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WEATHER BUREAU UPDATE EL NIÑO TO END EARLIER THAN EXPECTED

THE weather bureau in Nay Pyi Taw has predicted El Niño will end in Myanmar earlier than expected as sea temperatures in the East Central Tropical Pacific Ocean have decreased since early March.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced, quoting international weather agencies, yesterday that the El Niño process would end in June in Myanmar.

The weather bureau said Kachin State, Chin State, and Sagaing Region, which are located in dry regions, are expected to receive above-average rainfall in the upcoming summer season from March to May with a 40 to 60 degree of certainty, while the remaining states and regions are expected to receive less rain fall than normal.

Parliamentarians submitted an urgent motion last month calling on the Union government to adopt risk mitigation measures against the negative effects of El Niño, which is expected to hit Myanmar this year.

MPs stressed the need to launch emergency response and preparedness drills in order to mitigate possible losses in the event of disasters. The MPs pointed out that such drills have not yet been conducted in the country, despite plans drawn up by ministries. He also called for policies to be formulated to purchase rice for state reserves.

MPs also called on officials to gear up for El Niño's impact,



Villagers line up to fetch drinking water in Dalla. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

warning that the situation is likely to get worse during the summer as some parts of the country have started suffering droughts, and fire outbreaks are reported frequently.

In his statement, Dr Sein Mya Aye of Dala Constituency emphasised the importance of taking necessary measures to guarantee the socioeconomic wellbeing of the people, including farmers, as

agricultural outputs and fishery exports are likely to be limited by the consequences of El Niño.

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe highlighted

the leadership role of the Union government in the fight against the effects of El Niño in cooperation with regional governments, non-governmental organisations and the people.—GNLM



Vendors sell fish in Pauktaw in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Irresponsible fishing methods deplete Rakhine State fish stocks

THE year upon year depletion of fish populations in Rakhine State waters is attributed to a change in fishing techniques as well as climate change.

Many people living in Rakhine State make a living from fishing activities, but local fishermen blame many years of irresponsible overfishing for the depletion of fish

in rivers, streams and the ocean, which is causing them problems.

"The weather's not right, for one. Then, there's those offshore fishing vessels that come to fish close to the shore. Fishing with mines is causing some fish species to become extinct. Those fish that aren't killed swim off to other, more tranquil waters. We used to

catch about K10,000 worth of fish a day in the past, but these days we only manage half of that. We have to seek employment as casual labourers in other sectors as being a fisherman by itself isn't a financially viable option anymore," said U Win Shwe, a fisherman from Pauktaw Township.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw abolishes special cases assessment committee

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's first regular session entered its fourteenth day, during which it renamed a committee, substituted committee members and abolished a committee.

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the renaming of the Farmer, Worker and Youth Affairs Committee as the Farmer and Worker Affairs Committee. It also substituted Dr Tin Aung of Kyaukse Constituency with U Tin Aung of Tatkon Constituency, U Shwe Hla (a) U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun Constituency with U Thein Tan of Hlegu Constituency, Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin Constituency with U Aung Win of Hmawby Constituency and U Myo Nyunt of Homalin Constituency with U Myint Kyi of Katha Constituency in the Public Accounts Committee.

The parliament further substituted U Khun Maung Thaug of Pinlaung Constituency with U Thaug Htay Lin of Patheingyi Constituency for Hluttaw Rights Committee; Dr Mya Khwar Nyo Oo of Shwetaung Constituency with U Kyaw Min of Letpadan Constituency in the Internal Peace-making Committee; U Soe



Pyithu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Myint of Pindaya Constituency with U Aung Soe of Yinmabin Constituency and U Kan Myint of Thayet Constituency with U Ye Tun Win of Pauk Constituency in the Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee; U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin Constituency with Daw Aye Aye Mu (a) Daw Shar Mee of Kale Constituency in the Natural Resources

and Environmental Conservation Committee; U Kyi Moe Naing of Yedashe Constituency with Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin Constituency and U Zaw Win of Htantabin Constituency with Dr Khin Maung Maung of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency in the Transport, Communication and Construction Committee; U Kyaw Myo Min of Moenyo Con-

stituency with U Than Nyunt of Pyu Constituency, U Aung Soe of Thayetchaung Constituency with U Nay Lin Tun of Bokepyin Constituency, U Aung Than Sein of Kamti Constituency with U Kyaw Soe of Banmauk Constituency and U Ye Lwin of Ahlone Constituency with U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri Constituency in the Investment and Indus-

trial Development Committee; U La Gan Zal Jon of Waingmaw Constituency with U Kyaw Min Hlaing of Ottarathiri Constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk Constituency with Dr Aye Min of Khayan Constituency and U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe Constituency with U Thein Tun of Thabaung Constituency for Economic and Financial Development Committee; and Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik Constituency with Dr Daw Pyone of Inndaw Constituency in the Public Administration Committee.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint informed the parliamentarians of the abolition of the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee.

Then, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat elaborated on the formation of committees.

The speaker read out congratulatory messages sent from Japan, Algeria, Slovakia, France and Poland, which were documented.

The fifteenth day session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw continues today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MPT donates solar lamps to monastic education schools

MYANMA Posts and Telecommunications provided monastic education schools across the country with over 2,000 solar lamps worth a total of about US\$300,000.

Funds received through selling MPT SIM cards were contributed to buy the solar lamps, said Mr Takashi Na-

gashima, CEO of the MPT-KS-GM Joint Operation.

According to MPT, sale of MPT SIM cards last December brought in K297 million in revenues. "The solar lamp donation will bring light to 632 monastic education schools around the country, bringing solar power to 58,000 students," said Bhaddan-

ta Nayaka, the presiding monk of the PhaungdawU Monastic Education School in Mandalay. This was MPT's second donation to monastic education schools. The company donated 837 solar panels to monastic education schools in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Regions last month.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Myanmar, Japanese artists to perform symphonic orchestra in Mandalay

MYANMAR National Symphony Orchestra Concert 2016 will take place at 6 pm at National Theater in Mandalay on 15 March. The concert set to be open to everyone is joint efforts

of the State Orchestra of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information and a group of Japanese artists led by conductor-cum-composer Mr. Yunosuke Yamamoto and

pianist Mrs. Kyoko Koyama.

The symphonic orchestra performance between Myanmar and Japan will be aired live on News Channel of MRTV.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Military aircraft suffers drag parachute malfunction at Nay Pyi Taw airport

A MILITARY aircraft suffered an accident while landing at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport due to its drag parachute malfunctioning at 11:54am yesterday.

The military plane was

flying to Nay Pyi Taw from Tougoo Air Base to conduct a drill.

During the accident, the aircraft crashed into three light poles on the taxiway following the drag parachute malfunc-

tion, which was caused by a mechanical failure.

No one was reported injured, but the cockpit area, fuel tank and tires of the aircraft were damaged in the accident.—*Myawady*

Relaxation of restriction brings more tourists to Kawthoung



Yacht trips have resumed now. PHOTO: HOTEL AND TOURISM MINISTRY

CROWDS of tourists are flocking to Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region, during the peak season for tourism in Myanmar after restrictions on sightseeing boat tours around the Myeik Archipelago were relaxed, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

According to the ministry, Kawthoung welcomed 270,573 foreign visitors and received 3,248 tourists on yacht trips during the period from January to December 2015.

Myeik Archipelago, which includes 803 islands, is one of major tourist attractions in Myanmar, offering activities such as underwater diving, sailing, canoeing, bird watching, exploring Salon culture, mangrove sightseeing and forest treks.

Arrivals of tourists through sailing trips have also increased, with 713 visitors arriving this January, including 12 yachts carrying 92 tourists on 30 January, said the ministry.—*Kay Khaing*

Vice President inspects renovation of Yangon General Hospital

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected the progress of the renovation of Yangon General Hospital and follow-up works yesterday.

On his inspection tour, the vice president visited the PET/CT Cyclotron Center, wards in the main building and the operating theater complex, where he greeted patients and their families and medical staff of the hospital.

Next, the vice president heard reports on the work progress presented by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Regional Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and other officials.

In his address, the vice president stressed the need to ensure quality improvements to healthcare, including medical equipment, manpower and services. He also called for further ways and means to adequately accommodate patients as the newly-extended five-storey building has grown crowded.

He also praised relevant committees, officials, medical

staff and advisers for their efforts in improving the hospital.

Yangon General Hospital's major renovation works, including the extended construction of five-storey building and others, began in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The renovation of the main building was carried out in the 2014-2015 fiscal, reaching 60 per cent completion at the end of that fiscal year.

The remaining works continued throughout the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and the renovations are slated to be completed by 10 March after the installation of glass roofs in the main building.

So far, the construction of a five-storey building for cancer patients is 45 per cent complete and is expected to be 60 per cent complete by the end of this fiscal year.

Moreover, the construction of a 10-storey staff building is 20 per cent complete and is slated to be 50 per cent complete by the end of this fiscal year.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Yangon General Hospital. PHOTO: MNA



People waiting for lucky draw programme to resubmit for rental apartments in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Rental apartments for squatters still available in Mandalay

THOSE who did not meet the requirements and missed the chance to apply for residency at apartments in Mandalay will be allowed to resubmit their applications, said the secretary of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

The MCDC relocated squatters who lived in temporary huts along Ayeyawady River in Mandalay into rental apartments through a lucky draw programme yesterday.

The rental residential buildings, which include 1,584 apartments, were built at a cost of K11 billion—K6 billion from the MCDC and K5 billion from the Mandalay Region government.

“Squatters living along the river still have a chance to live in the rental apartments,” said U Khin Maung Tint, secretary of MCDC, adding that living in temporary huts will not be allowed after the squatters are relocated.

“We are very delighted to be relocated to rental apartments fitted with electricity and water,” said Daw Yi, one of squatters who applied for rental housing.

The MCDC said 1,206 applicants who met requirements have been relocated to the apartments through the yesterday's lucky draw programme. They are required to pay K30,000 per month in rent.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Climate change adaptation plans must be prioritised

CLIMATE change adaptation plans are necessary to properly respond to challenges brought about by possible extreme heat, changes in rainfall patterns, cyclonic storms and flooding during the decades to come, said Union Minister U Ohn Myint in his address at the ASEAN Forum on Improvement of Knowledge, Skills and Competence of Stakeholders in Climate Change Adaptation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister added that the three-day forum

will be of great benefit to the ASEAN community as a wide range of matters, including climate change adaptation plans, food security and livelihood programmes are set to be discussed.

Response measures and adaptation plans are being prioritised by the government following predictions of weather experts who said Myanmar is likely to suffer the effects of climate change during upcoming decades, said the Union minister, adding that El Niño response

plans are underway.

According to the Union minister, Myanmar's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030 will be approved and released soon.

Moreover, awareness campaigns are being undertaken to establish biosecurity measures and a combined team on climate change in Myanmar.

The forum is set to feature discussions on designing university syllabi for climate change adaptation and excursion tours.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Sales of high-priced cashews boom in Ayeyawady Region

CAHSEW sellers in the Ayeyawady Region township of Thabaung are enjoying the appreciation in the value of the nut, which has not affected sales.

During the last five years, a viss (1.6 kilos) of cashews fetched K1,500, while the price for the same quantity increased by two thirds to K2,500 at the beginning of 2016.

“Cashews are going for such a good price. On top of that, there is a lot of buying and selling [of the nut],” said U Bone Kywai, a cashew wholesaler.

The appreciation in the price of cashews can be attributed not only to good sales of the nut in Yangon and Patheingyi markets but also to competitive buying from other parts of the region.

“The cashew is a type of crop which can quickly rise or fall in price. A year of good-quality cashews makes things favourable for us plantation owners,” said U Aung Soe,

a cashew nut plantation owner.

There are between 500 and 1,000 acres of cashew plantations in villages along the western hills of Thabaung Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



A pile of cashews is seen at a brokerage in Thabaung PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Tourist arrivals up in Mandalay

FROM the beginning of 2016, tourist arrivals have been on the rise in Mandalay, according to the Department of Hotels and Tourism Development of Mandalay Region.

Tourist arrivals have increased from October 2015 to March 2016. Most tourists are American, French, German, Dutch, Japanese, Thai and Chinese. The department expects 5 million tourists to come to Myanmar in 2016, and about 500,000 of them will travel to Mandalay and the Bagan Cultural Zone. Mandalay International Airport is directly linked with Thailand, India

and China. Over 120,000 tourists entered Mandalay in 2015 on direct flights from those countries.

Moreover, foreign travellers have been arriving at Mandalay by vehicles and motorbikes through the Mandalay-Muse Union highway and the Mandalay-Tamu highway. Tourists coming to Mandalay visit Myansankyaw Golden Palace, Mandalay Hill, Maha Muni Pagoda, U Bein Bridge, the Golden Temple, Ahtumashi Monastery, the Thatahtarna Pagodas, gold embroidery businesses and gold foil businesses.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Tourists being seen taking the photos of a pagoda. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Mingala Jetty Bridge in Kyunsu Township opened

THE Mingala Jetty Bridge, which facilitates transportation for local people in Kyunsu Township, opened on 7 February.

The bridge is 220 feet by 90 feet and made of reinforced concrete.

From the bridge, speed boats and motor boats take local resi-

dents to island villages of Myeik and Kyunsu townships. An average of 400 local people uses the bridge daily.

At the opening ceremony of the Mingala Jetty Bridge a ribbon was cut by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, region ministers and officials at

9:45pm on 7 February.

The Naung Yoe Myanmar Phwint Phyo Toe Tet Yay Company supervised the construction of the bridge, which cost K200 million and was funded through the 2015-2016 regional government budget. The construction of the bridge began on 10 Septem-

ber 2015 and was completed on 20 February 2016.

Afterward, U Win Shein, the Union Minister for Finance, delivered a speech. After that, the director of Naung Yoe Myanmar Phwint Phyo Toe Tet Yay Company handed over the documents of the bridge to township admin-

istrator U Nyein Htwe.

The bridge can be used for both up-tide and down-tide travel. One local resident gave a thankful speech on behalf of local people from 25 villages in Kyunsu Township, said U Khin Soe, a local resident.—*Township IPRD*

Crime NEWS

Fire destroys two homes in Toungoo

A FIRE caused by an electric short circuit engulfed two homes in Toungoo on 7 March 2016.

An overheated electric fan caused the short circuit, which

was blamed for the fire, which started at 5:25am.

Firemen and volunteers with four fire engines managed to put the fire under control 35 minutes

after it broke out.

Action is being taken by a local police station against Daw Zam Bi, 50, owner the home where the fire started.—*Police*

Police arrest woman selling pirated CDs in Myaungmya

POLICE arrested a woman selling pirated CDs in Myaungmya, Ayayawady Region, on 6 March.

Action on a tip-off, po-

lice searched a CD shop owned Ma Hnin Hnin, 30, in Myaungmya, and confiscated 95 pirated CDs.

Action is being taken against her under Section 32(b) of the TV and Video Act.—*Police*

2,000 stimulant tablets seized in Lashio



Aik Sai Lu poses with his drugs and motorbike. PHOTO: POLICE

A LOCAL anti-drug squad in Lashio discovered 2,000 stimulant tablets on a motorcycle on the Lashio-Mong Yaw Road in a surprise check on 5 March.

Action is being taken against Aik Sai Lu (a) Aik Tun, who drove the motorcycle, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On the same day, police in Hpakant stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Thet Tun Oo and seized 1.29 kilos of solid opium in the surprise check.

Action is being taken against Thet Tun Oo.—*Myanmar Police Force*

2,337 stimulant tablets seized in Kale



Ma Lar Htan Maw Re, Ma Zai Htan Maw Re, Lar Inn Zar Mar and Zo Nun Maw Ra

ACTING on a tip-off, a local anti-drug squad searched a house owned Ma Lar Htan Maw Re in Dowaing Chaung Village, Kale Township, on 4 March and discovered 2,337 stimulant tablets.

The police arrested her along with Mazai Htan Maw Re, Lar Inn Zar Mar and Zo Nun Maw Ra who, were at the home during the search.

On the same day, a local anti-drug squad intercepted a Mark-II vehicle driven by Shauk Sein

Youn near the Kutkai-Kaungkhar junction in Kutkai for searched.

The squad seized six soup cans filled with heroin weighing 60 grams.

Similarly, a local anti-drug squad in Thingangyun Township discovered 130 stimulant tablets from Thuramin (a) Ko Hti.

Action has been taken against all the drug dealers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

Shinhan, BIDV to open Myanmar branches

THREE days after winning a licence to operate banking services in Myanmar, Shinhan Bank announced yesterday that it will open a branch in Myanmar next year, seeking to expand its presence in the Southeast Asian country as part of its global strategy to find new revenue sources.

South Korea's most profitable lender said it aims to open its branch in Yangon in the first quarter of 2017.

Other bid-winning foreign banks are the Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV), Taiwan's E.SUN Commercial Bank and the State Bank of India.

The announcement came as Shinhan is strengthening its foothold in the region, including thriving business in Viet Nam. The bank has offered banking services to the people of Viet Nam since 1995. The bank is one of the larg-

est foreign lenders in the country, along with HSBC.

Shinhan said Myanmar will play a crucial role in tapping deeper into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations market, adding that the country's economy has grown more than 5 per cent every year since 2011. The nation's gross domestic product expanded by 8.5 per cent in 2014, according to data from the World Bank. Its 2015 figure is not available yet.

Meanwhile, BIDV, which also received the approval of the Central Bank of Myanmar to open an office in Myanmar along with other three banks from Taiwan, South Korea and India, announced that it plans to open its new office in Myanmar in 2016.

It will be located at the Hoang Anh Gia Lai-Myanmar Centre.

BIDV will be the first Vietnamese bank to open a branch in Myanmar.—*GNLM*

Mon State brick kiln enterprises hit by appreciated expenses, waning sales

ACCORDING to brick makers in Mon State's Thaton Township, an increase in manufacturing expenses of earth brick kiln enterprises has coincided with a waning of sales, resulting in low profits.

The combination of waning brick sales, the destruction of bricks from torrential rains, together with an appreciation in value of wood fuel, has resulted in the current brick manufacturing market not being cost-effective.

"In addition to the lack of appreciation in the price [of bricks], few [construction] projects this year means a real drop in sales. As sales are rare, we can't price up [our bricks to make things cost-effective]," said U San Khaing, a brick maker in Thaton township.



Bricks making site in Thaton. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

The price of a single brick sold on site has not appreciated from last year's value of K37, while the cost of a brick delivered to a construction site within the town of Thaton fetches K43, although the price of delivered bricks is dependent upon distance.

A day labourer in the brick making industry in 2015 received a daily wage of K3,300, but this has increased in 2016 to K4,000,

according to U San Khaing.

"Having this brick manufacturing work available allows us to continue earning money once the cultivation season is over. Alternative forms of employment are scarce. One brick kiln can employ around thirty people. A brick worker can earn about K4,000 from working in the sun all day, but that's all families have to live off," said U Htay

Hlaing, a local brick worker.

Around thirty officially licensed brick kilns are operating within Thaton Township. The brick manufacturing season runs from December to the end of March, with one brick kiln having the capacity to produce an average of approximately four million bricks per season, according to township brick kiln owners.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Salt value depreciates in Mon State as El Niño causes surplus

EL NIÑO induced surpluses of salt in Mon State have caused the price of the commodity to depreciate, according to Mon State salt farmers.

The large amount of salt being produced has caused the value of a viss (1.6 kilos) of salt fall to around K40.

"The nature of the salt business is that the summer months provide a more bountiful crop as little of the crop is destroyed. As we are now beginning to experience the El Niño weather front, things are starting to dry up, resulting in more salt being harvested from salt fields. Salt farmers have little investment, so they must produce and sell their salt regardless

of the fall in its value," said U Min Naing, a Mon State salt farmer from Thabyuzayat Township.

In the last week of January this year, a viss (1.6 kilos) of unrefined sun-dried salt fluctuated between K50 and K100, with the advance of the El Niño weather front causing the value of the same quantity to only fetch as much as K60 beginning from the second week of February until now.

As salt farmers incur roughly K40 to K50 per viss in expenses, profit margins become very thin at times when the price of salt depreciates in value.

Many parts of Mon State are suitable for producing salt, but scarcity of workers, the depreci-

ation in value of the commodity and absence of money lenders to support the salt enterprise have rendered people in parts of Mon State unable to conduct salt harvesting activities.

The current climate has cut much of the profits of salt farmers, but they predict that the market will pick back up beginning in May, estimating a viss of salt to fetch between K80 and K100.

The salt farming season begins each December when salt water is irrigated into salt fields and left to dry under the sun. The first week of January then sees salt start to be racked in. The season ends in May when the rainy season begins to kick in.

U Khin Soe, head of the Department of Salt Enterprises for Mon State, said it is anticipated that the 2015-2016 salt harvesting season will produce over 25,000 tonnes of salt from roughly 2,500 acres of salt fields within the state. While the population of Mon State annually consumes 7,300 tonnes, the surplus tonnes of salt are transported to neighbouring Kayin State and Taninthayi Region, as well as further afield to the upper reaches of the country, he added.

The main salt-producing parts of Mon State are Bilin, Paung, Thanbyuzayat and Ye townships.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar's trade deficit at \$450.87 million in January

THE Central Statistical Organisation Monday said Myanmar had a trade deficit of US\$450.87 million in January of the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The total value of exports amounted to \$859.39 million, including \$412.64 million in exports across land borders, while the country spent \$1.3 billion on imports, including \$211.79 million via land borders.

According to the organisation, Myanmar had a trade deficit of \$4.8 billion during the period from April to January this fiscal year.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Irresponsible fishing methods deplete Rakhine State fish stocks

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Some Rakhine State fishermen practice destructive fishing methods such as electric fishing, the use of fish toxins and the use of small-holed fishing nets, which bycatch unwanted species of fish.

"Fish stocks are in really bad shape. The volume of fish caught in the township has completely declined, which is linked to the irresponsible fishing practices of some fishermen. We try to take legal action, but these [destructive fishing methods] aren't carried out when we're in the village; they wait until after we've gone home. Fishermen need to cooperate [with us]," said U Kyaw Soe Lwin, head of the Department of Fisheries for Minbya Township.

In accordance with a report by the Yangon branch of the Rakhine Thaharya Association, which was conducted in a bid to highlight the extent of the problem of overfishing within the Rakhine State, there has been a distinct depletion in the last fifteen years of the species of plarduu fish and golden shrimp within Thandwe Township, with just 15 per cent of the original population remaining, while it is known that the ngapidu could also become extinct as it is being fished as a substitute to depleted numbers of golden shrimp.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Philippines signs new GMO rules, food industry relieved

MANILA — The Philippines has approved a new set of rules on genetically modified organisms after a top court demanded an overhaul of previous regulations, providing relief to farmers and importers worried that any delay would spark a food crisis.

Five ministers had signed the rules as of Monday, Merle Palacpac, chief of the plant quarantine service at the Bureau of Plant Industry, told Reuters.

The new rules will now be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, with Palacpac saying they would likely take effect by April.

The Supreme Court in December halted the issuance of fresh permits for planting or importing genetically modified crops until the new rules were in place, putting in limbo nearly 1 million corn farmers and buyers of GM soybean meal, the Philippines' top GMO import.—Reuters

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South Korea, US begin exercises as North Korea threatens attack

SEOUL — South Korean and US troops began large-scale military exercises yesterday in an annual test of their defences against North Korea, which called the drills “nuclear war moves” and threatened to respond with an all-out offensive.

South Korea said the exercises would be the largest ever following North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch last month that triggered a UN Security Council resolution and tough new sanctions.

Isolated North Korea has rejected criticism of its nuclear and rocket programmes, even from old ally China, and last week leader Kim Jong Un ordered his country to be ready to use nuclear weapons in the face of what he sees as growing threats from enemies.

The joint US and South Korean military command said it had notified North Korea of “the non-provocative nature of this training” involving about 17,000 American troops and more than 300,000 South Koreans.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said it had seen no sign of any unusual military activity by the North.

North Korea's National Defence Commission said the North Korean army and people would “realise the greatest desire of the Korean nation through a sacred war of justice for reunification”, in response to any attack by US and South Korean forces.

“The army and people of the DPRK will launch an all-out offensive to decisively counter the US and its followers' hysterical nuclear war moves,” the North Korean commission said in a statement carried by the North's KCNA news agency.

The North, the Democratic



US and South Korean marines participate in a US-South Korea joint landing operation drill in Pohang, South Korea, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as it is officially known, routinely issues threats of military action in response to the annual exercises that it sees as preparation for war against it.

The threat on Monday was in line with the usual rhetoric it uses to denounce the drills.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei noted that North Korea had already said it opposed the drills, adding that Beijing was “deeply concerned” about the exercises.

“China is linked to the Korean Peninsula. In terms of the peninsula's security, China is

deeply concerned and firmly opposed to any trouble-making behaviour on the peninsula's doorstep.

We urge all sides to keep calm, exercise restraint and not escalate tensions,” he told a daily news briefing.

The latest UN sanctions imposed on North Korea were drafted by the United States and China as punishment for its nuclear test and satellite launch, which the United States and others say was really a test of ballistic missile technology.

South Korea's spy agency said it would hold an emergency

cyber-security meeting on Tuesday to check readiness against any threat of cyber attack from the North, after detecting evidence of attempts by the North to hack into South Korean mobile phones.

South Korea has been on heightened cyber alert since the nuclear test and the rocket launch.

South Korea and the US militaries began talks on Friday on the deployment of an advanced anti-missile Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system in South Korea.—Reuters

Australian police respond to shooting, report of hostages at Sydney factory

SYDNEY — Three people have been shot and hostages may have been taken at a factory on the outskirts of Sydney, Australian police said yesterday, although it was not immediately clear what had sparked the incident.

A spokeswoman for the New South Wales state police said authorities believed three people had been shot.

Australian media reported that one person was killed and two were wounded and taken to hospital, although police could

not immediately verify those reports.

“Negotiators and a tactical response team are at the scene and trying to gain access to the building,” the police spokeswoman said.

In December 2014, a lone gunman and self-styled sheikh who claimed allegiance to the Islamic State militant group took 17 hostages at a cafe in central Sydney. The gunman and two hostages were killed in the final minutes of the 16-hour siege.—Reuters



Police and emergency services personnel can be seen behind a road block at the scene of a shooting in the western Sydney suburb of Ingleburn, on 7 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Philippine boxer and poll candidate Pacquiao says TV bout cover not a low blow

MANILA — Former world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao said yesterday TV coverage of his WBO welterweight bout with American Timothy Bradley would not violate Philippine election laws or give him an undue advantage in his bid for a seat on the Senate.

In a five-page letter to the election commission, Pacquiao, 37, said that as a candidate for the May elections, he was allowed TV and radio air time for political advertisements and that his fight will not consume all of the allotted time.

The commission on Tuesday said it may bar broadcasts of Pacquiao's bid to win back the world welterweight title next month from reigning WBO welterweight champion Bradley because it could give him an unfair advantage in the elections.

"There is obviously no case of undue advantage or undue exposure for Pacquiao as the same rights and privileges are extended by law to all said candidates," Pacquiao said through his lawyers.

The bout will take a maximum of 36 minutes for a 12-round fight, or less if the fight does not go the distance. Under the law, all candidates are given up to



Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, who is running for Senator in the May 2016 national elections, speaks to supporters during the start of elections campaigning in Mandaluyong city, Metro Manila on 9 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

120-minute TV and 180-minute radio advertisements per station.

Pacquiao's description of gays as "worse than animals" last month drew criticism on social media at home and abroad, and cost him an endorsement deal with Nike, the world's larg-

est sportswear maker.

The election commission is expected to make a ruling on the broadcasts soon.

On 9 May, more than 54 million people in the Philippines will vote for a president, vice-president, 300 lawmakers

and thousands of local government posts.

Pacquiao, who has also courted controversy with comments on same-sex marriage, is running for one of 12 vacant seats in the Senate, the upper house of parliament.—Reuters

Appeal filed against ruling over Nagasaki A-bomb compensation

NAGASAKI — Plaintiffs seeking to be acknowledged as victims of the US atomic bombing in the southwestern city of Nagasaki yesterday appealed a local court ruling that denied them official recognition and made them ineligible for special state assistance.

The appeal was filed by 151 plaintiffs who say they experienced the atomic bombing on 9 August, 1945 within a 12-kilometre radius of ground zero.

In the 22 February ruling by the Nagasaki District Court, 10 of 161 plaintiffs received recognition as survivors entitled to full compensation by the government including medical assistance.

The plaintiffs in the suit were outside the oval-shaped, state-designated zone stretching around 7 kilometres from east to west and about 12 km from north to south.

The district court said only the 10 plaintiffs could be determined to have received radiation exposure high enough to qualify for state compensation.

In a similar suit, the Nagasaki court rejected demand by 395 other plaintiffs in 2012, prompting them to appeal to the Fukuoka High Court. The high court will hand down its ruling on 28 March.—Kyodo News

Farmers see Modi's budget as all promise, no delivery

KHANJARPUR (India) — Farmer Ram Pal Singh voted for Narendra Modi's promise of "better days" in India's 2014 general election, but he won't be backing the prime minister again even after last week's budget promised more aid to the countryside.

Growing discontent in rural India, home to two-thirds of the country's 1.3 billion people, bodes ill for Modi as he tries to bounce back from a heavy defeat in a state election last year in Bihar and build a support base to keep power in the 2019 general election.

In an eye-catching announcement, the budget doubled spending on agriculture and farmers' welfare to \$5.3 billion in support of his promise that their incomes would double by 2022.

Yet critics say most of the extra spending is in fact an accounting entry that shifts the cost of an interest subsidy to the agriculture budget that was previously borne by the finance ministry.

"We have received nothing from the government. We don't even recover our costs," said Singh, whose 21-acre (8.5-hectare) plot is big by Indian standards.

Two failed monsoons, and sudden unseasonal rains, have

caused widespread crop damage across northern India. Debt-laden farmers like Singh say low state purchase prices and a lack of compensation for crop losses are worsening their plight.

Singh lost \$4,500 over the past two years because of severe damage to his wheat and sugarcane crops in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, 30 miles (50 km) east of New Delhi. It has left him with debts of more \$10,000, and despair has driven him to think of selling his land.

"We have so much land but we still struggle to survive ... there is only sadness in farming," said Singh, 60, who does not want his grandchildren to work in the fields.

Last month, farmers went on the rampage in neighbouring Haryana state to protest a lack of economic opportunity. Thirty people died and saboteurs cut metropolitan Delhi's main water supply.

"The budget may give you an illusion the government has tried to address the problems faced by farmers," said independent food and trade policy analyst Devinder Sharma. He called instead for a package of "immediate assistance" to stop a spate of suicides by farmers from spreading.

Modi last year promised

higher compensation for crop losses, but more than a dozen farmers interviewed by Reuters on a field trip said they had received no relief. Many have taken out more loans or sold cattle to tide themselves over.

All but one said they will not support Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in next year's poll in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, home to 200 million people.

In 2014, the party swept Uttar Pradesh, winning 71 of 80 seats to claim the strongest parliamentary mandate in three decades. The budget play seemed designed to improve its standing in rural areas, traditionally a weak spot for the BJP.

"For the first time the agriculture sector has figured prominently in budget, and for the first time we've seen such a sharp rise in allocation for farmers' welfare," Farm Minister Radha Mohan Singh told a news conference.

But Jai Kisan Andolan, a peasants' rights movement, and 35 farming unions counter that the budget offered them no debt relief, and failed to hike either government farm purchase prices or crop-loss compensation rates."Most of what the budget speech projects as big favours to the farming community is ac-



A farmer stands atop his sugarcane crop loaded onto a tractor at a farmland near Modinagar in Uttar Pradesh, India, on 4 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

tually 'business as usual' with a sleight of hand," the groups said in a statement after the budget.

In addition, the main effort to expand irrigation - adding just 2 per cent of net cultivated area of 141 million hectares - is seen as piecemeal. And a new crop insurance scheme is expected to

get off to a slow start.

"The government does not have a firm plan to address the rural crisis. They will have to pay a big political price for this," said Satish Misra, a political analyst at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi.—Reuters

OPINION

Good governance is not a guarantor for economic growth

Khin Maung Aye

THERE is no story in this world that does not have two sides. In the same manner, the notion of good governance is also discussed, debated and contested by scholars to arrive at its most useful meaning. Three aspects of good governance are debated, including the development strategies pursued by World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), public sector reforms and issues of economic development.

The World Bank and IMF believe that an

active state should foster an environment where contracts are enforced and markets can operate efficiently. This being the case, a state ought to follow pro-growth macroeconomic policies and maintain moderate sized governments, sound financial development, respect for the rule of law, openness to international trade and rises in average incomes with little systematic effect on the distribution of income.

Concerning public sector reforms, scholars argue that the initial impetus for public sector reform came from a belief that the state was too strong and too active. However, developing states often have the opposite problem—the state is too weak and inept. Therefore, fads such as ‘New Public Management’ were often especially not suitable for the developing states. Public sector reforms attempt to restrict the scope of state activity, but the main obstacle to modernisation in developing states is a lack of state strength. As a consequence, reforms often prove to be tragically improper for developing states. The pressing need in many developing states is to establish bureaucratic institutions with clear lines of accountability, impartial officials and abstract

rules to guide them.

When it comes to the issues of economic development, some critics argue that the association of good governance with the economic development perpetuates ethnocentric ideas. According to such critics, good governance is not an absolute guarantor for economic growth and development. Specific development policies are required to reach this end, and the implementation of abstract concepts has to be grounded by considering regional, national and even local characteristics.

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.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.

EQUITY FOR WOMEN MEANS PROGRESS FOR ALL

Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Ex United Nations Volunteer (UNV) UNDP

MARCH 8 is International Women’s Day (IWD), adopted by the United Nations. On that day, one should promote awareness and highlight the importance of achieving equality for women and girls, which is a matter of fundamental human rights and fairness. So also progress in so many other areas depends on gender equity, it is said.

Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support.

The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all.

As we are marching forwards for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), following Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the above mentioned truth should be central to accelerate progress. No doubt, access to primary education for girls and political representation by women had some gains. To be honest, progress remains far too slow and uneven at different parts of the globe.

As such, a baby girl born today will still face inequality and discrimination, no matter where her mother lives. We have a com-

mon obligation to ensure her right to live free from the violence that affects one in three women globally; to earn equal pay for equal work; to be free of the discrimination that prevents her from participating in the economy; to have an equal say in the decisions that affect her life; and to decide if and when she will have children, and how many she will have.

It could be a message for every girl-born today, and to every woman and girl on the planet. Realizing human rights and equality is not a dream, it is a duty of governments, the United Nations and every human being.

Recently, esteemed GNLM, in its ‘February 2016 issue described a new item saying three Myanmar women and one foreigner from a neighbouring country were charged by police in a Myanmar border town for human trafficking attempt. Ma Nan Khum, Ma Nan Ban, Ma Aye Aye and a foreigner male were arrested. A subsequent investigation revealed that three women persuaded a teenage girl into marrying the foreigner from the adjacent country for the money she would need to support her family. The young girl, aged 16, was struggling to earn for her siblings because her mother was in prison. The traffickers told her she would get 30,000 foreign currency, equivalent to much more amount of Myanmar kyats, if she agreed to marry that foreigner of

un-known background and to proceed for uncertain destination.

Let us look around at the women we are with. Think of those we cherish in our families and our communities. And understand that there is a statistical likelihood that many of them have suffered violence in their lifetime. Even more have comforted a sister or friend, sharing their grief and anger following an attack.

One young woman was gang-raped to -death. Another committed suicide out of a sense of shame that should have attached to the perpetrators. Young teens were shot at close range for daring to seek an education. These are some of the global scenarios.

These atrocities, which rightly sparked global outrage, were part of a much larger problem that pervades virtually every society and every realm of life.

Question was raised by New Light of Myanmar daily two years ago in its editorial on 8 March 2014: it says across the world, gender inequality prevails in almost all societies with women facing unfair treatment for being the weaker sex. Is gender inequality an issue in Myanmar?

Editorial continued, the never-heard before cases of child rape and sexual abuses of children by their family members (incest) have come as an awful shock to Myanmar society. Since rape is a crime that often goes unreported because of a sense of shame, it is reasonable to assume that there may be many more cases of child rape happening unreported.

Compared to their counter-

parts from many Asian countries, Myanmar women enjoy a greater degree of equality with men. But, a brief look into the parliament and government ministries will make it clear that Myanmar women just represent a small proportion in leadership and decision-making positions, in the past.

Traditionally, women have taken the back seat in Myanmar society until 2000s when the rising living expenses forced many women from their homes to the workplace to become earners themselves. Before this, male sex superiority was deeply entrenched in our society and both men and women took it as a normal thing. The time-honored maxim for housewives “Treat son as the master, treat husband as the Lord” explains well the traditional role of women, editorial said.

It is, however, encouraging to see Myanmar women striving to break this age-old glass ceiling by holding a series of women’s forum and dialogue over the past years. As women and girls constitute the half of the total population, they should and must have a much bigger say in decision-making process of the country, editorial concludes.

It is prime time to make a special promise to women in conflict situations, where sexual violence too often becomes a tool of war aimed at humiliating the enemy by destroying their dignity.

On International Women’s Day, we should convert our outrage into action, declare that we will prosecute crimes against women - and never allow women

to be subjected to punishments for the abuses they have suffered. We renew our pledge to combat this global health menace wherever it may lurk - in homes and businesses, in war zones and placid countries, and in the minds of people who allow violence to continue which, no doubt, create Post Stress psychological Disorders and even insanity! The United Nations stands for the welfare of all victims of sexual violence in conflict at the forefront of its activities, making its responses to sexual violence a priority in all peace-making, peacemaking and peacebuilding activities, it is noted.

The United Nations system is advancing UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, which is based on the simple but powerful premise that all women and girls have a fundamental human right to live free of violence.

During March 2014 in New York, at the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission members hold the largest-ever UN assembly on ending violence against women — and kept pressing for progress long after it concludes, even upto present days.

Obviously, many governments, including Myanmar, groups and individuals contributed to this campaign. Societies and community members lend their funds to a cause or raised voice to an outcry. To end this injustice and to provide the weaker sex with the safety, security and freedom they deserve, Myanmar people, being planet citizens, would accelerate their co-operation in this global push.

Hpa-an to get modern swimming pool



Swimming pool is 85 per cent complete. PHOTO: NAY MYO LWIN

AUTHORITIES in Kayin State are building a high-standard swimming pool in Hpa-an, expecting to produce talented swimmers for the state.

This will be the first

high-standard swimming pool in Kayin State, and it will also be open to local residents for exercise and leisure.

The facility will include a meeting hall, a car park, a rest-

ing room for athletes, a locker room, a bathroom and toilets.

The swimming pool project is being carried out under the supervision of the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Kayin State government and by Twin & Soe Brother Construction Company. It is now 85 per cent complete. The pool will span 50 metres by 25 metres.

The pool is being built with funding from the Kayin State government's 2015-2016 budget with K300 million allotted by the state's Sports and Physical Education Department. Well-known swimmer Mah Pupi Minsoe and diver Ko Zwe Thet Oo represent the state in competitions. —Nay Myo Lwin

Grape growers gain profit

WITH high grape prices in the market, grape growers in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, gained higher profit than previous years.

The current price of Theechun grape ranges from K2,800 to K3,000 per viss (1.63 kilos), K2,000 to K2,200 per viss for Blackwin grapes and K1,500 to

K1,800 per viss of 'number three' grapes. The 'number three' variety is the most popular among the growers.

Grape growers take more care of summer crops than rainy season crops because summer crops gain higher prices. Rainy season crops sell out before they are ripe as their prices are consist-

ently lower.

Villages in Yamethin Township grow grapes, especially the 24 villages within the Ywatan Station Area, supply the most grapes. The grape farmers have gained profits although fertilisers are costly, said a farmer from Kalamyaw village, Ywartin Station Area.—Hlaing Than Tint

First Gastrointestinal and Liver Centre opens



The new GI & Liver Centre opening ceremony in progress. PHOTO: THI THI MIN

MYANMAR'S first Gastrointestinal and Liver Centre was opened on 6 March in North Dagon Township, Yangon, with the aim of providing comprehensive quality treatment for patients infected with viral hepatitis. The centre will alleviate the need for patients to receive medical treatment abroad.

The viral infection (Hepatitis B and C) is widespread in Myanmar, according to WHO records. Previously, anti-hepatitis drugs caused side effects

when not taken properly. The new drugs have no side effects at all.

"There is no preventive medicine for Hepatitis C as there is for Hepatitis B, but it can be effectively cured," said Professor Dr Khin Maung Win. Previously, it was treated by injecting medicine that costs over K10 million. Now, the treatment costs only K1.5 or K2 million.

The centre provides the most advanced treatment for a whole spectrum of liver diseases

and plans to offer liver transplants in the future. Surgeons and physicians from the Asian American Medical Group will provide consultations with patients and perform surgical operations jointly with local doctors.

There are a total of 3.3 million of people in Myanmar infected with Hepatitis B and 1.3 million with Hepatitis C, according to Ministry of Health records from 2015. —Thi Thi Min

Hair and make-up training course offered to woman prisoners in Monywa Prison



Make-up training session in jail. PHOTO: PHOE CHAN

THE Myanmar Correctional Department conducted a three-month hair and make-up styling course of for woman prisoners in Monywa Prison with the aim to provide the inmates with vocational skills.

The closing ceremony of

the training course was held at 10am on 7 March.

The programme aims to develop vocational careers for inmates after they have served time, said U Thein Lwin, an officer at Monywa Prison.

—Phoe Chan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The discovery of rare lizard fossils from Myanmar throwing light to the past is indeed a heart warming news (Clue to the past, GNLM, March 7)! With new technologies and high level research support in the US it would certainly help understanding the process of evolution and possibly solve the mysteries of the elusive past of which we know very little. Thanks to GNLM for the excellent sharp and eye catching images of fossilized ambers showing the lizard specimen distinctly. However, the only other comment that I would like to make is that the entire credit for the discovery, analysis and interpretations of the fossils though discovered in Myanmar, goes entirely to the investigating US scientific team. No Myanmar scientists or institutes seem to be associated with this landmark discovery. Let us accept the truth that a newly economically and democratically emergent Myanmar, needs to invest heavily both in primary as well as higher education. Myanmar institutes and universities need to set up close collaborations with other institutes overseas, learn from their shared experiences and slowly build their scientific capacities over time. A new, comprehensive higher education policy needs to be designed and implemented accordingly. I am sure that there is no dearth of talented researchers and academicians in Myanmar and brilliant, young enthusiastic minds that just need the initial technical and funding support to make their mark in the world.

Last but not the least, universities and institutes in Myanmar need to be net friendly and should have high quality information technology support for connecting and communicating with the world. One of the complaints from the West; that I have frequently heard about institutes, academics and professionals in Myanmar is that they do not readily communicate and/or respond to email queries. If this is true, that needs to be changed. The first step will be to set up collaborations with institutes with two of Myanmar's giant neighbours, India and China who have well established higher education system and could be of a big help in designing the initial platforms. The government should allocate special scholarships to deserving and capable students to pursue higher education abroad with a legal written contract that they have to return back to serve the country on completing their degree and training Myanmar as a nation has huge potentials and I sincerely believe that like other arenas, Myanmar could make important contribution to research and education in the coming decades from SE Asia.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

EU looks to Turkey to end migrant crisis, uneasy over rights



Syrian refugees wait on a roadside near a beach in the western Turkish coastal town of Dikili, Turkey, after Turkish Gendarmes prevented them from sailing off for the Greek island of Lesbos by dinghies, on 5 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — EU leaders sit down with Turkey's premier yesterday seeing a glimmer of hope for an end to the refugee crisis that has divided Europe but troubled by having to seek favours from a government that scorns their ideas of human rights.

With tens of thousands of migrants hoping to reach Germany stranded in Greece by closing borders, the summit will formalise the closure of the Balkan route out of Greece, diplomats said, while pledging help to Athens and seeking assurances that Turkey will, with NATO naval back-up, bar the sea to people smugglers.

The leaders in Brussels are likely to tell Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu of concerns about rights after the Turkish government seized control of a critical newspaper. But EU officials said they will also be anx-

ious not to alienate Ankara just as hopes are rising of a solution to the crisis.

Fellow EU leaders, long bitterly divided over how to end chaotic movements that have put Europe's Schengen free-movement system in jeopardy, will also assure Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of help housing those now stranded in Greece who hope to follow the million that found refuge in Germany last year.

An EU endorsement of recent border closures by Macedonia, Austria and other countries on the route north from Greece will be accompanied by a renewed commitment to revive plans to relocate asylum claimants around the EU, diplomats said.

A draft EU agreement will declare that the "West Balkan route is closed", although diplomats added that the statement was likely to go through considera-

ble redrafting.

NATO said on Sunday a new naval force secured approval for operating in Turkish and Greek waters. That will lend force to a deal with Turkey to take back migrants halted in its waters and those who reach Greek islands but fail to qualify for asylum.

Meeting Davutoglu two days after his government seized control of *Zaman*, Turkey's top-selling newspaper, EU leaders are torn between anger at Ankara's action and fear of derailing Turkish willingness to stop migrants sailing for Greece.

European Council President Donald Tusk, the former Polish premier who will chair Monday's talks, had barely left a meeting with President Tayyip Erdogan on Friday and declared cautious optimism on the migrant crisis when police seized the newspaper.—Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message on International Women's Day "From the Glass Ceiling to a Carpet of Shards"

8 March 2016

AS a boy growing up in post-war Korea, I remember asking about a tradition I observed: women going into labour would leave their shoes at the threshold and then look back in fear. "They are wondering if they will ever step into those shoes again," my mother explained.

More than a half-century later, the memory continues to haunt me. In poor parts of the world today, women still risk death in the process of giving life. Maternal mortality is one of many preventable perils. All too often, female babies are subjected to genital mutilation. Girls are attacked on their way to school. Women's bodies are used as battlefields in wars. Widows are shunned and impoverished.

We can only address these problems by empowering women as agents of change.

For more than nine years, I have put this philosophy into practice at the United Nations. We have shattered so many glass ceilings we created a carpet of shards. Now we are sweeping away the assumptions and bias of the past so women can advance across new frontiers.

I appointed the first-ever female Force Commander of United Nations troops, and pushed women's representation at the upper levels of our Organization to historic highs. Women are now leaders at the heart of peace and security — a realm that was once the exclusive province of men. When I arrived at the United Nations, there were no women leading our peace missions in the field. Now, nearly a quarter of all UN missions are headed by women — far from enough but still a vast improvement.

I have signed nearly 150 letters of appointment to women in positions as Assistant Secretary-General or Under-Secretary-General. Some came from top government offices with international renown, others have moved on to leadership positions in their home countries. All helped me prove how often a woman is the best person for a job.

To ensure that this very real progress is lasting, we have built a new framework that holds the entire UN system accountable. Where once gender equality was seen as a laudable idea, now it is a firm policy. Before, gender sensitivity training was optional; now it is mandatory for ever-greater numbers of UN staff. In the past, only a handful of UN budgets tracked resources for gender equality and women's empowerment; now this is standard for nearly one in three, and counting.

Confucius taught that to put the world in order, we must begin in our own circles. Armed with proof of the value of women leaders at the United Nations, I have spoken out for women's empowerment everywhere. In speeches at parliaments, universities and street rallies, in private talks with world leaders, in meetings with corporate executives and in tough conversations with powerful men ruling rigidly patriarchal societies, I have insisted on women's equality and urged measures to achieve it.

When I took office, there were nine parliaments in the world with no women. We helped to drive that number down to four. I launched the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign in 2008; today, scores of leaders and ministers, hundreds of parliamentarians and millions of individuals have added their names to the action call.

I was the first man to sign our HeForShe campaign, and more than a million others have joined since. I stood with activists calling for the abandonment of female genital mutilation and celebrated when the General Assembly adopted its first-ever resolution supporting that goal. I am echoing the calls of many who know women can drive success in achieving our bold 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing the Paris Agreement on climate change.

On this International Women's Day, I remain outraged by the denial of rights to women and girls — but I take heart from the people everywhere who act on the secure knowledge that women's empowerment leads to society's advancement. Let us devote solid funding, courageous advocacy and unbending political will to achieving gender equality around the world. There is no greater investment in our common future. — UNIC/Yangon

Former US first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94

WASHINGTON — NANCY Reagan, the former actress who was fiercely protective of husband Ronald Reagan through a Hollywood career, eight years in the White House, an assassination attempt and her husband's Alzheimer's disease, died on Sunday at age 94. The cause of death was congestive heart failure, said a spokeswoman for the Reagan presidential library. She died at her Los Angeles home. "She is once again with the man

she loved," her stepson Michael Reagan wrote on Twitter. Reagan became one of the most influential first ladies in US history during her Republican husband's presidency from 1981 to 1989. Her husband, who affectionately called her "Mommy" while she called him "Ronnie," died in 2004 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's, the progressive brain disorder that destroys memory.

As news of Nancy Reagan's death spread, tributes poured in from

Washington to Hollywood.

President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and first lady Michelle Obama said Nancy Reagan redefined the role of first lady.

"Nancy Reagan once wrote that nothing could prepare you for living in the White House," the Obamas wrote in a joint statement on Sunday. "She was right, of course. But we had a head start, because we were fortunate to benefit from her proud example, and her warm and generous advice."—Reuters

At least 4 injured in airport blast in central Somalia

MOGADISHU — At least four people were injured in a car explosion at the entrance of an airport in central Somalia's city of Beledweyne, no one was killed, police and witnesses said yesterday.

Police commander of Beledweyne, Ali Dhuh said three explosions occurred at the entrance of Ugas Khalif Airport in Beledweyne.

"There were three explosions, one of them brought a few casualties. The blast happened at the

front gate of the airport, not inside the airport," Dhuh told Xinhua.

He said security operation has been launched to ensure that all passengers who are safe. Ilyas Sheikh, one the witnesses at the scene told Xinhua a car carrying a printer with a bomb hidden inside blew up at the entrance when security personnel inspected it.

"I have counted four people who were injured after the explosion. The car was carrying a printer in which we have learnt had a

bomb implanted," Sheikh said. There was no clear information about the identities of those who were injured.

The explosion follows another airport incident carried out by Somali-based militant group Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu last month when an explosion happened inside a Daallo airline flight bound for Djibouti.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the Beledweyne explosion. —Xinhua

Islamic State truck bomb kills at least 60 people south of Baghdad



Residents gather at the site of a car bomb attack at a checkpoint in the city of Hilla, south of Baghdad, on 6 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HILLA, (Iraq) — A truck bomb at an Iraqi checkpoint south of Baghdad killed at least 60 people and wounded more than 70 on Sunday, medical and security officials said, and Islamic State claimed responsibility for the blast.

The suicide attack, involving an explosive-laden fuel tanker, is the second deadliest this year after one

on 28 February that killed 78 people in Sadr City, a Shi'ite district of Baghdad. This was also claimed by the ultra-hardline Sunni group that controls vast swathes of territory in Iraq and in Syria.

The escalation in Islamic State bombings suggests that Iraqi government forces are being stretched thin after their recent gains

against the group in the western and northern provinces.

Responsibility for the bombing in Hilla, 117 kilometres (73 miles) south of Baghdad, was claimed in a posting on the website of the Amaq news agency, which supports Islamic State.

"A martyr's operation with a truck bomb hit the Babylon Ruins checkpoint

at the entrance of the city of Hilla, killing and wounding dozens," the statement on the Amaq website said.

Hilla is the capital of Babylon province, a predominantly Shi'ite region with some Sunnis.

"It's the largest bombing in the Province to date," Falah al-Radhi, the head of the provincial security committee, told Reuters. "The checkpoint, the nearby police station were destroyed as well as some houses and dozens of cars."

A provincial hospital official confirmed the number of casualties, adding that 23 of them were members of the police and other security forces that were manning the check point located at the northern entrance of the city. Brett McGurk, the US envoy to a coalition fighting Islamic State, on Saturday told a news conference in Baghdad that Islamic State was losing the battle against forces arraigned against it from many sides in Iraq and Syria. He said the focus would turn to stabilizing cities seized back from them.—Reuters

Syria opposition signals will go to Geneva talks

BEIRUT — The main Syrian opposition council will go to talks that the United Nations aims to convene in Geneva "God willing" and wants an immediate start to negotiations on a transitional governing body, a spokesman for the council told Reuters yesterday. "Our inclination is to go," Riad Nassan Agha, a member of the High Negotiations Committee, said, adding that violations of a cessation of hostilities agreement on the part of the government and its allies

had reduced in the last two days. He said people would start arriving in Geneva on Friday, cautioning that the HNC hoped nothing would happen that would prevent it from going to the talks.

"We started to notice that the volume of violations has started to reduce in the last two days. We hope that in the coming days until Friday that the violations reach zero," he said. "If these violations end this will create the favourable environment for the start of negotiations."—Reuters



Residents inspect damaged ground after a shell fell in the rebel held town of Jarjanaz, southern Idlib countryside, Syria on 5 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (129N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (129N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2016 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 E.R TURKU VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2016 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2016 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 E.R SYDNEY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R SYDNEY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 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 MCC MERGUI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 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 MAENAM 1 VOY NO (542N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (542N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Trump or Cruz? US Republicans face tough choices as primary race churns forward

WASHINGTON — Republicans desperate to stop Donald Trump from capturing the party's presidential nomination are wrestling with whether to unite behind Ted Cruz, a polarising figure popular with the conservative Tea Party movement.

Cruz, 45, a US senator from Texas, won nominating contests in Kansas and Maine on Saturday, bolstering his argument that he is the leading alternative to Trump, 69, the blunt-spoken billionaire businessman.

Mainstream Republicans are unhappy with Trump's calls to build a wall on the border with Mexico, deport 11 million illegal immigrants and temporarily bar all Muslims from entering the United States.

Many establishment Republicans are reluctant, however, to rally behind Cruz, whom they see as too conservative for the general electorate in the 8 November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama.

Cruz has run as an outsider bent on shaking up the

Republican establishment in Washington. A favourite of evangelicals, he has called for the United States to "carpet bomb" the Islamic State militant group and has pledged to eliminate the tax-collecting Internal Revenue Service and four Cabinet agencies.

But he angered many Republican colleagues when he led the call in 2013 for a standoff in the US Congress that led to a 16-day shutdown of the federal government.

Republican pollster Neil Newhouse said Cruz had not yet shown an ability to appeal beyond the most conservative voters.

"The way things are going, I think it's extraordinarily unlikely that Senator Cruz becomes the focal point for Republicans who want to stop Trump," said Newhouse, who was lead pollster for 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

Kim Reem, a member of the executive committee of the National Federation of Republican Women, said both Trump and Cruz were



Republican US presidential candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz shake hands at the end of the debate sponsored by CNN for the 2016 Republican US presidential candidates in Houston, Texas, on 25 February. PHOTO; REUTERS

polarising figures within their party. She said three factions were emerging among Republicans: those supporting Trump, those backing Cruz, and supporters of the party establishment.

"The Cruz folks don't want to yield to supporting Trump and the Trump folks don't want to yield to supporting Cruz, and some establishment folks don't want to support either one of them," said Reem. "I don't see a path to making everybody happy."

Some Republicans argue Cruz is not polling strongly enough in states such as Florida and Ohio. Both will soon hold nominating contests, leading some in the party to question whether backing Cruz would be the best way to stop Trump.

To win the nomination, 1,237 delegates are needed. Cruz has won 300 and Trump 374. US Senator Marco Rubio, 44, of Florida, an establishment favorite still seen by some in the party as an option to

Trump, stood to build on his 123 delegates after winning the 23-delegate Puerto Rico primary on Sunday. Ohio Governor John Kasich trails with 35 delegates.

Some establishment Republicans say the best way to stop Trump would be for Rubio to win the 99-delegate Florida contest and Kasich the 66-delegate Ohio primary. Both states award all their delegates to the top vote-getter.

If Cruz, Rubio and Kasich can collectively prevent Trump from getting the needed majority of delegates, they could force a brokered Republican Party convention in July in Cleveland.

Even if Cruz gets the second-highest vote total, he may have trouble claiming the nomination at the convention over Trump.

Former US Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi said he would have a hard time supporting a Cruz nomination. "He'd have to change his tactics and his conduct an awful lot," he said. Cruz has feuded with party leadership, including Republican Senate Major-

ity Leader Mitch McConnell, and has often accused fellow Republicans of selling out conservative principles.

Although he has been in the Senate for four years, Cruz has not won a single endorsement from any other senator. He touts that on the campaign trail as evidence he is an outsider.

Cruz notably read Dr Seuss' children's book "Green Eggs and Ham" on the Senate floor as he pushed to repeal Obama's signature healthcare reform law. That politically damaging effort shut down the government for more than two weeks in 2013.

If nothing else, the internal debate reveals a party still deeply divided about how to move forward with Trump and Cruz leading the primary fight. Slater Bayliss, a Florida Republican who raised money for former Florida Governor Jeb Bush before he dropped out of the race, said: "From my perspective, Senator Cruz's views are indicative of only a very small cohort in our party."—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 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 HERBILAN SUCCESS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HERBILAN SUCCESS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DL MARIGOLD VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DL MARIGOLD VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (178)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (178) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-1 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULTHARA VOY NO (02/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (02/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 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 KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH 688 VOY NO (01/2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 688 VOY NO (01/2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

China CO2 emissions may have peaked in 2014

BEIJING — China's carbon emissions, by far the world's highest, may have peaked in 2014, according to a study published yesterday, potentially putting Beijing under pressure to toughen its climate pledges.

China has promised to bring greenhouse gas emissions to a peak by "around 2030" as part of its commitments to a global pact to combat global warming, signed in Paris last year. Evidence that the country has peaked much earlier could lead to concerns that its existing targets are too easy.

The study, by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and the ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy at the London School of Economics, said that the 2030 peak was a very conservative estimate.

"It is quite possible that emissions will fall modestly from now on, implying that 2014 was the peak," said the report, noting that recent data already showed that China's emissions fell in 2015.

"If emissions do grow above 2014 levels ... that growth trajectory is likely to be relatively flat, and a peak would still be highly likely by 2025," the authors said.

Xie Zhenhua, China's senior climate change envoy, said at a press conference on Monday that the country's emissions had not peaked in 2014 and were still growing.

While total energy consumption rose 0.9 per cent to 4.3 billion tonnes of standard coal in 2015, coal consumption fell 2.2 per cent on a year earlier, according to Reuters calculations based on official data.

Chinese carbon ex-

perts said any fall in emissions in 2015 would be mainly due to a slowdown in China's economy, and it was unlikely that emissions had peaked so early.

"I would like to believe that the peak will be around 2030, and if stricter policies for carbon reduction and some reforms in the way local leaders are evaluated on GDP growth, the peak will come in 2025," said Xi Fengming, a carbon researcher with the China Academy of Sciences.

"But I do not think China has reached peak emissions in 2014," he said.

The government said on Saturday that it would cap total energy consumption at 5 billion tonnes of standard coal by 2020, amounting to an increase of 16.3 per cent from 2015.

It also said that it would cut carbon intensity



Buildings are seen on a polluted day in Tianjin, China, on 2 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

— or the amount of CO2 emissions per unit of economic growth — by 18 per cent over the 2016-2020 period.

The 2030 peak pledge was made in a joint declaration with the United States in late 2014. China also agreed it would make its best efforts to peak earlier.

One of the main bones of contention during the

Paris climate talks was a regular five-year "stocktaking" process that would compel countries to adjust their targets in light of new economic or technological circumstances, with China arguing that any such adjustments must be voluntary.

US climate change envoy, Todd Stern, said in Beijing last week that China could come under pres-

sure to draw up tougher targets if it became clear that the existing goals were too easy.

"It will be up to the Chinese government whether they increase their target but there will obviously be a lot of international opinion looking forward to additional measures — whether it is China or anyone else," he told reporters.—Reuters

Viet Nam says bacteria-laden mosquitoes can control Zika spread

HANOI — A new breed of mosquitoes injected with bacteria in central Viet Nam has been proven to be able to stop the spread of dengue fever and the Zika virus, according to Viet Namese health officials yesterday.

Scientists have officially confirmed the ability of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes carrying *Wolbachia* bacteria to block the Zika virus and prevent it from being transmitted to humans, local Thanh Nien (Young People) online newspaper Monday quoted Le Tan Phung, deputy director of Khanh Hoa Health Department as saying.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes carrying *Wolbachia* bacteria have been released since April 2013 on Tri Nguyen Island in Vietnam's Khanh Hoa Province.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are the main vector of both dengue fever and the Zika virus, but they naturally do not carry *Wolbachia* bacteria.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC HONOR VOY NO (1601)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC HONOR VOY NO (1601) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (053 7JR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (053 7JR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2016 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Adv Hot line: 09 250107962, 09 251022355

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations & special thanks to the Director of QNET and Guests of Honour, Kyi Min Brothers Company Limited and QNET's Independent Representatives for kind presence and support on the successful launching of QNET's 2nd Local Customer Service Centre (Agency Office) at Room (11) of Diamond Plaza in Mandalay, on the 25th of February 2016.

PR & Event Services

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (3 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-085(15-16)	Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (8) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-086(15-16)	Spares for 50 Ton QY 50K Mobile Crane (53) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-087(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Hot Bend (1) Lot	US\$
(4)	IFB-088(15-16)	Projector, Computer, Printer, Amplifier, Sound Box and Cordless Mic (5) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-089(15-16)	Auto Voltage Regulator and Constant Speed Mixer with Microprocessor (2) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-090(15-16)	1 1/2" Pitch Quadruple Chain (ANSI Standard) with Connecting Link Cotter Pin Type (2) Items	US\$
(7)	DMP/L-016(15-16)	Core Drilling Machine/Atomic Absorption Spectrometers & Binocular Microscope (3) Items	KS
(8)	DMP/L-017(15-16)	Dell Server and Accessories (1) Set	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 4-4-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 7th March, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Kesha receives visibility award for support of LGBT community



Kesha has been honoured with the Visibility Award by the The Human Rights Campaign in Nashville. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Singer Kesha has been honoured with the Visibility Award by the The Human Rights Campaign in Nashville.

The 29-year-old singer was recognised for her support of the LGBT community and for speaking out against bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, reported E! online.

Accepting the award, Kesha referenced her recent struggles which have seen her embroiled in a contract dispute with Sony.

Last month a judge denied her request to be freed from her contract with Sony and producer Dr Luke, whom she has accused of physically, mentally and sexually abusing her. Dr Luke has always denied the allegations. “As many of you know I am going through some personal things

that have been really intense and hard lately and I just want to say thank you for the support I have received,” she told the audience.

During her speech the singer appeared visibly choked up and had to take a moment to compose herself. The singer went on to say that growing up, she was a “misfit” and was drawn to others in the LGBT community.

Even after finding success Kesha said she still feels like an outsider and had trouble dealing with criticism she received for just being herself. “My message today is don’t be afraid to speak up against any injustice you experience. Don’t let people scare or shame you into changing the things about you that make you unique. We can’t be afraid to fight for our dignity. These are our basic human rights.” —PTI

Salman Khan is a big musical superstar: Wajid

MUMBAI — He has composed several chartbusters for Salman Khan and popular singer-music composer Wajid Ali, of Sajid-Wajid fame, says the superstar has a very good taste for music.

The duo first composed a song for the 1998 Salman starrer “Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya” and went on to give music in films like “Wanted”, “Dabangg” and “Jai Ho”. Wajid says Salman is a “musical superstar” with a fantastic taste of songs.

“He is a very big musical superstar. I started working with him in ‘Pyaar Kiya toh Darna Kya’ whose production started in 1997-98.

We have been working for almost 18 years so we know what kind of taste Salman has. And he has a fantastic taste,” Wajid said

in an interview.

The “Mashallah” singer said Salman selected various songs ranging from classical-based ‘Lagan lagi’ from “Tere Naam” to the funky rap song “You’re My Love” from “Partner” with ease which shows his versatility.

“The kind of songs we gave him, he selected all of them from ‘Lagan lagi’ of Tere Naam, (songs for) ‘Partner’, ‘Mujhse Shaadi Karogi’, even ‘Tere Mast Mast Do Nain’. One man selecting all these songs can’t be a fluke. Whatever he has worked with others has also been super hit,” he said.

“So I’ve been lucky that my songs have been appreciated by people. The collaboration is the result of love and respect we share with each other. He is like an elder brother so automatically

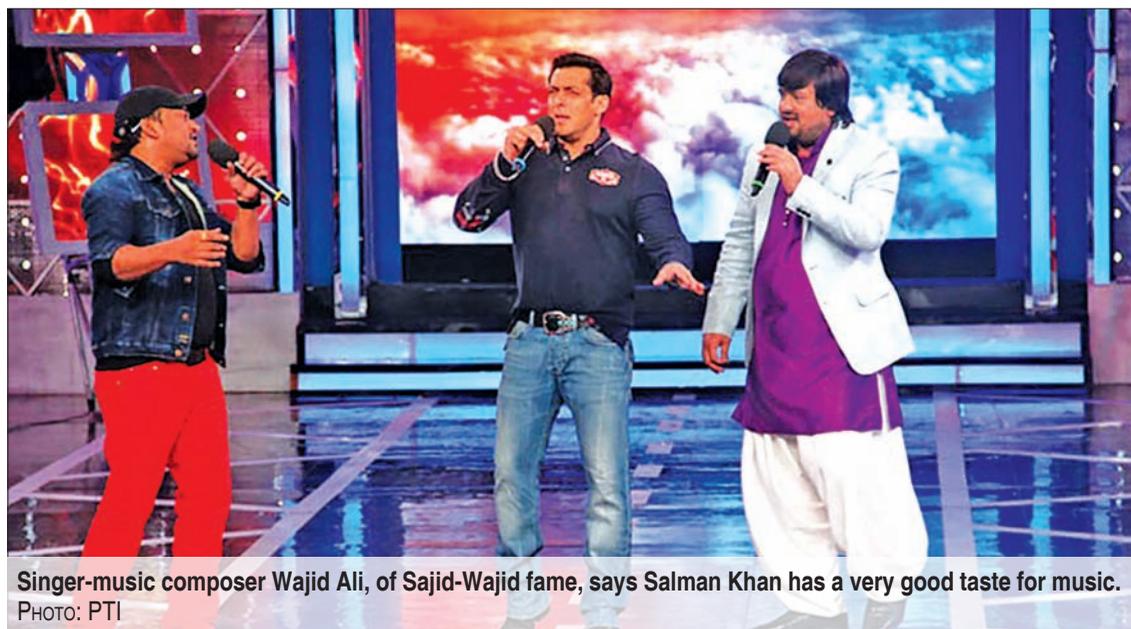
you have to give it your best,” Wajid added.

The singer, who has given chartbusters like “Fevicol Se”, “Chinta Ta Ta Chita Chita” and “Soni De Nakhre” feels there is tremendous pressure on music composers to deliver hit songs consistently.

“The pressure is always there. If a person doesn’t give a hit song he will sit at home and make music for himself. Who is interested if you’re not hit? That’s a very sad situation.

If you are not a hit composer or singer then nobody wants to take your interview or talk to you.”

Wajid will be seen mentoring aspiring singers on the show “Sa Re Ga Ma Pa” along with Sajid, music composer Pritam and singer Mika Singh.—PTI



Singer-music composer Wajid Ali, of Sajid-Wajid fame, says Salman Khan has a very good taste for music. PHOTO: PTI

Box Office: Disney’s ‘Zootopia’ opens big with \$73.7 million debut

LOS ANGELES — Disney’s “Zootopia” scored the fourth biggest March opening ever, debuting to \$73.7 million over the weekend.

The animated story about a rabbit who joins the police force ranks as the biggest Disney Animation launch (though not the best Pixar debut), outstripping “Frozen,” the 2012 blockbuster that bowed to \$67.4 million. With no major family film opening until “The Jungle Book” lands on April 15, “Zootopia” is well positioned to be the de facto choice for moviegoers with children for the next month.

“There’s an absence of competition,” said Dave Hollis, Disney’s distribution chief. “We are set up to have a big, big run.”

Disney did not release a budget, but most animated films cost in excess of \$100 million. “Zootopia” screened in 3,827 locations.

Overseas, where “Zootopia” has been playing for three weeks,

the film added another \$63.4 million to its haul, pushing its global total to \$232.5 million. The film continues a sterling comeback run for Disney Animation, which had reached a creative and commercial nadir in the early aughts with the likes of “Home on the Range” and “Treasure Planet.” Since Pixar’s Ed Catmull and John Lasseter took the reins following Disney’s 2006 acquisition of their company, the animation arm has roared back to life, fielding hits such as “Frozen,” “Tangled,” and “Wreck It Ralph,” and winning Oscars.

“They brought a focus on quality,” said Hollis. “They recognize that quality is the best business plan.”

Beyond the bunnies, Gerard Butler managed to wash out some of the sour taste in his mouth after “Gods of Egypt” flopped spectacularly. “London Has Fallen,” the Scottish actor’s followup to “Olympus Has Fallen,” opened solidly to \$21.5

million from 3,490 locations for a second place finish. That does, however, trail the first film’s \$30 million debut.

Focus Features fielded the picture, which carried a \$60 million price tag. It played older, with more than 76% of the audience clocking in over the age of 25, while men made up 60% of ticket buyers.

“We’re really pleased with the opening and we think we’re going to leg out well from here,” said Jim Orr, Focus’ distribution chief. “That older demographic doesn’t necessarily rush out on opening weekend.”

Tina Fey was not as lucky as Butler. The actress’ “Whiskey Tango Foxtrot” stumbled with a \$7.6 million launch from 2,374 venues. Paramount backed the \$35 million dramedy about a war reporter who gets hooked on the adrenaline rush of covering Afghanistan. War films and political comedies can be tough sells — witness the financial failures

of “Charlie Wilson’s War,” “Our Brand is Crisis,” and “Jarhead” — and “Whiskey Tango Foxtrot” appears to be no exception. The studio isn’t ready to wave a white flag yet. Paramount Vice Chairman Rob Moore said that he hoped the audience would build in the coming weeks, as it did for Fey’s recent hit “Sisters.”

“We were hoping for more,” he said. “But Tina’s last movie played to a good multiple and we had a good Saturday, so we have a chance of playing for a little while to a reasonable outcome.”

After four weeks in theaters, “Deadpool” barreled past the \$300 million mark. The comic book movie finished in third place with \$16.4 million, pushing its domestic haul to \$311.1 million.

“Gods of Egypt” rounded out the top five, picking up \$5 million. The \$140 million action epic has earned a meagre \$22.8 million domestically after two weeks — a terrible result for a

picture that was intended to usher in a new franchise.

Fresh off its best picture win at last weekend’s Academy Awards, newspaper drama “Spotlight” capitalised on the Oscar love by pulling in \$1.8 million. The film has netted \$41.6 million during its theatrical run.

In limited release, Broad Green debuted “Knight of Cubs,” Terrence Malick’s lyrical portrait of the spiritual journey of a writer (Christian Bale), in four theaters where it earned \$56,688 for a \$14,172 per-screen average.

March was once seen as a dumping ground for movies, but the success of spring releases like “The Hunger Games,” “Alice in Wonderland,” “Cinderella,” and now “Zootopia” has shattered that prejudice, analysts say.

“This proves March is now a blockbuster month,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at ComScore. “You can open a blockbuster any time of the year.”—Reuters

Wind chimes made of iron chopsticks charm musicians

KOBE — The hibashi furin wind chime, made of four iron chopsticks, has long charmed professional musicians with its clear, beautiful sound.

A family-run business called Myochin Hongo, located in Himeji in western Japan's Hyogo Prefecture, sells hand-crafted hibashi furin.

The some 800-year-old Myochin family, which has continued since the late Heian Period (794-1185), used to be an armorer but has adapted with the times.

It is said that even the imperial family admired the quality of arms made by the family, and gave it its current name, which combines characters meaning "bright" (myo) and "rare" (chin).

When the era of samurai warriors ended with the Meiji Restoration in 1868, the Myochin family began making metal chopsticks for handling charcoal in a "hibachi" brazier.

But the family's business did not go well. During World War II, the family

had to contribute iron to the military. After the war, the business ran into financial trouble because the demand for metal chopsticks decreased as oil stoves started to replace braziers.

Munemichi Myochin, 73, who is the 52nd head of the family, said the family at one point even considered closing the business.

The previous head had to sell off the family house and the family fell into an "abyss," Myochin recalled.

However, the family did not give up and tried to create something that matches the times — and hibashi furin was the answer.

Japanese composer Isao Tomita has used the wind chime in performances and as part of sound effects for a movie. American singer and musician Stevie Wonder is said to have asserted that its sound conveys the mystery of the Orient.

A few years ago, Myochin began making chopsticks made of titanium,



Shows hibashi furin wind chimes, made of four iron chopsticks, in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

which is light and resistant to corrosion.

Titanium cools faster than iron and is difficult to forge, but wind chimes made of the material provide a longer resonant sound.

"Titanium is wayward," said Myochin. As he continued to strike titanium with a hammer in his studio, his wife, Kumiko, smiled

and said, "It is just like you." Nowadays, the company also produces chopsticks, flower vases and Buddhist objects made of tamahagane, or steel made from iron sand that is used in sword blades. Myochin's sons are taking over the traditional skills.

"It is my mission to pass on the tradition," said Myochin.—Kyodo News

Regional destinations seek share of spoils from tourism boom

TOKYO — While Japan has seen a record surge in the number of foreign tourists in recent years, the so-called golden route encompassing Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka has attracted the lion's share of the influx.

In a bid to share some of the spoils, regional tourism industry operators are setting up bodies to promote travel to less well-known areas using the blueprint of destination management and marketing organisations, or DMOs, founded in the United States and Europe.

Strategies adopted by DMOs include the introduction of lodging taxes to finance the development and marketing of destinations.

While nearly 20 million tourists visit Japan from abroad per year, relatively few stray far from the golden route. The government has therefore prioritized helping DMOs lure more tourists to their respective areas.

Before an audience of some 180 people who gathered at a hotel in the city of Hiroshima in February, Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki spoke of the importance of strong leadership by the DMO under the Inland Sea, Setouchi Tourism Authority, which is due to start operations in April.

The DMO is aimed at supporting the Setouchi Brand Promotion Association jointly founded in 2013 by seven prefectures facing the Seto Inland Sea — Hyogo, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa and Ehime — to promote local attractiveness.

The tourism authority targets a threefold increase in the number of foreign tourists staying at hotels, inns and other accommodation in the Setouchi area by 2020 by promoting outdoor activities including boat cruising, as well as local cuisine, and arts and crafts.—Kyodo News

'Cut the bullshit,' Israeli culture minister tells liberals

TEL AVIV — Israel's culture minister had a blunt message on Sunday for liberals worried about what they consider efforts by the government to stifle dissent in the arts: "Cut the bullshit."

Free-speech debate in Israel has grown fierce under conservative Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Non-governmental organisations and artists that document or dramatise conditions for Palestinians complain about legislation scrutinising their funding.

Culture Minister Miri Regev, a former army spokeswoman and censor who is among the rising stars of Netanyahu's Likud party, has been a focus of criticism. Appearing at an arts and culture conference hosted by the liberal newspaper *Haaretz*, she was greeted by protesters who booed or stood with mouths gagged.

"I was always told to start a speech with a quote. It makes for a cultured impression. So here goes," she

said, taking the podium.

"As the famed Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu once put it," she continued, switching to English: "Cut the bullshit! Cut the bullshit!"

Voice raised, Regev said that the event's title, "Culture Demands Independence", "insults the thinking person's newspaper. As if anyone's threatening your artistic freedom of expression!"

The Netanyahu government says it aims to ensure

that public funds promote arts that benefit the majority of citizens and shore up national unity, in the face of censure from left-wing Israelis and world powers at the growth of Jewish settlements on occupied West Bank land where the Palestinians seek a state.

With hecklers drowning out parts of her speech, Regev retorted from the stage: "Someone should be preserving my freedom of expression here."—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(8-3-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm	• Music Programme	8:40 pm	• Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part-VI)"
6:20 pm	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:00 pm	• Travelogue "Wonderful Indonesia"
6:40 pm	• Music Programme	9:40 pm	• Myanmar Classical Songs
7:00 pm	• Korea TV Drama Series	10:00 pm	• Myanmar Video
7:50 pm	• Korea TV Drama Series		

From 8.3.2016 (Tuesday) 06:00 Pm
To 9.3.2016 (Wednesday) 06:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(8-3-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 am	• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	2:00 pm	• Sing & Enjoy
7:35 am	• Socio Economic Scenes	3:35 pm	• Socio Economic Scenes
8:35 am	• Documentary	4:35 pm	• Football Magazine
9:35 am	• MRTV's Youth Programme	5:35 pm	• Money Talk Myanmar
10:35 am	• Science and Technology Programme	6:35 pm	• People's Talks
11:35 am	• Documentary (Weather Report)	6:45 pm	• Documentary
12:35 pm	• TV Drama series	8:00 pm	• News / International News/ Weather Report
1:30 pm	• TV Drama series	9:00 pm	• News
			• Yes or No Talks Show (Model Physique or Model) (Part-2)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv Myanmar International

(8-3-2016 07:00am ~ 9-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am	News
07:26 Am	Insight Myanmar "Manuscription (Preservation of Ancient Manuscript)"
07:46 Am	Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma
08:03 Am	News
08:26 Am	Ambassador's View: Indonesia-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
08:44 Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
09:03 Am	News
09:26 Am	Bagan Choral Dance
09:32 Am	Choral Dance (Duel)
09:39 Am	Mobile House
09:50 Am	Cultural Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay

10:03 Am	News
10:26 Am	Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals
10:39 Am	A Way of Life : Aikido
10:50 Am	Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature- Gaw Yan Gyi Island

(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
07:27 Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51 Pm	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
08:03 Pm	News
08:26 Pm	Sons of the lake
08:48 Pm	Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar

(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)

Man United lose to West Brom, Liverpool hit back to beat Palace



Salomon Rondon scores the first goal for West Brom against Manchester United during Premier League at the Hawthorns, on 6 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Ten-man Manchester United suffered a blow to their Premier League top-four hopes with a 1-0 defeat at West Bromwich Albion as 10-man Liverpool kept up the pressure with a last-gasp 2-1 win at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

United lost Spain international Juan Mata to two yellow cards inside two minutes midway through the first half and went behind to a sharp goal from Venezuelan striker Salomon Rondon on 67 minutes.

Louis van Gaal's side were unable to fight back and slumped to their first league defeat at The Hawthorns since 1984 to end their recent run of four straight wins in all competitions.

"When you have to play 75 minutes with 10 players, I don't think we were so uncomfortable," United manager Van Gaal told BBC Sport.

"The loss is a big blow because it was not necessary. When you see the first half it was not necessary, I think."

United remain sixth, three points adrift of Manchester City in fourth place, with Liverpool breathing down their neck in seventh after fighting back from 1-0 down with 10 men to consign Palace to a 12th league game without a win.

The home side went ahead through Joe Ledley's low drive just after the break and Liverpool found themselves further on the back foot when they lost James Milner to a second yellow card on 62 minutes.

Yet Juergen Klopp's men kept pressing and their perseverance paid off when Palace goalkeeper Alex McCarthy lost his footing and scuffed a clearance straight to Roberto Firmino, who fired it past him for the equaliser on 72 minutes.

Deep into stoppage time late substitute Christian Benteke surged into the left side of the Palace penalty area and went down after a slight contact with defender Damien Delaney, who was sliding on his knees.

Referee Andre Marriner awarded the spot kick after consulting his linesman and Belgium's Benteke opted for a stuttering run-up before burying the penalty with virtually the last kick of the match.

"I feel sorry for Palace but I have just seen the replay in the dressing room and it was a clear penalty," Klopp told BBC Sport. "If there was no contact, Benteke would have been in a great position to shoot. He made the move and forced the situation.

"This is the third league win in a row. I can't believe how it feels — really good, a big moment for us."

Former Aston Villa striker Benteke was adamant he had been floored, saying: "I believe he touched me, otherwise I don't go down." —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

More Murray heroics as Britain beat Japan

BIRMINGHAM — Britain's Andy Murray won a gripping five-set match against Japan's Kei Nishikori to secure a 3-1 Davis Cup win for the champions and a quarter-final with Novak Djokovic's Serbia.

Murray, whose heroics helped clinch the title against Belgium last year, was pegged back after taking the first two sets, but eventually prevailed against the world number six 7-5, 7-6(6), 3-6, 4-6, 6-3 in four hours and 54 minutes.

It was Murray's first event back on court since the birth of his daughter, but any doubts over his fitness were dispelled as he once again carried Britain's hopes almost single-handedly, winning three matches, including the doubles, in three days.

"I am lost for words at this stage; he (Murray) is a man of steel, isn't he?" Britain's captain Leon Smith said.

"What Andy managed to do was astonishing since he hasn't played since the Australian Open final."

After his exertions, Murray said he was keen to get back to his family. "It's (wife) Kim's first Mother's Day, so it will be nice to get to see her this evening. I'll try to get back for bath time and to put her to sleep — the baby, not Kim."

Murray has been dogged by the shadow of Fred Perry for much of his career, but victory over Nishikori allowed him to put another Perry milestone behind him.

Having become the first British man since Perry to win a grand slam and then Wimbledon, Murray surpassed the former great by improving his unbeaten streak in Davis Cup singles and doubles rubbers to 14. —Reuters

Messi bags brace as Barca strike trio hit century

MADRID — Lionel Messi's double helped Barcelona secure a 4-0 victory at Eibar in La Liga on Sunday that kept them eight points clear at the top and brought up 100 goals for their lethal strikeforce.

Munir El Haddadi, standing in for the suspended Neymar, tapped in the first goal for the Catalans early on before Messi's brace, while Luis Suarez completed the rout.

Barca's lethal attacking trio of Messi (35 goals), Suarez (42) and Neymar (23) have scored a century of goals in all competitions this season.

Barcelona have 72 points ahead of Atletico on 64 and Real Madrid, who romped to a 7-1 win at home to Celta Vigo helped by four goals from Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday, trail on 60.

Messi's first was a fine solo effort, while his second came

from the penalty spot as Barcelona maintained their advantage over second-placed Atletico Madrid, who won 3-1 at Valencia.

Barca extended their Spanish record unbeaten run to 36 games, which includes 30 wins. They have not lost since 3 October.

"The team are looking good and not losing their ambition. When these players are in such form it's very hard to stop them," said Barcelona coach Luis Enrique, before sounding a warning that the title race is not over.

"No-one can be sure we'll be in this form in the next match," he told reporters.

"There are still 30 points left (to play for). We won't let ourselves be distracted by being called champions before time. You win this (league) when mathematically there are no more points."

Barcelona went in front in

the eighth minute when Messi lifted a perfect pass forward to Suarez, who crossed from the right to the far post for Munir to tap in.

Messi added the second three minutes before halftime after running from the centre circle and ignoring the strikers either side of him who stretched the defence wide. The Argentina captain made it 3-0 when he dinked a 76th-minute penalty, awarded for handball by Ivan Ramis, past goalkeeper Asier Riesgo for his 21st La Liga strike.

Messi is six league goals behind Ronaldo and five short of Suarez, who scored Barca's fourth when he shot past Riesgo from a narrow angle six minutes



PHOTO: REUTERS

from time after knocking the ball through the legs of Ander Capa.

At the Mestalla, Antoine Griezmann put Atletico in front against mid-table Valencia after 24 minutes with a shot from outside the box for his 15th league goal. —Reuters