

**Union culture minister advises workshop on Bagan ancient city management**

PAGE 3

**Myanmar National Airlines spreads its wings**

PAGE 3

PERSPECTIVES

**Creating a more sustainable future through education**

PAGE 8

# RICE SUPPLY ENOUGH

*Aye Min Soe*

ALTHOUGH rice production has slowed due to recent floods, Myanmar's current stockpiles of rice are expected to last until December, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

More than 500,000 tonnes of rice remain in the country, the ministry's director-general U Aung Soe said on Tuesday.

The recent floods covered more than 1.4 million acres of rice and destroyed more than 800,000 acres, he added.

Ayeyawady Region, which is the country's primary source of rice, was not affected by the flooding as severely as other regions because the floods there receded relatively quickly.

"More than 300,000 acres of rice fields were submerged by the floods, but more than 200,000 acres emerged undamaged," said U Win Myint Naing, the president of the Ayeyawady Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"Furthermore, of the 100,000 acres of rice fields that were totally destroyed, more than 70,000 acres have been replanted," he added. About 50 percent of the farmers in Myauk U and Minbya in Rakhine State, which was severely affected by flooding, have been able to replant rice, according to a survey conducted by the Swanyee Foundation.

The survey also warned of a decrease in rice production in flood-affected areas due to local farmers spreading poor-quality seeds, largely taken from their own food supplies, directly on flooded land, rather than onto re-plough land.

The harvest season for rice planted in rain-fed fields will begin in October.—GNLM



The Ministry of Commerce says more than 500,000 tonnes of rice remain in the country.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Tatmadaw lawmakers hope for peace the most

Ceasefire accord is certain to be approved by 25 percent of parliamentarians, MPC legal counsel says



Dr Salai Andrew Ngun Cung Lian, legal counsel at the Myanmar Peace Centre, speaks to the media.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

*Ye Myint*

YANGON — A quarter of Myanmar's parliamentarians want peace more than others, said Dr Salai Andrew Ngun Cung Lian, legal counsel at the Myanmar Peace Centre, insisting that the military MPs will approve the national ceasefire accord between the government and ethnic armed groups.

At a press conference of the peace centre on Friday, Dr Ngun Cung Lian expressed the

view when answering a question about what will happen to the accord if the lawmakers from Tatmadaw that hold 25 percent of seats in Parliament reject it.

"Basically, no one hates war more than the warrior. The 25 percent of the parliament's seats, above others who have never fought in the war, prays for peace the most as they suffered the wounds and scares of war".

The MPC's legal counsel affirmed that he was pretty sure the 25 percent will support the

ceasefire deal.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the peace centre, reaffirmed Tatmadaw's willingness to sign the ceasefire whatever groups are willing to ink it, citing participation of its top-level representatives throughout the negotiations as indication of wanting to achieve lasting peace.

He quoted Saw Htoo Htoo Lay, political and military adviser to the Karen National Union's Chairman, as saying that

Tatmadaw's desire and preparation for lasting peace is far beyond a situation they expected in previous years, and ethnic armed groups are lagging behind the Tatmadaw.

On Wednesday, President U Thein Sein and senior leaders of ethnic armed organisations held talks in Nay Pyi Taw on the signing of the truce pact which is expected to occur in early October between the government and each of the 15 groups the government has invited.—GNLM





The mobile libraries are meant to nurture reading habits among rural youth and increase the number of readers in rural villages.—THANT MAUNG

## Mobile library visits Zabuthiri villages

NAY PYI TAW — The Zabuthiri Township Information and Public Relations Department brought mobile libraries to Latpankhahla and Gonmininn villages on 11 September. The visit was part of

the department's effort to bring books to people who are unable to visit libraries due to livelihood constraints.

The mobile libraries, under the supervision of the Ministry of

Information, are meant to nurture reading habits among rural youth and increase the number of readers in rural villages. The mobile facilities will visit the two villages every Thursday.—Thant Maung

## Alaebon village to get new bridge after 30 years

PALAE — A reinforced concrete bridge will be built across the Mokaung Stream in Palae Township, Sagaing Region, at the cost of 20 million kyats. The project will be funded by private donors and carried out by the township's rural development and irrigation departments.

A villager elder said the bridge project, which will connect Alaebon and New Alaebon villages, was launched by abbots from the villages' monasteries. He explained that the rural com-

munity, especially students, have faced major transportation challenges since the wooden bridge over the stream was swept away by the stream 30 years ago.

The village elder said the bridge will be opened for use throughout the year once it is completed. Members of the public donated 13 million kyats and 200 bags of cement to the fund for the project, and the remaining seven million kyats were contributed by local residents.

Min Khant Soe (Zeya Myay)

## Four schools upgraded in Myingyan

MYINGYAN — Four post-primary schools in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, were upgraded to middle schools this morning.

The event to celebrate the upgrade was attended by the region's Planning and Economics Minister U Aung Zan and Transport Min-

ister U Kyaw San. Headmistress Daw Khin Hla Myint thanked the officials for the upgrade.

Myingyan has 193 basic education schools with 39,993 students for the current 2015-2016 academic year.—U Zaw Min Naing

## Farmers compensated for Kabo Bridge approach road

KANTBALU — A total of 32 farmers in Sagaing Region were compensated on 8 September for lands and crops they lost to make way for the construction of the Kabo Bridge over the Mu River. The forfeited lands will be used for the construction of the bridge's approach road in Kantbalu Township.

The farmers received just over 4 million kyats for their lost crops and 12 million kyats for the 8 acres of land they lost. The compensation was presented by the District Road Department at the township's general administration office. Local officials and village elders attended the occasion.—IPRD

## Voters urged to check voter lists on 14 September

NAY PYI TAW — Local election commission offices across the country will release the final versions of their eligible voter lists on 14 September.

Zabuthiri Township has 21,474 eligible voters, including 10,259 females and 11,215 males.

"Voters should check for their names at their respective commission offices on 14 September," said a commission officer. He added that if a citizen's name is not included on the list,

he or she must submit Form 3 to an election commission office.

Names mistakenly included on the list can be removed using Form 4, and inaccurate personal information can be corrected using Form 4-C. Forms must be submitted no later than two weeks after the lists are released, the commission officer said.

Anyone who is eligible to vote in the election on 8 November is encouraged not to miss the opportunity, he said.—U Chit Ko Ko (IPRD)

## Blood donors honoured in Kyaukmae

KYAUKMAE — The Blood Donors Association of Kyaukmae, Shan State, honoured donors at its city hall on Thursday.

Blood donor Sayadaw Ashin Kaythala, the abbot of the town's Moekaung Monastery, gave the keynote speech at the event, and District Health Officer Dr Aung Aung gave an educational talk about blood.

The donors among the

members of Sangha were offered monk robes and certificates of honour, while lay donors just received certificates.

U Win, who has donated blood 54 times, spoke on behalf of the donors.

Kyaukmae's Blood Donors Association has 741 members, who have donated 1,228 bottles of blood since 2011.

U Myint Aung

## Myawady receives poverty elimination grant



Myawady Township, Kayin State, receives 111.5 million kyats to fund 50 projects.—HTEIN LINN AUNG (IPRD)

MYAWADY — Myawady Township, Kayin State, has been awarded 111.5 million kyats to fund 50 projects by the government's Rural Development and Poverty Elimination Fund. This was Myawady's third grant from the fund in the

2015-2016 fiscal year.

The 50 projects include six to improve local agriculture production, 35 to support rural socio-economic enterprises, five to expand electricity access and four environmental conservation initiatives.

Myawady previously received 42 million kyats for 25 projects in one grant and 62.47 million kyats for 39 projects in another one. The township received over 277 million kyats during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.—Htein Linn Aung (IPRD)

## Farmers receive compensation for Ngapali Beach road

THANDWAE — The Road Department of Thandwae District presented 83.38 million kyats as compensation to 32 local farmers on 10 September. The farmers gave up 7.6 acres of their land for the construction of a by-pass

road from Ngapali Beach, Rakhine State.

The occasion was held at the district general administration office and was attended by Rakhine State Transport Minister U Hla Han, who gave the

closing speech. One farmer who received compensation offered words of gratitude to the department.

The farmers were paid 11 million kyats per acre for their impounded plots.—IPRD



## Union culture minister advises workshop on Bagan ancient city management



“Ancient Cities Network: Preservation and Conservation Management of the Bagan Ancient City” workshop

NAY PYI TAW — Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, attended a coordination meeting for a workshop organised by the ASEAN Committee for Culture and Information (COCI) on Saturday. The workshop, titled “Ancient Cities Network: Preservation and Conservation Management of the Bagan Ancient City”, will be held in Bagan from 21 to 24 September.

U Aye Myint Kyu also serves as the chairman of the ASEAN

Socio-Cultural Community of Myanmar. In the meeting, the union minister told participants that the workshop must be in line with UNESCO policies, and he advised them to seek suggestions from cultural heritage management experts from other ASEAN countries. He said the workshop would be part of Myanmar’s effort to include Bagan on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The union minister also said

the workshop should include a discussion on disaster management.

The workshop will include several experts on the management and conservation of ancient cities from around ASEAN, one representative from the ASEAN Secretary-General’s Office, one expert from the University of Sydney who serves as UNESCO’s advisor on the inclusion of the Bagan and Pyu ancient cities in the list of World Heritage Sites.—MNA

## Myanmar National Airlines spreads its wings

YANGON — Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) will introduce international routes to Hong Kong and Taiwan, according to the airline’s managing director Captain U Than Tun. “The second Boeing of MNA will arrive in November, and it will fly the Hong Kong and Taiwan routes,” said U Than Tun.

MNA will fly to Taipei three times per week and to Hong Kong four times per week.

Currently, MNA’s single 737-800 Boeing aircraft flies the Yangon-Singapore route six times per week. The route opened on 17 August.

The airline’s first Next-Generation 737-800 will be leased from

US-based GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS), the commercial aircraft leasing arm of GE.

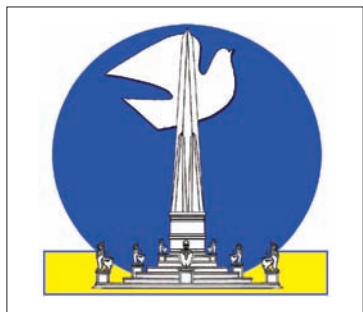
Myanmar is home to 26 airports and 11 local airlines, three of which fly international routes.

MNA is a state-owned airline and one of Myanmar’s national carriers. It is based in Yangon.—Ko Moe

## What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches of the Democracy and Peace Party, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party and United Democratic Party were broadcast on state-run television and radio networks on Saturday.

### Democracy and Peace Party



Chairman U Soe Maung said his party seeks gradual constitutional amendment that would pave the way for federalism based on democratic norms and equal rights. The party urges all stakeholders to sign the nationwide ceasefire accord sooner rather than later, he said in his party’s speech. He also said his party pledged to introduce a system that would guarantee impartial land ownership rights to farmers and keep limit private land ownership.

### Shan Nationalities Democratic Party



Chairman U Sai Ai Pao said his party believes that a federal democratic republic will emerge only when citizens can enjoy equal rights in the political, economic and social spheres without repression. In his party’s political broadcast, he called for decentralisation of power and an equal sharing of resources, pledging better international relations, a stronger economy, better healthcare and higher education standards for all.

### United Democratic Party



Chairman U Hla Myint said his party will draw plans to help local enterprises of all sizes compete with foreign companies. He also pledged to promote agricultural industries by helping them find new foreign markets. He said the party would introduce higher standards of living and poverty elimination by creating more employment opportunities and ensuring living wages.—GNLM

**ELECTION COUNTDOWN** 56 DAYS  
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker concludes Malaysia visit

YANGON — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa arrived back in Yangon from Malaysia after attending 36th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

He was welcomed back at Yangon International airport by Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung and officials.—MNA

## Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party, Union of Myanmar National Political League Party and National Political Alliance Party on 13 September and 13 October.—GNLM

## First aid courses aim to empower senior citizens

*Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON — The Myanmar Red Cross Society will provide basic first aid training to senior citizens nationwide this year, said Daw Khin Khin Shein, Director of MRCS’s First Aid and Safety Department.

“The main aims of the programme are to recognise them as an important resource for society and to encourage older people to become self-empowered,” she said at the celebration of the World First Aid Day, which falls on the second Saturday in September every year.

The effective use of experience of the senior citizens may bring many benefits to the community, she said.

She went on to say the course would help senior citizens care for themselves, their families and neighbours in case of emergency.

“We plan to conduct the

course in nine locations where senior citizens can gather easily, but we have not chosen them yet,” said Daw Khin Khin Shein. She added that each course would accept up to 30 participants.

According to the 2014 census, citizens above the age of 65 account for 5.8 per cent of Myanmar’s total population.

At the celebration, MRCS president Dr Tha Hla Shwe said the population of senior citizens is projected to reach 25 per cent of the country’s total population in 2050, according to the figures presented by civic organisations working with the elderly in Myanmar.

According to an international survey taken in 2010, an estimated 524 million people, or 8 per cent of the world’s population, are over the age of 65. By 2050, this number is expected to nearly triple to about 1.5 billion people, which will amount to 16 per cent of the world’s population.—GNLM



Needy elderly together with youth volunteers at home established by Save the Aged.—PHOTO: STA



# Singapore's ruling party PAP wins general election with a landslide victory

SINGAPORE — Singapore's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) won 83 of the 89 parliamentary seats in general election on Saturday with a landslide victory, while the opposition Workers' Party (WP) retained 6 seats, according to the Elections Department (ELD).

PAP won the election with 69.86 percent of votes, the highest since 2001's landslide victory of 75.3 percent. Singapore's Prime Minister, also PAP's Secretary-General Lee Hsien Loong said this is "a good result for PAP" when he addressed the reporters.

The seats the PAP won were from 15 group representation constituencies (GRCs) and 12 single member constituencies (SMCs), including the regained Punggol East SMC from the opposition Workers' Party, and East Coast GRC in which close fight were anticipated. While WP retained Hougang SMC and Aljunied GRC by slim margin.

Singaporeans got an early indication of the final results with the public release of the sample count results by ELD for the first



Singapore's Prime Minister and People's Action Party (PAP) Secretary-General Lee Hsien Loong (3rd L) and his team celebrate his victory with supporters in Singapore's Toa Payoh Stadium on Sep 12, 2015.—XINHUA

time. And the final results rolled in, confirming the initial picture painted by the sample count results of a national swing in votes towards the PAP.

PM Lee Hsien Loong and his team won Ang Mo Kio GRC with 78.6 percent of the vote. He thanked supporters in Malay, Mandarin, English, saying that "We are very humbled."

PAP has won back the Pung-

gol East SMC in a close contest that saw veteran Charles Chong edge out incumbent Lee Li Lian. Charles Chong received 51.76 percent of the vote.

PAP also won a resounding victory in Tanjong Pagar GRC, the constituency of Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew before, with 77.7 percent of the votes.

However, the anticipated

close fight in East Coast GRC, Marine Parade GRC, Holland-Bukit Timah and GMC and Fengshan SMC did not materialize. PAP beat WP in these constituencies.

The opposition Workers' Party defended its stronghold of Hougang SMC, with Png Eng Huat retaining his seat with 57.69 percent of the vote.

WP defended Aljunied GRC, in which votes were recounted, with a strong team led by its Secretary-General Low Thia Kiang to Aljunied GRC, but WP only won with 51 percent of the votes.

PAP was challenged in all available 89 parliamentary seats for the first time in the island-nation's history. The 89 seats were split into 16 group representation constituencies (GRCs), where the candidates from a contesting party is required to be fielded as a team, and 13 single member constituencies (SMCs). The ruling People's Action Party took 81 of the 87 seats in last general election in 2011 with 60.14 percent of the popular votes, which is lower than the 66.6 percent in general election 2006.—Xinhua

## Strong quake shakes Tokyo, no tsunami warning issued

TOKYO — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.2 jolted Tokyo and surrounding areas early Saturday, but there were no fears of tsunami, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There have been no reports of damage or serious injury.

The quake, which centered in Tokyo Bay at a depth of around 57 kilometers, occurred at 5:49 am, the agency said. The quake's magnitude and depth were revised from the initially announced 5.3 and 70 km. It registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in Chofu in western Tokyo and 4 in central Tokyo areas including the Otemachi business district and Haneda airport. An intensity of 4 was also recorded in parts of the neighboring prefectures of Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama, according to the agency. The quake caused minor disruption to rail services in Tokyo as subway and some other rail operators temporarily halted their operations after the quake.

The transport ministry said that there was no damage to Haneda airport facilities and flights were unaffected.—Kyodo News

## Malaysia's Prime Minister to announce economic measures on Monday

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is expected to announce measures to strengthen the economy on Monday as falling commodity prices weigh on growth and the ringgit currency plumbs near 18-year lows.

Slowing demand from China and a political crisis swirling around Najib have also shaken investors in Southeast Asia's third-largest economy in recent months, pushing the ringgit down nearly 19 percent against the US

dollar so far this year.

Najib is expected to announce the new measures at around 11:30 pm (0330 GMT) after a weekly meeting of the economic council on Monday, officials at the Prime Minister's office said on Saturday, without giving details.

Last month, he set up a special economic committee to propose immediate and medium-term measures to strengthen the economy and to restore investor confidence. Malaysia has been gripped by political tensions which escalat-

ed in early July after a report that investigators looking into debt-laden state investment fund 1MDB had found that close to \$700 million had been deposited in an account held by Prime Minister Najib Razak. Najib, who also chairs 1MDB, has denied any wrongdoing, but the scandal has not died and has weighed on the economy.

Both Najib and Malaysia's central bank governor have pledged not to impose capital controls.

Najib has maintained that Malaysia's current economic situation

was stronger than during the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis. Massive outflows of capital during that crisis forced Malaysia to peg the ringgit at 3.8 to the dollar, which was retained that 2005.

Fitch Ratings said last week that Malaysia's deteriorating currency position — reflected in the ringgit's sharp depreciation, falling foreign exchange reserves and shrinking current account surplus — could force it restore a negative outlook on the country's credit rating.—Reuters

## Over 100 still stranded in flood-hit eastern Japan city

TOKYO — Rescue operations continued Saturday for over 100 people still stranded in the eastern Japan city of Joso after devastating floods, with 15 people remaining unaccounted for.

Of the 22 people missing as of Friday, the safety of seven including two children had been confirmed by Saturday morning, police and local government officials said.

According to local authorities in Joso, Ibaraki Prefecture, over 4,500 residents were staying in shelters as of 9 am on Saturday, after unprecedented rainfall earlier in the week caused the Kinugawa River to burst its banks, causing extensive flooding of residential areas. The death toll remained at three.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe inspected flood-affected areas in Joso from a Self-Defense Forces helicopter Saturday morning. He will later visit one of the shelters before meeting with local officials in Ibaraki and neighboring Tochigi prefecture to discuss disaster restoration needs.

Abe told reporters in Joso that the government "will do all it can to swiftly repair the broken levees and remove water as quickly as possible" from flooded areas. With experts having completed inspections of the breached river banks, repair and water drainage work has started. In the northeastern prefecture of Miyagi, also hit by severe floods, rescuers resumed searching for a man who went missing while driving his car.—Kyodo News



A woman cries as she looks at her damaged house at a residential area flooded by the Kinugawa river, caused by typhoon Etou, at Mitsukaido district in Joso, Ibaraki prefecture, Japan, September 12, 2015.—REUTERS

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## Nuclear test ban treaty body head wants pact to enter into force



Secretary General of the Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Lassina Zerbo gestures during an interview with Reuters in Vienna May 9, 2014. —REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS — The head of the body that oversees a treaty to ban nuclear testing worldwide said on Friday he hopes signatories will soon find a way to end a two-decade stalemate that has prevented the pact from entering into force.

More than 160 countries have ratified the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). But since 1996, India, Pakistan and North Korea have all conducted nuclear tests, and are among eight countries including the United States, China and Iran blocking its entry into force. Lassina Zerbo, head of the Vienna-based CTBT Organization, said it was up to signa-

tory states to make changes to the treaty's rules. But he suggested that one possibility members could consider was scrapping the unusual requirement for the eight holdout countries to ratify it.

The treaty says that if after three years the treaty has not come into force, states that ratified it should meet to explore ways to accelerate its "early entry into force."

"If we've been doing this for 19 years, and we haven't found a way to accelerate the entry into force, we should reflect on whether (that clause) achieves its goal or not," he told Reuters in an interview. Signatories will meet on the sidelines of

the UN General Assembly on Sept. 29 to discuss this issue.

Two diplomats from signatory countries said it was possible to change the rules so the treaty could enter into force without the remaining ratifications.

The United States, like Iran, has signed but not ratified the CTBT.

The administration of President Barack Obama has made clear it would like it ratified, but a number of US lawmakers, especially Republicans, oppose ratification of a pact they fear would limit US security options.

On the question of Iran, Zerbo said Tehran could ratify the treaty to ease concerns about what it will do in 15 years, when limitations expire on its nuclear programme under a deal struck in July with major powers.

"People say that after 15 years, how can we be sure that Iran will not start," Zerbo said. "The only assurance with teeth that Iran can give is to ratify the CTBT."

"If they ratify the CTBT, which fits with their fatwa not to develop a nuclear weapon, after 15 years they have helped the process to get the CTBT into force and then there's no room for developing nuclear weapons," he added. —Reuters

## At least 60 killed in Indian restaurant gas explosion

NEW DELHI — At least 60 people were killed in a town in central India on Saturday when a cooking gas cylinder blew up in a restaurant and set fire to explosives stored nearby, police said.

The gas cylinder exploded as people were gathering for breakfast at the restaurant in the town of Petlawad in the state of Madhya Pradesh, about 800 km (500 miles) south of New Delhi, Inspector B.L. Gaur told Reuters.

At least 60 people were injured, Gaur added.

The death toll is expected to rise as rescue workers pull more bodies from under the rubble of the collapsed building, another police official said.

Indian TV channel NDTV said more than 80 people were feared dead, without citing sources.

Gaur said the restaurant was near an area which stored gelatine sticks used at construction sites.

"There was a second explosion, there were more casualties," Gaur said, adding the blast was so powerful it damaged adjacent

buildings and ripped out nearby windows.

Television footage showed a crowd of people standing amid the rubble of a building as excavators started clearing debris from the site. "This is a tragic incident, which has shook me. The causes of the incident will be investigated," Madhya Pradesh's chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told local television channels.

Chouhan has announced compensation for the victims' families, media reported. —Reuters



People stand near the site of an explosion in Jhabua district at Madhya Pradesh, India, September 12, 2015. —REUTERS

## Iran to take Parchin military site samples with IAEA present

PARIS / UNITED NATIONS — United Nations inspectors will be present with Iranian technicians as they take samples from a key military site, two Western diplomats said, undercutting an objection by US Republicans to the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

The diplomats were familiar with details of a confidential arrangement between Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog for inspections at the Parchin site, where some countries suspect nuclear weapons-related tests may have taken place. Iran has denied that allegation, but agreed to accept comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its suspect sites as part of the historic July deal in exchange for an easing of international sanctions.

An August report by

the Associated Press, in its original version, said the agreement on Parchin suggested that IAEA inspectors would be barred from the site and would have to rely on information and environmental samples provided by Iranian technicians. The AP later published what it said was the text of an early draft of the agreement that remains unconfirmed.

The report was seized on by Republicans in the US Congress as proof that President Barack Obama's administration gave in to Iran on the sensitive issue of inspections to check on Tehran's suspected ambition to build a nuclear bomb. Iran says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful.

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano rejected the report as "a misrepresentation", though he declined to provide details of what some Republicans described as

a "secret side deal" between Iran and the IAEA on Parchin. Amano said on Aug. 20 that the arrangements with Iran were technically sound.

The signed agreement between Iran and the IAEA has not been disclosed publicly. But the Western diplomats told Reuters that while Iranians would be allowed to take the samples themselves, the agency's inspectors would be physically present and would have full access to their activity.

"There was a compromise so the Iranians could save face and the IAEA could ensure it carried out its inspections according to their strict requirements," said one of the diplomats. Inspections at the Parchin site, which is about 30 km (19 miles) southeast of Tehran, would be carried out by mixed IAEA and Iranian teams coupled with camer-

as overlooking and recording the process, the other diplomat said. "The IAEA will be present when the Iranians take the samples (at Parchin). This approach to managed access is something that's fairly standard in the IAEA toolbox. Nothing to worry about really," the diplomat said.

"Unfortunately there have been distortions and inaccuracies in the media that made it look like Iran would simply inspect itself. That's not how it works," the diplomat added.

Neither the IAEA nor Iran's UN missions in New York or Vienna had an immediate response to queries about the Parchin inspection arrangement. Reza Najafi, Iran's envoy to the IAEA, said on Thursday that Iran will not permit leaks of details about its arrangements with the IAEA. Without IAEA confirmation that

Iran is keeping promises enshrined in the landmark July 14 nuclear accord, Tehran will not be granted much-needed relief from sanctions.

Under the deal, most sanctions on Iran will be lifted in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme that will remain in place for at least 10 years. According to data given to the IAEA by some member countries, Iran may have conducted hydrodynamic tests at Parchin in the past to assess how specific materials react under high pressure, such as in a nuclear explosion. The AP story revised its story several times. A corrected, three-paragraph version of the story currently on its web site says that Iran will be allowed to use its own experts to inspect Parchin, with no mention of the IAEA's role.

Republicans repeatedly

cited the AP report in recent weeks as they tried to muster enough votes to kill the nuclear deal in Congress. Their efforts effectively failed on Thursday when Senate Democrats blocked a resolution disapproving of the pact, clearing the way for the deal's implementation. Republican Senator Susan Collins, who was one of very few Republicans some observers thought might support the nuclear deal, referred to the report in her Senate speech this week announcing she would vote against it.

"According to press reports, the Iranians themselves would also be responsible for photographs and environmental sampling of Parchin, a large military installation where nuclear work is suspected to have been conducted and may still be underway," she said. —Reuters



# Hungary PM slams migrant 'rebellion', UN warns of millions more refugees

BUDAPEST / GENEVA — Hungary's prime minister angrily accused illegal migrants on Friday of "rebellious" against the rule of law in his country as security forces across Europe struggled to control record flows of hungry, scared refugees.

The United Nations called for the swift creation of large-scale reception centres in frontline states such as Hungary and Greece, and one UN agency warned that millions more refugees could arrive in Europe if Syria's civil war continues to rage.

Many of the tens of thousands of refugees now trekking from Greece via the Balkans and Hungary towards western Europe are fleeing the Syrian war in search of sanctuary, above all in more welcoming and generous countries such as Germany and Sweden.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said his country, which expects to take in 800,000 asylum seekers this year alone, had finite resources and urged other European countries to do much more to share the burden.

He said Germany expected to receive another 40,000 migrants this weekend. And as politicians from the left and right accused Chancellor Angela Merkel's government of losing control of the refugee situation, the defence ministry put 4,000 troops on standby to help with the influx.

Citing security concerns, Austria partially shut a highway linking Vienna and Hungary on Friday. Some 8,000 people had crossed the border on Thursday and a further 4,500 arrived overnight, Austrian police said. The rail link to Hungary also remains shut due to "massive overburdening" by the migrants.

Hungary is racing to construct a fence along its border with Serbia by early October to help

stem the tide. It also plans to implement much tougher immigration rules from next week.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a fiery populist who has framed the crisis as a battle to preserve Europe's prosperity and "Christian identity", angrily criticised the behaviour of the mostly Muslim migrants who have been filling up central Budapest and disrupting traffic along roads running westward to Austria.

"They seized railway stations, rejected giving fingerprints, failed to cooperate and are unwilling to go to places where they would get food, water, accommodation and medical care ... They rebelled against Hungarian legal order," Orban told reporters.

"From the 15th, Hungarian authorities will not forgive illegal border crossings," he said.

More than 170,000 migrants have crossed into Hungary from non-EU Serbia so far this year. Many try to avoid being registered in Hungary for fear of being stranded there or returned to the country later in their journey across Europe.

*"They seized railway stations, rejected giving fingerprints, failed to cooperate and are unwilling to go to places where they would get food, water, accommodation and medical care ... They rebelled against Hungarian legal order." — Prime Minister Viktor Orban*

In Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was sending pre-fabricated housing units to provide temporary overnight shelter for 300 families in Hungary but also expressed concern over Budapest's tough approach, including



A migrant girl sleeps on a park bench in central Athens after arriving on a passenger ship to the port of Piraeus from Lesbos island, September 10, 2015.—REUTERS

the possible deployment of troops to tackle the crisis.

"Obviously we expect authorities to respect rights of refugees whether they are the police or army," said UNHCR spokesman William Spindler.

Syria's four-year civil war has so far displaced almost eight million people, said Peter Salama of UNICEF, the UN children's

agency, adding: "There could be millions and millions more refugees leaving Syria and ultimately (going) to the European Union and beyond."

So far this year, a record 433,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean to

Europe, more than double the total for all of 2014, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Friday.

The European Commission, backed by Germany and France, wants EU member states to accept mandatory quotas to share out some 160,000 refugees but the plan faces stiff resistance in some capitals. On Friday the UNHCR said the number of people requiring relocation had now risen to 200,000. Speaking in Prague, Steinmeier said the EU needed a "fair mechanism of redistribution of migrants (still coming)".

"This challenge cannot be borne by one country. We have to invoke European solidarity," he told a joint news conference with the foreign ministers of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland - countries opposed to the EU's proposal for mandatory quotas. Germany has come under fire from Orban and other east European leaders for opening its door to Syrian asylum seekers, saying such generosity will only encourage many more to come.—Reuters

## EU, railways review security after train attack in France

BRUSSELS — Security experts and European rail operators discussed ways to counter threats on Friday, after an attack on an Amsterdam-Paris express last month that police said might have ended in carnage.

Any new security measures should remain "proportionate" to the limited scale of the threat in relation to the millions travelling daily on the continent's railways, said the European Union officials who hosted the meeting in Brussels.

"Our objective is for travel to remain easy whilst maintaining the highest level of security and the right to free movement," European Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc said.

Convened after a Moroccan man carrying an assault rifle was overpowered by three Americans and a Briton on the Thalys train service on Aug. 21, the meeting was part of preparations for a council of EU interior ministers on Oct. 8.

With large movements of migrants and refugees this summer already raising questions about the viability of Europe's 26-nation zone of passport-free travel, security concerns have prompted calls for tighter identity checks and airport-style baggage screening at stations.

But an EU official said discussions on Friday focused on less disruptive measures and said regulators were anxious not to limit unnecessarily the commercial choices of rail operators.

"The priority is to limit the risk upstream, before the terrorist reaches the station," the official said. "That means, for example, a better exchange of information."—Reuters

## Victims' relatives gather 14 years after September 11 attacks on US



Members of the Red White and Blue team walk through the 9/11 Empty Sky memorial after posing for a picture at sunrise across from New York's Lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center, in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, September 11, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK — Relatives assembled under overcast skies on Friday to commemorate nearly 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and outside Washington 14 years ago, when airliners hijacked by al Qaeda militants brought death, mayhem and destruction.

In New York, families of the victims read their names in a solemn and poignantly familiar pattern, watched over by service members in their dress uniforms.

Emblematic of the generations affected, children who were not old enough to remember their late relatives or had yet to meet them participated in the roll call.

"We are so blessed to have you as an angel and we are empty without you, we love you very much," said Daniel Pagan, who

lost his cousin Melissa Candida Doi in the attack.

Families hugged each other close, some carrying photographs or wearing t-shirts depicting lost loved ones, or bearing placards with the words 'we will never forget.'

First responders were thanked numerous times by the family members for their work on what became known as 'the pile.'

Many of those who were first on the scene and those who worked for weeks afterwards searching through the rubble are still suffering from various illnesses brought on by the toxic air.

Mourners stood at the empty footprint of the World Trade Center Twin Towers, toppled by two hijacked airliners on that

clear, sunny morning in 2001.

"It doesn't get any easier," said Malcolm Dean, a first responder and paramedic with the New York Fire Department on 9/11. He lost his younger brother William and colleagues.

"Fourteen years later it's not any easier standing here than it was the first year and the second year."

Music and the soothing sounds of the waterfalls emptying into reflecting pools at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum formed a backdrop as families placed flowers against their loved ones' names engraved in the bronze panels.

A veteran's trumpet salute closed the ceremony after nearly four hours, with the emptying plaza hushed and subdued.—Reuters



# Gulf-trained Yemen unit joins battle in central province

SANAA — A Gulf-trained unit of Yemeni forces loyal to exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has joined the battle in the central energy-producing Marib province for the first time, a senior provincial official said on Friday.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the unit had joined the front line in the al-Jafeena area of Marib.

Since a Houthi missile attack killed at least 60 Gulf Arab soldiers at a camp in Marib east of Sanaa on Sept 4, the Saudi-led coalition has stepped up air strikes on the capital and increased its deployment of troops, which Yemeni officials say number a few thousand, ahead of an eventual push towards Sanaa.

On Friday, rockets fired by the Houthi militia and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh killed 10 people and wounded 25, according to the provincial official.

Meanwhile warplanes from a Saudi-led alliance bombed Yemen's Houthi-held capital Sanaa on Friday, extending nearly a week of relentless bombardment on the



People stand at the site of a recent Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's capital Sanaa, September 11, 2015.—REUTERS

city in over five months of war.

Saudi Arabia and other Arab states intervened in Yemen's civil war on March 26 to halt the nationwide spread of the Houthis, who captured Sanaa a year ago and forced the government into exile in Riyadh after advancing on its southern stronghold of Aden.

It was the direct involvement of UAE ground forces, alongside Yemeni troops trained in Saudi Arabia and equipped with so-

phisticated heavy weapons, that allowed the coalition to break months of stalemate to take Aden in July, diplomats say.

The Houthis, who hail from the Shi'ite Muslim Zaydi sect, consider their rise a revolution. But they are fiercely opposed by the Sunni Muslim Gulf Arab states who believe the group is bent on spreading Iranian influence.

More than 4,500 people have been killed in the war.—Reuters

## Saudi Arabia receives 2.5 million Syrians amid Syrian crisis

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia announced on Friday it has received 2.5 million Syrians since the beginning of Syrian crisis in 2011, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The Syrians have not been treated as refugees. They have been given the freedom to move across the country, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Syrians have been given residency permits, which give them the rights to receive free medical care, to join the labor market and to attend schools and universities.

And it was contained in a royal decree in 2012 that instructed public schools to accept Syrian students. According to government statistics, the public school system has accepted more than 100,000 Syrian students, the statement highlighted.

Moreover, aid provided by Saudi Arabia to Syrians in and outside camps totals around 700 million U.S. dollars.

Saudi Arabia's announcement came as the migrants' crisis in Europe deepens, and the world urges the Gulf states to do more to deal with the increasing number of Syrian refugees who are fleeing their home country.—Xinhua

## At least 107 killed by falling crane at Grand Mosque in Mecca

RIYADH — At least 107 people were killed when a crane toppled over at Mecca's Grand Mosque on Friday, Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence authority said, less than two weeks before Islam's annual haj pilgrimage.

At least 238 people were wounded, Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence body said.

"All those who were wounded and the dead have been taken to hospital. There are no casualties left at the location," General Suleiman al-Amr, director general of the Civil Defence Authority, told al-Ikhbariya television. Strong wind and rains had uprooted trees and rocked cranes in the area, he said.

A statement by a spokesman for the administration of the mosques in Mecca and Medina said the crane smashed into the part of the Grand Mosque where worshippers circle the Kaaba - the black-clad cube towards which the world's 1.6 billion Muslims

face to pray.

Pictures circulating on social media showed pilgrims in bloodied robes and debris from a part of the crane that appeared to have crashed through a ceiling.

Saudi authorities go to great lengths to prepare for the millions of Muslims who converge on Mecca to perform the sacred pilgrimage. Last year, they reduced the numbers permitted to make the haj pilgrimage on safety grounds because of construction work to enlarge the Grand Mosque.

The haj, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, has been prone to disasters in the past, mainly from stampedes as pilgrims rush to complete rituals and return home. Hundreds of pilgrims died in such a crush in 2006.

Saudi authorities have since spent vast sums to expand the main haj sites and improve Mec-

ca's transport system, in an effort to prevent more disasters.

Security services often ring Islam's sacred city with checkpoints and other measures to prevent people arriving for the pilgrimage without authorisation.

Those procedures, aimed at reducing crowd pressure which can lead to stampedes, fires and other hazards, have been intensified in recent years as security threats grow throughout the Middle East.—Reuters



Members of a Saudi emergency crew stand near damage caused by a collapsed crane at the Grand Mosque in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia September 11, 2015.—REUTERS

## Islamic State calls for targeting Japanese diplomatic missions

TOKYO — The Islamic State extremist group urged its followers in a recent edition of its English-language magazine to target three Japanese diplomatic missions, the Japanese government said Friday.

"I have instructed all Japan's diplomatic missions, not only the three missions cited, to be on alert and boost security," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a press conference, vowing that the government will take "all possible measures to ensure security" in the target locations.

The group's online publication "Dabiq" singled out Japan as part of a US-led "crusader coalition" and called on its followers unable to take part in combat in Iraq and Syria to seek other opportunities such as "targeting Japanese diplomatic missions in Bosnia, Malaysia, and Indonesia."

Referring to the coalition, the magazine listed 62 countries and entities including Japan.

The group called on its followers to target Panamanian diplomatic missions as well as Saudi diplomats.

Earlier this year, two Japanese hostages were killed by Is-

lamic State militants.

In Jakarta, Indonesian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir told a press conference that he was not aware of the threats, but will take measures if and when he receives details from the Japanese mission in the capital.

"For all foreign missions in Indonesia, we impose different levels of security measures, depending on the condition and the level of threat received by those missions," Nasir said.

"Regarding the latest threats to Japanese missions in several countries, including in Indonesia, we will pay attention to them, but I haven't received any details, and we are still trying to confirm these threats," he added.

Malaysian Assistant Director of the counter-terrorism unit in the police Special Branch Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay said they are aware of IS threats as outlined in "Dabiq."

"The Royal Malaysian Police has and will continue to take action to step up security in all the key assets in the country including foreign missions and public places," he said in a statement late Friday.—Kyodo News

## UNICEF gets 10 mln USD donation for Syrian refugees in Lebanon

BEIRUT — The United States announced Friday it has donated 10 million US dollars to support the education project of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The US Ambassador to Lebanon David Hale announced in a joint press conference with Lebanon's Minister of Education Elias

Bou Saab that the donation aims to support the ministry's plan in offering education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

"The donation is a US contribution to the education fund affiliated to UNICEF in Lebanon to register children in schools," Hale said.

"This donation falls in the framework of UN programs to

guarantee long term educational opportunities," he said, pointing out that this project "would be executed all over the country, and secures education to children from nursery to brevet certificate."

For his part, Bou Saab expressed thanks to the United States for this donation and their continuous support, emphasizing the importance "to give refugees hope in

a time when the country was facing a serious crisis due to the influx of more than 1.2 million refugees, including 450,000 children."

According to the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees, Lebanon hosts more than 1.2 million refugees who fled their home country since Syria collapsed into civil war in 2011.—Xinhua



## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 September, 2015

## Creating a more sustainable future through education

By Kyaw Thura

**W**HEN discussing education, the first thing that enters one's mind is an image of children in a classroom. Most of us tend to overlook the importance of teacher education.

It should be noted that teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has become a more challenging and demanding

profession than ever before. Teachers must play a greater role in inspiring the students of post-millennial generation, who are in closer contact with new technologies, than any other previous generation.

Education activists have called for governments to place greater emphasis on improving their education systems by employing competent teachers who can produce enthusiastic students. However, our education system is rife with educational malpractice associated with faulty assessment criteria. Teachers who enter the world of education with little preparation and passion are found to leave the profession quickly, but the damage they cause is not always repairable.

Nevertheless, teachers are still regarded as the greatest source of student empowerment for the simple reason that they are in a position to help learners develop critical thinking skills and widen their under-

standing of the world around them. Accordingly, teachers are the only people with the ability to make a big difference in how students learn.

It is therefore important for all teachers at various levels to value themselves and cherish their noble profession. Only then will they be able to create a more sustainable future through education.

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

## Boondoggle, Bogus persons and Charlatans inflict on society

Tommy Pauk

**I**T is a marvelous opportunity for man to use modern sciences, technologies, medicine, space exploration and telecommunications in the 21st century. From Stone Age to IT age, humans have striven hard for sustainable human race development. Due to man's concerted efforts, the human life style has been improved through prehistoric age to IT age. The tremendous successes and development in upgrading humanity are the achievement for all mankind. This shows that humans are brilliantly capable of inventing, innovating and transforming new things and new environment for human society. The fabulously advanced electronic communications and transportations are helping global people make their life easier, smoother and more comfortable. Human's superiority and capacity maintain the homo sapiens and other living things. The advancement of human society and significant breakthrough of space exploration are milestones of human capabilities. The human advancement has been handed down from generation to generation. The passage from ancient civilizations to technology of modern civilization was so full of hardship or obstacles or difficulties, but humans could have overcome all that stuff victoriously. The current generation, the possessors of modern technologies, must pay tribute to the relentless work of the succeeding generations. Similarly, the next generation must take the legacy of human achievement from the current generation. Thus we humans will be able to maintain the sustainable skills, advanced knowledge and humanity successfully.

In addition, we must be able to bridge the generation gap.

Analyzing the trend of the development of human life style, the pros and cons always appeared in human history e.g. the misuse of atomic energy in the WWII. (Converted into mass destructive atomic bombs which were dropped in Japan) These days, some countries misuse nuclear energy as weapons and the proliferation of nuclear weapons threaten the global peace or dominate the developing countries. The use of nuclear energy for military-means is strictly prohibited by International treaty. Instead of making own effort to acquire a specific knowledge, some persons exploit a situation for easy advantage on others while they are in power.

We, humans attempt to upgrade or advance our society especially for social welfare, economy, human settlement, food technology and education etc. While doing so, we might make mistake or waste the time, money and effort due to un-systematic method or wrong decision to implement some project or plan. Such situation is caused by reckless and inefficient decision makers. The worse thing is a boondoggle \_ a piece of work or project that is unnecessary and that wastes time and public funds. Furthermore, a boondoggle is a wasteful or impractical project or activity often involving graft. If a particular society encounters various boondoggles, its budget will dwindle down certainly. Any type of government which carries out or handles the gigantic boondoggle must be sued or denounced for it by the majority people or public concerned in the world. That boondoggle was denounced as a scan-

dalous waste of public money indeed.

In ever society, bogus persons exist and they swindle the simple or ordinary people in order to gain some kind of benefit. Bogus men or bogus women dishonestly earn their living by cheating the innocent people. Their ability is used for malpractice or evil intention towards ordinary people. Being exploitative-minded, they intend to treat ordinary people unfairly in order to gain an advantage or to make money. They do not contribute to the welfare of their society concerned. They bitterly oppose the maxim\_ 'Honesty is the best policy'. They do not beautify their environment and upgrade their society concerned. Bogus men and women cleverly disguise as medical doctors, policemen, policewomen, monks, nuns, military officers, security guards, teachers and sailors etc. In addition, they use fake certificates or documents or ID cards variously to let the people convince that they are not bogus persons. Among them, bogus medical doctors are the most dangerous ones in any society because they have no medical knowledge and skills. In this case, if a sick person encounters the bogus medical doctor, he or she will surely get into trouble. Consequently, the health condition of the sick person will be even worse than before if he receives treatment given by the bogus medical doctor. Bogus medical doctors especially target rural people who need medication and medical services or health care properly. They rely on bogus medical doctors or faith healers in their community concerned. A bogus security guard, a member of a certain terrorist group, can penetrate into important

facilities or buildings or offices and he can blow up or destroy them by using intense explosives.

Naturally and characteristically, there are individual differences in humans. According to their good characters or bad characters in humans, their achievements may vary distinctly. Charlatans are the ones who pretend to have special knowledge or skills e.g. a person who does not know about public management or Public Administration, but he has unjustly taken the positions for these arena\_ he or she is a complete charlatan indeed. Otherwise, they have been selected by the despotic rulers to hold the key positions. Nothing beneficial is done by them for general public. This situation prevails in the society ruled by dictatorial regimes in the world and it is a sign of regression for that particular society. Even the way they deal with public is unpleasant and rude. In this case, the general public are always upset or frustrated with the inefficiency and unskillful conduct of the charlatan\_ an official concerned. Public regard that charlatan as an unreliable public official.

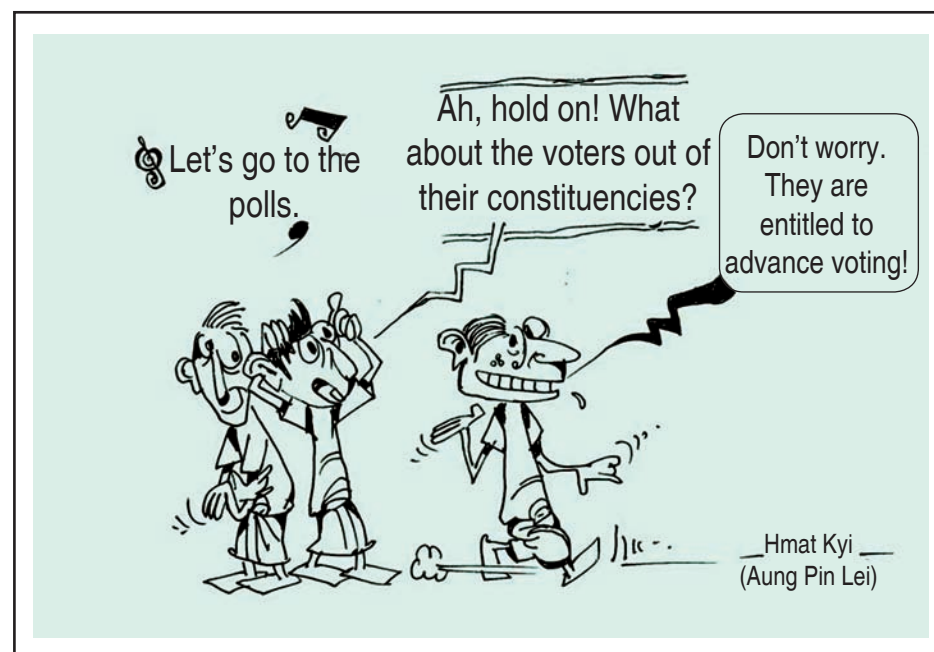
Besides, the charlatans in the public service are neither well-versed nor versatile, but they grab the higher rank positions unfairly. Actually, they are very loyal to their masters i.e. dictators, a very handful of group whereas they are not loyal to the majority of the people concerned\_ the original owner of the state power. Moreover, they are known as bootlickers\_ obsequious or servile persons. The charlatans are the henchmen of dictatorial regimes. They retain their authorities or positions or illegal assets gained through kleptocratic practice. They usually blow their own trumpet in the society concerned. In reality, they make themselves rich and powerful by stealing public funds and national resources.

Some of the unqualified and uncertified medical practitioners, legal practitioners, car drivers and teachers can be called char-

latans. However, they have little knowledge about their proper or specific subjects or fields. Some dropouts of medical college, turn to be charlatans in medical profession. Actually they did not complete academic study in medicine from medical college. Public do not know their history precisely. Thus public are cheated to convince them as licensed medical doctors. N.B. health care service must be genuine or doctors must be professionally skillful. Their little knowledge is not only dangerous for the people who simply or honestly use their respective services, but also it inflicts on society concerned. In brief, their main aim is to deceive or exploit simple people for their unfair profit or benefit.

Wishful thinking????.....May every society be free from corrupt government, dishonest and immoral persons!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.





# Public Participation For Democracy

*Htun Tin Htun*

"I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong.", "To safeguard democracy the people must have a keen sense of independence, self-respect, and their oneness.", "In true democracy every man and women is taught to think for himself or herself.", "The spirit of democracy cannot be established in the midst of terrorism, whether governmental or popular." (Mohandas Gandhi)

Participatory political decision making and politicians' transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness are of paramount importance. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its Members will this year mark International Day of Democracy on 15 September with a call for "Public Participation for Democracy". The theme has been chosen to reflect the critical importance of public engagement in democracy to help ensure better political decision-making and politicians' accountability to the people. The focus will not only be on the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens to engage in democracy, but also why it is important for civil society to actively participate.

Understanding the values and requisites of inclusiveness, representativeness, responsiveness and consensus oriented is crucial in the development of good/green/clean governance. The theme of this year "International Day of Democracy" will encompass both formal and informal ways to engage in democracy, such as voting and petitioning, and the dynamic use of social media for political conversations. IPU is urging parliaments to seize the opportunity to engage with citizens and civil society organizations/groups to explore key questions, including how to widen existing opportunities for interaction and how to draw in groups currently less engaged — such as women, young people and minorities.

Building capacity and capability of all the human resources in the planet can make a difference, to be the world better, happier and safer. Parliament is unique. It is made up of men and women who have been elected to represent the people. They adopt laws and hold the government to account. Parliament is therefore the central institution of democracy

and constitutes an expression of the very sovereignty of each nation. Parliament is a political institution. It is a place for political, and often confrontational, debate. But it is also a place where, at the end of the day, national policies are forged and conflicts in society are resolved through dialogue and compromise.

Lifelong learning for the development, enhancement, victory, endurance, lasting, outstanding, perpetuation, modernism, expedience, nobility and tranquility is natural gift for all citizens of our Planet. Parliament is a complex institution. It functions at different levels and many actors influence what it does. Members of parliament, the Speakers and leadership, political parties and groups, Secretaries General, clerks and administration all play a part in shaping its work. No two parliaments are the same. They differ in form, role and functioning. They are shaped by the history and culture of each individual country. Yet they all share the same ambition: to give people a voice in the management of public affairs.

IPU was established in 1889, with its official emblem/logo with "Better parliaments, Stronger democracies." Parliament is the business of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The IPU brings together almost all parliaments in the world and devotes time, energy and resources to study the parliamentary institution. It develops principles and criteria for democratic parliaments and tools to assess their performance. It builds capacity in parliaments and helps them to strengthen and modernize the institution. Parliament is a time-honoured institution. Many parliaments can trace their roots back to several centuries past. All parliaments need to keep in tune with the times. (Global Parliamentary Report, The changing nature of parliamentary representation, April 2012. Anders B. Johnsson Secretary General Inter-Parliamentary Union)

Citizens must have access to information about parliamentary proceedings, legislation, and policy, and be able to engage in continual dialogue with parliamentarians. Parliaments are the indispensable institutions of representative democracies around the world. Whatever their country-specific rules, their role remains the same: to represent the people and ensure that public policy is informed by the citizens on whose lives they impact. Effective parliaments shape policies and laws which respond to the needs of citizens, and support sustainable and equitable

development. For parliaments to be truly representative, elections must be free and fair.

Clearly, the political leadership required to fulfil this vision of a brave new world will have to be as much in the hands of the world's parliamentary leaders as in those of heads of government. Speakers of Parliament will de facto be in the vanguard of parliamentary action. After their quinquennial World Conference on key global issues ends in New York, their individual leadership in mobilizing parliaments will help determine how each country fares in the long run.

It is known that progress on development is built on solid foundations of peace and democracy (freedom, harmony, security). Both are under assault today. Our world continues to be threatened by conflict, terrorism, abuses of human and political rights and inequality. A parliament that is representative of all voices in society and which unabashedly acts to protect them, is a fundamental pillar of the rules of laws and good governance. These are also prerequisites for sustainable development.

Politicians the world over must fulfil their responsibilities and deliver on the demands of their people. It is what the people expect of them. Countries in conflict, post-conflict, in transition, and with weak or fledgling democracies will need help to prepare their parliaments to fulfil their role.

Empowerment (pro-women), equity (pro-nature), employment (pro-job), environment (pro-nature) are four essential requisites to be fulfilled for the Human Development in this planet. Female Speakers from around the world have discussed how parliaments can empower and support women and promote gender equality.

Recognized the roles of youth in this planet, parliaments in the world need to create enabling environment, encourage and open more for young generations to participate. The young MPs highlighted the need to focus development cooperation on people, and in particular on young people's specific interests, to create positive long-term outcomes. They stressed that it was critical to consult young people on development projects and called

attention to the need for development cooperation to empower young people through investment in training, job creation, inclusive processes and responsive programmes.

Attainment of peace and democracy depends on the achievement of global goal on education for all programmes. Education was identified as one of the key areas in need of greater investment, including tertiary education and training in skills relevant to the job market. Other priority areas included increasing youth opportunities in the agricultural sector, and investing more in Information and Computer Technology (ICT) to boost knowledge, innovation and web entrepreneurship opportunities. Considering the importance of the goal of "Health for All", all Parliaments must be part of the efforts to improve women's, children's and adolescents' health.

Your active, brave, concerted, disciplined, energetic involvement and participation for DEMOCRACY is greatly important. "If liberty and equality, as is thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." (Aristotle). "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people" (Abraham Lincoln) "I know of no safe repository of the ultimate power of society but people. And if we think them not enlightened enough, the remedy is not to take the power from them, but to inform them by education", "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." (Thomas Jefferson). "Without general elections, without unrestricted freedom of press and assembly, without a free struggle of opinion, life dies out in every public institution, becomes a mere semblance of life, in which only the bureaucracy remains as the active element." (Rosa Luxemburg) May the Fragrant and Sweet Flowers and Fruits of Peace and Democracy be with you!!!

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## Free speech means responsible speech

*Thae Su*

HOW do you define the responsible speech? The concept implies that anything at all can be said, because it is 'free,' but this is incorrect. Just because it is free, it does not mean that we can say whatever we want whenever we want to. Free speech should not incite hatred, violate the principles of human rights or unfairly hurt someone's reputation. And each government around the world sets what it considers reasonable limitations on the concept of freedom in speech.

Some people do not take the time to read what is written in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so I will do so for you. The declaration defines freedom of speech in Article 19 as the rights to communicate one's opinions and ideas without fear of government retaliation or censorship.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this rights include freedom to hold opinions without inference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, regardless of geography.

However contrary to what many assume, freedom of speech has limits. We have the rights to express ourselves freely so long as our expressions do not abuse other people's rights or reputations. If we do so, we may face legal action. If what our words abuse others' rights, reputation or morals, we cannot claim to be exercising our rights to free speech. That would be like saying that the rights to drive a car includes the rights to endanger others by speeding.

We need to think carefully about the impact our words may have on others. Since the democratic government took office in 2011, Myanmar's media has gained new freedoms of speech. But the media must be responsible and carefully weigh up whether printing certain things will be of benefit or detriment to the public.

Freedom of speech must be exercised responsibly and respectfully. And we need to consider both the possible consequences and our genuine motives before we speak out. Without fulfilling our responsibilities, the public will be denied the true value of freedom of speech. So it can be said that freedom of speech is not the opposite of responsible speech, but rather the very same thing.

*(The author is from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs residing in Nay Pyi Taw.)*



## Trillenium takes virtual reality into online shopping

LONDON — Hrvoje Prpic is wandering through a fashion boutique trying to pick out a new accessory. Only he's not actually there. He's sitting in a trendy London coffee shop wearing a virtual reality headset that he believes could be the future of online shopping.

The 43-year-old is the founder of Trillenium, a start-up that creates virtual stores for brands aimed at marrying the experience of real-life shopping with the convenience of e-commerce on smartphones and computers.

Shoppers can tour the virtual store by focusing their gaze on products, browse items from different angles and socialize with friends online, bringing to life an e-commerce industry currently dominated by search boxes and static pictures.

"The current dot.com experience is pretty sterile. So if they can improve the experience, you might dwell a bit longer, spend a bit longer online exploring products because you can get closer to them, and buy more," said Dave Evans, commercial director at Kantar Retail Virtual Reality, which uses virtual reality technology to help retailers develop real-world stores.

Trillenium hopes to

capitalize on the release of virtual reality headsets next year aimed at the consumer market, such as Facebook's Oculus Rift and Google's Cardboard.

And with British online retail sales forecast to surge 64 percent to 71.2 billion pounds (\$110 billion) between now and 2020, according to researchers Mintel, Trillenium believes there will be no shortage of companies looking to improve their online businesses.

It has already attracted the attention of one of Europe's biggest online retailers, ASOS, whose venture capital arm holds a 9 percent stake, as well as British tennis player Andy Murray, who invested through crowdfunding platform Seedrs. Prpic, who has previously run a computer retail chain in Croatia and invested in a number of start-ups, believes Trillenium's technology will particularly appeal to women.

"Women like to discover," he told Reuters. "How women like to shop is that they want to see something, they want to spot something on the shelf nobody has seen before."

Trillenium is currently working on a demo for ASOS to be trailed at the end of this year, with Prpic

saying his aim was for at least half of ASOS's 88 million unique users to eventually use the service. Brands listed on the ASOS website will be able to pay to feature their products in the virtual store built by Trillenium.

A more limited version, without the full 3D offering provided by the goggles, will be available on smartphones and computers.

The technology is still in its early stages, but Prpic believes it will be taken on by other firms in the coming years.

"We do have some clients that are interested in having Trillenium as well, but we are aiming only at the biggest for now. So there are maybe three or four names that we want to have, but not more than that," he said.

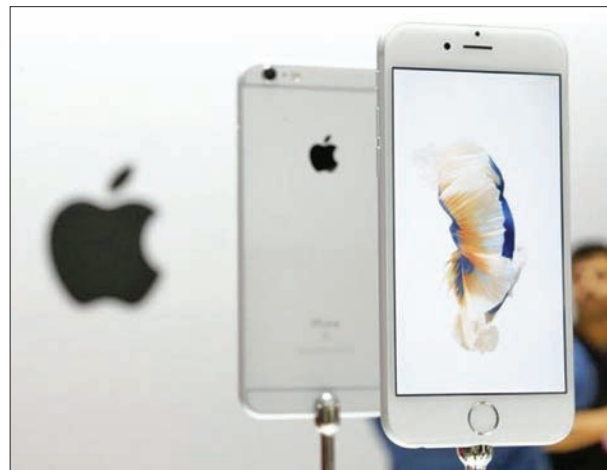
Trillenium has raised 335,000 pounds so far from Seedrs as well as two business angel investors.

It hopes to raise an additional 1.8 million pounds in separate funds from venture capitalists.

In three years, Prpic hopes to launch a multiple platform service where clients can use his technology to build and customize their own stores from a template.

"This is the end goal," he said. —Reuters

## Sprint's plan for new iPhone trumps other US carriers



The new Apple iPhone 6S and 6S Plus are displayed during an Apple media event in San Francisco, California, September 9, 2015.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Want to own the new iPhone without burning a hole in your pocket every month? Sprint seems to be the cheapest option in the United States.

Sprint Corp's offer for the 16 GB iPhone 6S with a basic data, calling and text plan costs between \$3 and \$10.50 less per month than a competing offer from the other three top US carriers. The competition in the US wireless industry is fierce and the launch of the newest iPhone iteration on Wednesday is a chance for carriers to lure customers away from their rivals.

But, Apple Inc served up a curve ball by offering its own financing scheme for an unlocked iPhone, which gives a customer the liberty to switch between

carriers, rather than be tied down by a contract with one carrier. However, Sprint's plan works out to be cheaper, on a per month basis, than even buying the iPhone from Apple and going for the cheapest wireless plan on offer. Sprint is charging \$22 per month for the 16 GB iPhone 6S, under a 21-month lease. That along with a basic talk, text and data plan, worth \$45, will cost a customer \$67 per month.

A T-Mobile US Inc plan similar to Sprint's will cost about \$70 per month—\$20 for the phone with an 18-month agreement and \$50 for a basic wireless plan. Sprint and T-Mobile usually offer cheaper plans to lure customers from Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc, the top two

US wireless companies, which analysts say have better networks. Verizon's plan costs about \$77.08 per month, \$27.08 for the iPhone over two years and \$50 for a wireless plan.

AT&T's plan, Next12, costs about \$77.50 per month, \$32.50 for a 20-month phone contract and \$45 for a wireless plan.

Under Apple's offer, the iPhone 6S will cost \$32.41 per month. Paired with a basic \$45 wireless plan, among the cheapest available, the phone would cost \$77.41 per month.

And what when a new iPhone is launched? Sprint allows users to upgrade every time a new iPhone is launched, which typically happens once every year, and charges an activation fee. T-Mobile allows a free upgrade at any time, while AT&T offers the option of a free upgrade after 12 months. Verizon's plan also permits an upgrade at any time, but requires customers to pay off the remaining cost of the iPhone.

Still, there are advantages in opting for Apple's financing plan.

Apple's scheme includes AppleCare+, a warranty program that provides two years of hardware protection, instead of the standard one year, as well as coverage for two incidents in cases of accidental damage.—Reuters

## Cash banned for foreigners' property trade in Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY — Foreigners buying or selling houses in Vietnam are required to carry out the transactions through banks in the country and not in cash, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Saturday.

Foreigners can get mortgages if they meet banks' requirements, the State Bank of Vietnam, the central bank, said in a document it has issued to guide the sales of houses by foreign individuals and organizations.

The tenor of the loans cannot exceed the time

they live and work in Vietnam, while for organizations and other legal entities, it will not exceed their licence period.

Amendments to the Housing Law that took effect on July 1 permit foreigners and overseas Vietnamese to buy housing if they have a visa to enter Vietnam. They can buy, lease out, gift, and inherit property.

There are a few restrictions, one of which is that combined foreign ownership should not exceed 30 percent of an apartment project.—Xinhua

## Honda shifts Giorno mini motorbike production to Japan from China

KUMAMOTO, (Japan) — Honda Motor Co on Friday started producing Giorno scooters with 50 cc engines, so far manufactured in China, at a plant in southwestern Japan in line with its plan to shift production of "mini" motorbikes to Japan from China amid the weak yen.

The factory in Otsu, Kumamoto Prefecture, will make all of Honda's domestically produced mini motorbikes with emissions of 50 cc or less, the company said.

"Giorno marks the first step in the return to domestic production. We would like to produce various kinds of motorbikes at the Kumamoto factory," said Shinji Aoyama, an operating officer and director of the company, in a ceremony held at the factory. The Giorno scooters, targeted at women,

will hit the market from Oct. 16. The Japanese motorcycle maker shifted manufacturing of mini motorbikes to China and Vietnam from around 2002 when the yen

was appreciating, producing 90 percent of them abroad. Honda is now aiming to produce 80 percent of its mini motorbikes in Japan by shifting production in stages, tak-

ing into consideration transportation costs and other factors in addition to the weaker yen. Honda sells all of its mini motorbikes in Japan.—Kyodo News



The southwestern Japanese town of Otsu shows a Honda Motor Co factory that produces Giorno scooters with 50 cc engines.—Kyodo News



## Pentagon official cites concern about business outlook for ULA

WASHINGTON — A senior Pentagon official on Friday expressed concerns about Aerojet Rocketdyne Holding Inc's reported \$2 billion bid for United Launch Alliance (ULA), a 50-50 rocket launch venture of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, and said the deal would require a careful review.

Aerojet Rocketdyne, which makes rocket engines, submitted the cash bid to buy ULA, the sole provider of launch services for U.S. military and spy satellites, in early August, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

Officials at Lockheed, Boeing, Aerojet and ULA have declined to comment on the bid, which caught many by surprise. Wall Street bankers and industry executives also question whether the reported price tag overstates the value of ULA, and may have been a tactic to open negotiations with Aerojet Rocketdyne.

The US Defense Department would undertake a detailed review if the deal proceeds, looking at any financial liabilities, potential impact to the supply chain, projected research funding levels and other issues, said the official, who asked not to be named since the offer has not been publicly announced.

"The government would be very engaged in trying to understand that business case," said the official, offering the Defense Department's first public comments on the bid. The official said the Pentagon's view was "more negative."

"We're hoping that we've been too conservative," the official said.

The proposal was "unsettling," the official said, given the US government's current dependence on ULA to launch US spy and military satellites into orbit, and recent launch failures involving three other companies, including privately held Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, which is cleared to start competing with ULA for big satellite launches.

Any change in ownership and the resulting expected efforts to consolidate personnel, infrastructure and facilities, could jeopardize ULA's flawless launch record, analysts said.

ULA has held a monopoly on launches of large US military and spy satellites since its creation in 2006, logging 99 consecutive successful launches, and it still has a large backlog for now.

But the company's revenues face mounting pressure in coming years, given a slowdown in orders from the US government, its main customer; the advent of cheaper launches from SpaceX; and the Air Force's plan to phase out \$1 billion in annual launch support payments to ULA.

Analysts forecast that ULA's earnings are likely to drop to around \$300 million a year from about \$480 million as orders decline, reducing the payout to Lockheed and Boeing.

The company is trying to reel in more commercial launches, but faces difficult competition in an overcrowded field that is "overdue" for consolidation, said David Wireman, managing director of consultancy AlixPartners.



United Launch Alliance launches an Atlas V rocket with an United States Air Force OTV-4 onboard from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, May 20, 2015.—REUTERS

A congressional ban on use of Russian-built RD-180 rocket engines for military and spy satellite launches has further complicated the company's outlook.

ULA this year announced plans to develop a new US-powered rocket that could better compete with SpaceX, but that effort will require about \$1 billion in investment.

ULA hopes to use a new engine being developed by Blue Origin, which is owned by Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, but is also continuing to work with Aerojet Rocketdyne, which is working on a separate engine called AR-1.

Lockheed and Boeing are funding the development effort on a quarter-by-quarter basis, reflecting their own concerns about ULA's future business outlook and whether US lawmakers will allow ULA to use more of its existing stock of Russian engines.

Aerojet officials argue that it would be cheaper to integrate its new AR-1 engine into ULA's existing Atlas 5 rocket than building a new rocket and engine, but space experts caution that such integration efforts can also be difficult and costly.

"This is truly rocket science," the defense official said.—Reuters

## Aggressive high blood pressure treatment may save lives: US gov't study



PHOTO: XINHUA

WASHINGTON — Lowering blood pressure below a commonly recommended target may significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and deaths, particularly for patients aged 50 years and older, US government researchers announced Friday.

The findings came in what the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) called "a landmark clinical trial," the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT). The NIH said in a statement that the study, which began in the fall of 2009, was halted earlier than planned "in order to quickly disseminate the significant preliminary results."

"This study provides potentially lifesaving information that will be useful to health care providers as they consider the best treatment options for some

of their patients, particularly those over the age of 50," said Gary Gibbons, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the NIH and the primary sponsor of SPRINT.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a leading risk factor for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and other health problems. Currently, the well-established clinical guidelines recommended a systolic blood pressure of less than 140 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) for healthy adults and 130 mm Hg for adults with kidney disease or diabetes.

The SPRINT study, which recruited more than 9,300 people aged 50 and older from the United States and Puerto Rico, aimed to examine how maintaining a systolic pressure of 120 mm HG will impact cardiovascular and

kidney diseases.

Between 2010 and 2013, the SPRINT investigators randomly divided the study participants into two groups. The standard group received an average of two different blood pressure medications to achieve a target of less than 140 mm Hg. The other group received an average of three medications with the goal of getting below 120 mm Hg.

The study population was diverse, but did not include patients with diabetes, prior stroke, or polycystic kidney disease, the NIH said.

It showed that the intervention for a target of 120 mm Hg reduced rates of cardiovascular events, such as heart attack and heart failure as well as stroke, by almost a third and the risk of death by almost a quarter, as compared to the target of 140 mm Hg.

"Our results provide important evidence that treating blood pressure to a lower goal in older or high-risk patients can be beneficial and yield better health results overall," said Lawrence Fine, head of the NHLBI's clinical applications and prevention branch. "But patients should talk to their doctor to determine whether this lower goal is best for their individual care."—Xinhua

## Record-setting cosmonaut, two visiting crewmen head home from space station

CAPE CANAVERAL — A Russian Soyuz capsule carrying the world's most experienced space flier and two rookie crewmates returned from the International Space Station on Friday, with a pinpoint parachute landing in Kazakhstan, a NASA TV broadcast showed.

The capsule departed the station at EDT/2139 and touched down at EDT/0051 southeast of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan.

Strapped inside was former station commander Gennady Padalka, 57, returning from his fifth spaceflight with a record 879 days in orbit. The previous record was set by six-time flier Sergei Krikalev, who has a career total 803 days in space.

Joining Padalka for the ride back to Earth were two rookies, Kazakh cosmonaut Aidyn Aimbetov and Danish astronaut Andreas Mogensen, both of whom spent less than 10 days in orbit.

"There definitely hasn't been time to get homesick," Mogensen, the first Dane in space, told reporters during an inflight press conference on Tuesday. "Time has really, really flown past."

Mogensen and Aimbetov launched with Padalka's replacement, veteran cosmonaut Sergey Volkov, aboard another Soyuz

capsule on Sept 2. That flight was originally to have included British soprano and aspiring space tourist Sarah Brightman. Citing family reasons, Brightman stopped training in May and relinquished her seat to Aimbetov.

Volkov remains aboard the station, along with five crewmates, including newly named commander Scott Kelly, with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko.

Kelly and Kornienko this week passed the halfway point of a planned year-long stay in space, the longest tour of duty in the station's 15-year history.

"I expected this to not be easy. A year is a long time," Kelly said. "You have to pace yourself."

NASA and Russia are using the year-long mission to get better insight into how microgravity affects human physical and mental health, and what countermeasures may mitigate any harmful effects.

In a decade, NASA intends to begin flying astronauts farther beyond the space station, a \$100 billion research laboratory that orbits about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth. The long-term goal of the US space program is a human expedition to Mars in the 2030s.—Reuters



# Catalan separatists take to the streets as crucial vote nears

BARCELONA — Hundreds of thousands of people packed the streets of Barcelona on Friday to call for Catalonia to break away from Spain, two weeks before a regional election that many see as a “make-or-break” moment for the independence movement.

Around 500,000 people had registered to dress in white and form a white “human mosaic” symbolising a blank page and the new country they hope to build after the Sept. 27 election, portrayed by local authorities as a proxy vote on secession.

At 17:14 local time, in remembrance of the defeat of Catalan forces on September 11, 1714, at the hands of Philip V of Spain, the five kilometre “mosaic” of the Meridiana avenue erupted with colour as people raised separatist flags as well as banners declaring “Ara es l’hora” - “It’s time”.

The demonstration took place on Catalonia’s national day or “Diada”, which this year also marked the launch of official campaigning in the northeastern region, which accounts for nearly one fifth of Spain’s output and population.

Silvia Palomares, a 48-year-old interior designer from Barcelona, said this year’s celebrations were

more important than those before.

“This is the definitive year. If we don’t manage to have people going to vote on the 27th, then we’ll suffer,” she said. “The goal is to become independent, because we’re suffocating — economically and emotionally.”

A closely-watched survey on Thursday suggested that separatist parties would achieve the slimmest of majorities in the regional parliament, but fall well short of 50 percent of the vote.

While any outcome, positive or negative, will shape Spain’s political agenda before a December general election, a separatist victory would be unlikely to translate into outright secession.

Pro-independence parties have said they will start a “road map” to an independent Catalan state within 18 months if they win control of the regional assembly.

However, the movement has been losing steam since a symbolic referendum on independence last year attracted only two-fifths of the 5.5 million Catalan voters, albeit with 80 percent in favour of secession.

A failure now to achieve an absolute majority of both seats and votes



Tens of thousands of people gather in Barcelona to demand for Catalonia’s independence during the Catalonia National Day at Meridiana Avenue in Barcelona, Spain, Sept. 11, 2015.—XINHUA

would be a further blow.

“After many centuries, we have the great opportunity to vote on our democratic future, so we have to take advantage of this occasion. Only a clear ‘Yes’ can change things,” said Artur Mas, the head of the regional government.

“If we don’t have this ‘Yes’, it won’t be possible to go on with this political process with the same energy and intensity.”

Spain’s centre-right prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, opposes both the attempts to turn the Catalan election into a proxy vote on independence and the idea of secession itself, which he has called a “non-sense”.

His government, which went to court last year to block a referendum on Catalan secession, has tabled a bill for an urgent reform of Spain’s constitu-

tional court that would give it enough clout to stop any unilateral declaration of independence.

However, with pollsters predicting the regional election would leave the Catalan parliament divided and fragmented, it may simply extend a deadlock between local and national authorities.

Several national parties have said they are ready to discuss a constitu-

tional accommodation for Catalonia after the general election, but it would require a broad consensus that will be hard to reach in the new fragmented Spanish political landscape.

The possibility of such a stalemate is a major concern for companies and investors in the region and nationally, and a growing number of businessmen are calling for a dialogue to take place.—Reuters

## Pakistani court issues arrest warrant for ex-president Musharraf

ISLAMABAD — An anti-terrorism court in Pakistani capital Islamabad on Friday issued an arrest warrant for former president Pervez Musharraf for ordering house arrest of judges of different courts of the country in 2007, local media reported.

According to the reports, The court ordered authorities to arrest and produce the former president before the court on Oct 1, according to the reports.

Earlier, Musharraf had requested the court for an excuse from attendance due to illness.

However, the court rejected the request, stating that the medical report of the former president was not attached along with the petition.

On Nov 3, 2007, the then president Musharraf had suspended the constitution and enforced provisional constitutional order and proclaimed a state of emergency in the country.

Musharraf also ordered house arrest of the judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the high courts in all four provinces of the country to prohibit them from reaching their courts as it was feared that the detained judges might have declared the president’s emergency orders null and void.

Later in August 2009, after Musharraf had stepped down, a case was registered against him on the complaint of an advocate for detaining judges illegally.

The complainant had asked the police to initiate legal proceedings against Musharraf for detaining over 60 judges, including the then Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

Musharraf, who is living in his house in the country’s port city of Karachi, has been facing a number of judicial proceedings against him for the orders he delivered when he was in power.—Xinhua

## World Forestry Congress sets out vision for future of forests

DURBAN — The 14th World Forestry Congress (WFC) concluded on Friday in Durban, South Africa.

The largest gathering on forests this decade set out its vision of how forests and forestry should look in 2050, while adopting the Durban Declaration after a week of debate.

The vision calls for the forests of the future to be “fundamental” for food security and improved livelihoods.

Forests and trees must also be integrated with other land uses such as agriculture in order to address the causes of deforestation and conflict over land, according to the declaration.

Finally, sustainably managed forests must be an “essential solution” to combating climate change, optimizing their ability to absorb and store carbon while also providing other environmental services.

The declaration outlines a series of actions needed to realize the vision, including further investment in forest education, communication, research and the creation

of jobs, especially for young people.

It also stresses the need for new partnerships among the forest, agriculture, finance, energy, water and other sectors, and strong engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities.

“The declaration reflects the extremely rich and diverse set of viewpoints and experiences of all participants in the Congress, who recommended ways to make the vision a reality,” said Tiina Vahanen, Deputy Director of Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Congress underlined that forests are critical to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a message to the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which will meet later this month in New York to adopt the 2030 development agenda.

The Congress also issued a message to the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change, set to meet in Paris in December 2015 to hash out a new global climate change agreement.

The Congress also saw the launch of an international five-year forests and water action plan to recognize the role of trees and forests in maintaining the water cycle, and to ensure appropriate management of one of the world’s largest sources of freshwater.

Almost 4,000 delegates from 142 countries attended the congress, including representatives from civil society, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and the private sector as well as around 30 ministers and deputy ministers.

The World Forestry Congress is held every six years. Under the theme “Forests and People: Investing in a sustainable future”, this year’s event was hosted by the Republic of South Africa and marked the first time the Congress was held on African soil since its inception in 1926.—Xinhua



## PICTURE OF THE DAY



Visitors appreciate orchids at the annual "Orchids in Art" exhibition in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sept. 11, 2015. The exhibition presented more than 200 varieties of orchids.—XINHUA

## 2 British tourists killed in India's train derailment

NEW DELHI — Two British tourists were killed and eight others injured as a chartered tourist train en-route to the Indian Himalayan resort Shimla derailed just minutes after departing from Kalka railway station in the northern state of Haryana on Saturday, said police.

Earlier, media reports said over 20 others were injured in the incident.

Local daily Hindustan Times online quoted police as saying that the passengers on the train, chartered by a noted historian and writer named Raja Bhasin, also included a group of 37 British nationals on board.

While two British tourists died on the spot, eight injured included three Indian nationals. The injured have been shifted to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in the nearby city of Chandigarh. The railway trip from Kalka to Shimla is a highly popular tourist attraction for British tourists, as it was built over 100 years by the British for its summer capital Shimla in an uphill climb amid breath-taking landscapes and classic engineering works. The train, also called "boy train" due to its small coaches and narrow tracks, is also a UNESCO heritage and a trump tour program of the Indian Tourism Ministry.—Xinhua

## WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States, scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2015:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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## Osaka, London, 3 other cities mull hosting expo in 2025

PARIS — Osaka, London, Paris and two other cities are considering hosting the World Expo in 2025, the secretary general of the International Exhibitions Bureau indicated Friday in a meeting with Osaka Gov Ichiro Matsui.

Vicente Loscertales of the bureau, known by its

French acronym, the BIE, said the other cities are Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Canada's Toronto, according to a Japanese official accompanying Matsui.

Matsui told the BIE secretary general that he would like to decide whether to bid for host status after listening to the views of various

people, the Japanese official said.

Osaka was the venue of the World Expo in 1970. Matsui is expected to make a decision in fiscal 2015.

The BIE is tasked with overseeing international expos including selecting the host countries of future expositions.—Kyodo News

## One person shot, one more stabbed at US capital's main railway station

WASHINGTON — One man was shot and another woman was stabbed at Washington DC's Union Station Friday as the country was commemorating the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, according to local police.

The stabbing and shooting happened early Friday afternoon and were isolated incidents, said the police source.

The woman was stabbed by the man when she was in the passageway connected to the train station. A security for the Securities and Exchange Commission, located next door to the station, then chased the perpetrator before the man turned on him with a knife.

The guard fired one shot at the man in the leg, according to the police.

"We believe this is a



Police respond to the shooting outside the Union Station in Washington DC, capital of the United States, Sept. 11, 2015.—XINHUA

domestic-related incident," said Metropolitan Police Department's Jeff Brown at a press conference. "Obviously with this being 9/11,

fears were heightened."

Security was revved up nationwide Friday as the country was commemorating the 14th anniversary

of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia.

Xinhua



## I was honoured to be part of 'Bad Blood' video: Cindy Crawford



Supermodel Cindy Crawford.—REUTERS

LONDON — Supermodel Cindy Crawford says she jumped at the chance of starring in pop star Taylor Swift's much-talked about video of her song "Bad Blood".

The 49-year-old supermodel was approached by the "1989" pop star to play the part of the Headmistress in her "Sin City" style mini-movie and Crawford said, "Sign me up" before Swift, 26, even had a chance to explain the concept to her, reported Female First.

"Taylor got in touch with me and asked me to do it. Before she even explained the idea I was like, 'Sign me up!' I was honoured that she asked me. I really was. I think she was honoured that I said yes."

Despite Swift having signed up a galaxy of her star friends for "Bad Blood" — including Lena Dunham, Selena Gomez, Kendall Jenner and Cara Delevingne — she was desperate for the queen of the 90s catwalk to take part.

And Cindy loved being able to "connect" with the singer and her friends.

"I thought it was pretty cool that in some ways the young generation looks up to me.

And it was a great way for me to connect to the younger generation ... Taylor's social media is huge. It was fun.

She said she wanted to pay homage to my generation, so that was nice."—PTI

## Madonna kicks her new tour off in rebel style

LOS ANGELES — Queen of Pop Madonna has kicked off her Rebel Heart Tour in Montreal.

The 57-year-old iconic singer, who has been wowing audiences for over three decades, belted out a selection of old and new and even performed Material Girl from the first time since her Blonde Ambition Tour in the 1990s.

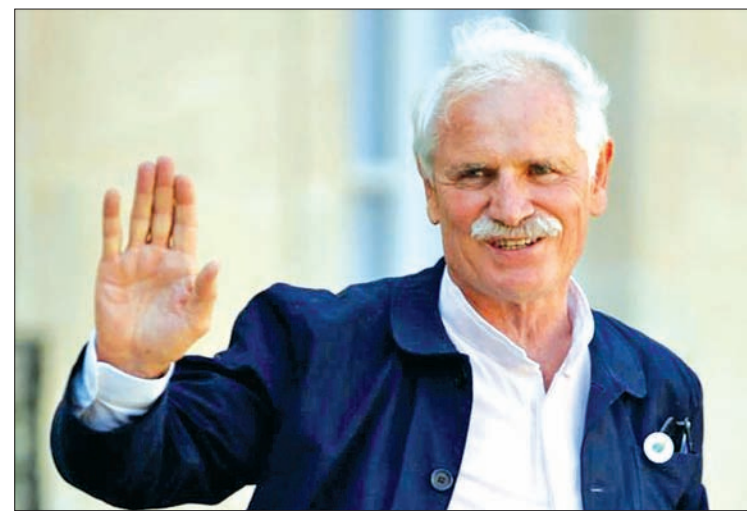
DJ and producer Diplo warmed the crowd up with an hour's introduction set before the lady of the hour opened the show with a video in which she discussed topics including cen-

sorship and dictatorship.

Her entrance was as flamboyant as her fans know her personality to be and she descended on to the stage in a cage and then gave concert-goers two of the most energetic hours they may have ever seen.

Ending the show on a high note, Madonna draped a Canadian flag around her as she sang "Holiday" to a crowd who lapped it all up. Her Rebel Heart album came out in March of this year and the tour continues to March 2016 where it finishes in Australia.—PTI

## A portrait of mankind, in Venice film 'Human'



French photographer and film director Yann Arthus-Bertrand leaves after attending "France is committed to climate. Go COP21 !" event at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, France, September 10, 2015.—REUTERS

VENICE — French photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand says he talked to some 2,000 people in 70 countries over three years for his film "Human", a portrait of mankind from murderers to migrants, that will have its premiere at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

The documentary depicts a series of interviews with people who are not named or introduced. Instead, the individuals speak to camera about experiences from their lives, often emotional in telling their tales.

"If I ask you today what is the worst thing that has happened in your life and what have

you learned from it, it's always something difficult to explain and you begin to talk, you cry," Arthus-Bertrand told Reuters in an interview.

"And sometimes you bring beautiful things, beautiful words about your experience. And, I think we grow up with experience of the other one. We don't grow up alone."

"...And this movie has no comment about this at all. It's only people talking. You decide what you want to do with it," he said.

Following its Venice premiere, the film will be shown at the United Nations.—Reuters

## Britney Spears extends Las Vegas show for two more years

BEIJING — American pop star Britney Spears is staying in Las Vegas for at least another two years to continue her stage shows, according to media reports on Friday.

Her a stage show "Britney: Piece of Me", named after her 2007 hit, is very popular among audiences, but her contract will end by the end of 2015.

"I was not really sure," Spears said, "I haven't made up my mind. I really love doing the show.

It's a lot, a lot of fun, but I'm kind of torn right now. I don't really know what I want to do."

Planet Hollywood offered the 33-year-old star a new deal in July, but Spears hadn't made her final decision until about three

weeks later. Finally, pop princess Britney Spears made it very clear that she loves her life in Las Vegas, and that was a big reason for extending her residency at Axis at Planet Hollywood through December 2017.—Xinhua



Singer Britney Spears arrives at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California.—REUTERS

## Jay-Z celebrates Beyonce's birthday with Italian getaway

LOS ANGELES — Star couple Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z left for Italy for a belated birthday celebration.

The happy couple was joined by their daughter Blue Ivy, Beyonce's cousin Angie Beyonce and BFF Kelly Rowland who brought along her husband Tim Witherspoon and their son Titan,

reported Ace Showbiz.

The birthday girl took the group to lunch at La Conca del Sogno in Nerano. Beyonce was photographed wearing a zebra-print mini dress topped with a white coat.

Meanwhile, Jay-Z who could be seen staying by her side wore a black-and-white T-shirt. The two

wore matching sunglasses during the getaway.

On her actual birthday on September 4, Beyonce received a lot of greetings and special presents from family and fellow celebrities.

Her family created a special playlist to celebrate the singer's 34th birthday.—PTI

## Tom Cruise to star in Doug Liman's new sci-fi movie

BEIJING — American actor Tom Cruise has joined Doug Liman to develop the director's sci-fi movie Luna Park, according to media reports on Friday.

Doug Liman, who directed Tom Cruise in Edge of Tomorrow and the upcoming Mena, is to work with the international superstar again.

The director's long-gestating

sci-fi project Luna Park Luna Park is about renegade employees who take a trip to the moon to steal an energy source.

It's not clear when Luna Park could go before the cameras for the actor has a busy schedule at the moment. He'll soon start shooting Jack Reacher 2, and a sixth Mission: Impossible movie is in the works.—Xinhua



# Vatican opens museum at papal summer estate and rail link to Rome



Smoke billows from a steam locomotive as it departs Vatican's train station, at the Vatican, September 11, 2015.—REUTERS

CASTELGANDOLFO, (Italy) — If you've ever wanted to see the world from the viewpoint of a pope, now you can.

The Vatican has turned part of the lavish papal summer estate south of Rome - which the fru-

gal Pope Francis has never used - into a museum and linked it to Rome via a train.

Both were inaugurated on Friday and one of the main draws is a chance to stand at the window overlooking a large court-

yard from where popes before Francis blessed crowds every Sunday for weeks during their summer breaks.

Seven large rooms in the now unused villa house a papal portrait gallery and pontifical

artefacts, such as intricately embroidered liturgical vestments, elaborate thrones going back hundreds of years, and several pair of papal slippers, including those worn by Pope Pius V, who died in 1572.

Recalling a time when popes preferred pomp, visitors can also inspect the costume of the "mazzieri", or mace bearer, a sort of papal bouncer whose job during the Middle Ages was to elbow people to the side if they got too close as the pontiff passed.

Pope Francis, a workaholic who has also renounced the papal apartments in the Vatican in favor of a suite in a guesthouse, does not take vacations. His shunning of Castelgandolfo led to a drastic decline in tourism that hurt the local economy.

Opening the palace doors "was the pope's initiative," said Antonio Paolucci, head of the Vatican Museums. "Francis said 'I won't go to Castelgandolfo because I have too much to do at the Vatican' and so he told me to open the palace and the grounds

to the public."

"The people of Castelgandolfo were certainly disappointed that the pope decided to not spend his summers here. This is a chance to draw attention to the city again and help the economy," Paolucci said.

A special train will run on Saturdays from the Vatican to Castelgandolfo, about 35 km (20 miles) south of Rome.

Tourists can see the Vatican Museums and gardens and then take the train to the Castelgandolfo estate and the satellite museum.

For the inaugural run on Friday, Italy's state railways used a 100-year-old, coal-powered locomotive that belted out dark clouds of smoke as it left the Vatican pulling antique carriages, including one used by Pope John XXIII in 1962.

At 136 acres (55 hectares) the Castelgandolfo estate is about 25 percent larger than Vatican City, with woodlands and a working farm with about 100 cows producing 1,300 liters of milk a day. —Reuters

**mitv Myanmar International**

(13-9-2015 07:00 am~14-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

#### Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:25 Am My Tour Around Hopone City
- 07:38 Am Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Aloe Vera)
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:26 Am One Heritage.....One Festival
- 08:44 Am Sagaing: Youth Leader
- 08:54 Am TECH School
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Ep-2)
- 09:47 Am Pet Fish Biz
- 10:03 Am News
- 10:26 Am Myanmar Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin
- 10:35 Am The World's Largest Book

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

#### Prime Time

- 07:03 Pm News
- 07:25 Pm Let's Cook (EP-1) Savory Dory Steak with Lemon & Mixed Berry Smoothie
- 07:50 Pm Today Myanmar
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm "Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2)
- 08:50 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: 3D

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

## Dunhuang heritage still alive in new age

BEIJING — As a world-renowned sacred Buddhist site, there is almost too much to explore in the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu province. The exquisite sculptures and murals in its hundreds of caves make it a grand art gallery and a miracle of history.

In addition to preserving the grottoes there is still much to do such as passing down the ancient cultural heritage and keeping it alive in the modern age. Two representative inheritors have shared their efforts in carrying forward the traditions.

Du Yongwei is a local sculptor creating Dunhuang colored sculptures. He is one of a few left who still use the traditional methods inherited from ancestors.

The traditional manner means first using red willow from the Gobi desert to make a frame, filled with needlegrass and reed. This is then molded with Dengban soil. All materials are sourced locally and the sculptures produced can last for more than 1,000 years, like the sculptures in the Mogao Grottoes. The technique was listed as a provincial intangible cultural heritage of Gansu province in 2008.

Du is now considering how to use traditional techniques to create new-style sculptures which can combine the essence of the old with modern beauty.

He tries using metal and soil to create sculptures such as flying Apsaras and other characters



Sculptures made by Du Yongwei in his workshop in Dunhuang, Gansu province.—XINHUA

which are popular.

He is also teaching art students the traditional technique and invites them to his workshop for hands-on experience. As there are only a few artists still using the traditional technique, he is worried, saying: "I hope the traditional techniques can keep being handed down and I'm making my best efforts for that".

Numerous painters are copying murals from the Mogao Grottoes, but Gao Shan's paintings will definitely impress. Entering his workshop, visitors have the illusion of being in one of the Mogao caves.

He draws on paper pasted to the wall to make it feel like painting a mural, and when finished, he

can easily take it down. His paintings create the texture of murals, which feel more like relics rather than new creations. At the same time he replaces missing parts of the original figures and adjusts the characters' skin tone to make the overall painting more enjoyable to modern people's eyes.

The adjustments are not easy and he is exploring ceaselessly. Now he has eight apprentices, and one has been learning for 12 years. He is still studying himself and new challenges keep popping up.

"There are over 300 mural caves in the Mogao Grottoes, and I have only copied murals in less than one tenth of them yet", Gao says.—Xinhua





Myanmar women's national soccer team who will take part in the second leg of qualifiers for the 2016 Olympics seen in training session in Mandalay.—TIN MAUNG

## National women's soccer team trains for Olympic qualifier

MANDALAY — Myanmar's national women's soccer team will take part in the second leg of qualifiers for the 2016 Olympics, to be held in Mandalay from 14 to 22 September.

The team recently returned from a training course

in China and is now training at the Bahtoo football ground in Mandalay.

According to coach U Maung Maung Gyi, the players took just two weeks off after competing in the 27th SEA Games and have now resumed

intensive training.

He said the team has no injured players and will seek victory in the qualifier matches.

Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, Jordan and Myanmar will participate in this qualifier round in Mandalay.—*Tin Maung*

## School children get tennis training

*Ko Moe*

YANGON — Coaches from the Myanmar Tennis Federation will visit Nay Pyi Taw and Pyinmana in the third week of September to train basic education students, said federation secretary U Aye Naing on Saturday. The visit is part of the federation's Junior Tennis Initiative Program.

Students between the ages of 8 and 12 will participate in the

three-month training course and then compete in an inter-school tennis tournaments. Talented students will be selected from the tournament to receive advanced training.

Students at prestigious schools in Yangon have also received training from the federation. The federation has provided tennis equipment for the programme, an official said.—*GNLM*



Coaches from Myanmar Tennis Federation train school children at Dagon No. 1 Basic Education High School.—Ko Moe

## Cavani scores twice but PSG's 100 percent record goes

PARIS — Champions Paris St Germain dropped their first Ligue 1 points of the season on Friday when, despite two goals from Edinson Cavani, they were held to a 2-2 home draw by Girondins Bordeaux.

Cavani gave the capital club the lead in the 27th minute when he sent a right-foot shot high into the net. Wahbi Khazri laid on the equaliser three minutes later as his cross was met by Henri Saivet's head six metres out.

PSG went back in front after 34 minutes when Uruguay striker Cavani found the top corner from a free kick.

Saivet was sent off for a

second bookable offence in the 77th minute but Bordeaux's 10 men fought back to level through Khazri a minute later.

PSG are still top with 13 points from five matches while Bordeaux occupy ninth position on six points.

Stade de Reims and Stade Rennes, who are joint second with nine points, play over the weekend. Reims travel to Toulouse on Saturday while Rennes visit Nantes the following day.

PSG launch their Champions League campaign with a home game against Group A rivals Malmo of Sweden on Tuesday.—*Reuters*



Paris St Germain's Edinson Cavani reacts after scoring the second goal against Bordeaux during their French Ligue 1.—REUTERS

## Naismith hat-trick gives Everton victory over Chelsea



Everton's Steven Naismith celebrates scoring their third goal at Goodison Park.—REUTERS

LONDON — Everton sent Chelsea crashing to their third Premier League defeat of the season on Saturday, striker Steven Naismith scoring a hat-trick in a 3-1 win after coming on as a first-half substitute at Goodison Park.

The result left the champions with four points from their opening five matches after their worse start to a season since 1988. Ever-

ton moved up to third in the table before the later matches.

Naismith replaced the injured Mo Besic and headed Everton in front in the 17th minute to complete a 19-pass move that cut Chelsea to ribbons.

The Scotland forward doubled Everton's lead five minutes later before Nemanja Matic brought Chelsea back into the

game with a superb 25-metre strike.

Chelsea failed to build on that goal, however, and Naismith wrapped up the points for the home side with another well-worked goal after 83 minutes, shooting wide of keeper Asmir Begovic who was replacing the injured Thibaut Courtois.—*Reuters*