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# HOPE AFTER ELECTIONS

## Yangon property market in wait-and-see mode

Ye Myint

THE real estate sector in Myanmar is in a holding pattern and will remain so until next year, a developer said at a property conference in Yangon yesterday.

Residential flat prices in Yangon have fallen by 20 percent to 25 percent at the moment, Director U Aung Min of Aung Myin Pyaeson Construction Company said at the conference. "The present trend shows that Yangon's housing market has become one for those people who really want and need to live in the place they buy."

With its immense potential for significant profits, a boom in the country's housing market attracted not only businesspeople but also individuals to invest in the sector since early 2013.

The company director pointed out that people hope, whatever government is formed next year, something will happen to reverse the trend of the currently deflating market that has exerted downward pressures on both sales and rentals after the upcoming 8 November general election.

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Bird's eye view of downtown Yangon, the country's commercial capital. Analysts say sluggish property market remains muted, but hope that it will rebound after the upcoming elections. PHOTO: YE MYINT

# EU Election Observation Mission deploys 30 long-term observers

The following is the press release issued by EU Election Observation Mission on 11 October.—Ed



THE European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Sunday deployed 30 long-term observers throughout the country. The group is the second contingent, following the core team, which has arrived in Myanmar on 26 September.

"The LTOs will cover all states, regions and territories in both, urban and rural areas. They will observe the entire electoral process prior, during and after the general election scheduled for 8 November. The observers will be meeting electoral officials, candidates and representatives from political parties, civil society and the media" explained Deputy Chief Observer Mark Stevens.

Prior to their deployment the long-term observers received a

three-day in depth briefing in Yangon on the electoral background and political environment and other topics.

62 short-term observers and a Delegation of the European Parliament will join the LTOs shortly before the election. Together with EU diplomats the EU EOM will in total deploy on Election Day—about 150 Observers from all 28 member states as well as Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

The EU EOM is led by

Chief Observer Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, a Vice President of the European Parliament from Germany.

"The EU EOM conducts a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process based on a methodology developed by the EU over many years. The EU EOM is impartial and does not interfere in the electoral process", said Mark Stevens. "The EU EOM's analysis includes aspects such as the legal framework, the work of the

election administration, the campaign activities of the candidates and political parties, the conduct of the media, the voting, counting and the tabulation of results, the resolution of election related disputes," elaborated the Deputy Chief Observer further.

The EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement shortly after the elections. A final report — with technical recommendations for future elections — will be published later.

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(Anytime, Anywhere MECTel)



## Ballot officials in Hinthada receive polling procedure training

IN preparation for the general elections on 8 November, 49 ballot officials from six townships in Hinthada District took part in a two-day training course on polling procedures.

The course was held at the Hinthada District General Administration Department and began on 9 October. Ayeyawady Region Election Commission member U Maung

Maung and district election commission members attended the opening ceremony.

Talks were given by lecturers from region and district election commission members to voting booth officers and other officials.

Attendees will pass on their new skills to other polling officials in their local areas.—*Kyaw Kyaw*

## Yangon revs up with first motorsports race



Fans at Xtreme Auto Drive motor race in Yangon. PHOTO: SOE WIN

XTREME Auto Drive, an amateur motorsport event, was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on Saturday. It was the country's first motorsport race.

U Myo Min Aung, the marketing manager for event sponsor and spare parts seller TA Resources Myanmar, said: "Forty-five amateur drivers participated in the race and a Thai stunt driver performed stunt demos for the crowd."

Tin Sritria, the Thai stunt driver, has over 20 years of experience and has performed

in 10 countries. The event also featured a car wash featuring Thai models; the proceeds of which will be donated to a social organisation.

The event also included kids' activities and spare car parts and decorative items were also exhibited.

Twelve racers received awards following the race. The first prize was K500,000 and the second prize was K300,000 and K200,000 was given as the third prize. Another nine top performing race-car drivers received gifts.—*Soe Win*

## Maternal health and childcare course conducted in Namsam



Participants engage in discussions at maternal and childcare course. PHOTO: U AUNG MOE

MATERNAL health and childcare practices were discussed in Namsam in the Palaung Self-Administered Zone, Shan State, on 10 October.

The event was sponsored

by CESVI, an Italian NGO.

CESVI official Dr Zaw Win Aung gave a lecture on the necessary health measures during pregnancy, during birth and while caring for infants.

The two-day training course was attended by 27 participants, including health personnel, civil society groups and rural health volunteers.

—*U Aung Moe*

## Heavy rains flood Kyaukme; school wall collapses



Floodwater enters school compound in Kyaukme. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

HEAVY rains in the early morning of 10 October flooded Nant-saungngaung Creek in Kyaukme town in northern Shan State.

The flash floods inundated four wards in the town that lie close to the creek. There were

power cuts and the market was forced to close due to the flood. A wall at a primary school collapsed, forcing the school to close.

Security personnel have been deployed to flooded areas

and local authorities and social organisations were providing relief assistance to flood victims.

By the end of yesterday, the rains had stopped and water levels began to recede.—*U Myint Aung*



Thriving sunflower field in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR

## Hybrid sunflower grows well in Meikhtila

FARMERS in Nyaungpintha village have successfully cultivated Yayzin Hybrid 1 sunflowers with the help of the Meiktila Township Agriculture Office.

The hybrid was certified by the Upper Myanmar Seed Quality Laboratory.

The high-yield hybrid is resilient to diseases that dry out sunflower leaves.

"The price for 30 kilos of the hybrid seeds, which is the amount

needed for an acre, is K12,000," said farmer U Khin Maung Win, who has a 38-acre sunflower seed farm. He said he has already sold enough seeds to cover 130 acres.

The average basket weighs 33.33 kilogrammes and it can produce between 6.5 and 7.3 kilogrammes of sunflower oil.

The Yayzin Hybrid 1 sunflower was created at the University of Agriculture in Yayzin.—*Chan Thar*



## Information minister donates to damages Kalay library



Union Minister U Ye Htut accepts certificate of honour for donation for library. PHOTO: KALAY DISTRICT IPRD

UNION Information Minister U Ye Htut presented a grant of K50 million (US\$38,744) to a librarian at Naythar Library in Kalay, Sagaing Region, yesterday.

The union government, the Ministry of Information and private television and radio stations donated the funds, which will be

used to repair the library, which was damaged by the floods in July and August. Librarian U Ye Htet Oo from Thayapar Library also donated K500,000 (\$387).

The library, known as 'Naythar Library for All' is located within the compound of Naythar Monastery and originated from

the Ohn Maung Library, which opened in 1997.

Since 2007, the leading monk at the monastery has arranged free English language class for local students during the summer months. The monk also established the Kalay Millennium Centre in 2010.—*Kalay District IPRD*

## Japan donates weather station



Kyaukphyu radar station donated by Japanese government in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MoT

A CEREMONY was held on 9 October to celebrate the opening of a meteorological radar station in Minbyin village, Kyaukphyu Township.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi attended the event. Mr Keiichiro Nakazawa, the Myanmar representative from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and officials from the Mitsubishi Corporation, the Taisei Corporation, Japan Radio Co Ltd and the Japan Engineering Corporation were also present.

The station was built with a grant from Japan as a token of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The union minister and the ambassador unveiled the signboard of the weather station and inspected the reception of data by the radar, and the ambassador presented the keys to the station to the union minister.

The station will send weather data to Myanmar's central station and covers an area of 500 square-metres.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Damaged roof and ceiling of Myingyan technology college to be repaired as soon as possible

ARRANGEMENTS are under way to repair a damaged computer room in a technical college in Myingyan, according to authorities.

The roof and ceiling of a computer room collapsed in Government Technology College in

Myingyan due to strong winds on 9 Oct. Twenty-one sets of computers and monitors and a table in the room were damaged during the winds.

Officials including Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing inspected

the damaged room and computers on Sunday. Thanlwin Maha Company, the company that built the damaged room, will repair the room as soon as possible and will donate new computers, according to sources. Mandalay Region —*Ministry of Transport*

## President sends messages to Spain

NAY PYI TAW — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Felipe VI, King of the Kingdom of Spain and His Excellency Mr. Mariano Rajoy Brey, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2015.—*MNA*

## First waste-powered plant to produce electricity by 2017



Model of first waste-power electricity plant. PHOTO: MIN HTET

THE Yangon City Development Committee has laid the foundations for Myanmar's first waste-powered power plant near Hlawga Lake in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region.

The power plant is a joint project with JFE Engineering Corporation from Japan.

YCDC Chairman U Hla Myint said during the opening ceremony for the plant on Saturday that he was proud to be building the first waste-powered energy plant in Myanmar as it is eco-friendly and as such will help conserve the environment.

A senior managing director from JFE said that utilising renewable forms of energy forms will aid Myanmar's long-term development. JFE is working in collaboration with the Yangon

City Development Committee (YCDC). Japan has more than 170 waste power plants and extensive knowledge of renewable energy.

It is estimated that the plant will cost US\$16.2 million to construct and it is scheduled to begin operations in March 2017. It will convert 60 tonnes of rubbish every day to generate 1,000 megawatts of electricity.

Yangon produces 170 tonnes of rubbish every day, so the plant will reduce emissions of methane and carbon-dioxide into the atmosphere.

The Japanese firm also has plans to build waste-powered plants in other large cities, including Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.—(*Maung Sein Lwin Myanmar Alinn*)

## Hope after Elections

>> From page 1

Investors and developers as well as potential buyers of homes have appeared to be cautious of making deals in the market, preferring to adopt a 'wait-and-see' approach, he added.

The sector is assured of seeing inflows of capital from abroad after the elections, the developer with more than 20 years of experience in the real estate sector predicted.

Daw Moe Thida, deputy director of the Ministry of Construction, expressed her view that the cooling real estate sector is likely to bounce back once the country's condominium law is passed.

According to developers

who built condos in the hope of selling them to foreigners, the law is expected to be enacted in late 2015 when the ASEAN Economic Community will begin.

At a panel discussion of the conference, one of the panelists stressed the need for the government's involvement in filling the gap between the needs of developers and homebuyers.

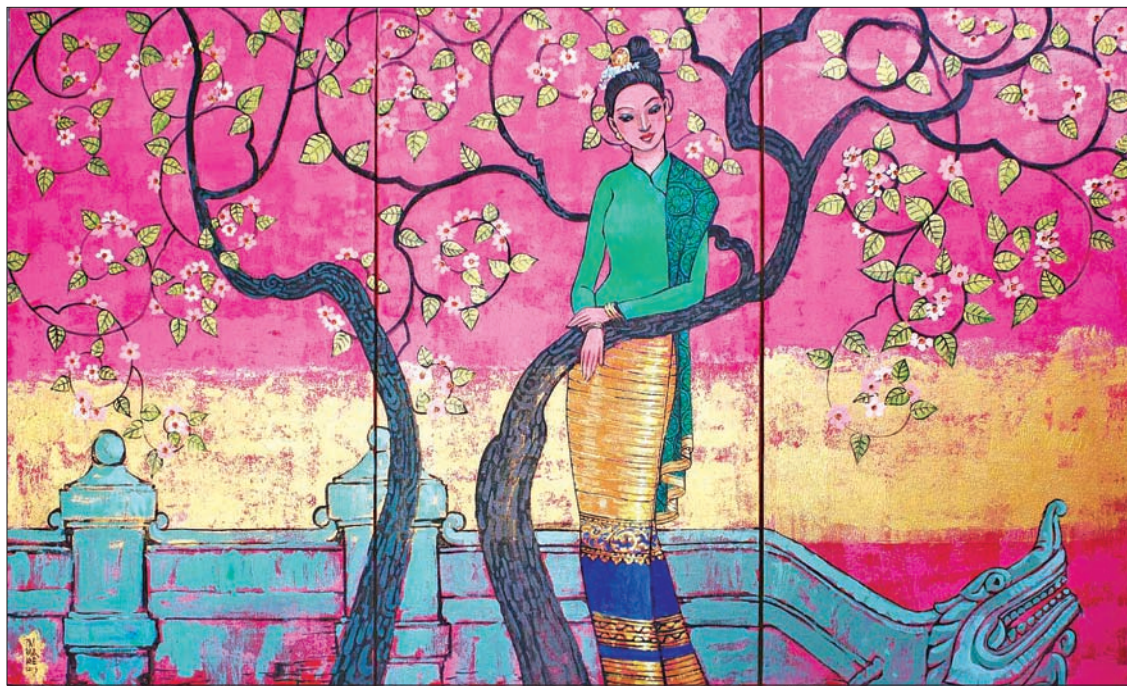
"Housing is not a luxury, it is a need for all," he said.

According to attendees at the conference, skyrocketing land prices is one of underlying causes of the market's downward trend, with some citing the fact that land and rental prices in Yangon are higher than those in Singapore.



## Exhibition to raise funds for flood victims

Prominent artist Zayar Aye is holding his first solo show and aims to raise money for flood-affected communities in Myanmar.



Works by artist Zayar Aye. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

### Khaing Thanda Lwin

A solo art exhibition by artist Zayar Aye titled 'Scent of Myanmar' is being held at Yangon Gallery with the aim of raising funds to flood victims. The five-day event runs until 13 October and will showcase around 60 acrylic paintings.

"This is the first-ever solo

show in my 20-year career," said the 41-year-old artist.

Zayar Aye's exhibited works depict the beauty of Myanmar women, traditional arts and culture, and natural landscapes.

Prices of artworks range from US\$700 to \$8,000, with part of the proceeds going to the relief and rehabilitation of disas-

ter victims.

"We plan to donate rehabilitation supplies to the victims in the worst-affected regions in November," said event organiser Lynn Whut Hmone.

The Yangon Gallery is situated within the compound of People's Park near the Planetarium Museum on Ahlone Road.

## Land leases provided to rightful owners in Myawady

A total of 150 government land leases were handed out to the rightful owners of land in Maekanaelan Village in Myawady Township of Kayin State on 10 October. The villagers had been living off the land without any documentation to prove ownership.

Myawaddy District Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo handed over the land ownership certificates to villagers and said he hoped that their newly acquired

legal rights will provide them with peace of mind.

The commissioner, who also chairs the District Land Leases Presentation Working Committee, said that the village was selected because there are no land ownership disputes and it is easily accessible by road. A village spokesperson expressed thanks to the district commissioner of behalf of the local community.—*Htein Lin Aung IPRD*



Ceremony to grant land lease in progress. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG IPRD



People wait for Hepatitis B vaccination in Meiktila. PHOTO: U CHAN THA

## Free Hepatitis B vaccinations given in Meikhtila

A mobile team of hematologists under the Myanmar Medical Association provided free Hepatitis B vaccinations to 500 people at the Meikhtila District Hospital yesterday.

Professor Dr Win Naing from Yangon also explained the risk factors for contracting Hepatitis B.

The medical team will provide free full courses of three injections over two months, which a resident said is appreciated being protected from the serious illness.

The mobile team is sponsored by the United Pharma pharmaceutical company.—*U Chan Tha*

## Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation offers free computer courses

A beginner and an advanced computer training course run by Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation



An official of Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation presents certificate to trainee. PHOTO: SOE WIN MLA

(Central) has been completed, with certificates presented to participants at the foundation's office in Yangon yesterday.

The foundation's Chairman U Thein Lwin presented the certificates and the top performing trainees received prizes. The free courses were open to everyone, including civil servants.

The three-month, part-time beginners' course was attended by 49 people and the four-month advanced course was attended by 16. The next beginners' course is scheduled to begin next month. The foundation has provided free training to almost 11,000 people to date.—*Soe Win MLA*

## Megalithic rocks discovered in Ngazun Township

MEGALITHIC rocks were discovered recently near the roadside of Myohta-ThadaOo Road near Ywathit Village of Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region.

Assistant Director U Nay Naing Tun of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Ministry of Culture said the relic dates back to before the Pyu Era and could be 5000-years-old.

The megalithic rocks were set in a square shape and are thought to be associated with rituals for the dead. Some villagers believe that the rocks were worshiped in a pagoda that was believed to be watched over by a guardian spirit.

To date, 16 clusters of megalithic rocks have been found in

Myanmar, the assistant director said. Myingyan District Commissioner U Myint Thin

Aung and officials paid a visit to the site of the discover on 10 October.—*Zaw Min Naing*



These megalithic rocks discovered in Mandalay's Ngazun Township are estimated to be 5,000-years-old. PHOTO: ZAW MIN NAING



## Koirala, Oli nominated as candidates in prime ministerial election in Nepal

KATHMANDU — Two major political parties on Saturday fielded their candidacies for a prime ministerial election scheduled for tomorrow in the Nepali Parliament.

The Nepali Congress, the largest political party in the parliament registered nomination of its president Mr. Sushil Koirala as its candidate, while the CPN (UML), the second largest party, nominated its party chairman Mr. K.P Sharma Oli for the election.

The third largest party in the parliament, United Communist Party of Nepal(Maoist), has backed the CPN (UML) Chairman Oli for the upcoming election. However, Mr. Koirala has been nominated from the Nepali Congress alone without any support from any other party.

One candidate should secure a simple majority to win the prime ministerial race in Nepal, according to the country's newly-promulgated new Constitution.

Mr. Koirala had submitted his resignation as the incumbent prime minister on Friday afternoon be-

fore fielding candidacy for the post of prime minister for the second time.—Xinhua



United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal. PHOTO: XINHUA

## China to set up database for Nanjing Massacre files after UNESCO listing

NANJING — China will set up a special database and upgrade the protection of documents regarding the Nanjing Massacre after files on the atrocity were listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

A number of domestic archives will jointly establish the database, which will be open to the public at home and abroad, said a source with the Second Historical Archives of China on Sunday. The database can help people learn more about the historical calamity caused by war, said the source. Lasting more than six weeks, from 13 December, 1937

until January of 1938, the Nanjing Massacre saw the deaths of 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers after the city fell into the hands of the Japanese.

On Friday, 11 sets of Nanjing Massacre files, including film, photographs and text taken and written between 1937 and 1948, were listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, despite Japan's protest.

There are a large amount of archives on the slaughter from the aggressor, victims and third parties, said Guo Biqiang, a researcher with the Second Historical Archives of China. The amount and

variety of the documents were unmatched compared with similar heritage events, he said.

"China will ensure these valuable documents are protected and circulated, and make them play a positive role in remembering history, cherishing peace, looking into the future and safeguarding human dignity," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

Nanjing Massacre documents are mainly housed in the Second Historical Archives of China, the Nanjing Municipal Archives and the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall.—Xinhua

## S Korean president to visit US for summit next week

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye will make a state visit to the United States next week to hold a summit with US President Barack Obama, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Sunday.

President Park will arrive in the United States on Tuesday for her second visit to its closest ally

since she took office in early 2013, according to her office.

Park will hold her fourth bilateral summit with President Obama in Washington next Friday. Ju Chul-ki, senior advisor to Park for foreign affairs, told reporters that it will be an opportunity of significance to exchange views between the two

leaders about peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and US-South Korea alliance. During her stay, Park will also visit the Pentagon next Thursday for the first time since her inauguration. She would become the second South Korean President to visit the headquarters of the US defence ministry.—Xinhua

## Singapore team helping Indonesia fight haze-causing forest fires



A Singaporean Chinook helicopter (R) arrives at the Talang Betutu air force base in Palembang, Indonesia, on 10 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

SINGAPORE — The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) has deployed a Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) Chinook helicopter and 34 SAF personnel to help fight the raging forest fires in Sumatra island of Indonesia.

The SAF team is accompanied by a six-man Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART) from the Singapore Civil De-

fence Force, and a 5,000-liter heli-bucket, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement on Saturday.

Two RSAF C-130 aircraft were also deployed to transport the SAF and SCDF personnel, as well as their equipment, the ministry said.

The operation came after the Indonesian government accepted

Singapore's offer to assist with putting out fires causing thick haze in the region.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said Indonesian authorities gave clearance for the Singapore team on Friday night.

"This morning a Chinook and two C-130s took off ferrying men and equipment to fight the

fires in Palembang (a city in Indonesia's South Sumatra province). Our best wishes go with them and we hope that they will return safe and sound," Ng wrote.

At least 414 fire "hotspots" were detected in Sumatra on Friday, according to Indonesia's Meteorology, Geophysics and Climatology Agency.—Xinhua

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## Bitter by-election in Pakistan revives political tensions



Imran Khan, cricketer-turned-politician and chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party addresses his supporters during a by-election campaign rally in Lahore, Pakistan, on 9 October 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ISLAMABAD — Pakistanis began voting on Sunday in a closely contested by-election seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's rule after he swept to power in 2013 elections.

The race for the parliamentary seat in Punjab, Pakistan's richest province and Sharif's power base, pits the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) party against the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Last year PTI's leader, cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, led street protests in the capital for months, alleging rigging in the 2013 polls.

The protests forced Sharif to rely on the powerful military for security, which gave them a greater say in foreign and security policy. Many in the military had opposed Sharif's election promise to improve relations with arch rival India.

On Sunday, 348,000 voters will vote under army supervision as close Sharif ally Ayaz Sadiq

faces off with PTI candidate Aleem Khan in the NA-122 constituency in the Punjab capital of Lahore.

Sadiq told Reuters that the race was a battle to "prove the very legitimacy of the 2013 election."

Khan's party had only ever won a single parliamentary seat — his own — before 2013, when his promises of a crackdown on widespread corruption and tax evasion by the wealthy won enough voters to propel the party to power as the third-largest in Pakistan. A Gallup poll conducted this month said 37 percent voters favoured PTI while 46 percent favoured PMLN.

"People are fed up by the PMLN's empty slogans," said PTI's Aleem Khan. "I am positive that I will win."

Security and the economy have improved under Sharif, although analysts say many external factors have contributed.

Attacks have fallen around 70 percent this year, partly due to

a military offensive in the northwest and a military-led crackdown in the southern city of Karachi.

Annual inflation is at its lowest in a dozen years, largely due to reduced international oil prices. The economy is growing faster, although still not fast enough to absorb new entrants to the job market.

But the government has failed to crack down on corruption or tax the wealthy, whose continued tax evasion is starving social services like schools and hospitals of cash. PMLN say Aleem's promises of reform are undercut by his tenure as minister under a military dictator, and PTI's failure to fulfil its election promises in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the province it rules. "Where are the dams Imran was going to build?" said voter Zaman Naqvi, cradling a stuffed lion, PMLN's election symbol. "Where are all the uplift projects? Where are the improvements in education and health?" —Reuters

## N Korea shows new entertainment boat to foreign journalists

PYONGYANG — A large, four-story entertainment boat, gifted recently to North Korean people by leader Kim Jong Un, was shown to foreign journalists on Sunday, a day after the country marked a major political anniversary.

The boat called Mujigae, which means rainbow in Korean and features a range of restaurants, was inaugurated last week on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the ruling Workers' Party.

A day after a massive military parade and other events marking the anniversary took place, the 120-metre-long boat floating on Pyongyang's Taedong River was packed with local people, some singing karaoke and drinking beer on deck.

The boat's facilities also include a conveyor-belt sushi restaurant and a souvenir shop. The vessel is said to have a displacement of 3,500 tons and accommodate up to around 1,230 guests.

Kim was quoted late last month by the North's official Korean Central News Agency as saying during his inspection of the vessel that it "convinces us of the fact that we can reach the world level in all aspects."

Kim said at that time it is necessary to "build all service facilities to be constructed in the future at the level of Mujigae so that the people may enjoy a highly civilized and affluent life." —Kyodo News

## Okinawa to revoke approval for base relocation work on Tuesday

NAHA — Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga will on Tuesday officially revoke the approval his predecessor issued to the central government for landfill work to relocate a key US base within the southern island prefecture, a senior prefectural government official said Sunday.

Onaga, who was elected governor in November 2014 on a platform of opposition to the controversial relocation plan, is scheduled to hold a press conference at 10 am Tuesday in the prefectural government building, after giving his approval to a document outlining the nullification, the official said.

The prefectural government will take the document to the Okinawa Defence Bureau, an outpost of the Defence Ministry in charge of the reclamation work, the official added.

Onaga opposes the plan to build replacement facilities in the Henoko region of the coastal area of Nago, for the Marines' Air Station Futenma that is located on the same island in the more densely populated city of Ginowan.

The base transfer is key part

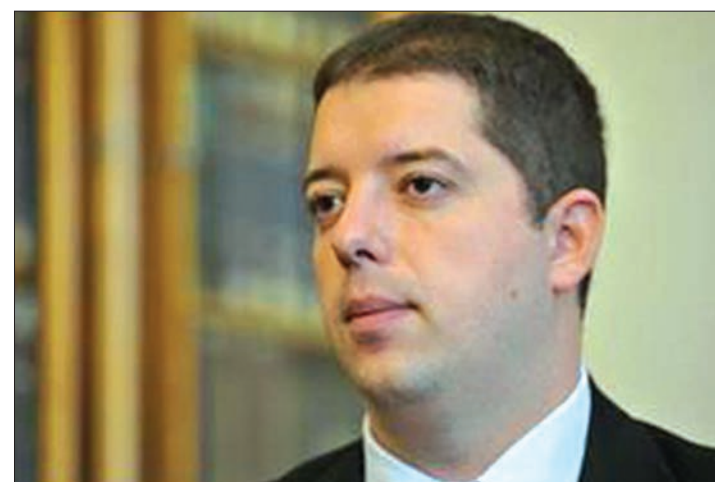
of a broader US-Japan agreement to realign the US military presence in Japan.

He wants the Futenma base moved outside Okinawa. The local government and many residents in Okinawa have been opposed to the plan as they are seeking to reduce the burden on their prefecture that has long hosted the bulk of US forces in Japan. On 14 September, the governor said that his government would begin procedures to revoke the approval by his predecessor, saying, "It has been recognized that the approval has defects."

Onaga's decision came after the central and Okinawa governments failed to reach a compromise over the base relocation in their monthlong consultations, held through early September to defuse the tensions over the issue.

The central government, which aims to launch full-fledged reclamation work as early as this autumn, is likely to take countermeasures, including legal action, in the wake of Onaga's permit retraction. —Kyodo News

## Djuric: Nobody can force us to work against Serbian interests



Director of the Serbian government Office for Kosovo-Metohija Marko Djuric. PHOTO: TANJUG

BELGRADE — Serbia cannot and shall not be forced to do something that is contrary to its interest, Director of the Serbian government Office for Kosovo-Metohija Marko Djuric said commenting on the draft negotiating Chapter 35 which covers Kosovo.

In a statement for the Belgrade-based Television B92 on Saturday, Djuric confirmed that the draft platform for Chapter 35 exists which anticipates the outcome of the Belgrade-Pristina

talks. He confirmed the media reports according to which the draft platform requires Serbia to hand over thermal power plant Gazivode near Zubin Potok to Pristina and for administrative crossings to be abandoned so that border crossings could be introduced instead.

Serious diplomatic activity is underway and nobody can force us to do something we do not want to do and do not find pursuant to Serbia's interests, Djuric said. —Tanjug



# Central bank cavalry can no longer save the world



International Monetary Fund (IMF) governors pose for a family photo during the 2015 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings plenary session in Lima, Peru, on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LIMA — In 2008 central banks, led by the Federal Reserve, rode to the rescue of the global financial system. Seven years on and trillions of dollars later they no longer have the answers and may even represent a major risk for the global economy.

A report by the Group of Thirty, an international body led by former European Central Bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet, warned on Saturday that zero rates and money printing were not sufficient to revive economic growth and risked becoming semi-permanent measures.

“Central banks have described their actions as ‘buying time’ for governments to finally

resolve the crisis... But time is wearing on, and (bond) purchases have had their price,” the report said.

In the United States, the Federal Reserve ended its bond purchase programme in 2014, and had been expected to raise interest rates from zero as early as June 2015.

But it may struggle to implement its first hike in almost 10 years by the end of the year. Market pricing in interest rate futures puts a hike in March 2016.

The Bank of England has also delayed, while the European Central Bank looks set to implement another round of quantitative easing, as does the Bank of

Japan which has been stuck in some form of quantitative easing since 2001.

Reuters calculates that central banks in those four countries alone have spent around \$7 trillion in bond purchases.

The flow of easy money has inflated asset prices like stocks and housing in many countries even as they failed to stimulate economic growth. With growth estimates trending lower and easy money increasing company leverage, the spectre of a debt trap is now haunting advanced economies, the Group of Thirty said.

The Fed has pledged that when it does hike rates, it will be at a slow pace so as not to stran-

gle the US economic recovery, one of the longest, but weakest on record in the post-war period. Yet, forecasts by one regional Fed president shows he expects negative rates in 2016.

Most policymakers at the semi-annual IMF meetings this week have presented relatively upbeat forecasts for the world economy and say risks have been largely contained. The G30, however, warned that the 40 percent decline in commodity prices could presage weaker growth and “debt deflation”.

Rates would then have to remain low as central banks would be forced to maintain or extend their bond programmes to try and

bolster growth and the price of financial assets would fall.

That is not just a developed-world problem. In China, credits to state-owned enterprises and increasingly by the shadow banking sector have been a driving force in an investment splurge in the world’s second largest economy.

According to an IMF report issued this week, there is “excessive” lending of \$3 trillion in emerging market economies, an average of 15 percent of gross domestic product, which runs the risk of unwinding should economic conditions worsen.

“Capital losses would affect many investors, including banks, and the process of extend and pretend for poor loans would have to come to a stop,” the G30 report said.

Even in a more benign economic outlook, central banks will have a tough time exiting easy money policies and may face demands to hold rates low. The IMF has repeatedly urged the Fed not to hike rates yet.

None of the world’s major central banks are remotely close to hitting their inflation targets and many of them are haunted by memories of high inflation. The European Central Bank was born with, and still has, a sole inflation mandate.

With the consequences of an exit from easy money so unpredictable, the G30 said the risk was of exiting too late for fear of sparking another crisis.

“Faced with uncertainty, the natural default position is the status quo,” the G30 said.—Reuters

## Britain consults on shaking-up financial advice sector

LONDON — Britain will launch a consultation on Monday on how to give people better advice when buying complex products like home loans, pensions and insurance, the government and regulators said.

The Financial Advice Market Review was launched in August to look at how financial advice could work better, especially for less well off consumers.

The next stage kicks off on Monday with a public consultation looking at what kind of advice consumers want, how to close any gaps, and what role technology, such as “robo” or automated advice play.

“The financial decisions people make can have long reaching effects,” said Tracey McDermott, acting chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority which is conducting the review with Britain’s finance ministry.

“It is important that the market provides accessible and affordable advice when people need it,” McDermott said.

The consultation ends on 22 December and a final report with proposals will be published before the government’s budget statement in 2016.

After a string of mis-selling scandals in financial products ranging from mortgages to loan insurance and pensions, Britain has already made changes to how financial advisers are paid for their services.

The goal of the review is to present a package of reforms to improve consumers’ ability to make effective decisions about their finances when buying increasingly complex products.

It will also present principles to govern how advice is given, and include measures to maintain standards of behaviour in advice markets.—Reuters

## China publishes draft rules to regulate online car hailing services

SHANGHAI — China on Saturday published draft rules to regulate online car hailing businesses, a booming sector where US firm Uber Technologies Inc [UBER.UL] and Chinese rival Didi Kuaidi have been aggressively competing for market share.

The draft rules, published on the website of the Ministry of Transport, said they are aimed at maintaining order by strengthening supervision of online car hailing apps.

Like in many other countries, the legality of car hailing services has vexed regulators in China where the authorities say drivers are operating outside the law.

The draft rules, which will be open to public feedback, will require ride-sharing companies to obtain a license and guarantee a transparent pricing mechanism.

Drivers will also have to meet certain qualifications such as driving experience, and those without a license will not be allowed to provide services. The number of

seats will be limited to no more than seven in each car.

Uber and Didi Kuaidi are locked in a turf war in China, investing billions of dollars to lure in riders with steep discounts and to subsidize the money earned by drivers.

Uber China said in a statement on Thursday it was preparing documents to apply for a license. Didi Kuaidi, a \$16 billion firm backed by Chinese Internet

giants Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and Tencent Holdings Ltd also said on Thursday it had received a car booking license for its operations in Shanghai and that it was seeking more licenses from other cities.

Didi Kuaidi is the dominant ride-hailing app in China, although Uber recently closed a \$1.2 billion deal to enter 100 more Chinese cities in the next 12 months.—Reuters



A taxi is reflected in a window at the office of taxi-hailing service Uber Inc in Hong Kong, China, on 12 August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



## OPINION

### Ignorance and indifference is fatal for the planet

Kyaw Thura

**P**eople come and go but the universe goes on forever. Human are merely short-term visitors and we have a responsibility to protect the planet for future generations and other species.

Specialists have identified four types of sustainability: human, social, economic and environmental. Human sustainability applies to people from all walks of life and irrespective of geogra-

phy, whereas social scientists are responsible for social sustainability, economists for economic sustainability and environmentalists for environmental sustainability.

Human sustainability is often defined as human capital, which in fact relates to a particular aptitude possessed by individuals. We need to launch concrete initiatives to tackle climate change and use our capability to transform our surroundings for the better. We have all witnessed the extent of man-made damage to the ecological balance of the biosphere, whose effects have resulted in destruction and depletion of irreplaceable resources.

It should be noted that our ignorance and indifference will bring about colossal harm to planet earth. It is therefore safe to assume that the enhancement of the environmental quality for all

life form must be our imperative goal and that there must be no delay.

Communities across the world must develop a sense of responsibility to safeguard and protect the world's natural resources in such a way as to avert the deleterious effects of environmental degradation. After all, it takes a lifelong commitment to create a sustainable environment.

### Write for us

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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.

## Public services personnel must have good public persona and public relations

Tommy Pauk

**S**INCE 2011, Myanmar has already changed its political system and government patterns in order to march towards democratic state. The Legislative power, judicial power and executive power are being exercised in conformance with the 2008 constitution. This constitution was adopted by referendum. In other words, the entire people of Myanmar have already assented to this constitution. Thus the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was elected by the entire people of Myanmar. We can rely on the elected government, constitution and also we need to practice rights of democracy. We have to stick to the principles of democracy constantly and firmly. The constitution provides citizen rights, human rights, political rights and others, which protect and allow us to exercise legally and systematically. We, therefore, must get rid of nasty and old attitudes towards the government and political system. We need to understand that this is the transitional period from military junta government to democratically elected government. With much tolerance, we ought to overcome some challenges on the way to pure or genuine democratic state. In fact, former junta had laid down the political roadmap for establishing democracy in Myanmar. No one can deny that this historic change will benefit all citizens of Myanmar and prosper the nation.

Public services personnel are the ones who are responsible to fulfill the public needs and wants and to manage the public affairs officially. They are also known as public officials. They must bear in mind that they earn their living as public services personnel. They are normally selected by the government to assign the duties and responsibilities of the respective positions according to their skills,

experiences, paper qualification or degree and diploma. Generally, the selected persons are considered to be qualified enough to deal with general public and to do the jobs suitably. Since they become public services personnel, they are obligated to deal with public. Unavoidably, they must deal with different characters of ordinary people who need or want to get services from the authority concerned or officials concerned. The public services personnel must respect and treat the public nicely. They are not supposed to treat the public haughtily and disrespectfully. The public personnel must not show hoity-toity manner whenever they deal with public as well as their subordinates in their offices or departments concerned. If they are undutiful and treat the public impolitely, the public will disgust and despise them. Therefore, the general public do not care their positions in public services because they are neither the rulers of a certain society nor leaders of a certain society. Whatever positions belong to the personnel, they must have good public persona in dealing with public concerned. Even though, some personnel may have obtained master's degree or even PhD academically, they are lack of goodwill and personal integrity. The public do not appreciate their services and haughty dealing. Therefore, their mindsets do not fit for the public services and they cannot contribute to our society practically.

Some public personnel are very conceited of having the position of Managing Director or Director General or Manager or General Manager for respective departments of the different Ministries and they commit bribery and corruption. Those immorally corrupt personnel usually suppress their subordinates, but they lick their superiors' boots shamelessly and sycophantically. In fact, those personnel are conceited fools! They show total disregard for the

interest of the public. Such unfair behaviors and immorality tarnish the image of Myanmar and the government. Due to the stupidity of some personnel concerned, the mechanism of public services can be stuck or damaged. The aforesaid services personnel do not deserve the model or ideal public services personnel award given by general public or by the government. They must be tamed and taught how to treat or serve the public politely so that the government will not lose respect of the public. However, some personnel have very cheerful and cordial public persona whenever they deal with public at work. Under this situation, public appreciate their conducts and behaviors. Some personnel take bribe from the public so as to get the job done in time. In order to get the official document with approval or signature of the authorized personnel for business permit or recommendation, the public bribe him or her reluctantly. Otherwise, he or she might use dirty tricks and put the document into the pending tray in the office.

The harmonious public relations and outstanding service personnel lubricate the engine of government mechanism to be driven smoothly and efficiently. Those who are involved in public dealing have to comply with the personnel codes of conduct precisely so that their conducts will impress the public. In some mature democratic nations, even the president, prime ministers, ministers, higher rank public officials and public services personnel pay respect to the general public distinctively and cordially. The mutual trust and mutual respect exist in these nations. The mature democratic governments in the world listen to the public voice, public complaints and public opinions, and give feedback to the public meticulously. The feedback from the government is always appreciable to the public concerned. In case, some faults or mistakes or defects or damage arise

under a particular Ministry, the Minister concerned admits that he or she is responsible for these problems and resign as Minister on his or her own accord without hesitation. This reveals that he or she takes accountability to the defect or fault or weakness under his or her management or administration concerned. It is a praiseworthy act, isn't it?

During the five-year period of transition to democracy in Myanmar, we are able to constitute democratic governance to some extent.

Democratic governance is defined as below:-

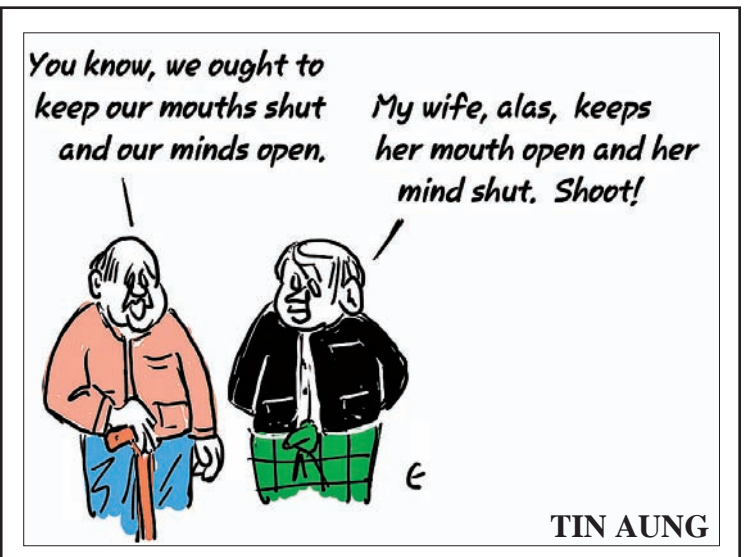
"Institutions and processes that are responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor, and promote participation, accountability and effectiveness at all levels, including strong electoral and legislative systems, equal access to justice, fair systems of public administration and the capacity to deliver basic services to those most in need."

Necessarily, all the public services personnel in the hierarchies must be capable of performing

their assigned duties and responsibilities in line with democratic governance. Above-stated practices will enhance the public relations between any services personnel and ordinary public or citizens. As Myanmar is led by democratic government, public services personnel, defense services personnel and police forces personnel have to maintain democratic governance in conformity with the 2008 constitution. Myanmar citizens must be adherent to the provisions prescribed in the 2008 constitution and exercise the rights of democracy as well. All services personnel need to change their old mindsets and deal with the ordinary public harmoniously and cordially. To consolidate democracy, public services personnel and the public must have good relations and co-operation too.

All should realize that the role of public is vitally important for democratic process indeed. The stable justice, equality, fair administration and effective public services are to be present in our society. No wobble is allowed!!!

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.





# Orchid phytochemicals

Saikat Kumar Basu  
Lethbridge, AB Canada

ORCHIDS constitute a widely diverse group of plants distributed across the tropics and sub-tropics of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Australia; as well as some of the temperate regions of Asia, Europe and the Americas. Orchids belong to the plant family Orchidaceae; and are one of the largest groups of flowering plants in the planet closely competing with plants of the sunflower family (Asteraceae) in sheer numbers and diversity. Orchids are predominantly herbaceous plants and a vast number of them is epiphytic in nature meaning they grow harmlessly on other plants for protection and survival without acting as a parasite on their host. The members of this plant family are known for their spectacular beauty and diversity of their floral forms, color and patterns and hence serve as highly sought after ornamental species across the globe and have huge financial returns in the global floral markets. In addition to ecological, ornamental and horticultural values, the plant family is also known to be industrially important; particularly for the commercial production of the essence vanilla, widely used in the confectionary industries across the globe obtained from the plant *Vanilla planifolia* and allied species.

Several species of orchids are reported globally to be medicinally important and have been reported to have rich pharmacological properties. Several such orchids have been traditionally used by numerous aboriginal communities and tribal members across the globe for treatment of a wide number of human diseases such as asthma, fever, menstrual disorders, epilepsy, rheumatism, skin diseases, malaria, dysentery, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, tuberculosis, gout, heart, liver and kidney disorders, in the healing of wounds and infections due to injuries and several other diseases.

In most cases phytochemical investigations of the orchid leaves, roots, tubers, floral petals and fruits extracts have successfully revealed different medicinal properties. Different forms of orchid tissue extracts (such as aqueous, methanol, ethanol, petroleum ether, hexane and chloroform) have been experimented with; and they



Diverse species of orchids from the Indian subcontinent and the Americas. PHOTO: SAIKAT KUMAR BASU

have demonstrated various levels of promising anti microbial properties against different strains of pathogenic bacteria and fungi in several species of orchids being investigated across the globe. For example, anti microbial properties of several orchid species against important human pathogens have been found to be increasingly successful against bacteria like *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Micrococcus* sp., *Staphylococcus aureus*,

*Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Enterobacter faecalis*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Salmonella paratyphi*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*; and fungi like *Candida albicans*, yeast (*Saccharomyces* sp., *Schizosaccharomyces* sp) and different mold species (*Trichophyton*, *Mucor* etc).

The alarming rise in drug (particularly antibiotics) resistant microbes has been pushing the pharmaceutical industries across

the globe to push for the search and screening of potential new drugs, therapeutics and in identifying and isolating novel phytochemicals for generating better, more effective antimicrobials. Pharmacognosy studies (studies of drugs from various natural sources including plants) on orchids have become increasingly popular globally in laboratories specializing in plant chemistry. Due to the detection of several phytochemicals in various orchid species they are also being simultaneously investigated for their potential for use in the nutraceutical and functional food industries.

Several species of orchids have been investigated and some have clearly shown great promises with respect to presence of important phytochemicals as well as significant anti microbial (both antifungal and antibacterial), anti

oxidant, anti pyretic, anti tumor, anti inflammatory, anthelmintic and nutraceutical properties such as medicinally important species like *Dendrobium nobile*, *Calyptrorchilum emarginatum*, *Satyrium nepalense*, *Rhynchostylis retusa*, *Eulophia nuda*, *Bulbophyllum kaitense* to name only a few. Conventional and advanced chromatographic methods have been successful in identifying and quantifying several phytochemicals from different orchid species like different carbohydrates, amino acids, tannins, flavones, flavonoids, flavonones, phenols, coumarins, quinine, terpenes, triterpenes, sterols, saponins, alkaloids, glycosides (cardiac glycosides) etc.

However, this good news is also associated with some unfortunate incidents. The renewed interest in the orchids for exploring their medicinal properties and with latest discoveries of rich phytochemicals in several orchid species has made them vulnerable to ruthless exploitations threatening their existence. The situation is particularly alarming in the biodiversity hot beds of developing and under developed nations that are economically under developed but are rich in orchid diversity. Several species of orchids many of them endemic (not found anywhere else other than their native habitats) are being illegally exploited and harvested and even collected for the under ground nursery industries.

As a consequence several such rare and economically and medicinally important orchid species have been pushed towards extinction and are either placed under either vulnerable or threatened, nearly threatened; endangered or critically endangered status due to such indiscriminate poaching and harvesting. Orchids are considered as flag ship species from a plant perspective in any major ecosystems. If the status of orchids is degraded; sooner or later the remaining ecosystems will also become vulnerable to anthropogenic pressures without intervention. Hence, while it is important to identify the orchid species with potential anti microbial properties and those that are rich in different pharmaceutically important phytochemicals; however, it is also important to conserve these valuable species from over exploitations for our future generations through comprehensive, long term and sustainable planning for protecting and conserving them.

**“The renewed interest in the orchids for exploring their medicinal properties and with latest discoveries of rich phytochemicals in several orchid species has made them vulnerable to ruthless exploitations threatening their existence.”**



# Hundreds of thousands protest in Berlin against EU-US trade deal

BERLIN — At least 150,000 people marched in Berlin on Saturday in protest against a planned free trade deal between Europe and the United States that they say is anti-democratic and will lower food safety, labour and environmental standards.

Organisers — an alliance of environmental groups, charities and opposition parties — said 250,000 people had taken part in the rally against free trade deals with both the United States and Canada, far more than they had anticipated.

“This is the biggest protest that this country has seen for many, many years,” Christoph Bautz, director of citizens’ movement Compact told protesters in a speech.

Police said 150,000 people had taken part in the demonstration which was trouble free. There were 1,000 police officers on duty at the march.

Opposition to the so-called Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) has risen over the past year in Germany, with critics fearing the pact will hand too much power to big multinationals at the expense of consumers and workers.

“What bothers me the most is that I don’t want all our consumer laws to be softened,” Oliver Zloty told Reuters TV. “And I don’t want to have a dictatorship by any companies.”

Dietmar Bartsch, deputy leader of the parliamentary group



Consumer rights activists take part in a march to protest against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), mass husbandry and genetic engineering, in Berlin, Germany. PHOTO: REUTERS

for the Left party, who was taking part in the rally said he was concerned about the lack of transparency surrounding the talks.

“We definitely need to know what is supposed to be being decided,” he said.

Marchers banged drums, blew whistles and held up posters reading “Yes we can — Stop TTIP.” The level of resistance has taken Chancellor Angela Merkel’s government by surprise and underscores the challenge it

faces to turn the tide in favour of the deal which proponents say will create a market of 800 million and serve as a counterweight to China’s economic clout.

In a full-page letter published in several German newspapers on Saturday, Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned against “scaremongering”.

“We have the chance to set new and goods standards for growing global trade. With ambitious, standards for the environment and consumers and with fair

conditions for investment and workers.

This must be our aim,” Gabriel wrote. Businesses hope the trade deal will deliver over \$100 billion of economic gains on both sides of the Atlantic. “A fair and comprehensive free trade deal promotes growth and prosperity in Europe. We should actively participate in the rules for world trade of tomorrow,” Ulrich Grillo, head of the BDI Federation of German industries, said in a statement.—Reuters

## Ex-Benghazi investigator says US panel targeted Clinton -media

WASHINGTON — A former investigator for the House of Representatives Select Committee on Benghazi is accusing the Republican-led panel of targeting Democrat Hillary Clinton to scupper her presidential bid, the New York Times and CNN reported on Saturday.

They said Major Bradley Podliska, an intelligence officer in the Air Force Reserve on active duty in Germany, alleged that he was fired for resisting pressure to focus his investigation into the 2012 attack on the US diplomatic compound in Benghazi on Clinton’s role. They said he planned to file a complaint in federal court next month.

“These are explosive allegations,” Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said in a statement. “This Republican whistleblower’s account from inside the Benghazi Committee may provide the most definitive proof to date that this taxpayer-funded investigation has been a partisan sham from the start.”

The committee on Saturday

strongly denied the media reports.

“Contrary to his brand new assertion, the employee actually was terminated, in part, because he himself manifested improper partiality and animus in his investigative work. The Committee vigorously denies all of his allegations,” a committee spokesperson said in a statement.

The committee has come under criticism since Representative Kevin McCarthy, the No 2 House Republican who had been expected to become speaker of the House, suggested in a television interview last week that the taxpayer-funded investigation into Benghazi was designed to hurt Clinton as she seeks the Democratic presidential nomination.

McCarthy later said he had not meant to suggest the committee’s purpose had been to harm the former secretary of state’s chance of winning the November 2016 election. On Thursday McCarthy bowed out of the Speaker race, leaving the

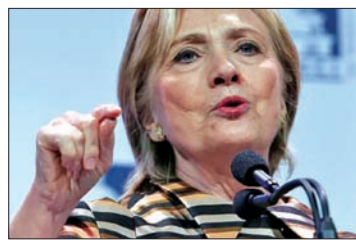


PHOTO: REUTERS

Republicans in disarray.

Saturday’s reports on Podliska drew sharp reactions from Democrats.

“These are extremely serious whistleblower charges ... Republicans have been abusing millions of taxpayer dollars for the illegitimate purpose of damaging Hillary Clinton’s bid for president,” Representative Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrat on the committee, said in a statement.

“Even before Kevin McCarthy’s comments laid bare the true intent of the committee, it’s been clear that Secretary Clinton has been the true target of this investigation. It’s time to shut down the Benghazi Select Committee,” Representative Adam Schiff of

California said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Democratic Representative Alan Grayson of Florida filed an ethics complaint against McCarthy and the committee’s chairman, Trey Gowdy, saying that federal funds for the Benghazi committee were being used for political purposes.

CNN quoted Podliska as saying in an interview due to be aired on Sunday that the committee pulled resources away from probes of other individuals and agencies to focus almost exclusively on Clinton and the State Department she helmed for four years.

“I knew that we needed to get to the truth to the victims’ families. And the victims’ families, they deserve the truth — whether or not Hillary Clinton was involved, whether or not other individuals were involved,” CNN quoted Podliska as saying.

Clinton, the top US diplomat at the time of the Benghazi attack in 2012, is due to testify before the committee for the first time 22 October.—Reuters

## Thousands gather in Washington on anniversary of Million Man March

WASHINGTON

Thousands of people gathered in front of the US Capitol on Saturday for a rally led by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Million Man March on Washington and decry racial and economic injustice.

Farrakhan joined a number of speakers at the “Justice or Else” march. They addressed a largely African-American crowd that stretched for hundreds of yards from the steps of the Capitol.

Speakers at the rally, which followed a number of high-profile deaths of black men at the hands of police, called for reforms to law enforcement’s use of force and greater access for poor people to health care and higher education.

During his more than two-hour speech, Farrakhan urged listeners to avoid sexual immorality, abortion and violence, even as he criticized “white supremacy” and predicted a backlash against the United States.

“America has now entered the time of divine judgment,” Farrakhan said.

In 1995, Farrakhan led the Million Man March in Washington, which drew about 800,000 people, according to private researchers, and marked a significant moment for African-American political activism in the United States.

His Justice or Else march on Saturday drew a far smaller crowd that numbered in the thousands. Many watched speakers on jumbo screens.

A representative for the National Park Service declined to provide a crowd estimate.

President Barack Obama, who then taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago, attended the Million Man March in 1995.

Some speakers at the rally said the United States is making progress in resolving racial inequalities, such as by electing Obama in 2008 as the nation’s first black president.

However, they also described other instances of racial inequality, such as US immigration policies they said were unfair to Hispanics.

Ava Muhammad, a Black Muslim minister and spokeswoman for Nation of Islam, struck an aggressive tone during her speech.

“The Koran says fight with those who fight with you,” she told the crowd.

Members of the audience said they drew inspiration from the rally.

RJ Moss, a 34-year-old Atlanta attorney, said he attended the Million Man March rally 20 years ago. “The message is the same, come together, respect one another, love one another,” he said.—Reuters



## Turkey mourns bomb blast victims, seeks to identify attackers

ANKARA—Turkish investigators worked on Sunday to identify the perpetrators and victims of Saturday's bomb blasts which killed at least 95 people in the capital Ankara, while Turks mourned the most deadly attack of its kind on Turkish soil.

Two suspected suicide bombers hit a rally of pro-Kurdish and labour activists near Ankara's main train station three weeks before elections, fuelling unease in a country beset by conflict between state forces and Kurdish militants in the southeast.

"We are in mourning for peace," said the front-page headline in the secularist Cumhuriyet newspaper as three days of national mourning declared by the prime minister got underway. Other papers voiced public anger over the attack.

"Scum attacked in Ankara," said the Haberturk newspaper. "The goal is to divide the nation,"

said the pro-government Star.

One of the bombers had been identified as a male aged between 25-30 after analysing bodies at the scene and taking fingerprints, the pro-government Yeni Safak said.

There were no claims of responsibility for the attack, which

**"We are in mourning for peace."**

Cumhuriyet newspaper

came as external threats mount for NATO member Turkey with increased fighting across its border with Syria and incursions by Russian warplanes on its air space over the last week. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, exposing a mosaic of domestic political perils, said Islamic State, Kurdish or far-leftist militants could have carried out the bombing.



Demonstrators in central Istanbul attend a protest against Saturday's bombings in Ankara, Turkey on 10 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

His office named 52 of the victims overnight and said autopsies were continuing. It said 246 wounded people were still being treated, 48 of them in intensive care. "The necessary work is being conducted to identify those behind the attack and quickly bring them to justice," the statement said.

Relatives and friends of the casualties waited anxiously on

Sunday morning outside the hospitals where the wounded were being treated.

The two blasts happened seconds apart on Saturday morning as crowds, including pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) activists, leftists, labour unions and other civic groups, gathered for a march to protest over the deaths of hundreds since conflict resumed

between security forces and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

Hours after the bombing, the PKK as widely expected beforehand ordered its fighters to halt operations in Turkey unless they faced attack. It said it would avoid acts that could hinder a "fair and just election" on 1 November.—Reuters

## Suicide bomber targets foreign forces in Afghan capital, casualties unknown

KABUL — A suicide car bomber targeted a convoy of foreign troops in the Afghan capital during rush hour-traffic on Sunday, an official said, flipping an armoured vehicle on its side, but the number of casualties was unknown.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack in the city centre that broke a period of relative calm in Kabul after a series of bombings in August.

TV footage showed an armoured vehicle on its side as Afghan security forces cordoned off the street in the Joi Sheer neighbourhood.

"It was a suicide bombing against a foreign forces convoy in a crowded part of the city and there are casualties," said Najib Danish deputy spokesman for the interior ministry.

Danish did not specify whether there were casualties

among the foreign forces.

The US-led Resolute Support military coalition in Kabul confirmed that one of its convoys was struck by a bomb. "No casualties are reported at this time," said spokesman Colonel Brian Tribus.

The Taliban insurgents fighting to topple the foreign-backed Kabul government claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack, saying it killed a number of foreign troops.—Reuters



NATO soldiers stand near a damaged NATO military vehicle at the site of a suicide car bomb blast in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 11 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Syrian army advances in west after Russian strikes

BEIRUT — The Syrian army backed by allied militia have advanced in western Syria after heavy Russian airstrikes in areas around the main highway running through major cities, a group monitoring the war said on Sunday.

After deadly clashes the military and Lebanese Hezbollah militiamen took control of Tal Skik, a highland area in Idlib province close to insurgent-held positions along the highway, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Syria's state news agency SANA also said Tal Skik was now under Syrian army control after an "extensive military operation" on the ground backed

by Russia air strikes against "terrorist organisations" in the area.

It said the military had destroyed weapons, ammunition and equipment during the offensive and that 50 enemy fighters had been killed in the air strikes. The Observatory and Lebanon-based TV channel al-Mayadeen said a senior Hezbollah fighter had also been killed in clashes.

Idlib is mainly held by the Army of Conquest, an Islamist insurgent alliance that includes al-Qaeda's Syria wing Nusra Front but not the ultra hardline Islamic State group Russia says is the focus of its airstrikes which started on 30 September.—Reuters

## Application for migrants presented in Presevo

PRESEVO — The Asylum Protection Centre presented in Presevo on Saturday a special Android application entitled 'Asylum in Serbia'.

Centre official Rados Djurovic told Tanjug that this is the first time in Serbia, region and probably in Europe as well that such an application has been designed which will allow refugees to access all the critical information in Arab,

Persian and English.

The application contains all necessary information, including facts about the procedure, reception centres, their rights and obligations, institutions, important phone numbers, hotels, options to report violence and abuse, recommended line of action in case of illness, exchange rate list, public transport lines and so on, Djurovic said.—Tanjug



## UN, World Bank to launch refugee and reconstruction bonds

LIMA — International agencies plan to raise billions of dollars to tackle the worsening refugee crisis in the Middle East and North Africa by issuing new bonds to help displaced people and support reconstruction in the war-torn region.

The United Nations, World Bank and Islamic Development Bank announced the proposal on Saturday after global policymakers met to discuss ways to ease the growing humanitarian and economic crisis stemming from conflicts in countries including Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said more than 15 million people had fled their homes, sending a massive influx of refugees into countries like Lebanon and Jordan.

The two-track initiative will ask donor countries to provide guarantees for bonds raising money for certain projects, ranging from support for refugees to rebuilding to allow displaced people to return home. Some would be Islamic bonds, or sukuk, targeting investors in the region. Donors would also be asked for grants to cut the interest rate for countries hosting the bulk of refugees from commercial rates to as low as zero, said World Bank vice president for Middle East and Europe, Hafez Ghanem.

“People are focusing on



PHOTO: REUTERS

the situation in Syria because of what’s happening in Europe but actually you have the situation in Yemen, which is also very serious,” he said after the meeting, held during annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings. Tunisia and Turkey were also struggling with a wave of refugees.

The United Nations expects hundreds of thousands of migrants to reach Europe this year as they flee war and poverty, the biggest wave of displaced people since World War Two.

Expressions of support had come from Group of Seven countries and other European countries for the initiative, which could raise funds in the “dou-

ble-digit billions” over five to 10 years, Ghanem said.

“All of us have self-interest in this,” he said.

“The instability in the Middle East and North Africa is affecting the whole world, it’s not just through refugees, but also through terrorism, fluctuations in oil prices, so it is really the whole international community has an interest in containing this and in helping those countries regain stability and get back on a path of development and growth.”

A working group will finalise details of the proposed fund raising — which would make resources available to other development agencies as well — by February.—Reuters

## Laws help enforce some environmental treaties: but not on climate

OSLO — If and when a global deal to curb climate change is done in Paris this December, the matter of enforcement is likely to be left not to sanctions but to peer pressure.

While legally enforceable environmental treaties do exist, experts say that some of the most effective environmental controls have come about from a shared sense of self-interest.

In 1941, an international tribunal established the principle that “the polluter pays” by ordering compensation after fumes from the Trail Smelter, processing lead and zinc in western Canada, damaged farmland across the border in the United States. But the concept has been hard to apply to greenhouse gases swirling around the global atmosphere. So far, plaintiffs have been unable clearly to pin the harm they suffer — from floods, droughts or rising seas — on another nation’s emissions.

“The science is not good enough that a farmer in Peru can say ‘My land is at risk from this glacial dam that is about to break because of climate change,’” said Carroll Muffett, president of the Centre for International Environmental Law in Washington.

Advances in the scientific

understanding of global warming meant that “that sort of litigation is emerging”. But for now, the negotiators must look elsewhere for precedents. The now-expired Kyoto agreement, which obliged almost 40 rich nations to cut emissions, did see Greece briefly suspended from UN carbon trading mechanisms in 2008 because it failed to meet a requirement that all countries “shall” set up a system to track greenhouse gas emissions. But it proved ineffective in forcing countries to make the emissions cuts they had promised.

Even now, the Dutch government is appealing against a district court ruling on 24 June that it should cut emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 — further than the government plans — as its fair share of action. But the best precedent for a climate treaty appears to be the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which outlawed chemicals widely used in refrigerants or air conditioning that were damaging the planet’s protective ozone layer.

The United Nations’ Ozone Secretariat says the Protocol is preventing widespread damage to agriculture and fisheries, and will prevent up to 2 million cases of skin cancer every year until 2030.—Reuters

## Israeli air strike kills two in Gaza; police stop suspected Palestinian car bomb

GAZA — An Israeli air strike killed a Palestinian mother and daughter in the Gaza Strip on Sunday and police, confronting a surge of stabbing attacks in Israel, said they foiled an attempt to drive a car bomb into Jerusalem.

Four Israelis and 23 Palestinians have died in 12 days of bloodshed that has spread from Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied West Bank to Israel’s interior and Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Israel said its aircraft targeted a Hamas facility in Gaza Strip after cross-border rocket fire. Palestinian medical officials said a pregnant woman and her three-year-old daughter living near the site were killed when their house collapsed.

On a West Bank road leading to Jerusalem, police pulled over a car driven by a Palestinian woman who they said shouted “God is great” and detonated an explosive when an officer approached. The woman was seriously wounded and the officer was also hurt.

“We foiled a car bomb attack,” Rafi Cohen, a police commander, told reporters at the scene. “We have no doubt the woman terrorist who drove the vehicle intended to reach Jerusalem.”

The car was only slightly

damaged by the blast and Cohen said there were more explosives still in the vehicle. He declined to elaborate but Army Radio reported that gas canisters were found inside.

Palestinians have so far not used bombs — a hallmark of their second uprising, from 2000 to 2005 — in the current violence, which Israeli leaders have described as a “wave of terror”

falling short of an organised “Intifada”.

Against a backdrop of Muslim protests over Jewish access to al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, revered by Jews as

the site of biblical temples, Palestinians have been attacking Israelis with knives, rocks and, on at least one occasion, guns.

Palestinians see increasing visits over the past year by Jewish groups and right-wing lawmakers to the al-Aqsa plaza, which is Islam’s third holiest site, as eroding Muslim religious control of the compound.

Israel has said repeatedly it has no intention of allowing any change to the status quo under which Jews are allowed to visit the site but non-Muslim prayer is banned.

The almost daily Palestinian knife attacks and clashes between Israeli soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinians have not reached the intensity of past Palestinian uprisings, but the rapid escalation has stirred talk of a third “Intifada”.

Amos Gilad, a senior Israeli defence official, said security cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, was continuing.

“The Palestinian Authority is not interested in matters deteriorating, because then they would be swallowed up in the cloud of violence and the fire and terror that is liable to develop,” he told Army Radio.—Reuters



Israeli police stand around a vehicle damaged from an explosion near the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maale Adumim on 11 October 2015. A Palestinian woman motorist set off a bomb after being pulled over by Israeli police near the Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, wounding herself and an officer, police said. PHOTO: REUTERS



## PICTURE OF THE DAY



People take part in a game of 'bubble bump soccer' during an exhibition tournament in Medellin, Colombia on 10 October 2015. The game is played by five-a-side teams wearing inflatable balls trying to score goals against the opposing team. PHOTO: REUTERS

## US reluctant of G-7 summit in Hiroshima

WASHINGTON — The United States told Japan that it was reluctant about the possibility of Hiroshima hosting next year's Group of Seven summit out of concern about reactions by Americans, a US government official said Sunday.

Some in Japan hope President Barack Obama, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who seeks a world free of nuclear weapons, would visit Hiroshima or Nagasaki when he visits Japan for the G-7 summit next year.

The story revealed by a US official indicated, however, that it is harder than generally thought in Japan for such a trip

to take place. Hiroshima, which along with Nagasaki was destroyed by a US atomic bomb near the end of World War II, was among eight candidate cities to host the annual G-7 summit, to be held on 26-27 May, 2016.

The US side had concerns Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government was seeking to possibly pick the western Japan city as the summit host city, according to the official who wished to remain anonymous.

The official said Washington warned it would be "perceived pretty badly" in the United States if an American president

visits an atomic-bombed city under a plan dictated by Japan.

Washington told Tokyo through multiple diplomatic channels that it would be desirable for an American president to visit on his or her own initiative, the official said.

Abe announced in June that he chose Shima, Mie Prefecture, as the venue of the G-7 summit. Hiroshima will host G-7 foreign ministerial talks in April.

Hiroshima was on the shortlist with Sendai and Shima in the selection of the G-7 summit host, according to a Japanese government source.

The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as some atomic-bomb survivors, have asked Obama to visit the cities to see what happened to the communities after the US nuclear attacks. Casualties by the end of 1945 were estimated at 140,000 in Hiroshima and 74,000 in Nagasaki. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in August that he did not rule out the possibility of Obama's visiting Hiroshima during his tenure but suggested the likelihood is slim. In addition to Japan and the United States, the G-7 is made up of Britain, Canada, Germany, France and Italy.—*Kyodo News*

## Iran tests new precision-guided ballistic missile

DUBAI — Iran successfully tested a new precision-guided ballistic missile, Defence Minister Hossein Dehghan was quoted as saying on Sunday, signaling an apparent advance in Tehran's attempts to improve the accuracy of its missile battery.

"The Emad missile is able to strike targets with a high level of precision and completely destroy them," state news agency IRNA quoted Dehghan as saying.

Anthony Cordesman, a researcher at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, wrote in January

that the Emad would have a range of 1,700 km (1,060 miles), 500 metres accuracy and a 750 kg (1,653 pound) payload. It is a variant of the liquid-fueled Shahab-3 missile, in service since 2003, which has a similar range but is accurate only to within 2,000 metres.

"The Emad represents a major leap in terms of accuracy. It has an advanced guidance and control system in its nose cone," Israeli missile expert Uzi Rubin said. Dehghan said the new weapon would be deployed to missile units in the "near future".—*Reuters*

## IN BRIEF

### Turkey to go ahead with 1 Nov election despite bombing

ANKARA — Turkey will hold a parliamentary election on 1 November as planned despite the bombing of a rally of pro-Kurdish and labour activists which killed at least 95 people in the capital Ankara, a senior government official told Reuters on Sunday. "Postponing the elections as a result of the attack is not on the table at all,

even as an option. The elections will be held on 1 November as planned," the official said following Saturday's attack, the worst of its kind on Turkish soil.

"Because of the rising risks, the security at election rallies, which is already being increased, will be raised further. The election will be held in a secure way."—*Reuters*

### US to make payments to families of Kunduz air strike victims

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said on Saturday the US Department of Defence would seek to make "condolence payments" to families of victims of a US air strike that mistakenly targeted a Medecins Sans Frontieres hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, killing 22 people.

"The Department of Defence believes it is important to address the consequences of the tragic incident at the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan,"

said Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook in a statement, adding the United States would also pay to repair the charity hospital.

"US Forces-Afghanistan has the authority to make condolence payments and payments toward repair of the hospital. USFOR-A will work with those affected to determine appropriate payments. If necessary and appropriate, the administration will seek additional authority from the Congress," he said.—*Reuters*

### Accidental China restaurant explosion kills at least 17

SHANGHAI — An explosion ripped through a restaurant in eastern China on Saturday, killing at least 17 people, the official Xinhua news agency reported, blaming the accident on a gas cylinder.

The blast caused a fire at the restaurant

in Wuhu city in Anhui province, the report said, citing local authorities. It gave no other details.

In August, 160 people, including firefighters, were killed in two massive explosions at a chemical warehouse in the northeastern city of Tianjin.—*Reuters*

### South Africa plans to leave International Criminal Court

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa plans to leave the International Criminal Court (ICC), a deputy minister said on Sunday, as the government faces criticism for ignoring a court order to arrest Sudan's president earlier this year.

The ICC has "lost

its direction" and the ruling African National Congress (ANC) wants to withdraw South Africa after following certain processes, Obed Bapela, deputy minister in the Presidency, told reporters after a ruling party policy meeting.—*Reuters*

## WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States

and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions, Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Thundery activities in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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## British band Rudimental tops UK album chart for second time

LONDON — British band Rudimental's new album "We The Generation" went straight into Number 1 on the British album chart, the Official Charts Company said, while Canada's Justin Bieber held onto the top spot for singles for a fourth week.

Rudimental's record, which finished with more than double the sales of British singer Ed Sheeran's "x" in second place, marks the drum and bass group's second Number 1 hit since their 2013 debut "Home".

Bieber's single "What

Do You Mean" was released in September. It was the most streamed track of the week, with 2.9 million listens.

R. City's "Locked Away" was at Number 2 on the singles chart, followed by Sam Smith's "Writing's On The Wall", the theme song for the next James Bond film "Spectre".

Veteran British band Squeeze scored their first top 40 record in 22 years with "Cradle To The Grave" and American singer Janet Jackson released her first album in seven years with "Unbreakable".—Reuters



Pop group Rudimental (L-R) members Piers Agget, Kesi Dryden, Amir Amor and DJ Locksmith arrive for the BRIT music awards at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, London, on 25 February 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Kanye West for president? Obama has some words of advice

SAN FRANCISCO — President Barack Obama poked a little fun at rapper Kanye West on Saturday for saying he planned to run for the White House and offered some tongue-in-cheek advice on how to achieve a successful political career.

"First of all, you've got to spend a lot of time dealing with some strange characters who behave like they're on a reality TV show. So you've just to be cool with that," Obama said to laughter from a crowded theater where he was headlining a fundraiser.

West is married to reality TV star Kim Kardashian.

"Second important tip: saying that you have a 'Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy' — that's what's known as 'off-message' in politics. You can't say something like that," Obama rified, making reference to a popular West album.

"And number three: do you really think that this country is

going to elect a black guy from the South Side of Chicago with a funny name to be president of the United States? That is crazy. That's cray!" Obama, who lived on the South Side of Chicago before he was elected president, concluded, to applause.

West has said he's serious about running for president in 2020.

Obama opened his remarks at the fundraiser, at which West was scheduled to perform, by joking that the entertainer was going to jump into the increasingly complicated race to replace Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner.

"A little bit later, you're going to hear from a guy who I hear has been talking about launching a potential political career," Obama told the crowd.

"Kanye is thinking about running — for Speaker of the House. Couldn't get any stranger."—Reuters

## Amitabh Bachchan turns 73, to have a quiet birthday with family

MUMBAI — For his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has decided to skip a grand celebration and wants to spend it just like any other normal day with his family.

"(It is going to be) Just like any other normal day — with the family. Nothing special," Bachchan told PTI.

Looking back at the year gone by, the three-time National award-winning actor says he is in a happy space both personally and professionally.

"My present, is by the grace of the almighty so immensely busy that I have little time to look back and assess. But even if I were to, what would I assess?" he said.

"Personally I have my family, professionally I have a few projects which I work on, I spend time with them in equal measure. Each passing year is a reward for me."

In a career spanning more than four decades, Bachchan has delivered power-packed performances in films like "Deewar",

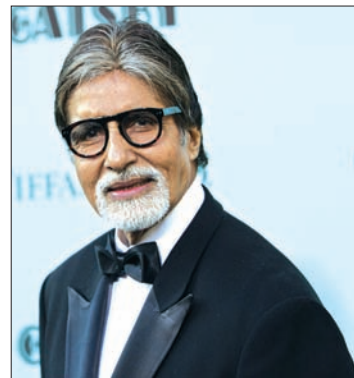


PHOTO: REUTERS

"Zanjeer", "Sholay", "Don", "Abhimaan", "Agneepath", "Black", "Sarkar", "Cheeni Kum", "Paa", "Satyagraha" and "Piku" among others. Besides his work in India, Bachchan also made his Hollywood debut in 2013 with Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby".

The Indian government honoured him with the Padma Shri in 1984, the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2015 for his contributions to the arts.

Bachchan will be next seen in "Wazir", a drama also starring

Aditi Rao Hydari and Farhan Akhtar. The film, directed by Bejoy Nambiar, is scheduled to release in December this year.

Though the multi-talented actor has done almost everything in his life — from acting, singing, producing films, hosting television shows to being in politics, he is still excited to learn new things.

"I wish I could learn music, an instrument, or the art and knowledge of singing. I wish I could spend my time with my father's works to understand them better. I wish I could read some of the great epics of our times," Bachchan said.

"I wish I could be professionally in the company of those who guide and educate on film and film craft — acting, making, writing, production," he said.

Another aspect of life that he enjoys most now is spending time with Aaradhya, who is the daughter of Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai.

"Every moment spent with her is special.—PTI

## Westlife never did drugs: Shane Filan

LONDON — Westlife was one of the most popular boy bands, but the music stars never got into drugs or any other addiction as their manager Louis Walsh always kept a check on them.

Shane Filan, frontman of the Irish boy band that was disbanded in 2012, said their manager kept a close eye on them to ensure they did not fall into bad company.

"We liked to have a drink but

that was about it. We never did drugs, we didn't get involved in any mad, crazy shit or anything like that.

"I think we were generally clean enough individuals anyway because our mums and dads would've killed us if we weren't. Louis (Walsh) was always very strict with us to a certain degree. He always reminded us how lucky we were," Filan, 36, said.

The singer credited Walsh for keeping them united and not letting them spoil their lives.

"He'd be always watching everything. He had disciples out listening to us. It was crazy how much he knew about our lives outside work hours, but that's what a good manager does. He kept us together as a band, that's his job." The band parted ways in 2012 after releasing ten albums.—PTI



Miss Venezuela 2015 Mariam Habach (C), first runner up Jessica Duarte (R) and second runner up Andrea Rosales attend a news conference in Caracas, on 9 October 2015. Habach won the Miss Venezuela pageant and will represent the country in the Miss Universe pageant. PHOTO: REUTERS



# US reassesses Columbus Day, Native American plight in focus

NEW YORK — About four miles from the world's largest Christopher Columbus parade in midtown Manhattan on Monday, hundreds of Native Americans and their supporters will hold a sunrise prayer circle to honor ancestors who were slain or driven from their land.

The ceremony will begin the final day of a weekend "powwow" on Randall's Island in New York's East River, an event that features traditional dancing, story-telling and art.

The Redhawk Native American Arts Council's powwow is both a celebration of Native American culture and an unmistakable counterpoint to the parade, which many detractors say honors a man who symbolizes centuries of oppression of aboriginal people by Europeans.

Organisers hope to call attention to issues of social and economic injustice that have dogged Native Americans since Christopher Columbus led his path-finding expedition to the "New World" in 1492.

The powwow has been held for the past 20 years but never on Columbus Day. It is part of a drive by Native Americans and their



Travis Mazawaficuna of the Dakota Nation (Sioux) Native American tribe arrives with others to the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples outside the United Nations in Manhattan, New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

supporters throughout the country, who are trying to rebrand Columbus Day as a holiday that honors indigenous people, rather than their European conquerors. Their efforts have been successful in several US cities this year.

"The fact that America would honor this man is preposterous," said Cliff Matias, lead organiser of the powwow and a lifelong Brooklyn resident who claims blood ties with Latin America's Taino and Kichwa nations. "It makes absolutely no sense whatso-

ever." But for many Italian Americans, who take pride in the explorer's Italian roots, the holiday is a celebration of their heritage and role in building America. Many of them are among the strongest supporters of keeping the traditional holiday alive.

Berkeley, California, was the first city to drop Columbus Day, replacing it in 1992 with Indigenous Peoples Day. The trend has gradually picked up steam across the country.

Last year, Minneapolis and Seattle became the first

major US cities to designate the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

This month, Portland, Oregon, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Bexar County, Texas, decided to eliminate Columbus Day and replace it with the new holiday. Oklahoma City is set for a vote on a similar proposal later this month.

Columbus Day became a US federal holiday in 1937. The federal government and about half of US states give public employees paid leave, according to

the Council of State Governments. Schools and government offices are generally closed, but many private businesses remain open.

Support for Indigenous Peoples Day has steadily risen in recent years, paralleling the growing perception that the wave of European settlement in the Western Hemisphere was genocidal to native populations.

Gino Barichello, who attended Berkeley city council meetings in the 1990s that resulted in the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day, said he viewed the trend with pride.

"To have a recognition and celebration of all the indigenous cultures of the US, and Berkeley being one of the catalysts leading that charge, is very exciting," said Barichello, who says he is half Italian and half Muscogee, a Native American tribe based in Oklahoma.

New York City, with the country's largest Italian American population at 1.9 million, attracts nearly 35,000 marchers and nearly 1 million spectators to its annual Columbus Day parade.

The Columbus Citizens Foundation, a non-profit

that organises the parade, says on its website the event "celebrates the spirit of exploration and courage that inspired Christopher Columbus's 1492 expedition and the important contributions Italian-Americans have made to the United States."

John Viola, president of the Washington, DC-based National Italian American Foundation, said renaming Columbus Day dishonors the country's 25 million Italian Americans and their ancestors. He said Italian Americans feel slighted by cities that are dropping Columbus Day.

"By default, we're like the collateral damage of this trend," he said.

The foundation's leadership council is scheduled later this month to take up the issue.

One of the proposals expected to be floated at the meeting is to change the name to Italian American Day, taking the spotlight off Columbus and other European explorers. Under this proposal, Indigenous People Day would be celebrated on a different day. "I think many people believe there could be a middle road," Viola said.—Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International

(12-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 13-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations-Gem Stone Painting
07:44	Am	YUFL
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-1)
08:50	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Unique Pattern Of Myanmar... A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress
09:57	Am	[Doctor] [Painter]
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City
10:35	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-5) Shwe Min Thar Foundation
10:53	Am	Temple Stalls

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

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

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-10) (Part -1)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Noodle With Fermented Soya Bean)
08:46	Pm	Diary of a Fisherman

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday 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))

## Int'l Marionettes Festival kicks off in Vietnam



Representatives of troupes from Vietnam and nine foreign countries including Russia, Britain, Germany, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Belgium and the Philippines attend the opening ceremony of the fourth International Marionettes Festival in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 10 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

HANOI — The fourth International Marionettes Festival kicked off in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Saturday night.

The event draws the participation of troupes from Vietnam and nine

foreign countries including Russia, Britain, Germany, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Belgium and the Philippines.

According to a representative of Vietnam's Ministry of Culture, Sports

and Tourism, the event will show the talent and creativity of Vietnamese and foreign artists.

This is also an opportunity to promote Vietnam's unique puppetry arts to the world and strengthen

cultural exchange among participants.

The event is scheduled to run till 16 October.

The International Marionettes Festival has been held since 2008 in Vietnam.—Xinhua



## Myanmar boxers beat foreign opponents, but controversy erupts

Maung Sein Lwin  
(Myanma Alin)

TWO Myanmar traditional boxers emerged victorious over two foreign boxers yesterday at Theinphyu Stadium in Yangon. Tun Tun Min faced Daniel Kerr of New Zealand in the ring,

knocking him out in the first round. Kerr requested a two-minute rest after his bout with Myanmar's golden belt champion began. The match ended when Tun Tun Min struck Kerr on the brow, knocking him out.

The match was Bangkok-based Kerr's first foray into lethwei, the traditional form of boxing in Myanmar.

Thai fighter Ni Wisoram unsuccessfully took on Soe Lin Oo of Myanmar, the latter of whom has won four major tournaments. His right punch prompted the Thai challenger to ask for a two-minute rest and was knocked out in the next round by a powerful right kick.

However the judging of the boxing contests has sparked controversy, with allegations of boxers competing on their home turf being given preferential treatment from umpires.



Tun Tun Min knocks Daniel Kerr of New Zealand out in the first round. PHOTO: MIN HTET

## Wales lose but make finals with Belgium and Italy

LONDON — Wales celebrated reaching their first major tournament for 57 years when they sealed their place in next year's Euro 2016 finals in France despite losing 2-0 to Bosnia in their penultimate Group B qualifier on Saturday.

While Belgium's players were also elated after reaching the finals with a 4-1 win in Andorra and the Italians were beaming as they made sure of their spot with a 3-1 win in Azerbaijan, that was nothing compared to the Welsh celebrations in Zenica.

Despite losing on the night, the Wales players dived in unison, cheered, hugged and jumped for joy with the several hundred travelling fans, all of them forgetting decades of failure after a long sought-after success. Wales' only other appearance at a major finals was in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden and their setback in Bosnia was best summed up by Wales skipper Gareth Bale.

"It's the best defeat of my life!" the world's most expensive player said, after learning that Israel's 2-1 home defeat by Cyprus meant they were through. "It was a difficult game but we have done it and everyone is very happy," added the Real Madrid forward.

"This is right up there in my career. It was a dream from when I was a small child to play in a major tournament. It doesn't stop here, we have business to do in France." Bosnia substitute Milan Djuric scored the first and set up the second for striker Vedad Ibišević as they maintained their chance of a playoff place. Belgium leapfrogged Wales into first place with their win taking them to 20 points followed by Wales on 18, Bosnia 14, Israel 13 and Cyprus 12.

Italy went through after their 3-1 win in a Group H match in Azerbaijan and 11 countries have now booked their places alongside hosts France. As well as Wales, Belgium and Italy, Iceland, the Czech Republic, England, Portugal, Switzerland, Northern Ireland, Austria and Spain are all through.

The remaining automatic qualifiers and playoff spots will be settled from Sunday to Tuesday when the final games are played. Following Saturday's matches, the Netherlands, Turkey, Bosnia, Israel, Cyprus, Norway and Croatia are either in contention for second place or a playoff berth.—Reuters

## Wawrinka wins Japan Open title, beats Paire in final

TOKYO — Switzerland's French Open champion Stan Wawrinka captured his fourth title this year when he beat his good friend Benoit Paire 6-2, 6-4 in the final of the Japan Open on Sunday.

Wawrinka, in the best form of his life, needed just 65 minutes to win the one-sided final at the Ariake Colosseum, the venue that will stage the tennis competition at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The final was played with the roof closed because of the threat of rain and Wawrinka quickly gained control. He wrapped up the opening set after just 26 minutes with three service breaks. The second set was much tighter, Wawrinka had to

fight off two break points in the third game but he seized his only opportunity, in the 10th game, to complete a straight-sets win.

The win gave Wawrinka his 11th career title, the majority of which have come since he won the 2014 Australian Open. His win in Japan was the 30-year-old's fourth this year after he won in Chennai and Rotterdam and at the French Open.

Paire was appearing in just his fourth ATP career final and his second this year after winning the Swedish Open in July.

The Frenchman, who played Sunday's final with his left ankle heavily strapped, upset Japan's Kei Nishikori in the semi-finals but was no match for Wawrinka. — Reuters



Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mexico clinch CONCACAF Cup with 3-2 win over US

PASADENA — Mexico won a pulsating CONCACAF Cup play-off match against the United States 3-2 in extra time at the iconic Rose Bowl Stadium on Saturday to book their place in the next Confederations Cup.

It was their first victory against the US since they clinched the 2011 Gold Cup final played at the same venue, and earned them bragging rights in what has become an intense soccer rivalry over the past two decades.

With a high-energy game tied 1-1 at half-time and also af-

ter full time on an unseasonably hot evening, forward Oribe Peralta broke the deadlock in the 96th minute with a powerful right-footed shot off a low cross from defender Paul Aguilar.

Mexico appeared to have victory assured with their greater composure on the ball but 12 minutes later they were stunned when forward Bobby Wood equalised for the US after latching on to an exquisite through ball from defender DeAndre Yedlin.

Aguilar scored the decisive goal in breathtaking fashion in the

118<sup>th</sup> minute with a thunderous volley after the ball had bounced clear of the US goal following a free kick. Mexico's win ended a six-match winless run against the US featuring three losses and three draws and earned them a spot at the 2017 Confederations Cup, an eight-nation event to be held in Russia as a prelude to the 2018 World Cup. "I feel very happy for everything that the boys did," interim Mexico coach Richard Ferretti said during a news conference. "It's a result that we earned, for what they (the players) did and

what they were looking for. "In the time, the 120 minutes, we did a bit more to deserve the (decisive) goal. We won and we deserved it," added Ferretti, who will be replaced by Juan Carlos Osorio as coach after Tuesday's friendly against Panama.

A huge Mexican contingent at the Rose Bowl brought a festive atmosphere to an aging venue that hosted the 1994 World Cup final and green, white and red Mexican flags were continually waved above a sea of sombreros in a crowd of 93,000.—Reuters