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PASSING THE BATON

President, C-in-C discuss peaceful, smooth power transfer with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



President shakes hands with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

Aye Min Soe

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein and National League for Democracy chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks yesterday, focusing on the peaceful transfer of power to the next government.

During the 45-minute meeting, the president and the NLD leader discussed cooperation between the current and the future government to ensure a smooth,

peaceful power transfer and to minimise the public's concerns about the transfer, said U Ye Htut, the president's spokesman and Union Minister for Information, who was also present at the meeting.

They also exchange views and discussed establishing a tradition of systematically transferring the duties of an outgoing Head of State to the incoming one, the spokesman added.

During their first discussion since the NLD's landslide victory in the 8 November election, President U Thein Sein congratulated Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for her party's victory.

Opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also expressed thanks to the president for his efforts to introduce democratic reforms, paving the way for the NLD to enter the parliament in 2012 and for holding free

and fair elections in 2015.

She also met with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon at the Bayintnaung Guest House in the military compound in Nay Pyi Taw.

After the meeting, which lasted about one hour starting at 2pm, the Commander-in-Chief's Office released a statement saying the two sides agreed to pay atten-

tion to the desires of the people, to coordinate and cooperate with each other to ensure stability, the rule of law, unity and the development of the country.

President U Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann all vowed to assist in a peaceful transfer of power last month, following the NLD's landslide victory in the election.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Transport ministry calls for signing of marine pollution prevention protocol



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR should sign the protocol on the prevention of marine pollution by ships, Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

The deputy minister pointed out the advantages of inking the protocol, stressing possible legal action against foreign vessels for illegal disposal of waste in the country's waters and the cooperation with international organisations in research projects.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw discussed a forum on intergovernmental cooperation between Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar in trade, investment and urban development.

In addition, union ministers and deputy ministers responded to the queries raised by MPs on the Additional Budget Allotment Bill for the 2015-16 fiscal year.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Roundup

THE Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) decided yesterday to discuss a bill to amend the Criminal Law, which was sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw, in the Union Parliament.

At the 10th meeting of the 13th Pyithu Hluttaw session, MPs submitted two reports to the parliament, sought the parliament's approval for one report and sought its decision for another

report yesterday. MPs will discuss the reports at future meetings.

The parliament approved a report of the Pyithu Hluttaw Health Promotion Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Aung Thein Linn. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA



U Aung Mya Than. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Roundup

THE Bill Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) proposed a bill to amend the Veterinary Council Law yesterday to be discussed in the parliament.

MPs were invited to discuss the bill at future meetings.

MPs approved the Technical and Vocational Education Bill.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Dr Zaw Min Aung. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Myat Nyanna Soe. PHOTO: MNA

Yangon Region Parliament continues special session

THE Yangon Region Parliament continued its special session with 106 MPs yesterday.

During the session at the parliament in Yangon, region-level departmental officials answered eight questions raised by members of the parliament.

MPs also discussed two proposals submitted to the par-

liament during the previous day's session.

Following the discussion, one proposal was put on record, while another one was rejected by a vote.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe was also present at yesterday's session.

The special session of the parliament will continue today.—*Myanmar News Agency*



MPs discuss proposals in Yangon Region Parliament. PHOTO: MNA

Capital gets new children's hospital

A NEW children's hospital was opened yesterday in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The opening event featured an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

In his speech, the vice president said the newly-opened facility would help greatly reduce respiratory, heart and liver diseases common in children under the age of five.

As part of an initiative to improve the health sector, the government has increased its spending on healthcare to K753 billion (US\$580 million) in the 2015-16 fiscal year, up from K86.582 billion (\$66 million in the 2011-12 fiscal, he said.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham described poverty as a major culprit for Myanmar's high child mortality rate and for birth defects, citing a lack of health awareness campaigns as an area in need of improvement.

Located in central Myanmar, the health facility will cater to people in nearby areas seeking medi-

cal treatment for their children.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham urged the doctors, nurses and staff at the hospital to make collective efforts for the provision of better healthcare services to the public.

Currently, the country has five children's hospitals—two each in Yangon and Mandalay regions and one in Nay Pyi Taw.

A nursing school and a midwifery school were opened in Zaubuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gave speeches at both occasions.

The schools are located in the compound of the Nay Pyi Taw's 1,000-bed hospital.

The vice president said the newly-opened facilities were designed to meet human resources needs in the health sector.

Nursing schools across the country have produced 33,709 nurses, of whom 18,451 are in governmental services. In addition, 11,402 of 22,999 midwives



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts a patient. PHOTO: MNA

work at government hospitals.

Compared with other countries in ASEAN, Myanmar is behind in the nurse-midwife-patient ratio, the vice president noted, stressing the need to open

more nursing and midwifery schools and universities across the country.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham urged regions and states to initiate programmes for training more auxil-

iary midwives as part of the effort to provide basic healthcare to rural people.

There are currently 50 nursing and midwifery schools in the country.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Information Minister holds press conference on meeting between President and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Union Minister U Ye Htut answers question raised by a journalist. PHOTO: MNA

U YE HTUT, Union minister for Information and Spokesperson of the President Office, gave a press conference to journalists on the meeting of the President

and Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the press conference

was held at his office, the Union minister replied the queries raised by local and foreign journalists.—*Myanmar News Agency*

48 boat people repatriated to Bangladesh

MYANMAR repatriated 48 verified Bangladeshi 'boat people' to its neighbouring country yesterday.

Myanmar immigration officials in Maungdaw District handed over the boat people to the Bangladesh border guard force at the border yesterday evening.

Myanmar has repatriated a total of 777 verified Bangladeshi boat people in seven batches.

The remaining boat people are being investigated, and they will be handed over to their countries of origin when the verifying process is complete, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Boat people are handed over to Bangladeshi border guard force. PHOTO: MNA



UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and his wife are welcomed by the Ambassador of the Laos People's Democratic Republic Mr Lying Sayaxang upon their arrival at a reception in Yangon to mark the 40th National Day of the Laos People's Democratic Republic and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Laos. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Ministry of Industry discusses technical trainings with German delegation

UNION Minister of Industry U Maung Myint met a visiting delegation from Germany led by the head of GIZ's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme, Mr Konrad De Bortoli, on yesterday afternoon at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The union minister, along

with senior ministry officials and delegation members, discussed plans to accelerate the TVET Programme, which is currently being jointly implemented by GIZ and the ministry, to train more semi-skilled labourers and to offer more technical trainings to create about job opportunities.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Meiktila family refuses to sell 150-year-old bed

A FAMILY in Mahlaing Township is remaining steadfast in its refusal to sell a 150-year-old bed to antique hunters, as it has been in the family since it was built in the mid-19th century.

The antique bed is 11 feet wide and 6 feet long and features intricate carving depicting traditional Myanmar floral designs.

“We have denied offers from several people asking to buy the bed. But we will never sell it because this is part of our family heritage; it connects us to our ancestors,” said U Zaw Myint Oo.

He takes pride in conserving the ancient bed – and even allows guests who visit his home to sleep in it.—*Chan Thar*



Over 150 Antique bed is seen in Mahlaing Township. PHOTO: CHAN THAR



Restoration needed for U Bo Hlaing's tomb

THE tomb of Yawmingyi U Bo Hlaing, a minister during the reign of King Mindon, requires restoration work as it has become damaged by stalls being set up in its compound over the years.

U Bo Hlaing wrote many treatises and books on medicine and science. He died at the age of 54 in 1245. His tomb has become something of a tourist attraction in recent times.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

The tomb of Yawmingyi U Bo Hlaing. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Periodicals donated to library in Pyay to mark Sarsodaw Day

AS a gesture of hailing the Sarsodaw Day which falls on 12 December this year, Shwephonepwint Pagoda Cultural Museum Association donated books including magazines to a library in Linpan Village in Pyay yesterday.

A total of 425 books worth

more than K 500,000 were handed over to an in-charge of the Panna Alin Library by the members of the association.

Treasurer of Pyay Township Writers Association accepted the donation and presented a certificate of honour to the donors.

The Sarsodaw Day falls on the 1st Waxing Day of Naddaw (ME).

Myanmar writers give talks on literature across the country before and after the day during the whole month of Naddaw marking the Sarsodaw Day. —017

Mandalay daily celebrates 18th anniversary

THE daily newspaper Mandalay, which has been published by the Mandalay City Development Committee since 30 November 1997 celebrated its 18th anniversary at its headquarters in Mahaaungmye Township on Monday.

In commemoration of the anniversary, a dawn meal and donations was offered to Patron Abbot U Badanta Wisarraindabiwontha of Mahawizitay on Monastery and members of the Sangha. Lecturer Shwechann Sayadaw U Badanta Yanika gave a sermon. Mandalay's Deputy Mayor U Nyunt Maung, MCDC members and senior officials attended the event.

The celebration continued

in the afternoon and was attended by MCDC co-secretary U Thet Naing Tun, Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department director U Than Lwin, the newspaper's director U Tin TunOo, as well as staff and other guests.

At the event, reporters U Soe Shwe (Taintaman), U Win Maung (Kyaw Min Thaw) and U Thiha Ko Ko, who contributed the most news to the paper in 2015, were presented with certificates of honour and cash gifts. The Best Employee award was given to U Yan Naing Lin of the distribution section.

The celebration also featured a lottery for the newspaper's staff.—*Maung Pyithu*



Mandalay's Deputy Mayor U Nyunt Maung (Right) honours a reporter. PHOTO: MAUNG PYITHU

Photo exhibit features stories of people in extractive industries

UNEARTH, a Myanmar Deitta photo exhibition, took place in Bohtataung Township, Yangon, on 24 November, attracting local and foreign photo enthusiasts.

Unearth features photos taken in 2015 by photographers from Myanmar, the United States, the UK and Thailand.

The photos tell stories of people engaged in extractive industries by scavenging raw gem stones from discarded soil in Kachin State, highlighting the challenges faced by marginalised people across the country.

The photo exhibition will remain on display until 19 December.—*Thant Zin Win*



A tourist visits UNEARTH, a Myanmar Deitta Photo Exhibition. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Myanmar on track to meet foreign tourism target

Ye Myint

GIVEN the latest figures projecting more than four million foreign visitors to Myanmar this year, the data indicates a continuation of rapid growth in the country's tourism industry, which is on pace for another record year.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said Myanmar is on track to hit its visitor mark for 2015, with arrivals of 4.2 million visitors up to the end of this November.

With the impressive growth that has boosted the industry, the number of globetrotters entering Myanmar by air, water and land will grow to its target of 4.5 million visitors this year, he predicted.

According to the ministry's statistics, the latest calculation of international entrants to Myanmar has surpassed 2014's total of

3.08 million arrivals.

Data showed Myanmar's potential for being a top destination is one the rise, encouraging a forecast made by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) that Myanmar will become one of the top tourism destinations over next 10 years as of 2015.

Myanmar received 3.08 million visitors last year, up from 2.04 million a year earlier, which doubled the one million visitors who came in 2012. Myanmar's tourism industry generated US\$1.14 billion in 2014, up from \$926 million in 2013 and \$534 million in 2012.

According to the ministry's data as of 31 October, the total number of hotel rooms grew from 47,911 in August to 48,737 in October. Likewise, the total number of licensed hotels increased from 1,225 to 1,241 during the two-month period.

The WTTC forecast that the



Ngapali Beach, in Myanmar's Rakhine State, draws tourists from around the world, especially Europeans.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

direct contribution of travel and tourism to the country's gross domestic production is expected to grow to 2.7 percent of GDP by 2025, saying that it constituted

2.2 percent of the GDP last year, up from 1.6 percent in 2013.

With more investment entering the sector, job opportunities are multiplying. The WTTC pre-

dicted that travel and tourism's contribution to employment will account for 1,057,000 jobs directly by 2025, an increase of 7 percent over the next ten years.

Yangon General Hospital upgraded to 2000-bed facility



Yangon General Hospital. PHOTO ZAW GYI (PANITA)

WITH annual increases in public spending on healthcare, Yangon General Hospital was upgraded to a 2,000-bed facility in late November.

"The hospital has been upgraded from a 1,500-bed to a 2,000-bed facility and will boost its healthcare to the people in the near future," said Dr Aye Ko Ko, the medical superintendent of Yangon General Hospital.

He said the government also provided equipment and labour for the upgrade.

The government provided more than K15.6 billion (US\$1.6 million) in total between the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the 2015-2016 fiscal year to the hospital to buy medical equipment.

The government has also increased spending on medicine for the past several years in order

to boost free medical services for the public.

There are currently around 500 patients being treated at the general hospital. The hospital employs 58 professors, 28 senior doctors, 192 assistance doctors, 31 senior nurses and 387 assistant nurses. A total of 1,776 medical professionals work at Yangon General Hospital.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Myanmar and Hong Kong consult bilateral air services

CONSULTATIONS for revising the existing Air Services Agreement between Myanmar and Hong Kong were held at the Department of Civil Aviation, here on 24-25 November 2015.

The Myanmar delegation was headed by Acting Director-General U Min Lwin of the Department of Civil Aviation and the Hong Kong delegation was headed by Principal Assistant Secretary Ms. Candy Nip of the Transport and Housing Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Re-

gion of the People's Republic of China. In the consultations, the two delegations negotiated and agreed on the final text of a new Air Services Agreement, and also agreed to take measures for the formal signing of the Agreement.

The two delegations further agreed on route rights and traffic rights for designated airlines of both sides.

The existing Air Services Agreement between Myanmar and Hong Kong was signed in 1997.—Myanmar News Agency

Set Top Boxes provided to local people of Myawady

DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes were provided free of charge by the Ministry of Information to the local people of Myawaddy township in Kayin State on Monday.

A total of 1000 households across five townships and 11 villages will receive set top boxes to allow them to watch television programmes including the news, sessions of the Hluttaw (Parliament), the farmers', national races and entertainment channels.

The aim of presenting the boxes was to allow locals to gain

general and vocational knowledge, said District Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo at the event.

District Information and Public Relations Department Officer U Aung Ko Thant also spoke at the occasion.

Township Television Transmitting Engineer U Aung Aung Hlaing explained the installation and operation of the boxes to village administrators. One local spoke words of appreciation on behalf of the community.—Htein Lin Aung-IPRD

District Court clerks strengthen computer skills

A CEREMONY was held to award certificates to district court clerks following the successful completion of a three-month computer skills at Meiktila Court yesterday.

District Judge U Zaw Htoo presented certificates to those who completed the course and said that

district court clerks will benefit from acquiring greater technological literacy and that the department will work more efficiently as a result. The ceremony was also attended by district judges from Mahlaing, Wantwin and Tharzi.—Chan Thar

Thai PM orders improvements in aviation standards after FAA downgrade

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha yesterday ordered officials to improve aviation safety standards after the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) downgraded Thailand's safety ratings.

Shares in Thai airlines fell yesterday after the FAA said Thailand had failed to tackle shortcomings found in an audit this year in commercial aviation standards.

The lower safety rating blocks the airlines from launching or expanding in the United States and may tarnish the image of the country's thriving tourist sector.

"I have ordered them (officials) to resolve the issue," Prayuth told reporters, without elaborating on what would be done.

The FAA cut Thailand's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) to category 2 from 1 for failing to comply with FAA standards. It did not detail the

failures but said the rating meant the DCA was "deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping or inspection procedures".

None of the kingdom's airlines currently fly directly to the United States so the lower rating will have little immediate impact on their operations.

"The financial impact of the FAA downgrade is small," Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said.

"But there is an impact in terms of sentiment. We do need to meet international standards."

Shares of national carrier Thai Airways International dropped 3.45 percent by 0448 GMT. Shares of Asia Aviation Pcl dropped 2.15 percent, while Bangkok Airways fell 0.88 percent.

Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways said their businesses would not be affected by the FAA downgrade because

they did not fly to the United States.

Patee Sarasin, chairman of low-cost carrier Nok Airlines, said on Tuesday the FAA decision would hurt the industry's reputation and may lead to other countries limiting flights by Thai operators. Nok shares were flat yesterday.

South Korea, Japan and China had previously stopped Thai-based airlines from flying charters and new routes over safety worries raised in another international audit. Those restrictions have since been relaxed.

The Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Authority, a division of the United Nations, downgraded Thailand in June after finding a shortage of technical officers and certification problems in transporting hazardous goods. The European Aviation Safety Agency is due to announce the results later in December of its own audit.—Reuters

Cambodian opposition leader faces new defamation lawsuit over Facebook post

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy is facing another defamation lawsuit brought by Parliament President Heng Samrin, according to a summons yesterday.

Sam Rainsy is currently in self-imposed exile to avoid a two-year prison sentence over an old defamation conviction.

The summons, issued by Vong Bunvisoth, deputy prosecutor of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court on Tuesday and publicized yesterday, invited Rainsy, president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, to appear before the court on 4 January, 2016.

The summons said that Rainsy was sued by Heng Samrin who claims the opposition leader defamed him in a Facebook posting on 17 November.

It does not say what the def-

amation is about as Rainsy withdrew all statements he posted on his official Facebook page on 17 November.

Rainsy, who also holds French citizenship, has been in self-imposed exile since last month after the court issued an arrest warrant for him over a 2011 defamation conviction. At that time, the court sentenced him to two years in prison over defaming Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Nam-hong, but he has not served his jail term yet.

On 20 November, the court also issued a summon for him to appear in court on 4 December, 2015 for an inquiry over his alleged involvement in "conspiring to falsify a public document, use the fake document and incite social chaos" in August.—Xinhua

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Record rains flood south Indian state; more to come



Rescuers evacuate people to safe places in Chennai, India, on 1 December 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHENNAI — The heaviest rainfall in over a century caused massive flooding across the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, driving thousands from their homes, shutting auto factories and paralysing the airport in the state capital Chennai.

The national weather office predicted three more days of torrential downpours in the southern state of nearly 70 million people.

"There will be no respite," Laxman Singh Rathore of the India Meteorological Department told

reporters yesterday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has blamed climate change for the rain, injecting urgency into the debate at global climate talks in Paris and highlighting the vulnerability of tropical nations like India to extreme weather.

Physician Rupam Choudhury said he and a friend had to wade through neck-deep water to reach high ground from where an army brought him to his hospital in the heart of Chennai.

The Dr A. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospital was running out of oxygen for patients and diesel for power generators, he said by phone. Most mobile networks were down in the city and food supplies were running low.

Chennai, India's fourth most populous city, is a major auto manufacturing and IT outsourcing hub. Ford Motor, Daimler, Hyundai and Nissan told workers to stay at home, while US listed outsourcing firm Cognizant shut its 11 local of-

fices. Airlines suspended flights into Chennai's flooded international airport, causing wider disruption to air travel.

"The biggest challenge is to find a way to clear the inundated airport and main roads," said Anurag Gupta at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in New Delhi.

Passengers stranded at the airport said they did not know when they would be able to fly, or where to stay if they could not.

"All of us here are getting agitated because none of the hotels nearby are vacant. Where do we go?" traveller Vinit Jain told Reuters Television.

No deaths were reported and the extent of damage would only become clear when the floodwaters receded, another NDMA official said. The federal home ministry said 18 people had suffered flood-related injuries.

Weather experts say the seasonal northeast monsoon was responsible for the flooding in the city of six million, which like many of India's teeming cities lacks adequate drainage.

Jatin Singh, founder of private weather forecaster Skymet, said the northeast monsoon was typically more intense in years like this when El Nino — or a warming of the waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean — prevailed.

At least twice as much rain fell in the last 24 hours as the average for the whole month of December, Skymet said.

Forecasters say the trough of low pressure bringing the rains was very slow moving.—Reuters

Indian plan to let kids work in family business is backward step: Satyarthi

NEW DELHI — India's plans to allow children to work for family businesses and bar teenagers from employment in only a few hazardous industries are "regressive", Nobel Laureate and child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi said on Tuesday.

The government wants to amend a three-decade-old law which bans children under 14 from working in 18 hazardous occupations and 65 processes including mining, gem cutting, cement manufacture and hand-loom.

If passed by parliament in the coming weeks, the changes will outlaw child labour below 14 in all sectors, stiffen penalties for offenders and expand the age range covered to 15- to 18-year-olds. But there are exceptions.

Children who help their family or family businesses can work outside school hours, and those in entertainment or sports can work provided it does not affect their education. Also, children aged 15 to 18 will be barred from working in only three hazardous industries, Satyarthi said.

Satyarthi, whose charity Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) is credited with rescuing more than 80,000 enslaved children, said he welcomed the move to amend the child labour law, but disagreed with the two exemptions.

"I definitely appreciate the government's move to enhance the age of employment from 14 to 18, but these are two serious grey areas," Satyarthi said, speaking during an event hosted by the United Nations in the Indian capital.



Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, takes part in a panel during the Clinton Global Initiative's annual meeting. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Finally, the government has agreed to bring an amendment to the existing law, but what is more shocking is that this amendment is regressive, it is not progressive."

There are 5.7 million Indian child workers between the ages of five and 17, out of 168 million globally, an International Labour Organisation report said in February.

More than half are in agriculture, toiling in cotton, sugarcane and rice paddy fields, and over a quarter work in manufacturing — confined to poorly lit, barely ventilated rooms embroidering clothes, weaving carpets or making matchsticks. Indian children also work in restaurants and hotels, washing

dishes and chopping vegetables, or in middle-class homes, looking after other children or cleaning and scrubbing floors.

Satyarthi asked how the law would be implemented in a country where most enslaved children do not have birth certificates, and traffickers and employers pretend to be their uncles or other relatives.

"I have personally rescued thousands of children, and most times in small-scale industries especially, the employers, traffickers and slave masters claim that they are uncles of the children," said Satyarthi, who was awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai.

"Who is going to do a DNA test on them to check if they are related to the children?" —Reuters

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AirAsia Indonesia says upgrades, training enhance safety after crash

JAKARTA — AirAsia Indonesia (AIRA.KL) said on Tuesday the firm has upgraded pilot training and enhanced safety standards following the crash of its plane last year, killing all 162 onboard.

Earlier on Tuesday, Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT) released the first public report on

the disaster of the Airbus A320 that crashed into the Java Sea on 28 December.

"KNKT's final report on QZ8501 highlights that a combination of several factors contributed to the tragedy," AirAsia Indonesia said in a statement.

"There are many lessons to be learned for the entire aviation industry." —Reuters

Thai airline shares fall after US aviation safety downgrade

BANGKOK — Shares of Thai airline operators fell yesterday as the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) downgraded Thailand's safety ratings.

The downgrade means Thai airlines are prevented from launching or expanding services to the United States,

either directly or as code-share partners.

Shares of Asia Aviation Pcl dropped nearly three percent. Shares of national carrier Thai Airways International, Nok Airlines and Bangkok Airways each lost about one percent. —Reuters

North Korean ghost boats, in deadly hunt for fish, wash up in Japan

TOKYO — Fishing boats carrying decomposed corpses have washed ashore in Japan in recent weeks, leading to speculation they are rickety North Korean vessels that have strayed dangerously far from port under the impoverished nation's push to boost its catch.

There has been no mention from secretive North Korea of any missing boats, but its leader, Kim Jong Un, has put a high priority on fishing as a way of earning foreign currency and providing a sustainable food source that is not reliant on harvests and weather.

The Japanese coast guard and police reported 12 incidents of wrecked wooden boats, including some that were in pieces, on the country's shores and waters since October, containing 22 dead bodies, including five skulls.

Japanese authorities declined

to comment on the origins of the boats or the possible identities of the dead, but a hand-written sign identified one boat as belonging to unit 325 of the North Korean army, according to footage from Japan's NHK Television. Tattered cloth was found aboard the vessel that appeared to come from the North Korean flag, the video showed.

Defectors and experts say fishing boats under the command of the Korean People's Army may have succumbed under pressure from Kim to catch more fish, drifting off course and ill-equipped for rough seas.

TV images of some of the boats showed relatively large but otherwise primitive-looking motorised craft and the coast guard said they did not have GPS navigation systems. Those aboard could have died of starvation and exposure to the cold after getting lost.



An unidentified wooden boat was found in the sea off Noto Peninsula, Japan, on 29 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Although Japan's Meteorological Agency said there was not unusually bad weather in the Sea of Japan this November, the waters are rougher at this time of year due to the onset of cold, northwesterly winds.

October through February is also prime season for squid,

sandfish and king crab off the east coast of the Korean peninsula, and it is not unusual that there would be high numbers of boats at sea, said Kim Do-hoon, a professor of fisheries science at Pukyong National University in Busan.

"Kim Jong Un has been pro-

moting the fisheries, which could explain why there are more fishing boats going out," he said.

"But North Korean boats perform really poorly, with bad engines, risking lives to go far to catch more. Sometimes they drift and fishermen starve to death," he said. —Reuters

OPINION

Is a new political culture taking root in Myanmar?

Myint Win Thein

THE culture of settling differences through dialogue is beginning to break its thick, hard shell and sprout into Myanmar politics.

The union government has been proud of initiating this new political culture. It has been trying to settle political disputes with ethnic groups through political dialogue, though fighting continues in some areas of the country, denying internally displaced

persons in those areas of the country the fruits of the nationwide ceasefire.

The president and the commander-in-chief of the military met with the leader of the party that won a landslide victory in the general election. Although no details are available to the public, as usual, it official press releases say the parties all vowed to cooperate in the interests of the country and the people during the transfer of power from the current government to the next one.

Generally speaking, this is good news for all and an important step for the country. However, dialogue should enable the public to enjoy the benefits of the outcomes of these processes.

Political analysts and journalists may be curious to know the details. For the public, the details may be too difficult or too academic to understand. Therefore, it is important that the public be able to enjoy the benefits of Myanmar's progress, though we will have to

wait for these outcomes to take shape.

For the public, the result is more important than knowing the details of the process. Only when the people can enjoy the fruits of this new political dialogue will the new political culture be able to take root in Myanmar.

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 thantunaungnlm@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

Asia Pacific: Response to Climate Change

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar

GLOBAL leaders are gathered in Paris for the COP21 climate summit. Given Asia-Pacific's size and its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, its voice and commitment are critical to achieving a comprehensive agreement on climate change. Many Asia Pacific countries are developing and must focus on achieving sustained economic growth and development. Of the 49 regional members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 43 have a light climate footprint, contributing only 10 per cent to global emissions. For these countries, notably the least developed countries, Pacific islands and low-lying states, vulnerability to climate-related natural disasters will grow with climate change. At the other extreme, the region is home to six of the top 10 emitters in the world - China, India, Russia, Japan, Indonesia and Iran - which account for about 43 per cent of global emissions. Of these top six Asian emitters, fossil fuel-based energy is responsible for about 80 per cent of their collective emissions, with emissions from industrial processes, agriculture and waste playing a lesser role. Miti-

gating the emissions of these countries requires multiple actions, key among which is a switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Of the 183 countries that have submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 43 are from the Asia-Pacific region. Countries across the region have indicated both conditional and unconditional reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. These include economy-wide emissions targets or deviation from a business as usual (BAU) scenario to an intensity targets of emissions per unit of GDP. Many INDCs, particularly those from the developing countries, include an overall rise in emissions by 2030.

While this is remarkable in its own right, they still leave a significant gap between the INDCs pledged and the cuts required to keep the temperature increase to below two degrees Celsius warming limit. This gap is close to 16 billion tonnes of CO2 reductions per annum by 2030, roughly equal to the current emissions of China, India, and Russia combined. The only way we can bridge this gap is if we collectively treat the INDCs announced as the floor to be raised

by enabling countries to adopt and implement additional measures needed with technical, financial and capacity support.

Despite the present gap between the INDCs and the necessary emission reductions, progress is underway in our region. This not only sets specific economies on course for a low carbon future, but will also alter the global dynamics. China's INDC, for instance, targets emissions to peak by 2030 at the latest, and for emissions intensity of GDP to decline by 60 to 65 per cent. Progress in energy efficiency, switching to gas and the development of hydro, wind and solar energy has now begun to show results, with China's coal consumption having peaked in 2013. India proposes to reduce emissions per unit of GDP by 33 to 35 per cent, and to ensure that 40 per cent of its power generation capacity is from non-fossil sources by 2030. In support of this objective, India plans to install 60 gigawatts of wind power and 100 gigawatts of solar power capacity by 2022, a six-fold increase over the current capacity.

Changes in the energy generation mix, efficiency and conservation of energy use and developing carbon sinks through reforestation and soil carbon will be important

strategies to stabilize emissions in the Asia-Pacific region. There has been some progress on all these fronts in our region, but more needs to be done. With advanced energy efficiency, the region could save 35 per cent of its energy consumption against business as usual by 2035. As the region's urban population is expected to reach 3.2 billion by 2050, there is an opportunity to pioneer low carbon cities with energy efficient buildings, innovative urban planning and efficient transportation systems. There is also a need to switch from coal to renewables and to promote cleaner coal technologies, as coal still accounts for 55 per cent of electricity generation in the Asia-Pacific. In adopting clean energy alternatives countries are also addressing the scourge of air pollution, which has emerged as a grim reality for many city dwellers across the region. While non-hydro renewables such as wind and solar currently contribute less than 2 per cent of regional electricity generation, growth has been rapid from a small base. The expected shift to renewables will be a net benefit for Asian economies. It will reduce dependence on imported fuels as the region is a net energy importer, enhance energy security and improve the balance of payments. To harness a low car-

bon future, the region needs to further tap its tax potential, which could be raised by 5 per cent of GDP. This would potentially mobilize \$1.5 trillion while private sector savings in the region are close to \$6 trillion.

The success of the COP21 climate summit is critical for all of us as climate change does not respect boundaries and no one can escape its effects. Country submissions for emission reduction are good starting point but remain nonbinding targets. The steep growth in energy demand in the Asia-Pacific means more will need to be done to increase the overall penetration of renewable energy in the coming decades, with collective and concerted actions critical to addressing the problem at its source. The future of our region and indeed of our planet hinges on the Asia-Pacific region mobilizing its skills and resources to find enduring solutions.

The author is an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She is also the UN's Sherpa for the G20 and previously served as Governor of the Central Bank of Pakistan and Vice President of the MENA Region of the World Bank.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

The GM technology has been identified always as a negative advancement of human society with many suggesting this as contrary to human socio-economic progress and extremely detrimental to agriculture and related areas. There are indeed peer reviewed reports of higher crop productivity and better disease resistance among GM crops compared to non-genetically transformed controls. However, the long term impact of the use of GM crops is indeed a grey area and warrants further research investigations before any

truly unbiased analysis and comments could be made. On one hand there are reports of detrimental impacts of GM food sources based on animal studies; while on the other hand there are equally high numbers of research papers negating harmful impacts of GM crops. A significant research and communication gap exists across the world regarding the safety and acceptance of GM crops. The most possible reason behind this is the lack of comprehensive, long term, multiple animal and human studies with balanced controls and unbiased analysis and interpretation of the data conducted at the

same time in different labs across different continents. Both supporters and resistors of GM technology are not allowing such comprehensive studies to be conducted under unbiased and non-interfering environment across the globe. Countries such as US, Canada, China and Argentina have accepted GM technology; while the EU strongly resists any possibility of introduction of GM food sources in their internal market. An interesting development is that GM producers do not like the idea of having GM label officially inscribed on their product profile, fearing that it may negatively impact the sell of their products. This is unfair to many as this re-

strict their democratic choice of choosing what they prefer to eat. Developing and under developed countries are now under radar of several multi-national companies for introducing GM crops or initiate trials on such crops with support of the local governments. But it is difficult to suggest under the present circumstances and due to lack of credible, unbiased studies whether the future impacts of such crop introduction will be detrimental to regional economies or human and animal health form a long term perspective. The best possible advice will be to accept that GM technology is a powerful technological development for this millennium and one should

proceed with great caution while deciding how much of the technology should be allowed to penetrate into the agriculture and food sectors. At the same time open debate and discussion should be allowed without any predetermined bias on the merits and demerits of the technology and more research should be conducted for further refinement of this emergent powerful technology.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

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ADB delegation discusses Mandalay development programmes



Asian Development Bank-ADB will cooperate with Mandalay Region Government to bring development to Mandalay City. PHOTO: MAUNG PYITHU

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint met with a visiting Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation led by regional director Mr Winfried Wicklen at the Mandalay Region Government

Office on Tuesday afternoon.

The parties discussed future development programmes for Mandalay City with the cooperation of the ADB.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung

Maung, Regional Finance Minister Dr Myint Kyu, Region Government Secretary U Win Shein and senior regional officials were also present at the meeting.—Maung Pyithu

Pyinmana Hospital hosts lecture on polio vaccine

EDUCATIONAL talks on the inactivated polio vaccine injection were held at the 200-bed hospital in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on Monday. Dr Kyaw Myint, the medical superintendent of the hospital, and Dr Aye Aye Mar gave talks on polio eradication strategies and polio vaccines. The polio vaccine injection will be given to four-month-old children on 4 December.—Min Min Latt



Nurses are given talks on polio vaccination in Pyinmana.

PHOTO: MIN MIN LATT

Fourth Zvae Htet Jewellery shop opens in Mandalay



Officials formally open Zvae Htet Sein Jewellery in Mandalay.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

ZWAE HTET Jewellery expanded its business by opening its fourth shop on 84th Street between 29th and 30th streets in Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay, on 1 December.

Mandalay City Development Committee member U Shwe Win, Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry chairman U Aung Than and Zvae Htet Sein owner U San Win and his wife Daw Win Mar cut the ribbon to open the new jewellery shop.

The opening was celebrated with Shan traditional dances, music and a lottery for the shop's first customers, which included 755 items of jewellery and other gifts.—Thiha Ko Ko

POEM:

Ensuring Peoples' Democratic Leadership

Htun Tin Htun

Enduring patience is the highest austerity.

Nothing is impossible to one with a wish-to-do, work-hard, will and wisdom.

Survival, sustainable, success and significance are the essential requisites for achievement.

United we stand, divided we fall, unity is strength.

Right speech, right action and right livelihood (Morality) is the foundation for practicing the Noble Eightfold Path.

In this world, good are friends when need arises; good is contentment with just what one has; good is merit when life is at an end, and good is the abandoning of all suffering through (Arahatship).

Nothing is better for a holy man than when he holds his mind back from what is endearing.

Good is restraint in thought, good is restraint in speech and good is restraint in bodily action.

Promote peoples' participation is of paramount importance for peoples' democratic state.

Equity, empowerment, environment and employment are elements for human development.

One man one vote is the fundamental practice of democratic decision making.

People-centered development is important for the planet, prosperity, partnership and posterity.

Leader is the one who (knows, goes, shows, leads) the way. Loving-kindness, endurance, active, disciplined, energetic, righteous, straightforward, humble, integrity and professional are some of the qualities of leadership.

Excellent is the man who has subdued himself.

Speak not harshly to anyone, speak the truth; yield not anger.

Delight in heedfulness! Guard well your thoughts! Draw yourself out of this bog of evil.

Exert yourself, cut off the stream of craving and discard sense of desires.

Meditate, do not be heedless and let not your mind whirl on sensual pleasures.

One is one's own protector, one is one's own refuge, and therefore one should control oneself.

Control the senses, contentment, restraint according to the code of conduct and discipline.

Right understanding, right thought, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are the elements of the path for day to day practice of attaining ultimate happiness and supreme bliss.

An evil deed is better left undone, for such a deed torments one afterwards.

To avoid all evil, to cultivate good, and to cleanse one's mind—this is the teaching of the Buddhas.

If, like a broken gong, you silence yourself, you have approached Nibbana, for vindictiveness is no more in you.

Calm is his thought, calm is his speech and calm is his bodily action, who, knowing, is wholly freed, perfectly tranquil and wise.

Let him associate with friends who are noble, energetic and pure in life, let him be cordial and refined in conduct.

Exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself.

Association with the wise is happy, like meeting one's own kinsmen. Association with fools is ever painful, like partnership with enemy.

Drop by drop is the water pot filled, likewise the wise man gathering it little by little fills himself with good.

Entangled by the bonds of hate, he who seeks his own happiness by inflicting pain on others, is never delivered from hatred.

Riches ruin only the foolish, not those in quest of the Beyond (Nibbana) Should a person do good, let him do it again and again.

He who is meditative, stainless and settled, whose work is done and who is free from cankers having reached the highest goal—him do the Buddha call a holy man.

In this world, good it is to serve one's mother, good it is to serve one's father, good it is to serve the monks and good it is to serve the holy men. People hold dear him who embodies virtue and insight, who is principled, has realized the truth, and who himself does what he ought to be doing.

After summit deal, EU considers flying in refugees from Turkey



A Turkish Gendarme leads a group of refugees to buses to prevent them from sailing off for the Greek island of Chios in dinghies, at a beach in the western Turkish coastal town of Cesme, in Izmir Province, Turkey, on 1 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — The European Union executive is drafting a plan to fly limited numbers of refugees from Turkey direct to Europe, EU officials said on Tuesday, following a weekend deal under which Ankara promised to help cut chaotic mass inflows.

So far, 886,662 people seeking safety have reached European shores this year, about four times the total in 2014, and mostly through Turkey, according to UN data. That has set EU governments against each other and strained to breaking point their system of passport-free travel across most national borders.

To stem the influx, EU leaders reached an agreement with Turkey on Sunday offering cash, easier visas for Turkish travellers to Europe and renewed talks to join the EU, in exchange for Turkey's engage-

ment to better patrol its borders and improve the conditions of the refugees it hosts.

The deal also pledged some "burden-sharing" to help Turkey cope with the more than 2.2 million Syrians on its territory. Beyond cash, this is likely to take the form of a plan to resettle some Syrians directly to the EU, officials said.

The EU's executive Commission will present a proposal for an ad hoc resettlement scheme before a summit of the 28 EU leaders scheduled for 17-18 December, where the plan will be discussed.

Refugees may be flown directly from Turkey, and also from Lebanon and Jordan which host millions of refugees too, to EU countries that volunteer to adhere to the plan. "It will be a coalition of the willing," an EU official said,

while acknowledging that the number of available countries is still unclear, let alone the target figure of refugees.

On the sidelines of the EU-Turkey summit on Sunday, eight EU countries discussed taking part. Germany is seen as the keenest supporter of the plan; leaders of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Greece also attended, while France may also join the group. However, officials underscore that not all these countries are necessarily committed to taking part. The Dutch and Finns are seen as the most sceptical. "Setting up a restricted group of countries pushing ahead may be counterproductive, as it may create further disincentives for eastern European countries to take responsibilities," an EU official said.—Reuters

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United Nations Secretary General's Message on The International Day of Persons With Disabilities

3 December 2015

We mark this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities in the wake of the adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This global blueprint for action summons us to "leave no one behind".

Building a sustainable, inclusive world for all requires the full engagement of people of all abilities. The 2030 Agenda includes many issues of concern to persons with disabilities and we must work together to transform these commitments into action.

Earlier this year, the United Nations Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction recognised the key role people with disabilities can play in promoting a more universally accessible approach in disaster preparedness and response. Next year, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) will discuss a new urban development agenda to make our cities inclusive, accessible and sustainable. The voices of persons with disabilities will be critical to this process.

As we look ahead, we need to strengthen development policies and practices to ensure that accessibility is part of inclusive and sustainable development. This requires improving our knowledge of the challenges facing all persons with disabilities— including through more robust, disaggregated data — and ensuring that they are empowered to create and use opportunities.

Together with persons with disabilities, we can move our world forward by leaving no one behind.—UNIC/ Yangon

Climate deal needed if Bill's billions are to help poor nations

WASHINGTON — Heads of state and big-name billionaires opened the Paris climate summit with a bang on Monday, promising billions of dollars to develop new green technology to solve a key sticking point of the negotiations: financing a low-carbon future for developing nations like India.

Yet campaigners and experts warned that it will be hard to deploy any new technologies quickly in places where they are needed most unless negotiators at the two-week UN talks can work out a deal on how rich countries will help finance this.

"I think the elephant in the room is still finance," said Yvo de Boer, former head of the UN climate change secretariat.

He and others were encouraged by Monday's announcements, which opened the taps for funding a wave of research in

hopes of breakthroughs such as the artificial photosynthesis Bill Gates envisions to produce liquid hydrocarbons that challenge fossil fuels. France and India launched a plan for a trillion-dollar alliance to deliver solar energy to poor nations.

Still, many countries are simply not ready to be on the receiving end of major technology transfers, experts said. For a poor country to adopt new technologies, it must have the right institutions, regulations and workforce in place.

During the Paris talks, experts said, negotiators must map out ways for rich countries to provide funds poor countries need to prepare to receive new technology. They noted that rich countries have promised to spend more than \$100 billion a year beginning in 2020 to adapt low-carbon technologies and build defenses against rising sea levels, droughts and other cli-

mate-related problems.

So far, the UN's Green Climate Fund, the main vehicle to dole out this money, has a long way to go, with just \$12 billion in pledges. Scaling up that amount is a major task at the Paris talks. Rich nations want some emerging economies like China to contribute, while developing countries want target dates and accountability.

The billions promised on Monday for technology development "should not be seen as a substitute for the public finance that must be on the table to unlock a stronger agreement by the end of next week," said Tim Gore, head of policy and advocacy for Oxfam International.

Gore said the world needs "a deal to regularly set new targets for financial and technological support for poor countries that need it."

The US Energy Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), which has conducted early research on technologies like fusion and advanced batteries, found that some workers in poor countries "weren't able to maintain new projects, so things fail," said Cheryl Martin, the program's former acting director.

Even if larger nations like India and China can get over these hurdles, less-developed poor nations risk falling further behind.

"We need to ensure that competitiveness of even less developed countries is enhanced by these opportunities rather than being left behind," said Jonathan Coony, coordinator for the World Bank's Climate Technology Programme.

Poor countries must build manufacturing capacity, research capabilities and a local workforce to develop their own green econo-

my "rather than remaining technology takers," Coony said.

Intellectual property rights could also pose a barrier to technology transfer. Patents fuel innovation and attract investors to companies that develop technology. But India and other poor countries have said for years that much patented technology is too expensive. They want green technologies treated as a public good.

India had pushed a plan to use part of the UN fund to buy out intellectual property rights for desired technologies, but the United States opposes any attempt to change the protections.

Developed countries pressing India to abandon coal and fossil fuels more quickly will "have to pick up the incremental cost" of IP rights, says Ajai Malhotra, a former climate negotiator who advises the Indian delegation.—Reuters

Facebook's CEO and wife to give 99 percent of shares to their new foundation

SAN FRANCISCO — Mark Zuckerberg will put 99 percent of his Facebook Inc (FB.O) shares, currently worth about \$45 billion, into a new philanthropy project focusing on human potential and equality, he and his wife said Tuesday in a letter to their newborn daughter.

The plan, which was posted on the Facebook founder and chief executive officer's page, attracted more than 570,000 "likes," including from singer Shakira, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Melinda Gates, wife of Microsoft founder Bill Gates. The Gates and other high-profile billionaires such as Warren Buffett have set up foundations of their own to dedicate their massive fortunes to philanthropic endeavors.

Zuckerberg, 31, who will control the new initiative jointly with his wife, Priscilla Chan, while remaining in charge of the world's largest online social network, said he would sell or give up to \$1 billion in shares in each of the next three years.

Zuckerberg will keep a controlling stake in Facebook, valued at \$303 billion as of Tuesday's close, for what the company called the "foreseeable future." According to Facebook's most recent proxy statement, Zuckerberg owned 4 million Class A shares and 422.3 million Class B shares, which have 10 times the voting



Facebook Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla are seen with their daughter named Max in this image released on 1 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

power of A shares. Combined he held 54 percent of the voting power of the company's shares.

Zuckerberg said he plans to remain CEO of Facebook for "many, many years to come."

Zuckerberg's new project, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, is not his first in the world of philanthropy. When he was 26, he signed the Giving Pledge, which invites the world's wealthiest individuals and

families to commit to giving more than half of their wealth to philanthropy or charitable causes over their lifetime or in their will.

"Mark and Priscilla are breaking the mold with this breathtaking commitment," Buffett said on Facebook. "A combination of brains, passion and resources on this scale will change the lives of millions. On behalf of future generations, I thank them."

Melinda Gates chimed in, "The first word that comes to mind is: Wow. The example you're setting today is an inspiration to us and the world."

Buffett himself pledged shares of his Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) company that were then worth \$31 billion to Gates' foundation in 2006, and at the time ranked as the largest single gift. Zuckerberg is relatively

young to commit so much of his wealth. Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) co-founder Gates was 45 in 2000, the year he and his wife founded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Buffett was 76 in 2006 when he committed to give away all of his Berkshire Hathaway stock to philanthropic organizations.

About \$350 billion is given away each year in the United States by charities, said Stacy Palmer, editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy. She said Zuckerberg and his wife's announcement was remarkable not just because of the size of the donation, but because of their ages.

"Our lists of the top donors are usually dominated by people in their 70s or 80s," she said. "This is a message to other young people who are deciding what to do with their great wealth."

In welcoming the birth of his first child on his Facebook page, Zuckerberg posted a photo of himself, his wife and their daughter, Maxima, nicknamed Max, along with a post entitled "A letter to our daughter."

In the 2,220-word letter, Zuckerberg and Chan, a pediatrician, touched on issues including health, education, Internet access and learning before announcing the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, which aims to "advance human potential and promote equality." —Reuters

British shop prices fall faster in November: BRC

LONDON — A fall in British shop prices accelerated and was the joint weakest reading on record in November, the British Retail Consortium said yesterday, a latest sign that inflation is likely to remain subdued.

The BRC said prices in British shops slipped by 2.1 percent over the 12 months to November, matching a record drop seen in March and a steeper fall than October's 1.8 percent drop.

Non-food prices represented the biggest drag on prices, falling 3.3 percent in November — nearly matching a record fall seen in June 2014 — driven largely by reductions in clothing, footwear, gardening, hardware prices and electrical goods.

"Although the survey period does not cover Black Friday, it is likely that some retailers were discounting early in November in order to spread consumer spending over a longer period," BRC Chief Executive Helen Dickinson said, referring to the sales promotion concept borrowed from the United States.

Official data published ear-



Shoppers walk through a market in Elephant and Castle south London, Britain. PHOTO: REUTERS

lier this month showed consumer prices fell for two consecutive months for the first time on record in September and October. Economists mostly expect the bout of deflation to be mild and temporary.

The Bank of England says inflation is likely to stay below 1 percent until the second half of 2016.

The BoE wants to see greater earnings growth before it

raises interest rates for the first time since 2007, particularly with overall inflation hovering around zero.

The BRC price index has shown deflation for 31 consecutive months, pushed down by a price war among supermarkets as well as global trends such as falling oil and food prices and by the strengthening of the pound which has made imports cheaper.—Reuters

Yahoo board to weigh future of company, Marissa Mayer

SAN FRANCISCO — The board of Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) is weighing a sale of its core Internet business when it meets this week, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The board's meeting comes amid a broader debate about the future of the company and that of high-profile Chief Executive Marissa Mayer.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the possible sale of the Internet business late on Tuesday. People familiar with the matter told the newspaper the board was expected to also discuss during meetings from Wednesday through Friday whether to proceed with a plan to spin off more than \$30 billion (20 billion pounds) in shares of Alibaba Holding Group Ltd (BABA.N). The company could also pursue both options, the paper said. The company's shares were up more than 7 percent in extended trading.

Yahoo's core business, which includes popular services like Yahoo Mail and its news and sports sites, could attract private equity firms, media and telecom companies or firms like Softbank Group Corp (9984.T), analysts

have said in the past.

Yahoo declined to comment on the report. The news comes as Mayer faces growing pressure over the company's performance. Mayer came to Yahoo after a long stint at Google. Her arrival kicked off heightened expectations of a quick turnaround at Yahoo, which had struggled to grow its advertising business to compete with market leaders Google and Facebook.

Hopes of a comeback crumbled as Yahoo's plan to push mobile, video, native and social media ads — a strategy Mayer introduced in 2014 under the acronym Mavens — failed to increase revenues as desktop search ads continued to decline.

A \$1.1 billion deal in 2013 to acquire social blogging site Tumblr also hit snags, with investors arguing that Mayer overpaid for an unprofitable product. The deal lifted Yahoo's user base to about 1 billion but did not bring in advertisers.

In September, Yahoo's plans for the spinoff of its stake in Alibaba hit a roadblock when the US Internal Revenue Service denied a request to bless the transaction as a tax-free deal.—Reuters

Diagnosing malaria with a cell phone

COLLEGE STATION — New technology that transforms a cell phone into a mobile polarized microscope can diagnose malaria in a Rwandan village with the same level of accuracy as a hi-tech lab in a major Western city, according to Texas A&M University biomedical engineers developing the device.

“The way they diagnose malaria now is with a microscope but it is with a big bench top microscope that is relatively complicated to use, takes a trained technician, and you have to have the facility for that scope in a centralized lab somewhere. So basically what we are taking is that gold standard and making it into a portable device,” said Gerard Cote, a professor of Biomedical Engineering.

The add-on device, known as

a mobile-optical-polarization imaging device (MOPID), makes use of a smart phone’s camera features to produce high-resolution images of objects 10 times smaller than the thickness of a human hair. The device images a blood sample using polarized light that can detect a malaria parasite byproduct called Hemozoin crystals which appear as very bright dots in the image and are an accurate indicator of infection.

According to the scientists, once the device is attached to the phone, the diagnosis takes just minutes using a phone app.

“An application software would take that image and automatically count the number of red blood cells, count the number of parasites over different fields of view. And then by doing that you

“An application software would take that image and automatically count the number of red blood cells, count the number of parasites over different fields of view. And then by doing that you can determine if they have malaria or not.”

Gerard Cote

Professor of Biomedical Engineering

can determine if they have malaria or not,” Cote said.

In 2015, there have been around 214 million cases of malaria globally so far, approximately 438,000 of which were fatal — with 90 percent of those deaths occurring in Sub Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organisation. It’s those stark statis-

tics which inspired the team to keep the device as affordable as possible, to ensure it could be used where it’s needed most. Smartphones are widely available in Africa and the team says the cost of the add-on optics will be less than \$50 (USD) with the disposable blood sampling cartridges priced at less than a dollar. —Reuters

‘Dinosaur disco’ footprints reveal lifestyle of Jurassic giants

WASHINGTON — On a platform of rock jutting into the Atlantic on Scotland’s Isle of Skye, hundreds of newly discovered dinosaur tracks are changing the way scientists view the lifestyle of some of the largest creatures ever to walk the Earth.

Scientists on Tuesday said they found the vast collection of Jurassic Period footprints, some reaching 28 inches (70 cm) in diameter, made when dinosaurs called sauropods waded through shallow water in a brackish lagoon 170 million years ago.

“There were clearly lots of sauropods moving all around this lagoon. They were at home there, they were thriving there. Looking at the chaotic jumble of tracks, it looks like a dance floor,

like a dinosaur disco,” University of Edinburgh paleontologist Steve Brusatte said.

Sauropods were four-legged plant-eaters with long necks, long tails, pillar-like legs and immense bodies. It is uncertain what species made the Isle of Skye tracks, but Brusatte estimates these dinosaurs were 50 feet (15 metres) long and weighed 15-20 tons.

Sauropods as a group included the planet’s biggest terrestrial animals ever. The Isle of Skye sauropods were relatively primitive, perhaps “an early cousin or ancestor of the famous ones like Diplodocus and Brontosaurus,” Brusatte said.

Brusatte said many decades ago scientists thought sauropods

must have lived in swamps because such behemoths could never support their weight on land, but that idea was discarded in the 1970s with the realisation they were well-adapted for living on land as shown by their skeletal structure.

This fossil footprint site and other recent finds show these dinosaurs really did spend at least some time in the water, Brusatte said. These sauropods were not swimmers or pure water-dwellers, probably living mostly on land but still spending considerable time in the water, he said.

“Maybe these lagoons were a ready source of food, or offered protection from predators. But regardless of the answer, this discovery and the other recent ones

are inspiring us to re-imagine the lifestyles of these most incredible of ancient creatures,” Brusatte said.

Few fossils are known from this age, the middle of the Jurassic, University of Edinburgh paleontologist Tom Challands said.

The site boasts at least three layers of sandstone and limestone with trackways, demonstrating sauropods flourished in lagoon environments over multiple generations. The main layer, with numerous trackways crisscrossing one another, measures about 50 by 80 feet (15 by 25 metres).

The research was published in the *Scottish Journal of Geology*. —Reuters



An artist's impression of Sauropod dinosaurs on the Isle of Skye in this undated handout photo provided by the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 1 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ethicists square off over editing genes in human embryos

WASHINGTON — Debate over the use of powerful new gene editing tools in human eggs, sperm and embryos grew heated on Tuesday as scientists and ethicists gathered at an international summit to discuss the technology, which has the power to change the DNA of unborn children.

Several groups have already called for restrictions on use of the technology known as CRISPR-Cas9, which has opened up new frontiers in genetic medicine because of its ability to modify genes quickly and efficiently.

Hille Haker, chair of Catholic Moral Theology at Loyola University Chicago, argued on Tuesday in favour of a two-year international ban on research that involves changing human reproductive cells, also known as germline cells. Such changes would be passed on to offspring.

She argued that such practices violated the freedom of unborn children, who would not have an opportunity to consent to changes in their genetic code.

But John Harris, a professor of bioethics at the University of Manchester in Britain, argued strongly in favour of the technology.

“We all have an inescapable moral duty: To continue with scientific investigation to the point at which we can make a rational choice. We are not yet at that point. It seems to me, consideration of a moratorium is the wrong course. Research is necessary,” Harris said.

CRISPR-Cas9 works as a type of molecular scissors that can selectively trim away unwanted parts of the genome, and replace it with new stretches of DNA. Advocates have said the technology can speed the day that scientists can prevent hereditary diseases. Opponents worry about unknown effects on future generations and the temptation for future parents to pay for genetic enhancements such as greater intelligence or athletic ability.

There appeared to be broad agreement at the meeting that “somatic” cell editing, in which the changes are done in non-reproductive cells and are not passed along, posed few risks.

Some scientists believe it is already too late to ban any use of the technology in human reproductive cells because the technology is easily accessible and in widespread use in many labs. —Reuters

Aide to N Korean leader visited China for medical treatment: Yonhap

SEOUL — One of the closest aides to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently visited China to receive medical treatment, Yonhap News Agency reported yesterday, citing a source well-versed in North Korean affairs.

"It's my understanding Hwang Pyong So, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, has returned to North Korea after visiting China for medical treatment," the source was quoted as saying. The source said there is a possibility Hwang visited China to undergo surgery on his spine.

Hwang was promoted to vice marshal in April last year, prompting specu-

lation that his rapid rise to the highest position of authority in the North Korean military may be an attempt by Kim to tighten grip on the military and head off any challenges to his rule.

Hwang attended high-level talks with South Korea in August in which the two Koreas agreed to hold governmental talks to improve bilateral relations.

Tensions had escalated earlier that month after South Korea accused the North of planting landmines in the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas that seriously injured two South Korean soldiers. They rose further after the two sides fired artillery shells at each other.—*Kyodo News*

US says wants to keep up momentum in Syria peace talks

UNITED NATIONS — The United States on Tuesday voiced the hope that momentum in talks aimed at hammering out a peace plan to end Syria's nearly five-year civil war could continue, and said the next meeting of major world powers could take place this month in New York.

"There is significant enthusiasm to keep the momentum going, particularly with regard to thinking through whether local cease-fires might be possible on an expedited basis," US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power told reporters.

"Our ambition is certainly to do another ministerial meeting in December and we're ... open to a number of different venues, one of which is New York," she said.

The first two rounds of talks on Syria among major



US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power. PHOTO: REUTERS

Western and Middle Eastern powers were held in Vienna.

Syrian government officials said on Tuesday they had agreed on a deal for opposition fighters to withdraw from the last insurgent-held area of the city of Homs as part of a local ceasefire agreement.

Power said a separate upcoming meeting in Saudi Arabia of Syrian opposition figures, also expected this

month, was "critically important." Riyadh issued invitations to 65 Syrian opposition figures to try to unify their positions ahead of the next round of Syria peace talks. The Riyadh meeting is an attempt to bring together rival groups whose disunity has been an obstacle to ending a war that has killed more than 250,000 people, displaced millions and allowed the Islamic State

group to seize control of parts of Syria and Iraq.

Power said Jordan was working to determine which groups opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad would be invited to the peace talks.

"Jordan was given the task of working through that," she said. "We're waiting to hear from Jordan."

The biggest hurdles in the talks at the moment, diplomats have said, are the future of Assad, who Western and Gulf Arab powers want ousted, and identifying moderate opposition groups.

While all participants in the Syria talks oppose Islamic State, Western diplomats have said that Iran and Russia, which support Assad and have intervened militarily on his side, have very different views from Western and Gulf countries about which rebels are moderate.—*Reuters*

Ministry of Energy Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise Invitation for Opened Tender (8/2015)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of Multi Grade Diesel Engine Oil 15W 40 CF4/SG (40)Drums (Open Tender No. MPPE/POL/T/1(2015-2016)) in Myanmar Kyats.

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-12-2015, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 3-12-2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 6th DECEMBER 2015 (National Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV TAY SON 1 VOY NO (12/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAY SON 1 VOY NO (12/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-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.

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Pipe bomb explodes on overpass near Istanbul metro, five hurt

ISTANBUL — Five people were injured when a pipe bomb exploded on an overpass near an Istanbul metro station on Tuesday, the district mayor said, halting some train operations and heightening security fears in Europe's biggest city.

Turkey has been on high alert since more than 100 people were killed by two suicide bombers in the capital Ankara in October, three months after a similar attack at a town near the Syrian border in July left 33 dead.

Tuesday's blast near the Bayrampasa metro station came at the height of the evening rush hour, district Mayor Atilla Aydinler told A Haber television. Bayrampasa is a residential and industrial area on the

European side of Istanbul.

Another broadcaster earlier reported that one person had been killed but Aydinler confirmed only five injuries.

Grainy CCTV footage showed a large flash of light on the overpass followed by what appeared to be burning embers showering to the ground as cars drove below. Photographs on social media showed what appeared to be dozens of people walking alongside overground train tracks after trains had been halted. Although Istanbul's metro is largely underground, it runs above ground in some places, including around Bayrampasa.

Tuesday's blast was much smaller than the ones in Ankara and the town of



Forensic officers work on the blast scene in Istanbul, Turkey, on 1 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suruc near the Syrian border, which are believed to have been carried out by Islamic State militants.

Turkey, a NATO member, has carried out air strikes against the Islamist insurgents in neighbouring Syria as part of the US-led coalition fighting the jihadist movement.

It also faces security threats from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party

(PKK), whose militants often attack police and security in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast, and the far-left Revolutionary People's Liberation Army-Front (DHKP-C). The DHKP-C, which is considered a terrorist organisation by the United States and Ankara, said that one of its members was involved in an attack on the US consulate in August.—*Reuters*



Myanmar Auto Corporation (Tender Notice)

- 1) Myanmar Auto Corporation (MAC) will sell following Equipment as it is : **KOMATSU DOZER (D85ESS-2), 2012Year, 1 UNIT**
Equipment location : Manoyong, Boakpyin Township, Tanintharyi Region
- 2) Selling Method : **Tender (Closing date : 17:00 Dec. 28. 2015)**
- 3) Remarks : Tender Documents shall be collected at Yangon Head Office
Contact (MAC Yangon Head Office) : 09-49317989, 09-421128015

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Leibovitz shots of Yoko Ono, Amy Schumer adorn 2016 Pirelli calendar



US blogger Tavi Gevinson poses at the launch of the Pirelli Calendar 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



US photographer Annie Leibovitz (L) poses with Pirelli CEO Marco Tronchetti Provera. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — After reverting to type last year with scantily clad models in patent leather, Pirelli has chosen Annie Leibovitz to photograph women of all types and from across industry for its 2016 calendar.

Tennis player Serena Williams, comedian Amy Schumer, artist Yoko Ono, singer Patti Smith, blogger Tavi Gevinson

and model Natalia Vodianova all feature, some wearing more clothes than others.

The calendar, produced in book format, is traditionally published in a limited run for top Pirelli clients. The 2016 edition will be its 43rd.

"It was really Pirelli that wanted a change and I didn't believe them ... But then once I

started taking these pictures it wasn't really like we were doing the Pirelli calendar," Leibovitz said at the calendar's London launch on Monday night.

"We were just taking these portraits of incredible, smart, creative, great women and it just started," she told Reuters.

Leibovitz also shot the 2000 Pirelli calendar.—Reuters

'Mad Max: Fury Road' is surprise best film choice of Board of Review



Charlize Theron. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Action adventure "Mad Max: Fury Road" was named the best film of 2015 on Tuesday by the National Board of Review, a surprise choice by the New York-based body whose list traditionally kicks off the annual Hollywood awards season.

Space drama "The Martian" won a best actor award for Matt Damon and best director for Ridley Scott and was also named one of the nine top films of the year.

But Oscar hopefuls were left empty handed by the Board of Review, which has a history of going against the mainstream. These included "Steve Jobs," a film about Apple Inc's co-founder, Irish immigrant saga "Brooklyn" and Jennifer Lawrence's much anticipated "Joy."

Instead, the 100-year-old organisation, which comprises academics, filmmak-

ers, students and professionals, chose popular fare such as boxing movie "Creed," rap music film "Straight Outta Compton," Catholic Church sex abuse tale "Spotlight" and psychological thriller "Room" among its top films of the year.

Sylvester Stallone was named best supporting actor for his role in "Creed," a sequel to his hit "Rocky" movies, while Brie Larson took the best actress award for playing an abducted mother in "Room."

Quentin Tarantino's yet-to-be-released drama "The Hateful Eight" also fared well. It was included in the best-of-the-year list and won best screenplay as well as supporting actress for Jennifer Jason Leigh. The Board of Review is known for its sometimes idiosyncratic picks. Last year it chose the small independent drama "A Most Violent Year" as its best film of 2014.

This year's winner "Mad Max: Fury Road," directed by Australian George Miller, starred Charlize Theron as a rebel leader in a post-apocalyptic future.

The movie won warm reviews and has made some \$376 million at the box office worldwide but it has not been seen as a likely contender for major awards such as the Oscars or Golden Globes.—Reuters

Chris Brown cancels Australian and New Zealand tours after visa denied

SYDNEY — US singer and hip-hop star Chris Brown yesterday canceled a tour to Australia and New Zealand, after earlier being refused a visa due to his domestic violence conviction against singer Rihanna in the United States.

In a statement, issued by Brown's promoters, the US singer confirmed the cancellation of the two legs of his world tour. He did not give any details for the cancellation.

The cancellation had been widely expected after Brown struggled to obtain the necessary visa to perform.

Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said in September that his office intended to refuse Brown a visa over the singer's history of domestic violence.

A person has 28-days after a visa rejection to lodge an appeal, but it was not known

whether Brown appealed.

A spokeswoman for Dutton refused to comment on Brown's application process, citing privacy restraints. New Zealand said Brown had voluntarily withdrew his application.

"Immigration New Zealand can confirm that Chris Brown withdrew his application for a work visa to travel to New Zealand. No decision had been made on the application," a spokesperson for Immigration New Zealand Spokesperson told Reuters.

Brown's visa troubles stem from a conviction in 2009 for assaulting his then girlfriend, singer Rihanna, and sentencing in the United States to five years probation, which was lifted in February.

Brown had been scheduled to perform shows in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in December.—Reuters

Sam Smith buys notebook to treasure song ideas



PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Grammy-winning singer Sam Smith is putting together his favourite new songs into a notebook so that he can "treasure" the ideas forever.

Alongside a picture of his new pad, he wrote, I've decided with this album to put it all in one notebook, and treasure it. Currently writing out the songs I've already done that I love. This is exciting." The "Writing's On the Wall" singer, 23,

splashed out on the notebook after losing all the original lyrics and notes for all his old songs as he used to just jot his ideas down on scrap paper.

"Ever since I started writing songs, from the age of 12 (my first song I wrote was called 'Yellow Hat' - don't ask) all the lyrics and ideas I've ever written have been on random bits of paper and phone notes that I wish I still had to look back on.—PTI

James Bond boss wants Daniel Craig back for next 007 film

LONDON — James Bond boss Barbara Broccoli is determined to rope in Daniel Craig for at least one more 007 movie.

The British actor, 47, is still undecided about signing on for a fifth Bond film, despite the success of "Spectre", after initially telling one reporter he'd rather "break this glass and slash my wrists" than play the superspy again, reported Contactmusic.

But the franchise producers are considering the next film before pre-production begins in the spring (16), and Broccoli has put Craig's return on her Christmas wish list.

"Now everyone is asking, 'How will it go for 007?' I hope it continues with Craig. I think he's great, and obviously not just me, but also the audience. I will do everything (to make sure) that he stays," she said.—PTI

Japanese moms' 'stroller dance' gives life to child-rearing

TOKYO — When the cries of babies rang out in the auditorium in central Tokyo, it only served as a prelude to an unusual performance that was about to begin. Emotions were running even higher for the babies' mothers who sought out their own catharsis.

A group of over 70 mothers wearing the same red T-shirts cautiously pushed their babies in strollers to the center of the wide gymnasium floor during the early November gathering, and as if on cue the babies' cries suddenly died out.

Once the music started, the nervous faces of the mothers were instantly replaced by big smiles. They pushed and swung the strollers, shook their bodies, and bounced and twirled around while their babies curiously gazed at their snappy moves.

But the most rewarding moment came at the end of the "stroller dance" with the wave of applause from a crowd of about 5,000 spectators in attendance at the Japan Gymnastics Festival in Yoyogi National Stadium, vindicating the months of practice for mothers who often struggle in isolation to raise their babies.

"We did it!" exclaimed one participant after the performance

as other members cheered in agreement. "Words can't describe how moving this is," said Sayaka Yoshi, 38, who heads the dance group Japan Parent-Child Association Famirhythm, which holds lessons at five studios in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture as well as online.

The stroller dance team has been a part of the festival for three years now, with membership having expanded from about 50 pairs in the first year as word spread among mothers largely in their 30s who have never danced for an audience before and their babies aged about three months or older. The group has been aiming for a "100 stroller dance."

Yoshi, a mother of three, founded the dance group under a different name in 2012 after suffering postpartum depression following the birth of her first child.

"I was crying the whole time when I was taking care of my first baby. I was suddenly cut off from the rest of the world, and I barely talked to anybody during the day," said Yoshi, who spent much of her time outside with friends in her pre-motherhood days.

The traumatic experience

"I was crying the whole time when I was taking care of my first baby. I was suddenly cut off from the rest of the world, and I barely talked to anybody during the day."

Sayaka Yoshi

Japan Parent-Child Association Famirhythm

of raising a child mainly on her own made her aware of the need to connect with others, and she soon turned to dancing, which she loved and had been involved in since childhood — only this time, it was with her child in a stroller.

Like Yoshi, many mothers in Japan are often left alone with their children. It is still uncommon for fathers to take child-rearing leave, and they tend to work extensive hours away from home.

While family and community support have become increasingly scarce with changes in lifestyles, there are still strong cultural views that mothers should devote themselves to child-rearing. A 2010 government survey — the latest for which there are statistics — showed roughly 60 percent of Japanese women leave their jobs upon giving birth to their first

child.

Members of Famirhythm were no exception. Many said they have quit their jobs and given up hobbies or altered their lifestyles to focus on raising their children.

"When you have a child, your child becomes your top priority, but then you end up having to give up all the fun stuff for yourself," said Sachiko Furue, 32, who is on her second maternity leave to care for her 3-month-old son.

She said taking part in the dance gave her an outlet to relax, making child-rearing easier. "It made me think I should do something that I enjoy doing, because it helps me deal with my kids with a more relaxed attitude."

Miho Mochizuki, a 36-year-old mother of one, said taking part in last year's stroller dance gave her a sense of achievement unlike anything she experienced

in child-rearing and "energized" her to bring back her old hobby of jogging.

"The satisfying feeling made me want to start other things," she said, adding she soon took up jogging and started going out more frequently since her routine keeps her busy away from home.

"Here, I don't have to worry about the noise my child makes," she said.

Reiko Koya, an instructor at a Tokyo studio, hoisted her gurgling 9-month-old in a baby carrier while she taught stroller dance moves. Other older children played in the background.

"We want to make child-rearing fun," said the 39-year-old former member of the Shiki Theatre Company.

"There is no end to child-rearing, but when we dance together, we can make a fresh start." Fathers also benefit from the dancing.

Masaaki Matsuda, a 31-year-old system engineer and father of two daughters, said he indirectly benefits from his wife's participation.

The mother Aimi, 28, who is also a system engineer, takes part in the dance with the children.—*Kyodo News*

mitv Myanmar International

(3-12-2015 07:00 am~ 4-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Ngwe Saung
07:46	Am	"Moe Hnyin Than Buddhé", The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-2)
08:34	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
08:51	Am	Thin Byu Mat
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanma Pottery
09:50	Am	Beach Food Delivery
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Trend Of Kachin Dress
10:52	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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
07:24	Pm	To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Ep-2)
07:47	Pm	Civic Duty
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:38	Pm	Sweet Delicacy Of Pathein
08:46	Pm	Chef Life "Oliver E Soe Thet"
09:03	Pm	News
09:26	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-12) Tapas: Ham & Peach Nibbles, Smoked Salmon & Quail Egg, Crunchy Baked Mussels and Colourful Fruit Punch
09:50	Pm	Beach Food Delivery

(10:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (10:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday 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)

Michelin star awarded to ramen restaurant for 1st time

TOKYO — A ramen restaurant with just nine seats, an entry into which always requires waiting, has been awarded a single star, becoming the world's first ramen restaurant with a Michelin star, according to "The Michelin Guide Tokyo 2016" that will go on sale Friday.

After the latest edition for the Japanese capital of the foodies' guidebook was announced Monday, Yuki Onishi, the owner and chef of Japanese Soba Noodles Tsuta, a tiny restaurant with an L-shaped counter near Sug-

amo Station, said he is "happy" and thinks the awarding means "ramen has become more widely recognised by the world."

The broth for Soy Sauce Soba noodles, one of the most popular dishes at his restaurant, is made by mixing three different kinds of soy sauce, chicken broth, seafood, vegetables and Italian black truffle oil. "The Michelin Guide Tokyo 2016" encompasses information on the Japanese capital's 13 restaurants with three stars, 51 with two stars and 153 with one star.—*Kyodo News*



Tokyo hotel shows "The Michelin Guide Tokyo 2016" that will go on sale on 4 December. The book features information on the Japanese capital's 13 restaurants with three stars, 51 with two stars and 153 with one star.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Inner Mongolia develops winter travel routes

BEIJING — The Inner Mongolia autonomous region announced seven winter-tourism itineraries in Beijing on 1 December. Routes include Arxan's hot springs; Ulanhot's folk customs and prairies; Hexigten's geology; and Alxa's deserts.

Inner Mongolia's winter tourism focuses on the fusion be-

tween landscapes and the customs of the people who dwell on its unique terrains.

Visitors can enjoy not only more conventional seasonal activities, such as viewing ice sculptures, skiing and playing hockey, but also try horse racing, wrestling and camel riding.

The autonomous region

will host Hulun Buir's Ice and Snow Festival, the China-Russia-Mongolia beauty pageant and a steam-locomotive photography competition.

The event was attended by the National Tourism Administration's international department's deputy director, Fan Wenming.—*Xinhua*

PSG denied 10th straight win in 0-0 draw with Angers

PARIS — Runaway leaders Paris St Germain suffered a minor hiccup in their bid for a fourth straight Ligue 1 title when promoted Angers denied them a 10th consecutive win in a goalless stalemate on Tuesday.

PSG, who had won all their league games since 22 September, had the best chances but Angers keeper Ludovic Butelle put in an impressive display to keep them at bay at the Jean-Bouin stadium.

“We knew how they play. The key in these games is to score in the opening 15-20 minutes,” PSG coach Laurent Blanc said.

“As long as the score is 0-0 they remain organised and

they can even score on a counter attack.” Laurent Blanc’s side have 42 points from 16 games and lead second-placed Caen, who travel to Monaco on Wednesday, by 14 points. Angers are third on 27 points.

Nice are fifth on 25 points after being held to a 0-0 draw at mid-table Lorient.

On a dire evening in Ligue 1, Olympique Lyonnais also drew 0-0 at Nantes and, having ended a three-game losing streak in all competitions, are fourth on 26 points.

PSG’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic started on the bench at Angers, as Blanc opted to field Edinson Cavani as a lone striker with Lucas and Angel Di Maria on the flanks.—Reuters

Myanmar to host 5th Southeast Asian Archery Championship

MYANMAR will host the 5th Southeast Asian Archery Championship Tournament 2016 in Kyeikkasan Stadium, Yangon from 23 to 28 January, according to the Myanmar Archery Federation.

More than 150 players from around Asia, representing 14 countries in total, will participate in 10 archery competitions. Athletes will compete in recurve, compound, recurve mixed team and compound mixed team events. 18 gold, 18 silver and 18 bronze medals will be awarded, according to Dr Phyo Ko Ko Tint San, chairman of the Myanmar Archery Federation.

The coordination meeting for holding the 5th South East Asian Open Archery Championship was held at the sports and physical department hall in Yangon on 1 December. Dr Phyo Ko Ko Tint San, chairman of the Myan-



Officials discuss plans for the 5th Southeast Asian Open Archery Championship from 23 to 28 January. PHOTO: MAUNG SEIN LWIN

mar Archery Federation, U Kyaw Oo, deputy director of Myanmar Archery Federation and deputy permanent secretary of sports and physical department and officials of its department attended the meeting. Mr. Sanguan Kosawinga, Union Sports Minister and chairman of the Southeast Asian Archery Association will attend the Championship where players

will perform Myanmar traditional martial art and Myanmar traditional chinlone at the opening of the championship. Along with the host nation, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand will participate in the tournament.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)

Man City, Stoke, Everton down underdogs to make Cup semis

LONDON — The plucky underdogs were brought down to earth as Manchester City, Everton and Stoke City reached the League Cup semi-finals on Tuesday, ending the hopes of second-tier sides who felled fancied opponents in the last round.

Manchester City were far short of their finely-tuned best at home to Hull City, but still managed a comprehensive 4-1 victory while Everton won 2-0 at Middlesbrough and Stoke beat visitors Sheffield Wednesday by the same scoreline.

Wilfried Bony’s 12th-minute goal calmed City’s nerves at the Etihad Stadium, but resilient Hull defending ensured it stayed close before late efforts from Kieffer Meehan and a Kevin De Bruyne double put a more presentable gloss on the scoreline.

Hull, who grabbed a late consolation from Andrew Robertson, had knocked out surprise Premier League contenders Leicester City in their last League Cup outing and City boss Manuel Pellegrini was not going to take them lightly.

The City side included a number of fresh faces from their league victory over Southampton on Saturday, but was still packed full of talent, including

playmaker David Silva who was making his first start in almost two months following injury.

Things looked bleak for the Championship side when Bony broke the deadlock with only minutes on the clock as De Bruyne’s effort struck the post and the Ivorian followed up to finish.

That should have signalled the opening of the

floodgates, but Hull stubbornly fended off the Premier League leaders and their rearguard were not breached again until the 80th minute.

Raheem Sterling whipped a cross in from the left and

Iheanacho tapped in from close range to give City breathing space before De Bruyne grabbed a poacher’s goal and wrapped up the tie with a curling free kick from the edge of the box.

“We only had 72 hours to recover (from the 3-1 win over Southampton) so it was a very good answer from all the squad,” said City boss Pellegrini, whose side are also through to the last 16 of the Champions League.

“The most important thing is to be involved in all the competitions at this stage. We were very solid and we didn’t allow chances for Hull to score.”

Middlesbrough, who knocked out Manchester United in the fourth round, saw their luck run out against Everton while Stoke was the end of the road for Arsenal’s conquerors Wednesday.

Everton went in front at the Riverside with a superb piece of individual skill from Gerard Deulofeu af-

ter 20 minutes. The Spaniard ran from inside the Middlesbrough half before beating two defenders and finishing low from the edge of the area.

He then set up striker Romelu Lukaku eight minutes later with a delightful cross from the right that the leaping Belgian powerhouse headed superbly into the net.

“It was a fantastic occasion, to be involved in the cup,” Everton manager Roberto Martinez told Sky Sports.

“It is a terrific feeling to get through to the semi-final and good memory for our football club.”

Wednesday made the biggest splash in the previous round, crushing visitors Arsenal 3-0, but any hope of a repeat at the Britannia Stadium looked faint when Ibrahim Afellay volleyed into the corner on the half-hour for his first Stoke goal.

The tie was wrapped up with 15 minutes to play when Phil Bardsley smashed home a low free kick with Stoke reaching their first League Cup semi-final since they won the trophy in 1972.

Record eight-times League Cup winners Liverpool visit Southampton on Wednesday in an all-Premier League clash to decide the last place in the semi-finals.—Reuters



Middlesbrough’s Kieffer Meehan in action with Everton’s Ramiro Funes Mori during Capital One Cup Quarter Final at The Riverside Stadium, on 1 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

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