

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Turkey

PAGE 3

Italy finances nomination of Bagan as world heritage site

PAGE 3

ANALYSIS

True national harmony

PAGE 8

# Buddhists flock to pagodas for Thadingyut festival

BUDDHISTS thronged to famous pagodas across the country yesterday to observe the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut and to perform meritorious rituals.

Religious ceremonies were held under the auspices of senior monks, with union ministers and departmental officials donating provisions and gifts to the monks.

At the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, a congregation led by union ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Soe Win heard a sermon on Abhidhamma from state-level Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Bhaddanta Kavisara.

In the evening, Buddhist devotees lit 9,000 oil lamps at the pagoda. Other famous pagodas and houses were decorated

with multi-coloured light bulbs and oil lamps in Lewe and Tatkon townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Local people took relaxation at Nay Pyi Taw Thatta Thattaha Budh Gaya, Water Fountain Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens, Safri Park, National Races Village and hot-springs.

In Yangon, Buddhist followers packed into the world-known Shwedagon Pagoda compound to observe the auspicious day by performing merit-making rituals. Members of the public donated charity and food to visitors. Well-wishers donated meals to the people at religious buildings in townships of Yangon.

See page 3 >>



People light candles at pagodas across the country, celebrating the end of Buddhist Lent, or the end of the Buddhist rain retreat. Kyetagon Theravada, a local religious group comprising employees of a garment factory and residents of Bago Region, located about 50 miles northwest of Yangon, lit 1,000 candles at the Kyaikpun Four Buddha Images in Bago on Wednesday to welcome the onset of winter, or the start of the festival of lights. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Valid ballot samples released

IN an effort to educate voters on proper voting procedures, the Union Election Commission released examples of valid and invalid ballots on Tuesday. Samples of valid and invalid advance votes were released previously.—GNLM

## Ceasefire monitoring joint committee meets today

Ye Myint

REPRESENTATIVES from the government and eight signatories of the country's ceasefire accord are set to hold a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting in Yangon today, a senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) said yesterday.

It is the first meeting of the committee after its formation, the MPC's senior adviser U Hla Maung Shwe told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Following the ceasefire sign-

ing, the committee was formed along with the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) during the three-day Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw two weeks ago.

The JMC will be responsible for dealing with military matters, while the UPDJC will deal with political issues.

The meeting is scheduled to run for three days at the Myanmar Peace Centre as beginning on Thursday, said the senior adviser, adding that implementation of the ceasefire agreement is underway.

According to the truce pact, ceasefire monitoring activities will be undertaken transparently and responsibly to ensure strict adherence to the military code of conduct by all signatories.

Once finalised, the code of conduct will use clearly-worded language, as will the monitoring guidelines for Union, state and regional level committees. These are to be completed within 30 days. Likewise, the ceasefire signatories will have to establish a political framework within 60 days and hold political dialogue within 90

days, in accordance with the agreement.

The government and eight ethnic groups – the Karen National Union, Restoration Council of Shan State, Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council, Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, Pa-O National Liberation Organisation, Chin National Front, Arakan Liberation Party and All Burma Students' Democratic Front – signed the ceasefire agreement in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October.

Pockets of conflict persist in some parts of the country.



## Hsutaungpyae Myatswa Phayagyi Pagoda Festival commences in Monywa

THE annual festival of Hsutaungpyae Myatswa Phayagyi Pagoda in Monywa of Sagaing Region began on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, yesterday.

A festival shop owner expressed concern that her business will suffer this year due to low spending in the area which was recently hit by severe flash flooding. She further added that the coming General Elections have distracted festival goers from the celebrations.

On 5 November there will be a collective offering ceremony to over 6,000 members of the Sangha by the whole town.

The festival of the historic pagoda sells local produce - Myanmar traditional delicacies and clothing, ceramics, electrical items and a host of other products. The event attracts religious devotees from across the nation. The pagoda festival ends on 9 November.—*Po Chan-Monywa*



People visit Hsutaungpyae Myatswa Phayagyi Pagoda in Monywa. PHOTO: PO CHAN-MONYWA

## Indawgyi Lake healthier, prettier than Inlay Lake



Officials of Forest Department measure depth of Indawgyi Lake. PHOTO: GNLM-001

OFFICIALS of Indawgyi Sanctuary in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, measured Indawgyi Lake using a GPS system on Monday. The findings are that the lake is 67 feet and eight inches at its deepest point. “The Indawgyi Lake is in better condition than Myanmar’s largest, the Inlay Lake in Shan State,” Warden U Htay Win of the sanctuary said. “With the assistance of international organisations including Fauna & Flora International (FFI), departmental officials are carrying out environmental conservation at Indawgyi Lake. We want to focus on educating local students from schools around the lake to understand the importance of environmental conservation.”

About 20 creeks flow into Indawgyi Lake the year round.—*GNLM-001*

## Cetana Clinics opened in Monywa

THE Myanmar Public Health Foundation opened a Cetana Clinic at Thala ward in the Monywa town of Sagaing Region this past Sunday.

The opening ceremony was attended by Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, the Myanmar Public Health

Foundation President Dr Than Sein, local officials, representatives of civic societies and towns elders.

Another Cetana Clinic was also opened by the foundation on Tuesday at Myothit ward, according to a town resident.—*MOI Webportal*



Officials open Cetana Clinic in Monywa. PHOTO: MOI WEB PORTAL

## Haka-Gangaw Road now accessible to all vehicles



Various sizes of vehicles driving along Haka-Gangaw Road. PHOTO: HAKA DISTRICT IPRD

VITAL Haka-Gangaw Road in the Haka District of Chin State, which was damaged by severe flash floods in July and August of this year has been reconstructed and is now accessible to both large and small vehicles, including passenger buses, says Deputy Director U Tint Lwin of Special Construction Group 10 of the Ministry of Construction.

The road had been closed since 2 August and has been repaired by government funding. It will be better by February, said the official.

The reconstruction works with heavy machinery were also participated by private construction companies, according to the official.—*Haka District IPRD*



## President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Turkey

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Buddhists flock to pagodas for Thadingyut festival

>> From page 1

In Mandalay Region, famous pagodas such as Shwekyeemyin, Sacred Tooth Relic (Mandalay), Maha Muni Buddha Image and Aungdawmu pagodas were crowded with Buddhist people, who placed flowers, fruit, water, oil lamps and gold leaf before images of the Buddha. Many congregants chanted religious verses. In the evening, various buildings in Mandalay City were illuminated with multi-coloured lightings.—*Myanmar News Agency/Tin Maung/Khin Maung Htwe/Win Win Maw*



People throng to Datusaya Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. PHOTO: MNA



Pilgrims visit Kyauktawgyi pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG



People offer oil lamps to Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

## China donates LED Displays, technicians to renovation of Yangon National Theatre

THE People's Republic of China has donated to the Yangon National Theatre an LED Display Board with support materials and a full technical team to aid in the major renovation project currently underway in the building. The materials arrived on 7 October with the Chinese technical team arriving in Yangon last Sunday.

The LED Display Board installation process began on Monday. Involved in the project are 3 technical experts from Haier International Business Corp, Ltd. The engineer of the theatre will provide maintenance training until the end of November when the project will be completed.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## KOICA supports project for sewing course

KOREA International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) through its World Friends Korea volunteers' program has supported a project for the improvement of sewing environment and opening of pattern sewing course at the Saunders' Weaving and Vocational Institute, Amarapura, Mandalay. The project cost is US\$ 9,982.

The KOICA volunteer Kim Soon Yoel's hand-over ceremony took place at the Institute on Thursday, 22 October 2015 on the presence of Mr. Nam Kwon Hyung, Chief resident representative KOICA Office in Myanmar and officials.

It is expected that the project will build up training capacity of Saunders' institute. Firstly, 35 sewing machines and various training kits have been newly equipped for strengthening training capacity. Secondly, technical training course will be open soon for transferring new trend and skills on sewing and pattern. Lastly, renovation works on the practice room have been completed through collaboration with Myanmar government.—*KOICA*

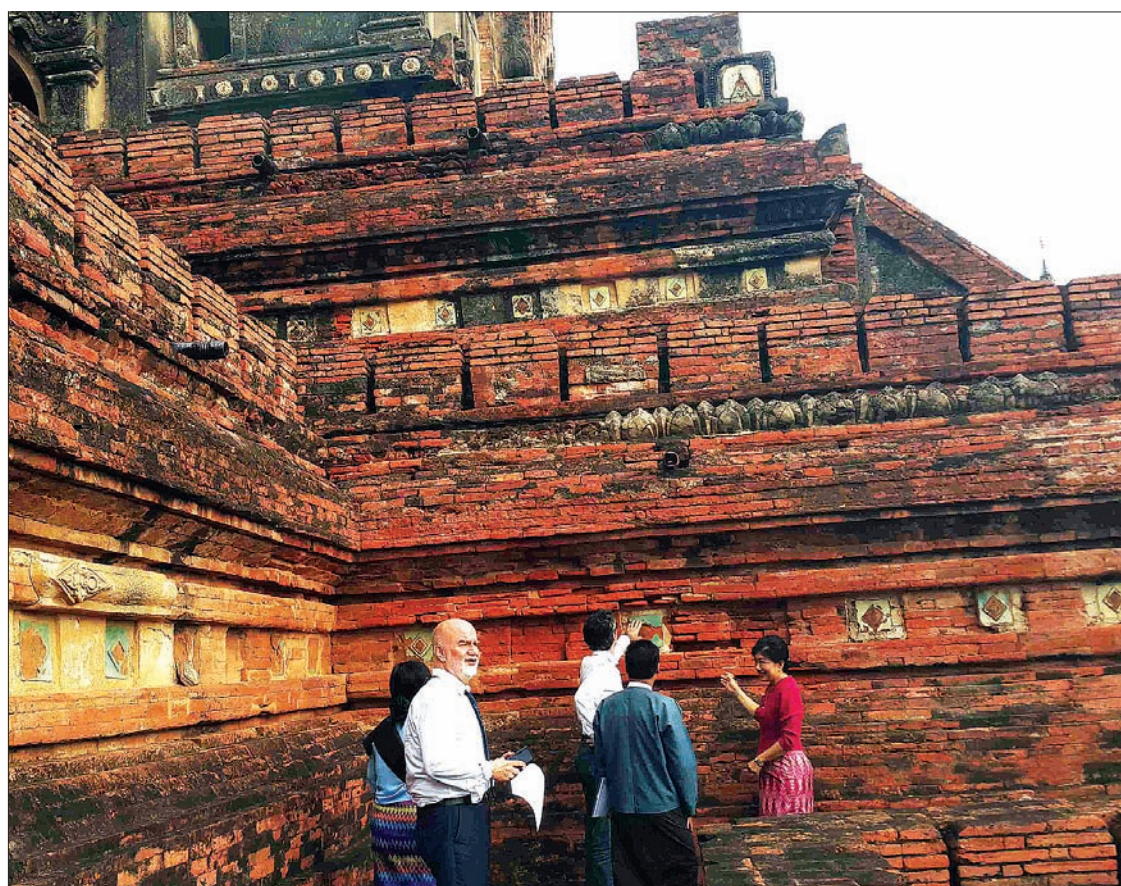
## Italy finances nomination of Bagan as world heritage site

ITALY will provide its third installment of financial assistance for the maintenance of the ancient Pyu cities and the inclusion of the Bagan region on the World Heritage List, according to the Ministry of Culture.

Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin, together with Italian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Giorgio Aliberti, went on an inspection tour of the Bagan region on 26 October. The deputy minister called for the preservation of the archaeological value of the ancient architectural features of Bagan's pagodas.

At the archaeological museum in Bagan, officials from the Italian Development Cooperation Office and UNESCO's Yangon office discussed the maintenance of cultural heritage sites and cooperation in the promotion of tourism.

Earlier this year, Italy's financial assistance enabled the Myanmar to have the three ancient Pyu cities of Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Kestra inscribed into World Heritage List.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin and foreign experts inspect ancient buildings in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA



# Indonesia failed to predict severity of El Niño weather

JAKARTA — Indonesia's weather agency failed to predict that the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon this year would be worse than in 1997, a senior minister said on Wednesday, as the government considers declaring a national emergency due to forest fires.

The fires raging across the archipelago have created a haze that has blanketed much of Southeast Asia in recent months and, according to authorities, have left more than half a million Indonesians suffering from respiratory ailments.

Luhut Panjaitan, the coordinating security minister tasked by President Joko Widodo with overseeing the government's response to the crisis, said the state weather agency BMKG had not forecast the severity of the El Niño effect.

"I must admit there was a mistake in the BMKG forecast that didn't predict El Niño this year would be worse than 1997," Panjaitan told reporters. "Our forecast was wrong."

Nineteen people have died fighting the fires, and the El Niño effects have exacerbated the dry season making it harder to extinguish the fires.

Often deliberately set by plantation companies and smallholders, the fires have been burning for weeks in the forests and carbon-rich peat lands of Sumatra and Kalimantan islands. Recently, they have spread to places like Papua.

The national disaster management agency said it expected the fires to be completely extinguished by the end of November or early December. Haze-hit provinces have begun seeing rainfall, which authorities hope will help government efforts to combat the fires.

Indonesia has deployed warships to evacuate infants and other vulnerable residents of haze-hit areas but the evacuations will be a last resort if authorities are unable to provide care for those suffering from respiratory ailments. —Reuters



A student volunteer hands out protective masks to motorists near the south Kalimantan city of Banjarmasin, on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

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## S Korea's Park to play balancing act between China and Japan

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye faces a delicate balancing act between her country's rapidly developing ties with Beijing and US pressure to mend ties with Tokyo as she hosts the first three-way summit in three years with China and Japan.

Sunday's summit will be a major diplomatic breakthrough for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has courted Park amid a push by Washington for its two main Asia allies to move beyond their bitter wartime history in the face of a growingly assertive China.

"We have conducted an increasingly mature diplomacy both with the United States and with China over the years," a South Korean official told Reuters. "In the case of Japan, things have been more difficult, but we

**"We have conducted increasingly mature diplomacy both with the United States and with China over the years."**

South Korean official

recognise we need to move forward."

South Korean and Chinese ties with Japan have been troubled over what they see as repeated failures by leaders in Tokyo to properly atone for wartime atrocities, in particular for Seoul over the issue of "comfort women," as

the mostly Korean women forced into prostitution at Japanese military brothels are called.

Park has worked hard to bring South Korea and China, which have one of the world's biggest trading partnerships, closer politically, having met President Xi Jinping six times. Her meeting with Premier Li Ke-qiang in Seoul will be her fifth.

Few expect an overflowing of goodwill, but for Park the occasion affords an opportunity to be seen addressing issues of regional interest, including promoting business ties and tackling North Korea's arms programme.

"China is not ready, Korea is not ready, but the Americans want Japan and (South) Korea to get together," said Kunihiko Miyake, a former Japanese diplomat now at the Canon Institute for Global Studies in Tokyo.

The summit had been held annually since 2008 and was the venue for the neighbours to discuss economic cooperation until it was discontinued after 2012 amid diplomatic tensions.

This week, South Korea and Japan's business community welcomed the meeting and the first two-way meeting between Park and Abe since they took office. Abe has met Xi twice since November 2014.

The two countries share a long history of economic cooperation but the diplomatic row has had an effect on their trade, which began falling since 2011, Kim Bong-man, head of regional cooperation at the Federation of Korean Industries said.

"So we are hoping that the Korea-Japan summit will be an opportunity to normalize the relationship."—Reuters

## Cars, guns and watches seized as Thai royal insult probe widens

BANGKOK — Thai police on Wednesday widened a major probe into a network of people charged with insulting the monarchy, which has seen three people charged and eight police officers demoted so far.

Television footage of a police news conference in Bangkok showed photographs of guns and luxury cars, watches, religious amulets and guitars seized in a probe that has led to the arrest of three people who allegedly claimed false connections to the royal family for personal gain.

"These people made others wrongly believe that they were close to the monarchy... Their actions caused damage to the royal

institution," police chief Jakthip Chaijinda told reporters.

Altogether, police are investigating 13 cases dating back to August, said Central Investigation Bureau commissioner Thitiraj Nhonharnpitak, adding that more arrest warrants would be issued.

The probe has heightened scrutiny of the world's toughest lese majeste law. Critics say the law is often used as a political tool to discredit and silence opponents.

Thailand's 87-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej is seen as semi-divine by many Thais, but this view is hard to challenge when law can make anything deemed an insult or threat to the

monarchy punishable by up to 15 years in jail. The king told an audience in 2005 that he should not be above criticism. That has not stopped prosecutions under laws protecting the monarchy from sky-rocketing since a coup last May toppled an elected government.

Police said the latest probe was linked to a high-profile corruption scandal in 2014 involving Pongpat Chayaphan, a former Central Investigation Bureau chief and uncle of former Princess Srirasmi.

Srirasmi resigned from her royal post in December at the height of that investigation which embroiled top police officers,

army sergeants, one of Thailand's richest men and relatives of the former princess.

In the latest probe, the three men were charged last week with allegedly falsely claiming ties to the monarchy.

One of them, Police Major Prakrom Warunprapa, died in custody on Friday after he hanged himself in his cell at an army detention facility, the corrections department said.

His body was not sent for a post-mortem examination, the department said, and was handed over to his family for religious rites. The suspects still in custody are a fortune teller and his secretary.—Reuters



## Amid Chinese tensions with US, French frigate visits China

BEIJING — A French frigate has docked at a port in southern China on a four-day visit to China's South China Sea fleet, China's military said on Wednesday, amid tensions between China and United States over the disputed waters.

The Vendémiaire docked at Zhanjiang in the southern province of Guangdong on Tuesday morning for a four day "friendly visit", the official People's Liberation Army Daily said.

It will participate in a maritime exercise about accidental encounters at sea, and French and Chinese naval personnel will visit

each others' ships and play soccer, the short report added.

The activities will "increase mutual understanding, trust and cooperation between the two nations' navies", it said.

The Vendémiaire is on its eighth visit to China, the newspaper added. It comes ahead of French President Francois Hollande's visit to China next week.

China has rebuked Washington for sending a US guided-missile destroyer close to one of Beijing's man-made islands in the South China Sea, saying it had tracked and warned the ship and

called in the US ambassador to protest.

France and the United States are both key members of NATO.

The USS Lassen's patrol on Tuesday was the most significant US challenge yet to the 12-nautical-mile territorial limits China claims around artificial islands it has built in the Spratly archipelago. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of world trade passes every year.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.—Reuters

## Protesters target Australian immigration camp operator meeting

SYDNEY — The company running Australia's offshore immigration detention camps rejected on Wednesday suggestions its staff were involved in rights abuses on isolated Pacific islands as the United Nations stepped up criticism of the facilities.

About 100 protesters disrupted the annual general meeting of Transfield Services Ltd as company chairwoman Diane Smith-Gander said they only provided support services for the camps that were set up and paid for by Australia's government.

"We are not responsible for those policies and we play no part in their development," Smith-Gander said.

Immigration is a sensitive issue in Australia and two years ago the government re-introduced a policy of intercepting refugee boats and processing applications for visas on Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

The programme has come under renewed criticism since a Somali woman said she was raped in custody on Nauru.

Chief executive Grame Hunt said the company had "zero toler-

ance" of mistreatment and rejected any suggestion Transfield staff were involved in abuse.

The company is about to finish a contract worth A\$1.2 billion for 20 months, and is hoping to renew it for five years for an expected income of A\$2.7 billion.

Among several rights activists to speak at the meeting, Mohammad Ali Baqiri from Afghanistan told how, as a boy held on Nauru for three years from 2001, he regularly saw prisoners attempt suicide.

"Detention centres are worse than prison," Baqiri said.

"At least in prison you know you've committed a crime ... it's ethically and morally wrong to profit from abuse."

Other activists suggested

**"Impunity for such serious crimes increases the risk they will be repeated."**

**Rupert Colville**  
UN human rights spokesman

Transfield's share price was being hurt by the programme.

"Things are not going well for your company and they're going to get worse," a woman told the meeting before security staff removed her.

A year ago, Transfield rejected a takeover approach from Spain's Ferrovial SA at A\$2 per share. The stock is now barely half that, having seen several large shareholders exit citing rights concerns.

The United Nations has said an increase in rapes was being reported and it was concerned about a lack of response from Nauru police. "Impunity for such serious crimes increases the risk they will be repeated," UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville said on Tuesday.

Australia's policy has attracted interest from conservatives in Europe where large numbers of people are seeking refuge from war in the Middle East.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott on Tuesday urged Europe to close its borders, telling British conservatives an instinct to help "is leading much of Europe into catastrophic error".—Reuters

## N Korea finishes building huge science education facility

BEIJING — North Korea has finished building a vast facility offering local people opportunities to learn about new technologies, official media said Wednesday, in yet another evidence that science is a high priority for leader Kim Jong Un's government.

The Sci-Tech Complex, constructed on the Ssuk islet in Pyongyang's Taedong River with a floor space of more than 100,000 square metres, features a huge model of "earth satellite-carrier rocket" at the facility's central hall, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

Construction of the complex was one of the major projects to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the ruling Workers' Party.

Kim has hailed the completion of the building, saying that it symbolises the party's policy of "attaching importance to science and technolo-

gy" and the country's "architectural art," according to the state-run media. Inspecting the site on an unidentified date, Kim was quoted as saying that his heart is "filled with confidence that socialist Korea will surely hit the goal of prosperity with inexhaustible strength of the army and people who are ready to remove a mountain and empty sea when the party is determined to do."

The facility includes an earthquake experience room and an electronic library, which stores books and data from around the world on the latest scientific achievements, according to KCNA.

On the occasion of the party's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was marked on 10 October, North Korea has already built numerous other facilities, including a large residential area dedicated to its "future scientists" in the heart of Pyongyang.—Kyodo News

## S Korea calls for peaceful resolution of disputes in S China Sea

SEOUL — A senior South Korean official on Wednesday reiterated that territorial disputes in the South China Sea should be resolved in a peaceful manner.

"South Korea has been strongly calling for restraint of any action that affects peace and stability in the region," the official was quoted as saying by Yonhap News Agency.

The official at the presidential office added that disagreements should be resolved

based on international norms.

Tensions between the United States and China have escalated after a US Navy destroyer sailed into waters claimed by China on Tuesday and China criticised the move as a "deliberate provocation."

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter indicated in Washington that the United States will continue its navigation in the waters.—Kyodo News

## Explosion occurs in shopping mall near Jakarta, 1 person injured

JAKARTA — An explosion occurred in a shopping mall near the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, slightly injuring a man, a police spokesman said Wednesday.

Jakarta Police spokesman Muhammad Iqbal told Kyodo News that the explosion occurred at 12:05 pm in Alam Sutera Mall in the town of Tangerang, around 20 kilometres west of Jakarta.

He was not able to confirm reports that the explosion came from a bomb placed in a toilet at the shopping centre.

A homemade bomb shocked the same mall in July. According to Jakarta Police Chief Tito Karnavian, speaking at the time, that bomb was similar to another device which exploded at a shopping mall in Depok, another town near Jakarta.—Kyodo News



Police scuffle with protesters outside the site of the annual general meeting of Transfield Services in Sydney, on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Vucic: Serbia and Russia are proven friends



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Medvedev.

PHOTO: TANJUG

MOSCOW — Serbia has proven its friendship towards Russia by not imposing any sanctions on it despite many pressures from around the world, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said in Moscow on Tuesday.

Serbia will continue that policy in the future as well, Vucic told a joint press conference after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

Vucic thanked Russia for its support in UNESCO and assistance in protecting Serbian interests in the UN Security Council.

I am confident that Serbia and

Russia will remain friends, but that we will also succeed in building even better relations on rational foundations in the interest of both countries, Vucic said. He said that the meeting with the Russian prime minister also addressed economic issues and continuing the cooperation in agriculture and defence.

The two prime ministers agreed plans for Russia and Serbia to seek new routes for delivery of gas following termination of the South Stream pipeline project. We will do everything to secure gas deliveries and find new routes for

delivery of this fuel after South Stream has been stopped, Medvedev said.

He pointed out that cooperation in large infrastructure projects was best in the energy sector, adding that NIS, a Russian-Serbian company, should develop into a regional leader. The Russian prime minister said that his meeting with Vucic was a friendly and successful one, adding that he was confident that all agreements signed by the two countries' delegations today would be implemented.

Serbia will settle its debts to Russian Gazprom before the deadline, said Vucic after the talks with Medvedev.

Vucic expressed belief that soon an agreement will be reached on the expansion of the gas storage Banatski Dvor to a billion cubic meters and the construction of new storage Banatski Itebej.

He said that the topic of the talks with Medvedev was an increase in Serbia's exports to Russia, which is in deficit due to large imports of Russian energy. Vucic said that the talks also tabled the increasing export of agricultural products and expressed hope that Serbia will manage to win the greatest possible share of the Russian market.—*Tanjug*

## Clinton says she would not bail out troubled banks

DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Hillary Clinton would not bail out big banks to save them from collapse in the event of another financial crisis, she said on Tuesday.

During a late night television appearance with comedian Stephen Colbert, Clinton said her priorities were focused on raising the minimum wage and bolstering the middle class. "If you're president and the banks are failing, do we let them fail?" asked Colbert. "Yes, yes, yes, yes..." Clinton said. She added that she would not hesitate to break apart banks that were "too big to fail."

"We now have stress tests and I'm going to impose a risk fee on the big banks if they engage in risky behaviour," she said. During the 2008 recession, the US government poured cash into US banks to keep them afloat after years of risky loans. Under the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, regulators were given the power to carve up the banks if they deem them "not credible." Earlier this month, Clinton announced a plan to



PHOTO: REUTERS

curb what she has called the abuses of Wall Street, proposing everything from raising the fines that can be levied by regulators to requiring executives to bear some of those costs.

The plan includes strengthening the "Volcker rule" in the Dodd-Frank Act, which prohibits banks from certain kinds of trading on their own account, and imposing a new tax on high-frequency trading. "We need to get back to putting the middle class at the center of our politics," Clinton told Colbert.—*Reuters*

## Chinese ambassador slams US provocation in South China Sea

WASHINGTON — Chinese ambassador to the United States Tuesday slammed a US warship's sailing within 12 nautical miles of Chinese islands in South China Sea as a serious provocation that has exposed the absurdity and hypocrisy of the US position on the South China Sea issue.

Cui Tiankai was reacting to the US destroyer USS Lassen's intrusion earlier Tuesday. China has officially lodged a strong protest to the US government over the provocative move.

"I think what the United States is doing is a very serious provocation politically and militarily," Cui said in an interview with the US cable news network

CNN. "It's a clear attempt to escalate the situation and to militarize the region. So we're very concerned about that," said the veteran diplomat.

**"We have to make sure we have sufficient means to safeguard our sovereignty there, ..."**

**Cui Tiankai**  
Chinese ambassador to the United States

Cui criticised the United States for taking an "absurd and even hypocritical position" to ask others not to militarize the region while itself is sending military vessels there so frequently.

He strongly refuted the US claim that it was exercising so-called freedom of navigation rights in the region, pointing out that the US move was taken "in total disregard of the international law."

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea has clear provision about the safety of navigation, freedom of navigation and innocent transit, Cui said, noting the United States is not a party to the global treaty.

"What the US is doing is totally against the provision, the letter and spirit of the convention," he said.

The Chinese envoy stressed that China has a long-standing sovereignty over the islands in the region and the waters surrounding them.

He was responding to the US claim that it does not recognize the territorial rights of China's man-made land features in the South China Sea.

Cui said that, in view of the US actions, China has to seriously think about beefing up its defense capabilities in the region.

"We have to make sure we have sufficient means to safeguard our sovereignty there, to

protect our lawful rights there, and ... maintain peace and stability there, and nobody will have any more illusion that it could continue to provoke," he said.

Cui stressed that whatever is happening now will not change China's position on its sovereignty in the region or weaken its determination to safeguard its sovereignty and seek a peaceful solution to the territorial disputes with countries concerned.

"And it certainly will not weaken our position and commitment to developing a healthy and strong relationship with the United States. But this is a two-way track and we have to have reciprocal actions from the United States," he added.—*Xinhua*

## Cameron to warn against UK adopting Norway-style relationship with EU

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron will challenge on Wednesday a suggestion by Eurosceptics that Britain would be better off leaving the European Union and agreeing a looser, Norwegian-style relationship with the bloc.

So far the British leader had avoided public involvement in the arguments for leaving or staying in the EU that will be put to a referendum by the end of 2017; but with opinion polls

showing falling support for the EU, Cameron has clearly decided to take on the Eurosceptics directly.

Cameron, seeking to renegotiate terms of Britain's EU membership, says he wants to stay in a reformed EU but rules nothing out if he cannot get change on such matters as free movement of labour.

He will use a trip to a Northern Future Forum in Iceland on Wednesday to directly address

one of the proposed alternatives to EU membership.

"A number of senior Vote Leave members say being part of the European Economic Area, like Norway, is 'the only realistic option' should the UK leave the EU," a source in Cameron's office said ahead of the trip.

"(The Prime Minister) believes it is important to highlight the questions Britain would face if it left the EU and followed Norway's model."

Norway, along with Iceland and Lichtenstein, is not an EU member but has access to the bloc's single market. It accepts the EU's principles of freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and people as well as rules governing, among other things, employment law and competition. It also contributes money to the EU.

The source said Cameron would highlight five key questions those advocating this model

must answer, including whether Britain would have any say over how EU rules are set, whether it would have to pay money to the EU, and whether it would be subject to freedom of movement rules.

Immigration is a top concern among British voters and a key element of the debate over remaining in the EU. Cameron plans to restrict EU migrants' access to welfare payments in Britain.—*Reuters*



## Libyan helicopter shot down outside Tripoli, at least 12 killed

TRIPOLI — A Libyan helicopter carrying military commanders from Tripoli's self-styled government was shot down on Tuesday by another armed faction west of the capital, and at least 12 people were killed, author-

ities and security sources said.

A spokesman for the Tripoli government's chief of staff said the helicopter had been returning to the capital when it was hit by anti-aircraft fire and

crashed into the sea near al-Maya.

Libya is caught in a conflict involving two rival governments, based respectively in Tripoli and in the east, as well as a myriad of armed factions that back

them in loose coalitions.

Armed groups often act independently according to tribal, local or regional loyalties and interests. Tripoli officials blamed the Washafana tribal army for the attack.—Reuters

## Iraqi Kurdish PM appoints new ministers after expulsions

ERBIL — The prime minister of Iraq's Kurdistan region has appointed ministers to replace four who were unilaterally expelled from the cabinet by his party during the worst political crisis in years.

The dominant Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) suspended the four ministers from their posts earlier this month after ac-

curring the Gorran movement to which they belong of instigating violent unrest for political gain.

The expelled ministers were replaced on Tuesday with KDP politicians in what senior Gorran official Mohammed Tofiq described as an "illegal and illegitimate" move. The new appointments by Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani entrench the KDP's dominance over the affairs of the autonomous region, which has emerged as a key ally of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State militant group.

Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) spokesman Safeen Dizayee said the four Gorran ministers were technically considered to be on leave, and that their reinstatement would depend on political

negotiations between the parties. The four new ministers have been appointed on an "acting" basis, he said.

The KRG was formed as a coalition government between the region's five main parties, but relations between them came under increasing strain over the presidency of Massoud Barzani, who is also head of the KDP. Gorran was one of four parties pushing for a reduction of the president's powers as a condition for extending his mandate, which expired in August, but the KDP has resisted.

The Ministry of Peshmerga will now be led by Karim Sinjari, who is currently Interior Minister. Minister of Planning Ali Sindi was appointed to head the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Pishtivan Sadiq will take over the Ministry

of Endowments and Religious Affairs. The Ministry of Finance will run by the expelled minister's deputy, and the head of the Investment Board from Gorran has also been replaced.

At the height of the crisis, the KDP prevented the speaker of the region's parliament, who is from Gorran, from entering Erbil province, which it controls. It also closed down the offices of two critical TV channels, one of them affiliated with Gorran.

"The KDP claims to be rights-respecting but has a history of shutting down critical voices," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director for Human Rights Watch. "Barring elected members of parliament from doing their job and forcing critical media staff out of the governorate is a new low."—Reuters

**"The KDP claims to be rights-respecting but has a history of shutting down critical voices."**

**Joe Stork**  
Deputy Middle East  
director for Human  
Rights Watch.

## Three Palestinians shot dead after knife attacks

JERUSALEM — Three Palestinians were shot dead after attacking Israeli soldiers with knives in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, the military said, and an American-Israeli wounded in an attack two weeks ago died of his injuries, an Israeli hospital said.

Religious and political tensions over a Jerusalem site sacred to both Muslims and Jews have fuelled the worst wave of Israeli-Pal-

estinian violence since the 2014 Gaza war.

The Israeli military said that soldiers had approached two Palestinians they found acting suspiciously at a junction near a Jewish settlement. When the suspects stabbed and wounded one of the soldiers, they were shot, the army said in a statement.

A military spokesman said they had been killed. Their families said they

were 17 and 22 years old.

Hours later, the army said it had shot dead another Palestinian who tried to stab a soldier in the Palestinian city of Hebron.

Since 1 October, at least 59 Palestinians, 32 of whom Israel has said were armed assailants, have been shot dead by Israelis at the scene of attacks or during protests in the West Bank and in Gaza. Many of the attackers have been

teenagers.

Many Palestinians say Israeli police and soldiers are using excessive force, while Israel says lethal force is justified against deadly threats.

Amnesty International said on Tuesday that it had found some of the killings of Palestinians had been unjustified, and that Israeli forces were using "extreme and unlawful measures".

In a statement, the rights group said it had documented at least four cases in which Palestinians had been deliberately shot dead without posing an imminent threat, "in what appear to have been extrajudicial executions".

The number of Israelis killed in Palestinian attacks rose to 11 after the death of American-Israeli Richard Lakin, 76, who had been wounded on 13 October when two Palestinians staged a stabbing and shooting attack on a Jerusalem bus, killing two other passengers.

Israeli security forces shot dead one of the assailants and captured the other, police said.—Reuters



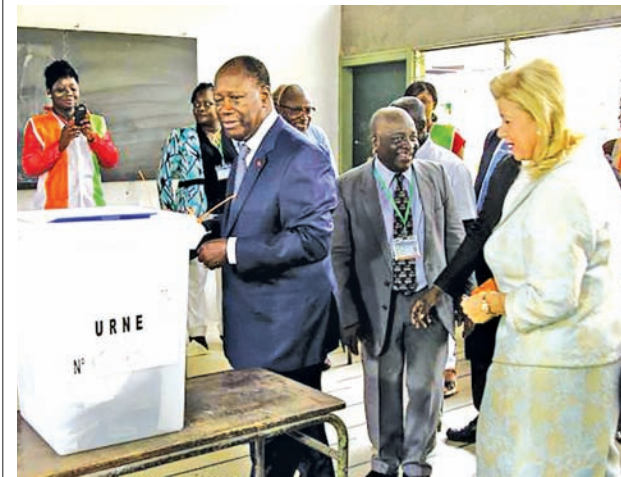
Palestinians run away from Israeli troops during clashes following a protest demanding Israel to return the dead bodies of Palestinians who allegedly stabbed Israelis, in the West Bank city of Hebron, on 27 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ivory Coast's Ouattara secures second term in landslide poll win

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara won a blowout poll victory and a second five-year term in office in a weekend vote intended to draw a line under years of turmoil and a 2011 civil war, the elections commission announced on

Wednesday.

Ouattara won a total of 2,118,229 votes, or 83.66 percent of ballots cast, President of the Independent Electoral Commission Youssouf Bakayoko announced at a press conference. Sunday's vote had a turnout of 54.63 percent, he said.—Reuters



Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara of the Rally of the Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) party and his wife Dominique prepare to cast their votes at a polling station during a presidential election in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on 25 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (010W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (010W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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## OPINION

## True national harmony

Myint Win Thein

National reconciliation is essential for a democratic transition in Myanmar. Therefore the government has been endeavouring to achieve a nationwide ceasefire agreement with ethnic armed groups. The international community has praised the efforts of the government.

However, peace with armed groups alone cannot achieve national reconciliation as there are many unarmed groups that are still divided, disenfranchised and ill at ease in this country.

Armed conflict and sectarian violence are just one aspect of the problem of national reconciliation. This leads to an incorrect understanding of democracy as a system that does not allow armed conflicts but

approves of unarmed conflicts and more subtle means of attack.

Actually democracy is a means of ending all conflict, armed and unarmed through negotiations and ensuring that all can enjoy their rights. Some think that peaceful demonstrations are a healthy sign of democracy. Sometimes demonstrations can represent current division but in the end the right to peaceful protest is of paramount importance and the cornerstone of liberty and freedom. 'Freedom to congregate', as it is known in the west, is of utmost importance.

But alas there are signs that the rights of some groups of people in this country are being denied and it does nothing but causes national harm, discordance and loneliness in Myanmar.

Political groups, workers, peasant farmers, students and activists who demand their rights can often lead to national crises and instability. In fact, conflicts with armed group are limited to areas the armed groups control and rarely escalate to national crises although it causes great destruction to the lives and property of local people. It is something to consider. We must be open

to negotiation. This shows that the same effort should be exerted for national reconciliation with unarmed groups. As long as conflicts with unarmed groups persist our society will still be divided and national reconciliation will be as far away as it has been in the past.

It is important that the government makes a serious effort to promote reconciliation with peaceful groups. This will aid the stability of the country. This will ultimately contribute to reconciliation with armed ethnic groups. True and sustainable national reconciliation can be achieved only when everyone in the country can enjoy their birthrights.

## 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.*

## How much freedom and rights should Myanmar Children have?

Tommy Pauk

The biological mother and father of Myanmar children are indeed great benefactors as well as mentors. The word Myanmar children represents all children including those who are offspring of the ethnic people, living across the country. Basically, Myanmar children learn everything from their parents at home before they are sent to nursery school. Generally, Myanmar parents give their children strict upbringing. Most of the Myanmar families are known as close-knit families. Besides, Myanmar parents are too possessive of their children and try to keep their children dependent on them. The parents normally teach basic Myanmar culture and social etiquette to their children. Thus the children are nurtured. A metaphorical expression "Precious jewels" is used to refer to the offspring. The expression reveals the attitude of Myanmar parents towards their offspring. The parents don't mind to have as many as ten children of their own. This is a lovely Myanmar concept of having unlimited offspring.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our parents a lot. We live in a permissive age, one in which people are allowed to do almost anything they like. Is this good for children? As for Myanmar children, some are pampered and some are not pampered by their parents. Normally, in Myanmar society, the children from well-to-do family are pampered by their parents. Their freedom seems reckless and undisciplined because their parents always indulge them every whim. In other words, the aforesaid children run wild without control or supervision or correct guidance. Actually, these children are spoiled by their own parents. Consequently, this might lead to Juvenile delinquency with the children ending up in the courts, or it might simply make children self-centered, without any consideration for others. However, a strict upbringing by over-caring parents can make a

child so timid and inhibited that he or she is unable to express freely his or her emotions and form mature relationships. Being dominated and ruled by the authoritarian parents, the child gets depression and inferiority complex. As a result, the child's natural sense of adventure and curiosity are affected badly. The children from the poor family are not pampered by their parents since they live in impoverished life. According to the status and attitudes of the parents, the children in the poor family can enjoy the freedom to some extent. Nevertheless, majority of Myanmar children are given rights to get access to basic education free of charge by the state respectively. Otherwise, both rural and urban children can go to Monastic Education School conducted by Buddhist monks. It is an advantage for them to learn basic Myanmar language, ethics and Buddhist Culture. After completing primary level course, they can continue to pursue formative education when they reach adolescence. This is the right for children to get access to education in Myanmar. Up to this stage, Myanmar children are habituated with Myanmar traditional norms and religious teaching as well. This is a good foundation for them to become normal and well-adjusted human beings in future. What else to give them? Myanmar children should be allowed to do critical thinking freely without hindrance of customary thoughts and unreasonable prohibition made by parents. This practice will enable them to enhance their thinking power gradually. Parents must allow their children to enjoy freedom of thinking and welcome their children's curiosity willingly. Also parents should allow their children to take up some hobbies as child rights. Their own children should be given the best suited rights and freedom. In order to prevent from unpleasant outcome, parents must not allow their children to watch X-rated movies or porno movies (both hard porn and soft porn) and horrific movies or violent movies as well. Since the children are

not already in the age of maturity, they are not suitable to watch them. If they are allowed to watch such western movies, they might wrongly imitate the actions and behaviors shot in the western movies. These movies influence the children to behave bad things and even up to commit violence at school e.g. school violence in America. In this regard, the freedom of children should be considered whether it could be permissible or not. Myanmar parents must be wise enough to guide their children according to circumstances and atmosphere. Myanmar teachers are equally responsible for guiding of child development and they are to educate children about the negatives effects of watching violent movies and TV shows.

Children who come from less fortunate family cannot get access to education. Instead of going to school, they are engaged in odd jobs to earn money. They are engaged in cheap labor as well as in child labor in teashops, restaurants and grocery shops. They cannot enjoy freedom and rights as they have to struggle together with their parents for survival although they are small and young. Their future depends on the public charity or Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement or charitable NGO in Myanmar. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement should deliver services to those children in disadvantaged groups in Myanmar constantly. For example, orphans, children whose parents are internally displaced people, abandoned and displaced children, the children of destitute beggars and disabled children from poor family. They should enjoy rights and freedom of the child in Myanmar. The children from socially and educationally underprivileged groups in Myanmar must be upgraded effectively and widely by the government in Myanmar. The Department of Social Welfare is providing 'Early childhood care and development services' which will be beneficial to the children of the needy. Parents concerned must coop-

erate with the Department of Social Welfare Services. Parents are wholly responsible for caring and nurturing their children with warmth and love. They must protect their children from the child abuse by unscrupulous people so that their children can have freedom and rights. Moreover, the support for the children in orphanhood must be taken into consideration. They expect assistance and contribution from philanthropists, donors, charitable organizations and well-wishers indeed.

The children in border areas and remote areas are losing rights and freedom due to lack of transportation, communications and schools. They live with their parents in impoverished life hopelessly. Even then they encounter sporadic and terrible gunfire exchanges between government troops and ethnic armed groups. Unfortunately, the children in the conflict zones in Myanmar have civil war trauma and some were persuaded or recruited to join ethnic armed groups. They become child soldiers in hostile conflict zones. Similarly, in some poverty stricken zones in Myanmar, some children were recruited or persuaded to join Myanmar armed forces. These acts reveal the violation of children's rights indeed. This is an issue, but now the military personnel who recruited children as porters or soldiers are punished. Then the child soldiers in military services are being released to their parents or guardians concerned. This occurrence is mainly caused by the lack of access to education and poverty in some areas in Myanmar. All parents and governments concerned nationwide must fulfill the children's rights and freedom. Since they have not reached adult stage, they must be under the correct guidance and protective custody of their parents or guardians concerned. Most importantly, the parents ought to send their children of five years old to schools by any means. The divisions and regions government s must be able to establish at least one primary school with voluntary teachers or

recruited teachers in rural areas or in border areas or in remote areas in Myanmar. We all in Myanmar (inclusive of governments concerned) have to fulfill our children's rights and freedom with compassions and kindness. Our children must be able to enjoy children's rights and freedom as the children in the advanced societies in the world. Furthermore, we must prevent our children from child pedophile, child labor and, child soldier in Myanmar. We are also responsible for exposing the culprits and bringing them to justice so that our children will be safe from the danger of inhumane criminals.

As we all know, the most important age for any person is his or her early childhood. This is the part wherein a person is vulnerable to anything, and absorbs anything be it right or wrong. Normally, the events and environment shape the children's personalities when they are going through their adolescence. During the formative years of childhood, parents and teachers must mould the children into good players of life struggle or into bright future. Unless they are trained to be good players, they might be rebellious against parents, teachers and authority. In Myanmar society, the children usually have respect for their teachers, parents and elders. We love our children and children should be given an opportunity to enjoy children's rights and freedom which must be most suitable with their age and Myanmar culture. !!!

## About the author

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.



## Energy ministry holds workshop on LNG import opportunities

THE Ministry of Energy and Chiyoda Corporation organised a workshop on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Permanent Secretaries from the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy, as well as members of the Implementation of LNG Business Development Committee and experts from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Electric Power attended the workshop. Also present were representatives from foreign LNG companies that have partnered with the Ministry of Energy.

The permanent secretaries of the Ministry of

Energy and the general manager of the Chiyoda Corporation, MrKo Hosokawa, made opening remarks at the event.

A brief history of the Chiyoda Corporation was presented by General Man-

ager Ms Akemi Takahashi.

Chiyoda Group Leader Mr Toyomitsu Kanai and Senior Technology Advisor Mr Noriyoshi Nozawa explained the various types of LNG plants, Chiyoda's experience in the LNG

sector, as well as LNG processing, terminal construction and trading.

The attendees cordially discussed the development of imported LNG businesses in Myanmar.—*Energy Ministry*



Participants of workshop Liquefied Natural Gas pose for documentary photo.

PHOTO: ENERGY MINISTRY

## Global Fund supplies insecticide-treated mosquito nets to villages in Sagaing Region

THE Global Fund, an organisation that funds projects combating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, is assisting the health department of Indaw Township, Sagaing Region in delivering insecticide-treated mosquito nets to villages with low malaria infection rates.

The mosquito nets were delivered Tuesday to 359 households in Natmahokyi, Nan Kin and Thibar villages. An additional 166 households in the township are

also scheduled to receive nets, according to midwife Daw Nu Nu Aye from Lay Pyin village.

"In this village, we have never received any delivery of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Maybe the village is far from the jungland has few incidences of malaria. In Nakhar village, there are 166 households.

Each household will receive between one and five nets, depending on the number of family," said Nakhar village administrator U Zaw Maung Maung.—*Maung Chit Lin*

## New Aungayeya Bus Terminal opens in Myanaung

A NEW Aungayeya Bus Terminal was opened on Tuesday by the Township Private Bus Line Supervision Committee in Myanaung town of the delta Ayeyawady Region. Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung attended the opening ceremony.

The ceremony, held at the entry arch of the terminal, was attended by Township Development Supporting Committee chairman U Than Aye, Township Development Affairs Committee chairman U Khin Maung Thet and Township Private Bus

Line Supervision Committee chairman U Maung Win. The Chief Minister unveiled the terminal signboard to mark the opening. The group toured the terminal and met with members of the public who had come to the opening.—*Win Bo-IPRD*



The opening ceremony of Aungayeya Highway Bus Terminal. PHOTO: WIN BO

## Mandalay Region holds security meeting for General Elections



Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Myo Min Aung addresses meeting on security measures for elections. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO-MANDALAY

THE Mandalay Region Security Management Committee held its third coordination meeting for the security of the coming General Elections on Tuesday at the Region Police Headquarters in the city township of

Chanayethazan. Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Myo Min Aung, Commander of Region Police Force Police Colonel Han Tun, committee members and senior police officers attended the meeting.

The group discussed security matters to be tended to in preparation for pre-election voting, voting day ballots and the post-election period. The nationwide General Elections is on 8 November.—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

## Villages of Tatkon Township get 24-hour electricity

THAYAAYE and Aungmyeyeiktha villages in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have received 24-hour electricity as of Tuesday.

At Thayaaye village, a two mile 11KV cable and 11/0.4 KV (200) KVA transformer were installed by the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

A 400 volt electricity line was paid for by the villagers. The 24-hour electricity service will provide power to all 70 houses of the village.

72-year-old village grandmother Daw Mi said she was thrilled to receive electricity as it has brought her and the local people a better quality of life. Villagers no longer have to rely on firewood or bamboo fuel for cooking. It will be benefit the environment, she added.

At Aungmyeyeiktha village a 3.5 mile 11KV cable and 11/0.4KV (200) KVA transformer was installed by the Nay Pyi Taw Council while the line was again paid for by villagers.

The electricity is connected to all 165 houses in the village.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe, District Electrical Power Chief Engineer U Aung Myint, Township Administrator U Ye Mon and departmental officials visited the villages to formally open the transformers.

Providing electricity to rural areas is fundamental to improving both rural and urban areas in the state, officials said.—*Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD*



Local people show their happiness in electrification of villages in Tatkon Township. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN-TATKON IPRD



# Apple investors focus on iPhone sales for the holiday quarter



Customers shop at the SoHo Apple Store in New York on 27 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) painted a rosy picture for its new iPhones as it reported quarterly results on Tuesday, but investors were more focused on the company's next test: topping last year's record holiday sales.

Shares of the world's most profitable company initially rose 3 percent in extended trade after Apple beat Wall Street's sales and profit forecasts, but the gains largely evaporated later.

In the world's most important market for smartphones, Ap-

ple's sales in Greater China in its fourth fiscal quarter nearly doubled from a year ago to \$12.52 billion, accounting for nearly a quarter of its total revenue.

"We continue to have wonderful success there," Apple's chief financial officer, Luca Maestri, told Reuters, adding that Apple now has 25 stores in China and is opening a new one roughly every month.

But China sales dipped from the fiscal third quarter, when Apple notched \$13.2 billion in reve-

nue there. The sequential decline is important as many analysts believe China is poised to replace the United States as Apple's biggest market.

Analyst Ben Bajarin of Creative Strategies said as the Chinese market matures, it is beginning to show spikes around the holidays and slumps before the release of a new phone, as in the US market. "The seasonality in China is really a new wrinkle," he said.

Apple, the world's largest

company by market value, said it sold about 48.05 million iPhones worldwide in its fiscal fourth quarter ended 26 September, slightly below analysts' average forecast of 48.72 million, according to a poll by Fortune magazine.

For the current quarter, which will include a full three months of sales of the new iPhone 6s and 6s Plus models, Apple forecast revenue between \$75.5 billion and \$77.5 billion. The company's generally conservative forecast was in line with Wall Street's average estimate of \$77.17 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

"The street was fearing soft guidance and instead got a good December outlook," said Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets.

Morningstar analyst Brian Colello said the forecast was slightly below expectations but investors were pricing in a worse outcome, which was why the stock initially rose after hours.

Boosted by a new pink or 'rose gold' colour option, Apple posted record sales of its latest iPhones in the first weekend that they hit stores in late September. The fiscal fourth quarter included only two days of sales of the new iPhones. The release of the iPhone 6 set off a sales frenzy last year, propelling Apple to the most profitable quarter ever for a US company.—Reuters

## Barclays to pay new CEO Staley up to 8.2 million pounds a year

LONDON — British bank Barclays Plc (BARC.L) has appointed James 'Jes' Staley as its new chief executive and said the former JPMorgan investment bank boss will be paid up to 8.24 million pounds a year.

Staley will take the Barclays helm at the start of December. He had been widely expected to be appointed after sources and other media reports this month said he had been chosen and he just needed regulatory approval.

Barclays Chairman John McFarlane said on Wednesday Staley had the appropriate leadership talent and wide-ranging experience to deliver shareholder value and to take the bank forward strategically. "In particular, he understands corporate and investment banking well, the re-positioning of which is one of our major priorities," McFarlane said.

Barclays said Staley's annual pay will consist of a salary of 1.2 million pounds, a role-based 'allowance' of 1.15 million pounds in shares, a cash 'allowance' of up to 400,000 pounds, and up to 5.5 million pounds in annual bonus.—Reuters

# Self-driving, green cars grab spotlight as Tokyo Motor Show opens

TOKYO — A self-driving car that uses artificial intelligence to monitor the driver's habits and avoid human error, and hydrogen-powered vehicles were in the spotlight on Wednesday as automakers scrambling to get an edge over rivals showed off their visions of the future at the Tokyo Motor Show.

Japan's top three automakers — Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co. — are planning to commercialize automated driving vehicles by 2020, the year Tokyo will host the Olympics and Paralympics, even as auto experts say the technology still has a host of legal and other issues to address.

"Nissan's forthcoming technologies will revolutionize the relationship between car and driver and future mobility," Nissan President and Chief Executive Officer Carlos Ghosn said at a press briefing at the show.

Ghosn unveiled Nissan's next-generation concept electric vehicle that uses artificial intelligence to achieve smooth and safe automated driving, adding the automaker is working toward creat-

ing a zero-emission, zero-fatality future.

Toyota is unveiling the concept model "FCV Plus," a hydrogen-powered vehicle that is smaller than its already marketed Mirai, the world's first mass-produced hydrogen vehicle, and that features a wireless charging capability. The hydrogen-powered cars, also known as fuel-cell vehicles, or FCVs, use fuel cell stacks as electricity generators.

The Mirai introduced in 2014 will see a challenger as Honda is exhibiting its FCV at the show.

Honda's "Clarity Fuel Cell," which will be launched in Japan in March, can seat five people and is expected to travel 700 kilometres or longer. Toyota's Mirai is a four-seater that drives around 650 km with a full tank.

"Honda will make Clarity Fuel Cell a contributor to a society where hydrogen is generated, used and connected" through other devices, said Honda President Takahiro Hachigo, who took the post in June.

FCVs run on electricity generated from a chemical reaction

of hydrogen and oxygen and emit only water. They are touted as the most promising future cars at a time when countries are grappling with global warming.

Still, FCVs are not cheap and building infrastructure for a hydrogen society is a challenge. Japan, for its part, began promoting the use of hydrogen after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Other exhibitors include Mitsubishi Electric Corp., which unveiled earlier this month the "EMIRAI3xAUTO," a concept car that enables automated driving and parking using

data from quasi-zenith satellites that provide accurate data.

Another eye-catching exhibit is "Teatro for Dayz," an electronic vehicle by Nissan developed to win the hearts of digital natives — the younger generation who are always connected to digital devices and social media, and prefer going online to driving.



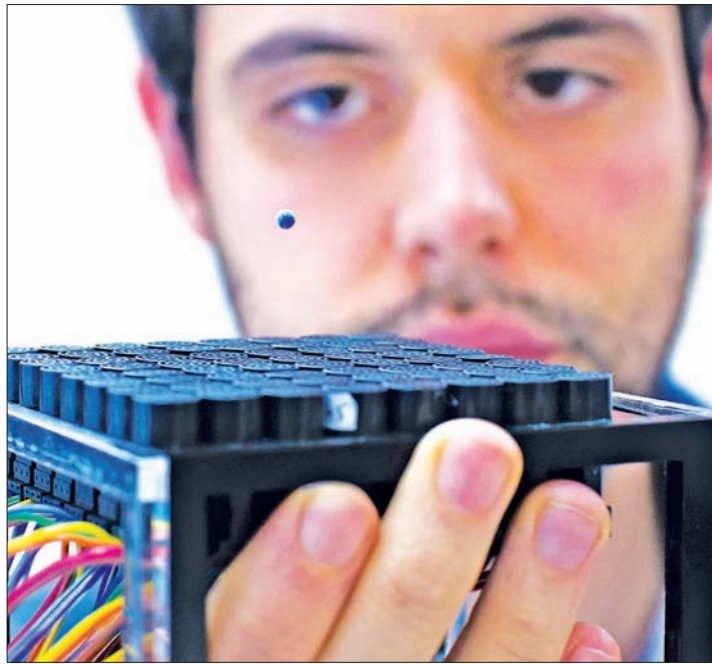
Toyota Motor Corp's fuel-cell FCV Plus is displayed at the Tokyo Motor Show on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The interior of the concept car transforms itself into a big screen where users can put up visual images, play games and surf the Internet. Nissan calls it a "canvas" for youngsters who like to share their lives to express themselves.

A total of 160 companies from 11 countries will show off their next-generation concepts, products and technology, according to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association. There are 42 world premier passenger cars.—Kyodo News



## Tractor beams of science fiction becoming a reality



A researcher holding a device composed of 64 miniature loudspeakers that generate an ultrasonic (40Khz) acoustic field that traps and levitates a polystyrene bead (3mm diameter), in this updated handout photo courtesy of Asier Marzo, Stuart Robinson, Bruce Drinkwater and Sriram Subramanian on 27 October 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The tractor beam, a staple of science fiction including “Star Wars” and “Star Trek” that is employed to grab spaceships and other things remotely, is entering the realm of reality.

Researchers on Tuesday said they have developed a tractor beam that uses high-amplitude sound waves to levitate, move and rotate small objects without making contact with them. They envisioned medical and other applications for the device.

“As a mechanical wave, sound can exert significant forces on objects.

Just remember the last time you were in a concert and your chest was vibrating with the music,” said study lead author Asier Marzo of Britain’s University of Bristol and Spain’s Public University of Navarre.

Marzo said this sonic tractor beam has manipulated objects up to about one-seventh of an inch (4 mm) in diameter and can control the position and orientation of the levitated objects.

The tractor beam uses ultrasound at a frequency of 40 kilohertz. People can hear only below 20 kilohertz.

The researchers used sound waves from 64 miniature loudspeakers called transducers to create what they called “acoustic holograms” to control an object without touching it.

These waves took the form of tweezers to lift an object, a vortex to hold a levitat-

ing object in place and a cage to surrounds an object and hold it in place.

“A simple wave will just push the particle in the direction of propagation.

However, multiple waves will interfere with each other and create complex, acoustic 3D shapes that exert forces from all directions and keep the particle in place,” Marzo said. Marzo said the largest object moved using the device was a 4 mm bead made of a light plastic called polystyrene.

“With special high-power transducers it would be possible to levitate even steel balls,” Marzo said. Marzo described possible medical applications.

“Sound cannot travel through the void of space but it can do it through water or human tissue.

This potentially enables the manipulation of clots, kidney stones, drug capsules, microsurgical instruments or cells inside our body without any incision,” Marzo said.

More powerful sonic tractor beams capable of levitating bigger objects from greater distances could control objects floating adrift in zero-gravity environments like inside the International Space Station, Marzo said.

The research, which also involved researchers at Sussex University and a British company called Ultrahaptics, was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.—*Reuters*

## Canada court orders tobacco companies to set aside almost C\$1 billion

TORONTO — A Canadian appeal court on Tuesday ordered two major tobacco companies to set aside a combined C\$984 million (\$742 million) while they challenge billions of dollars in damages awarded to smokers in the province of Quebec.

The more than C\$15 billion in damages awarded in June, if upheld in an appeal of two class-action lawsuits, would compensate some 100,000 Quebec smokers and ex-smokers who allege the companies knew since the 1950s that their product was causing cancer and other illnesses and failed to warn consumers adequately.

Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd — a subsidiary of British American Tobacco Plc — must

put aside C\$758 million, and Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc — a subsidiary of Philip Morris International — must deposit C\$226 million, the Quebec Court of Appeal said.

Imperial said it was disappointed with the decision, as it does not believe it should have to secure a payment before all appeals are exhausted and a final judgment is rendered.

“Imperial Tobacco Canada continues to disagree with the overall judgment rendered by the Superior Court of Quebec,” it said in a statement. “It is unjustified to hold legal manufacturers responsible for the personal choices of adult consumers and it will continue to defend that position as its appeals proceed.”

The court in July said that the two companies plus a third, Japan Tobacco Inc’s JTI-Macdonald Corp, would not have to make preliminary deposits.

“This is a major win for victims and a significant loss for tobacco companies,” Rob Cunningham, a senior policy analyst at the Canadian Cancer Society, said via email. Launched in 1998, the class action was considered to be the largest civil case in Canadian history, marking the first time tobacco companies have gone to trial in a civil suit in the country.

The companies were ordered to set aside the deposits in six and seven quarterly payments stretching to mid-2017, while a hearing on the appeal is scheduled for the autumn of 2016.—*Reuters*

## Kenya launches nutrition interventions for people living with HIV/AIDS

NAIROBI — The Kenya’s Ministry of Health and multilateral partners on Tuesday launched nutrition interventions to boost immunity among citizens infected with the AIDS virus.

Senior officials said the government has prioritised investments in nutrition programmes as part of national HIV/AIDS response strategy.

“Nutrition plays a critical role in HIV treatment adherence, wellness and health outcomes of people living with this condition. It boosts the immune system and is a safeguard against opportunistic infections,” said Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Health Khadijah Kassachoon.

The Ministry of Health and partners have developed nutrition guidelines to boost HIV/AIDS management in the country.

Kassachoon said provision of micro-nutrients to people living with AIDS will be scaled up in high burden counties.

“We intend to mainstream nutrition into HIV services after scientific research indicated that people living with AIDS exhibits high levels of stunting and wasting due to micro-nutrients deficiencies,” Kassachoon told health advocates.

The East African nation has one of the highest HIV burdens in Sub-Saharan with a national prevalence estimated at 5.6 percent. The principal secretary for health regretted that food insecurity and malnutrition have compromised HIV/AIDS treatment and management.

“Majority of people living with AIDS are from poor backgrounds and are prone to acute malnutrition hence our deliberate

efforts to provide nutrition interventions for them,” said Kassachoon.

Kenya has made drastic progress in the fight against malnutrition thanks to the roll out of smart policy and funding interventions.

The Director of Medical Services in the Ministry of Health Nicholas Muraguri noted that stunting among children has declined from 35 to 26 percent in the last five years.

He warned that poor dietary choices have increased the vulnerability of people living with Aids to lifestyle diseases like cancers and diabetes.

“Kenya has adopted World Health Organisation guidelines on providing nutrition supplements to HIV positive individuals taking anti-retroviral drugs,” said Muraguri.—*Xinhua*

## Vietnam’s dengue fever deaths surge 76.5 percent in 10 months

HO CHI MINH CITY — Since the beginning of this year, Vietnam has seen some 47,000 dengue fever patients, including 30 fatalities, compared with the respective figures of 23,400 and 17 in the same period last year, the country’s General Statistics Office has said.

In October alone, Vietnam reported over 14,100 cases of dengue fever infections, including 12 fatalities.

The country has so far this year witnessed 36,800 infection cases of hand-foot-mouth disease, including five fatalities, 805 cases of viral encephalitis, including 24 fatalities and 314 cases of typhoid.

Vietnam currently has 229,700 HIV carriers, of whom 79,200 have become AIDS patients, the office said, adding that

over 80,000 AIDS patients have died as since the first HIV case was reported in the country in December 1990.—*Xinhua*



PHOTO: REUTERS



## Japan, China, S Korea vow enhanced ties for disaster management

TOKYO — Disaster management ministers from Japan, China and South Korea agreed Wednesday to strengthen cooperation on promoting a UN action plan adopted in March to respond to emergencies and mitigate their impact.

At a meeting held in Tokyo, Taro Kono, Japan's minister for disaster management, Dou Yupei, China's vice minister of civil affairs, and Lee Sung Ho, South Korea's deputy minister of public safety and security, signed a joint statement vowing enhanced ties to promote the 15-year

action plan.

An outcome of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, the action plan incorporating seven global goals aims to substantially reduce the human and economic cost of disasters worldwide by 2030.

The Sendai framework also vows to enhance support for disaster-prone developing economies and increase the number of countries that have disaster risk reduction strategies and early warning systems.

"The three countries



(From L) Dou Yupei, China's vice minister of civil affairs, Taro Kono, Japan's minister for disaster management and Lee Sung Ho, South Korea's deputy minister of public safety and security, shake hands in a disaster management meeting at a hotel in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

have been affected by similar natural disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons," Kono said expressing hope that the Asian neighbors will enhance their ties by sharing past experiences.

Dou responded by

saying that cooperation among the countries could enhance the competency to deal with natural calamities, while Lee said the firm relationship will enable the three countries to help each other during emergencies.—Kyodo News

## California experts offer solutions to stabilise Earth's climate

LOS ANGELES — among global leaders at the University of California (UC) climate experts on Tuesday issued a new report, providing solutions to stabilise Earth's climate this century.

The report, Bending the Curve, was released at the UC Climate Neutrality Initiative Summit in San Diego, Southern California, and provides 10 scalable solutions to reduce global greenhouse emissions. Addressing the summit on Tuesday, California Governor Jerry Brown said the solutions from the UC Climate Solutions Group could help shape talks

United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris this November, local media reported.

Researchers at the summit discussed their blueprint for actions that they say the state and the world should undertake to tackle the problem, including reducing the carbon footprint of the wealthiest 1 billion people.

If the world reduces its carbon dioxide emissions by 80 percent by 2050, that could slow the disastrous impacts of climate change by 25 years, UC researchers said.—Xinhua

### SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (PROCUREMENT OF GOODS / WORKS) REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR NCDDP – NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:H-814MM

#### Contract Title: DESKTOP COMPUTERS

Reference No. : NCB G 20 (a)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of desktop computers.

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of:

Item 1: 105 units of desktop computers

The desktop computers will be delivered at DRD, Office N° 14, Naypyitaw. The delivery time is limited to 30 (thirty) days to be counted from the date of signature of the contract.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of the Procurement and Logistic Section, ([ksaung@gmail.com](mailto:ksaung@gmail.com)) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be sent by e-mail only.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 16 November 2015 10.00 Hrs Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on 16 November 2015 11.00 Hrs Myanmar time.

All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Securing Declaration".

The address referred to above is:

Department of Rural Development

Attn: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General

Office N° 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Union of the Republic of Myanmar

For Detailed information please contact:

Mr. U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section

Tel: +95(0)67.40.94.13 (office) or +95(0)9.43.43.33 (mobile)

Web site: [www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org](http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org)

## Luxembourg envoy Lucas to chair UN Security Council reform talks

NEW YORK — Luxembourg's Ambassador to the United Nations Sylvie Lucas has been selected to become the new chair of intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, according to a recent letter by General Assembly President Mogens Lykke-toft.

Lucas, who chaired the sanctions committee on North Korea while her country was a nonpermanent member of the Security Council through 2014, replaces Jamaican Ambassador Courtenay Rattray for the assembly's 70<sup>th</sup> session, which opened in September.

"I am confident that the forthcoming negotiations will build on the momentum and the progress made during the 69<sup>th</sup> session, and I encourage member states

to continue moving this process forward," Lykke-toft said in the letter dated 23 October to UN member states announcing Lucas' selection.

The next meeting on Security Council reform, the first under his presidency, will take place 30 October, he said. A reform plan outlining various options for restructuring the Security Council was compiled under the previous assembly president, Sam Kutesa, as the starting point of discussions that are to get underway during the 70<sup>th</sup> session.

Reform of the powerful council has been hotly debated for decades, with various competing proposals put forward.

They include a bid by Japan, Brazil, Germany and India, teaming up in the

Group of Four, to become new permanent members of an expanded council. They are also calling for increasing the number of nonpermanent members as well.

Japan's top envoy to the United Nations, Motohide Yoshikawa expressed confidence in the new chair. "Ambassador Lucas is the best choice" for the task, he said, noting that she made her presence felt in the Security Council during her two-year stint. "I hope she will help us move forward based on the achievements of the 69<sup>th</sup> session."

Another group called Uniting for Consensus, which includes Argentina, Italy, Pakistan and South Korea, is calling only for increasing the number of nonpermanent seat holders.—Kyodo News

## Cambodia PM to make TV address as political climate deteriorates

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is set to give a rare televised speech on Wednesday in which he will address escalating political tension after two opposition members of parliament were badly beaten this week.

The government gave few details about the content or purpose of the speech by the self-styled "strongman", whose patience has been tested by an opposition campaign accusing him of

ceding sovereign territory to historic foe Vietnam.

Hun Sen has ruled Cambodia for three decades and has recently engaged in some sabre-rattling of his own, warning a victory by the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) in a 2018 election would see a return to civil war.

Government spokesman Phay Sipan said Hun Sen would talk about the "current political situation" and a recent visit to France.

Two CNRP lawmakers were dragged out of their vehicles and kicked on the ground on Monday outside the National Assembly, where supporters of Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), held a rally to demand the resignation of the CNRP's deputy house president.

Televised addresses by Hun Sen are rare and his public speeches are unpredictable and can occasionally go on for longer than five hours.—Reuters



## PICTURE OF THE DAY



Citizens and tourists interact with black-headed gulls on the Dianchi lake in Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 28 October 2015. More than 3,000 black-headed gulls flew to Kunming from Siberia recently. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Venezuelan president slams statements of US Southern Command Chief

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday criticised recent statements made by the US Southern Command Chief John Kelly about an alleged moment of “implosion” on Venezuela’s economy.

In his weekly TV programme, Maduro attributed Kelly’s statements to Washington’s “desperation” to topple his democratic government, particularly when parliamentary elections are

only weeks away.

Maduro showed a video in which Kelly said he “prays” for Venezuela and the “humanitarian crisis” that this nation allegedly faces.

Kelly said he was “concerned” about inflation levels in the country and the shortage of certain basic items.

The Venezuelan president responded by urging the US general to assess the social and economic re-

alities of nations in which Washington has promoted war, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Maduro said that Kelly’s remarks indicate that Venezuela’s enemies and right-wing opposition groups “feel lost” because of their “failed” strategy to defeat government forces in parliamentary elections in December.

The two countries have had tense political relations since the late Venezuelan

president Hugo Chavez came to power in 1999. Both countries have had no ambassadors at their diplomatic representations since 2010.

In response to US President Barack Obama’s executive order that declared Venezuela a threat to the national security of the United States, Maduro ordered in March to review relations with Washington and reduce US diplomatic personnel in Caracas.—Xinhua

## Russia’s Lavrov, Iran’s Zarif discuss preparations for Syria talks in Vienna

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif spoke on Wednesday about preparations for talks on the

Syria crisis slated to take place in Vienna later this week, the foreign ministry said. It was the second phone conversation between the two men in as many days.—Reuters

## Russia says Central Asia at risk of spillover from Islamic State in Afghanistan

MOSCOW — Militants in Afghanistan who have switched sides to Islamic State pose a growing risk to Central Asia, Alexander

Bortnikov, the head of Russia’s Federal Security Service, was quoted as saying by the RIA news agency on Wednesday.—Reuters

## Iran to be invited to next round of talks on Syria: US official

WASHINGTON — Iran will be invited to participate in talks in Vienna on Friday to discuss ending the conflict in Syria, a dialogue aimed at finding a framework for political transition in Damascus, the US State Department said on Tuesday.

An official in the region, however, told Reuters that Iran had already been invited by the United States and Russia, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian would attend the talks, while the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was still under discussion. Zarif and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held a phone call earlier on Tuesday to discuss ways to resolve the Syrian crisis, the

Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Lavrov also spoke to US Secretary of State John Kerry, the ministry said. State Department spokesman John Kirby said Kerry will travel to Vienna, and from there he will head to Central Asia for discussions with counterparts from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Kirby said about a dozen participants were expected in Vienna for the next round of discussions on Syria. The different countries hope to eventually reach agreement on a “multilateral framework for a successful political transition in Syria which leads to a government not led by Bashar al-Assad,” Kirby said.—Reuters

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Dated 29 October 2015 kmma@kcyangon.com

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## Carrie Underwood plans US, Canada tour for new album Storyteller

BEIJING— US singer Carrie Underwood announced her 2016 tour for her fifth studio album, *Storyteller*.

Although the 32-year-old singer's social media account is filling up with adorable pictures of her 8-month-old son, Isaiah, she is not going to change her artistry.

Underwood said she thought "people kind of expected me to make a mommy album", but she will not lose her edge or suddenly start singing "life is beautiful" and "babies are awesome".

Carrie Underwood rose to fame as an American Idol winner in 2005. She has sold millions of records and won dozens of awards from the Academy of Country Music as well as the Grammys.

The *Stories on the Road* tour will kick off in January 2016 and will continue in 40 arenas across the United States and Canada through May.

"I can't wait to play new music from *Storyteller* for the fans," Underwood said in a statement. "I am so blessed to have this career and get to do to the things I do, but there is nothing like that moment when I get to step onto the stage to sing and all the fans are singing along with me."—Xinhua



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Paltrow honored at environment awards

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow was presented with the EMA Green Parent Award from her mother Blythe Danner at the weekend, in honor of her work as an environmentalist.

The Environmental Media Association Awards were

hosted by singer Lance Bass. Winners included actress "Sex and the City" actress Kristin Davis, who took home the EMA Wildlife Conservation Award, and "Mad Max" director George Miller who got a Lifetime Achievement Award.—Reuters



Honoree Gwyneth Paltrow poses during the InStyle Awards at the Getty Centre in Los Angeles, California, on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## De Niro, DiCaprio face off for role in Scorsese's "The Audition"

MACAU — Hollywood heavyweights Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio have both starred in several Martin Scorsese films. Now the veteran director has pitted his two collaborators against each other in "The Audition", with both vying for the same role.

The 15-minute film, a multimillion-dollar short movie promoting the opening of Melco Crown Entertainment's new casino in Macau, sees Scorsese, De Niro and DiCaprio playing themselves, and even Brad Pitt makes an appearance. Originally slated to screen at the Venice Film Festival in September, "The Audition" premiered on Tuesday as the Hollywood-themed Studio City resort opened its doors.

"The premise of this competition was very humorous for both of us because we've both done a lot of films with Mr Scorsese," DiCaprio told a news conference. "So what would it be like if we both showed up at this casino; we're competing for the same role but we didn't know it yet."

Scorsese, known for films such as "Goodfellas" and "Gangs of New York", said he wrote the script with his "Wolf of Wall



US director Martin Scorsese poses on the red carpet before the opening ceremony of Studio City and the premiere of the short film "The Audition" in Macau, China, on 27 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Street" collaborator Terence Winter. "A short film is even tougher in a way because it has to be a film. It has to be not something that is a prologue to a bigger work, it has to be contained in of itself," he said.

"We all pulled together and we came up with these ideas ...

and we shot five days straight. We also tried to make it a heightened ..., not biographical but reality-based with humor about ourselves."

Melco Crown's \$3.2 billion Studio City is its third casino in the southern Chinese territory of Macau.—Reuters

## Thousands of New York students to get \$10 'Hamilton' musical tickets



Lin-Manuel Miranda, actor and creator of the play "Hamilton," addresses the audience after the plays opening night on Broadway in New York, on 6 August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Some 20,000 New York City public high school students will be offered cut-rate \$10 tickets to attend performances of the hip-hop musical sensation "Hamilton," the hottest show on Broadway, in a bid to hook them on history.

The Rockefeller Foundation, a New York philanthropic organisation, will subsidize the tickets with a \$1.46 million grant to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a nonprofit group that is developing educational programming to use the musical in the classroom.

"Hamilton" uses rap and R&B influences and colour-blind casting to tell the story of Alexander Hamilton, one of the found-

ing fathers of the United States who served as treasury secretary under President George Washington and led the creation of the US financial system.

Tickets to the show, which is sold out through the end of this year, range from \$57 to \$160 each and are fetching up to \$2,000 on the secondary market. Under the programme, the students will pay \$10 to see Wednesday matinee shows beginning in April 2016.

"Works like this don't come around very often, and when they do we must make every effort to maximize their reach," Judith Rodin, Rockefeller Foundation president, said in a statement.

Hamilton was killed in an 1804 duel with then Vice-Pres-

ident Aaron Burr. In 1818, his widow, Eliza, established the Hamilton Free School, the first school in the Washington Heights neighbourhood of Manhattan.

The educational mission of the ticket program was not lost on Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show's star and creator.

"We get to teach thousands of children. We get to see them growing up," Miranda said in a Twitter posting on Tuesday, playing off lyrics sung by Eliza Hamilton in the musical.

The first group of participating schools will include those with large numbers of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches, a programme available to low-income families.—Reuters



## Artists perform to celebrate 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Vietnam



Artists from China's Yunnan Province perform in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on 27 October 2015. The Chinese's art troupe performed in Hanoi on Tuesday among activities to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Vietnam. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Michelin awards stars to fewer Chicago restaurants

NEW YORK — Michelin handed out its coveted stars to 22 Chicago area restaurants in its latest guide on the city's dining scene, which will be released on Wednesday.

The 22 restaurants are two fewer than in the previous Chicago edition. Despite the drop due partly to closures, Chicago remains a vibrant US dining destination with local chefs experimenting with ingredients and techniques, Michael Ellis, the international director of Michelin Guides, said on Tuesday.

"Chicago continues to develop its personality. It tends to have a less formal approach with a no-holds-barred attitude among the chefs," Ellis told Reuters.

Michelin rates restaurants in 25 countries and its stars are an internationally recognised sign of quality.

Alinea and Grace earned three stars, Michelin's highest accolade, for their "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey."

Arcadia moved up to the two-star category for its "excellent cuisine, worth a detour," joining 42 Grams and Sixteen.

Ellis praised Arcadia's chef, Ryan McCaskey, for his "cuisine with a unique perspective and superb ingredients." L20, which earned two stars last year, shut earlier this year.

Seventeen Chicago restaurants earned one star, ranked as being very good in their category, down from 19 a year ago.

Two restaurants that achieved a star for the first time were Dusek's, a "highly-creative" gastropub, and Parachute which features an "eclectic and original" combination of Korean and other Asian ingredients.

Moto retained its one-star rating with its new head chef Chris Anderson, who had worked at L20 and Alinea. Moto's founder, Homaro Cantu, who was known for his science-driven cooking, committed suicide in April.—Reuters

## Portugal Fashion celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

LISBON — Portugal Fashion is celebrating 20 years of Portuguese fashion design with its 37<sup>th</sup> show this weekend in Lisbon and Porto.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Portugal Fashion Celebration featured the 2016 spring/summer collection with 22 different shows at sev-

eral emblematic buildings including the Porto Colosseum, Crystal Palace, the Silo Auto Park and the Serpa Pinto barracks in Porto.

Top designers include Anabela Baldaque, Miguel Vieira, Katty Xiomara, Fatima Lopes, Luis Buchinho, Nuno Baltazar

and Carlos Gil.

The event began with a concert featuring Brazilian pianist Marcelo Bratke at the Convento do Beato, in Lisbon.

The first edition of the Portugal Fashion took place in July of 1995, titled "Portugal Fashion 95 - Young at

Porto Fashion."

Over the last two decades, Portugal Fashion represented cosmopolitanism, creativity and aesthetic sophistication.

This year's theme expressed the importance of modernism and commitment to promoting national image.—Xinhua

## Texas homecoming brings displays of full-frontal corsages

HOUSTON — An annual homecoming rite of passage is unfolding in Texas high schools this month with the presentations of heavily ornamented corsages called "mums" that stretch from neck to knees and are festooned with trinkets often weighing several pounds.

The practice of exchanging homecoming corsages originated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when college men gave their homecoming dates a single, live chrysanthemum with a few short lengths of ribbon to pin on their dress.

Since then, the now apron-size mums — typically with no natural flowers — that are given by high school boys to their homecoming dates have grown bigger, more ornate and more expensive.

This has led some parents, students and school administrators to question

whether the tradition has gotten out of hand and fostered what could be seen as an adornment competition among students. The culture and pageantry of Texas high school homecoming activities now reach the level of a mini-Mardi Gras with royal courts, dances, parades, pep rallies and nearly whole-body faux-floral displays. The homecoming mums of today are jumbo, synthetic chrysanthemums. Yards of ribbon, streamers and feather boas cascade from the arrangement with decorative trinkets, cow-bells, bows, photo frames, whistles and lights attached.

The cost for custom mums can reach \$75 to \$250. The corsage becomes a lifelong keepsake with many girls mounting the arrangement on their bedroom wall until they move out of their parents' home.

"Over the last few

years, it has gotten popular to even add hot pink, lime green, purple or turquoise to the mums," said Amy Fogarty, co-owner of the Mum Shop in Dallas, which opened 31 years ago.

The store has sold more than 8,000 creations this homecoming season and specializes in baubles that represent each student's interests, including miniature comedy and tragedy masks, guitars, paint palettes, basketballs and megaphones.

It is considered a high school senior's privilege to have a mum or garter in all white with silver accents, while underclassmen stick to school colors.

"Everyone has different likes and dislikes, and what is 'over the top' to one person may be the 'norm' to another," said Misti Bull-Brezina, whose son attends Friendswood High School, outside of Houston. The student council at

Rick Reedy High School in the Dallas suburb of Frisco, Texas offered a simpler, charitable alternative this year. Students can purchase a single, fresh chrysanthemum reminiscent of the original mums for \$50.

Half of the proceeds goes to The Birthday Party Project, which hosts birthday parties for children who live in homeless shelters.

Feedback has been positive, but many students still opt for the modern mum, according to David Westhara, biology teacher and student council sponsor at the school.

"In the end, what matters most is that those who want the large mums can have them, those who want more simple, real flower mums can have them, or both," Westhara said.—Reuters

**mitv Myanmar International**

(29-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 30-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03 Am News  
07:26 Am A Heart.....Filled With Noble Volunteerism  
07:40 Am Travels In Monywa- Moe Hnyin Sambuddhe Pagoda  
07:52 Am Talented Musicians  
08:03 Am News  
08:27 Am An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design  
09:03 Am News  
09:26 Am Myanmar Handicrafts  
09:56 Am Wholesale Fish  
10:03 Am News  
10:26 Am Super Traditional Fencing Form (Ep-3)  
10:42 Am Insight Myanmar: Pace Takes Steps for Election  
(11:00Am-03:00 Pm)-Wednesday Repeat(07:00Am-11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

### Prime Time

07:03 Pm News  
07:25 Pm A Famous Pagoda in the Sea  
07:51 Pm Delicacies From Magwe  
08:03 Pm News  
08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)  
08:40 Pm My Tour Around Hopone City  
08:53 Pm Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers  
09:03 Pm News  
09:24 Pm Let's Cook (EP-7) Seafood Baguette Pizza and Siz zling Garlic Prawn  
09:48 Pm Pretty Play Things From Pakokku  
09:54 Pm Wholesale Fish  
(10:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (10:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm-03:00 Am)-Wednesday Repeat(07:00Am-11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am-07:00 Am)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



## Myanmar traditional boxers to host Thai counterparts in Mandalay



The press conference to hold Myanmar-Thailand traditional boxing challenge is in progress. PHOTO: MIN HTET

A MYANMAR-Thailand traditional boxing challenge is set to take place at Aungmye Mingalar gymnasium in Mandalay on Friday according to a press conference held at the stadium yesterday.

Ko Dettha, organiser of the fight between Myanmar and Thai boxers informed the media of the

event which will feature 12 boxing matches including four five-round challenges.

“The event is being held for boxing fans in Mandalay. Establishing a boxing stadium that meets international standards here has been challenging,” Ko Dettha said.

“Despite having financial and technical support for building the stadium the real problem is finding a location”

According to the press conference the traditional boxing challenge is mainly sponsored by the Aung Thamadi gold and jewellery shop. Admission fees, depending on vantage point, are set at K 30000, K 10000 and K 7000.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*

## Upper Myanmar’s zonal university football tournament ends

MYITKYINA Zone team defeated Mandalay Zone team 5-3 in the final match of the zonal football tournament in Upper Myanmar on Tuesday.

The teams sat at a deadlock of 1-1 draw until the final whis-

tle when extra time was called by the referee. The Myitkyina zone team broke the deadlock and steamed ahead with four goals against Mandalay Zone team’s two.

Pro-rectors of Mandalay

University, Sagaing University of Education and Kyaukse University, the principal of Mandalay Institute of Sports and Physical Education U Myo Myint Aung and officials presented the first prize to Myitkyina Zone team, the second to Mandalay Zone team and best player awards to a number of athletes.

Deputy Director General Dr. Zaw Win of the Higher Education Department awarded the championship trophy and a cash award to the Myitkyina Zone team.

Outstanding players from the tournament will be chosen to partake in upper Myanmar team training in preparation for the ASEAN Inter-University Football Championship.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Myitkyina Zone team accepts Championship trophy from an official. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

## Myanmar Wave Rider Cup 2015 kicks off at Ngwe Saung beach

THE Myanmar Wave Rider Cup and KTA Race Open 2015 kicked off at Ngwe Saung Yacht Club and Resort in Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region yesterday evening.

Union Hotel and Tourism Minister U Htay Aung made the opening address.

The Myanmar Yachting Federation said the event was the first to be held in the country and that there would be three categories—Windsurfing, Kite boarding and Stand Up Paddle.

The four-day event has

attracted 41 contestants from Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, France, Germany, Italy, England, the United States, Singapore and Myanmar.

U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint, general manager of the Myanmar Yachting Federation, said the tournament was aimed at promoting the country to tourists overseas and raising the standard of yachting domestically. The Myanmar Yachting Federation organised the event in cooperation with Kiteboard Tour Asia.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Participants enjoy opening ceremony of Myanmar Wave Rider Cup and KTA Race Open. PHOTO: MNA

## Youths join invitational badminton tournament

**Ko Moe**

THE Shwe Soon Nyo badminton club organised an invitational badminton tournament in commemoration of its 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary at the National Badminton Court in Yangon yesterday.

The tournament was divided into U-12, U-14, U-16 and

U-18 men’s and women’s divisions. There were also ordinary men’s doubles and over-35 men’s doubles events.

Players from the Myanmar Badminton Federation were not allowed to take part in the youth events. A total of 20 clubs, including the Shwe Soon Nyo club, are taking part in the tournament from 28 to 31 October.

# Holdings Chelsea crash out with Arsenal in League Cup

LONDON — Chelsea’s woes continued when the holders were dumped out of the Capital One (League) Cup fourth round following a shootout defeat by Stoke City on Tuesday, while Arsenal suffered a humiliating 3-0 defeat at second tier Sheffield Wednesday.

Boss Jose Mourinho will be under mounting pressure after Eden Hazard failed to convert the crucial penalty following another testing encounter for Chelsea, who only forced extra time thanks to a last-minute leveller from Loic Remy.

Penalties were also needed in the other two ties as second tier Hull City ousted Premier

League Leicester City and Everton squeezed through against Norwich City.

There was to be no solace for a reasonably strong Chelsea side, whose miserable season dragged on as they could not find a winner against Stoke despite playing against 10 men for all of extra time.

It looked like it was going to be their night when Remy cancelled out Jon Walters’s stunning strike from early in the second half and Stoke’s Phil Bardsley was sent off for a second booking at the close of normal time.

Yet their killer instinct from last term deserted the Premier League champions again and af-

ter some superb penalties, Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland pulled off a stunning save to palm away Hazard’s effort for a 5-4 shootout win.

“Losing 1-0 feeling the situation against an experienced opponent... the team did everything. I tried to help too,” Mourinho told reporters after suffering his eighth defeat in 16 games this season.

“We try, we try, we try. When we scored the goal it was no more than we deserved.”

The shock of the night came at Hillsborough, a ground where Arsene Wenger has never tasted victory, as Arsenal lost to lower-league opposition by a three-

goal margin for the first time since February 1959.

The Arsenal manager has also never won the sometimes maligned League Cup in his 19 years at the club and looked forlorn on the bench as Ross Wallace and Lucas Joao put the hosts two goals up before halftime.

When Sam Hutchinson netted just after the restart, there was no way back for the visitors, who failed to create a meaningful chance all game.

A miserable occasion for a strong-looking Arsenal, who have begun their Premier League campaign with such promise, was compounded by first-half injuries to Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain,

who went off after five minutes, and his replacement Theo Walcott, who exited 13 minutes later.

Wednesday, who beat Newcastle United in the previous round, took the lead with a goal of genuine quality after 27 minutes as a rapid passing move freed Daniel Pudil down the left and his cross was met by Wallace to curl beautifully into the bottom corner.

They doubled their advantage when Wallace turned provider, curling the ball into the area for Joao to head home after 40 minutes and six minutes after the break Hutchinson converted from close range as Arsenal went to sleep from a set piece.—*Reuters*