

Deputy C-in-C honours winners of Myanmar Golf Tour-2015

PAGE 3



Myanmar puppeteers to perform at art festival in Laos

PAGE 2

ANALYSIS

Upholding nationalism is national concern

PAGE 8

# YOUR LOAN IS SAFE

## SME LOANS TO BE GUARANTEED BY GOVT

Min Thit

THE union government plans to launch a Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) System to allow small and medium enterprises to get loans from banks without giving collateral.

The CGI system, which was implemented two years ago, will reimburse banks when borrowers cannot pay back loans, said Deputy Minister for Finance and Dr Maung Maung Thein at a press conference on 5 December in Yangon.

“Although the system was implemented two years ago, it has yet to become popular among the banks,” said the deputy minister.

Although most banks have not shown interest, the CGI system has drawn attention from small and medium enterprises, he added.

The system is jointly implemented by the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Industry and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Department and Myanmar Insurance under the Ministry of Finance.

Small and medium enterprises have obtained loans against immovable properties from the Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank.

Small enterprises with no immovable properties have reported



SMEs in Myanmar are still struggling with the lack of skilled labour and funds. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

experiencing difficulties getting loans from banks.

Under the CGI system, the government will provide full protection to banks that give loans

to small and medium enterprises without immovable properties.

To develop small and medium enterprises in the country, the government has set a budget of

K5 billion in December, 2012, and K5 billion in July, 2013, giving loans to 62 enterprises through the SMIDB.

In March last year, the gov-

ernment allocated a budget of K20 billion, and so far, 355 enterprises across the country have been received more than K10 billion in loans.

INSIDE

Police confiscates illegal jade, vehicle

PAGE 2

Let's Create a Green Future

PAGE 8



U Sein Myint. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

## Paying tribute at memorial for fallen soldiers

Min Thit and Zaw Gyi

IN a misty morning, a senior citizen walks with a crutch to the northern archway of the Shwedagon pagoda. He fails to cover the sadness on his face. He walks toward the Memorial to Fallen Heroes near the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon.

A veteran soldier was there to join a ceremony to pay tribute to fallen heroes at the memorial.

He lost his leg when he stepped on a land mine in southern Shan State in 1988.

Among the veteran soldiers at the ceremony, vocalist Li Li Naing Kyaw said: “We should hold this kind of ceremony every year to honour those who sacrificed their lives for our country.”

The ceremony attracted veterans of different ranks. What is special about this event is that the

See page 3 >>



# Myanmar puppeteers to perform at art festival in Laos

*Myanmar Marionette Organisation seeks to popularise Myanmar folk arts*



Myanmar puppeteers stage a puppet show at Mandalay Marionette Theatre.

PHOTO: SUPPLIES BY DAW MA MA NAING

## Khaing Thanda Lwin

MYANMAR puppeteers plan to take part in a Performing Arts Festival in Laos at the end of January next year, according to Daw Ma Ma Naing, chairperson of the Myanmar Marionette Organisation.

A Myanmar team with five members—Daw Ma Ma Naing and her daughter Han Su Yin, U Aung Than, U Thein Lwin and Toe Toe—will participate in the event to exhibit the country's traditional folk art.

Supported by the Department of Information, Culture and Tourism of the Vientiane Municipality,

the event is scheduled to be taken place from 29 to 31 January in the Laos' capital. It will include performances by artists from four ASEAN countries, plus Japan.

This is the first time the MMO has been invited to take part in the event, organised by the Khaoniew Theatre Group. According to the schedule, the Myanmar team will leave for Laos on 25 January and return home on 1 February.

Team leader Daw Ma Ma Naing said the aim of her group's participation is to showcase Myanmar's traditional art of puppetry during the festival, with plans to exchange information on tra-

ditional folk arts with all participants at the two-day workshop, which will be held before the festival.

Since its establishment in 2014, the Mandalay-based Myanmar Marionette Organisation has conducted many activities to promote appreciation of traditional puppetry.

Puppetry is one of the most popular forms of traditional entertainment in Myanmar. It is traditionally performed at pagoda festivals. Myanmar puppet shows depict the differences between good and evil through literature, history and religion.

## Authorities seize illegal logs

AUTHORITIES seized ownerless illegal logs in Katha, Sagaing Region, on 1 December, police reported yesterday.

A combined investigation team comprising officers from the Ministry of Forestry and the Myanmar Police Force discovered

about 54 tonnes of logs, which are believed to have been hidden in the Shweli River at Hlawkasin Jetty.

According to police, smugglers cut trees from the Kananme Forest Reserve and submerged them at the jetty, threatening watercrafts on the river.

Illegal gold mining on the banks of the Shweli River has caused deforestation in the area and gas lead to the formation of sandbanks in the river. Teak trees in the area are threatened by deforestation due to illegal cutting by smugglers.—*Ngwe Oh*



Photo shows ownerless illegal logs in Katha.

PHOTO: NGWE OH

## Inactivated polio vaccine given to children in Mandalay

INACTIVATED polio vaccines (IPV) were administered to children in Mandalay on 4 December at the 550-bed Children's Hospital Chanayethasan Township. Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint accompanied and Regional Social Welfare Minister Dr Win Hlaing, District Health Department head Dr Kyaw Soe and senior officials attended the event.

The chief minister said since 1 December, 96 countries, including Myanmar, have provided IPV to children as a major strategy for the eradication of polio. The vaccination will be changed from Trivalent

Oral Polio Vaccine (tOPV) to Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV), he said.

He urged the Ministry of Health, its affiliated departments and social organisations to cooperate to promote public awareness about polio vaccinations.

The officials observed children being vaccinated and gave them gifts. They also viewed photographs of polio eradication activities and wall posters, which were shown on the sidelines of the event.

Myanmar was designated polio-free by the WHO on 27 March 2014.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

## Police confiscates illegal jade, vehicle



An officer inspects illegal jade stones seized from a car.

PHOTO: SOE WIN

POLICE seized about 365 kilos of jade following a car search in Nawngkhio yesterday, according to police source.

A joint investigation team, comprising police and customs

officers, discovered the jade stones hidden in the car, which was en-route from Mandalay to Muse. Police also confiscated the vehicle carrying the illegal jade, according to police.—*Soe Win*

## Police seize two men in a stolen vehicle case

POLICE have arrested the two men, aged 22 and 50, who are wanted in connection to a stolen vehicle case.

The took place on 29 November, when a car owned by U Hla Htwe was stolen as the owner asked about fuel prices at a petroleum station in North Okkala Township. He left the car with the key in the ignition near the station.

On that day, police seized one suspect named Min Thu, also known as Min Thu Aung, 22, of Hlaingthaya Township, who drove the car on Thawawaddy Street in the township and collid-

ed with another vehicle.

Another man named Ye Tun Zaw, 50, of Mingaladon Township, was seized by police from the Mayangone Myoma Police Station on 30 November on Thanthuma Street in the township. Ye Tun Zaw was employed as a driver on the No. 43 bus line.

The two suspects have been charged under Section 379 of the penal code by the Mayangone Myoma Police Station. Moreover, the North Okkalapa Police Station opened a case under Section 279.—*Myanmar News Agency*



## Deputy C-in-C honours winners of Myanmar Golf Tour-2015



Vice-Senior General Soe Win takes part in final of Myanmar Golf Tour 2015. PHOTO: MYAWADY

ON behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win took part in a final event of Myanmar

Golf Tour-2015 yesterday.

He also awarded Ko Zaw Zaw Latt who won the Order of Merit Award as he had ranked top in the professional category throughout the event.

Officials also presented prizes

winners of the amateur level categories of the golf tour-2015.

Twenty-nine golfers participated in the Myanmar Golf Tour-2015, 98 in the men's amateur category and 21 in the women's category events.—Myawady

## Paying tribute at memorial for fallen soldiers

>> From page 1

event was organised by the neither government nor the defence services. It was organised by the people in profound appreciation

of those who risked life and limb while defending the country's territorial integrity.

Former Lt-Gen Tun Kyi was among those present at the cere-

mony. This public-initiated event was first organised on the first Sunday of December last year, and this year's event was the second one.



People pay tribute at memorial for fallen soldiers near mausoleum of national heroes. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

## Man charged with snatching gold chain

POLICE have arrested a young man trying to sell a gold chain on a street of Ward Seven, Hlaingthaya township, Yangon Region, on 29 November.

When interrogated, Thet

Paing Nyein, 21, admitted to snatching it from a woman at a pagoda festival in Htantapin township. The local police station has begun legal proceedings.—Pol-Maj Myint Maung

## More than 13,000 people participate December mass walk in Mandalay

MANDALAY Region Government conducted a mass walk in the city on 5 December.

The activity was led by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and members of the regional government.

More than 13,380 people participated in the activity which would be held every Saturday in December. After the mass walk, the participants did physical exercises collectively.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Mass walk of people participating in December sports months.

PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

## Children participate in poem recitation, story telling contest in Dakkhinathiri

DAKKHINATHIRI District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee conducted a poem recitation and story telling Dakkhinathiri Township on 5 December.

Children from day care centres run by maternal and child welfare associations in the district participated in the contest.

During the contest, children also performed dances.

After the ceremony, Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mi Mi Soe, Chairperson of Dakkhinathiri District Mater and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mya Mya Thi and chairpersons of the township maternal and child welfare associations presented gifts to the children.

**OMEGA**

Season's Greetings

OMEGA  
De Ville

OMEGA Boutique: Sule Shangri-La Hotel • Yangon  
Available at: Swiss Time Square • No.99, KaBarAye Pagoda Road • Yangon



## CPC to target gov't organs, public institutions in discipline inspections

BEIJING — The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee will try to expand its discipline inspections into all government organs and government-sponsored institutions next year, a CPC disciplinary official said yesterday.

Conducting “inspections across the board” has been fixed as a task in a revised version of CPC disciplinary regulations and is considered an important way to govern the Party strictly, said Luo Liping from the office of the CPC Central Committee’s inspection leadership group.

To achieve the aim, inspections at the central level have to cover more than 280 ministries, local governments, major state-owned enterprises (SOEs), financial and public institutions, according to Luo. Discipline inspections have grown more intensive since the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress in late 2012. They focus on investigating and punishing officials violating Party or frugality rules, especially those embezzling public money, taking bribes, and selling or buying government positions.

The leadership group oversaw 149 inspections since late 2012 and would conclude inspections on all local governments, major SOEs and financial institutions, including the central bank, securities regulators and state-owned banks, by the year end, Luo said.

Luo noted that more than 100 rounds of inspections would be conducted.

All local governments, enterprises and public institutions under the administration of the central authorities should be inspected before the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress, he said.

The CPC Central Committee published a revised version of its disciplinary regulations in October, as the CPC moved to improve the management of its 88 million members amid the sweeping anti-corruption drive.

So far, many high-ranking officials have been taken down, including Ling Jihua, a former member of the CPC Central Committee, and Song Lin, former chair of state-owned China Resources (Holdings) Co. Ltd.—*Xinhua*

## Matsuno re-elected leader of opposition Japan Innovation Party

TOKYO — The opposition Japan Innovation Party yesterday re-elected its leader Yorihiisa Matsuno, who is eager to unite opposition forces ahead of the House of Councillors election next summer.

“I will aim for a change of government by uniting reform-oriented forces. I intend to call on the (largest opposition) Democratic Party of Japan, other parties and independent lawmakers” to team up, Matsuno, 55, said at a party conference in Tokyo after beating the party’s general council head Jiro Ono, 62, in a two-man race.

Matsuno, who previously belonged to the DPJ, is set to hold talks with DPJ leader Katsuya Okada on Monday, with a view to agreeing on forming a parliamentary group by the end of this year to bolster their cooperation in challenging the ruling Liberal Democratic Party led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the upper house election.



Yorihiisa Matsuno (C) and other officials of the opposition Japan Innovation Party raise their fists at an extraordinary party convention in Tokyo on 6 December 2015, after Matsuno was re-elected as party leader. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The plan to try to join hands with the DPJ was also accepted at the conference.

It was the first leadership election since the Japan Innovation Party was launched in September last year.

Matsuno’s term was initially set to run until the end of September this year but was extended amid internal strife, with supreme adviser and Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto departing the party in August.—*Kyodo News*

### THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

**Director** - Maung Maung Than  
mnmnthn2@gmail.com

**Acting Chief Editor** - Aye Min Soe  
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

**Chief Reporter**

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

**Senior Consultant Editor**

Jessica Mudditt

jess.mudditt@gmail.com

**Consultant Editors**

Jacob Goldberg

jgold.news@gmail.com

Alec Wilmot

alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com

**Editors**

Ye Htut Tin

mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

Myint Win Thein

journalist.sss@gmail.com

**International news**

Tun Tun Naing

tunyunaing@gmail.com

**Reporters**

Khaing Thanda Lwin

juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw

tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

**Translators**

Ma Than Htay,

Hay Mar Tin Win

haymarfat@gmail.com

**Proof reader**

Nwe Nwe Tun

**Layout designers**

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung,

Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

**Circulation & Advertising**

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

**Ads and subscription enquiries:**

adv.gnlm@gmail.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

## In India, Modi mocked and state leader heckled after floods



Indian soldiers load food items onto an Indian Air Force (IAF) chopper for an air-drop in flood affected areas at Tambaram air force station in Chennai, India, on 4 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

CHENNAI — One of India’s most powerful politicians, a former movie star called “Amma” or “Mother” by her followers, is being heckled and abused for going missing in action after floods swept the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, which she rules.

It’s a salutary lesson for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who at first drew nods of approval when he rushed to Chennai last week, promising to stand by its people in their hour of need.

Yet, within hours, Modi became the object of mockery on social media after his press office released a doctored photo of him inspecting flood damage. For both him and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa Jayaram,

the image of strong leadership created by their publicity machines was undermined.

Until the floods that ravaged the city of 6 million, the lofty remoteness of Jayalalithaa added to the aura around a leader with an almost hysterical following. Devotees of the 1960s screen idol have immolated themselves in her defence in the past.

Now, she faces a backlash from residents fed up with the sight of her image on billboards, aid packets and her own Jaya Plus TV channel. She has been since in public only twice during the crisis — once with Modi.

Angry youths heckled a state minister and officials in Jayalalithaa’s north Chennai constituency, where people were sitting on

the roadside amid sludge and mountains of garbage, their shanties swept away by the worst rains in a century.

“Forget about Amma coming here, there was no sign of the party cadres,” said one of them, called Dorairaj.

About 280 people have died across Tamil Nadu since torrential rains on 1 December submerged tracts of Chennai under up to eight feet (2.5 metres) of water, trapping people on rooftops with no communication.

There was further revulsion after a party legislator put up a poster of Jayalalithaa lifting a baby above the floodwaters, in a scene from a blockbuster movie. “Adding salt to the wounds,” said one Twitter post.

Avadi Kumar, a spokesman of her ruling AIADMK party, said there was anger among the people but the administration was doing all it could to bring relief: “It is impossible to reach all areas immediately or be present everywhere at all times.”

Modi’s own promise to voters of good days to come for India is also starting to face disenchantment, 18 months into his five-year term, with key reforms stalled by bureaucratic inertia and political gridlock.

Ambitious initiatives, such as a “Clean India” campaign, have made little headway — even as Modi has built up huge followings on social media and ad-

ressed enthusiastic diaspora Indians at packed stadiums on his many trips overseas.

“If today he appears to have lost control over his own narrative, it is his own fault,” commentator Tavleen Singh wrote in Sunday’s Indian Express, urging Modi to hire a professional media team. Modi does not have an official spokesperson.

Jayalalithaa, 67, in the past considered as a possible prime ministerial candidate backed by regional groups, faces an election in Tamil Nadu next year.

Modi’s nationalist party has little presence in Tamil Nadu, a state of 70 million. It would rather the iron-fisted Jayalalithaa stays in power, believing she is more inclined to back his reform agenda in parliament than her rivals.

But there are concerns around her health and that she may have to curtail her campaign.

Earlier this year a higher court acquitted her in a graft case for which was briefly jailed which had caused an outpouring of anger from her supporters. Some lay down on roads and tried to persuade bus drivers to go over them.

“She is supposed to be a fantastic administrator. But this time there was no presence of government at all. Ordinary people did all the work that government and police were supposed to do,” said S. Raja, one flood-hit resident of Chennai.—*Reuters*



## PICTURE OF THE DAY



A statue of Alfred Nobel at Nobel museum in downtown Stockholm, capital of Sweden. The 2015 Nobel Prize awarding ceremony will be held here on 10 December 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Museum on comfort women opens in S. Korea

DAEGU — A museum on so-called comfort women who were forced into wartime brothels for the Imperial Japanese Army opened Saturday in Daegu, southeastern South Korea, with central and local government officials attending the opening ceremony.

At the event, Kwon Yong Hyun, vice minister of gender equality, said that although President Park Geun Hye hopes for active exchanges with Japan more than any other South Korean administration did, the comfort women issue is preventing her from moving in that direction.

Kwon said the situation is similar for China, and emphasized that the South Korean government's position is that "Japan

should recognize the problem, apologize to victims and educate future generations" about the issue. The museum, created at the initiative of private groups, exhibits items such as photographs and mementos of more than 20 former comfort women from Daegu and other parts of North Gyeongsang Province.

According to a group that supports former South Korean comfort women, the plan to build the museum started out in 2009.

Under the 1.3 billion won (about \$1.1 million) project, a tile-roofed structure that was said to have been used as a tradesman's house during Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula was remodeled and expanded.

In addition to donations, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and the Daegu municipal government provided about 200 million won each in funding to prepare the facility.

A representative of the support group told reporters, "Even if elderly victims pass away, the comfort women issue must not be forgotten. I hope the museum will be a place to educate young generations and to think (about the issue)."

South Korea and Japan have been at odds over history-related matters, including the comfort women issue involving Korean and other women who were procured for brothels for Japanese military servicemen during World War II.—*Kyodo News*

## 4 bodies recovered from boat off northern Japan

AOMORI — Four bodies were recovered yesterday from a wooden boat recently seen entangled in a fishing net off the coast of Aomori Prefecture in northern Japan, the Japan

Coast Guard said.

The boat, which was spotted on Wednesday, may have come from North Korea, according to the Aomori Coast Guard Office.

The boat, roughly 15 metres

long and 2 metres wide, is similar in shape to a wooden boat marked with Hangul characters that washed up in the same area in October, the coast guard office said.—*Kyodo News*

## India gets cash flowing in flood-hit south as banks open Sunday

MUMBAI — India's banks will work yesterday to aid residents left without food, power and access to money in the flood-hit southern city of Chennai and surrounding areas, as cash dispensers have been emptied or lost power due to electricity outages.

India's fourth largest city was swamped by torrential rains

— the heaviest in a century — during the past five days, and the government has asked banks to restore basic services and supply cash machines as swiftly as possible, replenishing cash by boat or providing mobile ATMs if necessary.

In a statement late on Saturday, the Reserve Bank of India, the country's central bank, said

it would remain open to support bank transactions and help supply cash to local lenders. About 280 people have died across Tamil Nadu state since it was hit by torrential rains on 1 December that left large sections of capital Chennai under up to eight feet (2.5 metres) of water, and trapped people on rooftops with no communication. —*Reuters*

# Climate talks enter next phase, toughest decisions ahead

PARIS — Global climate change talks in Paris moved into a new, tougher phase on Saturday as negotiators agreed on a draft accord, albeit one that still leaves hundreds of points of dispute for ministers to resolve next week.

While a largely procedural step in the four-year quest for a binding deal to slow global warming, the fact that senior officials from almost 200 nations agreed on a draft marks an advance over the last, failed summit in Copenhagen six years ago.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius warned that much work lay ahead to reach an accord by the end of the conference on 11 December that will bind both rich and poor nations to combat global warming beyond 2020.

"We are not discussing just the environment, the climate. It's life," he told delegates. "We have to succeed here."

The top delegate from China, Su Wei, said the first week of the talks "though very difficult, have produced very good results and provide a strong foundation for next week".

Even so, the new text highlights how much work remains

to be done for ministers including US Secretary of State John Kerry, in finding consensus on issues that have bedevilled talks for four years. Negotiators have left them 939 pieces of bracketed text representing varying options for resolving disagreements.

Some developing nations want to phase out fossil fuels by 2050, for instance, but China, the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, is among those preferring to promise merely to shift to a low-carbon economy this century.

An agreement at the UN summit on the outskirts of Paris is expected to represent by far the strongest global accord yet to commit both rich and developing nations to curbing the rise in the emissions responsible for climate change, even though officials say it will not be enough to prevent global temperatures rising beyond a dangerous threshold.

"All the difficult political issues remain unsolved and will be solved by the ministers," European Climate and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said. "It's easier to get a weak agreement than a strong agreement."

An accord will not define

specific measures or targets, which are being undertaken at a national level.

But it should create a legal framework on key issues such as climate finance for developing nations, beyond a goal of \$100 billion a year already set for 2020, and set a long-term goal for the shift from fossil fuels.

The text, running to 43 pages including a 21-page core agreement, leaves most of those issues to be worked out.

"We had hoped that our work would be further advanced," said Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko of South Africa, who speaks on behalf of more than 130 developing nations. She said rich nations should lead in cutting emissions, and provide more finance.

Many participants noted that the Copenhagen conference never even got as far as a formal draft laying out the options.

"The situation couldn't be more different from Copenhagen ... when delegations were more interested in grandstanding," said Richard Black, director of the Energy and Climate Intelligence unit think-tank.

He said the chances of a



Environmentalists demonstrate during a street parade as part of the 'Global Village of Alternatives' events held in Montreuil, near Paris, France, on 5 December 2015 as the World Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21) continues at Le Bourget near the French capital.

PHOTO: REUTERS

deal next week "now look pretty good". All sides agree that the promises made so far for curbs on greenhouse gas emissions still fall far short of what is needed to limit global warming to a UN goal of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6F) above pre-industrial times.

But some developing nations said the new text showed a widening acceptance by rich nations

to help them to cope with loss and damage from major impacts of climate change, such as droughts, floods, hurricanes or sea level rise.

"Two years ago, the discussion was whether loss and damage existed," Saint Lucia Environment Minister James Fletcher said. Now, he noted, options on loss and damage were part of the core draft text.—*Reuters*



# Islamic State claims California mass killers as followers

SAN BERNARDINO — Islamic State said on Saturday that the married couple who killed 14 people in a mass shooting in Southern California were its followers, and FBI agents raided a home apparently belonging to a friend of the husband.

Islamic State's claim came in an online audio broadcast three days after US-born Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his Pakistani wife Tashfeen Malik, 29, opened fire with assault rifles on a holiday party for civil servants in San Bernardino, 60 miles (100 km) east of Los Angeles.

The pair, who had left their six-month-old baby daughter with relatives, were killed two hours later in a shootout with police SWAT team members.

Federal agents searched a home in Riverside, a few miles (km) southwest of San Bernardino, on a street where neighbours said Farook once lived. An FBI spokeswoman confirmed the search, but declined to give details.

A garage door and a window at the home were broken. Neighbor Hellen Fernandez said that when Farook lived on the street,



The remains of a SUV involved in the Wednesday attack is shown in San Bernardino, California, on 3 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

he appeared to be friends with a man at the house.

NBC News said the house belongs to a man who authorities believe bought the rifles used in the attack.

As the investigation continues, the White House said President Barack Obama will address

the nation on Sunday evening to update the public and talk about terrorism.

If the 2 December mass shooting proves to have been the work of people inspired by Islamist militants, it would be the deadliest such attack in the United States since 11 September, 2001.

FBI officials leading the probe say the couple seem to have been inspired by foreign militant groups, but that there was no sign they worked with any of them or that Islamic State even knew who they were.

Estranged relatives of Malik say she and her father seemed to

have abandoned the family's moderate Islam and become more radicalized during time they spent in Saudi Arabia.

While Obama's team has not yet found evidence the couple was part of an organised group or broader terrorist cell, it said on Saturday that "several pieces" of information "point to the perpetrators being radicalised to violence."

If that turned out to be the case, Obama said in a radio address, it would underscore a long-recognised threat: "the danger of people succumbing to violent extremist ideologies."

Islamic State also claimed responsibility for a 13 November series of attacks in Paris in which gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people.

"Two followers of Islamic State attacked several days ago a center in San Bernardino in California," the group's daily online radio broadcast al-Bayan said on Saturday. An English-language version released later called them "soldiers" of Islamic State, rather than "followers" as in the original Arabic. That inconsistency could not immediately be explained.—Reuters

## New York Times in rare front-page editorial calls for outlawing some rifles

NEW YORK — *The New York Times*, in its first front-page editorial in nearly a century, on Saturday called for outlawing the kinds of rifles used in the California shooting massacre this week that left 14 people dead.

The newspaper's editorial comes three days after Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, a married couple, carried out the mass shooting in San Bernardino with legally-purchased, .223 caliber assault-style rifles. FBI officials have said they are investigating the shooting as an "act of terrorism."

The couple also had semi-automatic pistols, and US officials have said Malik is believed to have pledged allegiance to a leader of the militant group Islamic State.

"Certain kinds of weapons, like the slightly modified combat rifles used in California, and certain kinds of ammunition, must be outlawed for civilian ownership," the *New York Times* editorial said.

The editorial went on to argue that an act to outlaw such weapons would "require Americans who own those kinds of weapons to give them up for the good of their fellow citizens."

The piece made brief mention of other US mass shootings. "Let's be clear: These spree killings are all, in their own ways, acts of terrorism," it said.

President Barack Obama has called for legislation to make it harder for criminals to get guns. He has noted mass shootings do not happen as frequently in other advanced countries and said the United States should address the problem.

Republicans in Congress have mounted heavy opposition to gun control measures.

The debate over gun control has long been one of the most contentious political issues in the United States, with the right to gun ownership enshrined in the US Constitution's 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

In a post on the website of the libertarian magazine Reason, senior editor Brian Doherty criticized the editorial, and in particular the call for citizens to eventually give up certain rifles.

"What the Times is calling for is, beyond its countable costs in money and effort and the likely further erosion of civil liberties, also (as they surely know) calling for a massive political civil war the likes of which we haven't seen in a long time," Doherty wrote. It is the first time *The Times* has run an editorial on the front page since 1920, when the newspaper expressed dismay at the nomination of Warren G. Harding as the Republican presidential candidate. Harding went on to win the general election that year.—Reuters

## UK PM Cameron to decide on new Heathrow runway this month

LONDON — Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron could approve as soon as this week the building of a new runway at Heathrow Airport, ending decades of political deadlock as well as breaking a famous pledge made in 2009 not to allow a third runway to be built at Europe's busiest hub airport.

The debate over where to build a new runway in the densely populated southeast of the country has been raging for over 25 years and in 2010 permission was withdrawn to expand Heathrow, which objectors say already blights the lives of hundreds of thousands of Londoners.

But five years on and following the recommendation of the independent Airports Commission, Cameron is now widely expected by British media to give the green light to a revised 23 billion-pound (\$35 billion) plan to give Heathrow a third runway. That would see him renege on the pledge he made to voters before the previous election in 2010 that Heathrow would not get a third runway under his watch, "no ifs, no buts". But in July the Airports Commission, which was appointed three years ago by Cameron's previous coalition government to assess how and where to add new runway capacity, recommended Heathrow's expansion as the best of all the options.

In response Cameron said he would make a final decision be-

fore the end of 2015. His spokesman confirmed on Friday the government would respond to the Commission's recommendation by the year end. But he faces a tricky time winning any future parliamentary vote on the new runway given resistance among British lawmakers both from within his own Conservative party and in the opposition Labour party, whose leader and finance minister oppose it. London Mayor Boris Johnson, a Conservative member of parliament, has said he would lie down in front of bulldozers to stop the third runway going ahead, while his potential successor as mayor, Zac Goldsmith, another Conservative MP, is also a prominent opponent to Heathrow's expansion.

Meanwhile campaign group Plane Stupid, which is opposed to any expansion of air traffic in the UK, has already sought to disrupt Heathrow's operations in protest against the proposed new runway.

In July, activists cut through Heathrow's perimeter fence and chained themselves on a runway, forcing some flights to be cancelled. Last month they brought chaos to road traffic around the airport by blocking the main entrance tunnel with a vehicle.

It is expected that any approval for Heathrow from the government will place a strong emphasis on the conditions set by the Commission to address environmental concerns. These in-

cluded a ban on night flights between 2330 and 0600, legally binding limits on the level of noise created by the airport and a legal commitment on air quality.

A separate campaign group, Stop Heathrow Expansion, remains opposed to the plans, arguing that air pollution levels in some places close to Heathrow are already above the legal EU limits. Heathrow's chief executive told lawmakers in November that he was confident that an expanded Heathrow would be able to meet EU air quality limits, promising that the airport would only release capacity from the new runway if it was clear that doing so would not delay compliance with those limits.

Heathrow, which is operating at full capacity, argues that a new runway will improve Britain's links to other markets, adding 100 billion pounds to the economy and more than 120,000 new jobs.

The new runway at Heathrow was preferred by the Commission to two other options which it had shortlisted — the extension of Heathrow's existing northern runway and building a second runway at London Gatwick — with the Commission saying Heathrow's third runway offered the best way to add "urgently required" long-haul routes to new markets and would provide the most benefits to the wider economy.—Reuters



# Advisor to Iran's top leader calls fate of Syria's Assad a 'red line'

DUBAI — A top advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader yesterday said the future of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad could only be determined by the Syrian people and this was a "red line" for Tehran.

Assad's fate is a sticking point in talks between world powers aimed at finding a political solution to the crisis in Syria. Iran and Russia want him to stay in power until elections are held, while West-

ern and Arab powers say he must go.

"Bashar al-Assad is the Islamic Republic of Iran's red line because he was elected president by the Syrian people," said Ali Akbar Velayati, the top foreign policy advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"The Syrian people must decide their own fate, and nobody outside Syria's borders can choose for the Syrian people," he added.

Velayati also said Iran would try to ease tensions between Turkey and Russia. Turkey shot down a Russian fighter jet last month that it said had violated Turkish airspace while flying a mission in Syria.

"There is no benefit to tensions mounting up in the region. We must not take the side of either party, and have a duty to reduce tensions between these two countries," he said.—Reuters



A general view shows a deserted street in the rebel-controlled area where forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad carry out offensives to take control of the town of Kafr Nabudah, in Hama Province, Syria, on 11 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Taliban releases audio message to show leader alive

KABUL —The Taliban released an audio message on Saturday it said was from its leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour to counter widespread reports that he had been wounded or killed in a shootout in Pakistan this week.

The 16-minute message said that the reports had been deliberately spread to create divisions in the Taliban.

"I am among my people. This incident never happened and it is not true. This is propaganda of the enemy," the man speaking on the message said.

It was not possible to verify whether the voice was really that of Mansour although some senior Taliban members said it appeared to be his.

The statement followed days of uncertainty over the fate of the Taliban leader, after multiple reports said he had been badly wounded in the shootout at the home of another commander in Quetta, western Pakistan, late on Tuesday.



Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, Taliban militants' new leader. PHOTO: REUTERS

Several Taliban members close to both Mansour and a rival faction that rejects his authority had said that he had been seriously wounded and taken to hospital. Some also said he had later died of his injuries.

The Islamist movement had repeatedly denied

that Mansour had been hurt but the highly unusual audio message appeared to reflect concern at how widespread the reports had become and how damaging they could prove to unity.

Scepticism over the Taliban denials has been fuelled by the secrecy

which surrounded the death of the movement's founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar. He died in 2013 but this was not confirmed until two years later.

The statement released on Saturday referred to an incident in Maidan Wardak province, southwest of Kabul on Friday, in which at least eight civilians were killed in front of a mosque by mortar rounds fired by Afghan government forces.

The Taliban has been struggling to contain divisions ever since Mansour, the movement's longtime number two, was named leader after Mullah Omar's death was confirmed in July.

His claim to the leadership has been rejected by some factions in the Taliban who have accused him of covering up Mullah Omar's death and seizing power without proper authority.

Dozens of people were killed in clashes between rival factions last month.—Reuters

## Bangladesh arrests three members of banned Islamist group

DHAKA — Bangladesh detained three suspected members of a banned militant group, police said yesterday, as security forces step up a hunt for Islamists behind a spate of recent attacks.

Bangladesh has suffered from a wave of Islamist violence, with two foreigners, four secular writers and a publisher killed this year. Some of the attacks have been claimed by Islamic State.

The three men, who

were active members of the banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, were caught in an overnight raid in the capital, Dhaka, Monirul Islam, a police joint commissioner, told reporters, as the handcuffed men were paraded before the media.

A mobile phone network jammer and jihadi books were found in their possession, Islam said. Preliminary investigation showed the jammer was used during meetings to

avoid leaking information, he said.

The group was believed to be behind a series of recent attacks, including bombings of a Shi'ite shrine and the killing of a policeman, police said.

Tension has been rising in Bangladesh since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched a crackdown on militants, putting several leaders on trial for war crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence.

Islamic State also claimed responsibility for an attack late last month on a Shi'ite Muslim mosque that killed a cleric and wounded three other people at prayers, the second attack on the country's tiny Shia Muslim community in a month.

The government has denied that Islamic State has a presence in the country. It blames Islamist political opponents for instigating the violence.—Reuters



### GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a grant aid from the Government of Japan for the purpose of contributing to the implementation of the Project for Electrification of Rural Villages in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Japan International Cooperation System is acting as the procurement agent on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for procuring the products and services (Civil and Electrical works for Hydro Power Generators) under the Project. Following procurement notices under this grant, if any, will be posted on JICS's website. Further information is available on JICS's website. (<http://www.jics.or.jp>).

### Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Department of Agriculture Fostering Agricultural Revitalization in Myanmar Project (Invitation for Open Tender)

- The fostering Agricultural Revitalization Project in Myanmar (FARM) funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and the Government of Myanmar is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) in the area of five townships (Lewe, Othraithiri, Pinyinana, Tatkon, Zeyathiri) within the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.
- Open tenders are invited for the construction of
 

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| (1) Knowledge Centers (56'-0"x26'-0"x12'-0")                                 | (25) sets |
| (2) water tower made by wood (6'-0"x6'-0"x12'-0") and 200 gallon fiber tank, | (25) sets |
| (3) concrete tank (3'-0"x3'-0"x3'-0")  | (25) sets |
| (4) 2" tube well, engine compressor and pipe installation                    | (25) sets |

 for FARM Project of Department of Agriculture with Myanmar Kyat.  
Date and Time for Tender documents selling - 9 December 2015 (office hours)  
Date and Time of Tender closing 31-12-2015 (12:00 noon)
- Further and detailed information may be obtained the address below during office hours Monday to Friday.  
**No. 921, Tharaphi Street, Thabyegone, Nay Pyi Taw, Phone: 067-432009**



## OPINION

### Upholding nationalism is national concern

Kyaw Thura

The democratisation of a country will meet with little success if it lacks an intellectual society, especially in the age of globalisation. As a young democracy, our country is in urgent need of reliable human resources capable of upholding our national literature, culture and historical heritage.

Careful consideration should be given to the issue of revitalising national solidarity, as it can guarantee stability and development. To satisfy this immediate need, the government should do everything in its capacity to create a society where democracy survives through gradual change in politics.

Yesterday, we celebrated our 95<sup>th</sup> National Day. That significant day dates back to the 10<sup>th</sup> Waning Day of Tazaungmon in 1282 Myanmar Era (5 December 1920), when students protested against the Yangon University Act, written by the British colonialists. Its annual celebration became a staple of Myanmar nationalism throughout the colonial era and the effort to restore independence from the British Empire. In the post-independence period, the event is observed

to commemorate the national unity demonstrated in the fight against imperialism.

The onus is now on all of us to retain the national fervour our predecessors handed over to us, while also preserving our patriotism and keeping our culture intact.

### 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](mailto: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.

# Let's Create a Green Future

Khin Maung Myint

ACCORDING to the experts, the present El Nino phase that set-in at the beginning of this year would cause increased bad weather conditions than the previous ones. It is predicted to extend through 2016. The storms would be more frequent and more stronger, rainfalls would increase significantly, causing extensive flooding. The droughts would be more widespread during the La Nina phase and these conditions would remain for longer periods than before. Experts predict that the 2015 El Nino would be among the strongest in the historical records since 1950, the year when the El Nino was officially recognized.

The El Nino weather conditions are caused by the rise in the sea surface temperatures in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, which develops a band of warm water that causes low pressure area in that region and a high pressure area in the Western Pacific. Then when the Western Pacific Ocean surface becomes warm a reverse condition emerges. The El Nino condition is the warm phase and the reverse, which is the La Nina is the cool phase. The two conditions are occurring at irregular intervals of two to seven years. The El Nino can last from nine months to two years. The people of the East Pacific named that weather phenomenon "The El Nino" in Spanish, meaning "The Young Boy", which referred to the Christ child as it occurs around the Christmas time. The opposite of that, which occurred in the post El Nino period, when the sea surface temperature in the Eastern Pacific cools down, is called "La Nina", meaning "The Young Girl".

Due to the global warming and the climate changes that had plagued the world, the El Ninos and the La Ninas are becoming more extreme and they are causing havoc, that are getting worse year after year. Developing coun-

tries on the Pacific rim that have to depend on agriculture and fishing are the hardest hit. Even our country have been reeling under their effects. This year would be the worst if the predictions of the experts proved to be right.

Their consequences would not only be the severe storms, flooding, loss of properties and lives, excessive rains and snowfalls, extreme temperatures and droughts, but they would also have adverse impacts on economics, social and health. Due to the destructions of the crops and reduction in fish productions by the extreme climate conditions, prices of commodities, especially agricultural and marine products, will rise and their effects on the macro-economy would affect the majority of the people, especially in the Pacific rim countries. The rise in commodity prices could lead to social unrests. The mass migrations that are going on all over the world are the consequences of the climate change. The mosquito transmitted epidemic diseases, such as: malaria and dengue fevers are also correlated to the El Nino conditions. Thus it is of urgent necessity to put a hold on the climate change. According to some experts it would be necessary to maintain the temperature at no more than 2°C. However, some are saying, it wouldn't be enough and should be maintained at a lesser level. In my opinion that would be quite difficult, given the fact that the chances of avoiding a 3°C rise are very slim with the present prevailing situations. If that should happen the climate conditions would spiral out of control.

As one degree rise in temperature could cause much difference to the weather patterns, so does a degree less would contribute greatly in controlling the cli-



mate change. The ice glaciers everywhere are melting continuously at alarming rates and causing the sea levels to rise. Thus if we cannot put a stop to the rising temperatures in time, the world is headed for doom. To stop the rise in temperatures and thence to bring it down to a safe level, strict controls of the greenhouse gas emissions should be enforced. I wonder if that safe level could be set during the present deliberations at the Paris Climate Change Conference, if the biggest carbon emitters wouldn't budge. Even if that could be achieved, it would be too late for some, where the climate change catastrophic had already struck.

Let's not expect too much from the wrangling they are doing in Paris, which I doubt could produce any viable solution and do what is necessary ourselves. We should be walking the walk, while they are talking the talk. Actions, not words only can get things done. I'm not being pessimistic but pragmatic. All these undesirable weather conditions are the results of the global warming that is caused by the indiscriminate excessive emissions of the greenhouse gases, especially the CO<sub>2</sub>. The increase in Carbon emissions is the result of the in-

dustrializations, deforestation, excessive use of the fossilized fuels. If we could substitute the use of these fossilized fuels with renewable or green energy, we would be able to ward off the adverse effects of the El Nino and the La Nina weather conditions to a certain extent.

So, what is green energy? It is the energy derived from nature. Mother nature has provided us with many useful things and the most precious are the sunlight, water and air or wind. If we could harness these three sources, we could make our country green. Thus it is quite clear that, being green doesn't necessarily mean only growing more trees, though, they played important roles in keeping our planet green.

In some of our neighbouring countries, the villagers are taught how to harness the hydro power to produce electricity. Even the women are involved in establishing hydro-electricity plants to provide the necessary electricity for their villages. Some villages are even able to earn extra money by selling the excess electricity to the national grid. If there are streams, creeks or rivers in the vicinity of the villages, it is not difficult to harness them to produce hydroelectricity. The only thing necessary is to train the people how to do it and also make the necessary materials and equipments readily available at reasonably low prices, or subsidized by the government or donors. It is known that there are a few small scale hydro power plants in the Kachin, Chin and Shan States. However, more would be needed. The communities should consider setting up organizations, such as the co-operatives to implement these hydro power plants in their areas.

Another natural source that

could be exploited is the sun's energy. Being in the tropics we are blessed with plenty of sun light almost all year round, which is waiting to be utilized. In Thailand, I had noticed that the solar power is utilized widely. Solar panels are quite visible in most remote villages and even in some rural towns and villages where the power grids are present. If the solar power equipments and accessories, such as the solar panels and the battery banks for power storage could be made readily and cheaply available, many people, including me, would happily resort to the use of the solar power as much as possible.

The last resort would be to utilize the wind power. However, as the initial costs of installations and the maintenance costs are quite exorbitant, the general populace wouldn't be able to implement them. So, it is the state's responsibility to install those infrastructures. In other countries, I had noticed that wind turbines are built, out at sea. The reason must be because those places are very windy and devoid of obstructions, are suitable for the wind turbines. We also have many suitable places along our coastlines that can be utilized for constructing the wind turbines. In my opinion the shallow water area at the head of the Gulf of Motama (Martaban) would be the most suitable place. It is close to Yangon and is way off the shipping lanes, so there is almost no traffic except for small fishing boats and country crafts.

The Thai professor, mentioned in my previous article "Harnessing the Climate Change", is doing extensive researches to make their rural areas green and I had requested him, through my son, to share with me some of his methods when he had completed his studies. My view is, if his methods work for Thailand, they would be applicable to our country too.

In conclusion I would like to urge my fellow countrymen to be aware of the consequences of the climate changes and the causes of these dreaded climate changes and participate in reducing them. Let us start walking, instead of talking and create a green future for our later generations.



## Shwebo glazed pots sold at Shwezigon Pagoda Festival

THE ancient Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan held its annual festival from 19 to 26 November. The festival was celebrated with Buddhist sermons by prominent members of the Sangha, recitations of the Pathana, sports events and traditional dance and music performances.

The festival also included sales of local and imported commodities. The shopkeepers, known as '12-month-festival vendors', make their livings by opening shops at pagoda festivals across the country throughout the year. Their commodities included food, consumer goods, household needs, agricultural equipment, clothes and medicines.

Famous ceramic pots from Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, were also sold at the festival. The prices of large pots varied from K17,000 to K19,000. Small-



Glazed ware sold at pagoda festival in Bagan. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

er ceramic items, including vases, ashtrays, cups plates and kitchenware, were sold at even lower rates.

"This year, only four ceramic shops opened at the festival.

One shop could only bring about 200 ceramic items to sell due to low supplies from Shwebo. But the demand was high, and some locals from villages bought four

or five large ceramic pots each," said one ceramic pot vendor.

Shwezigon Pagoda, one of the most prominent pagodas in Bagan, is a double-encased pa-

goda. The inner pagoda was built by King Anawrahta, and the outer one was built by King Kyan-sittha, both during 11th century A.D.—*U Ye Win Naing (IPRD)*

## 2500 participants join Myanmar's First 3D Walk

ABOUT 2,500 participants joined Myanmar's first 3D Walk at People's Park yesterday morning, seeking healthy and family lifestyle.

The flag went off around 7am where 2,500 were assembled into groups of five and enjoy the 3D route and going through a storylined journey of adventures.

"The 3D walk was amazing; not only we had fun taking pictures on each 3D path, we also get to listen to very informative and knowledgeable health talks from doctors as well as visit each booth set up at the event," said Kyaw Kyaw Bo, a well-known actor in Myanmar who joined the event with his family.

The registration fees were donated to Yankin Children Hospital at the event. "Last year we donated all the proceeds we collected from the event to charity and we have done the same this year. The registration fee for this year was 2,500 Kyats for one form and each form accommodated registration spot for 2-3 people since this is a group and family activity. From that, we were able to raise a total of



People participating at first 3D Walk at People's Park one Saturday. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY CMHCL

2,182,500 Kyats," said Daw May Zin Soe Htet, Marketing Director of City Mart Holdings Co. Ltd, which brought in the event together with Fraser and Neave Ltd-F&N to raise awareness on

the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle and to inspire the people of Myanmar to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle while raising funds for a good cause.

Last year's Active Family Day Out Event was celebrated by 2,000 participants and included a variety of activities to entertain both adults and children.—*GNLM*

## Emerald Green Project benefits 10 villages in Myinmu Township

Under the Emerald Green Project, local authorities have provided 10 villages in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region, with cash assistance for the businesses.

The Rural Areas Development Department has set up a K 30 million budget in the 2015-2016 fiscal year to fund the livestock breeding farming, agricultural

farming, trading and home-made products manufacturing of the local people, putting the villagers on the road to development.

The Emerald Green Project

has stepped up its efforts, boosting its support to two villages last fiscal year to 10 villages this fiscal year, according to the authorities.—*Phoe Khar (IPRD)*

## Pigeon peas grow strong in Ngathayauk

PIGEON pea plantations this year have proven successful in Ngathayauk Township, Mandalay Region, due to adequate rainfall and the absence of pesticides, according to farmers in the township's Myatkhataw village.

Pigeon peas are usually grown individually and are sometimes multi-cropped together with peanuts. Sesame and peanuts are the major crops grown in the area.

Pigeon peas are also planted by tradition, said a Myatkhataw village farmer.—*U Ye Win Naing (IPRD)*

## Dogs, cats vaccinated

VETERINARY Department of the Ministry of Health vaccinated dogs in Katha Township under the hydrophobia prevention project.

Along with 20 trainees, officials from the department vaccinated dogs at Buddhist monasteries in the town on 4 December.

Pets from houses were also given the vaccination at the monasteries.—*Ngwe Oh (Katha)*



# Bank of England approves capital models for 19 UK insurers

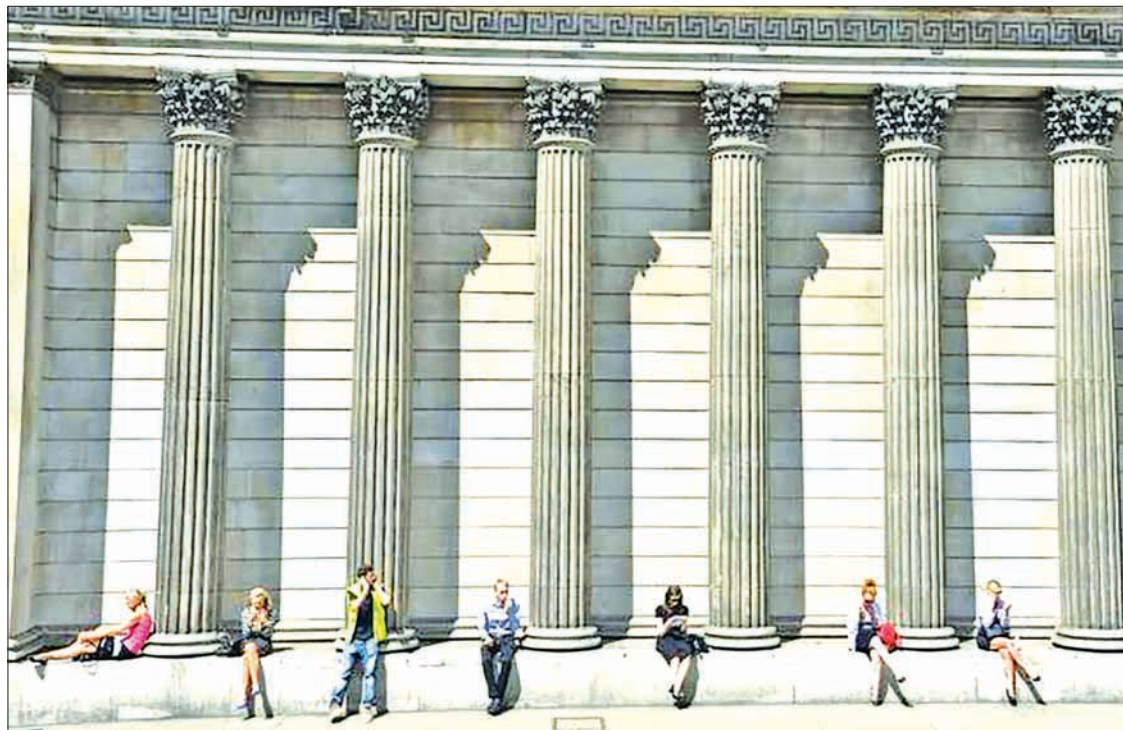
LONDON — British insurers Aviva and Prudential and the Lloyd's of London insurance market were among 19 firms to have their capital calculation models approved by the Bank of England on Saturday, enabling them to lower costs under new rules.

Approval means the insurers can use their internal models to determine how much capital they hold to ensure they can meet policyholder commitments under European Union Solvency II capital rules that come into force next month.

Without such endorsement, firms must use a standard calculation method of their solvency set out by regulators, which typically leads to higher capital requirements. That could force companies to raise fresh capital or put pressure on dividend payments to shareholders.

Dutch insurer Delta Lloyd this week ditched its model and opted for the standard formula. It now plans to raise 1 billion euros (0.72 billion pounds) in fresh capital.

“Going forward we will monitor insurers’ models carefully in order to ensure they continue to deliver an appropriate level of cap-



Workers relax during the lunch hour outside the Bank of England in the City of London. PHOTO: REUTERS

ital,” Andrew Bailey, chief executive of the Bank of England’s Prudential Regulation Authority, said in a statement.

The insurers approved include all the FTSE 100 insurers which submitted their internal models in this round, along with Scottish

Widows, part of British bank Lloyds. The Bank of England had said “around 20” models had been submitted for approval.

“We are pleased to receive internal model approval which, whilst expected, is the final major step before our adoption of Sol-

vency II,” said Tom Stoddard, Aviva’s chief financial officer, in a statement.

None of the British firms have yet released details of their Solvency II ratios, with most saying they plan to do so alongside the release of annual results in the first quarter

of next year. Prudential plans to release solvency ratio details at an investor day on 19 January.

The numbers applying for model approval has fallen drastically from around 120, according to a note from consultants PwC.

Insurers say applying for approval can entail documentation running to tens of thousands of pages and cost more than 100 million pounds for the larger firms.

The Bank of England said it had not disclosed whether models had been rejected or withdrawn. Industry participants say some internal models may have been sent back to the drawing board at an earlier stage of the application process.

A number of insurers are planning to apply for model approval later than the Jan 2016 start date for Solvency II, the Bank said in the statement.

FTSE 100 firm Direct Line is applying to use an internal model from mid-2016 and will use a standard model until then.

A spokesman for Rothesay Life, whose backers include Goldman Sachs, said the insurer was deciding whether to apply for a partial internal model next year.—Reuters

## Social media companies step up battle against militant propaganda

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook, Google and Twitter are stepping up efforts to combat online propaganda and recruiting by Islamic militants, but the Internet companies are doing it quietly to avoid the perception that they are helping the authorities police the Web.

On Friday, Facebook Inc said it took down a profile that the company believed belonged to San Bernardino shooter Tashfeen Malik, who with her husband is accused of killing 14 people in a mass shooting that the FBI is investigating as an “act of terrorism.”

Just a day earlier, the French prime minister and European Commission officials met sepa-

rately with Facebook, Google, Twitter Inc and other companies to demand faster action on what the commission called “online terrorism incitement and hate speech.”

The Internet companies described their policies as straightforward: they ban certain types of content in accordance with their own terms of service, and require court orders to remove or block anything beyond that. Anyone can report, or flag, content for review and possible removal.

But the truth is far more subtle and complicated. According to former employees, Facebook, Google and Twitter all worry that if they are public about their true level of cooperation with Western

law enforcement agencies, they will face endless demands for similar action from countries around the world.

They also fret about being perceived by consumers as being tools of the government. Worse, if the companies spell out exactly how their screening works, they run the risk that technologically savvy militants will learn more about how to beat their systems.

“If they knew what magic sauce went into pushing content into the newsfeed, spammers or whomever would take advantage of that,” said a security expert who had worked at both Facebook and Twitter, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of

the issue.

One of the most significant yet least understood aspects of the propaganda issue is the range of ways in which social media companies deal with government officials.

Facebook, Google and Twitter say they do not treat government complaints differently from citizen complaints, unless the government obtains a court order. The trio are among a growing number that publish regular transparency reports summarizing the number of formal requests from officials about content on their sites.

But there are workarounds, according to former employees, activists and government officials.

A key one is for officials or their allies to complain that a threat, hate speech or celebration of violence violates the company’s terms of service, rather than any law. Such content can be taken down within hours or minutes, and without the paper trail that would go with a court order.—Reuters

### Charging for plastic bags in England cuts use by 78 percent: Tesco

LONDON — A 5 pence charge levied on plastic carrier bags has resulted in a 78 percent reduction in the number taken home by shoppers in England, Tesco, Britain’s biggest supermarket said on Saturday.

The British government introduced the bag charge for England in October with the aim of cutting the number of plastic bags taken from shops and improving the environment.

Charges had already been introduced in Wales and Scotland.

“We knew the government’s bag charge would encourage our customers to use fewer plastic bags and it’s clearly had a huge impact,” said Tesco, which has a 28 percent share of Britain’s grocery market. Money raised from the levy is going to charitable causes.—Reuters

## Barclays to cut more investment banking jobs

NEW YORK — Barclays Plc (BARC.L) plans to cut more jobs in its investment banking unit, a source familiar with the matter said, as the British bank steps up efforts to slash costs and boost profit.

Most of these job cuts will be in Asia, the source said on Friday. Bloomberg reported earlier in the day that Barclays would cut 20 percent more investment banking jobs, citing people with knowledge on the matter.

Last month, the bank had put a freeze on hiring until the start of next year.

Barclays is midway through a three-year cost-reduction plan,

which involves shedding 19,000 jobs, or about 14 percent of its global workforce.

The latest round of layoffs will be in addition to the 7,000 jobs that the bank plans to cut by 2016.

Germany’s Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE) announced in October that it would cut 15,000 jobs, exit 10 countries and reduce costs to lower than 22 billion euros (£15.8 billion) by 2018 after splitting its investment bank.

The same month, Switzerland’s Credit Suisse (CSGN.VX) announced a big restructuring plan under new CEO Tidjane Thiam.—Reuters



The Barclays logo is brightly lit on their building in Times Square, Manhattan, New York in the early hours of 18 January. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Chipotle sales battered by widening E coli outbreak

LOS ANGELES — A widening US E. coli outbreak has slammed sales at Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc, the company said on Friday, hours after federal authorities reported that people in nine states have now contracted food poisoning.

Shares in the popular burrito chain tumbled nearly 8 percent to \$518 in extended trading after Chipotle warned that sales at established restaurants could drop 8

to 11 percent for the fourth quarter from a year earlier. This would be the first such decline in company history.

Investigators said the outbreak could widen again as local agencies upload data. Chipotle said in a regulatory filing that its sales could take more hits from “further developments, including potential additional announcements from federal and state health authorities.”

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported related E. coli O26 illness in three new states. Forty-seven of the 52 people sickened say they ate at Chipotle before falling ill.

The government investigators added Illinois, Maryland and Pennsylvania to a list of states that already included California, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Oregon and Washington. There were seven more US cases, with four of those linked to Chipotle.

The company said it has been tightening its food safety procedures.

The source of the outbreak is still unknown. Investigators suspect a fresh produce item that was shipped from one location to multiple restaurants.

Two of the newly reported illnesses started in October, and five started in November, suggesting the outbreak was not as short lived as previously thought. Prior to Friday’s report, the onset of most cases of illness had been in late October.

According to the CDC, most people infected with E. coli develop symptoms three to four

days after contact with the germ. E. coli infections are spread by oral contact with fecal matter and can cause serious symptoms and even be life-threatening.

Chipotle said its enhanced its food safety efforts include testing all fresh produce before it is shipped to restaurants.

Chipotle spokesman Chris Arnold said in an email that “none of the ingredients that were in our restaurants at the time of this incident are still in our restaurants.”

Chipotle and other restaurants have put greater focus on fresh, unprocessed food. While that may be good for nutrition, experts say it raises the risk of foodborne illness because cooking kills pathogens.

An estimated 48 million Americans get sick each year from foodborne diseases. Of these, 128,000 are hospitalised and 3,000 die, according to the CDC. Only about 40 percent of reported foodborne disease outbreaks from 2002 to 2011 were solved, according to the watchdog group Centre for Science in the Public Interest.—Reuters



A logo of Chipotle Mexican Grill is seen on a store entrance in Manhattan, New York on 23 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Hawaii court revokes permit for telescope project on volcano

HAWAII — The Hawaii Supreme Court on Wednesday revoked a permit that would have allowed the controversial construction of one of the world’s largest telescopes on a dormant volcano considered an ideal location on Earth to view the stars.

Issuing the permit to construct a 180-foot high, \$1.4 billion astronomical observatory on the Mauna Kea volcano on Hawaii’s Big Island did not comply with case law, statutes or the state constitution, court documents showed. It also violated the protections of native Hawaiian customs and traditions.

Astronomers consider the volcano one of the world’s best places to view the cosmos given its distance from man-made lights and high altitude. The project won approval from state officials in 2013, but debate surrounding it was contentious.

In November, the court temporarily blocked construction of the telescope, a collaboration between China, India, Canada, Japan and the United States, after a challenge by Native Hawaiians and environmentalists who said the project would damage sacred lands.

“Even as far back as the days of the Hawaiian Kingdom, protections have been in place to ensure the continued exercise of traditional Hawaiian rights amidst the pressures exerted by countervailing interests of a changing society,” the court said in its opinion issued on Thursday.

The November order followed an announcement by TMT International Observatory, the scientific team behind the Thirty Metre Telescope project, that site preparation work would begin that month.

For months protesters had gathered at the volcano in an attempt to block construction.

“We’re thrilled. The opinion was really well considered,” said Bianca Isaki, a board member of KAHEA the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance, which has protested the construction of the project.

Henry Yang, board chair of TMT International Observatory, said in a statement that they respect the court’s decision.

“TMT will follow the process set forth by the state, as we always have. We are assessing our next steps on the way forward,” Yang said.—Reuters

## Three types of marijuana to hit Uruguayan pharmacies in 2016

MONTEVIDEO — Uruguayans will be able to choose from three varieties of state-sanctioned cannabis when marijuana starts being sold in pharmacies in the small South American country next year, the National Drug Board said Saturday.

Each variety will have different levels of the mind-altering compound tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD), believed to soften the impacts of THC, said the board’s president, Milton Romani.

“There will be three options with indications about the effects of each that point beginners toward starting with the lowest level” of THC, Romani told Reuters on the sidelines of the marijuana forum Expocannabis 2015.

Romani declined to specify

the names of the three varieties.

Uruguay became the first country to legalize the cultivation and distribution of marijuana in late 2013, aiming to wrest control of the trade from gangs while regulating and taxing its consumption.

Authorities have developed traceable, genetically-distinct plants to ensure they do not leave Uruguay’s borders or end up on the black market, Romani said.

The government estimates registered marijuana users will be able to buy the drug from pharmacies in mid-2016, when the country’s two licensed producers start selling their first commercial load of about four tonnes.

Marijuana will be sold in Uruguay at about \$1 per gram,

**“We have to be very careful with this because any slip-up could ruin an experience that is unique in the world.”**

Milton Romani  
Board’s president

with locals allowed to buy up to 40 grams per month.

Uruguay’s pioneering marijuana law has drawn world attention at a time when policymakers are debating whether strict anti-drug laws are effective.

Last month Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said he would open a national debate to

review the country’s marijuana laws following a landmark court ruling. Uruguay has granted marijuana-growing licenses to two companies and so far registered 3,200 people who can grow up to six plants for personal use.

Authorities are also working with companies interested in exploring the possibility of exporting medical marijuana to the United States and Europe.

But the government has struggled to meet some of its own deadlines for implementing the legislation passed two years ago.

“We want to do things right, and if takes a bit longer, so be it,” Romani said. “We have to be very careful with this because any slip-up could ruin an experience that is unique in the world.”—Reuters

## Traditional Chinese medicine unleashes hidden potential

BEIJING — Eighty-four-year-old Tu Youyou arrived in Sweden on Friday to collect China’s first Nobel Prize in medicine for creating an anti-malarial drug that saved millions of people across the world.

Half a century ago, the pharmacologist derived artemisinin from sweet wormwood, which she found cited in a 4<sup>th</sup> century traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) text as an ingredient to cure fever, developing a crucial drug that has significantly reduced mortality rates for malaria patients.

The laureate is scheduled to deliver a speech in Stockholm, titled “Artemisinin is a gift that TCM has for the world.”

Statistics show more than 240 million people in Sub-Sahara Africa have benefitted from artemisinin, and more than 1.5 million lives are estimated to have been saved thanks to the drug since 2000.

Apart from contribution to the global fight against malaria, TCM also played a vital role in the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak across China in 2003.

However, TCM, which is based on set of beliefs about human biology, including the existence of a life force, “qi”, is seldom understood or embraced by the West. Some have even labeled it a “pseudoscience.” It is true it lacks

a standardized guideline to administer treatments prescribed by practitioners and therapists. But it is unfair to negate TCM as a whole, which is based on more than 2,000 years of practice in China.

Fortunately, the case is changing. After decades of scientific research, TCM has received wide recognition outside China and will offer more contributions to the world. More and more people have accepted and tried TCM in Canada, Netherlands and Britain, thanks in part to frequent academic exchanges and effort by overseas Chinese. In late June, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Kanglaite, an anticancer drug with active ingredients ex-

tracted from coix seed, for phase III clinical trials.

Kanglaite has been proven to have significant effects on middle or late-stage malignancies of pancreatic, lung and liver cancers. Once the phase III trial is passed, it could become the third medicine derived from TCM to enter the Western pharmacopeia following artemisinin, and ephedrine, a stimulant and decongestant derived from Mahuang. With increasingly growing government funding and support, TCM is a booming industry in China, with a total value of 500 billion yuan (78.3 billion US dollars) in 2013, a third of the total output of the country’s medical industry.—Xinhua



# Knife attacker slashes man in London metro 'terror incident'

LONDON — A man wielding a knife slashed a man in an east London metro station on Saturday, reportedly screaming "this is for Syria", before police used a stun gun to detain him in what they described as a terrorist incident.

A pool of blood near the ticket barriers at the Leytonstone Underground station, about 6 miles (10 km) east of central London, was visible in footage posted on Twitter that also showed the suspect confronting officers at just after 1900 GMT.

Police said initial reports indicated the man had also threatened other bystanders. One man had serious knife injuries that were not thought to be life-threatening and two other people

had minor injuries, police said. "We are treating this as a terrorist incident," Richard Walton, who leads the Counter Terrorism Command at London's Metropolitan Police, said in a statement.

An eyewitness quoted by British newspapers such as The Guardian said the knifeman had appeared to claim that he was retaliating for Western attacks on Islamist militants in Syria.

Police declined to comment on those reports and it was not immediately possible to independently verify them.

The Leytonstone incident will draw parallels with the May 2013 murder of British army soldier Lee Rigby, who was hacked

to death just south of the Thames River by two Muslim converts.

Britain is on its second-highest alert level of "severe", meaning a militant attack is considered highly likely, mainly due to the threat posed by Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq who are encouraging supporters to attack the West.

After Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for the attacks on Paris last month that killed 130 people, British Prime Minister David Cameron won approval from lawmakers on Wednesday to bomb the Islamist group in Syria.

British warplanes first bombed oil fields controlled by Islamic State on Thursday.—Reuters



Police officers investigate a crime scene at Leytonstone underground station in east London, Britain on 5 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## One gunman shot to death, another surrenders in Wisconsin standoff

WISCONSIN — An armed man was shot to death during a hostage situation at a motorcycle shop in Neenah, Wisconsin, on Saturday, in a standoff with police that ended when another gunman surrendered, authorities said.

Police responded to a report of a disturbance at Eagle Nation Cycles, where

a man had fired at least one shot and taken several hostages, city Police Chief Kevin Wilkinson told a news conference. Neenah is a city of about 25,000 people some 100 miles (160 km) north of Milwaukee.

When it appeared the hostages were in danger of being killed, police tried to storm the shop and were

met with gunfire, with a bullet striking the helmet of one officer, Wilkinson said.

An armed man, who was not the person who caused the initial disturbance, came out of the shop but did not comply with orders to drop the weapon, and officers opened fire, Wilkinson said.—Reuters

## One worker killed, 30 missing after Azeri oil rig fire

BAKU — At least one worker was killed and 30 others were missing on Saturday after an Azeri oil platform caught fire during high winds in the Caspian Sea on Friday, state energy company SOCAR said.

As hopes of finding survivors faded, SOCAR said a severe storm was hampering rescue efforts at its platform in the Guneshli oil field.

"One body was found and a search-and-rescue operation for 30 missing workers is under way," it said in a statement, adding that 32 workers had been safely evacuated.

Earlier on Saturday, the head of Azerbaijan's Oil Workers' Rights Protection Committee, Mirvari Gakhramanly, told Reuters 32 workers had died and 42 had been rescued overnight.

The fire started after

the storm damaged a natural gas pipeline, causing the platform's partial collapse.

Oil production on 28 oil wells linked to the facility was suspended and all oil and gas pipelines, which link the platform with the land, were blocked as a safety precaution, SOCAR added in the joint statement with the emergency ministry and the country's chief prosecutor.

"The fire in the gas pipeline has not been completely extinguished and it has not been ruled out that it could spread to oil and gas wells near the platform," it said.

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev signed a decree to create a special commission to deal with the accident and control the rescue operation. A criminal case was opened to investigate the incident.

About 60 percent of

SOCAR's oil production passes through the platform where the fire broke out, meaning the state company's output will be temporarily hit.

The bulk of Azerbaijan's oil is produced elsewhere, however, including on fields operated by British oil major BP (BP.L).

BP Azerbaijan was not available for comment on Saturday on whether adverse weather in the Caspian or the fire on SOCAR's platform had affected its production.

In a separate incident, SOCAR said on Friday that three workers were missing from another of its offshore oil platforms in the Caspian after an accident during the storm. The workers were still missing as of Saturday.

Fourteen workers were killed in accidents on SOCAR's oil and gas platforms in 2014.—Reuters

## Thirteen die in train-public vehicle crash in Indonesia's capital

JAKARTA — A fatal crash between a commuter line train and a public transport vehicle occurred here on Sunday morning, killing 13 people onboard the public vehicle.

The crash took place at 8.48 am at Muara Angke train station crossroad in the western part of the capital city. The public

transport vehicle of Metro Mini went through the cross road despite warning signal on the incoming of the commuter line train to the station, a local TV reported.

"So far those killed in the crash were 13 people. Their bodies were evacuated to Cipto Mangunkusumo hospital,"

Tambora Precinct Police Chief Wirdhanto who oversees the crash location said.

Those killed in the crash were the ones boarded the Metro Mini public transport vehicle. The vehicle was dragged 400 meters after being hit by the commuter line train.—Xinhua

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

Watts Regulator Co., a company incorporated in the U.S.A and having its registered office at 815 Chestnut Street, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845, United States of America is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

# WATTS

Reg. No. 4/14582/2012  
(21.12.2012)



Reg. No. 4/14584/2012  
(24.12.2012)

All in respect of "Valves of metal for fluid flow control, namely, ball valves, butterfly valves, gate valves, globe valves, pressure control valves, level control valves, tempering valves, altitude control valves, high pressure safety valves, check valves, backflow prevention valves, shut-off valves, and vacuum breakers" in International Class 6, and

"Automatic control valves for fluid flow control, namely, pressure control valves, level control valves, flow control valves, tempering valves, altitude control valves, high pressure safety valves, check valves, backflow prevention valves, flow measurement valves, and balancing valves" in International Class 9.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P  
For Watts Regulator Co.,  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,  
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),  
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,  
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
kmma@kcyangon.com

Dated 7 December 2015





Innovation that excites

# CONGRATULATIONS

## NP300 NAVARA WINNER OF International Pick-Up Award 2016\*



### Year End Special Price, Limited Units\*

\* Terms and conditions apply. \* Awarded in Lyon, France. Applicable for NP300 Europe Spec Only. \* Actual product specifications and colour may vary from picture shown.

## Leader In Pick-Up Innovation



High Power Output 190ps / 450Nm  
7 Speed AT / 6 Speed MT



Intelligent Key + Push Start Button



Auto Dual Zone A/C + Rear Air Outlet



Hill Start Assist + Hill Descent Control



LED Headlamp and DRL



Shift-on-the-fly 4-wheel Drive

Distributor



EDARAN TAN CHONG MOTOR (MYANMAR) CO. LTD

f/NissanMyanmar

Authorized Dealer Showroom:  
United Diamond Motor

Showroom (1) : No-443, Pray Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon.

Tel: 09-257587778, 09-257587779

Showroom (2) : No.139, University Avenue Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon.

Tel: 09-450222600, 09-450222700, 09-450222800

# ADVERTISE WITH US!



- We are Myanmar's highest-circulating English language daily newspaper
- We offer competitive ad rates
- Your ad will be seen by a wide and influential readership

Email: [adv.gnlm@gmail.com](mailto:adv.gnlm@gmail.com), Ph: 09 250107962, 09 251022355



# 'Star Wars' director faces hype, history in 'Force Awakens'

LOS ANGELES — The new installment in the "Star Wars" movie saga opens in theaters this month against a formidable force: the galactic hopes of devoted fans who have waited a decade to revisit their beloved universe of Jedi, droids and lightsabers.

Can "The Force Awakens," the seventh episode in the celebrated sci-fi series, meet those expectations when it debuts on 18 December? "No," said director J.J. Abrams. "How can anything live up to any expectation like that?"

What the movie will offer, Abrams told Reuters, is great performances and visual effects, music "that breaks your heart and soars," plus a story, characters and creatures that are new, but feel like they fit in the universe created by George Lucas in the original 1977 film.

"George was creating a world that we wanted to go back to in order to tell a story we'd never seen yet," Abrams said. "In a way, we were going backward to go forward." For example, he said, the filmmakers created droids "to feel completely new and different and at the same time something that was so of 'Star Wars.' That was always the challenge."

Lucas bowed out of "Star Wars" after he sold his film studio



People wait into a metro station decorated with Star Wars characters to promote the upcoming film 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' in Paris, France, on 1 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

to Walt Disney Co in 2012 for \$4 billion. "Force Awakens" is the first in a new film trilogy.

"There's no way that I can imagine anything touching the magic of what he did," Abrams said, "and yet we all did the best we could to make that happen."

Set 30 years after "Return of

the Jedi," the new movie brings characters Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and Han Solo (Harrison Ford) back to their galaxy far, far away. Newcomers Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Finn (John Boyega) lead a younger generation that grapples with the conflicts that

haunted the past.

Disney is guarding details about the plot of "Force Awakens." The secrecy has stirred rampant online speculation, particularly about the fate of Skywalker, who is absent from trailers and posters promoting the new film.

Abrams said the character was

purposely left off to keep key parts of the story under wraps.

"It's just what our narrative is," Abrams said, "so if it's driving anyone crazy, apologies. But it's mostly about wanting to protect the experience for the people who might go see the movie."

Ridley, who plays a scavenger, said the film captures the "delightful" tone of the earlier movies. "'Star Wars' never had like insane violence or anything," she said. "It's always joyful and always uplifting even though bad things happen."

"Force Awakens" also features "classic Star Wars humor, choppy dialogue," said Boyega, who described his role as a conflicted Stormtrooper.

Adam Driver plays Kylo Ren, a character dressed similar to Darth Vader who is presumed to play the main villain, though that depends on the perspective.

"I don't think he's evil at all," Driver said. "I think he's right."

Aside from fan anticipation, the movie faces lofty box office projections for the opening weekend, from \$170 million to \$220 million in just the United States and Canada, a level never achieved in December. "Jurassic World" holds the record with \$208.8 million in June.—Reuters

## One Direction get 'emotional' at last US gig before hiatus



Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne, and Niall Horan of the band "One Direction" perform during the KIIS FM's iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2015 concert at Staples Centre in Los Angeles. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — One Direction performed their last concert in the US before going on an extended hiatus and the boy band got emotional as they took their final bow in front of their fans here.

The boys started off their set with "Perfect", and went to per-

form their new hits like "Drag Me Down" and "Infinity".

They then returned to their old numbers such as "What Makes You Beautiful" and "Story of My Life" before ending the six-song set with "History".

"To be honest with you, this show is kind of an important one

for us. This is going to be the last time we'll be performing together in America for a little while. I feel myself getting a little emotional," Liam Payne told the fans.

While there is yet no confirmation on the duration of their break, the group has been saying that the split is temporary.—PTI

## Blown tire forces actor Morgan Freeman's plane into unexpected landing

LOS ANGELES — A small plane carrying Oscar-winning Morgan Freeman made an unexpected landing in Mississippi on Saturday after a tire blew on take-off but neither the actor nor the pilot were injured, according to media reports.

Freeman, 78, was travelling from Mississippi to Texas for a television shoot, but was forced to land at Tunica Airport, in northwestern Mississippi, as the blown tire caused other problems, the actor said in a state-

ment issued by his publicist.

"Sometimes things don't go as planned," Freeman said in the statement. "But thanks to my excellent pilot Jimmy Hobson we landed safely without a scratch. I cannot say the same about my plane." Freeman, known for Oscar-nominated performances in films including "Driving Miss Daisy" and "The Shawshank Redemption," won the best supporting actor Academy Award for the 2004 film "Million Dollar Baby."—Reuters

## Kardashian, Kanye West announce birth of son on Saturday

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian West and rapper Kanye West announced the birth of baby boy in Los Angeles on Saturday.

Kardashian tweeted "He's here!" on Twitter and an announcement on her website read, "KANYE AND I WELCOME OUR BABY BOY!" The website said mother and son were doing well.

The couple did not provide a name for the boy.

Kardashian has kept fans informed of the progress of her

pregnancy on Twitter, saying "Ready whenever you are lol" on Friday and posting an image of her bare belly.

She announced in June that she and West were expecting a baby boy. The couple has a daughter, North West, who was born in 2013. West and Kardashian started dating in 2012. Their daughter was baptized in Jerusalem in April. The couple married last year in a lavish ceremony in the 16th-century Belvedere Fort overlooking Florence, Italy.—Reuters



# Spanish maker of Princess Charlotte dress inundated with orders



Andrea Dopazo buys a dress like the one worn by Britain's Princess Charlotte in the latest official photos, but in a different fabric, for her daughter Carlota, 2, (R) at Margarita Pato's store in Madrid, Spain, on 5 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

MADRID — A family-run children's clothes shop in Spain has been inundated with orders from around the world for dresses identical to the one worn by Britain's Princess Charlotte in the latest official photos — but has enough cloth to make only 20 of them.

Six-month-old Charlotte, Queen Elizabeth's newest great-grandchild, was pictured wearing the pink smocked dress with ruffled neck in photos taken by her mother Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, and released yesterday.

"The biggest advertising agency in the world couldn't get this response, it's incredible," said Margarita Pato, who realised the princess was wearing one of her designs when she saw the photos in Spain's *Hola* magazine.

"In Spain interest has soared, but in England it's almost a revolution," added the 62-year-old founder and designer of M&H.

However, the shop is not going to crank up production in response to the overwhelming demand because there are only 10 metres left of the pink floral fabric used in the princess's

outfit - enough to make just 20 more dresses.

"I've got a very big problem, I've got a huge waiting list but only 10 metres of that fabric," said a laughing Pato in a telephone interview with Reuters. "We have the dress in other fabrics but not in that one."

Celebrity magazines have speculated that the baby's Spanish nanny may have bought the dress for Charlotte, who is fourth in line to the British throne.

M&H, which stands for 'mother and children' in Spanish, was opened by Pato in 2009 in the central Spanish town of Valladolid. She later opened shops in Madrid, Valencia and Seville.

The shop just makes two models in each size of the designs.

The dress, typical of M&H's traditional baby clothes all made in Spain with Spanish fabrics and yarn, costs 29.90 euros (\$32.58) and Pato says she is not going to put up the price in response to the avalanche of demand.

"I'm not driven by the money," she said. "What I've made from this so far is enough."—Reuters

## 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

between 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



### News Channel in Brief

(7-12-2015, Monday)

6:00 am

• Pritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw

7:35 am

• People's Talks

8:35 am

• Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:35 am

• Documentary (ASEAN)

10:35 am

• Weelky Entertainment

11:35 am

• MRTV's Youth Programme

12:35 am

• TV Drama Series

1:20 am

• Tasty Trip

1:50 am

• Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

3:35 am

• People's Talks

5:35 pm

• Socio Economic Scenes

6:35 pm

• Documentary

7:15 pm

• TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

• News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News

• TV Drama Series

• Teleplay

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)



### Entertainment Channel

(7-12-2015, Monday)

6:00 am

• Alinka Wut Yee Music Troupe

6:20 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 am

• Fashion Show

6:55 am

• Musical Programme

7:00 am

• TV Drama Series

8:35 am

• Golden Music of Old Stars

9:00 am

• Myanmar Video

10:00 am

• My Dream

10:10 am

• Myanmar Video

### mitv Myanmar International

(7-12-2015 07:00 am ~ 8-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

#### Today Fresh

07:03 Am

News

07:26 Am

Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquerware Making

07:51 Am

Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay

08:03 Am

News

08:26 Am

Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax

08:44 Am

Next Weekend

08:53 Am

The Storytellers

09:03 Am

News

09:26 Am

Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market

09:34 Am

Excavation At Kawhmu

09:44 Am

Myanmar Masterclass "Kyaw Phyu San"

10:03 Am

News

10:26 Am

History And Mystery Behind The Caves

10:50 Am

Sagaing: Youth Leader

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

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

#### Prime Time

07:03 Pm

News

07:26 Pm

Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-1)

07:44 Pm

Myanmar Traditional Toys

08:03 Pm

News

08:26 Pm

Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)

08:44 Pm

Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder

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

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

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

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



# Chelsea stunned by Bournemouth, Leicester go top

LONDON — Premier League champions Chelsea's fall from grace continued with a humiliating defeat by lowly Bournemouth on Saturday after Leicester City's improbable title challenge was bolstered by a 3-0 victory at Swansea City.

A late headed goal by substitute Glenn Murray earned Bournemouth a shock victory at Stamford Bridge and left Blues boss Jose Mourinho trying to explain away an eighth defeat in 15 league games since the start of the season.

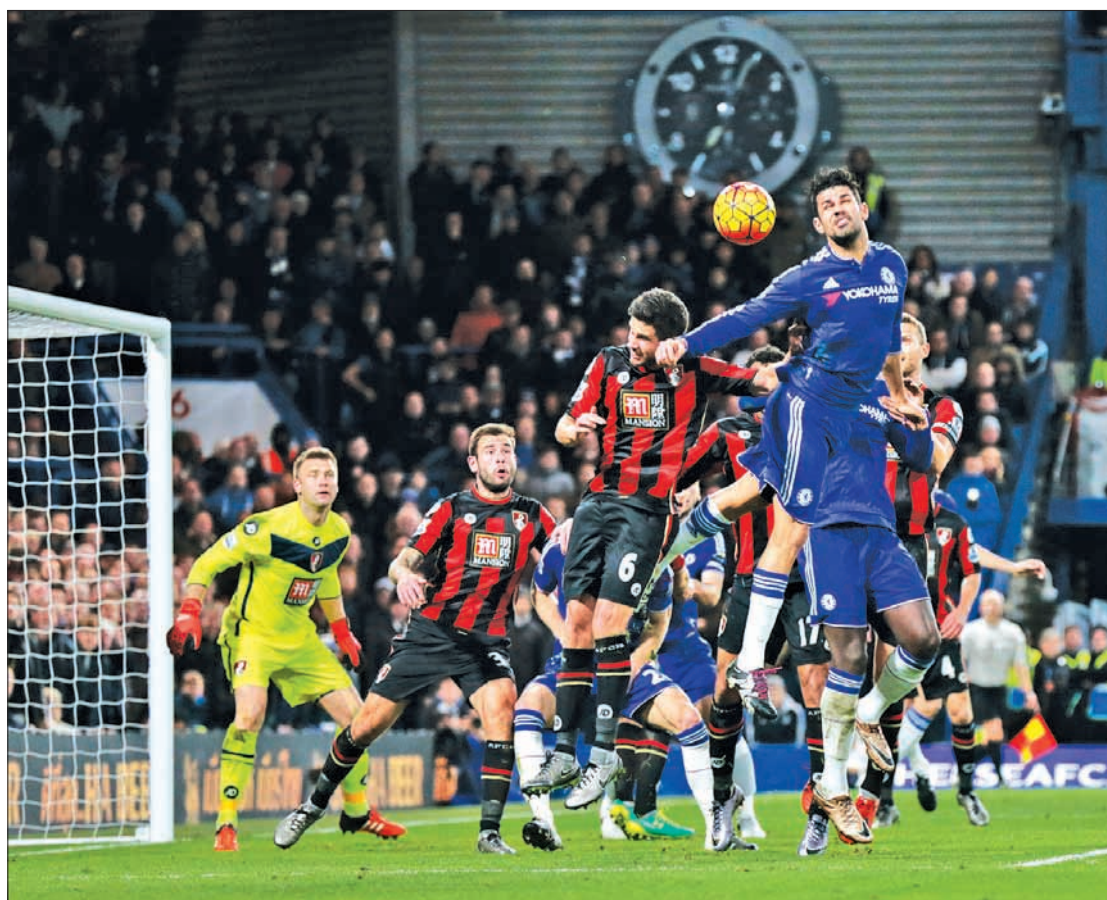
Leicester moved two points clear at the top after Riyad Mahrez's hat-trick sank Garry Monk's sorry Swansea side.

Their England striker Jamie Vardy's record 11-match scoring streak ended in south Wales but Algerian Mahrez delivered the points as Leicester capitalised on previous leaders Manchester City's dismal 2-0 defeat at Stoke City in the early kickoff.

"It's good because everyone was looking at Jamie Vardy, but Mahrez was fantastic," Leicester boss Claudio Ranieri said. "Riyad worked hard for the team, but also scored the goals."

Mahrez netted twice in the first half and struck again after the break as Leicester moved to 32 points, two clear of Arsenal, who are now second a point above Manchester City after a 3-1 win over Sunderland — Olivier Giroud scoring for both sides.

Two goals inside the opening 15 minutes from Stoke's Austrian striker Marko Arnautovic, both created by Swiss playmaker Xherdan Shaqiri, condemned injury-hit Manchester City to defeat at a blustery Britannia Stadium.



Chelsea's Diego Costa heads at goal during Barclays Premier League at Stamford Bridge. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We can't accept how we played today," keeper Joe Hart said. "It was a disappointing start and we could not recover from it."

Manchester United drew 0-0 with West Ham United to stay fourth, level on 29 points with neighbours City. There were some boos after a fourth goalless draw in their last six home games.

"We forgot to score," lamented boss Louis van Gaal.

As role reversals go, the Premier League has never witnessed anything quite like the change

in fortunes between Chelsea and Leicester, who last term spent 140 days at the foot of the table while the Londoners were running away with the title.

After 15 games last term, Chelsea were 26 points ahead of Leicester but they now find themselves 17 adrift of them.

Leicester's title odds have gone from a pre-season 2000-1 to 33-1, while Chelsea are three points above the relegation zone in 14th place, 14 points off the top four. Mourinho again left Spain

striker Diego Costa on the bench but even when the Spain striker was introduced to pep up a lethargic Chelsea after the break the hosts could find no way through a resolute Bournemouth rearguard.

Costa's cross clearly, if accidentally, struck the arm of the sprawling Simon Francis but the referee did not give a penalty, much to the animated Mourinho's annoyance.

Then Murray, who had been on for just 90 seconds, headed Bournemouth's winner with eight

minutes left.

Chelsea's first Premier League home defeat in their last 44 games against a newly-promoted side deepened the crisis at Stamford Bridge but lifted Bournemouth out of the drop zone.

Mourinho complained about Chelsea not being awarded a penalty and Bournemouth's time-wasting tactics, but the reality is the Portuguese faces a spiralling crisis that could become terminal if they lose to his former club Porto in the Champions League this week and fail to reach the last 16.

"I'm concerned obviously, I was concerned before this game," Mourinho told Sky Sports. "Chelsea will never be fighting for relegation, no chance, because we will win matches and come out of that area but that's not the point."

"Our objective is not to fight for (avoiding) relegation, so if our objective is to fight for top four then (after this) you have to think about finishing top six."

Fifth-placed Tottenham Hotspur drew 1-1 at West Bromwich Albion after England midfielder Dele Alli's early strike was cancelled out by a James McClean header at the Hawthorns.

Aston Villa's under-pressure manager Remi Garde is still awaiting his first win with the bottom club, who at least earned some comfort in a 1-1 draw at Southampton.

Villa have six points and are seven adrift of the safety zone, with Bournemouth and fellow strugglers Norwich City, who lost 2-0 at Watford, level on 13 points above Sunderland on 12 and Newcastle United, who host Liverpool on Sunday, with 10.—Reuters

## Watson shoots 63 for two-shot lead at World Challenge

AMERICAN Bubba Watson carded a flawless course record-equalling nine-under-par 63 and stormed to a two-stroke lead over Englishman Paul Casey after the third round at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas on Saturday.

The dual Masters champion, boosted by an early eagle, added seven birdies to post a 19-under 197 total at Albany Golf Club in New Providence. Watson was caught by surprise by his eagle, with a seven-iron from 169 yards at the par-four fourth. He yelled at his ball to get "down" as it flew through the air, and it obeyed nicely, landing some 18 inches in front of the cup and bouncing in.

In the field as an alternate after Australian Jason Day with-



Bubba Watson during the second round of the WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament in Shanghai, China, on 6 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

drew, Watson is in prime position to win, though his record in closing the deal is not exactly comparable with tournament host Tiger Woods. Watson has won only twice out of nine times on the PGA Tour when holding the lead or a share of the lead through 54 holes, while the third round leader has won the World Challenge only three times in the last 11 seasons.

"It was a good day," Watson told reporters. "The key for me around this golf course, I think for everybody, though, as we're seeing, when there's no wind, light wind, we can score. 'We're all good players, don't get me wrong. We're all top 50 in the world. But with no wind, this golf course is a little bit easier to make birdies.'"—Reuters

## LOCAL NEWS

### Mandalay to host int'l traditional boxing challenges

MYANMAR fighters to compete with other international fighters will participate in the International Traditional Boxing Championship on 11 December in the National Kandawgyi Park, Mandalay District. Top boxers from Thailand, Mexico and Costa Rica including Myanmar's

gold medallist boxers will go the ring in the tournament organised by H & S Group and Swan Kay Kay Club in Mandalay.

The challenges will be of great excitement to fans. The entrance fees range from K10,000 to K20,000 and K50,000.—Myanma Alinn

### Kanbawza FC hires three players

THREE footballers have entered an agreement to join the Kanbawza Football Club on a three-year contract.

As part of the new recruitment for the coming football season, Kanbawza hired Hlaing Myo Aung of Zwe Ka Bin United FC and Nay Lin Tun and Hein Thiha Zaw of Ayeyawady FC.

Nay Lin Tun played a cap-

tain in Myanmar's U23 team that secured a silver medal at the 28<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Singapore, while Nay Lin Tun and Hein Thiha Zaw enabled their former club to win 2015 General Aung San Shield.

Kanbawza has hired Thiha Sithu, former goalkeeper of Yadanarbon FC and Ayeyawady United FC, with plans to contract foreign players.—Ko Moe