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READY FOR THE DROUGHT

Govt prepares drinking water reserves for rural areas

Aye Min Soe

THE government is carrying out preparations for El Niño, requesting public assistance in the transportation of water and tube-wells to rural areas.

The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development announced yesterday that people in rural areas will face a scarcity of drinking water due to droughts caused by El Niño, which is expected to hit the country from March to May.

The ministry has called on donors to contact the Rural Development Departments in their region and states to contribute to funds to pay members of the public for assisting in the transportation of water to drought-affected areas.

These preparations come two days after the government's weather bureau urged authorities to prepare for record-breaking temperature this summer.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has predicted that Myanmar will experience droughts and high temperatures due to El Niño in March, April and May.

The government urged those involved in the agriculture, food security, water supply, electricity, health, fishery, water transportation and tourism sectors to take precautionary measures.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Rice Federation has urged the government to buy rice to bolster the



Villagers collect drinking water sunk through sand into a hand-made pond in a rural area.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

state reserves.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation also warned of the impact of El Niño on fish farming, calling for necessary measures to be undertaken to avoid possible losses.

Local non-governmental or-

ganisations in regions and states are also bracing for El Niño with plans to supply water to villages in the summer. The group will collect water from tube-wells in Thazi Township and supply it to people when they face water shortages.

International meteorological organisations have predicted that Myanmar will face its strongest El Niño weather pattern during the first half of 2016. Meteorologists warned that due to the El Niño effect, temperatures will be above

average, and temperatures are expected to break records in March, April and May.

Myanmar's current highest temperature—47.2 degrees—was recorded in Myinmu amid an El Niño system in 2010.

INSIDE

Polluted air in Yangon could cause lung disease



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THE Department of Public Health has announced that the air in and around Yangon contains particular matter at a level of PM10, which can cause lung diseases.

The results of the department's atmosphere reading show the air to contain many pollutants recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), although the air is not as polluted as other Asian countries such as Thailand and Japan.

"The air shows more pollutants than other local atmos-

pheres, although not to the point whereby there are enough to be very dangerous to people," said Dr Kyi Lwin Oo, director of the Department of Environmental Health.

According to the WHO, the presence of pollutant particles in the atmosphere can contribute toward lung diseases, such as asthma, as well as lung cancers and can destroy the ozone layer, which protects the world from the harmful penetration of the sun's UV rays.



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Car exhaust fumes are also blamed for polluting the air. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw forms two more committees

THE current Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for its ninth day yesterday, approving the formation of the Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee and the Public Complaints Committee.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee was

formed with 15 members, including Chairman U Kyaw Thiha of Mandalay Region Constituency 12 and Secretary U Sa Khin Zaw Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 2.

Next, the Speaker announced to the Upper House the formation of the 15-member Public Complaints Committee, naming U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 3 chairman

and U Hla Myint Than of Mon State Constituency 11 secretary of the committee.

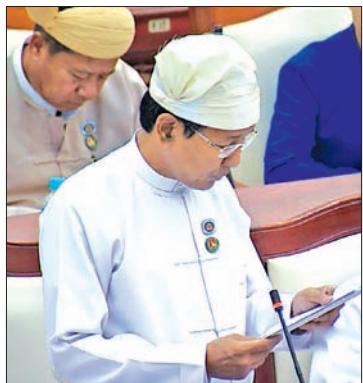
Also during the ninth-day session, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than read out a message sent by Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, to the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the message was documented.

—Myanmar News Agency

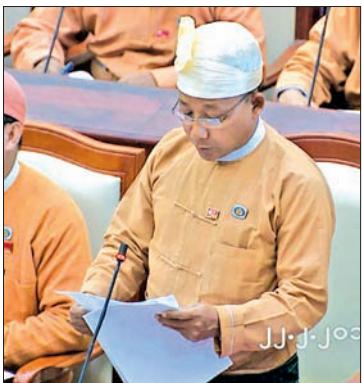


Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

El Niño urgent motion put forward to Pyithu Hluttaw

Dr. Maung Thin. PHOTO: MNA



Dr. Hla Moe. PHOTO: MNA



U Thein Tun. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw session continued for ninth day, with submission of an urgent motion calling the government to gear up expected effects of El Niño and formation of five parliamentary committees.

Dr Maung Thin of Meiktila Constituency submitted the urgent motion urging the ministries concerned to adopt risk mitigation measures against ill-effects of El Niño which is expected to hit Myanmar this year, and U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon Constituency seconded the motion.

The urgent motion that had

earned the support of parliamentary majority suggested adoption of a long-term plan for El Niño that can cause weather-related disasters and diseases, stressing the need of monitoring expected impacts on food and agriculture sectors and taking fire preventive measures.

Next, Speaker U Win Myint announced parliamentary approval for proposed formation of Health and Sports Development Committee, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee and Transport, Communication and Construc-

tion Committee.

Then, the Speaker informed parliamentarians of creation of Industrial Development and Investment Committee and Electric Power and Energy Development Committee with 15 members each, proposing U Win Thein Zaw of Salingyi Constituency and U Khin Maung Oo of Kyaukdaga Constituency as chairmen of the respective committees.

The second Pyithu Hluttaw's first regular session continues today.

— Myanmar News Agency

liamentarians in natural disaster prevention and the World Bank's financial support for Myanmar's poverty reduction and development initiatives.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, the chairman and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr Axel van Trotsenburg. PHOTO: MNA

Smooth flow of passenger buses returns to Mandalay-Muse road

Trucks are crawling along Mandalay-Muse Road. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

SMOOTH flow of traffic for passenger buses returned to Mandalay-Muse road section following a timetable for cargo trucks that blocked traffic flows on the road earlier, according to a driver.

After a timetable for the cargo trucks to use the road was issued, smooth flow of passenger buses was re-established, said U Myint Swe of Power Five passenger bus line.

According to the timetable, cargo trucks are allowed to run on the road during the prescribed hours of a day only.

Mandalay-Muse road section is a commercial route between Myanmar and China, on which more than 500 cargo trucks are running daily. — Aung Thant Khaing

Culture Ministry bans visits to Bagan's ancient temples



PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

THE Ministry of Culture announced a ban on visits to the ancient pagodas in Bagan via social media yesterday.

According to the ministry's announcement, visitors will not be allowed in the vicinity of Bagan's ancient pagodas and stu-

pas as of 1 March. The ministry explained the decision as part of an effort to conserve Myanmar's cultural heritage.

The announcement also stated that crowds of visitors at the pagoda posed a risk to the durability of the edifices in the

area, where there are more than 3,000 ancient buildings.

Moreover, the announcement said, visitors are often found dancing and sleeping in the ancient temples, despite the existing restrictions on such behaviour.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Nay Pyi Taw Hospital runs CRASH-3 trial for head injury patients

A MYANMAR medical team is conducting a clinical trial for head injury patients in cooperation with doctors from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the Nay Pyi Taw Hospital, according to the hospital's emergency department.

"If the CRASH-3 (Clinical Randomisation of an Antifibrinolytic in Significant Head injury) trial we have conducted meets success, patients with head injuries will recover after being treated with Tranexamic Acid, which is commonly giv-

en to surgical patients to reduce bleeding, at hospitals in their own regions," said Dr Than Latt Aung, who leads the team.

The treatment of significant head injuries will help patients recover from their injuries and avoid neurosurgical treatments, he added.

According to the team leader, 10 patients are hospitalised at the Nay Pyi Taw Hospital for head injuries every day. The CRASH-3 trial, in which five to 10 patients will participate per month is expected to be completed in December.—*Ko Pauk*



Dr Than Latt Aung.



Men from a team participating in pot pourri contest seen yesterday. Htame is a unique traditional food especially made on the full moon of Tabodwe. PHOTO: MNA

President felicitates Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, on the occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, which falls on 23rd February 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Brunei FM

U WUNNA MAUNG WIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, on the occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, which falls on 23rd February 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Polluted air in Yangon could cause lung disease

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"Minuscule airborne pollutant particles enter the lungs through the windpipe. They collect in the lungs, causing lung diseases. Human beings are creatures that cannot live without breathing, so we need to take care to ensure the air we breathe in is clean," said Dr Than Htun, the retired deputy director-general of the Workplace Health Department.

Air pollution in Yangon is

at its worst during the dry, hot months in the first quarter of the year.

On occasion, atmosphere readings identify levels of pollutants that can cause damage to the health of young children and the elderly, an orange-level warning in accordance with the WHO's criteria.

The Department of Public Health began taking readings on atmosphere pollutants in 2008.—*Myitma News Agency*

Dozens of Myanmar migrants arrested in southern Thailand

THE Thai army arrested 35 Myanmar migrant workers in a forest in Kanburi, southern Thailand, yesterday, according to Myanmar Association Thailand.

A Thai newspaper reported that the arrested migrants—seven women and 28 men—are victims of human trafficking gangs based at Seikpu and Aung Chantha villages in Khamaukgyi Township, Kawthoung District in Myanmar

and in Surat Thani Province in southern Thailand.

Based on interviews with the Myanmar migrant workers, the newspaper said the victims paid traffickers between 7,000 and 15,000 bahts each to enter Thailand. According to the newspaper, the migrant workers were arrested following a tip-off to the Thai army. The traffickers were not arrested.—*Soe Win*

Talks on women rights given to Myanmar workers in Thailand

TALKS on women rights was given to Myanmar women workers in Mahachai, a town of Thailand, on Sunday, said a teacher from Myanmar Gon Hsaung primary school there.

Migrant Assistance Program Foundation conducted the educative talks aimed at heightening women rights among Myanmar women workers in Thailand.

Ma Mai, an instructor from

the foundation, said that 20 Myanmar women workers took part in the talks in which they held discussions on domestic violence against women, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and women rights.

During the talks, Myanmar women workers called for a daily wage increase as they get 300 bahts a day, added the instructor.—*Soe Win-SP*



New Uru bridge seen under construction. PHOTO: MIN YAZA

3,000 people to receive free eye surgery in Kayin State

THE Sitagu Sayadaw, a well-known monk in Myanmar, has initiated a programme this month that will offer free eye care to roughly 3,000 people who suffer eye disorders across Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State.

The patients are now receiving medical examinations by eye specialists from England in co-operation with local experts.

With the assistance of the public, the Sayadaw has carried out similar philanthropic pro-

grammes for many years with the aim of providing better lives for people by improving and treating their vision without discrimination against race or religion.

The programme allows all people with vision problems and

New Uru Bridge nearly complete

THE construction of a new bridge across the Uru Creek in Phakant Township, Kachin State, is reportedly 75 per cent complete and is on schedule to be finished in March, said U Myint Naing Oo, a project engineer. With roughly K1,400 million funded by the government, the Uru Bridge project was initiated in October, 2014 by the Public Works Department.

The main aim of the project is to replace the 60-year-old Uru Bridge, which is not suitable for public transportation as it produces vibrations when vehicles passed over it.

"The new bridge will offer better transportation to locals when it opens," said U Myint Naing Oo.

The RC bridge will be 100 feet long and 24 feet wide. This is the second-largest bridge, after the Uru Yadana Bridge, in Phakant Township. The bridge, which will be linked to Myitkyina, Moegaung, Kahmaing, Phakant, Lonekhin and Yadanamaw regions, will play a crucial role in trading local agricultural products in the region.

Workers and engineers on the project are working to have the bridge completed on time.—*Min Yaza*

Fire breaks out at garment factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone

A FIRE broke out at a garment factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (1) in Yangon early Sunday morning, destroying some parts of building.

The Supreme Asia Garment Factory is located at No.42/34-40 on Ingyinmyaing Street, near the railway station in Shwepyitha Township.

According to an investigation, a short cigarette in the recycling bin was the initial cause of

the blaze. Factory Manager Daw Htet Htet said: "The fire quickly got out of control and spread to the clothes."

In cooperation with local Red Cross members, the fire was put out by over 200 firefighters with 24 fire engines. They had the blaze under control within 40 minutes.

Local police have filed charges against the factory manager.—*Myo Min Thein*

Boy killed in road accident

AN 11-year-old boy named Kaung Myat Thu, whose family resides in Paenwego Township, was killed in a traffic accident in Bago Region on Saturday, police reported.

The accident occurred when a public highway vehicle driven by Kyin Kout (aka Min Lwin Oo) from Aungmyin Township to Paenwego Township collided with the boy, who was riding a bicycle. Kaung Myat Thu sustained serious injuries and died on the spot.

Action is being taken against the reckless driver, who will be charged under the law.—*Myo Oo*

Group of men arrested for robbery

A group of men who allegedly robbed a taxi driver and a passenger in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon, were arrested and charged with armed robbery on Wednesday by local police.

According to a police investigation, a driver named Ye Lin Aung, 34, and his passenger U Asean Maung, a fruit and vegetable vendor, were robbed by a group of men on Bago River

Road in Ward-78 in Dagon Seikkan, a suburban township of Yangon.

The taxi driver and the passenger sustained injuries during the robbery, in which they lost mobile handsets and a total of nearly K1.5 million (US\$1,211).

The group of robbers fled the scene in a Probox taxi owned by Lin Htai.

According to a police investigation, a quarrel occurred between the men in the Probox and the taxi driver in Thongwa Township before the robbery.

Police separately arrested all of the alleged robbers, most of whom reside in Khayan and Thakayta townships.

Police are still investigating the case.—(028)



Crime News

Three road accidents happened within one week on Kanna Road



A police investigating at the site of the traffic accident.

THREE traffic accidents occurred in a single week on Kanna Road in Kyimyindaing Township, Yangon, according to local police.

On 19 February, a Nissan car, a Probox car and a Canta car collided with a speeding public transport bus driven by U Yan Naing Tun en route from Bagaya to Kyimyindaing.

Following the accident, the bus driver and the conductors fled the scene, according to ward administrator U Than Htay.

Likewise, a giant cargo container crashed into a house and a betel shop on 15 February.

In another accident last Saturday, one person was killed on the spot and other two sustained injuries, police say.—*Shwe Taingtha*

Fire destroys 10 houses in Gangaw District

TEN houses were destroyed by a fire that broke out in Theegon Village in Hsaw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Region, on Friday.

The fire started in the kitchen of a house owned by U Thee Win at around 11am before rapidly spreading to neighbouring

houses, leaving 46 people homeless.

With the assistance of local police and neighbours, firemen put out the blaze with three fire engines. They controlled the fire within 30 minutes.

The local authorities are still investigating the case.—(101)

LOCAL Business



Vehicle import permits for taxi services suspended

Aung Thant Khaing

VEHICLE import permits for taxi services across the country have been suspended at the instruction of a Union-level supervisory committee on the importation of vehicles, according to an official from the Mandalay Region Road Transport Ministry.

The Mandalay Region government was told to stop issuing

taxi import permits as of 25 January, said the official.

In Mandalay, taxi permits for 4,700 vehicles were granted to 77 companies during the period from 2013 to 2015, he added.

Since April 2010, region and state governments have been allowed to issue permits for vehicle imports for taxi services.

According to official statis-

tics, the number of taxi permits issued nationwide totaled 31,596 as of December 2015—13,175 in Yangon Region, 4,792 in Mandalay Region, 430 in Bago Region, 4,136 in Ayeyawady Region, 100 in Sagaing Region, 350 in Taninthayi Region, 200 in Magway Region, 3,370 in Shan State, 129 in Mon State, 100 in Kayah State, 4,764 in Kayin State and 50 in Kachin State.

Price of Myanmar gold fluctuates greatly during last week of February

THE price of Myanmar gold is experiencing a great deal of fluctuation during the last week of February because of the fall in the value of gold on the world market, according to local gold shopkeepers.

The highest value of one ounce of world market gold in the third week of February was \$1,230 but it has fallen to \$1,217 in this last week of the month. As such, the value of Myanmar pure gold has followed a similar downward trajectory, with one tical (0.576 ounces) fetching K803,000 during the third week of February, down to K798,000 for the same weight during this final week of the month.

"As the price of world market gold is unstable, one can't say going forward whether it's going to rise in price or depreciate. It's said that it's slightly losing value at the moment but it could rise straight back up. It's difficult to estimate anything at the moment," said U Zaw Aung, owner of Taite gold shop and member of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

It is known that the value of Myanmar pure gold is fluctuating but that is hasn't dented the trading of gold, which is continuing on as per normal fashion. "In the morning the Asia market will see that the price of gold has depreciated. By the evening one can't say whether the price of gold has increased back in value in the European market or not. The current market situation [of gold] though

is facing a downward trend," said U Maw Maw, general manager of the Aung Thamardi gold shop.

In regard to how the markets fared on the evening of February 22, the price of a tical of Myanmar pure gold fetched K795,000; a tical of 15 carat gold valued K750,000; an ounce of gold on the world market cost \$1,215 while \$1 bought K1,247, according to gold shopkeepers.—*Myitmaika News Agency*



Gold jelleries are displayed at a gold shop in Yangon.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

All Asia Aviation Academy supplies pilots to Myanmar airlines

PHILIPPINES-based All Asia Aviation Academy has offered to recruit pilots for airlines in Myanmar.

The academy guarantees job opportunities for its pilots as the demand for pilots is high in Myanmar, said U Kyaw Min Htin, a representative of All Asia Aviation Academy, to reporters at a press conference in Mandalay yesterday.

The pilots produced by the academy are currently working at airlines including Garuda Indonesia, Citilink, Air Asia, Zest and Lion Air.

All Asia Aviation Academy, which cooperates with 64 companies and earns around US\$600 million per year, supplies pilots to international airlines.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Handmade bamboo crafts sell well

HANDMADE traditional bamboo handicrafts from Htomebo village and Kyauktada village in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, are turning good profits for local artisans.

The artisans fashion beds, tables, armchairs, settee chairs and woven mats from hmyin-wa and thanat-wa bamboo varieties. Handmade bamboo furniture meets high demand in the summer because they are cooler. The artisans report that their affordable prices allow both rich and poor people to buy their bamboo

furniture.

A bamboo arm chair requires four 16.5-foot-long bamboo poles into which about 40 holes are drilled. Traditionally, the makers use saws, hammers and knives. They can produce 8 chairs a day. A chair sells for K3,000, according to one craftsman near Kyauktada.

The artisans mainly send their bamboo crafts to Mandalay. They also send furniture to Pyin Oo Lwin and Muse, allowing them to maximise their earnings.—*Than Zaw Min (IPRD)*



A ferry is seen at Dalla Jetty. PHOTO: TIN HLA MAUNG

Dala property market cools as buyers bide time

DESPITE the Yangon-Dala bridge project having already broken ground, the property market continues to show signs of cooling as potential investors are still in wait-and-see mode, according to realtors.

"We thought the property market in Dala Township, situated on the other side of the Hlaing River, on which a bridge is set to be built, would get a major boost following the distribution of compensation to land owners in the project area recently, but we were wrong," said U Than Htay,

a realtor in the township.

We only received price inquiries, added the realtor.

Another realtor expressed his view that potential investors seem unwilling to make long-term investments, as the project will take five years to complete.

According to realtors in the township, property prices in the urban wards of Dala Township, including Yaza Thingyan, Myomalay and Nyaungon, have increased slightly from K30 million to K32 million for a 1,200-square-foot plot.—*Soe Win*

Indian caste protesters keep up blockade; Delhi water restored

BAHADURGARH (India) — Rural protesters continued to blockade highways and paralyse a north Indian state yesterday despite a deal giving them more government jobs, but there was relief for Delhi's 20 million residents as the army retook control of their main water source.

Rioting and looting across Haryana state by the Jat rural caste has killed at least 15 people and threatens to undermine Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of better days for Indians who elected him in 2014 with the largest majority in three decades.

Thousands of troops have been deployed to quell protests, which flared again in some towns yesterday. Disruption has been huge, with 850 trains cancelled, 500 factories closed and businesses estimating losses at \$2.9 billion, officials said.

A compromise with the Jats brokered by Modi's home minister on Sunday failed to get protesters to clear roadblocks that are paralysing transport and commerce.

"We will continue the protests. The government thinks we will succumb to their pressure tactics but they are making a big mistake by ignoring us," Ramesh Datal, convenor of the Jat Arakshan Andolan (Jat Reservation Movement), told Reuters.

"Jats are determined to win the battle. They had to send the



army to control our anger but even they have failed."

The Indian army has retaken control of a canal that supplies three-fifths of Delhi's water, the state's chief minister said, raising hope that a water crisis in the metropolis of more than 20 million people can be averted.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the army had reopened the sluice gates of the Munak canal to the north of Delhi. Water was expected to reach the metropolis within hours.

State police said the death toll in the unrest had risen to 15 and that, while order was slowly being restored, there were still tensions in many towns as Jat protesters tried to prevent other communities from reopening their shops.

In Bahadurgarh, to the west of the capital New Delhi, Jat protesters were still out in force, expressing their deep anger over a lack of job prospects for their community, which makes up a quarter of Haryana's population.

Many Jats, who number more

than 80 million in total across north India, are farmers whose livelihoods have suffered as families divide farms among their children while two years of drought have harmed their crops.

As a social group they are experiencing downward mobility and missing out on urban job opportunities, explaining their demand for government jobs and student places under affirmative action policies that are typically reserved for deprived groups. Ramcharan Dekhara, a 52-year-old father of

three boys and a daughter, has sold his land to pay for his daughter's marriage and now runs a tea shop near National Highway 10.

"I am fighting for my sons' future. The boys are sitting at home and there is nothing they can do at the tea shop," Dekhara told Reuters. "They studied hard to make a new life but now they are wasting time and watching TV all day."

The gulf is most striking on the sprawling frontier of Gurgaon, one of Delhi's burgeoning satellite cities, where offices, factories and residential apartments give way suddenly to farmers' fields — many of them tilled by Jats.

The Jats predominantly voted for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2014 general election, when he won the biggest parliamentary majority in three decades. Months later the BJP won an outright majority in Haryana for the first time.

Although many of the state's chief ministers have been Jats, the current is not. Commentators have faulted him and other BJP leaders for failing to read the social mood and devoting too much attention to issues like cow protection that are a core part of the party's pro-Hindu agenda.

In a familiar pattern, Modi completely ignored the protests, instead launching a broadside on Sunday against unnamed conspirators he accused of trying to undermine his government.—Reuters

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Australia announces voting reforms, signalling possible early polls

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull introduced a bill on electoral reform yesterday, signalling a potential dissolution of parliament and an early election to break political deadlock.

Independent and minor party senators elected at the last election in 2013 have continuously stalled key aspects of the government's agenda, including changes that would make higher education and health care more expensive and limit access to welfare.

The proposed reforms, making it harder for smaller parties to enter parliament through vote shar-

ing deals, are seen as necessary for the government to dissolve both houses of parliament and call an election.

"Before the bill hit the floor, an early election was hypothetical. It is on the table now," said political scientist Peter Chen from the University of Sydney. "There is no way they can negotiate with any of the senators any more. Legislating for this parliament is over."

The changes will likely anger independent and minor party members of the senate, which the government relies on to pass legislation opposed by the opposition, meaning Turnbull may rush to an

early election to avoid a long period of parliamentary stagnation.

"The system has been taken advantage of," Turnbull told reporters. "The last election was widely criticised and Australians were astonished to see people elected whose votes were a fraction of one percent."

Turnbull, who deposed former Prime Minister Tony Abbott in a party coup last year, told party ministers earlier this month a double-dissolution election was a "live option".

A double-dissolution election is rarely used in Australia and allows for snap elections for all the

seats in both houses to break an impasse.

The earliest a double-dissolution election could be held is in June. However Turnbull has said yesterday he plans to hold an regular election in September or October.

"Calling an early election could help Turnbull consolidate his support within the party, but there is also a big risk it could back-fire," said Chen.

Turnbull has been consistently leading opinion polls since he came to power last year, but there are signs the honeymoon period may be ending.—Reuters

Japan's scandals, shaky economy erode Abe's support as polls loom

TOKYO — Voter support for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe slipped to below 50 per cent in a weekend opinion poll, sending a warning signal to the government with an election less than six months away.

Overall support for Abe's cabinet slipped to 46.7 per cent, down 7 points from late January and the lowest rating in six months, according to a survey conducted by Kyodo news agency. Disapproval rose 3.6 points to 38.9 per cent and 77.7 per cent of the respondents said they felt the administration was "growing slack." Abe took office at the end of 2012 and has enjoyed unusual

longevity for a Japanese prime minister. He has ridden out a series of scandals that ensnared several cabinet ministers, including last month's resignation of Economy Minister Akira Amari — a close confidante and an architect of Abenomics — over a money scandal.

But the scandals, gaffes and now doubts about economic policy — including the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) decision last month to implement negative interest rates — is starting to take a toll before July's election for the Upper House of parliament.

"The decision for Amari to quit was made promptly and seemed almost clear cut, so that

didn't harm ratings so much," said Atsuo Ito, a commentator who has written books on the mathematics of politics.

"But if a lot of other things pile up, it's inevitable that voters get the impression the administration is growing sloppy — and I think that impression is strengthening." In the three weeks since Amari resigned, a lawmaker from Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) quit after revelations of an extramarital affair and Communications Minister Sanae Takaichi warned the government could order broadcasters to suspend operations if it felt they were biased, raising concerns about press free-

dom. An additional blow was the release of data last week showing Japan's economy shrank more than expected in the final quarter of last year as consumer spending and exports slumped. The BOJ's decision rattled respondents in the survey, with 82.2 per cent expressing unhappiness about it, which Ito said should really be taken as a measure of feelings about Abenomics as a whole.

"The scandals are one thing, but it's the economy that really has the government rattled," Ito said, noting that the economy was likely to be the trump card in any decision over the timing of a snap election.—Reuters



Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China look from behind their weapons as they arrive at Tiananmen Square during the military parade marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two, in Beijing, China, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

China weapons exports surge over past five years

BEIJING — China has almost doubled its weapons exports in the past five years, a military think tank said yesterday, as the world's third-largest weapons exporter pours capital into developing an advanced arms manufacturing industry.

In 2011 to 2015, China's arms imports fell 25 per cent compared with the previous five year period, signalling a growing confidence in the country's home-grown weaponry despite key areas of weakness, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a report on global arms transfers.

Chinese exports of major arms, which excludes most light weaponry, grew by 88 percent in 2011-2015 compared to the earlier five-year timeframe, SIPRI said.

The country still accounted for only 5.9 per cent of glob-

al arms exports from 2011-2015, well behind the United States and Russia, by far the world's two largest arms exporters.

"The Chinese until ten years ago were only able to offer low tech equipment. That has changed," said Siemon Wezeman, Senior Researcher with the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Programme. "The equipment that they produce is much more highly advanced than ten years ago, and attracts interest from some of the bigger markets."

China has invested billions developing its homegrown weapons industry to support its growing maritime ambitions in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, and also with an eye toward foreign markets for its comparatively low cost technology. Its total military budget in 2015 was 886.9 billion yuan (£98.19 billion), up 10

per cent from a year earlier.

The US and Russia saw weapons exports grow by 27 per cent and 28 per cent respectively, while exports of major arms by France and Germany, the fourth and fifth largest weapons exporters, fell over the same period.

Most of China's arms sales went to countries in Asia and Oceania, the report found, with Pakistan accounting for 35 per cent, followed by Bangladesh. Pakistan is a key Chinese ally, and close military ties between the two countries has sometimes stoked tensions with neighbouring India, which is seeking to boost its own homegrown weapons industry.

China still needs to import weapons including large transport aircraft, helicopters as well as engines for aircraft, vehicles and ships, according to the report.—Reuters

Nearly 4 in 10 Filipinos expect cheating in May elections

MANILA — About 39 per cent of the Filipinos expected cheating to happen in the coming presidential elections in May, according to a survey released by Pulse Asia Research yesterday.

People who expected cheating to happen consider vote-buying the most likely mode of cheating to be employed by candidates, according to the survey conducted by the country's well-known research institute nationwide from 24 to 28 January.

According to the survey, only 48 per cent of respondents were optimistic that the elections will be clean and credible due to automated process, while 36 per cent were ambivalent with the claim and 15 per cent disagreed.

The survey shows Filipinos had split opinion on candidates from political dynasties.

About 32 per cent of 1,200 respondents said they will not vote for candidates who "have children, spouses, siblings or parents who are former or current elected government officials," 34 per cent said they were undecided while another 34 per cent said they will vote for candidates from political families.

Over 50 million Filipino voters are expected to troop to different precincts nationwide for the elections on 9 May. About 18,000 positions from president down to city and municipal councilors have to be filled up in the upcoming polls.—Xinhua

US rejected North Korea peace talks offer before last nuclear test: State Department

WASHINGTON — The United States rejected a North Korean proposal to discuss a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War because it did not address denuclearisation on the peninsula, the State Department said on Sunday.

State Department spokesman John Kirby made the comment in response to a *Wall Street Journal* report that the White House secretly agreed to peace talks just before Pyongyang's latest nuclear bomb test.

The newspaper, citing US officials familiar with the events, said the Obama administration dropped its condition that Pyongyang take steps to curtail its nuclear arsenal before any peace talks take place, instead calling for

Heavy gunfire heard as operation to flush out gunmen in Kashmir enters third day

SRINAGAR — Indian security forces battled for a third day amid heavy gunfire yesterday to clear militants who stormed a government building in the disputed Kashmir region and killed six people, officials and a witness said.

After a lull in fighting overnight, army commandos and police launched a fresh offensive to clear the five-storey training institute captured by the militants.

Gunfire and explosions could be heard at the building complex near Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, a Reuters witness said.

Indian army and police officials at the scene said three or four militants armed with grenades and machine guns may be inside. The police said one militant was killed on Sunday. "This is one of the longest encounters in Kashmir in recent memory," said an army officer, who asked not to be named. "This is because the building is very big and we have suffered casualties. So we are being cautious."

Muslim separatists have been fighting Indian forces in the

Indian portion of Kashmir since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the rebels in the portion it controls and sending them to the Indian side, a claim its neighbour denies.

The attack began on Saturday when militants shot at a bus carrying police before breaking into the training institute. More than 100 people were inside at the time.

Three Indian army commandos, two policemen and a civilian have been killed in the fighting.

The latest attack bore similarities to other militant attacks in India where heavily armed, well-trained men have captured buildings and used them to fight security forces.

A similar recent attack on an Indian air base that lasted for four days stalled efforts to revive bilateral talks between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Muslim-majority Kashmir, which they both claim in full but rule in part. The third was fought over the founding of Bangladesh.—Reuters



Smoke billows from a building, in which Indian authorities say suspected militants are holed up, during a gun battle on the outskirts of Srinagar on 21 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

United States and other parties in the 1950-53 Korean War, as well as an end to military exercises by South Korea and the United States, which has about 28,500 troops based in South Korea.

North Korea said on 6 January it had tested a nuclear device it claimed was a hydrogen bomb, provoking condemnation from its neighbours and the United States. Weeks later, it launched a long-range rocket carrying what it called a satellite, prompting renewed criticism.

On 16 January, Pyongyang had demanded the conclusion of a peace treaty with the United States and a halt to US military exercises with South Korea to end its nuclear tests.—Reuters

OPINION

Early marriage vital to economic development

Khin Maung Aye

IT is undeniable that marriage is an important social and economic construct in most societies.

In some societies, marriage is the beginning of the youth's departure from their parents, brothers and sisters. Marriage is not just the union of two persons; it also involves the union of two families or kinship groups.

In this regard, one's first marriage is the most important for today's youth because it is the starting point of the transition from adolescent to adulthood. This being so, the timing of first marriage is important. In the past, women's age at first marriage and

the proportion of single women in developed nations were higher, in general, than those in developing countries. It is an interesting fact that early marriage, particularly among women, is the typical pattern in most Asian nations.

Nevertheless, recent decades have witnessed women in developing countries, particularly in Asia, marry later.

This new marriage pattern creates ripples in society, particularly affecting fertility rates. Delayed marriages play a vital role in the decline in birthrates, with the consequence that the reproductive lifespan of a woman is reduced. This, in turn, affects family sizes and population growth rates.

Like other Asian nations, Myanmar has also been witnessing a change in marriage patterns over the last several decades. Delayed marriage among both men and women, as well as permanent celibacy, by women in particular, are the main characteristics of the marriage transition in Myanmar. This has important implications for fertility because in Myanmar, pregnancies outside marriage are almost non-existent. This is the reason why Myanmar has been experiencing a

continuous fertility decline since 1980s.

In a nutshell, as changes in marriage patterns are generally related to economic development, The Global New Light of Myanmar suggests that factors associated with age at first marriage, such as region and residence before marriage, and individual characteristics, like women's birth cohort, religion, education level, occupation, duration of work before marriage and migration status, be critically analysed to find out facts that will help this country reformulate its population policy in a way that promotes economic development.

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 khinmaungaye.hotmail@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.

LUPUS WON'T SPARE TALENTED POP SINGER OR ACTRESS

**Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent**

NOT long ago, a news item appeared in esteemed GNLM on 10 October 2015 regarding the health of pop singer and actress Selena Gomez, which alarmed the young star's fans in Myanmar as well as abroad. Gomez revealed in an interview that she was diagnosed with the auto-immune disease, lupus, which led to her cancelling the end of her tour in 2013, but that the disease is now in remission. At that time the popular actress cum pop singer has just passed her teens, as such she is 23 now.

Although the music loving fans all over the globe, including our own country are anxious about this shocking and unhappy event, very few know what the lupus is, which their loved vocalist is suffering. Allow me to highlight some salient facts of lupus.

Lupus is an autoimmune disease, that is, a disease in which the defence mechanism of the person attacks its own body cells. In other words, lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease of uncertain etiology (cause), characterized by B cell hyperactivity, activation of complement and T-cell defects. B cells, complements and T cells are defence mechanism factors in the body. In fact, these factors are meant for destroying the harmful foreign disease elements which enter the body. But, in stead, in lupus, they fight and try to destroy its own native body cells and tissues, in abnormal manners.

Including the attractive pop singer Selena, 90 percent of lupus patients are female. Blacks have the greatest incidence. Not sure, Gomez is Negro-mixed, as her complexion on the screen is slightly tan in audience's sight.

Peak onset of lupus occurs in teens and middle aged individuals and Selena is just over 20 now. Increased incidence is found in close relatives and flares up often during pregnancy.

As Selena Gomez has already undergone thorough diagnostic procedures and lab tests, lupus is to be differentiated with such ailments as rheumatoid arthritis (painful swollen, deformed joints disease), lymphoma (malignant and benign tumours of lymphoid tissues), vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels, such as arteries, veins, capillaries, lymph vessels), HIV, drug-induced Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) due to such drugs as procainamide, isoniazid, hydralazine, poly dermatomyositis (multiple inflammation of skin and muscle tissues), Sjogren's syndrome etc.

In an interview with Billboard magazine, popular star famous for singing educative and charity songs, as well as pleasant lyrics of love and lust, revealed she cancelled concerts in Russia and Australia, as she could have had a stroke!

Signs and symptoms of such a drastic ailment vocalist suffers are numerous, as we were taught during our student days in early 1960's in faculty of Medicine, Rangoon University, (so called then) and later in Continuing Medical Education and refresher courses throughout the career and even up to date.

- Malar ("butterfly") or discoid (red, raised, scaly) rash around nose and cheeks
- Fatigue
- Myalgias and arthralgias (muscle and joint pain)
- Arthritis — symmetrical

and migratory, especially in fingers, hands, wrists, and knees

- Photosensitivity (sensitivity to light)
- Seizures (Selena could develop on the stage)
- Cognitive dysfunction, decision making, perceptions
- Fever
- Alopecia, (slow movements)
- Lymphadenopathy. Commonly seen lymph nodes in neck, armpits, groins otherwise invisible and unpalpable
- Edema secondary to renal disease (puffiness of face, swollen feet, abdomen etc.)

Signs and symptoms of lupus are so troublesome that they give rise to instability of mind, 'disturbed mood, resulting in anger. Talented singer Selena once said she needed to spend some time on herself. The move on the stage, followed by a stint, at an Arizona rehabilitation facility, generated tabloid, rumours of struggles with pills, alcohol, or even difficulties over her breakup with pop star Justin Bieber, which Gomez told Billboard angered her. "I wanted so badly to say, 'You guys have no idea. I'm in chemotherapy'" she told the magazine in its issue which was out in her angry days.

Generally, following treatment schedule is recommended for lupus, it is described in one of the textbooks:-

- Avoid sun exposure
- NSAIDs for arthralgias, (joint pains) myalgias, (muscle pains) and fever
- Hydroxychloroquine for skin rashes
- Severe disease with com-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As soon as I have read your opinion under the caption of "The importance of spiritual wellbeing" on the 17th instant, I feel an impetus to write this letter to you in full support of your opinion. The word "spiritual wellbeing" I think, means the development of the mental faculty which is much concerned with morality. In every society character building is so important that moral instructions should be taught from kindergarten classes. Now I am a septuagenarian I never forget the following instructions taught by our teachers when young.

If you lose your wealth, you lose nothing.

If you lose your health, you lose something.

If you lose your character, you lose everything.

There is no denying the fact that wealth, health and character are indispensable for our survival in a human life; above all, the character plays the most important role in economic, social and political sectors of our society. The above mentioned instructions have guided me throughout my whole life. In this world everything is impermanent and so are moral norms and values. Without rational development, every human being falls a prey to misconduct without a hitch, especially bribery and corruption on pragmatic grounds. Moreover, it is regrettable that those who have the legitimacy of an authority mistakenly interpret "right" or "obligation" in terms of power and lead all the votaries to be troublesome in the exercise of management or in the performance of duty. In my opinion, the most precocious knowledge of ethical values and norms facilitates to draw a line between "right" or "wrong" and "virtue" or "vice", whereupon the spiritual well-being may develop soon. Last, not in the least, I would like to say that happiness lies only in a free life wherein rational reasoning may extend within a neutral frame work of common convenience.

*Yours truly
Maung Shein (Shwe Myaing)*

Taungoo hosts pot pourri competition



Contestants seen in action. Photo: Shwe Win (Pyay)

A COOKING competition for makers of Myanmar traditional htamanè pot pourri was held at the sports ground in Taungoo Township on 21 February.

Staff from the 13 departments of the Taungoo Township administration participated in the cooking competition.

Brig-Gen Thein Lwin, Deputy Commander of the Southern

Command, an official of Taungoo District Administrative Department, cut the ribbon to open the event, and an official from the Taungoo Township Administrative Department explained the contest rules.

Brig-Gen Thein Lwin, along with district and township departmental heads presented awards to the winning teams. Myanmar

traditional htamanè is a glutinous snack made from sticky rice, sesame seeds, peanuts slices, coconut chips, ginger strips and groundnut oil. It is a seasonal delicacy in Myanmar. People around Myanmar make htamanè on the full moon of Tabotwe, the 11th lunar month on the traditional Myanmar calendar, which usually falls in February.—Shwe Win

Rare animals burned in captivity

A WILDFIRE broke out on the eastern part of Thitya Hill near the Ahwaiya Dam within Nap Pyi Taw's Safari Park, killing several animals, including leopards and a rare bird, on Thursday.

Before the fire, locals found the dead body of a young leopard caught in a trap in a deep, narrow valley near the Whattho Hill. They immediately informed a member of the forestry department.

"The dead leopard and another young one were burned in the forest fire," said U Kyaw Kyaw, a resident of Welgyi Village.

Located in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, the Safari Park is a wildlife park with many rare animals, including domesticated wild oxen, sambur and several kinds of deer.

The park also features leopards, African deer, camels, goats, lions, tigers, rhinos, ostriches, giraffes, zebras and ponies.—Kyaw Oo

KOICA President to Visit Myanmar

YANGON, As Myanmar has been selected as the Priority Partner Country, President of Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA) Mr. Kim Young-mok will make four-day visit to Myanmar from February 23 to 26 to

establish the strategy and aid plan for Myanmar. During his trip, he is scheduled to attend Groundbreaking Ceremony of Saemaul Training Center as a part of Saemaul Undong project, one of the KOICA's landmark rural development

projects. He will hold talks with Vice President, U Nyan Tun, who will pay a visit to the ceremony as well. Mr. Kim is also planning to meet with Union Minister for Construction, U Kyaw Lwin to discuss future plan for the project. It

has been constantly promoting that development cooperation between Korea and Myanmar since 1991. KOICA is planning to extend the scale of grant aid to Myanmar. Mr. Kim is expected to strengthen bilateral ties through his visit.

Miss Farmer Contestant to explore beauty of rural women



Miss farmer contestants posing for a group photo. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANAMAALINN)

THE Myanmar Paddy Producers Association will organise the Miss Farmer Contest 2016, which is scheduled to take place on 6 March at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon.

This is the fourth time the organiser has held the contest.

On 20 February, the organ-

ising committee chose 30 short-listed candidates from among 52 contestants at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon.

The shortlisted candidates will compete in the preliminary contests on 3 March at the MCC

hall, showcasing traditional customs and beauty of rural girls wearing Thanakha, traditional cosmetics.

The organiser is planning to award K5 million (US\$4,036) and a gold crown to the first-prize winner, K3 million (\$2,421) to the second-prize winner, K2 mil-

lion (\$1,614) to the third-prize winner, K1.5 million (\$1,210) to the fourth-prize winner and K1 million (\$807) to the fifth-prize winner.

All winners will also be invited to participate in an overseas observation trip.—Tin Soe (MyanamaAlinn)

WWII bombs discovered in Ayeyawady River

TWO World War II-era bombs were found in the Ayeyawady River by a group of river stone collectors in Magway Region on Friday morning, according to police.

The collectors, led by U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, owner of the river stone collecting firm, found the old bombs among the stones they sucked from the Ayeyawady River near Taunggyi Pagoda in

Phalone Village, Minbu Township.

U Kyaw Kyaw Oo reported the findings to the ward administrator and local police.

According to a police report, each bomb is 3.8 inches long and 2 inches in diameter, and both are thought to have been manufactured during the WWII period.

Police said the bombs are not dangerous.—Kyaw Zeya



WWII-era bombs seized. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

Violence rages in Syria as Kerry and Lavrov reach provisional deal on ceasefire

AMMAN/BEIRUT — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday he and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, had reached a provisional agreement on terms of a cessation of hostilities in Syria and the sides were closer to a ceasefire than ever before.

Meanwhile, violence continued to rage in Syria. Multiple bomb blasts in a southern district of Damascus killed at least 87 people on Sunday, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, and twin car bombs killed at least 59 people in Homs, the monitoring group said.

Russian air strikes launched in September against rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad have exacerbated suffering and destruction in Syria, where a five-year-old civil war has killed more than a quarter of a million people.

Assad said on Saturday he was ready for a ceasefire on condition "terrorists" did not use a lull in fighting to their advantage and that countries backing the insurgents stopped sup-

porting them.

The Syrian opposition had earlier said it had agreed to the "possibility" of a temporary truce, provided there were guarantees Damascus's allies, including Russia, would cease fire, sieges were lifted and aid deliveries were allowed country-wide.

"We have reached a provisional agreement in principle on the terms of a cessation of hostilities that could begin in the coming days," Kerry told a news conference in Amman with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh.

"The modalities for a cessation of hostilities are now being completed. In fact, we are closer to a ceasefire today than we have been," said Kerry, who was also to meet King Abdullah.

He declined to go into detail about the unresolved issues, saying the two sides were "filling out the details" of the agreement. And he indicated issues remained to be resolved and he did not expect any immediate change on the ground.

He repeated the US position that Assad had to step



Syrian army soldiers inspect the site of two bomb blasts in the government-controlled city of Homs, Syria, in this handout picture provided by SANA on 21 February.

PHOTO: REUTERS

down. "With Assad there, this war cannot and will not end," he said. Assad's fate has been one of the main points of difference between Washington and Russia, the Syrian leader's main international backer. Russia recently has begun to say Syrians should decide on whether

Assad should stay or not, but it continues to support Damascus with air strikes.

Kerry said he had spoken to Lavrov on several occasions, including earlier on Sunday, and that he anticipated US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin would

talk in the coming days to complete the provisional agreement in principle.

The Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed Lavrov and Kerry had spoken by phone on Sunday about conditions for a ceasefire. It said the discussions were on conditions that would exclude

operations against organizations "recognised as terrorist by UN Security Council".

Those groups include Islamic State and the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front.

Despite the provisional agreement, Kerry did not see an imminent change in fighting on the ground.

"I do not believe that in the next few days, during which time we try to bring this into effect, there is somehow going to be a tipping point with respect to what is happening on the ground ... The opposition has made clear their determination to fight back," he said.

The car bombs and suicide attacks on Sunday in the Sayeda Zeinab district of Damascus, where Syria's holiest Shi'ite shrine is located, were claimed by Islamic State. Suicide attacks last month in the same district, also claimed by Islamic State, killed 60 people.

The car bombings on Sunday in Homs, in which at least 100 were also wounded, were among the deadliest in the city in five years of fighting, the Syrian Observatory said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (128N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (128N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S FAR SHIPPING (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TIAN WANG XING VOY NO (71)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TIAN WANG XING VOY NO (71) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INNWA STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Samsung Galaxy S7, LG G5 unveiled as companies try to revive smartphone sales



A woman displays new Samsung S7 (R) and S7 edge smartphones after their unveiling ceremony at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on 21 February. Photo: Reuters

BARCELONA — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and LG Electronics Inc unveiled their latest smartphones at the Mobile World Congress industry show in Barcelona on Sunday, seeking to buck the slowdown in industry growth.

Phone makers face another tough year in 2016 as subdued global growth and persisting currency weakness in key emerging markets sap consumers' spending power. A push by Chinese manufacturers to expand overseas amid slowing growth in their domestic market may also undercut margins further.

In a bid to recapture market share, Samsung launched two new versions of its Galaxy S smartphone and brought in Facebook Inc Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg for a surprise appearance to tout the potential of virtual

reality, prompting hundreds of people to rush to the stage to record the moment.

LG, which lost money from its mobile business last year as its flagship products struggled, introduced a modular design to its new G5 smartphones that allows users to replace or upgrade functions such as camera and audio independently.

It also launched a virtual reality headset and accessories including a drone controller to pair with the G5.

Analysts and investors cheered LG's features, which they said were different enough to possibly revive sales, but were lukewarm about Samsung's offerings, saying they only featured incremental upgrades.

"I think it's possible for LG's mobile business to recover on its

new product launch, since they delivered significant changes with the G5," said Seoul-based HDC Asset Management fund manager Park Jung-hoon.

"The Galaxy S7, however, doesn't seem to be creating as much buzz," Park said.

Samsung shares were down 1.3 per cent as of 0212 GMT, underperforming a 0.2 per cent fall for the broader market, while LG shares were up 3 per cent.

Revamps could prove key to smartphone makers as 2016 shapes up to be another tough year: researcher TrendForce expects the smartphone market growth to slow to 8.1 per cent from 10.3 per cent a year earlier.

Margin pressures are also expected to intensify for the industry as Chinese manufacturers seek to expand overseas to counter

slowing domestic demand.

Samsung on Saturday said its mobile payments service, Samsung Pay, will launch in China in March, a month after Apple launched its Apple Pay service in the world's biggest smartphone market.

The company fell out of the top five in the world's top smartphone market last year but hopes that its easy-to-use payments service will help it regain sales momentum.

"The challenge you have got in the smartphone market is breaking through all that sameness. From a design and functionality perspective, everything looks and feels the same," said Bob O'Donnell, president of Technalysis Research.

"So the challenge is finding things that stick out."—Reuters

Asia shares gain; pound slides on EU exit fear

HONG KONG — Asian share markets rose yesterday, extending last week's gains, as investors awaited a rush of February industry surveys to take the pulse of the global economy, while sterling stumbled on concerns the UK might yet vote to leave the European Union.

Despite the fresh "Brexit" uncertainty, financial spreadbetrers expected European stock markets to open higher also, with Britain's FTSE .FTSE seen up 0.50 per cent, Germany's DAX .GDAXI 0.37 per cent, and France's CAC 40 .FCHI 0.54 percent.

E-Mini futures for the S&P 500 ES= were up 0.6 per cent.

But much of the day's action was in the currency markets, where sterling tumbled on worries that Britain may quit the European Union flared up after London Mayor Boris Johnson threw his weight behind the exit campaign.

It slid as far as \$1.4235 GBP=D4 from around \$1.4405 late on Friday, before stabilising around \$1.4275, down 0.9 percent on the day.

Against the yen, it slumped to as low as 160.40 yen GBPJPY=R, its lowest since November 2013, from 162.10 late on Friday before partially rebounding.

"Political uncertainty generated by the UK referendum will weigh on GBP," said Elias Haddad, currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank.

As dealers expect choppy trading in coming months towards the referendum, implied volatilities on sterling options rose to near highest levels in more than four years.

Other major currencies were steadier. The dollar was a touch firmer at 112.90 yen JPY=, as was the euro at 125.45 EURJPY=R underpinned by recent data. Against the greenback, the common currency was also slightly weaker at \$1.11120 EUR=.—Reuters

Zero rates wrecked your savings? Relax on a \$17,000 footstool

FRANKFURT — It doesn't look like much, but a boxy wooden vintage Swedish footstool isn't just a place to rest your weary feet after cross-country skiing. It is the latest competition to hedge funds or high end real estate. And that means it will cost you \$17,000.

A global glut of cheap money is prompting investors to take unprecedented risks in order to earn returns. From the United States to the 19-country euro zone, central banks have lowered interest rates to zero since the financial crisis started in 2007 and still haven't

been able to raise them back.

Nearly a decade of free money helped these countries through the worst of the crisis, but at a heavy cost for savers, sapping earnings from traditional investments such as bonds and pushing many to look at riskier, unconventional alternatives.

Interest in hedge funds, property, paintings and wine has risen sharply.

This shift is pronounced in Sweden, a country where interest rates have long been at rock bottom. Bukowskis, a trendy Stock-

holm auction house, has seen rising demand for Swedish art and Scandinavian designer furniture.

The prices of humble-looking vintage carpets that capture the country's 1950s zeitgeist of social equality have risen more than ten-fold within five years. One sold for \$82,000.

The \$17,000 footstool is typical of the sort of minimalist, utilitarian furniture you might find at a Nordic summer cottage. For an extra \$15,000, you can buy a small solid wood coffee table to go with it.

"Sales online in Sweden are exploding," said Paulina Sokolow, Bukowskis creative director. "The prices are really increasing. I don't think we've seen the peak."

Wine has been a big money maker. A 12-bottle case of Chateau Mouton-Rothschild from the 2000 vintage has risen in value from roughly \$2,800 at the time to around \$18,600 now. Bonus: whatever happens to prices, you can always drink it.

"The returns look attractive in the current climate," said Tom

Gearing, managing director of Cult Wines, a British wine investment firm. "And if everything goes wrong, you are still going to have a tangible asset."

Hans Peterson, chief investment strategist at Sweden's SEB bank, says many customers want new ways to invest.

"Clients are frustrated," he said. "It results in having to buy into cyclically sensitive assets such as equities, which can make those markets more volatile. People are also investing in property."—Reuters

Death toll from Fiji cyclone mounts amid health crisis fears

SYDNEY — Fiji began a massive cleanup yesterday after one of the most powerful storms recorded in the southern hemisphere tore through the Pacific island nation, killing 21 people, flattening remote villages and cutting off communications.

Aid agencies warned of a widespread health crisis, particularly in low-lying areas where thousands of Fiji's 900,000 people live in tin shacks, after crops were wiped out and fresh water supplies blocked.

The Fiji Broadcasting Corp, quoting the country's National Disaster Management Office, said 21 people had died and four were still missing at sea.

Almost 8,000 people remained hunkered down in hundreds of evacuation centres across Fiji where they had headed before tropical cyclone Winston hit late on Saturday with winds of up to 325 kph (200 mph).

"The death toll from Cyclone Winston continues to rise and reports of widespread damage are coming in from across Fiji," said

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully. "It is clear that Fiji faces a major cleanup and recovery operation."

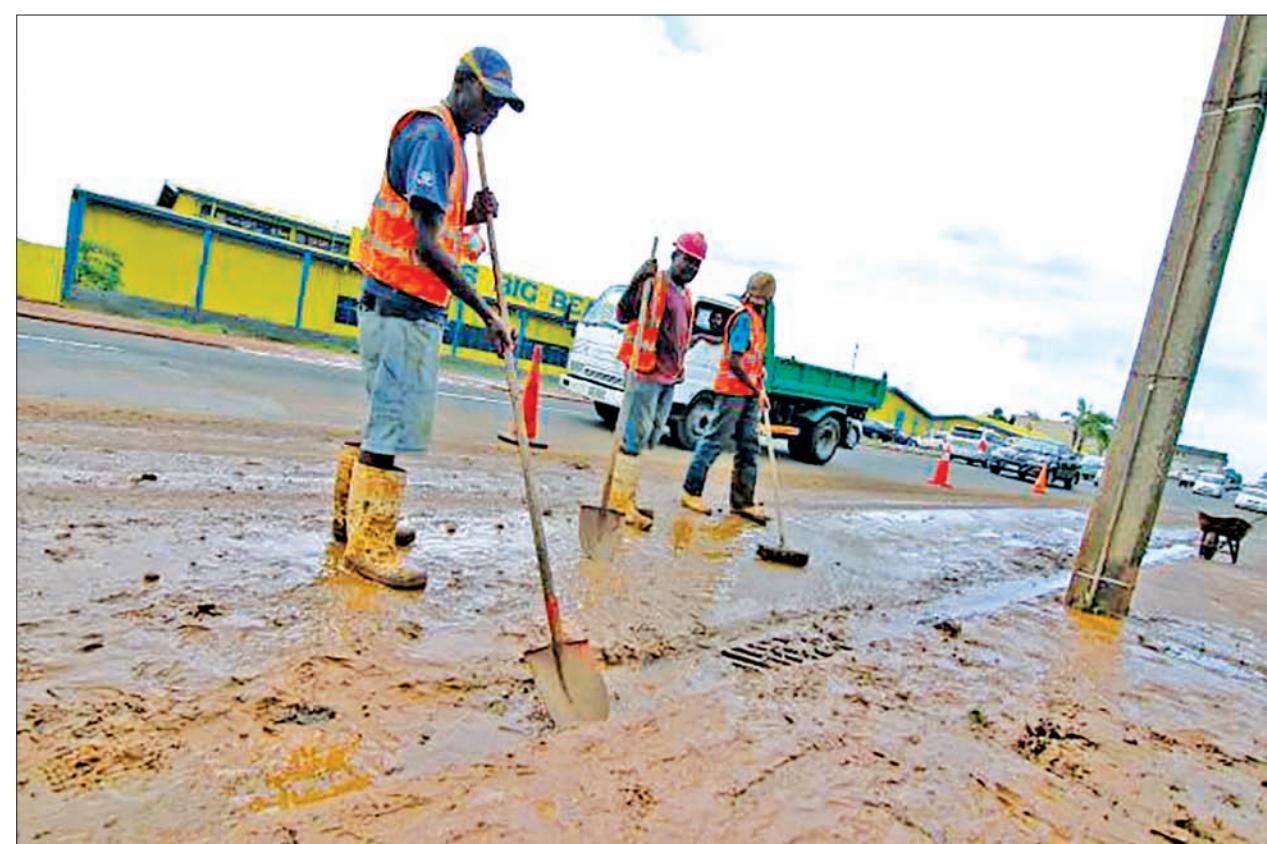
McCully said a New Zealand Defence Force C-130 would leave for the Fijian capital, Suva, later on Monday with relief supplies and an emergency response team.

The majority of the fatalities were along the western coast and were caused mainly by flying debris and drowning in storm surges, authorities said.

A 36-hour curfew was lifted early yesterday, allowing the Fijian military to ramp up efforts to reach the more remote parts of the archipelago of about 300 islands.

"The Fijians are desperately trying to repair severed lines of communication, but they hold grave fears that the news waiting for them will be dire," said Raijeli Nicole, Pacific regional director of aid group Oxfam.

"Given the intensity of the storm and the images we have seen so far, there are strong concerns that the



Suva City Council workers clean up mud from Grantham Road in the Raiwaqa suburb of Fiji's capital Suva, as a cleanup continues in the wake of Cyclone Winston, on 22 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

death toll won't stop climbing today and that hundreds of people will have seen their homes and livelihoods completely destroyed."

Aerial footage of outlying islands taken by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and posted on the Fiji government's official website, showed whole villages flattened and flooded.

Aid agencies were told at a meeting of Fiji's Nation-

al Emergency Operations Centre on Monday of potential "catastrophic" damage to Koro Island, Fiji's seventh-largest island.

"The aerial survey suggested the runway looks OK so they are going to land on this later this afternoon with emergency personal and some supplies," said Anna Cowley of CARE Australia.

Fiji also reopened its main airport at Nadi.

Food and water supplies are a growing concern, even for areas such as Suva that did not suffer as much damage as the more remote regions.

The Consumer Council of Fiji has urged traders not to sell food and other perishable items that have gone bad due to the effects of the cyclone. The Council's chief executive Premila Kumar said supermarkets and other

food stores should destroy such items.

Survivors spoke of the horror of the cyclone, while aid workers scrambled to help victims.

"The noise was deafening. At one point, I turned to my partner and questioned whether we would actually survive," Sarah Bingham, an Australian on holiday on Tokoriki Island, told Reuters by telephone.—Reuters

Evo Morales looks set to lose Bolivia referendum on fourth term

LA PAZ — Bolivian President Evo Morales looked headed for defeat in a referendum on whether the leftist leader can seek a fourth term in office, according to exit polls and early results on Sunday.

Morales, 56, now serving his third term, was trying to change the constitution so he could run for re-election in 2019, potentially allowing

the former coca grower to remain president until 2025.

With 3.6 per cent of votes counted, the 'no' camp was on 67 per cent, versus 33 per cent for 'yes', according to early official results from the electoral commission. Full results are expected later on Monday.

Exit polls also showed he may have lost the vote, although by a narrower mar-

gin. An Ipsos poll had the "no" side at 52.3 per cent and "yes" at 47.7 per cent, while a Mori poll gave a 51 per cent to 49 per cent lead to the "no."

Speaking outside the presidential palace, Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera insisted on Sunday evening that it was "clearly a dead heat" and the result could still be reversed.

"It could be that the tears of joy on some opposition politicians will turn into tears of dismay by the morning," he said.

If the result is confirmed as a loss for Morales, it would be another blow for South America's once dominant populist leftist movement that has suffered a series of recent electoral defeats across the continent.

Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, has been credited with slashing poverty in one of the region's poorest countries by spending a natural gas windfall on welfare programs and new infrastructure since taking office in 2006. He was re-elected in 2014 with 61 per cent of the vote.

But a growing body of critics charge Morales' ad-

ministration with corruption, waste and authoritarianism. Recent allegations about an ex-girlfriend whose company won lucrative government contracts have weighed heavily on his popularity.

In a middle-class neighbourhood in a southern district of La Paz, 37-year-old Susana Macias said she had voted "no" as a form of rebellion.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY NO (474N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (474N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HERBILAN UNITY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HERBILAN UNITY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED FORMING COMPLETION

Investments and Company Directives Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has permitted the Formation/Establishment as the Public Company, Limited with Credit Duties, according to Myanmar Companies Act, Law, to Public Company Limited, No. 10+11 (A), Gandamar Street, Thayargone Ward, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon and it is declared, that the Certificate of Incorporation No. is 961 (1999-2000) E.C-13/2015 (13.12.2015).

Public Company Limited.

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Email: adv.gnlm@gmail.com,
Phone: 09 250107962, 09 251022355

Memorial held in NZ for victims of 2011 Christchurch quake

CHRISTCHURCH, (New Zealand) — A memorial ceremony took place yesterday in Christchurch, New Zealand, where a powerful earthquake took the lives of 185 people, including 28 Japanese, five years ago.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel, Japanese Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Hitoshi Kikawada and bereaved families were among those who attended the event organised by Christchurch city. Dalziel noted that more time for healing is needed for many people affected by the devastation caused by the magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck Christchurch at 12:51pm on 22 February, 2011.

Although empty lots remain in the city, reconstruction efforts are under way, as seen by the reopening of facilities like museums and the decision late last year of a plan for rebuilding the ChristChurch Cathedral.

Kazuo Horita, 61, a bereaved family from Japan whose daughter Megumi died in the quake, said, "Her



The parents (C) of late Japanese student Megumi Horita offer flowers at a ceremony in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 22 February, 2016, to commemorate their daughter and other victims of a magnitude 6.3 earthquake on the fifth anniversary of the disaster that claimed 185 victims, including 28 Japanese students who had been studying abroad. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

life ended when she was 19 years old. There is no change in a parent's feelings (over the loss) whether five years pass or 10 years pass."

Other Japanese who attended the event included Kikuo Suzuki, 69, who lost

his 31-year-old daughter Yoko, and Kanji Hyakuman, 63, father of Haruki, who died at age 27. Both victims were nurses.

Prior to the official ceremony, the Japanese families held a separate service

at a cemetery that houses graves for Japanese victims. The New Zealand government plans to build a state-run memorial facility by the Avon River and erect a wall there with the names of the fatal victims. Of the fatalities, 115, including all of the Japanese victims, were in the Canterbury Television building which collapsed following the quake. The structure housed an English language school for foreign students.—Kyodo News

Brunei records over 218,000 foreign visitor arrivals in 2015

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Brunei saw 218,213 foreign visitor arrivals in 2015, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the previous year, with Chinese arrivals accounting for the most, government statistics show.

The data was released Sunday by the tourism development department of Brunei's Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

The 8.6 per cent increase was mainly attributed to the source markets including Far East region such as China and Japan, ASEAN countries, Australia as well as long haul markets such as Britain.

Travellers from China and Malaysia contributed to the majority of the market, accounting for 55.3 per cent of the total foreign tourist arrivals in 2015.

Arrivals from China stood at 36 per cent, while those from Malaysia at 19.3 per cent.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KARIN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KARIN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC SINGAPORE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC SINGAPORE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1046W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1046W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEACON 8 VOY NO (CH0243)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEACON 8 VOY NO (CH0243) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN CHARTERING CO LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 03 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 03 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

Taylor Swift donates USD 250K to Kesha

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Taylor Swift has donated USD 250,000 to singer Kesha as a financial aid for her legal battle against her producer Dr Luke.

Kesha, 28, had sought to nullify her recording contract with Sony because it brought her into contact with Dr Luke, whose real name is Luke Gottwald.

Manhattan Supreme Court judge refused to let her walk away from the six-album deal with Sony, and the man she claims raped her. While many of her colleagues have voiced their support for her, Swift, 25, is the first of Kesha's high-profile peers to announce a monetary donation.

"In a show of support, Taylor Swift has donated \$250,000 to Kesha to help with any of her financial needs during this trying time," said Tree Paine, Swift's spokesperson, in a statement.—PTI



Taylor Swift PHOTO: REUTERS

Anushka Sharma announces next production 'Phillauri'

MUMBAI — Actress Anushka Sharma has announced she will co-produce and star in romantic film "Phillauri".

The 27-year-old actress is co-producing the film with Fox Star Studios. She will be sharing screen space with singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh and Suraj Sharma, of "Life of Pi" fame.

The movie has been tagged as an uncommon romantic film set in Phillaur, Punjab. It will be directed by debutant Anshai Lal.

"Phillauri has a unique

premise. It took almost 100 years, a crazy Punjabi wedding and rank strangers to complete this love story, and that's the crux of the film," said Sharma.

The actress made her debut as a producer through her Clean Slate Films with last year's much-acclaimed crime drama "NH 10".

"Anushka Sharma is a phenomenal actress and has proven that she is a producer par excellence with her brave first film. We are thrilled to be working with her," said Vijay Singh, CEO, Fox Star Studios.—PTI

I have hypochondriac tendencies: Penelope Cruz

LONDON — Actress Penelope Cruz says her focus on keeping her body in optimum condition is probably excessive and it is a part of her "hypochondriac tendencies".

Cruz, 41, said she visits a nutrition expert twice a year to check what vitamin and mineral deficiencies she has in her body so she can be in peak physical

health, reported Female First.

"I really believe it's true that your stomach is your second brain. I don't take general multivitamins. I take specific, good quality ones, — that's important. "I go to see what I might be deficient in. It's probably too often, but it's all part of my hypochondriac tendencies," she said.—PTI

Judge blocks attempt to halt deposition of Bill Cosby's wife

MASSACHUSETTS — A federal judge in Massachusetts on Sunday night rejected attempts by the wife of comedian Bill Cosby to halt her upcoming deposition in a defamation case brought by seven women against the disgraced entertainer, court records showed.

Camille Cosby's lawyers late on Saturday filed an emergency motion to delay her deposition, scheduled for Monday, pending an appeal of a judge's Friday ruling not to stay the proceeding. They argued the deposition would create a "media circus" and threaten her personal safety.

US District Judge

Mark Mastroianni ruled late on Sunday night that the deposition would go ahead on Monday morning. He also ordered the attorneys to court for a brief status conference ahead of the meeting.

Lawyers for the seven women fired back at the Camille Cosby's motion on Sunday, saying the claims were without merit.

"The Cosbys' last-minute filing is the latest in a series of increasingly brazen attempts to interfere with the deposition of Mrs. Cosby," the attorneys said in a filing. "The Cosbys should not be allowed to indefinitely delay Mrs. Cosby's deposition by

repeatedly filing what is in substance the same motion, over and over again."

Mastroianni earlier this month ruled that Camille Cosby would have to talk to lawyers bringing the defamation suit against the comedian, although she could not be compelled to reveal private conversations with her husband.

More than 50 women have publicly accused Cosby - best known for his role as the father in the 1980s television hit "The Cosby Show" - of raping them, often after plying them with alcohol or drugs in incidents dating back decades.—Reuters



Comedian Bill Cosby addresses the crowd in front of his wife, Camille Cosby, after being honoured during the Apollo Theatre's 75th anniversary gala in New York, in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS



Actor Ryan Reynolds poses with his wife actress Blake Lively at the premiere of "Deadpool" in New York, 8 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Box Office: 'Deadpool' dominates 'The Witch' and 'Risen'

LOS ANGELES — "Deadpool" dominated the box office for a second consecutive weekend, racking up \$55 million. That's roughly what Fox, the studio behind the \$58 million comic-book adaptation, had predicted that the film would open to a week ago. Of course, it shattered those projections, destroying February records with a \$152.2 million President's Weekend launch. After two weeks, "Deadpool" has now earned \$235.4 million domestically, re-established

Ryan Reynolds as a major Hollywood star, and created a new superhero franchise to rival the likes of Iron Man

and the X-Men. The picture, a very R-rated affair, centers on a mercenary with accelerated healing abilities and a penchant for bawdy humour. "It's one of those times where a movie becomes a touchstone in culture," said Chris Aronson, Fox's domestic distribution chief. "It just becomes part of the zeitgeist and one of those movies you just have to see. That's due to its uniqueness. People have never seen anything like this before." A few brave new releases tried to ride out "Deadpool" mania. "Risen," a faith-based drama about a soldier investigating the death and resurrection of Jesus, fared best, pulling in a solid \$11.8 million from 2,915 locations to snag third place. Sony's Affirm label produced the picture for \$20 million,

and courted church leaders with the hopes of producing another "War Room" or "Heaven is for Real," two films that turned out Christian moviegoers in droves. The studio will follow the same formula with the upcoming Easter release "Miracles From Heaven." "This is in our wheelhouse," said Rory Bruer, Sony's distribution chief. "We've really embraced being in the faith-based business and it's certainly paid off."

"The Witch," a critically acclaimed look at a Puritan family torn apart by supernatural terrors, debuted to \$8.7 million from 2,046 theaters for a fourth place finish. The picture is the widest debut in the history of A24, the indie label behind "Ex Machina" and "Room," and its biggest ever premiere.—Reuters

London designers call upon Shakespeare, nature for inspiration

LONDON — London's fashion designers on Sunday drew inspiration ranging from nature to William Shakespeare, presenting oversized coats and embellished dresses while reassessing how to sell clothes faster to a new generation of online consumers.

Pleated skirts, rose-printed dresses and studded leather jackets, in saffron and tangerine, were seen at British fashion brand Mulberry, which returned to the catwalk for the first time after two turbulent years.

Models sported a variety of accessories, from a tiny lifelike heart to oversized totes, which designer Johnny Coca said had been inspired by the works of Shakespeare and the streets of London.

Coca said the collection was important to help shape the style of Mulberry's new offering, but accessories would remain his

main priority in the year to come, after an attempt to become more exclusive backfired.

"I'm really focused on all the categories, but the bulk of our business (is) in our accessories, which is why we are working a lot on that," Coca told reporters backstage after the show.

Mulberry Chief Executive Officer Thierry Andretta said in a recent interview that many of its new products would be available after the show and some within a few weeks, sooner than the traditional four to six months.

His comments come as fashion brands are trying to find ways of getting clothing and accessories to customers more quickly in different climates around the world.

"Slowly, slowly, there is definitely going to be a move," said designer Anya Hindmarch, whose lively



Models present creations at the Alexander McQueen catwalk show at London Fashion Week Autumn/Winter 2016 in London, Britain on 21 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

catwalk show featured a life-sized gaming grid and handbags bearing Pac Man motifs.

"I think it will all get there at the right time, but without a doubt it is mov-

ing towards that. The customers want it right away," she told Reuters backstage after her show.

Fashion brand Alexander McQueen held a dramatic evening show in-

spired by surreal symbols and nature, with models wearing embellished leather corsets, oversized coats and floor-length sheer dresses decorated with butterfly motifs, feathers,

flowers and heavy chains.

"We are seeing the idea of all of this lovely femininity that has a bit of an edge everywhere," said Ken Downing, fashion director of US department store Neiman Marcus.

"Certainly the use of embroidery, the use of details in adornment and embellishment on top of the leather pieces are just superlative," he added.

Earlier in the day at high-street retailer Topshop Unique's show at London's historic Tate Britain gallery, models wore tightly fitted long johns, sheer leopard-print dresses and oversized fur coats.

Inspiration also was drawn from Shakespeare's works — "The Winter's Tale" and "The Taming of the Shrew" — for printed silks and floral embellishment on dresses, which were paired with ankle boots and cropped jumpers.—Reuters

Hokkaido village sets up frozen jeans to seek Guinness recognition



Pairs of jeans, frozen after being soaked in water and then exposed to the bitter cold outside, are erected in the snow in Sarabetsu village in Japan's northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido on 21 February, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

KUSHIRO — A total of 295 pairs of frozen jeans were set up to stand in the snow Sunday in Sarabetsu village in Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido in an effort to secure recognition from Guinness World Records.

Around 120 participants set up the jeans in various colors and sizes as the mercury hit minus 5.3 C in the evening.

Freezing jeans in cold weather and displaying them is said to have started in the US

state of Minnesota when it was hit by a cold spell this winter.

A civic group in the Tokachi area covering Sarabetsu offered to host the event after a villager posted a picture showing frozen pants on the Facebook page of the village's tourist association.

"It was freezing, but this was a memorable event," said kindergarten teacher Erika Kataoka, 22, from neighboring Nakasatsunai village.—Kyodo News



**News Channel
in Brief**

(23-2-2016, Tuesday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 1:50 am |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • Sing & Enjoy |
| 3:35 pm | • 2016 University Entrance Examination (English) |
| 4:35 pm | • Football Magazine |
| 5:35 pm | • Money Talk Myanmar |
| 6:35 pm | • People's Talks |
| 7:15 pm | • TV Drama Series |
| 8:00 pm | • News / International News/ Weather Report |
| 9:00 pm | • News |
| 12:35 am | • TV Drama Series |
| Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International) | • Yes or No Talks Show |



**Entertainment
Channel**

(23-2-2016, Tuesday)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 pm | 7:50 pm |
| • Nice And Sweet Song | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:10 pm | • Radio Drama |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Union Day Show |
| 6:30 pm | • Musical Programme |
| • Kyae Pwint Myaye | • Myanmar Video |
| 6:45 pm | Midnight |
| Yin Khone Than | • Close Down |

From 23.2.2016 (Tuesday) 06:00 Pm
To 24.2.2016 (Wednesday) 06:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.



(23-2-2016 07:00am ~ 24-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 07:03 Am | News |
| 07:26 Am | Insight Myanmar "MNHRC Achievements & Expectations" |
| 07:44 Am | Pet Fish Biz |
| 08:03 Am | News |
| 08:26 Am | Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-I) |
| 08:35 Am | Manuha Temple Festivities |
| 08:53 Am | Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting |
| 09:03 Am | News |
| 09:26 Am | International Dances in Myanmar |
| 09:44 Am | Maha Muni Pagoda |
| 09:53 Am | Traditional Snacks |
| 10:03 Am | News |

10:26 Am Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
10:52 Am Today Myanmar: Low Cost Rental Housing Project

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

Prime Time

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 07:03 Pm | News |
| 07:26 Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6) |
| 08:03 Pm | News |
| 08:26 Pm | Enchanting Rakhine Land |
| 08:44 Pm | Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder |

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

Djokovic determined not to get carried away with success

DUBAI — Novak Djokovic has vowed not to become over-confident as he seeks to extend a 15-match winning streak when he returns to action in Dubai, his first tournament since winning a sixth Australian Open title last month.

The Melbourne Park victory earned the Serb an 11th grand slam trophy, bringing him level with Bjorn Borg and Rod Laver, and the 28-year-old admitted such milestones are important to him after winning four of the past five majors.

"People start talking about the all-time greats and me coming closer to them, but I still would like to follow the same approach and philosophy of focusing only on the next tournament," Djokovic told reporters in Dubai.

"I try not to be over-confident because I have lots of respect for other players ... but being at the peak of my career I'm trying to use this momentum and take everything out of myself and achieve more." After winning 34 of his last 35 grand slam matches, it is not inconceivable that Djokovic could end up eclipsing Roger Federer's record of 17 majors before too long. But for all his success, Djokovic has yet to crack the French Open, finishing runner-up on three occasions.

—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during Spanish Liga BBVA at La Rosaleda stadium, Malaga, Spain on 21 February.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia challenges Myanmar in Thingyan lethwei contest

THE Myanmar Media Group has announced that it will hold a lethwei challenger fight between Russian and Myanmar boxers at the Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium on April 2.

Die-hard lethwei fans will have to attend the event in person if they wish to catch the action live, according to U Wanna, the managing director of the Myanmar Media Group.

"The event will not be broadcast live, but will be aired a day or two later," he said.

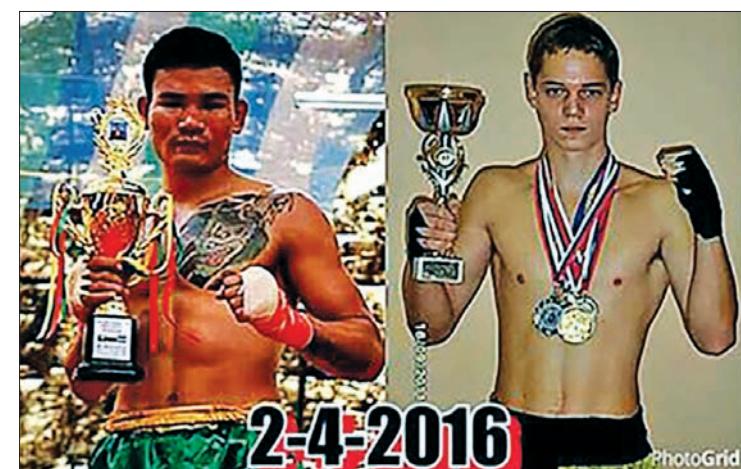
The Thingyan fight will be headlined by bouts between Myanmar champion Htun Htun Min and Russian Myanmar lethwei champion Luwodokera, as well as Myanmar's Htoo Htoo, who will face off against another Russian

lethwei champion, Sahsa Kobatan. The event will also include a series of local fights.

"The two Russian boxers who will come and fight against Htun Htun Min and Htoo Htoo were brought out by their coach Danit to compete in the 2012 Dagon Shwe Aung competition. They are athletes of a high calibre and still compete in traditional Myanmar lethwei events that take place in Russia. This event is going to be a notch above those held before," explained U Kyaw Soe, coach of the Nagarman Myanmar Lethwei Club.

Many Russian boxers fight in Myanmar, but most are based in Bangkok, where they mainly train in the Muay Thai style.

The two Russian lethwei



boxers who will fight in the coming Thingyan event are both 2015 champions of Myanmar lethwei in Russia.

Ticket prices for the event

start at K10,000, with tickets priced at K20,000 and K30,000 also available, according to the Myanmar Media Group.

—Myitmaka News Agency

Chelsea crush weakened City in FA Cup, Spurs knocked out

LONDON — Chelsea exploited Manchester City's decision to field a weakened team by romping to a 5-1 win in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday as they joined London rivals West Ham United and Crystal Palace in the quarter-finals.

Second-half goals by Willian, Gary Cahill, Eden Hazard and Bertrand Traore, after the teams went into the break level at 1-1, underlined Chelsea's dominance over a side keeping their powder dry for Wednesday's Champions League tie at Dynamo Kiev.

City, who play Liverpool in the League Cup final at Wem-

bley next Sunday, have now lost three matches in a row. Chelsea face a stiffer task in the next round away to Everton who they beat in the 2009 FA Cup final.

Crystal Palace's reward for a 1-0 win at Premier League title-chasers Tottenham Hotspur was a plumb away tie with second-tier Reading who shocked top flight visitors West Bromwich Albion 3-1 on Saturday.

West Ham United will next visit Manchester United or third-tier Shrewsbury Town after crushing Championship side Blackburn Rovers 5-1 away — Dimitri Payet and Emmanuel Emenike scoring two goals apiece as both teams finished with 10 men.

If holders Arsenal beat Hull City in a replay, after being held at home by the Championship leaders on Saturday, they will

welcome fellow London side Watford.

Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini had threatened to sacrifice the FA Cup by making multiple changes, even saying in midweek he would not buy a ticket if he was City fan.

He was as good as his word with six teenagers starting against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Five players — Manu Garcia, Aleix Garcia, Tosin Adarabioyo, Bersant Celina and David Faupala — made debuts as the likes of Sergio Aguero, Yaya Toure and Raheem Sterling were rested.

Faupala cancelled out Diego Costa's headed opener before halftime but the visitors could not hold out after the break.

Pellegrini had criticised the Cup schedule, which gave City less recovery time for their last

16 first-leg clash in Kiev.

"We were forced to select that team," he told the BBC. "We knew it was a difficult chance to carry on in the FA Cup. We cannot do anything more."

Chelsea's interim manager Guus Hiddink is eyeing a repeat of his feat in 2009 when they won the trophy by beating Everton in the Dutchman's last game in charge in his first caretaker spell.

With the much-maligned Hazard returning to form — crossing for Costa's opener, assisting in Willian's effort and curling in a free kick — Chelsea could even afford a missed Oscar penalty.

"Manchester City made changes but that doesn't make it easy because the youngsters that came in were dangerous," Hiddink told the BBC.—Reuters

Ronaldo misses penalty as Madrid teams falter

Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty as Real Madrid and neighbours Atletico were held to draws on Sunday leaving Barcelona with an eight-point lead at the top of La Liga and 13 matches left.

Third-placed Real, who took the lead with a Ronaldo header, were pegged back in a 1-1 draw at Malaga and are nine points adrift in the race to try and halt Barca's progress towards a second successive title and sixth in eight seasons.

Atletico, one point closer to Barcelona in second spot, could only manage a dour 0-0 draw at home to Villarreal.

Barcelona, who

won 2-1 at Las Palmas on Saturday, have 63 points to Atletico's 55 and 54 for Real before the Madrid derby at the Bernabeu next Saturday.

Spanish media headlines sounded the death knell for Real's title hopes, saying they had kissed the La Liga crown goodbye.

Ronaldo put Real ahead when he rose unmarked but in an offside position to head a Toni Kroos free kick over Carlos Kameni in the 33rd minute for his 22nd league goal this season.

He was denied a second goal three minutes later as Kameni dived to his left to save Ronaldo's spot kick after the Portuguese forward was brought down by Weligton.

Malaga scored a deserved

equaliser in the 66th minute when central defender Raul Albentosa, unmarked in the middle of the box, volleyed home a cross from the left. "Malaga are a great team, they made it tactically difficult. Today we failed but we won't surrender, we'll fight to the end," Real left back Marcelo said. "The draw tastes like a defeat."

The home side would not have been flattered with a victory as Real were indebted to goalkeeper Keylor Navas who twice denied Charles, Juanpi and Duje Cop. Kameni also made saves from Sergio Ramos and Jese but Malaga were the more cohesive team and Real missed the thrust of a centre forward with Karim Benzema absent through injury.—Reuters