen (about \$13 million) in grant aid for the construction of a new ward at Cairo University Children's Hospital.

Japan is aiming to complete construction of the new seven-story ward, which will accommodate an outpatient department and an X-ray unit, in 2018. Takehiro Kagawa, Japanese ambassador to Egypt, and Sahar Nasr, Egyptian minister of international coopera-

tion, signed the agreement.

Nasr expressed gratitude for Japan's aid, saying children from low-income families would use the new hospital ward, while Kagawa said the construction plan is very important and symbolises bilateral ties. The hospital affiliated with Cairo University opened in 1983 with Japanese grant-in-aid worth around 4 billion yen. It was later renovated and expanded with Japanese assistance and has 410 beds.—*Kyodo News*

### Argentina bus crash leaves 43 border patrol officers dead

BUENOS AIRES — A bus carrying Argentine border patrol officers blew a tire and tumbled from a bridge into a dry river bed in the northern province of Salta on Monday, killing 43 and injuring eight, authorities said.

The vehicle was part of a three-bus convoy carrying officers of Argentina's gendarmerie, which patrols the country's borders. Salta borders Bolivia, Chile and Paraguay.

Border security has become

a hot issue in Argentina as the country has emerged as part of a route used for smuggling Andean cocaine to Europe and for human traffickers sending Syrian refugees through the Western Hemisphere. "Forty three gendarmes lost their lives here today. Eight more were injured, one critically," Salta Governor Juan Manuel Urtubey told reporters at the scene. "We are still working to recover bodies from inside the bus."—*Reuters*

### Brazilian police raid homes of parliament speaker Cunha, tourism minister

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian police raided the homes of Lower House Speaker Eduardo Cunha and at least one minister yesterday, widening the political scope of an investigation into a suspected web of corruption linking ruling coalition politicians and influential business figures.

Cunha is at loggerheads with President Dilma Rousseff after opening impeachment proceedings against her on 2 December over opposition allegations that she violated budget laws to increase spending during her re-election campaign last

year. A federal police statement said the swoop on Cunha's homes in Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro were among 53 search-and-seizure raids carried out in seven states.

Targets included the residences of Tourism Minister Henrique Eduardo Alves, ex-mining and energy minister Edison Lobão and lower house lawmaker Anibal Gomes.

News channel GloboNews reported that the home of Science Minister Celso Pansera had also been searched, but it was not immediately possible to confirm that.—*Reuters*

### Nepalese leaders to hold crucial talk to end political deadlock

KATHMANDU — Leaders of the Nepal government, major opposition party Nepali Congress and the agitating Madhes based leaders are holding a crucial talk on Tuesday evening to give an outlet to the current political stalemate.

The meeting is expected to be decisive to clear the ongoing obstruction in parliament, paving the way for tabling the constitution amendment bill and reconstruction authority Bill.

"The tripartite talks between the government, Nepali Congress and agitating United

Democratic Madhesi Front will be held at Baluwatar at 6 pm today," Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said on social media.

The House session has been obstructed several times due to the differences among the parties regarding which bill would be registered first. Major opposition Nepali Congress has urged tabling both of the bills together whereas the agitating Madhes based parties want to forge consensus on their issues first before tabling the constitution amendment bill in the House.—*Xinhua*

## OPINION

### Revolutionaries, politicians and statesmen

Myint Win Thein

**P**EOPLE who are involved in politics, knowingly or unknowingly, are often classified as politicians and statesmen. This means that people who are classified as politicians work only for a political party, whether it is supported by the majority of people or not, while those who are classified as statesmen work for the entire country or society

or in the national interests. It is the same notion as the classification of politics into national politics and party politics, which really does not exist.

The classification does not cover all people involved in politics and even tries to hide some people who play an important role in political changes - revolutionaries. Revolutionaries are people who sacrifice their lives for change whether they are recognised or not. However, since they have sacrificed their lives for the people many of them cannot be identified accurately.

Those who are identified as politicians or statesmen are just people who reap the fruit of the work that has been done by revolutionaries whether analysts recognise them or not.

Politicians or statesmen can enjoy the support of the entire populace only when society is undergoing a revolution. Most politicians then

work only for some groups of people and are subject to opposition of other deprived groups.

All of us should recognize the unknown revolutionaries for the changes seen when dealing with politicians and statesmen.

### Write for us

*We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email thantunaungnlm@gmail.com with your name and title.*

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

## Arguments against restarting bullfights in the state of Goa, western India

Saikat Kumar Basu  
Lethbridge, AB Canada

**I**am writing to share my suggestions regarding restarting bullfights in Goa, a former Portuguese colony and a small state on the western coast of India extremely popular with tourists on behalf on the People for Animals. This move in favor of animal fights would not only be in contravention of various Indian Central and State laws but would also encourage cruelty and violence. It will increase gambling and betting, which are an integral component of animal fights and this will be a menace to society.

**Legality of bullfights** Bullfighting, and any other form of animal fighting, are expressly prohibited by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, India, 1960. The relevant provision of law is reproduced hereunder-

Section 11(1) (m) solely with a view to providing entertainment

(ii) Incites any animal to fight or bait any other animal; or

(n) organizes, keeps uses or acts in the management or, any place for animal fighting or for the purpose of baiting any animal or permits or offers any place to be so used or receives money for the admission of any other person to any place kept or used for any such purposes;

Section 31 of the Act makes it a cognizable offence to organize or manage a place for the purpose of organizing an animal fight.

Section 3 of the Act provides that duties of persons having charge of animals: It shall be the duty of every person having the care or charge of any animal to take all reasonable measures to ensure the well-being of such animal and to prevent the infliction upon such animal of unnecessary pain or suffering.

Furthermore, these provisions have been upheld by various courts in the following matters:

People for Animals vs. State of Goa (1997 (4) BCR 271).

The Honorable High Court of Bombay upheld the validity of the aforementioned sections and reiterated the prohibition on animal fighting.

Animal Welfare Board of India vs. A. Nagaraja & Ors (2014 (7) SCC 547)

The Honorable Supreme Court of India, in its landmark judgment, declared animal fighting to be illegal and placed emphasis on the legal responsibility of the owner towards his animals and his duty to ensure that they do not suffer unnecessary pain or suffering, as under section 3 of the Act. The Honorable Court also declared that animal fighting shall not be carried on under the guise of tradition & culture.

Here, I would like to mention the provisions of the state of Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act 2009, which is a State Act, is repugnant to the Indian PCA Act, which is a Central Act, since, both the Acts fall under Entry No. 17 in the Concurrent List. Repugnancy between the Parliamentary Legislation and State Legislation arises in two ways:

Where the legislations, though enacted with respect to the matters in their allotted sphere, overlap conflict; and

Where two legislations are with respect to the same matters in the concurrent list and there is a conflict.

In both situations, the Parliamentary legislation will predominate in the first by virtue of the non-obstante clause in Article 246(1), and in the second by reason of Article 254(1) of the Indian Constitution. Ultimately, the Supreme Court of India held that since Jallikattu is inconsistent and in direct collision with Section 3, Section 11(1) (a), 11(1) (m) (ii) and Section 22 of the Indian PCA Act read with Articles 51A (g) & (h) of the Constitution and hence repugnant to the PCA Act, which is a welfare legislation and hence

declared unconstitutional and void, being violative of Article 254(1) of the Constitution of India.

The Indian state of Goa in attempting to legalize bullfights, which are prohibited by an Indian Central Act, is setting itself up for failure and such attempts will only be declared unconstitutional. The matter of animal welfare and specifically animal fights is already subject to existing law in India - any extra regulatory or selective legalizing regime will only be detrimental to animals and will also be against the public interest, making it counterproductive.

The Article 21 of the Constitution of India which protects the fundamental right to life protects all forms of life, including animal life. To deny the right to animals is a violation of our fundamental duty, as prescribed under Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution, which imposes the fundamental duty on all citizens to have compassion for all creatures and to protect the environment, forests and lakes. The Apex Indian court has read Article 21 with Article 51 A (g) and interpreted it to mean that animals have the right to lead a life with intrinsic worth, dignity and security, to live free from unnecessary pain or suffering.

**Public safety & cruelty to animals:** Bullfights are usually held in cleared rice fields in and around villages, there are no fences or barricades here and the crowd provides the enclosure. One particular bullfight was even hosted in the compound of a school, in the presence of 2000 odd people, including minors, and no barricade to halt half a ton of charging bull. Instances of injuries, and even a death, have failed to deter these events. Prohibition should be continued on bullfighting in view of the threat it poses to human life and in the interest of public safety, as the event of bullfighting which involves a fight between two provoked, agitated and unreasonable animals.

Cruelty that these bulls are subjected to is immense and prolonged. The essence of bringing up a fighting bull is a carefully monitored diet, supplemented by vitamins and minerals that are administered without prescription or consultation. Many are confined for long periods of time to build their temper, this in itself is a violation of the Act (see Section 3 & section 11(1) (a), (e)), their horns filed and sharpened down to a lance point to inflict mortal wounds on their opponents. At the time of the fight, the owners start haranguing the bulls, building up the bulls' tempers and doing this, incredibly, with a hand clamped around the bulls' gonads. Bulls that concede and try to turn away are chased, it's winning opponent goaded into chasing the loser. The bulls are forced to fight until only one remains standing or until deep wounds, bleeding profusely, are seen on both or either animal. Bull having low chances of recovery and sold off for slaughter without treatment or relief from the injuries they suffer during the fight. The animal is neither examined by a vet, nor certified to be fit for consumption.

**Culture & Tradition:** It is claimed that bullfighting is part of the culture of the state of Goa. The practice of bullfighting only began at the end of the century. It has now become cause of cruelty, bloodshed, violence and heavy betting/gambling. Large sums are involved: a minimum of 20,000 rupees every fight, by way of entry fees, and undisclosed amounts in betting. This is a scale of betting that has naturally led to allegations of fixed fights and even the occasional nobbling of a prize bull. The heavy betting is why the fights were advertised on the sports pages of the local daily papers. Post the ban upheld by the Panaji Bench of the Bombay High Court in India in 1998, the advertising has come to a stop and word of fights is spread through closed Facebook and Whatsapp groups, where entry

is by member reference only. This makes it clear that the organizers are well aware of the illegality.

The real tradition of Goa, carnivals, festivals celebrating food, music and unity, is lost in the commercial gains of a few and in exploitation of mute animals. I suggest that you revive the lost tradition which has made Goa the tourist's paradise, and uphold the statutory ban on the cruel practice of bullfights.

**Revenue & Tourism:** There is still no concrete evidence suggesting that the ban on bullfights is causing decline in the revenues of the bull owners. It is unclear from statements made by persons participating in and organizing these bull fights as to how the bullfights are a source of revenue, as gambling is denied.

The bullfights do not generate tourism, as the only persons organizing, participating and providing audience to these barbaric form of entertainment are the local farmers and villagers. On the other hand, people from every corner of the world are increasingly compassionate and are actively denouncing any activity involving animal cruelty and abuse. It will therefore, not come as a surprise if legalizing bullfights will greatly affect tourism in Goa, its largest source of revenue.

Recently, members of the European Parliament have voted in favor of ending EU subsidies to farmers who specifically breed bulls for bullfights. Thousands of individuals from world over have urged UNESCO to derecognize Spain as a country having cultural heritage due to its encouragement of the cruel practice of bullfights. Considering all the facts stated above, we urge you to abide by the existing law in force and actively discourage bullfights, and any other form of animal fights. We request that no consideration be given to legalizing this cruel practice of bullfights and the cruelty, violence, other illegal activities it entails.



# Viber messaging app honours Myanmar users via We Love Myanmar campaign

Telenor will offer two weeks of cost-free access to messaging on the app with no registration required during the campaign period.



Officials from Viber, Telenor and Red Dot gather at We Chat Myanmar campaign launching ceremony. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

## KhaingThandaLwin

VIBER, one of the world's most popular mobile messaging apps, announced on Monday that the number of users in Myanmar has reached 18 million as of December this year.

In 2011, Viber had only three users in the country. The number of users increased to as many as 5 millions in July last year. According to its latest survey, Viber has 18 million users in December this year.

"The growing number of Viber users in the country is one of the reasons why I choose to use this application," said the 25-year-old Nu Nu Yi, who works as an accountant at a local company. "I use it to contact my friends at home and abroad."

Mr Carlo Velasco, the creative and public relations manager for Viber in Southeast Asia, said: "With the aim of recognising the rapidly-growing number of users, Viber, in collabora-

tion with Norwegian telecommunications operator Telenor, plans to conduct a campaign entitled "We Love Myanmar" starting on the 68<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, which falls on 4 January next year."

As part of the campaign, Telenor will offer two weeks of cost-free access to messaging on the app with no registration required. Its subscribers can also download Viber's new sticker pack, featuring popular Myanmar expressions,

without data charges during the period. Moreover, Viber, in cooperation with Red Dot, an online payment service provider, will allow their customers to use the Viber Out feature to call non-Viber users worldwide without the use of a credit card starting in the first week of February next year.

Owned by Japan's Rakuten Group, one of the world's leading internet service companies, Viber has 664 million registered users worldwide.

# Construction at Myaunmya Hospital to be finished by March 2016

THE construction of a 16-unit, four-storey residential apartment for the personnel of the Myaunmya Township Hospital in Ayeyawady Divisional Region will be completed in March next year, according to the medical superintendent.



Union Minister U Tint San inspects the progress of construction works at Myaunmya. PHOTO:

The hospital was upgraded from a 100-bed to a 200-bed hospital by the Ministry of Health this year, and new facilities are being built in the hospital compound. The roads and electricity supply have also been improved as part of

the hospital's upgrade.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a new four-storey extended patient ward was held on 18 November. The building, to be built using the Government Fund, is targeted to be completed in March 2016, according to hospital superintendent Dr U Toe Toe.

More buildings will be built during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, he added.

Construction on the upgraded hospital has been over seen by Union Minister for Sports U Tint San, a native of Myaungmya, who is also the patron of the Hospital Supervisory Committee.—Aung Minn (IPRD)

# One-stop shop launched in Namhsan



One Stop Shop opened in Namhsan Township. PHOTO: AUNG MOE

A ONE-STOP shop was opened in Namhsan Township in the Palaung Self-Administered Zone in Shan State yesterday.

Township Officer U Saing Maung Lu, Township Immigration and National Registration Office head

U Win Oo and Township Commander Police Major San Shwe Maung cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

The public service office will include a variety of civil service offices in order to provide the most con-

venient and time-efficient services for the township's residents. The opening ceremony was attended by local officials, ward and village administrators, Township Development Support Committee members and town elders.—Myint Aung

## POEM

### Hand Phones

Almost every other person one meets on any of Yangon's crowded streets owns a hand phone; a good possession in this age of digital communication. However, phoning or texting while walking unmindful of the immediate surrounding could lead to undesirable happening such as into objects or people bumping. Crossing the street while phoning unmindful of the many cars passing may lead to accidents or simply disrupting traffic from smoothly flowing.

Many vehicle operators as well are prone to using one hand to hold a hand phone and steering with the other while talking even as the vehicle is at speed moving. An illegal act indeed, but what is worse it can lead to consequences adverse.

In many a private and government undertaking during working hours employees are seen using hand phones probably for work, communicating or simply chatting or playing games and shirking from their duties, which could of course jeopardize the overall productivity of the enterprise.

Children use hand-phones to play digital game for this probably their parents are to blame. Playing games on the hand phone for long periods of time quite alone can immerse the child in a virtual world detached from the surrounding reality fold which could probably in the long run be detrimental to forming of their personality.

Also, recent research regarding use of hand phone indicates that excessive use is likely to result in the electric waves that hand phones emit as having, on the user an adverse health effect.

While the use of hand phone to communicate is welcome as a necessity to facilitate exchange of information, but it's misuse may be seen as having an undesirable effect on society which needs to be addressed by those concerned so as the user is, of the side effects well informed.

Lokethar

## Kerry seeks 'real progress' on Syria at Moscow talks

MOSCOW — US Secretary of State John Kerry said he wanted to use a visit to Moscow on Tuesday to make "real progress" in narrowing differences with Russian leader Vladimir Putin over how to end the conflict in Syria.

Kerry is seeking to prepare the ground for a third round of talks of world powers on Syria but it was not clear if a meeting pencilled in for Friday in New York would go ahead.

Russia and the United States have not reached agreement over the role of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in any political transition or over which rebel groups should be part of talks.

"I look forward to making real progress," Kerry said at the start of talks with

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"I think the world benefits when powerful nations with a long history with each other have the ability to be able to find common ground," he said.

Kerry, who will meet Putin later on Tuesday, told Lavrov: "Even when there have been differences between us we have been able to work effectively on specific issues."

Russia, one of Assad's staunchest allies, has launched a campaign of air strikes that it said targeted Islamic State militants but which also supported Assad's forces. The Kremlin says the Syrian people, and not external powers, should decide Assad's political fate.

Lavrov told Kerry there was a need for more effective international cooperation in fighting terror. "On that route there are still questions which today we need to look at," Lavrov said in his opening remarks.

The run-up to the Moscow talks underlined the distance between Moscow and Washington on how to deal with the Syria crisis.

Speaking before Kerry's arrival, a State Department official said Kerry would raise concerns about Russia's continued bombing of Syrian opposition forces, including some backed by Washington and its allies.

For its part, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement complaining that Washington was not ready to fully cooperate in the struggle against Islamic State militants and needed to rethink its policy of "dividing

terrorists into good and bad ones". Kerry's visit follows a meeting last week in Riyadh which agreed to unite a number of opposition groups, not including Islamic State, to negotiate with Damascus in peace talks.



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) gestures next to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as they pose for cameras ahead of a bilateral meeting in Moscow. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing terrorists into good and bad ones".

Kerry's visit follows a meeting last week in Riyadh which agreed to unite a number of opposition groups, not including Islamic State, to negotiate with Damascus in peace talks.

While Kerry said there were still "kinks" that needed to be worked out, mainly to do with which groups should be included in the talks, the Kremlin rejected the results of the Riyadh meeting, saying some of the groups were considered terrorists.—Reuters

## UN-sponsored Yemen peace talks start, ceasefire takes effect

GENEVA — A ceasefire took effect in Yemen yesterday as parties to the civil war started United Nations-sponsored peace talks in Switzerland in a new push to end months of fighting that have killed nearly 6,000 people, a UN spokesman said.

Fighting raged across Yemen ahead of the truce which began at 1200 local time (0900 GMT), with residents in the northern part of the country saying 15 civilians were killed in air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition.

The alliance said its forces captured a main Red Sea island yesterday, giving the coalition control over the strait of Bab al-Mandab.

Army commanders

said the truce appeared to be largely holding, though Saudi state TV reported some 20 violations by the Iran-allied Houthis in the first hour of the ceasefire.

"UN Secretary-General Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed announces today the start of cessation of hostilities in Yemen which he considers an initial first step towards building a lasting peace in the country," UN spokesman Ahmad Fawzi told a news briefing in Geneva.

Ahmed said in a statement released in Geneva that Yemen's peace talks were underway and urged the parties to ensure full compliance with the ceasefire.



Soldiers loyal to Yemen's government raise their weapons following a training exercise in the country's southwestern city of Taiz, on 14 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

An earlier round of UN-backed indirect talks in Geneva in June ended without an agreement, with both sides blaming each other for their collapse. Unlike the previous round, the

current session opened with an agenda being agreed and with senior delegates meeting face-to-face away from television cameras.

The main task for the negotiations will be agree-

ing on how to implement a UN Security Council Resolution in April that called on the Houthis to quit the capital, Sanaa, and other cities they seized in late 2014 and early 2015.—Reuters

## Palestinian motorist rams Jerusalem pedestrians, shot dead

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian motorist rammed into a bus stop in Jerusalem on Monday, injuring at least 11 people before he was shot dead, Israeli police said, in the latest in a surge of street attacks.

A campaign of stabbings, shootings and car-rammings by Palestinians has killed 19 Israelis and a US citizen since the start of October. Israeli forces have killed at least 110 Palestinians, most of whom the army described as assailants.

This latest attack took place near the western entrance to Jerusalem, leading to the main highway to Tel Aviv, and the injured included two people in a moderate condition and a baby, medics said.

The attacker, identified as 21-year-old Abdel Mughan Hasuna of East Jerusalem, was shot dead by a nearby security guard and a civilian who were both armed, a police spokeswoman said. An axe was found in the attacker's vehicle, police said. An Israel Radio reporter said she had seen the car mount the pavement and strike people before shots rang out.—Reuters

## Clashes in southeast Turkey kill 7, new curfews declared

DIYARBAKIR — Seven people were killed in clashes with security forces in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast, officials said on Monday, as authorities declared curfews across the restive region.

The clashes are the latest in months of violence following the collapse of a ceasefire between the government and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in July. Since then, Ankara has imposed round-the-clock curfews in many areas.

Two people were killed as police clashed with crowds protesting against a security crackdown in the main southeastern city of Diyarbakir, a hospital official and witnesses said. Further south, five Kurdish militants were killed in Mardin province's Dargecit district, another area under curfew, security officials said. It was not clear exactly when they were killed.—Reuters

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (17/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-059(15-16)	Spares for HDD Rig Model 11-046 (HK 250 T) (3 Items)	US\$
(2)	IFB-060(15-16)	Spares for ZJ 70L SR - 2 Rig (5) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-061(15-16)	Spares for Niigata Transmission and Reduction Gear Box Ex TM 3500 Drilling Rig (55) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 11-1-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PACITA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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# Oil extends losing streak as oversupply concerns persist



Oil pump jacks are seen next to a strawberry field in Oxnard, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Oil prices dipped yesterday, with Brent set to extend its losing streak to an eighth day, as investors remain concerned about a global glut and mild winter demand that sent prices close to 11-year lows during the previous session.

Brent LCOc1, the global benchmark, was at \$37.77 at 0718 GMT, down 15 cents from its last settlement after rising slightly earlier in the session.

The contract on Monday bottomed out at \$36.33 a barrel, only a few cents above the \$36.20 low last seen during the 2008 financial crisis. Falling below that level would take Brent to prices not seen since the middle of 2004.

US crude CLc1 was at \$36.20, down 11 cents.

Bearish sentiment remains strong, fuelled by an OPEC decision earlier in December to abandon setting a production ceiling for the oil cartel and a likely rise in Iranian supplies after sanctions are lifted.

With OPEC flooding international markets while US drillers keep producing large

amounts of crude, the Brent/WTI premium has halved over the last week to around \$1.50 per barrel. That's the narrowest spread between the two benchmarks since January.

Traders said that the low prices were a combination of structural oversupply and seasonal price weakness. "The weather is very mild with reduced demand for heating oil," said Oystein Berentsen, managing director of crude oil at Strong Petroleum (0852.HK). Oil markets usually see strong demand towards year end as the northern hemisphere enters its peak winter heating demand season. Yet an unusually mild start to winter, in part due to the El Nino weather phenomenon, has limited heating demand.

In the next two weeks, Japan, South Korea and Russia will see milder than normal temperatures while the US, Canada and Europe will be "particularly" mild, according to a note from BNP Paribas. This seasonal weakness is compounding a structural oversupply as 0.5 million to 2 million

barrels of crude per day (bpd) is produced in excess of demand. "Land storage capacity is now limited but OPEC keeps increasing production so the oil price is relentlessly trending down.

Short-term further pressure can be expected. Iran may return to the market in January which is causing concern of increasing oversupply," said Berentsen.

Also looming large is the likely increase in US interest rates this week. Crude, priced in US dollars, typically falls as the US currency strengthens since it becomes more expensive for buyers paying in other currencies.

Yet there are analysts who say that the oversupply may be overrated.

"The oil market remains more tightly balanced than is reflected in today's low prices. The oversupply is about 1.5 percent of a 95 million bpd market with limited spare capacity in a risky political setting for weak petro states prone to disruption," Citibank said.—Reuters

# Toshiba to cut up to 7,000 jobs

TOKYO — Toshiba Corp is looking to cut up to 7,000 jobs, as it looks to streamline operations in the wake of an accounting scandal, the Nikkei business daily reported.

Most of the 6,000-7,000 job cuts will be in the company's lifestyle segment, which includes consumer appliances, the newspaper said.

Toshiba is also looking to

"drastically" reduce operations at its Ome factory, Tokyo, which makes televisions and personal computers, and is considering stopping developing televisions altogether, according to the report.

The Japanese conglomerate's chief executive, Hisao Tanaka, and a string of other senior officials resigned in July in the country's biggest ac-

counting scandal in years.

An independent inquiry had found that the CEO had been aware the company had inflated its profits by \$1.2 billion over a period of several years.

Toshiba could not immediately be reached for comment outside regular business hours.

Up to Monday's close, the stock had fallen nearly 43 percent this year.—Reuters

# Dell says could buy back at least \$3bn in VMware tracking stock

NEW YORK — Dell Inc [Dell] said in a filing on Monday that it has the flexibility to buy back at least \$3 billion (1.98 billion pounds) in VMware Inc (VMW.N) tracking stock, the special class of shares the computer maker plans to issue to help finance its acquisition of EMC Corp (EMC.N).

The disclosure could prove important as Dell seeks ways to boost the value of VMware, a virtualization software maker majority-owned by EMC. The plans to issue a tracking stock have weighed on VMware's common shares, which have lost a quarter of their value since the acquisition of EMC was announced in October.

Under the terms of the deal, EMC shareholders will receive 0.111 VMware tracking share for each EMC share, a move intended to give investors exposure to VMware, which is growing faster than EMC.

Dell said in a registration statement Monday that Dell "intends to consider opportunities to repurchase shares."

Dell said it could support up

to \$3 billion in share repurchases and other types of payments and that the amount may increase over time, depending on its net income.

Dell said its goal will be to reduce its debt load in the first 18 to 24 months to achieve an investment-grade rating. Dell will have \$49.5 billion in debt under current plans to finance the EMC deal.

Since Dell was taken private in 2013, it has reduced its debt by \$4.5 billion, including \$2.5 billion paid off by Dell itself. In addition, Denali Holdings, the holding company owned by private equity firm Silver Lake Partners and Michael Dell that controls Dell, paid off a \$2 billion loan from Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O). Dell spokesman David Frank said in an interview that Dell will be focussed on paying down debt and not buying back VMware tracking shares after the merger.

"It basically gives management flexibility, but the use of cash is largely going to be used to run the business and delever the company," Frank said.—Reuters

# China's Baidu says to develop self-driving buses within three years

BEIJING — China's top online search firm Baidu Inc said it aims to put self-driving buses on the road in three years and mass produce them within five years, after it set up a business unit to oversee all its efforts related to automobiles.

The unit will also include its initiative in partnership with BMW AG to develop an autonomous passenger vehicle, which may also be put into mass production within five years, a spokesman told Reuters on Monday.

Self-driving cars have

emerged as a new battleground for tech majors globally. Alibaba Group Holding says it will launch its first car in a partnership with China's SAIC Motor Corp, while US tech heavyweights Google and Apple are also developing autonomous cars.

The Baidu spokesman declined to give details on potential auto manufacturer partners for the bus project or investment amounts for the unit.

Baidu Senior Vice President Wang Jing will lead the new unit as general manager.—Reuters



An employee carries paper bags bearing Baidu's logo at the 2015 Baidu World Conference in Beijing, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Japan, S Korea remain apart over 'comfort women' issue

TOKYO — Japan and South Korea ended their talks yesterday on the issue of so-called comfort women procured for the Imperial Japanese Army's wartime brothels, without an apparent breakthrough.

"We held deep discussions in good faith. It is difficult to hold the next meeting within this year," Lee Sang Deok, director general of the Northeast Asian Affairs Bureau of South Korea's Foreign Ministry, told reporters after the meeting in Tokyo.

Lee and Kimihiro Ishikane, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, agreed to continue discussions on a host of bilateral issues, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said, but did not elaborate what topics were taken up.

Tokyo and Seoul were aiming to seek an early resolution of the issue in light of their top leaders' meeting last month. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye who met on 2 November for their first one-on-one meeting since taking office in 2012 and 2013, respectively, agreed to speed up talks to resolve the dispute.

During Tuesday's talks, the Japanese side reiterated its position that the issue has been settled, while South Korea again called on Japan to apologize over the issue, sources familiar with the talks said.—Kyodo News

# Jury starts deliberations over Baltimore officer charged in man's death

BALTIMORE — A Baltimore jury on Monday began weighing the fate of a police officer charged in the death of a black detainee that triggered rioting and intensified a US debate on police tactics.

The seven-woman, five-man jury started deliberations in the case of Officer William Porter, 26, after almost two weeks of testimony in Baltimore City Circuit Court. Porter faces involuntary manslaughter and other charges in Freddie Gray's death from a broken neck suffered in the back of a police van.

About two hours after starting deliberations, jurors sent Judge Barry Williams notes asking for transcripts of radio traffic on April 12, the day Gray was arrested, and of Porter's statement to investigators on 17 April.

They also asked for definitions of "evil motive, bad faith and not honestly," which is part of a misconduct charge.

In closing arguments, prosecutor Janice Bledsoe said Porter could have prevented Gray's death by buckling his seat belt and getting medical aid when Gray asked for it. Porter, who is black, is the first of six officers to face trial.

"Click - how long does it take to click a seat belt and click a radio and ask for a medic? Two seconds? Three seconds? Maybe four?" Bledsoe asked jurors, holding a seat belt in her hands.

"Is two, three or maybe four seconds worth a life?"

But defence lawyer Joseph Murtha said Porter had acted as any reasonable officer would have and prosecutors had played

on city residents' fears in bringing the charges.

Murtha said that medical experts for both sides had disputed at what point Gray suffered his injury. Officers could not be expected to call for medical assistance every time a detainee wanted help, he said.

"You are judging Officer Porter from a reasonable officer standard," he said.

Gray's death in April triggered rioting, arson and protests in the majority black city. It fuelled a US debate on police tactics and law enforcement treatment of minorities.

Porter also faces charges of second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office. The charges against the other officers range from second-degree murder to misconduct.



Baltimore Police officer William Porter approaches the court House in Baltimore, Maryland on 30 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Gray, 25, was arrested after fleeing from police. He was put in a transport van, shackled and handcuffed, but he was not secured by a seat belt despite department policy to do so.

Bledsoe said that Porter had changed his story several times, especially when he denied that he had

told an investigator that Gray had told him he could not breathe.

Gray told Porter he needed medical aid and Porter put him on a van bench. According to testimony, Porter told the van driver and a supervisor that Gray had asked for aid, but none was summoned.—Reuters

## Mexico confirms burnt remains are missing Australian surfers



Sinaloa State Attorney General Marco Antonio Higuera.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — A Mexican official on Monday identified charred bodies found in a camper van as two Australian surfers missing since last month in a state infamous for narcotics gangs.

A burnt-out van belonging to one of the Australians was found in the northwestern state of Sinaloa in late November with two charred corpses inside. Officials ran DNA tests to identify them.

The Sinaloa state attorney general, Marco Antonio Higuera, confirmed

through a spokesman that all results showed the corpses were of the missing men, Dean Lucas and Adam Coleman.

The state was still waiting for official paperwork in order to finish the process, the spokesman said.

Sinaloa officials this month arrested three men over the disappearance, but said two suspects remain at large.

Lucas and Coleman, who were in Mexico surfing, were due to travel to the western city of Guadalajara on 21 November but

did not arrive, according to a message posted on social media site Facebook.

The abandoned van was found near the Pacific coast in Sinaloa, about 124 miles (200 km) south of where they were last seen and some 445 miles (716 km) north of Guadalajara.

It was unclear why the two men had strayed off course, or why they would be targeted.

Sinaloa is notorious in Mexico as the heartland of some of the country's most powerful and dangerous drug cartels.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (099N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (099N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (149N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (149N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (453N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (453N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185



# MPT ၏ တစ်ကြိမ်မှတောင်းချပေးခြင်းမရှိသေးသော မိုဘိုင်း နံပါတ်အလှများဖြစ်သည့်

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## လေလံတင်တောင်းချပွဲ

### နံပါတ်အလှများကိုဂုဏ်ယူဝင့်ကြားစွာဖြင့်ရယူပြီး

ဘုန်းတော်ကြီးသင်ပညာရေးကျောင်း (၉၉) ကျောင်းတွင် နေရောင်ခြည်သုံးမီးအိမ်များကို လှူဒါန်းရာတွင်ပါဝင်ကြပါစို့။

📅 19.12.2015 ⌚ 09:00 AM to 06:00 PM

📍 Park Royal Hotel (Ball Room)

- လေလံပွဲတွင်ပါဝင်နိုင်ရန် သင်၏အမည် နေရပ်လိပ်စာ၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ်၊ ဘဏ်စာရင်းအသေးစိတ် စသည့်အချက်အလက်များကို ၁၆-၁၂-၂၀၁၅ ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ vanitynumbers@myanmaremc.com သို့ email ပေးပို့ခြင်းဖြင့်လည်းကောင်း၊ ၀၁၅၆၃၁၃၀ ခေါ်ဆိုခြင်းဖြင့်လည်းကောင်း လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။
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- ကိုယ်စားဝင်ရောက်လေလံဆွဲမည့်သူများ အနေနှင့် ကိုယ်စားလှယ်လွှဲစာ၊ ဖိတ်စာ၊ လေလံဆွဲခွင့်ရသူ၏ နိုင်ငံသားစိစစ်ရေးကတ်ပြားမိတ္တူ၊ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်၏ နိုင်ငံသားစိစစ်ရေးကတ်ပြားတို့ကို ယူဆောင်လာရပါမည်။
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(MPT WEBSITE တွင်နံပါတ် အပြည့်အစုံကို ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။)

## Caine, Waltz honoured at European Film Awards



Actors Christoph Waltz accepts his award for European Achievement in World Cinema during the 28<sup>th</sup> European Film Award ceremony in Berlin, Germany, on 12 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Stars of film from across Europe gathered in Berlin on Saturday for the 28<sup>th</sup> European Film Awards, where actors Michael Caine and Christoph Waltz were honoured.

Caine, 82, was presented

with the European Actor Award as well as the Honorary Award of the European Film Academy President and Board.

"It's been 50 years and I've never won an award in Europe and I've won two in



British actor Sir Michael Caine poses with award for European Actor after the 28<sup>th</sup> European Film Award ceremony in Berlin, Germany, on 12 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

one evening," Caine said after receiving the European Actor Award for his portrayal of a musician having a late-life crisis in "Youth".

Waltz, known for his roles in "Inglorious Basterds", "Django

Unchained" and the latest James Bond film "Spectre" was handed the prize for European Achievement in World Cinema.

The actor said he was "honoured beyond comprehension".—Reuters

## Kanye West hard at work on new album

LONDON — Rapper Kanye West has warned people not to bother him while he's working on his latest album "Swish".

The 38-year-old rapper — who recently welcomed son Saint with wife Kim Kardashian-West — took to Twitter over the weekend to reveal that he is finishing his latest record and fashion collection and doesn't want to be distracted, reported Femalefirst.

Kanye tweeted: "I'm finishing my album and my next collection...No offense to anyone... I'm asking everyone DON'T ASK ME FOR ANYTHING TILL AFTER I'M FINISHED WITH MY ALBUM (sic)."

Meanwhile, it was recently revealed that West has been inspired by Saint's birth and will include some songs about him on his highly-anticipated album, "Swish".—PTI

## Touring play says Germany no paradise for migrants

STRALSUND — A satirical play touring Germany aims to debunk any suggestion that the million migrants who entered Germany this year have made it to paradise.

Heiko Ostendorf, director of "Asylant im Wunderland" ("Asylum Seeker in Wonderland"), said many Germans harboured the suspicion that the new arrivals were living the high life here at their expense.

"They think the refugees who come to Germany had nothing back home, lived in corrugated iron huts and should be thankful to have running water here. But that's rubbish, and the idea they're living in wonderland now even though some sleep in tent cities and gymnasiums is absolute nonsense," he told Reuters.

Peppered with black humour, the play portrays two officials from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees at an airport, searching for refugees who can help fill Germany's increasing shortage of skilled labour.

They greet two well-qualified refugees with roses, sparkling wine, beer and coffee be-



Actors perform a satirical play called 'Asylant im Wunderland' (Asylum Seeker in Wonderland) in a community centre in Stralsund, Germany, on 12 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

fore offering to take them to a four-star hotel or a luxury penthouse by limousine.

But the refugees — Basima and Berschko — are not interested. They have been living in Germany for some time already and their experience is far from what the officials are promising.

An information board fills up with planes landing in "hell"

while a flight headed for "paradise" is marked as cancelled.

Basima laments leaving behind her good job, comfortable apartment and parties with friends to end up sharing a tiny room with eight others in a rat- and cockroach-infested refugee home in Germany.

She was jailed in her home country because she campaigned

for the rights of homosexuals and women but views living in Germany, a "prison of rules, bureaucrats, laws and forms", as little better, and is planning to flee to yet another country.

The character is based on Ostendorf's Iranian girlfriend and the play also draws on the experiences of refugees from countries as varied as Congo and Serbia.

"I wanted to give a voice to the refugees I spoke to, plus countless others who don't speak German and so can't express themselves," Ostendorf said, adding that he was outraged by the idea that some people seeking protection could be considered useful for the labour market and others not.

In the penultimate scene the two actors, who play both the refugees and the officials, ask audience members to raise their hands if they studied law, engineering, economics or science.

One woman is "deported" for not being useful enough.

"It's inhumane to categorise people who need help as either useful or useless," Ostendorf said.—Reuters

## Jennifer Lawrence 'would love to see' Schumer win Golden Globe

LOS ANGELES — Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer are giving people some serious friendship goals with the "Hunger Games" star rooting up for her comedian friend to win Golden Globes.

Lawrence, 25, who has earned four Globe nominations in the past with two wins, really wants the "Trainwreck" star to take home the trophy this year, reported People magazine.

Schumer, 34, and Lawrence have both received nominations in the Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy category, for "Trainwreck" and "Joy" respectively.

"That was so amazing because obviously I only pay attention to myself, so I was like oh I got nominated, and then when she texted and said something about the same category I was like - are you, what, like - huh?" Lawrence said.—PTI

## Adele's '25' reigns for 3<sup>rd</sup> week on Billboard chart, Coldplay at No. 2

NEW YORK — Adele's record-breaking new album "25" sold another 728,000 copies last week, easily trumping Coldplay's new release, "A Head Full of Dreams," to retain the top spot on the Billboard 200 album charts for a third week.

Coldplay, which like Adele initially held back its album from streaming service Spotify and other free platforms, sold some 209,000 copies in its debut week,

according to data from Nielsen Music on Monday.

The British rock band, which is to play the coveted halftime show at the 2016 Super Bowl in February, said last week it would stream "A Head Full of Dreams" on Spotify in its second week of release. Adele's "25," already the biggest selling album in the US for 2015, has sold some 5.19 million copies since its 20 November release.

The singer on Monday announced her first North American tour in five years. She will play 56 dates starting in July in St. Paul, Minnesota and end on 15 November in Mexico City. Her UK and European tour is already sold out. The strong showing by Adele and Coldplay pushed Justin Bieber's "Purpose" into 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the Billboard 200, with about 150,000 copies sold for the week. A cappella group Pen-

tatonix slipped to 4<sup>th</sup> place with "That's Christmas To Me."

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

New entries by rappers G-Eazy ("When It's Dark Out") and Rick Ross ("Black Market") landed at No 5 and 6, respectively. South African-born Australian actor and singer Troye Sivan,

20, took 7<sup>th</sup> place with his album "Blue Neighborhood."

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online download sales, Adele's single "Hello" was ousted from the No.1 spot by Jordan Smith, a finalist on TV competition show "The Voice," whose rendition of the Queen classic "Somebody to Love" sold more than 164,000 copies compared with 158,000 for "Hello."—Reuters

# China Cultural Centre in Fiji inaugurated

SUVA — The China Cultural Centre in Fiji was jointly inaugurated by senior Chinese and Fijian officials yesterday, taking cultural exchanges between the two friendly nations to a higher level.

Ding Wei, vice minister of China's Ministry of Culture, Jiko Luveni, Fiji's parliament speaker and Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Fiji's minister for lands and mineral resources who is also serving as acting minister for foreign affairs were among those who jointly unveiled the China Cultural Centre.

During his state visit to Fiji in November 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China would establish a cultural centre in Fiji.

"A year later, we are here to celebrate the official inauguration of the centre, which ushers in a new era for the cultural exchange, and marks a significant outcome in the development of friendly and trustworthy partnership between China and Fiji," Ding Wei said.

The centre will be a window for Fijians to experience Chinese culture and arts, and will also be a bridge for Fijian culture and arts to reach the

Chinese people, said Ding.

"We are confident that this centre will further advance our mutual understanding and facilitate the friendly relations between China and Fiji, as well as between China and the Pacific," he added.

Calling the establishment of the China Cultural Centre in Fiji a "visionary initiative", Luveni commended the bilateral relations and China's role on the international stage.

"Non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries is a diplomatic principle of the People's Republic of China, which continues to play an important role in the process of democratisation in Fiji," Luveni said, adding that China has always adhered to international obligations and provided assistance within its capacity while adhering to the principles of internationalism.

"Fiji has continuously acknowledged the unselfish endeavors of the People's Republic of China in sharing the vital lessons garnered from its development experiences and sees the desire to explore and connect as a way to learn and grow — not to dilute our identities but to enrich

our self-knowledge," Luveni said. The China Cultural Center in Fiji, the first ever in the Pacific island country, proudly holds one of the world's most ancient

and richest culture and its historical information, she added.

The China Cultural Center in Fiji will present cultural events, provide Chinese lan-

guage and cultural courses and information service, and serve as a platform for intellectual dialogues, said Deng Xianfu, director of the center.—Xinhua



Ding Wei (3<sup>rd</sup> R), vice minister of China's Ministry of Culture, together with Jiko Luveni (3<sup>rd</sup> L), Fiji's parliament speaker, Mereseini Vuniwaqa (1<sup>st</sup> R), Fiji's minister for lands and mineral resources who is also serving as acting minister for foreign affairs, Mahendra Reddy (2<sup>nd</sup> R), Fiji's minister for education, heritage and arts, Rosy Akbar (2<sup>nd</sup> L), Fiji's minister for women, children and poverty alleviation and president of the Fiji-China Friendship Association as well as Zhang Ping (1<sup>st</sup> L), Chinese ambassador to Fiji, jointly unveils the name plate of China Cultural Centre in Fiji, in Suva, Fiji 15 December. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Mexican artist Toledo mourns disappeared, murdered in new show

OAXACA — Bloodshot faces, baked into ceramic pots, grimace in pain. Gnarled fingers poke from ashen clay. A skull and hands, the only remains of a body, grip the top of a wall, trying to escape.

They are among more than 100 pieces created by Francisco Toledo, perhaps Mexico's most famous living artist, for his "Mourning" exhibit, a memorial to the country's recent mass killings and disappearances, including 43 students from the Ayotzinapa teacher training college in Guerrero state who went missing in September 2014.

"Never before has there been such violence in Mexico as in recent years, really," he said in a weekend interview. "I wanted to leave a testimony of this violence."

The government said the 43 youths were incinerated by a drug gang in league with corrupt police who rounded them up in the city of Iguala in Guerrero after mistak-

ing them for rivals.

The case and subsequent investigation sparked international condemnation of Mexico. To date, the remains of only one of the missing students have been definitively identified.

Toledo said "Mourning," on display at Mexico City's Museum of Modern Art through March, was inspired by ancient black pottery from his native southern state of Oaxaca, which borders Guerrero. The haunting pieces include crouched figures with scarlet-grooved eye sockets, exposed rib cages and perforated knees and elbows.

Crimson-dotted ceramic ropes fasten bones to a black drum topped by a dog's head, a reference to pre-Columbian cultures in which canines guided the dead through the underworld.

Toledo also recalled the case of Tlatlaya, where prosecutors say soldiers executed at least a dozen suspected gang members who had

surrendered to the army in June 2014.

Tlatlaya is near Guerrero, where Toledo said the pre-Hispanic Yopes civilization sacrificed slaves.

"In a way, this type of sacrifice is being repeated," he said.

Besides "Mourning," Toledo has turned to other art forms to stir awareness of the Ayotzinapa students.

The 75-year-old Toledo created 43 kites, each stamped with the face of one of the missing, and sprinted across a soccer field to get them aloft.

Toledo, who has sold his paintings for as much as \$902,500, sponsored an Ayotzinapa-themed poster contest, with entries coming from as far as Poland, Germany and Israel, his daughter Sara said. The 50 winning posters have been exhibited in Barcelona, the Netherlands and Britain in a fundraising drive for the students' parents.—Reuters

### Entertainment Channel

(16-12-2015, Wednesday)

<p><b>6:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Songs of Yester Years</li> </ul> <p><b>6:20 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyi Thu Ni Ti</li> </ul>	<p><b>6:40 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fashion Show</li> </ul> <p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV Drama Series</li> </ul>
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## Myanmar International

(16-12-2015 07:00 am ~ 17-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Simple Living With High Spirit
07:38	Am	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Gywe
07:54	Am	Art Students: Their Dream
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Kyaikhteyoe: Bamboo Guns
08:32	Am	Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry
08:51	Am	Colourful Threads
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Chef Life "Thit Htoo"
09:38	Am	History Of Kyaik Wyne Pagoda
09:57	Am	Hip-Hop and Design
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Climate Context: Impact of El Nino in Myanmar

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
07:43	Pm	Karaweik Palace - A Symbol Of Glorious Myanma Culture
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Myanmar Harpist
08:47	Pm	Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabai Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi

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

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

**7:50 am**

- TV Drama Series

**8:45 am**

- Catch Asia News (Part-21)

**9:00 am**

- Teleplay

**9:55 am**

- Joint Performance by State Orchestra

**10:10 am**

- Myanmar Movie (Black & White)

# Mourinho should stay but changes needed, says Lampard

LONDON — Frank Lampard believes his crisis-racked former club Chelsea need an urgent shake-up to rescue their season, but does not think that should mean manager Jose Mourinho is sacked.

Lampard, the club's record goalscorer who captained Chelsea to their Champions League triumph in 2012, said he did not know if besieged Portuguese coach Mourinho had lost the dressing room, but said the champions' players were under-performing.

Speaking after watching Chelsea in Monday's 2-1 defeat at Leicester City, who now top the Premier League, Lampard said their current plight was, for him, "impossible."

"They are good players, but far too many of them are under-performing and they have been for a while," he told Sky

Sports. "This is Chelsea we are talking about now.

"Chelsea on a bad year should be top six. They should still be there or thereabouts, but where they are just above the relegation zone is impossible."

British bookmakers slashed the odds on Mourinho, who said he felt his work was "betrayed" by his players' performance at Leicester, being the next premier league manager to be dismissed to 8/11 on Tuesday.

The result left Chelsea in 16th place, just one point above the relegation zone after nine defeats in 16 league games, and 20 points adrift of leaders Leicester.

"I don't know whether he's lost them, but something has to change. It has to change right now — whether it's attitude, or performance, or something else, it has to



Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

change," said Lampard, 37, who made 648 appearances for Chelsea and scored 211 goals.

Asked about the likelihood of Mourinho being sacked, Lampard said: "That's only one man's decision and that will be Roman Abramovich.

"He's probably looking at it very closely. Obviously, we've

been here before with Chelsea, when managers change midway through the season. "I don't know how many times you can do that. We had some good results from doing it before, but we had a different set of players at that point. "But I have to say that what they set out to do when Jose Mourinho came back was to have a long-

term plan. What can they gain by getting rid of him now?

"They are probably not going to make the top four anyway. Or the top six. They're not going to get relegated, if we are honest, so I'm sure there's a view from Roman Abramovich to say 'hang on — let's see what happens at the end of the season'." —Reuters

# Leicester return to summit as Chelsea woes continue

LEICESTER — Sublime goals from Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez sent Leicester City back to the Premier League summit after a deserved 2-1 win on Monday over lacklustre Chelsea whose march to the title last season seems a distant memory.

The prolific Vardy, whose record run of 11 consecutive Premier League goals came to an end at Swansea City last weekend, beat goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois with a crisp volley from playmaker Mahrez's delightful cross after 34 minutes.

Algeria international Mahrez curled in a stunning second from the edge of the area three minutes into the second half to put Leicester, continuing a remarkable turnaround after escaping relegation last season, on 35 points, two clear of Arsenal.

Substitute Loic Remy gave the visitors hope with a close-range headed goal 13 minutes from time to set up a tense finish but the hosts held out to leave Chelsea mired in 16<sup>th</sup> place on 15 points from 16 games — one point above the relegation zone.

"We played against the champions but we want to make a fantastic match for our fans because they believe, they are dreaming," said Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, savouring victory against his former side.

"It is good if they (the fans) continue to dream but for us it was important to make a great performance with a fantastic spirit. Also tactically, I am very

satisfied. We concentrated for 95 minutes against the champions. That is not easy."

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho agreed. "They deserved to win because they were better than us during a longer period of time," he said. "We were the best team for 20-25 minutes, maybe a maximum of 30 minutes. They were the best team for an hour."

Victory was extra sweet for Ranieri who was sacked by Chelsea in 2004, a year after Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich took ownership of the London club.

Ranieri had led Chelsea to their highest league placing for 49 years and their first Cham-

pions League semi-final, which they lost to AS Monaco, but his reward was the sack.

He was replaced by Jose Mourinho whose second spell in charge of Chelsea has come increasingly under the spotlight.

They have lost nine of their opening 16 top-flight games for the first time since 1978-79, a season in which they were relegated.

Chelsea's woes were compounded by a first-half injury suffered by their Belgium forward Eden Hazard who hobbled off with an apparent hip problem after a challenge from Premier League top scorer Vardy.

England striker Vardy (15

goals) and Mahrez (11) have scored 26 times between them this season and they again lit up the King Power stadium with their intelligent running, pace and trickery.

Leicester, with one league defeat since losing at home to Chelsea in April — a run of 20 games — had the swagger of side sky-high on confidence and a dominant start was rewarded with Vardy's opener.

With that sense of anticipation of a striker at the top of his game, he escaped the attentions of John Terry to send a fizzing volley past Courtois from the influential Mahrez's seventh assist of the season.—Reuters



Leicester's Danny Simpson in action with Chelsea's Pedro on 14 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Blatter reasserts innocence ahead of FIFA ethics hearing

ZURICH — Suspended FIFA President Sepp Blatter again proclaimed his innocence in a corruption scandal gripping the world football body as he prepares to testify this week before the group's ethics panel.

"I will fight on for my rights and present my view of things to the...chamber with great conviction and a firm belief in justice," he told the Swiss newspaper Blick ahead of Thursday's hearing. "I am suspended but not isolated and not at all mute."

FIFA ethics investigators called in November for sanctions against Blatter and European (UEFA) football chief Michel Platini, both of whom were suspended from their posts for 90 days on 8 October pending a full investigation.

FIFA's ethics panel is set to rule on the matter next week. US prosecutors have charged 41 people and entities in an inquiry into football corruption. Football bosses from throughout the Americas are among the defendants in a case that prosecutors say involves \$200 million (£132 million) in bribes and kick-backs tied to the marketing of major tournaments and matches.—Reuters