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## 6 DEAD, 6 MISSING IN FERRY CAPSIZE IN CHINDWIN RIVER NEAR KALEWA



Military personnel made rescue efforts at the scene and provided cash assistance to the victims to allow them to proceed to their destinations. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE

SIX people are dead and six were remained missing following the capsizing of a ferry early Sunday morning in the Chindwin River near Kalewa. The ferry had more than 60 people on board, authorities said.

Six bodies have been found from the accident, in which the private ship Yazar Tun capsized near a whirlpool in the river at around 5:30 am en route from Monywa to Homalin, Sagaing Region.

There were 65 passengers on board when the disaster happened, said U Dai Kin Pau, the head of the Kalay District Information and Public Relations Department, said to *The Global New Light of Myanmar* over the phone.

A total of 53 people have been rescued, he added.

Two passengers were taken to the military hospital in Kalewa.

After the disaster, residents of nearby villages came to the

scene with 23 boats to help rescue the victims.

Rescue efforts are still being carried out by authorities and members of the local battalion to find the missing victims, the information officer said.—GNLM

### UEC reminds political parties to end campaigns on 6 November

THE Union Election Commission reminded political parties on Sunday that the deadline for campaigning is scheduled for midnight on 6 November 2015, 30 days after the beginning of the campaign period.

The UEC announcement stated that political parties are to stop their campaigns days ahead of the election to allow voters to consider the candidates and decide whom to vote

for. The UEC has urged political parties to demolish their campaign posters by the campaign period deadline.

Election sub-commissions and township city development committees will demolish campaign posters after the deadline, and candidates will be charged for the costs of the demolition of their campaign posters, the statement said.—GNLM

### Free sign language course aims to expand fluency

*Sign language empowers people with hearing loss to play a greater role in human society.*

**Khaing Thanda Lwin**

“WE, the Myanmar Deaf Society, are now conducting basic sign language (SL) training for hearing-impaired persons free of charge in Mandalay,” said Daw Yadana Aung of the MDS.

The MDS has offered the 20-hour SL course at the Mandalay Community Centre since October 12 with the aim of turning out more SL users, with plans to open

short SL courses across the country in the coming years, she added.

Apart from weekends, the training course runs from 5:30pm to 6:30pm daily. The MDS accepts 25 trainees per course.

Trainer Daw Yadana Aung said those who want to attend the course must have both hands to learn SL.

The Myanmar Deaf Society was established on 26 June this year to promote the participatory role of

the deaf in human society. Since then, the society has opened capacity building trainings for the deaf and offers sign language interpretation services.

The MDS’s future tasks include surveys and research on deaf culture and sign language, the compilation and release of books, papers, DVDs, disseminating information online and opening SL trainers’ courses, vocational courses, sports competitions and ex-

hibitions.

In addition, the MDS has plans to establish vocational workshops and training schools for the deaf, sign language training schools, deaf resource centres and sign language channels, Daw Yadana Aung said.

According to the 2014 nationwide census, 4.6 percent of the country’s total population of over 51 million people are people with disabilities, 1.3 percent of whom are deaf.

## Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda Buddha images brought back to Yadanasan Hall



Officials and local people conveying back Buddha images of Inlay Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda to Yadanasan Hall by Royal Karaweik barge. PHOTO: NAY MYO THUREIN

THE three Buddha images of the Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda in Inlay Lake, Shan State, which were recently brought on their annual tour of 21 locations around the lake, were returned to Yadanasan Hall on 31 October.

Their 18-day tour on a decorative Royal Karaweik Barge

began on 14 October.

The images were welcomed back at the pagoda by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and other officials. They were gilded with gold leaf and offered lights, water and other donations at their permanent residence.

The occasion of the Buddha

images' return was celebrated with traditional one-legged boat rowing competitions. The West Ywagyi team won first place in the 100-rower event, and the West Keyla team came in second. The Aingdaungyi team took first place in the 46-rower competition, and the Zayut-

gyi team placed second. In the 26-rower women's event, the East Nyaungwin team won first place, and the Thale Oo Lake team placed second.

The winning teams and the rowers were awarded by the chief minister and senior state officials.

In accordance with local tradition, only three Buddha images among the four that reside at Yadanasan Hall are brought on the annual tour. One is left at the historic Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda. The tour is a festive occasion for local residents, as well as for local and foreign tourists.—IPRD

## 96 new school buildings go up in Meiktila District

A TOTAL of 96 basic education schools in Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi townships in Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, received new facilities during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, according to an official at the district education office.

The primary, middle and high schools were relocated to new 60-foot by 30-foot brick buildings, 120-foot by 30-foot,

two-storey brick buildings and 140 foot by 30-foot, two-storey brick buildings, depending on their needs.

Eighteen schools in Meiktila Township, 26 schools in Mahlaing Township, 33 schools in Thazi Township and 19 schools in Wundwin Township were provided with a new buildings by the Ministry of Education.—*Chantha*



A school building under construction for basic education school in Meiktila District. PHOTO: CHANTHA -MEIKTILA

## Emerald green project gains momentum



Officials inspect products of villages in implementation of emerald green project. PHOTO: WIN BO

THE Hinthada Township Rural Development Department is implementing the Emerald Green Project in the township to improve the livelihoods of local people.

Thirty-three items of the project, including agriculture

and livestock breeding, are being implemented in villages throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year. Department staff conducted a book-keeping course for the township's residents. The villages have largely achieved success in

their rural development tasks.

Department officials made field trips to each village under the project to supervise their progress, according to the township's Rural Development Department.—*Win Bo (IPRD)*

## Rural people receive solar panels for electrification

MONYWA Township Rural Development Department in Sagaing Region handed over solar panels and related equipment to local people in Kantha village recently.

The staff officer of the department and staff presented solar panels and equipment to local people.

The department is implementing the electrification of

Tagundaing, Myinthakyun, Myintha, Hteedawtin, Aungthekikdi and Kantha villages for improvement of locals' living standard.—*Po Chan (Monywa)*

## President affirms commitment to socioeconomic growth in Taninthayi

THE government remains committed to reforms to bring about peace, stability and socioeconomic development for the people, President U Thein Sein said yesterday morning to residents of Myeik, Kyunsu, Taninthayi and Palawin in Taninthayi Region.

The president cited the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement as a step toward lasting peace, while referring to rural development and poverty reduction as socioeconomic development efforts.

He described the adoption of the people-centred system as an executive reform and a path toward the development of the private sector with the aim of economic growth. He called on locals to establish closer cooperation with the government in sustaining the momentum of development projects.

He also urged local people to join hands with the government to ensure the success of the upcoming election, saying its success would bring national prestige.

While in Myeik and Kyunsu, President U Thein Sein visited pagodas, where he offered food, flowers and water, lit oil lights and donated money. In Taninthayi town, the president visited the Chaunggyi monastery, where



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by local people in Kyunsu Township. PHOTO: MNA

he paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannjadipa. He also enjoyed the annual festival of traditional Dragon Boat

Race and presented awards to the winners. During the tours, the president was accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers U Soe Thane, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun, U Zeyar

Aung and Dr Than Aung, as well as Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko. —Myanmar News Agency

## Time for Q&A staged in Mandalay

TIME for Questions and Answers, a production of the BBC Burmese Program and the first of its kind in Myanmar, was launched at the Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Sunday.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) central executive committee member U Win Maung, National League for Democracy (NLD) executive committee member U Phyo Zeyar Thaw, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy general secretary U Sai Nyunt Lwin and Daw May Sabei Phyu of the Gen-

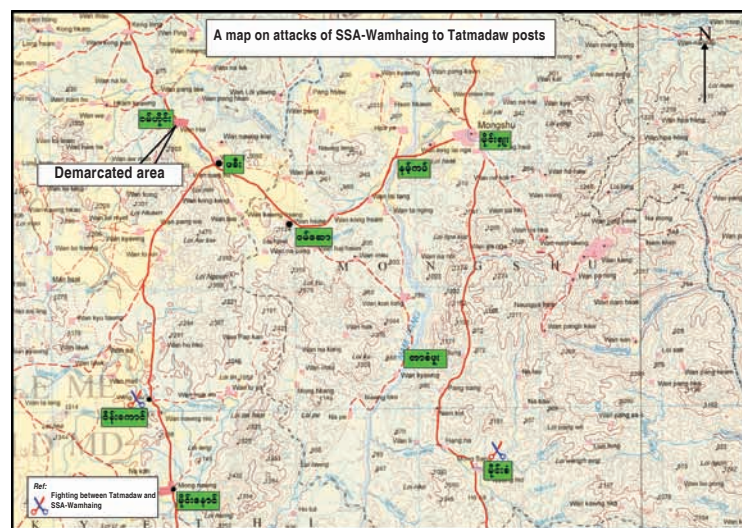
der Equality Network served as panellists. Political activists, political parties, NGOs, writers, artists, local residents, local and international media personnel, and other guests participated in the programme, which was presented by BBC Myanmar Section head Daw Tin Htar Swe.

Panellists responded to questions raised by participants.

The programme will be broadcast on 2 and 3 November on the BBC Burmese Programme and will also be available at [www.bbc-burmese.com](http://www.bbc-burmese.com). —Myanmar News Agency



BBC Burmese Program stages Time for Questions and Answers in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA



## SSA-Wamhaing attacks Tatmadaw posts near Mongnawng in Shan State

ABOUT 200 members of the SSA-Wamhaing ethnic armed group attacked a post of Tatmadaw several times in Wing Kau village near Mongnawng in Kehsi Township, Shan State, on 29 and 30 October.

The SSA ultimately retreated as officers, infantrymen and

their wives defended the post.

During the attacks, Tatmadaw suffered casualties, and some of the post's facilities were damaged.

The group also attacked the post on 16, 18 and 26 October, and they attacked another post in Mongsang village on 24 and 28 October.

As the group has expanded its control beyond the limits it previously agreed upon with the Myanmar government and attacked Tatmadaw posts several times, Tatmadaw troops have had to comb the area to ensure the security and stability of the area. —Myawady

# Japan, China, South Korea hold 1<sup>st</sup> summit talks in over 3 years

SEOUL — Leaders of Japan, China and South Korea held a first meeting in three and a half years on Sunday, focusing on ways to advance economic cooperation including speeding up negotiations for a trilateral free trade agreement and to curb North Korea's nuclear weapons development.

Despite disputes between Japan and its two neighbours over territory and views on wartime history — a major reason why the three-way summit had not been convened since the last session in May 2012 — officials expressed hope the leaders will agree to revive annual gatherings, including a plan to meet in Japan next year.

“Our three countries bear a major responsibility for peace and prosperity of the region. I would like to have meaningful talks through frank exchange of views on various issues facing the region and the world,” Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said prior to his departure from Tokyo.

Abe was referring to the summit with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Park Geun Hye.

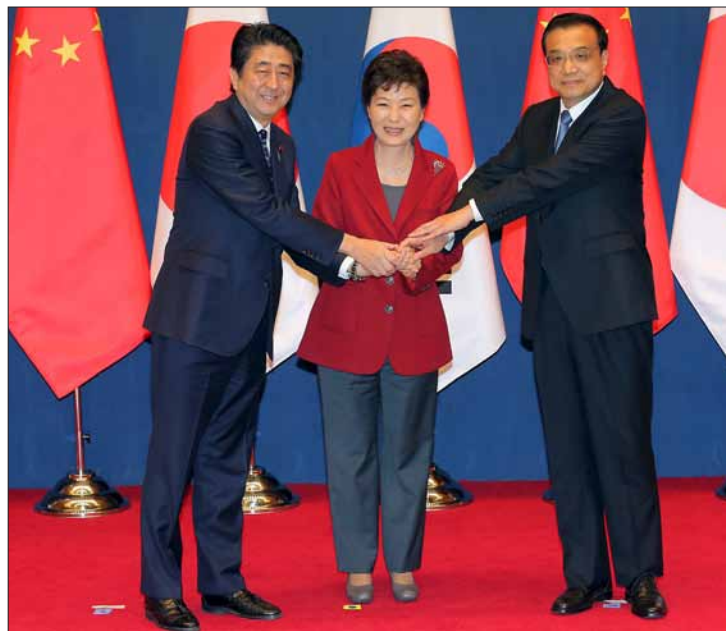
In his two-day visit, Abe will hold his first one-on-one talks with Park on Monday and a separate meeting with Li on Sunday,

the first top-level talks with China following Abe's meeting with President Xi Jinping in April in Jakarta.

“I will have the first summit talks with President Park Geun-hye in the milestone year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea. I would like to have fruitful talks,” Abe told reporters.

Although sensitive issues such as so-called Korean “comfort women” who were forced to work in wartime brothels for the Japanese military and China's advances into the East and South China seas continue to complicate Tokyo's relations with Beijing and Seoul, observers are watching whether Tokyo will be able to sustain signs of improvement in its ties with them after a series of talks in Seoul.

“One humble hope is that the three leaders will at least agree to continue to hold the three-way talks and that Park and Abe agree to revive the ‘shuttle summits’ — in which Korean and Japanese leaders exchange short working visits whenever necessary — between the two sides,” the Korea Herald said in an editorial carried in the paper's weekend edition.



South Korean President Park Geun-hye (C) shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe before a trilateral summit at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

In the trilateral summit, Abe, Park and Li are likely to endorse an agreement Friday by their trade ministers to seek an “early conclusion” of negotiations for a three-way FTA, according to delegates.

The three major Asian economies together account for about 20 percent of the world economy. But soured ties between Japan and its

two neighbours have prevented them from integrating in a way that would fully utilize their potential and create synergies.

In the last summit held in Beijing, Japan, China and South Korea agreed to launch such negotiations.

Sunday's meeting came as South Korea has expressed a de-

sire to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a newly agreed US-led free trade initiative involving 12 Pacific Rim economies including Japan.

China is not a member of the TPP either, which represents part of the US strategic “rebalance” toward Asia. The three leaders are also expected to reaffirm their “firm opposition” to North Korea's nuclear weapons development and agree to continue efforts to resume six-party talks on ending Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, the delegates said.

Abe may express concern about China's unilateral attempts to force a change in the status quo in Asian waters by building artificial islands in the South China Sea and sending patrol ships into Japanese waters around the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. He may underscore the importance of abiding by the rule of law and the freedom of navigation in ensuring maritime security.

With this year marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, Li and Park may urge Abe to face history squarely. China and South Korea suffered Japan's aggression and colonial rule, respectively, during and before the war.—*Kyodo News*

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## Much-needed fuel from China arrives in Nepal

KATHMANDU — The first tankers carrying gasoline given by China entered Nepal's Rasuwa district, north of Kathmandu, an official said Sunday.

“Three tankers carrying 9,000 litres of gasoline each entered Nepal Saturday night,” Shiv Ram Gelal, chief government administrator for the district, told *Kyodo News*.

Another nine left for China Sunday and are expected to return with fuel later in the day, Gelal said.

Although the tankers have the capacity to carry 12,000 li-

tres of gasoline each, they were only filled with 9,000 litres each because of road conditions in the mountainous terrain, he added.

China is giving Nepal 1.3 million litres of gasoline to help it deal with a severe fuel crisis caused by an Indian blockade.

Nepal also entered into an unprecedented agreement with China last week for the commercial import of a third of Nepal's fuel demand, ending more than four decades of supply monopoly by India, after supplies from the country did not improve despite repeated diplomatic efforts.

Despite sporadic instances of some fuel trickling into Nepal, India has effectively blockaded the Himalayan nation since 20 September leading to crippling shortages of gasoline, diesel, cooking gas, and aviation fuel.

The blockade started when Nepal adopted a new constitution, ignoring India's wishes that the adoption be postponed to address the demands of protesting Madhesi people who have cultural, linguistic and social ties with India.

India denies it has blockaded Nepal and has blamed an-

ti-constitution protests by Madhesi for the obstruction.

Nepal says India is supporting the Indian-origin Madhesi, who are demanding mainly that the entire stretch of flatland from east to west of Nepal be part of two provinces, separate from hills and mountains, in the seven-province federal model ensured by the new constitution.

Major political parties are against such provincial demarcation and want hills and mountains to have access to border crossings with India.—*Kyodo News*

## Army deployed in Pakistan after 11 killed in clashes

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's army was mobilised in the country's southeastern Sindh Province on Saturday after 11 people were killed in clashes between supporters of two political parties taking part in local government elections, a senior police official said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Kamran Fazal said that the clash took place in the Daraz sub-district of Sindh's Khairpur district, about 840 kilometres southwest of the capital, Islamabad.

Media reports said the incident involved members of the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League

(F), which is headed by Pir Pagara, a religious leader of the Hur tribe.

The 11 who were killed all belonged to the PML (F). A further eight people were injured.

The clash took place as supporters of the two parties demonstrated in support of their candidates for the local government election held in eight districts of Sindh and 12 districts of Punjab Province.

The country's Election Commission is holding the ballots in the areas for the first time in nearly six years, with the elections taking place in two phases.

Nafisa Shah, a Pakistan Peoples Party politician and

member of the National Assembly for Khairpur, said that the violence had taken place between an independent group and the Pakistan Muslim League (F), and said the PPP was not involved in the clash.

An eye witness said that the fighting was so intense that several members of the PML (F) ran away, leaving behind their vehicles and leaving bodies lying at the site for a long time after.

Kamran Fazal, however, said that the bodies of the 11 deceased have now been received in the city hospital morgue.

Khairpur is home town of Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah.—*Kyodo News*

## Two killed, 1 wounded in N Philippines clash

MANILA — Two soldiers were killed, and one wounded as clash sparked when leftist rebels attacked a construction site on Saturday night in northern Philippines, military said Sunday.

Maj Angelo Guzman, spokesman of southern Luzon command said, a squad of soldiers were securing a bridge project in Labo, Camarines Norte Province when the members of New People's Army (NPA) launched attack at 11 pm Saturday night. The fight lasted more than one hour with 2 killed, one wounded from the government side while rebels withdrew from the battlefield without confirmed casualty. The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces.—*Xinhua*

## Japan business lobbies send joint delegation to Beijing to beef up ties

BEIJING — A joint Japanese business delegation, including the country's largest business lobby, arrived Sunday in Beijing to hold talks with senior Chinese government officials and company executives to strengthen bilateral economic ties.

It is the first time that the three bodies — the Japan Business Federation, the country's most influential economic lobby known as Keidanren, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Japan-China Economic Association — sent a joint delegation to China.

The delegation of around 200 business executives is led by Shoji Muneoka, head of the Japan-China Economic Association and chairman of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. The mission is due to stay in China until 8 November.

"We want to ask the Chinese government leaders about how the Chinese economy, which is closely linked to the Japanese economy, would make a soft landing to achieve stable growth," Muneoka told reporters after arriving in Beijing.

Amid concerns of an eco-

nomical slowdown in China, the Japanese side will urge China to resolve the issue of overproduction such as of steel and to invest more in Japan, Muneoka said.

The delegation said it hopes to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during their stay in Beijing.

Last year, a delegation the Japan-China Economic Association sought to see Xi or Li but held talks with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang, who oversees international trade.—*Kyodo News*

## UK police make third arrest over TalkTalk cyber attack

LONDON — British police have made a third arrest in connection with a cyber attack this month on telecoms company TalkTalk in which the company said bank details of more than 20,000 customers were hacked. A 20-year-old man from Stafford-

shire, central England, was being held in custody and his address was being searched, London police said in a statement. On Thursday a 16-year-old boy was arrested in west London and later released on bail.

Earlier in the week, po-

lice detained a 15-year-old boy in Northern Ireland who was also released on bail. Also on Saturday, Vodafone UK revealed that hackers had accessed the accounts of 1,827 of its customers this week.

—*Reuters*

## Kidnapped Korean national found dead in S Philippines

MANILA — A 70-year old Korean national who was abducted by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits about nine months ago was found dead in southern Philippine province of Sulu, local military said Sunday.

The cadaver of Nwi Seong Hong was discovered by a concerned citizen at the vicinity of the Sulu State College in Bangkal village in Patikul town at around 10:30 pm local time on Saturday, said Brigadier General Alan Arrojado, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Joint Task Group Sulu. The Indanan-based Abu Sayyaf members allegedly brought the victim to the area after he died due to "severe illness" while in captivity in the hinterland of Indanan town, he said. The Korean national was negative of any gunshot wound, Arrojado added. Hong, along with his son, was abducted by armed men in Poblacion village in R.T. Lim town, Zamboanga Sibugay province on 24 January. His son managed to escape from their abductors. The 400-strong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is a violent Muslim terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines. The ASG is notorious for a series of kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decades.—*Xinhua*

## UNSG's Message on International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (2 November 2015)

Today we remember the journalists and media workers who have been killed in the line of duty.

More than 700 journalists have been killed in the last decade — one every five days — simply for bringing news and information to the public.

Many perish in the conflicts they cover so fearlessly. But all too many have been deliberately silenced for trying to report the truth. Only 7 per cent of such cases are resolved, and less than 1 crime out of 10 is even fully investigated.

Such impunity deepens fear among journalists and enables Governments to get away with censorship. We must do more to combat this trend and make sure that journalists can report freely. Journalists should not have to engage in self-censorship because they fear for their life.

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to highlight the urgent need to protect journalists, and to commemorate the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November, 2013.

I applaud UNESCO for spearheading the *United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity* — a powerful mechanism joining the efforts of United Nations agencies, Governments, civil society, academia and the media.

Together, we must end the cycle of impunity and safeguard the right of journalists to speak truth to power.—*UNIC/Yangon*



Women in costumes are pictured at the West Hollywood Halloween Costume Carnival, which attracts nearly 500,000 people annually in West Hollywood, California on 31 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Four killed in train blast in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least four people were killed and 10 others injured on Sunday when a bomb blast hit a train in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan, local media reported.

According to the reports, the incident took place when a bomb

blast hit an apartment of a train in the Dasht area of Mastung district of Balochistan, Pakistan's restive province bordering Iran and Afghanistan. Security forces, police and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and injured to hospitals. The train Jaffar Express

was heading toward the country's garrison city of Rawalpindi from southwestern provincial capital of Quetta when it came under attack. The blast destroyed the third apartment of the train in which civilian passengers were present. The blast also destroyed part of

the track leading to the suspension of railway traffic. Police said an improvised explosive device was planted at the rail track and it was detonated with the remote control. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.—*Xinhua*

# German coalition talks on refugee crisis end without deal



German police patrol on an empty bridge crossing the border river Inn at the German-Austrian frontier between Braunau and Simbach am Inn near Passau, Germany at dawn on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel and her coalition partners ended a meeting on Sunday without a breakthrough to resolve differences over how to handle the flood of refugees pouring into Germany.

Berlin expects between 800,000 and a million migrants to arrive in Germany this year, twice as many as in any previous year, and far more than in any other European Union country.

German media had billed Sunday's meeting between Merkel, the leader of her conservatives' Bavarian sister party, and Social Democrat (SPD) chief Sigmar Gabriel as a crisis summit between the ruling coalition partners. Government spokesman Steffen Seibert described the talks as "constructive" but said the three party leaders would meet again on Thursday.

"There is a lot of common ground and some points that re-

main open and still to be settled," Steffen said, adding that these included the idea of introducing so-called "transit zones" at border crossings to process asylum requests.

Horst Seehofer, leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), wants tougher action to stem the flow of people.

He has issued a series of ultimatums to Merkel in recent weeks, including a threat to take the government to court over its policies on migrants, only to back down at the last minute.

Some CSU members want to tighten or even close Germany's borders. To defuse the coalition tensions, conservative officials had expected Seehofer to come away from Sunday's meeting with a deal to introduce transit zones. Some SPD members have said they would not agree to such zones. —Reuters

## British military base in Middle East begins construction

LONDON — A new permanent military base for Britain's Royal Navy started construction Saturday in Bahrain, Britain's former colony in the Persian Gulf, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announced.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the new facility, to be built at a cost of 23 million US dollars.

"The presence of the Royal Navy in Bahrain is guaranteed into the future, ensuring Britain's sustained presence east of Suez.

The new facility will enable Britain to work with our allies to reinforce stability in the Gulf and beyond," Hammond said at the ceremony.

It marks the first permanent British military base in the region since 1971, when Britain formally withdrew from the Middle East and Bahrain gained its independence.

The FCO said that Mina Salman Port, located in Bahrain's capital Manama, will

play a central role in the operation of the Royal Navy, and reaffirmed Britain's determination to work with Bahrain to maintain security and stability in the Gulf.

Royal Navy warships such as destroyers and aircraft carriers, now being based at the US bases, will be transferred to the new British military base, which is expected to become the Royal Navy's largest overseas operation centre.

"This facility will give Britain an enhanced and permanent presence in the region, allowing longer-term deployments in the Gulf," said the FCO.

"This is a reflection of the continued cooperation and engagement between the Bahrain Defense Forces and the British Armed Forces," said General Sir Richard Barrons, Commander of the Joint Forces Command, welcoming "the continued support from Bahrain which enables the Royal Navy to operate in the Gulf region." —Xinhua

## Black boxes from crashed Russian plane will be examined within hours

CAIRO — Egyptian and Russian investigators will begin examining within hours the contents of the two black boxes recovered from the Russian airliner that crashed over Egypt's

Sinai Peninsula on Saturday, judicial and ministerial sources said. The sources said the examination would take place at the civil aviation ministry in Cairo. —Xinhua

## Divided Turkey holds snap election as security, economic fears weigh



Turkish special police personnel stand guard outside a polling station in Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ANKARA — Turks began voting on Sunday amid worsening security and economic worries in a snap parliamentary election that could profoundly impact the divided country's trajectory and that of President Tayyip Erdogan.

The parliamentary poll is the second in five months, after the ruling AK Party founded by Erdogan failed to retain its single-party majority in June.

Since then, a ceasefire with Kurdish militants has collapsed into bloodshed, the Syria crisis has worsened and NATO-member Turkey has been hit by two Islamic State-linked suicide bomb attacks, killing more than 130.

There has been little sign of the flags, posters and campaign buses that thronged the streets in the build-up to June's vote, but Erdogan has framed this sombre re-run as a pivotal opportunity for Turkey to return to single-party AKP rule after months of po-

litical uncertainty. "This election will be for continuity of stability and trust," he said after praying at a new Istanbul mosque on Saturday.

He vowed to respect the result. Early voters in Istanbul were sharply divided in their views on a return to single-party rule or the prospect of a coalition. "The AK Party says single-party rule will bring stability but we haven't seen much of it in the last couple of years," said 22-year-old nurse Gulcan. "We need a system of checks and balances and a grand coalition will hopefully give us that." "Coalitions are just not good for Turkey.

There has to be single-party rule for stability," said 51-year-old Kahraman Tunc, voting with his wife and daughter. "For the sake of our country's good I hope there will be AK Party single-party rule." Voting began in eastern Turkey at 7 am (0400 GMT) and an hour later in the rest of the country, with polling

stations to close at 1400 GMT. A ban on announcing the results is in place until 1800 GMT but the election board usually lifts the ban before the official time.

The election was prompted by the AKP's inability to find a junior coalition partner after the June result. Erdogan's critics say it represents a gamble by the combative leader to win back enough support so the party can eventually change the constitution and give him greater presidential powers.

Many polls suggest that while support for the centre-right, Islamist-rooted party may have inched up, the outcome is unlikely to be dramatically different to June, when it took 40.9 percent of the vote. However, one survey released on Thursday suggested there had been a late surge in support for the AKP and that it could take as much as 47.2 percent, comfortably enough to secure more than half of the 550-seat parliament. —Reuters

## Islamic State takes over Syrian town in Homs Province

BEIRUT — Islamic State fighters took control of the Syrian town of Maheen in the southwest of Homs Province on Sunday after an attack on government forces in the area, a monitoring group and a statement by the jihadists said.

The attack killed and wounded at least 50 fighters on the government side and brought Islamic State to within 20 kilometres (13 miles) of the main highway that links Damascus to Homs and cities further north, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Clashes also raged on the outskirts of Sadad, a nearby town mostly inhabited by Christians, as Islamic State fighters pressed their advance, the Observatory said.—*Reuters*

## UN envoy says expects Yemen talks by mid-November

MANAMA — The UN special envoy to Yemen said on Sunday he expects talks between its warring parties to begin by mid-November, eight months after the start of a messy civil war that has killed thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis.

The conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthi militia and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh against armed groups who support exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi alongside a Saudi-led Arab coalition.

“I expect that before mid-November, God willing, a date will be specified and I expect that the dialogue must begin before mid-November, as a minimum, 15 November,” UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed told Reuters in Bahrain.

All major combatants have publicly agreed to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2216, which calls on Houthi and Saleh forces to withdraw from main cities and surrender arms captured from Yemeni government forces.

However, while Hadi and the coalition have previously demanded that this happen before talks begin, the Houthis and Saleh want talks to address mechanism for Resolution 2216 to be implemented. Discussions between the United Nations and the Houthis have taken place already in Oman’s capital Muscat.



Firefighters and soldiers extinguish fire at the site of a car bomb attack in Yemen's central city of Ibb, on 1 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed Nations and the Houthis have taken place already in Oman’s capital Muscat.

“I have a team in Riyadh and before that they were in Muscat, exactly to reach agreement on the date and venue and the subjects that will be discussed within the context of UN Security Council Resolution 2216,” Ould Cheikh Ahmed said. He added that a statement on Friday by a senior Houthi

leader that efforts to find a political solution had failed did not appear to represent the group’s official position.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Saturday that he believed the coalition’s Yemen campaign was in its “final phase” after military gains against the Houthis and given their willingness for talks.

However, the Houthis and

Saleh’s forces still hold most of the country’s western highlands, its most populous region including the capital Sanaa. Ould Sheikh Ahmed said he did not believe the coalition intended to take Sanaa by force.

“I can say simply what I have been told, but I can’t speak for the coalition. I don’t think anybody has any intention to enter into Sanaa. People prefer to have a political solution.”—*Reuters*

## Islamist al Shabaab attack Somali hotel, kill at least 11

MOGADISHU — Two bombs ripped into a hotel in the Somali capital on Sunday and security forces fought Islamist al Shabaab gunmen who stormed inside the building for hours afterwards, police and witnesses said. At least 11 people were killed.

Al Shabaab, which has frequently launched attacks in Mogadishu in its bid to topple the Western-backed government, said it was behind the assault on the Sahafi hotel where government officials and lawmakers stay.

“Mujahideen (fighters) entered and took over Sahafi hotel where enemies lived,” Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab’s military operations spokesman, told Reuters.

The incident mirrored tactics used before by al Shabaab, in which it detonates bombs to break through security at targets and then sends in fighters.

Major Ahmed Nur, a police officer, told Reuters that a car bomb rammed the entrance to the hotel and was followed by second blast, which a security guard said was a second vehicle bomb.

Police said at least 11 people were killed, including the hotel owner, a lawmaker, a former military commander, a radio journalist and other civilians.

“We have also rescued many government officials by a ladder through the back wall,” said Major Ismail Nur, another police of-



Somali policemen hold their his position during a fire exchange with Islamist al Shabaab gunmen outside a hotel in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ficer.

Police exchanged fire with attackers inside the hotel for about three hours after the morning assault began. One police officer said fighters had fired on them from the rooftop.

African Union’s AMISOM

force, which has been leading a campaign with Somali troops against al Shabaab, were also at the scene, helping to clear the hotel of fighters.

A spokesman for AMISOM said the troops were “still mopping (up) floor by floor”, and that there were four storeys.

The hotel lies near a busy area in Mogadishu known as K-4. Plumes of smoke rose above the capital on the Indian Ocean coast.

“We got phone calls from staff hiding in hotel rooms saying that there are several injured people in the hotel,” police officer Ismail Nur said.

“Some government officials are inside the hotel. The death toll may rise.”

A Reuters witness saw wrecked cars and destroyed motorbikes in the area, as well as two dead civilians lying outside. At least three others were injured.—*Reuters*

## OPINION

## Trust requires action

Kyaw Thura

MY parents were the first people I ever placed my trust in. Most people regard their parents in a similar way. There is something we know in the bottom of our hearts about paternal love after having been in close contact with our parents from our birth.

We will all remember the days we've spent with our parents. Most children fear heights at some point

in their lives. But that fear is overcome when they are thrown up in air by their parents. Why? The answer is crystal clear.

When we're thrown up into the air by our parents as children, instead of being frightened, we cannot not help but giggle with delight. Our sixth sense tells us that our parents will catch us in time. And they do catch us. Our experiential knowledge convinces us that we can believe them and that they will never hurt us physically or mentally.

When we enter into our adult lives, we build a wider circle of friends and acquaintances. Bit by bit, life hardens us to pain, disappointment and suffering. We learn from experience that life is not like the movies and that not all people are reliable or worthy of our trust.

More often than not, trust arising from familiarity is

unreliable. Rather than rely on blind trust, we should associate trust with action. As Abraham Lincoln once put it, "Believing everyone is dangerous, but believing nobody is more dangerous." Therefore, we should avoid basing our trust on lip service and trust only those people whose actions deliver on their promises.

## Write for us

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

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

## Enhancing socioeconomic lives through information technology



The Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay has got a new main building. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

## Kyaw Zeya

THE Myanmar Institute of Information Technology was recently founded at the corner of 73<sup>rd</sup> Street and Ngushwewah Street in Mandalay through techno-

logical cooperation between Myanmar and India. The university will conduct undergraduate and postgraduate courses starting from the 2015-16 academic year and will provide theoretical and practical lessons

through international research pedagogies by linking with the information technology industry.

The development of information and communication technologies plays a major role in a country's

human resource development.

A glimpse at the international economic arena shows that information technology is the most lucrative market in the world. It is necessary to cooperate

with the international community with the aims of developing economic and education sectors by applying advanced information technology, acquiring technologies from the international community and promoting basic economic research.

Equipment for the students who will study at the university will also be provided during their courses. Teaching aids such as smart boards and projectors, a tele-presence classroom system that allow students to participate in courses at the IIIT-B University of India, an exam pad system that assesses students through daily and weekly tests and an online system to announce test results and projects will shift students' focus from rote learning to practical performance.

Successful students will be offered undergradu-

ate degrees in computer science, electronics and communications. The university will also offer a postgraduate diploma in software development. The degrees will be internationally recognised.

Experts from the International Institute of Information Technology of India in Bangalore will teach the students, ensuring that their courses are up to international standards.

A glimpse of the development of information technology in Myanmar shows that universities of computer science in the country have generated 43,937 graduates, but it is necessary to train more experts because of increasing foreign investment. To fulfil the needs of the industry with local technicians will increase the GDP and contribute to the economic growth of the country.

## Deputy Minister visits JICA, national parks in Japan



Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Maung and Japan International Cooperation Agency hold a meeting in Tokyo. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung visited Japan from 26 to 29 October.

During his visit, the deputy minister met Mr Yasushita Tanaka, Asia and Pacific Region director-general of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the agency's head office in Tokyo and discussed the implementation of eight forestry projects and progress in

the mangrove forest project, which will be completed in 2017 in the Ayeyawady delta region. The deputy minister also held a meeting with the chairperson of Kokusai Kogyo Co Ltd, Ms Sandra Wu. They discussed further cooperation in the establishment and conservation of mangrove forests in the delta area. The deputy minister also visited Nikko National Park and Mt Fuji National Park.—MNA

## Elephants from Kachin State smuggled to borders

ELEPHANTS from Kachin State are being smuggled to border areas via Bago Region, said a resident of Mohnyin Township.

"A smuggler team bought one adult and one baby elephants worth K50 million (US\$39,339) from Tanai Township. The team bought one more elephant in Mohnyin Township. They carried the elephants by truck labelled 'Road Transport, Toun-goo' through Mohnyin on 30 October," he said.

"Owners must register elephants over the age of five. If not, the elephant can be confiscated. The transportation of elephants requires a recommendation from the director of Forest Department. Transportation of ele-

phants to border area requires the permission of the region or state government. Some owners wishing to sell their elephants should abide

by the existing law," an official in the Forest Department said.

An officer who had served in Kyaukkyi Town-

ship, Bago Region, said some smugglers transport elephants along the jungle routes to avoid inspection by mobile teams.—GNLM-001



Two elephants bought from Tanai Township have been secretly kept in the forest east of Mohnyin. PHOTO: GNLM-001



# Who is to blame, the Nature or the Human Beings?

**Khin Maung Myint (MPT Retired)**

**W**HENEVER there was a disaster of any sort, we used to blame it on the Nature. We called the destructions caused by storms, floods, excessive rainfalls and droughts, etc, the **natural disasters**. Is it right or is it fair? From my point of view, it is neither right nor fair. Apart from the devastations caused by the asteroids from the outer space impacting the Earth and the eruptions of the volcanoes, we humans had our hands in, one way or the other, instigating them.

My opinions may sound controversial to some, but I had strong reasons to believe thus. I am game to any criticism or adverse comments concerning my views and outlooks. However, as a writer I deemed it my duty to clarify or validate whatever I wrote in my articles. By now most of those who had read some of my articles, might have noticed that I am trying to make our community or our world a better place to live in. That statement might seem too extravagant, for a person of my stature, but it is my genuine goodwill towards mankind. I had been sharing my experiences and whatever, meager, knowledge I had accumulated during my lifetime to the younger generations.

To proceed with my discussions, we are the ones who are causing the imbalance in the Nature. In my previous articles, I had pointed out the depletion of the forests and excessive carbon dioxide emissions that lead to concentration of the greenhouse gases that contribute to the global warming and hence, the climate changes. Another factor that contribute to the destruction of the ecosystem is the excessive plastic and styrofoam wastes.

Our planet is getting warmer year after year due to the global warming, the result of the human misdemeanors. Due to high temperatures, the ocean and sea surfaces are increasing in temperatures. These conditions cause more evaporations to take place and lead to the unprecedented heavy rainfalls and flooding. The rising temperatures in the Pacific Ocean cause the adverse weather conditions called the El Nino and La Nina phenomenas, taking place alternately every four to seven years. The El Nino weather condition is behind the heavy rainfalls and the increase in frequencies and

strength of the tropical revolving storms, known by different names in different regions—cyclones in the Indian, typhoons in the Western Pacific and hurricanes in the Eastern Pacific and Western Atlantic Oceans. The post El Nino or the La Nina period would be exposed to extreme temperatures, droughts and dry spells. Our country is no exception from these abnormal climate conditions that could affect the agricultural and the fishery sectors.

People call these disasters the **natural disasters**, instead of taking the blames themselves. Some even put the responsibility on the God. They call such disasters the acts of God. The God or the Nature have nothing to do with the deteriorations of the weathers and the consequences that followed. From whichever perspective you look, we humans are the real culprits.

Thus our misdeeds are punishing us. If we do not repent in time and do something to redeem ourselves by saving our Earth, we would further suffer. Our Earth had evolved for tens of thousands or, even, millions of year to arrive at the present state. The Nature will keep on evolving itself, but if we keep on disturbing that natural process, we would soon be doomed. The least we should or could do to save our planet is to stop destroying the ecosystem that Nature has created for us.

I had persistently pointed out the importance of the trees and the forests, and once again I would like to emphasize that fact. We must acknowledge the fact that the weather depends on the forests. We should take the examples of some of our neighbours and impose strict regulations regarding loggings. Reforestations should be done extensively in the once densely forested areas that are now barren.

The mining industries, too, are polluting our streams and rivers, by discharging toxic wastes randomly. The most harmful of these are the mercury, arsenic and lead compounds. It is learned that the tube well water in Yangon are found to contain traces of arsenic. This is an indication that the toxic chemicals from the polluted streams and rivers must have infiltrated into the ground water, even in places far from the mining areas. There is no doubt that other toxic chemical com-

pounds might also have done the same.

I think I should mention about the effects of arsenic poisoning from my own experience. A few years back, I noticed some annoying tiny white patches on my skin. First I thought it was a serious skin disease. However, when I consulted with a physician while undergoing an annual medical checkup, after thoroughly checking, he asked me whether I drink tube well water. When I answered that I did, he said it was nothing to worry, as it was just a mild arsenic poisoning, because most tube well water contain traces of arsenic. He advised me not to drink tube well water.

**“Our misdeeds are punishing us. If we do not repent in time and do something to redeem ourselves by saving our Earth, we would further suffer.”**

The air pollutions also should be reined-in, by imposing strict regulations on exhaust emissions by factories and vehicles alike. In most countries, the vehicles are randomly checked for the exhaust emission levels, a practice, which is not seen in our country. Restrict the slash and burn agricultural practices, as they cause the depletions of the forests and at the same time increase carbon dioxide emissions, which would increase the glasshouse effects that lead to the global warming.

The use of the plastic bags and styrofoam packagings should be reduced. They are not readily decomposable and are among the most destructive elements that are destroying our ecosystems and very harmful to the health. They contain human carcinogens that can cause cancers. If possible, ban them out right. They are the main causes of urban flooding, as the littered plastic bags and styrofoam clog the drainage systems. We should consider reintroducing our traditional packing materials—banana, lotus, *in* (ခေဇ်) and certain species of palm leaves. These leaves could decompose easily and as they are organic they would even benefit us by fertilizing the soils.

Substitute the fossilized fuels such as petrol, diesels, octane, liquid petroleum gas and coal with clean fuels—so-

lar power, wind power, hydro power and biofuel—wherever feasible.

Humans are unwittingly or knowingly getting involved in the destructions of our ecosystems and are blaming them on the Nature. There are many man-made disasters, but I will discuss only the worst case scenario—the *Nuclear Winter*.

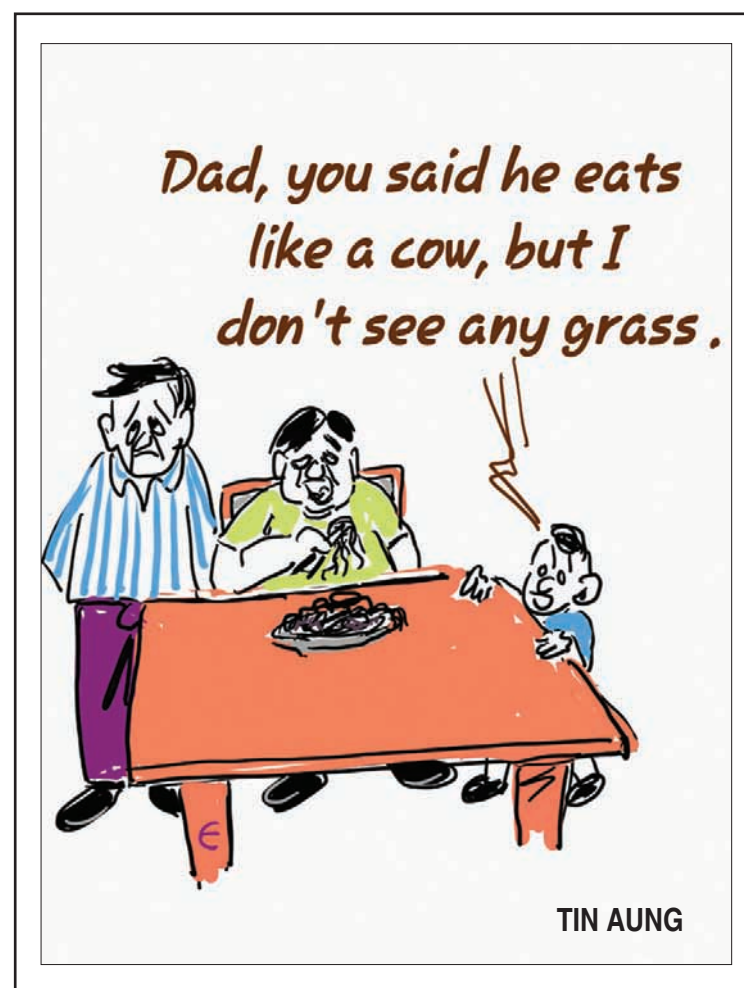
Most of us do not know exactly, what a huge nuclear explosion could inflict, apart from those seen in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today, the nuclear bombs are more advanced and many times more powerful than before and if there should be a nuclear war, the impact could far exceed those inflicted on Japan. A scenario similar to that

long duration. That would have caused an anti-global warming effect and also prevented the photosynthesis and resulted in the extinction of plants. That deprived the dinosaurs and some other animals of the food sources and were pushed to mass extinctions. The hypothesis was made by the Nobel laureate physicist Luis Alvarez and his son Walter Alvarez in 1980 and was endorsed, only after thirty years by a team of scientists.

A huge nuclear explosion, caused by an all-out modern nuclear war, would have similar effects as that of the asteroid impact mentioned and the temperatures would decrease drastically. According to the scientists, the summer temperatures could decrease by 20°C in some places in the core agricultural regions of the US, Europe and China and up to 35°C in Russia. This is a hypothetical climate effect called the *Nuclear Winter*. This climate condition may last for many years.

Judging from the above statements, it is quite clear that our destructions would be brought about by our own hands. The Nature would continue evolving on its own, as it had done for millions of years, without any need for help from the humans. Nature do not need people, but people need the Nature for their survival. So, let us stop blaming the Nature and work together to conserve it and save **Gaia**, our **Mother Earth!**

✦✦✦✦✦



## China's October factory, services surveys show economy still wobbly

BEIJING — Activity in China's manufacturing sector unexpectedly contracted in October for a third straight month, an official survey showed on Sunday, fueling fears the economy may still be losing momentum in the fourth quarter despite a raft of stimulus measures.

Adding to those concerns, China's services sector, which has been one of the few bright spots in the economy, also showed signs of cooling last month, expanding at its slowest pace in nearly seven years.

As the first major indicators of business conditions in China released each month, the PMIs reinforced the view that the economy remains in the midst of a gradual slowdown which will require Beijing to roll out more support in coming months.

"While the PMI has stabilized, it is too early to confirm a bottoming out," economists at ANZ Bank said in a note.

"As deflation risks intensify, a further RRR cut before end of this year is still possible," ANZ

said, referring to reducing the amount of reserves that banks must hold in order to free up more funds for new loans.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 49.8 in October, the same pace as in previous month and lagging market expectations of 50.0, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). A reading below 50 points suggests a contraction.

New export orders contracted for a 13<sup>th</sup> straight month, though the sub-index for new orders — a proxy for both domestic and foreign demand — edged up marginally to 50.3, compared with September's 50.2.

Faced with persistently weak demand, factory owners continued to lay off workers and at a slightly faster pace than in September.

"Because of the recent weak recovery in the global economy and downward pressure in the domestic economy, manufacturers still face a severe import and export situation," Zhao Qinghe, a senior statistician at the NBS said



A worker polishes steel coils at a factory of Dongbei Special Steel Group Co., Ltd., in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China, on 1 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

in a statement accompanying the data.

Major Chinese construction machinery maker Sany Heavy Industry Co Ltd said on Friday it swung to a loss in the third quar-

ter, affected by a glut of unsold equipment. As for the services sector, whose growth has helped offset persistent weakness in manufacturing, the official non-manufacturing PMI fell to 53.1 in Octo-

ber from September's 53.4. Though still a solid pace of expansion, it was the lowest reading since late 2008 during the global financial crisis, a similar survey showed.—Reuters

## China to set up civil satellite systems by 2020

BEIJING — China aims to finish building satellite systems for remote sensing, communications and navigation before 2020, a national plan showed Thursday.

The three satellite systems should be able to provide continuous and stable service, according to the plan for long-term development of civil space infrastructure posted on the website of the National Development and Reform Commission, the top economic planner.

In the next decade, China will build civil space infrastructure featuring cutting-edge technology, independent development and control, and reasonable distribution and global coverage, the plan said.

The three systems should meet demands for different indus-

tries and regions to support China's modernization drive, ensure national security and improve people's lives, it said.

Through the combined use of satellites from different systems or constellations, the country should be able to provide diversified, high-quality and reliable services to different industries.

For remote-sensing satellite systems, the priority should be on development of land, ocean and atmospheric observation satellites with seven different satellite constellations, the plan showed.

The system will meet the demands of various fields, including monitoring land and ocean resources, environmental protection, disaster relief, traffic, agriculture and weather forecasts.—Xinhua

## Made-in-China multiple unit train delivered to Macedonia

CHANGSHA — The first advanced multiple-unit train exported from China to Europe has been delivered to Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, according to manufacturer Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co. Ltd. on Saturday.

The company, in central China's Hunan Province, is a subsidiary of China's high-speed rail (HSR) group CRRC

Corp. Ltd. Assembly and testing has now begun, said Chen Xihong, deputy chief engineer of Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive.

The train has three cars which can carry 280 passengers in total. Its design is in line with the most strict safety standards in Europe, said Chen.

Macedonia requires the trains to have a top speed of 140 km per hour. The train was de-

veloped to reach a maximum speed of 160 km per hour, to ensure safety and leave room for future speed increases, said Chen. The train will run on a 215-km railway between Tabanovce in northern Macedonia and Gevgelija at the southern border with Greece.

The two countries reached an agreement on the purchase in June.—Xinhua

## China builds Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> big data base for int'l shipping

QINGDAO — The first big data base for international shipping will be established in east China's port city of Qingdao.

The 5 billion yuan (787 million US dollars) project includes a big data exchange, a research academy, an industrial park and a big data centre, according to an official with the

Qingdao International Shipping Service Centre.

The center signed a strategic agreement to jointly develop the base with AsiaInfo, a leading provider of high-quality software and solutions in China, at an international ocean forum held here on Friday.

"The construction of the

base will push the modernisation of Qingdao's shipping industry and its integration with information technologies," said the official.

The container throughput of Qingdao Port ranks fourth in the country. Qingdao is also one of China's seven international cruise home ports.—Xinhua

## Vodafone says hackers broke into nearly 2,000 customer accounts this week

LONDON — Vodafone UK (VOD.L) said on Saturday hackers had accessed the accounts of 1,827 of its customers this week, the second cyber attack on a British telecoms company this month.

The attackers had potentially gained access to the victims' bank sort codes and the last four numbers of their bank accounts, along with their names and mobile telephone numbers, a Vodafone spokesman said.

"This incident was driven by criminals using email addresses and passwords acquired from an

unknown source external to Vodafone," he added in a statement.

Only a handful of those affected in the Thursday morning attack had seen any attempts to use their data for fraudulent activity on their Vodafone accounts.

"No credit or debit card numbers or details were obtained. However, this information does leave these 1,827 customers open to fraud and might also leave them open to phishing attempts," the spokesman said.

The company was contacting all those involved and that other customers need not be concerned, he said.

Last week broadband, TV, mobile and fixed-line service provider TalkTalk (TALK.L) said it had been hacked, potentially putting the private details of its 4 million customers into the hands of criminals.

Less than 21,000 unique bank account numbers and sort codes had been accessed. Two teenagers have been arrested in connection with that attack.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Hospitals to pay \$250 million for cardiac device coverage violations

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of US hospitals will pay a total of more than \$250 million stemming from allegations that they implanted cardiac devices in Medicare patients in violation of coverage requirements, the US Justice Department said on Friday.

The 457 hospitals are from 43 states, the Justice Department said.

The settlement involves a type of device that detects and treats extremely fast, life-threatening heart rhythms, called fibrillations, by delivering a shock to the heart, the Justice Department said.

But only patients with certain medical characteristics and risk factors qualify for the device, known as an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, or ICD, the Justice Department said.

Medicare guidelines provide that doctors should not implant ICDs in patients who have recently suffered a heart attack or had other procedures, such as heart bypass surgery. Each of the hospitals that settled on Friday had implanted ICDs during 40 day waiting periods that Medicaid requires for heart attack patients and 90 day waiting periods for bypass patients.

The conduct occurred between 2003 and 2010.

Hospitals hit with the largest fines include Ascension Health [ASCNH.UL] in St. Louis, Missouri (\$14.9 million), Catholic Health East in Newtown Square Pennsylvania, now part of Trinity Health Corp [TRNTY.UL] (\$11 million), and Catholic Health Initiatives [CAHEA.UL] in Englewood Colorado (\$7.8 million).

The hospitals and others were defendants in a federal whistleblower suit brought under the US False Claims Act, a law that imposes liability on companies that defraud the US government.

Spokespeople for Ascension and Trinity said the hospitals were pleased to have resolved the matter. The Trinity spokeswoman said the hospital fully cooperated with the Justice Department and that its doctors acted in patients' best interests. Trinity settled the case to avoid additional legal costs, the spokeswoman said.

A Catholic Health Initiatives spokesman said the hospital had been working with the government on its inquiry and settled the case to avoid litigation. "While the government's focus was on the billing criteria, our primary focus has always been to ensure that our patients are provided with appropriate care," the spokesman said. "We are satisfied that appropriate care was, in fact, provided to our patients."—Reuters

## Scientists find why light touch evokes intense itch

WASHINGTON — US researchers have found why a light touch, rather than a hard brushing movement on our hairy skin can invoke a strong urge to scratch, a finding that could potentially lead to treatments for many chronic itch patients.

In a study published this week in the US journal *Science*, researchers from the Harvard University and Salk Institute reported identifying nerve cells within the spinal cord that curb the irksome light tickling sensation.

There are two types of itch: one that is induced by chemicals, or another, a mechanical itch, that occurs when tiny hairs on the skin's surface are lightly touched, for example by an insect.

"For the itch field, current

studies have been focusing on itch evoked by chemicals such as histamine," co-corresponding author Professor Qiufu Ma of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, told *Xinhua*.

"However, few people in the itch field pay attention to itch evoked by" light touch, which might be evolved to detect the movement of disease-bearing insects on the skin, he said.

In the study, Ma's team, working with researchers at the Salk Institute, used a modern genetic tool to selectively eliminate a type of nerve cells that produce a small protein called neuropeptide Y, or NPY for short, in the spinal cord of adult mice.

Within a week, these mice showed excessive scratching in

response to light touch and "eventually resulted in severe skin lesion," Ma said.

The researchers saw similar behaviours when they used a chemical genetic strategy to silence the NPY-producing nerve cells in the spinal cord.

More importantly, the NPY-deficient mice responded to pain or chemicals that evoke itchiness normally, suggesting that light touch uses its own pathway in the nervous system to evoke scratching, Ma said.

He said the newly discovered pathway may help explain why some people affected by itch are unresponsive to commonly used antihistamine drugs.

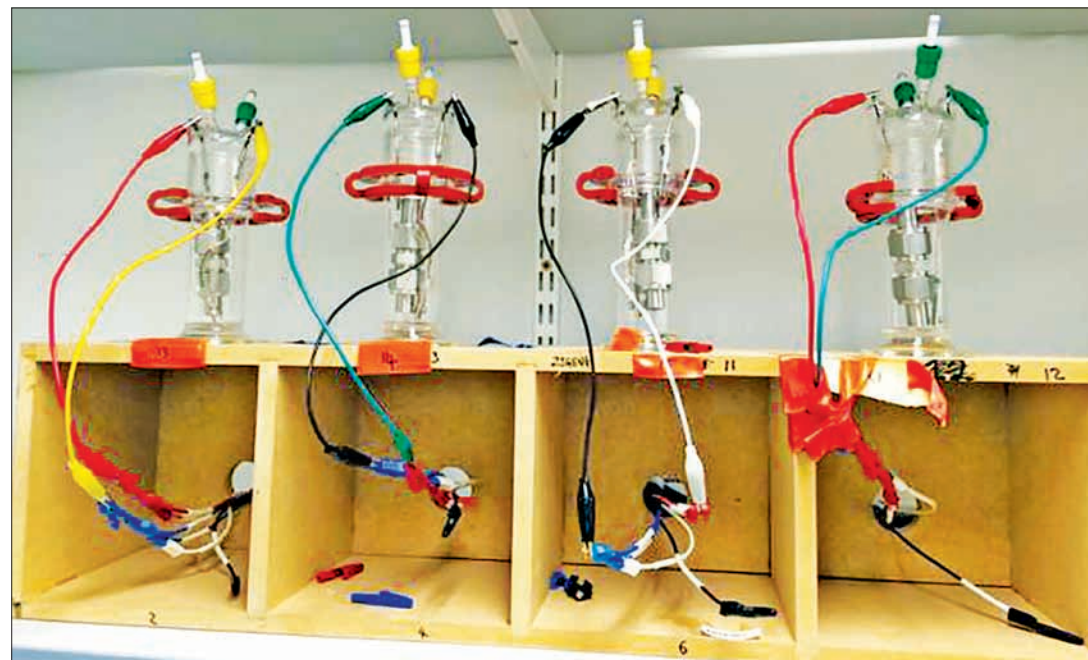
"Our study has not yet led to immediate new treatment, but it is conceivable that drugs capable of

enhancing NPY inhibitory neuron activity can help to suppress spontaneous mechanical itch," said the Harvard professor. A *Cell* paper published by Ma's team last December found another type of spinal inhibitory nerve cells that can curb mechanical pain.

"Together with this study, we now found two separate populations of spinal inhibitory neurons that are required to inhibit mechanical pain and mechanical itch, respectively," Ma said.

"In the future, by mapping spinal circuits that transmit or inhibit mechanical pain or itch, we hope we could eventually identify new molecular targets to treat chronic mechanical pain or itch, a problem still affecting the life quality of millions of patients worldwide."—*Xinhua*

## Scientists announce progress toward better battery to power cars



Part of the University of Cambridge's laboratory demonstration model of a lithium-oxygen battery is shown in this handout picture by Tao Liu released on 29 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Scientists have created a battery whose technology in principle could power electric cars and other energy-hungry devices far better than current lithium-ion batteries, but it remains years away from commercial use.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge on Thursday announced the creation of a laboratory demonstration model of a lithium-oxygen battery that overcomes many of the barriers that

have held back the development of this technology.

They said the battery boasts very high energy density, is about 93 percent efficient — better than previous efforts — and can be recharged more than 2,000 times.

Clare Grey, a Cambridge professor of materials chemistry who led the research, called it "a step towards a practical battery, albeit with many hurdles ahead." The researchers said it could be more than a decade before a prac-

tical lithium-oxygen battery is ready, in part because the battery's ability to charge and discharge is too low.

In cars, the range for a compact, fully charged battery has been unable to reach that of a full tank of gasoline in a regular engine because current lithium-ion batteries do not pack that kind of power punch. The lithium-ion rechargeable battery, first introduced in 1991, helped power the portable electronics revolution

including laptops and smartphones as well as powering some vehicles.

Lithium-oxygen batteries, also called lithium-air batteries, have the potential to deliver the desired power thanks to a high energy density — a measure of energy stored for a given weight — that could be 10 times that of lithium-ion batteries and approach that of gasoline. They also could be a fifth the cost and a fifth the weight of lithium-ion batteries.

But problems have beset lithium-oxygen batteries that affect their capacity and lifetime, including troublesome efficiency, performance, chemical reaction and potential safety issues and the limitation of needing pure oxygen rather than plain old air.

The Cambridge demonstrator battery employs different chemistry than previous work on lithium-air batteries, for example using lithium hydroxide rather than lithium peroxide. It also uses an electrode made of graphene, a form of carbon. The result was a more stable and efficient battery. Grey said it is too early to gauge lithium-oxygen battery range limits in vehicles.

Intellectual property from the research is owned by Cambridge Enterprises, the university's commercialization arm, and has been patented, Grey said.

The research was published in the journal *Science*.—Reuters

## China's first moon rover sets record for longest stay

JINAN — China's first lunar rover, Yutu, has been operating on the moon for almost two years, setting the record for the longest stay by a rover, according to a Chinese lunar probe scientist.

Yutu was deployed and landed on the moon via China's Chang'e-3 lunar probe in 2013, staying longer than the Soviet Union's 1970 moon rover Lunokhod 1, which spent 11 months on the moon. Its operations have

streamed live through Sina Weibo, a Chinese microblogging site, and its Weibo account has nearly 600,000 followers.

Yutu experienced a mechanical control abnormality in 2014, but it was revived within a month and, though it is unable to move, it continues to collect data, send and receive signals, and record images and video. "Human history is relatively short, and people are brimming over with curiosity about the

universe," said Ye Peijian, chief scientist with China's Chang'e-3 program. "We have to explore more by going out."

The launch of Dongfanghong-1, China's first satellite, in 1970 made China the fifth country to launch a domestic satellite using a domestic rocket, following the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Japan.

China launched its manned space programme in the 1990s

and successfully sent Yang Liwei, the country's first astronaut, into orbit on the Shenzhou-5 spacecraft in 2003.

The Chang'e-1 mission in 2007 inaugurated an era of Chinese lunar exploration, followed by Chang'e-2 and Chang'e-3, with the latter marking completion of the second phase of China's lunar programme, which includes orbiting, landing and returning to Earth.—Reuters

# US Secretary of State in first meeting with autocratic Uzbek leader

SAMARKAND — US Secretary of State John Kerry met Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov on Sunday during a tour of central Asia, a rare high-level US encounter with the autocratic ruler and frequent target of human rights criticism.

The two held talks in the ancient Uzbek city of Samarkand on the fringes of a diplomatic gathering of his five central Asian counterparts aimed at reassuring them of Washington's continued engagement in a region seen as exposed to militant Islam.

Most of the five former Soviet republics have poor human rights records, and US officials say Kerry, on his four-day trip, is urging central Asian leaders to expand basic freedoms.

But such issues are not likely to dominate his agenda. Kerry is seeking to persuade governments that Washington's interest in the region, which lies to the north of Afghanistan, is not waning.

That message has taken on greater importance as Washington draws down its forces in Afghanistan, concerns mount about the threat to the region from Islamic State, and Russia, fresh from forays into Ukraine and Syria, reasserts its influence.

It was Kerry's first meeting as secretary of state with Karimov, who has ruled mostly Muslim Uzbekistan for a quarter of a century since shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Kerry made no ex-



Uzbek President Islam Karimov (L) shakes hands with US Secretary of State John Kerry before a meeting at the Palace of Forums on the President's Residential Compound in Samarkand, on 1 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

PLICIT mention of human rights when reporters were allowed briefly into the meeting room.

But he alluded to those concerns, saying he wanted to talk with Karimov and central Asian foreign ministers "about the human dimension, the issues of individuals and their participation in society" to define the future of their countries.

As security men starting ushering reporters out of the room where the meeting was taking place, one American reporter shouted a question to Karimov seeking his response to the US State Department's critique of the Uzbek human rights record.

Karimov ignored the query. Kerry began responding but the reporter was pushed out of the room before he finished what he was saying.

International human rights bodies list Karimov's government as among the world's most repressive. The latest State Department global report on human rights cites torture, forced labour in the Uzbek cotton fields and "endemic corruption".

But at the same time Uzbekistan has been a reliable strategic partner providing logistical support for the US-led military campaign in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The renewed US fo-

cus on central Asia coincides with a chorus of warnings from Russian officials about the danger of Islamic State militants infiltrating the region from Afghanistan, accompanied by hints Moscow will respond by beefing up its military presence.

Though Russian officials say they are driven only by concern about militants, not geo-political rivalry with Washington, their heightened attention risks fuelling US suspicions that Moscow is trying to rebuild its old empire. In his talks with Karimov, Kerry said he shared central Asian concerns about Afghanistan

and also recognised the challenge they faced in countering radical extremists, especially Islamic State and al Qaeda. He praised Karimov's government for preserving the historic sites at Samarkand, once a central stop on the Silk Road trade route, and called it a "stark contrast" to Islamic State's destruction of ancient monuments in the Syrian town of Palmyra.

Kerry and his aides have touted his itinerary as the first time that a US secretary of state has visited all five ex-Soviet republics in succession on a single trip.—Reuters

## Britain to present new watered down surveillance bill

LONDON — Britain's government will present a new bill to give security agencies the powers to track online communications, but in a bid to win over critics interior minister Theresa May said they would not get automatic access to people's browsing history.

May told the BBC's Andrew Marr show on Sunday that the new bill, to be presented in parliament on Wednesday, was "quite different" from earlier plans to give police greater powers to monitor communications and web activities that opponents dubbed a "snoopers' charter".

She said the Investigatory Powers Bill would not include automatic powers to go through people's browsing history and any "intrusive" actions would be subject of "strong oversight arrangements", in a nod to critics who said earlier plans would trample over the public's right to privacy.

"It's about bringing the ability of our law enforcement and security services to deal with the issues they are dealing with ... and bringing that forward into the digital age," she said.

She also said the new bill would not require communication service providers in Britain to store third party data.

A debate about how to protect privacy while giving agencies the powers they need in the digital age has raged since former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden leaked details about mass surveillance by British and US spies in 2013.

Britain's security chiefs argue they are facing a capability gap because of technological advances, and say that their work has been severely hampered by Snowden's disclosures. But campaigners and civil rights groups have said Snowden's disclosures about mass surveillance showed the authorities were not respecting people's entitlement to privacy.—Reuters

## FBI says no 'conclusive evidence' Maldives boat blast caused by bomb

COLOMBO — The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it has found no conclusive evidence that an explosion on a boat transporting Maldives President Abdulla Yameen was caused by a bomb.

The Maldives government, however, said the FBI statement was contrary to the outcome of other investigators.

Though the government initially said the blast on 28 September could have resulted from mechanical failure, it later cited investigators from the FBI, Australia, Saudi Arabia, India and Sri Lanka to assert it was an attempt on

Yameen's life. The president, who rose to power in a bitterly contested presidential election in 2013, escaped unharmed, but his wife and two officials were injured. The FBI was one of the outside agencies asked by the government to look into the blast. Josh Campbell, an FBI spokesman, said in a statement emailed to Reuters on Saturday that the evidence submitted for analysis was determined to be from the boat and not parts of an improvised explosive device (IED).

"Based on the FBI's analysis — which included forensic analysis of the scene, analysis of the

items recovered from the scene, and chemical testing — there is no conclusive evidence to attribute the explosion on the boat to an IED," Campbell said. The Foreign Ministry, on its official Twitter feed, said the FBI forensic report was inconclusive.

Home Minister Umar Naseer said on Sunday that police in the Maldives would have the final say on the investigation. Reports from India and Australia have yet to be received.

"No forensic investigation will ever say conclusively something happened for certain," Naseer told reporters in Male, adding

that explosives may not have left traces and evidence could have been tampered with. Maldives Vice President Ahmed Adheeb was arrested last week in connection with the explosion but has denied the allegations. Defence Minister Moosa Ali Jaleel was sacked in mid-October.

Police on Saturday arrested seven people after finding weapons hidden on the seabed.

A Sri Lankan investigator told Reuters the blast was a "high explosive explosion", while Maldives' local probe commission cited Saudi Arabian investigators as saying there were

signs of RDX, "a chemical rated as a high explosive and the main element used in making powerful explosives such as C4."

Foreign Minister Duniya Maumoon on Tuesday denied that dissident politicians were trying to unseat Yameen and said he was in control. Yameen, 56, has provoked street protests in Maldives with a crackdown on political dissent, including the arrest of the country's first democratically elected president, Mohamed Nasheed, who was sentenced to 13 years in jail this year on terrorism charges that have caused an international outcry.—Reuters

## Argentina's Scioli would up retiree benefits, tap social security

**BENAVIDEZ** — Argentina's ruling party presidential candidate Daniel Scioli would improve benefits to retired people and pay for the increase in part by tapping the country's social security system, he told Reuters late on Saturday.

After a weaker-than-expected performance in the 25 October election, in which opposition candidate Mauricio Macri easily forced a second-round vote, Scioli said retirees receiving the minimum monthly retirement benefit of 4,300 pesos per month would get 4,969 pesos (\$520) if he wins the presidency.

"We will finance (the increase in retirement payments) through a combination of funds from the social security system and the national treasury," Scioli said in an interview.

Scioli's government would adopt a system in which retirees would get 83 percent of minimum wage, he said.

Benefits could rise rapidly as labour unions negotiate wage deals based on private inflation estimates, which say consumer prices are rising by about 25 percent per year.

Both Scioli and Macri are courting voters who supported third place candidate Sergio Massa, a moderate congressman who did not make it into the run-off.

"We have to interpret what those who voted for Massa want," Scioli said in the interview. "For example, retirees. We have to hear them and understand they have needs that need to be met."

Scioli also said he would get rid of wheat and

corn export taxes, now respectively at 23 percent and 20 percent, and gradually reduce the 35-percent levy that the current government puts on soybean exports.

Asked if he would ditch the corn and wheat taxes immediately upon taking office, Scioli told reporters, "Yes".

Macri has long promised the same farm tax reforms. The fact that both now promise a quick end to corn export taxes could prompt higher-than-expected corn exports at a time when farmers the United States, the top corn exporter, are already nervous about their competitiveness. The winner will succeed President Cristina Fernandez and be sworn in on 10 December. Fernandez, loved by many of the nation's poor for her generous welfare



Daniel Scioli, the ruling party's presidential candidate for the Victory Front, poses for a selfie with his followers before an indoor soccer match in Buenos Aires, Argentina. PHOTO: REUTERS

spending but characterised by others as a free-spending populist, is barred by law from running for a third consecutive term this year. Fernandez reluctantly endorsed

the more business-friendly Scioli as her party's candidate earlier this year. Although from the same party, Fernandez's inner circle is far to the left of Scioli. The

local press has been full of accounts of rising tensions between the Fernandez and Scioli camps since his anaemic performance in the 25 October election.—Reuters

## Serbia to ensure temporary centres for about 3,000 migrants

**SUBOTICA** — Serbia is ready to provide temporary centres for accommodation of about 3,000 migrants, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour

and Social Affairs Nenad Ivanisevic said on Saturday.

"In Serbia, we can ensure temporary centres for providing assistance to

about 3,000 people because the movement of migrants will be slowed down in the winter period and it will not be possible to provide assistance to

them inside tents as up to now, but inside solid structures," Ivanisevic told Tanjug.

Through humanitarian organisations, the German government will fund the construction of a temporary reception centre in Subotica, Ivanisevic said in the northern Serbian city, adding that the reception centre in nearby Kanjiza has been closed partly because it was using tents, which are unsuitable for accommodation in the winter period.—Tanjug



State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Nenad Ivanisevic. PHOTO: TANJUG

## UAE carriers re-route flights over Egypt's Sinai after Russian crash

**DUBAI** — United Arab Emirates airlines Emirates, Air Arabia and flydubai said on Sunday they were re-routing flights to avoid flying over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, where a Russian aircraft carrying 224 passengers crashed on Saturday.

The airlines said they

were closely monitoring the area and the re-routing was a security precaution, according to separate emailed statements to Reuters. Re-routing usually means longer flying distance, which adds to fuel costs.

A militant group affiliated to Islamic State in

Egypt, Sinai Province, said in a statement it had brought down the plane "in response to Russian air strikes that killed hundreds of Muslims on Syrian land", but Russia's Transport Minister told Interfax news agency the claim "can't be considered accurate".—Reuters

## Iran's Khamenei calls for Syrian elections to solve crisis

**DUBAI** — Iran's top authority said elections should be held in Syria to end the civil war there and criticised foreign powers that arm and fund Syrian opposition fighters, state television re-

ported on Sunday. "The solution to the Syrian question is elections, and for this it is necessary to stop military and financial aid to the opposition," several state media outlets quoted Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying. He added that US objectives in the Middle East were the opposite of Iran's and negotiating with Washington on regional issues was meaningless.—Reuters

### WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Rakhine State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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### INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (TENDER NO. 4(T)MPE/MIXED LPG (1)/2015-2016)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mixed LPG (1,800 MT ± 5%).
2. Tender Closing Date : 1.12. 2015 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 1.12. 2015 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : Within 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> February 2016
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 5.11.2015 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise  
Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

## Taylor Swift sued for stealing 'Shake It Off' lyrics

LONDON — Pop star Taylor Swift is facing a lawsuit from a songwriter who claims he came up with a famous phrase from her hit "Shake It Off".

Jessie Braham claims 25-year-old Swift's hit borrows heavily from a song he wrote in 2013 called "Haters Gone Hate", reported TMZ.

He has claimed ownership of the phrase "haters gone hate", and alleged Swift used it more than 70 times in her song.

His lyrics are, "Haters gone hate/players gone play. Watch

out for the fakers/they'll fake you every day."

Some of the lyrics in Swift's 2014 hit are, "Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play/And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate."

Braham claims Swift's chorus is a rip-off of his song.

The songwriter has demanded USD 42 million from Swift, and wants his name added to any new release of "Shake It Off".

A representative for Swift has yet to comment on the report.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Glad 'Downton Abbey' is coming to an end: Maggie Smith



PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Actress Maggie Smith says she is glad to be saying goodbye to hit drama "Downton Abbey" after six years.

The ITV drama is in the middle of its sixth and final season, before a Christmas special wraps it up, reported Daily Mirror.

80-year-old Smith, who plays the irrepressible matriarch Violet Crawley in the series, spoke to the "Graham Norton Show" about how she is pleased to finally wrap up the popular drama.

"I am glad it is over, I really am," Smith said.

"By the time we finished she (Countess of Grantham) must have been about 110. It couldn't go on and on, it just didn't make sense." Asked whether she would like to be in the movie, which has long been mooted by the series' creator Julian Fellowes, she replied, "I can't.—PTI

## Oscar-winning director Bille August shoots film on Flying Tigers

HANGZHOU — Production on a film about an American pilot who was saved by Chinese villagers after his plane was shot down by the Japanese forces began in east China's Zhejiang Province on Saturday.

The film, "The Chinese Widow," is directed by Danish director Bille August, best known for "Pelle the Conqueror," which won both the Palme D'or and the Academy Award in 1987.

The director said that he hoped to portray the warmth of humanity, even in the setting of a brutal war.

The pilot in the movie, Jack Turner, was a member of the US "Flying Tigers" air squadron, who helped the Chinese during World War II. Several of these American pilots had to make emergency landings and were saved by Chinese soldiers and civilians. The visual effects will be



Danish director Bille August.

PHOTO: XINHUA

managed by Chris Edwards, CEO of US-based Third Floor company, which worked on "Avatar" and "The Hunger Games."

The film features American actor Emile Hirsch and Chinese actress Yu Nan, and set for release in October.—Xinhua

## Tokyo film fest closes with top prize going to Brazilian film 'Nise'

TOKYO — The 28<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Film Festival came to a close Saturday, with the top prize going to a Brazilian film based on the true story of a female psychiatrist who went against odds to change the way patients were treated at a psychiatric ward on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro.

"Nise — The Heart of Madness," directed by Roberto Berliner and starring Gloria Pires, depicts the trials, disappointments and successes of the late Nise da Silveira who engaged her patients, treated them like human beings and encouraged them to express themselves through art, despite opposition from conservative doctors.

Pires won the Best Actress award for her elegant portrayal of da Silveira, a determined, tough and no-nonsense doctor who is compassionate toward her schizophrenia patients and calls them her "clients."

"The most important part about filmmaking, at least for me, is creating a world that is believable," said Jury President Bryan Singer in presenting the Tokyo Grand Prix that comes with prize money of \$50,000. "In the case of this film, we all felt that it was a very believable world full of sadness, of humor and of triumph."

Berliner said he worked on the film for 13 years, during which he and his crew rewrote the screenplay numerous times so they can best depict da Silveira and her activities during the 1940s, and filmed the movie at an actual psychiatric hospital with a documentary touch.

"She's a revolutionary that is so big and just a few people know her. It was my responsi-



Tokyo film fest closes with top prize going to Brazilian film "Nise" Roberto Berliner gives a speech after a Brazilian film he directed, "Nise — The Heart of Madness," won the top prize at the 28<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Film Festival in the Japanese capital on 31 October 2015. KYODO NEWS

bility to show her to the world. Because of that, it took me so long," he said. "Sometimes we know that we are doing something special, and I felt that when I was making this film." Da Silveira died in 1990 at age 94. The film was among 16 works, including three from Japan, that were selected from a total of 1,409 movies from 86 countries and territories for the main competition section.

The Special Jury Prize went to "All Three of Us," a French film directed by Kheiron, the Best Director Prize was presented to Mustafa Kara for "Cold of Kalandar," a Turkish-Hungarian production, and the Best Actor Prize was given to Roland Moller and Louis Hofman of Danish-German

film "Land of Mine."

"Family Film," a Czech-German-Slovenian-French-Slovakian production directed by Slovenian Olmo Omerzu, won the Best Artistic Contribution Award, and the Audience Award chosen by filmgoers went to Italian film "God Willing" by Edoardo Falcone.

In other sections, the Best Asian Future Film Award to recognize works by new directors from the Asian region went to Thailand's "The Island Funeral" by female director Pimpaka Towira, and the Spirit of Asia Award was presented to Degena Yun, a female director from China's Inner Mongolia, for her first feature film, "A Simple Goodbye."—Kyodo News

# For 'Pumpkin Capital USA,' Halloween brings rest for farmers

FLOYDADA — In Floydada, Texas, which calls itself "Pumpkin Capital, USA," Halloween is the time for farmers who produce more than a million of the orange globes to kick back and savor the mostly empty fields.

"It is one of the biggest headache crops," said Tim Assiter, owner of the Assiter Punkin Ranch & Pumpkin Ranch just outside of town. "You've got to love it to do it. It's not something that you do just for the money."

Pumpkins are heavier and can be harder to handle than almost any other crop in the Texas Panhandle flatlands, where cotton is king and corn is commonplace. Floydada is just another small town of a few thousand people trying to make a living working the land.

Although indigenous to the area, pumpkins are an oddity on the region's farms because they are tough to insure, and despite Floydada's nickname, other parts of the United States grow far more. Towns like Mor-

ton, Illinois, or Half Moon Bay, California, claim to be the "Pumpkin Capital of the World."

Farmers have about four weeks to hand pick, sell and ship the pumpkins that are grown for decorative purposes. "We now raise pink pumpkins, blue pumpkins, green pumpkins, leathery-tan pumpkins, orange pumpkins, white pumpkins and red pumpkins," Assiter said. One constant has been Halloween.

Production in the area began in the 1950s when local farmer B.A. "Uncle Slim" Robertson planted pumpkins after being nagged by his wife to do so. The family first sold pumpkins by the side of the road and soon were shipping to Dallas, Assiter said.

About 30 single-family farmers produced pumpkins in the area back then. Four operators now dominate the business.

In Floydada, the pumpkin producers know each other well, and the crop unites its 3,000 residents.

Pumpkin yields and pumpkin production have steadily grown to about 1.3 billion pounds a year, according to the US Department of Agriculture, with top production states including Illinois, California and Michigan. Floydada's harvest is just a drop in the bucket, but the orange squash gives the town much of its identity.

At Halloween, pumpkin ornaments are found at nearly every house, along every corner and lining roadways. Since the late 1980s

the town has held a "Punkin Day" festival, spelled in honor of the local slang, in the wake of the crop being loaded onto trucks.

Kimberly Perez, manager of the Floydada Chamber of Commerce, said the town offers some of the

widest varieties of specialty pumpkins. "We're at that spot where we need to decide where we want to take it from here, or do we just want to leave it alone?" said Floydada pumpkin grower Robert Rainwater. — Reuters



Pumpkins sit in the field at Assiter Punkin Ranch, in Floydada, Texas, on 22 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## China's rural traditions showcased at Expo Milano 2015

MILAN — An exhibition held here at the China Pavilion of the Milan world exhibition from Wednesday to Friday showcased the value of China's ancient agricultural tradition in today's world of innovation.

The exhibition, organised by the Fine Art College of Shanghai University and Shanghai Public Art Cooperation Centre (PACC), focused on pioneering spirit, touristic potential and cultural promotion of the Chinese rural world.

Chinese tea, bamboo fans and other bamboo crafts were on display at the exhibition. "I think the themes of this exhibition perfectly combine with China Pavilion's theme 'Land of Hope, Food for Life,' Chinese Vice Consul in Milan Huang Yongyue said presenting the exhibition to international visitors.

"China is a big agricultural country. Thanks to rapid development of recent decades, Chinese farmers have significantly improved their life conditions. However, now besides economic wealth they are also aiming at something more," he added.

Huang explained to local experts and viewers that the exhibition is the opportunity to present to the world a variety of elements that are a lively part of Chinese rural traditions, from ancient handicraft to profound research of balance and harmony with nature.

In an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the exhibition, Wang Dawei, Dean of the Fine Art College of Shanghai University, explained how in the era of global exchanges China wants to seize the opportunity of cultural di-

alogue brought by the new "Belt and Road" initiative.

Launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative envisages a huge network of infrastructural and cultural projects to revive the ancient route and promote integration of different cultures and populations along the line, Wang noted.

"We are here to show how the millenary traditions of China can be complementary to the modern world," Jin Jiangbo, Art Doctor of the Tsinghua University in Beijing, told Xinhua.

Over the past days, their delegation met with Italian experts to learn from the successful experience of promotion and valorization of the Mediterranean nation's countryside, and also

explore collaboration opportunities. Farm holiday, just to make an example, has had very successful development in Italy and can be exported to China as a model of countryside valorization, they noted.

An aspect which deserves deep cultural exchange is the valorization of rural architecture in China, said Maurizio Meriggi, an architecture professor at Politecnico di Milano, a world-renowned scientific and technological university based in Milan.

"Since 2007 we have started to collaborate with Chinese authorities to preserve cultural heritage in different villages, like the beautiful Hakka ones, which have very rich architectural forms combining painting and sculpture with natural landscape," he explained. — Xinhua

## Lonely Planet founder reprises original trip — on budget air

LONDON — Tony Wheeler famously started the Lonely Planet series of travel guides in 1973 after embarking from London in a minivan, driving through the "hippie backpacker trail" in Asia and finally arriving in Sydney, where he and his wife Maureen had 27 cents between them.

After selling the Lonely Planet enterprise for \$133 million in 2007 to the BBC, Wheeler, 66, no longer needs to travel on the cheap.

Nevertheless, there he was taking 22 different budget airline flights earlier this year from London to Melbourne, Australia, in a month-long reprise of his first epic journey.

It wasn't nearly as romantic — the cramped airplanes seats, tedious airport security and delays — "but I enjoyed it, I really did", Wheeler said in an interview on the sidelines of the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival on the Indonesian island of Bali at the weekend.

His new book, which is not yet published, also looks back at the history of air travel in the region,

and chronicles the startling growth of budget airline and the characters who started them.

Tony and Maureen started the guidebooks based on the diaries of his original trip. The books, originally pitched toward the young baby boomer backpack generation that was discovering Asia, changed over time.

"The early books we wrote for ourselves. And then as we got older and wealthier and had kids, the books changed with us. It wasn't a deliberate policy. We changed and the books changed, too."

Wheeler said he was bitterly disappointed with how BBC handled Lonely Planet, which sold the franchise to Kentucky tobacco billionaire Brad Kelley in 2013 at a steep loss.

"It was a total disaster. They bought the Lonely Planet car. They should have put some fuel in the tank, and put it flat to the floor. Instead they got in the car, and said 'what do we do?' Let's drive slowly."

In any case, the travel guide industry has matured, he said. — Xinhua

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(2-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 3-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News  
07:26 Am Myanmar Masterclass "Kyaw Phyu San"  
07:43 Am A Myanmar Tapestry  
07:53 Am Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns  
08:03 Am News  
08:26 Am To My Dream City (Part- 1)  
08:50 Am My Life & My Art  
09:03 Am News  
09:26 Am Trend Of Kachin Dress  
09:52 Am Myanmar General Election 2015 (Ambassador of Germany)

10:03 Am News  
10:26 Am Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda  
10:48 Am A Way of Life: Karate-do  
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
Prime Time  
07:03 Pm News  
07:26 Pm Food Trip (EP-9) (Part-2)  
07:46 Pm Around The Maha Boditahtung  
08:03 Pm News  
08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Papaya Salad)  
08:45 Pm A Simple And Peaceful Life  
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

## Traditional boxers draw blood in bout



Zwe Lin Aung (Nagani) fights Thway Thit Maung (TH Thway Thit) in a found-round match.  
PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

THE 9<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge took place at Theinbyu Traditional Sports Gymnasium in Yangon on 1 November.

In the three-round matches, Za (Hanthawady Thar) and Tarte (Amarapura) ended in a draw, while Kyan Kyaung (Swan KK) knocked out Win Naing, also known as Shwe Ba (Hanthawady Thar).

Zar Ni (Amarapura)

knocked out Kyaw Htet, also known as Oktha Kyaw (Hanthawady Thar) in the second round of the third match, and the fight between Swan Htet Naing (Swan KK) and Doe Lone (TK Thway Thit) concluded in a draw. In the last match, Aung Kyaw Kyaw (Nagani) knocked out Nay Aung (TH Thway Thit) in the third round.

In the four-round match-

es, Zwe Lin Aung (Nagani) beat Thway Thit Maung (TH Thway Thit), while Zaw Chit Maung (Swan KK) was defeated by Tun Lwin Moe (Naga Mahn) in the second round.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation president U Thein Aung and other officials were among the spectators at the tournament.—*Min Khit*

## Karatedo athletes receive black belts

THE first dan (black belt) ceremony and Karatedo demonstration were held at the YMCA Hall at the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> streets in Mandalay on Saturday.

Region minister for social affairs Dr Win Hlaing presented a Karatedo certificate conferred by the International Karate Organisation Kyokushin Kaikan

to Myanmar country director U Aung Myint.

The director presented dan belts to the trainees, while yellow-belt level youths demonstrated their skills.

The karatedo course is held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays every week and is attended by 75 trainees.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



Region minister for social affairs Dr Win Hlaing presents a Karatedo certificate to Myanmar country director U Aung Myint.  
PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

## Nishikori makes ATP World Tour Finals for 2<sup>nd</sup> year in row

LONDON — Japan's World No. 6 Kei Nishikori qualified for the ATP World Tour Finals for the second year in a row on Saturday as the eight-man field was settled for the 15-22 November event in London.

Nishikori and David Ferrer of Spain took the last two spots after Richard Gasquet was defeated by Rafael Nadal in the

semifinals of the Swiss Indoors. Nishikori and Ferrer are tied for seventh place in the points race with 3,945.

Nishikori, who reached the semifinals of the ATP World Tour Finals last year, has won three titles this season and reached the last eight of the Australian Open and the French Open.—*Kyodo News*

## More misery for Mourinho, City and Arsenal win

LONDON — Jose Mourinho's future as Chelsea manager looked increasingly insecure after a 3-1 defeat by Liverpool on Saturday, Philippe Coutinho scoring twice at Stamford Bridge as the champions lost a sixth Premier League game in 11. Chelsea's third home league reverse of the season left them in 15<sup>th</sup> place in the table with 11 points from 11 games — the worst ever start to a season by the reigning champions.

They are already 14 points behind Manchester City who needed a last-gasp Yaya Toure penalty to beat Norwich City 2-1 and retain top spot on goal difference from Arsenal who won 3-0 at Swansea.

Toure's spot kick spared the blushes of City keeper Joe Hart who fumbled a routine catch to gift Norwich a late equaliser.

All Arsenal's goals came after the break as they made it five league wins in succession — Olivier Giroud, Laurent Koscielny and Joel Campbell all on target.

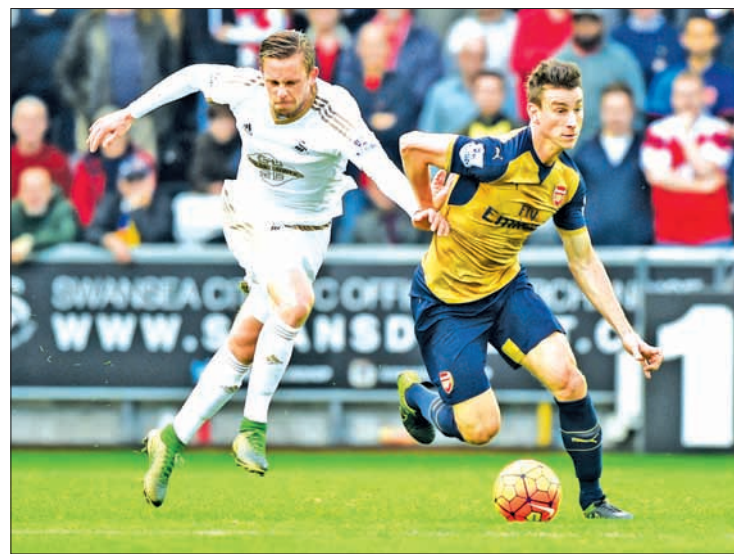
Leicester City are up to third thanks to a 3-2 victory at West Bromwich Albion where they trailed, with Jamie Vardy scoring for the eighth league match in a row. Manchester United dropped to fourth after a 0-0 stalemate at Crystal Palace, their second successive goalless league draw.

Chelsea, labouring in the

Champions League, out of the League Cup and as good as finished in the title race, are in free fall and Liverpool's fans, celebrating a first league win for new manager Jurgen Klopp, taunted Mourinho with chants of "You're getting sacked in the morning".

Former Chelsea winger Pat Nevin summed up the mood, saying: "The questions over Mourinho will be a cacophony now. "It's not just the defeat but the manner of it. They were absolutely outplayed," he added on BBC radio.

Triple Premier League winner Mourinho was tight-lipped afterwards, but asked if it could have been his last game in charge, he said: "No".—*Reuters*



Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny in action with Swansea City's Gylfi Sigurdsson during Barclays Premier League at Liberty Stadium on 31 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS