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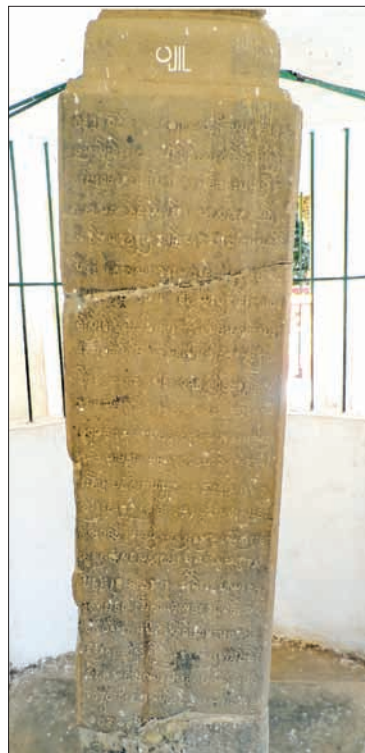
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TWO ON HERITAGE LIST

Myanmar's stone inscription and gold letter on world heritage



The Myazedi Stone Inscription and the Golden Letter of King Alaungphaya to King George II have been recognized as documentary heritage of world significance. PHOTO: CULTURE

THE 12th meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Memory of the World Programme took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 October, with the committee approving the inclusion of 47 out of 88 nominations in the World Heritage List.

Myanmar submitted two nominations for inclusion in the memory of the world programme and both have won inscriptions on the list of the documentary heritage of world significance. One is the Myazedi stone inscription and the other is the Golden

Letter of the Myanmar King Alaungphaya to King George II of Great Britain.

Located in the historic city of Bagan, the Myazedi stone inscription is a unique quadrilingual document of history, religion and culture. The inscription is believed to have been inscribed in 1113 AD. The four-sided stone pillar bears four languages Pyu, Mon, Myanmar and Pali, on each side. Its authenticity and intact texts have been identified as a document of rare historical value. The quadrilingual stone inscription is regarded as the oldest writ-

ing of the Myanmar Language documenting the history, religion and culture of the 12th century.

The Myazedi stone inscription records the administration, social and economic affairs, literary works of religion, construction of pagodas, enshrinement of Buddha statues, the enslavement of villages by royal princes and princesses, respect for parents, and meritorious deeds of Bagan Period.

The second nomination is a letter made from pure gold that was sent by Myanmar King to King George II in 1756. Engraved

on a gold sheet and adorned with 24 rubies, the Golden Letter of the Burmese (Myanmar) King Alaungphaya to King George II is an entry of documentary heritage submitted by Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Myanmar for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register in 2014. According to historical researchers, King Alaungphaya gave the letter to his counterpart in 1756.

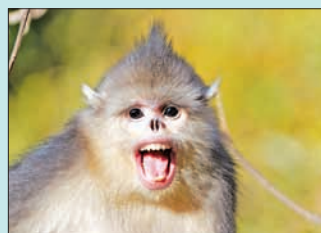
The letter given by a Myanmar king to his British counterpart is of outstanding aesthetic value considered as a unique at-

testation in world history as well as in the history of Myanmar and Europe. The content of the letter is a trade proposal from King Alaungphaya to King George II in the 18th century. Currently, the letter is kept at the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Library in Hannover, Germany.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) introduced its Memory of the World Programme in 1992 and has so far inscribed 348 documentary heritage sites from world nations on the World Heritage List.—MNA

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Meet 'Snubby' the monkey: the darling of new discoveries



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16 feared dead as flash flood hits Kalewa Tsp

Aye Min Soe

FLASH flood in a creek caused by heavy rains in Kalewa Township swept away 16 people on Thursday.

All are feared dead along with more than 20 cattle, and so far two bodies have been found, said local authorities to *The Global New Light of Myanmar* Saturday.

Kalewa Township Disaster Management Committee is carrying out rescue operations.

Among the victims, 12 are from two families living near the creek where the flash flood happened in the creek around 11 pm due to heavy rain in Sagaing Region.

Around 200 acres of farmland were also buried under the sand brought by the flash flood in the Phonethone creek in Kyaunggyi Village, Chin Chaung Village Tract, in Kalewa Township, Sagaing Region.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said in its

announcement at 2 pm Saturday that isolated heavy rains are expected in Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, as well as Kayin and Mon states, with 100 percent degree of certainty.

The weather bureau predicts Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin and Mon states are expected to experience a continuation of increased rain for the next two days.

The weather bureau Friday warned of heavy rainfall in the country's upper areas including

Sagaing Region, which was badly hit by the floods in July and August.

Kyaukme in Shan State saw a record rainfall on Friday with 4.25 inches. The previous record rainfall of 4.09 inches happened in the same month in 2013.

Squalls with rough seas may occur off and along Myanmar's deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine State, with possible surface wind speeds of up to 35 to 40 miles per hour, the forecast said.

Blood donation at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital



Monks, nuns and laypersons donate their blood at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital. PHOTO: YE HTUT

THE blood donation ceremony during the Buddhist Retreat was held at Jivitadana Sangha hospital in Yangon on 10 October. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information (Retd) U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the hospital U Maung Maung and board members, Professor Dr Daw Thida Aung of the National Blood Bank and others.

Altogether 332 monks, nuns

and laypersons donated their blood at the ceremony. The blood were checked systematically and sent to the National Blood Bank. The blood donation ceremony dates back to 1992. After a long pause the ceremony began in 2004.

The Jivitadana Hospital was founded on 8th May 1940 at Kyatawya Road in Bahan Township as a small dispensary and moved to No. 38, Ko Min Ko

Chin Street in the same township in 1952 as a hospital called Jivitadan Hospital. In 1972, the name was changed into Jivitadana Sangha Hospital.

Eight buildings including six storey medical ward and two storey ward for nuns occupy the compound of the philanthropic hospital. One hundred and thirty monks, fifty nuns and 20 laypersons are now admitted at the 200-bed hospital.—*Min Thit*

Bayer donates purification tablets to purify 60 million liters of water to help people gain access to clean water after flood

IN view of Bayer's efforts to ease the burden of the people affected by the devastation caused by the recent flood in Myanmar, Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch), has donated 160,000 purification tablets to help purify 60 million liters of water to help people in Myanmar gain better access to clean water after the recent floods. The donation included cash and purification tablets to the value of 25,000 Euro to My-

anmar Red Cross Society.

"Today, I am very delighted that Bayer touches upon one of the most important needs of the communities after the flood to attain safe drinking water for local communities. Bayer's donation of purification tablets is highly appreciated. After a flood, it is highly likely that the people's usual source of water may have become contaminated. Even bottled water which has been in

flood water may have become contaminated. By removing the water quality risk, the purification tablets are able to kill the harmful microorganisms causing diarrhea to ensure that people can access to clean water." Prof. Dr. Thar Hla Shwe, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society, said.

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the Life Science fields of health care and agriculture.

Malaria outbreaks in annual decline

Myanmar has set to get rid of malaria out of the country by 2030 through a shift of programme from 'control' to 'elimination'.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

THE National Malaria Programme has decided to make a shift from "control" to "elimination" with a goal to achieve an Asia-Pacific region free of the mosquito-borne disease by 2030, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Health said at a monthly health forum in Yangon on 9 October.

As the outbreaks of malaria have gradually declined since 2011, the country is likely to reach the millennium development goal of reducing the malaria deaths by half by 2015, said Dr Aye Mon Mon Kyaw, assistant director of the Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme at the Yangon Region

Public Health Department.

According to the ministry's data, nine in 1,000 people were infected with malaria in 2007 but the number was reported declining to 5.13 in 2013. In addition, the disease killed 0.48 in 100,000 in 2013, down from 2.18 in 2007.

The number of confirmed malaria cases in individual states and regions shows a downward trend, but it is still high in the country's western and northern parts, especially in Rakhine State and Sagaing Region, where malaria remains endemic.

Most malaria transmission occurs in forested foothill zones below an altitude of 1,000 meters. High-risk groups are residents,

plantation workers and migrants living near or in forests.

To achieve the goal of malaria elimination, doctors on their part need to make field trips to vulnerable areas, Prof Daw Mar Mar Kyi from Insein General Hospital said, warning malaria patients against the consumption of fake drugs.

The ministry and the Food and Drug Administration are making a joint effort to prevent the inflow of fake drugs into the local market, Dr Aye Mon Mon Kyaw said, adding that the ministry distributes malaria drugs free of charge to all rural healthcare centres across the country in order that drugs are within the reach of patients.

117 youths win Presidential Scholarship

THE Presidential Scholarship Selection Committee, for the first time, awarded the Presidential Scholarship to 117 youths on 8 October. According to the notification issued by the President Office, the

outstanding youths will be sent abroad for further study.

To promote human resources, HRD Plan has been implemented for long term interest of the nation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MSF, MSESF signed agreement

MYANMAR Seamen's Federation (MSF) and Myanmar Seamen Entrepreneurs' Service Federation (MSESF) signed Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) on Saturday in the presence of Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint and Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein.

At the annual general meeting of MSF the union minister said that MSF was formed on 12 December 2012 to serve the interests of the seamen; the concept of employers should be changed

in fulfilling the needs of seamen; raising the quality of seamen means promoting the interests of the employers; and the federation should copy the norms of labour organizations in developed countries joining hands with employers' association.

MSF was formed with the aim of protecting the rights of seamen; producing qualified seamen, creating proper job opportunities; assisting seamen's families, tackling the problems and hardships faced by seamen and settling the disputes between employers and seamen.—*MNA*



Union Minister U Aye Myint urges employers and seamen to follow the norms of labour organizations in developed countries. PHOTO: MNA

Japan, UNICEF commit to disaster risk reduction in Rakhine, Chin

THE government of Japan has pledged US\$10 million to UNICEF to assist children's education in areas severely affected by floods in Myanmar, according to the UNICEF.

Through this contribution from Japan, the UNICEF in partnership with the Myanmar government will support the education flood response in Chin and Rakhine states, the country's poorest areas, where children are the most vulnerable to hazards.

Activities will focus on construction of approximately 30 new primary schools under the principle of "Building Back Better" so as to provide examples of good practice and demonstrate standards of disaster-resistant school construction. Rehabilitation and repair of around 75 damaged schools will also be undertaken. "We are supporting the Government of Myanmar to lead the recovery process in education, based on building back better with elements of disaster risk reduction, and principles of emergency awareness for education staff, teachers and stu-

dents", explains Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Representative to Myanmar.

The USD 10 Million grant from Japanese government complements the \$2 million commitment to the flood response by partners in the Quality Basic Education Programme (QBEP-Australia, Denmark, EU, Norway, UK, and UNICEF).

Through this project, approximately 12,000 students will benefit directly from construction and repairs to school infrastructure during the first school year, with a further cohort of around 3,000 students benefitting in the second school year.

In addition, education staff training, with a focus on psychosocial support and disaster preparedness, is expected to reach 2,400 Head Teachers and 9,000 teachers, which will have positive impact on over 300,000 students annually.

Myanmar is at highest risk of hazards in the Asia-Pacific region, but there are many ways to reduce the vulnerability of children and their families.—*GNLM*

President tours Mon State

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein arrived at Thanlwin bridge (Chaungzon) construction site in Mon State yesterday. Union Minister for U Kyaw Lwin briefed the president on the construction saying that the project started on 8 February 2015 and expected to complete in December 2016. Upon completion the bridge will be 1586 meter long spanning Mawlamyine and Chaunggone Townships.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint presented the president on erect-

ing Thanlwin River Tower. The president instructed them on completing the project as schedule.

The president proceeded to Mawlamyine University and met teachers, students and locals. In his speech the president attached great importance to smooth transportation in the region as it can help promote health, education and business in the region. He ranked the electric power as the second priority as it plays an important role to become an industrialized nation. Human resource develop is the third priority according to the president.

The president arrived at Attaran Bridge spanning Kayin and Mon State. The Union Minister for Construction briefed the president on construction of Attaran Bridge (Chaungnakwa). The president presented Buddha images, solar-powered lamps and helmets for locals. The building of Attaran Bridge (Chaungnakwa) started on 20 July 2014 and completed on 30 July 2015.

The president visited Chaungzon, gave advice to local officials and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw later in the evening. —Myanmar News Agency



President U Thein Sein inspects Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon).



Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon) construction project started on 8 February 2015 and expected to complete in December 2016.



President meets faculty members, students and local people at Mawlamyine University.



President U Thein Sein being warmly welcomed by locals on Attaran Bridge.

PHOTOS: MNA

Monyin hospital wins good reputation

MONYIN'S 100-bed people's hospital has won reputation from the local residents since 2013 as its service provided to the patients were good and also great. Under its health care programme, methadone substitution therapy has been given to about 400 patients everyday and antiretroviral therapy to nearly 400 adults and about ten children. In the aged health care system, at least 50 people of 60 and above receive treatment at the hospital every Wednesday.

In addition to providing health care to over 200,000 Monyin's residents, the hospital is attending people from Mogaung, Hpakant and Indaw Townships. To fulfil their needs the Ministry of Health has appointed more medical staff including seven specialists. The government has provided medicines and medical equipment sufficiently, said the medical superintendent Dr Win Win Htay.

In the past people were afraid of admitting to hospital but now there is no need to worry about buying medicines as the hospital provides enough medicines to patients. Moreover, the dealings and service provided by the staff has become good, said war veteran U Kyaw Win.—GNLM-001

Myanmar's scout federation president leaves for Philippines



Dr Tin Nyo, president of the Myanmar Scout Federation (third from left) seen at the airport before his departure for the Philippines. PHOTO: KO LATT (MNA)

DR TIN NYO, president of the Myanmar Scout Federation, and three delegation members left for the Philippines on Friday to attend the ASEAN Scout Association for Regional Cooperation (ASARC) Conference to be held from 10 to 15 October. They were seen off at the airport by Joint Secretary of the federation U Aye Kyaing and others.

Myanmar delegation will meet Asia and the Pacific Scout Federation

members in two-day separate meetings.

Another four delegations from Myanmar Scout Federation will attend 25th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference to be held in The Republic of Korea from 3 to 8 November. At the conference, matters on accepting Myanmar as a member of the World Organization of Scout Movement and future plan of the scouts will be discussed.—Ko Latt (Myanmar News Agency)

Myingyan District officials inspect construction of critical township road



Myohta-Ngazun-Kyauntalone road in Ngazun Township under construction. PHOTO: U ZAW MIN NAING -MYINGYAN

MYINGYAN District Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and local officials went to inspect the construction of the Myohta-Ngazun-Kyauntalone road in Ngazun Township, on 9 October. At the construction site from Myohta to Zaloatma Village road section, they urged for quality standard raw mate-

rials in building the road and for timely completion. The township road office was also supervising the construction, says an official. The critical 14-mile and 18 ft wide road in Mandalay Region, is being constructed by private Sancha to Zaloatma Village road section, they urged for quality standard raw mate-
rials in building the road and for timely completion. The township road office was also supervising the construction, says an official. The critical 14-mile and 18 ft wide road in Mandalay Region, is being constructed by private Sancha to Zaloatma Village road section, they urged for quality standard raw mate-

Library promotion talks at Thekyun Village of Othayathiri Township

EDUCATIVE talks for raising reading habits and sustainability of libraries was held at Thekyun Village's 'Pyinyabeikman' Library, in Othayathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 9 October. Township Information and Public Relations Department officer Daw Swe Swe Moe explained of the benefits

of having a library in a village. She also informed to the villagers of IPRD's public digital library service, Wi-Fi service and its Mini Book Corners. Wall posters on preventions against natural disasters and anti-narcotic drugs campaigns were shown, on the sidelines of the talks.—Shwe Ye Yint U Aung Ko Ko



Locals listening to IPRD staff explaining them on the benefit of raising reading habit. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT U AUNG KO KO

Abundant monsoon watermelons benefit farmers in capital area

KHAYANSUTKONE Village on the motor car road between Ottarathiri and Tatkon townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, is having a good harvest of monsoon watermelons, this year.

The melons fetched good prices which made a profitable trade between farmers and broker-buyers, than last year.

The prices of a melon at the field will be K700 or K800, bought by the brokers. A K800- melon can

get K 2500 at the market. But the 200 melon growers of Khayansutkone are still making lucrative yield says a village-farmer who grows three acres of monsoon watermelons.

As last year's harvest was not good, there were not much monsoon watermelon growers this year which resulted into a suppliers' market, this year, he says. Watermelons are grown across the area at all seasons.—Tin Soe Lwin IPRD



Watermelons everywhere in Tatkon Township. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN IPRD



Buddha images of Inlay's Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda starts their annual 18-day tour across the large lake from October 14.
PHOTO: AINT KYA NGON PHU

Inlay's acclaimed Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda Festival starting soon

THE historic Buddha images of Inlay's Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda in Nyaungshwe of south Shan State, starts their annual 18-day tour across the large lake from October 14. They will stop at 21 places where devotees from far and near, will pay homage. The images will tour on a decorative float pulled by traditional rowing boats and return to the pagoda on 31 October. When the images arrive at Nyaungshwe town on 20 October, there will be traditional leg rowing boat races, including a 46-men and 26-women leg rowing boat races. There will also

be decorative boats demonstrated with songs and traditional dance shows.

Meanwhile, at the vicinity of Phaungtaw Oo Pagoda in the lake during the acclaimed pagoda festival, there will be sports competitions such as volleyball, shops of commodities from all over the country, traditional dance troupe shows in theater, open shows, and exhibitions on environmental conservation and about Inlay Lake.

The pagoda festival with its Buddha images' tour is a major tourist attraction in Myanmar.—Aint Kya Ngon Phu

Meiktila Township wins District SPF Chairman's Badminton Shield



Badminton competitions in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THA -MEIKTILA

VARIOUS winning township badminton teams of Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi were awarded at the Meiktila District Sports and Physical Fitness Chairman's Shield tournament, on 9 October. The matches, of men singles and men and women doubles, were held at Meiktila District

Sports Stadium. The best players were awarded and the winning teams were given first, second, third and honor prizes. Meiktila Township team won the Meiktila District SPF Chairman's Shield presented by District Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon.—Chan Tha -Meiktila

Girls' Aerobic Competition in Myawaddy



Girls show their skills at MYAWADDY Township Girls' Aerobic Competition. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG - IPRD

MYAWADDY Township Girls' Aerobic Competition was held at the Township Sports Ground on 8 October, with opening speeches by District

Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and Township Education Officer Daw Aye Myint. There were 15 teams contested by 12-under school girls and

six teams of 12-overs at the competition in Kayin State. The winning teams were awarded by senior officials. The best talented girls are to compete at

Myanmar Women Sports Federation's Women's Aerobic Competition on 15 October, to be held at the state capital of Phaang.—Htein Lin Aung - IPRD



Pharmacists and drugstore owners in Myawady urged to follow the rules. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG - IPRD

Myawaddy officials meet local pharmacists

MYAWADDY District's pharmacists and drugstore owners were urged by local officials to sell medicines in line with the rules and regulations, on 8 October. District Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo told them to sell with goodwill. District Health Officer Dr Aung Myint, Kayin State's Department of Food and Drug Administration Supervisor Daw Seint San-

da Myint Aung, Township Traditional Medical Officer Daw Sanda Win and District Police Chief Police Lt Col Moe Nyo explained on the rules, storage of medicines, and differences between prescription and common medicines. The attendees had thorough discussions at the meeting in Myawaddy town, said an attendee.—Htein Lin Aung - IPRD

Indonesia launches int'l fight against forest fires amid mounting pressure for national disaster state

JAKARTA — Indonesia finally accepted the help of foreign countries to quell the raging fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan amid the warming effects of El Nino that have triggered famine in the forest regions.

A fire-fighting team from Singapore has arrived in Indonesia on Friday with more teams from Malaysia, Australia, Russia, China and South Korea expected to arrive in the coming days. They would bring planes and helicopters capable of extinguishing forest fires.

Those aircraft are expected to join a water-bombing operation in the worst-affected areas. Indonesia has dispatched 20 planes and helicopters to carry out water bombing and artificial rain in Sumatra and Kalimantan since May.

The foreign assistance would be assigned to help fight forest fire in South Sumatra province where most of "hotspots" were detected. At least 414 "hotspots" were recorded in Sumatra on Friday, according to Indonesia's Meteorology,

Geophysics and Climatology Agency (BMKG) agency.

President Joko Widodo visited areas affected by the forest fire in Riau province on Friday. He traveled to Kampar in the province by car as the haze was still

disrupting flights to Riau's capital of Pekanbaru.

"I am already on the ground now, seeing what really happens. Troops, police and BNPB (Indonesian National Disaster Mitigation Agency) have really done

their utmost. But we have to understand the areas gutted by fire were very vast, 1.7 million hectares," he said at a public health center in Kampar.

The Indonesian government was urged to declare a state of na-

tional disaster so as to make the efforts more effective and efficient.

The forest fires had led to 14 casualties, including 12 people who died from respiratory tract infections and two who were killed in car crashes due to low visibility amid the thick haze, said the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi).

Meanwhile, more than 300,000 people in Sumatra and Kalimantan suffered from respiratory disease related to the haze emitted by the forest fire.

Lukman Edy, a legislator of Commission II at the parliament, said the government seemed incapable of dealing with the disaster.

He added that local administrators in the affected areas did not dare to allocate funds from their budgets to fight the forest fires.

"This is because of the absence of national disaster status. At the same time, people were suffering from the haze," the legislator from the National Awakening Party (PKB) said.—Xinhua



A C-130 Hercules plane from Malaysian Air Force lands at Sultan Mahmud Baddarudin II airport to help Indonesian government fight forest fire in Palembang, Indonesia on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

China completes construction of lighthouses in South China Sea

SHANGHAI — China has completed the construction of two lighthouses in the disputed South China Sea, the official Xinhua news agency reported, as tensions in the region mount over Beijing's maritime ambitions.

A completion ceremony was held for the lighthouses on Cuateron Reef and Johnson South Reef in the Spratly islands, Xinhua said late on Friday. The United States and the Philippines

have opposed the construction.

China claims most of the energy-rich South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion (£3.3 trillion) in ship-borne trade passes every year, and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

China said on Friday it would not stand for violations of its territorial waters in the name of freedom of navigation, as the

United States considers sailing warships to waters inside the 12-nautical-mile zones around islands it has built in the Spratly chain.

Washington has signalled it does not recognise Beijing's sovereignty over the several islands China has built on reefs in the Spratly archipelago and says the US navy will continue to operate wherever international law allows. The issue is central to in-

creasingly tense relations between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies.

Beijing has said construction in the region is to help maritime search and rescue, disaster relief, environmental protection and navigational security. It has also said it will continue to build other installations to better serve countries in the region and vessels navigating those waters.—Reuters

A-bomb survivors disheartened by failure to win Nobel Peace Prize

TOKYO — Atomic bomb survivors who have worked for years to eliminate nuclear weapons expressed disappointment Friday at not being awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize despite expectations they might win on the 70th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Japan.

"It is extremely disappointing," Terumi Tanaka, secretary general of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations, told a press conference in Tokyo after the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the prize to a Tunisian democracy group.

"We have survived 70 years and have continued conveying our messages."

Setsuko Thurlow
An atomic bomb survivor

"I saw this year as a final chance (for our group to receive the award) because the hibakusha are aging," he said, using the Japanese term for survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II.

The 83-year-old survivor also said he had hoped the award would go to the group or individual survivors to remind people around the world that there are still around 16,000 nuclear weapons in existence, an "unbearable" situation for the hibakusha.

"It's too bad, but let's step up our antinuclear campaigning activities" so that related groups or individuals can win the prize, Akira Kawasaki, executive committee member of civic group Peace Boat, told around 60 people at an event in Tokyo to watch the online stream of the prize announcement.

In Canada, Setsuko Thurlow, an 83-year-old atomic bomb survivor and antinuclear campaigner who was seen as a possi-



Terumi Tanaka (R), secretary general of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ble winner of the prize, said she was "a little bit sad."

"We have survived 70 years and have continued conveying our messages," she told reporters at her home in Toronto.

The Nobel committee award-

ed the 2015 peace prize to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet "for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011."—Kyodo News

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Samsung did not infringe Nvidia graphics chip patents: US ITC

NEW YORK — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has been cleared on its use of graphics chip technology owned by Nvidia Corp without permission, in a US International Trade Commission ruling on Friday.

Judge Thomas Pender said Samsung did not infringe two Nvidia patents, and while it did infringe a third, he ruled that patent is invalid because it was not a new invention compared with previously known patents.

Nvidia spokesman Robert Sherbin said the ruling will be reviewed by the full commission, which will make a final decision on the dispute in February. "We remain confident in our case," he said.

A spokeswoman for Samsung declined to comment.

Santa Clara, California-based Nvidia filed a complaint against Samsung and Qualcomm Inc at the ITC in September 2014.

At the same time, Nvidia sued the companies in federal

court in Wilmington, Delaware.

The ITC has the authority to stop the import of products that it determines infringe a US patent. Companies frequently sue at the ITC to win an import ban and in district court to win damages.

Nvidia, which said it invented the first graphics processing chip and released it in 1999, accused Korea's Samsung and San Diego-based Qualcomm of using its patents on graphics chip technology without permission or compensation.

Nvidia alleged the companies infringed its patents with Qualcomm's Snapdragon processors and Samsung's Exynos processors and was seeking to prevent the import of several Samsung products, including its Galaxy smartphones and tablets.

Samsung has also gone on the offensive. It countersued Nvidia last November in federal court in Virginia, also alleging patent infringement. Samsung also sued one of Nvidia's customers.—Reuters

Japan-backed fund considering investing in Sharp: Nikkei

TOKYO — A Japanese government-backed fund is considering investing in embattled Sharp Corp to take the initiative in reorganising the electronics maker's operations, *Nikkei* business daily reported, without citing sources.

The Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ) and Sharp had hired financial advisors to gauge Sharp's asset value and would hold direct talks on the size of any investment, it added.

INCJ is also the top shareholder of Sharp rival Japan Display Inc, the world's largest maker of liquid crystal displays for smartphones and tablets.

INCJ was considering merging Sharp's liquid crystal display unit with a venture developing organic light-emitting diode dis-

play technology that it owned with Japan Display, the newspaper reported.

Sharp had considered spinning off its LCD panel business, which supplies displays to smartphone and tablet manufacturers, and seek funding for it from INCJ, a source told Reuters in April.

Officials from the fund were not available for comment. An Osaka-based Sharp spokesman declined to comment on the report. Once among the top display suppliers to Apple Inc, Sharp has been pushed aside by the likes of LG Display and Japan Display as the US device maker diversified its supply chain amid longstanding concerns over Sharp's prospects. Japan launched INCJ in 2009 in a bid to keep the technology sector competitive.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexico expects first results in Volkswagen probe in three months



The Volkswagen (VW) automobile manufacturing plant is seen in Puebla near Mexico City. PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — Mexico expects preliminary findings from a probe into Volkswagen's compliance with emissions standards within three months, the environment minister said on Friday, adding the review will include gasoline-fueled cars as well as diesel.

Mexico announced last

month it was investigating whether Volkswagen cars complied with emissions rules in Latin America's second economy, after Europe's largest carmaker admitted to cheating in US diesel emissions tests.

"I expect we can begin to have the first results from Volkswagen diesel vehicles...in the next three months," Rafael

Pacchiano told local radio on Friday. "We are going to expand the tests to gasoline vehicles."

Last month, Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) said it was checking to determine whether the roughly 32,000 series EA 189 diesel engine vehicles it has sold in Mexico since 2009 provided "altered" emissions data to local authorities.—Reuters

Computer science now top major for women at Stanford University

SAN FRANCISCO — Computer science has for the first time become the most popular major for female students at Stanford University, a hopeful sign for those trying to build up the thin ranks of women in the technology field.

Based on preliminary declarations by upper-class students, about 214 women are majoring in computer science, accounting for about 30 percent of majors in that department, the California-based university told Reuters on Friday.

Human biology, which had been the most popular major for women, slipped to second place with 208.

If more women majored in technological fields like computer science, advocates say, that could help alleviate the dearth of women in engineering and related professions, where many practitioners draw on computer science backgrounds.

"We've crossed that threshold where women feel supported and comfortable," said Eric Roberts, a Stanford professor emeritus of computer science who first obtained the numbers. "What we need to do is not turn anyone away because they feel unsupported, and a vibrant core community with a critical mass is essential."

The shift at Stanford is particularly important given its prominence in Silicon Valley and the large number of companies, including Yahoo and Google, founded by its students.

Only 27 percent of entrepreneurs are women, said Ross Levine, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who is researching the gender gap in entrepreneurship.

Computer science is Stanford's most popular major and has been for several years, according to a spokesman, representing about 20 percent of stu-

dents with declared majors.

Women make up 49 percent of Stanford's undergraduate body of about 7,000 students, according to the university.

It was unclear if Stanford is the only major US university where computer science is the top major for female students.

At Harvey Mudd College in southern California, often praised for its high percentages of technical women graduates, computer science is the second-most popular major for women after engineering, a spokeswoman said.

Adding in two other majors that combine computer science with math or computational biology, computer science leads, she said. Although women earn 57 percent of all bachelor's degrees, according to the National Science Foundation, only about 18 percent of all US undergraduate computer science degrees go to women.—Reuters

OPINION

A single breach of trust is too many

Kyaw Thura

IT is undeniable that we are living in such a challenging epoch of history that the country is in urgent need of greater political action and responsibility than ever before. The challenge of reconstructing the country's political power should be turned into an impetus for sustainable development through a process of decisive change that can satisfy human needs

and aspirations without discrimination.

Peace cannot come from the exchange of fire. Six decades of internal armed conflict has demonstrated that bullets are unable to solve the ethnic crises simply because the problems are deeply rooted in the hearts of all ethnic groups. Peace and stability cannot be built on uncertainty.

As the nationwide peace accord has been openly scheduled to be signed on 15 October, the government and ethnic troops should do everything they can to bring recent sporadic clashes to a complete halt in the knowledge that a single breach of trust is too many. The current political exigency requires both sides to resolve on a shift from a head-to-head talk to a heart-to-heart one.

It is true that more than half a century of deterioration in mutual understanding will take

time to heal, but a speedy recovery is feasible once we come together to stand for common goals and pursue them in harmony.

As a country blessed with natural resources, Myanmar should no way lag way behind others in terms of economic, education and social development. It is time that all stakeholders learnt to get their political differences across.

Write for us

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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.

A Fervent Plea For A Fair And Free Election

From Charles Cardinal Maung Bo, Yangon

FIVE years ago, the dawn of hope broke forth in the parched lands of despair. After decades of sacrifice of blood and tears, my Myanmar Brothers and Sisters tasted democracy. Termed 'controlled democracy' by our rulers, that dawn brought encouraging changes. People who have walked in darkness saw the light. It was not perfect democracy but the fledgling democracy brought forth a stream of hope in the hearts of our country men and women. Democracy is a process. So through this appeal I call upon the rulers and the people to make the forthcoming election a true exercise in democracy. But democracy is a long and arduous journey. The rulers and the ruled need mutual accompaniment in this journey. Democracy has won our people's heart and mind. The surging enthusiasm for elections reflects our people's desire for peace and prosperity-making this nation once more the Golden land.

Voting is a fundamental right in a democracy. The primary duty bearer of this responsibility is the Election Commission. Most of the vibrant democracies in the world are fortified by the strong resolve of the Election Commission. Voter education, enrollment of all in the electoral roll, a ruthless adherence to neutrality, a strong inclusive approach and a commitment to transparency are some of the expectations

from our people of the Election Commission. Our earnest desire is that Election commission rises up to this challenge.

Candidates from various political parties have exhibited great desire to serve the nation. Mutual respect and consideration for the candidates from minority groups and ethnic parties will promote long term peace. Induce-

Democracy is a process. So through this appeal I call upon the rulers and the people to make the forthcoming election a true exercise in democracy.

ments and threats of civilians, use of force will be a death knell to democracy. Let your election manifestos speak for themselves. Let your people friendly policies attract the people to vote for you. Not strong arm methods. This is a rainbow nation of colorful tribes and great religions. Manipulating sectarian sentiments would send this country to dark ages. Let religions heal, not wound. Kindly avoid vote bank politics. The principle protagonists are the citizens in this election. In a democracy the voter is the King.

But they have a moral responsibility to go to the booth and elect their candidates. To dispel the darkness of fifty years, everyone should hold his or her vote as the light that challenges that darkness.

Democracy is sacred duty. We forsake that at our own peril. Every vote counts. So please fulfill your sacred duty in this election. Please go to the booth. Vote for the candidates of your choice. Being a religious leader, I have no commands to anyone, but as one deeply interested in the welfare of All Myanmar people, let me express my desire to see voting done on the following guidelines: Vote Candidates and Parties who have:

1. the ability to stop the half a century long civil war pave the way for national reconciliation and peace.
2. the ability to work with due respect with different ethnic groups and religions of the nation.
3. the ability to safeguard the country's nature and natural resources, protecting our forests and not selling our sacred rivers and resources to foreign powers. (e.g. stop the Myitson Dam Project and Protect our forest)
4. the ability to promote the comprehensive development of our children and youth, creating employment opportunities.
5. the ability to protect the land right of the

farmers and facilitate access to market and greater agriculture production.

6. the ability to ensure an inclusive economic system that is beneficial especially to the vulnerable rather than to a handful of unscrupulous profit oriented destroyers.
 7. the ability to respect for the role of women in the decision making process of the nation and work for development of women.
 8. the ability to develop an empowering education system of the nation, seeking collaboration from local and foreign academic experts, decentralizing education to benefit of all especially ethnic groups, allowing cultural and religious groups to educate their children.
 9. the ability to make this nation a healthy nation through investment in health especially for women and children.
 10. the ability to promote a culture of democracy that proactively promotes human rights, media freedom.
- Election is a great window of opportunity to this nation. Peace and prosperity are the fruits of free and fair election. Myanmar waits for its date with destiny. Let us pray that let the dark days of despair become a distant thought. Let peace and justice flow like a river, bringing joy and happiness to all the people of this great nation.

"Israel's Innovative Technology in the field of Urology is launched in Myanmar"

As the first time in Myanmar, an innovative technology for treatment of kidney stones was installed in hospitals in Yangon and Mandalay. The systems by Initia Ltd, an Israeli medical technology company, have just been launched at **Kant Kaw Hospital in Mandalay** and at **Asia Royal Hospital and Sakura Hospital in Yangon, on August 2015.**

The presentation exposed innovation in the field of urology, focusing on treatment of kidney stones through laser and lithotripsy- shockwave therapy:

Themis is a 30W Holmium Laser with a unique "Fibrex" optic fiber.

The application of Themis laser for stone fragmentation and various soft tissue procedures in surgical procedures, deliver high standards in the field of urology. The Themis system is a holmium laser with 2.1 micron wavelength emission which is highly absorbed by water and soft tissue. System applications in urology include uretral stone treatments, kidney stone treatments, bladder tumors, strictures, PCNL and TUIP.

Integra: A State-of-the-Art Electromagnetic SWL System

Integra incorporates a novel shockwave technology, innovative imaging and a revolutionary architecture oriented toward fragmentation effectiveness and accurate imaging. Integra is a single unit, including a fluoroscopy system, treatment table and shockwave unit all in one. This architecture dramatically reduces coupling, set-up and treatment time. The vertically positioned shockwave source makes patient positioning easy and quick and offers in-line fluoroscopy without the need to delay the treatment procedure ("On-line"). Integra's unique One View Localization method replaces the need to rotate the X-ray unit and allows for a concise design and footprint. A user friendly physician's console enables complete control of the procedure as well as advanced image processing functions.—GNLM



Meet 'Snubby' the monkey: the darling of new discoveries

A new report reveals that the Himalayan habitat of a rare species of monkey in Myanmar is threatened by deforestation – and to a lesser degree, its susceptibility to sneezing

Jacob Goldberg

THE Myanmar snub-nosed monkey has been known to spend rainy days crouching with its head between its knees. Scientists believe this behaviour prevents water from entering the monkey's exposed nostrils, which causes the monkey to sneeze. If snub-nosed monkeys could read, however, scientists would do well to consider another explanation — that the monkeys got their hands on the latest report by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and are depressed by its bleak predictions about their habitat.

The EIA report was published just two weeks before another report, this one by the World Wildlife Federation (WWF), which highlights the 211 new species of plants and animals discovered between 2009 and 2014 in the Himalayan mountain range.

The monkey, which scientists have nicknamed 'Snubby', is the only mammal featured in the report, titled 'The Hidden Himalaya: Asia's Wonder Land', which was published on Tuesday. Though only a sliver

of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has categorised the monkey as 'critically endangered'. Fauna and Flora International (FFI), an international conservation group operating in Myanmar, estimates that there are fewer than 300 individual Myanmar snub-nosed monkeys left and that the species will be extinct in 18 years unless a major conservation effort is launched.

Elusive yet threatened

The Myanmar snub-nosed monkey is an elusive creature. Scientists first learned of its existence and behaviour from local communities in Kachin State in 2010, and it has only been scientifically observed within the last five years, by FFI and the People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF). Before that, the rugged terrain and absence of roads in its habitat kept strangers away.

Now, however, Snubby's fate has become entangled in the drama of Myanmar's economic development, making it the target of several human and environmental threats.

"The region is currently facing a wide range of threats and pressures, with climate change by far the most serious. Population growth, deforestation, overgraz-



Snubby's exposed nostrils make it vulnerable to sneeze attacks. PHOTO: THOMAS GEISSMAN

ing, poaching, the wildlife trade, mining, pollution and hydropower development have all contributed to the pressures on the fragile ecosystems in the region," the report says.

Hardwoods such as rosewood and teak from Myanmar's Kachin State and Sagaing Region are in high demand in China, where local businesses deploy Chinese nationals into Myanmar to harvest the comparatively low-cost materials. Though the Myanmar government issued a log export ban in April 2014 in an effort to slow the rate of deforestation, it has largely been ignored and circumvented through the complex power relations at play in Myanmar's northernmost areas.

According to the EIA, Chinese loggers can buy logging rights to entire mountains from Myanmar. The loggers pay for logging rights with bars of gold and once the logs enter China, they are effectively legalised as soon as the smugglers pay customs tax.

Rapidly shrinking habitat

Logging, as well as deforestation for agri-business, have ac-

where, through awareness work, we have created pride among the local Lisu and Law Waw people to protect the monkey. Local communities established a core conservation zone. Hunting of Snubby has completely stopped," Momberg said.

Meanwhile, FFI has worked with Myanmar's Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF) to establish the Imaw Bum National Park, which will protect Snubby, as well as other threatened species such as the red panda.

According to Momberg, all of the park's stakeholders have agreed to the park's establishment and on its boundaries and are awaiting the final approval of the Kachin State government and MOECAF.

"MOECAF legal protection [of the] National Park should enable better law enforcement and the establishment of a patrol force to Chinese loggers effectively," Momberg said.

Once the greatest threat to the endangered animals of Myanmar's Himalayan sliver, Snubby's human neighbours are now proving themselves an asset to their survival.

"The Eastern Himalayas is at a crossroads," said Sami Tornikoski, head of the WWF Living Himalayas Initiative.

"Governments can decide whether to follow the current path towards fragile economies that do not fully account for environmental impacts, or take an alternative path towards greener, more sustainable economic development."



Scientists photographed the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey using a camera trap in 2010. PHOTO: FFI

of Myanmar's northern Kachin State is part of the Himalayan foothills, that sliver is home to the darling of the new discoveries. Its photo has been featured in nearly every major news story about the report's publication.

Snubby is not the only major animal discovery in Myanmar over the last six years. The country is also home to the 'Dracula minnow' – a tiny fish with elongated fangs at the front of each of its jaws – and a well-camouflaged bird with a high-pitched mating song. However, aside from being a large mammal, Snubby also stands out for its conservation status.

The International Union for

Vulnerable in the rain

Local hunters in Kachin State have said the monkeys are easy to spot in the rain because water easily enters their noses, causing them to sneeze and making them easy prey for people craving bushmeat.

The WWF report says the species is "likely to be classified as critically endangered due to its restricted range and significant hunting pressures."

The species is also threatened by habitat loss, which is caused in



The Yunnan snub-nose monkey is Snubby's Chinese relative.

PHOTO: TERRY TOWNSHEND

"[The snub-nosed monkey] likely to be classified as critically endangered due to its restricted range and significant hunting pressures."

World Wildlife Fund

counted for an average loss of 185,000 hectares of forest every years since 2009. As forests near the border disappear, loggers push deeper into Myanmar's interior. As limited forest resources shrink, so does the habitat of Myanmar's snub-nosed monkey.

However, now that the monkey is under the radar of conservation groups and is gaining international fame, its future may turn around.

According to Frank Momberg, the Myanmar program director for FFI, the organisation has developed a conservation programme to which local people living near Snubby's habitat play a crucial role, and it seems to be succeeding.

"[We use] a community-based conservation approach

Chinese envoy calls for establishment of int'l code of conduct on cyberspace

UNITED NATIONS — A Chinese official Friday called on the global community to jointly bring about an international code of conduct on cyberspace at the UN headquarters in New York. Wang Qun, director-general of the Arms Control Department of Chinese Foreign Ministry, made the call at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly.

"It is highly necessary and pressing for the international community to jointly

bring about an international code of conduct on cyberspace at an early date," Wang said. He said that the cyberspace is "an anonymous and flat space with no borders" and China believes that an international code of conduct on cyberspace acceptable to all should comply with the UN Charter and other universally recognized basic norms governing international relations, respect the cyberspace sovereignty of each state, among others. The code of conduct should resolve in-

ternational disputes in this field by peaceful means and ensure that the cyberspace can only be utilized for activities for the maintenance of international peace and security, Wang said.

Under such a code of conduct, cyberspace should not be used as a means to interfere in the internal affairs of other states or to the detriment of their national interests, he added.

China commends the work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on information security, and

welcomes its latest report, said Wang. "China expects that this cooperative mechanism will keep its momentum by focusing its work at the next stage on working out something in a nature of an international code of conduct on cyberspace."

"China, for its part, will continue to commit itself to establishing a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace and pushing for an early international code of conduct acceptable to all," he said.—*Xinhua*

Israel, Iran trade barbs at UN disarmament panel meeting

UNITED NATIONS — Israel and Iran exchanged sharp criticisms at a meeting of the UN General Assembly's disarmament committee on Friday, accusing each other of being a major destabilising force in the Middle East.

Israeli Ambassador Alon Roth-Snir told the United Nations' First Committee that "Iran remains the most significant threat to the security of the Middle East and beyond."

He reiterated his government's strong opposition to a historic nuclear agreement between Tehran and six world powers,

saying it was "unlikely to stop Iran's relentless pursuit of a nuclear weapons' capability." He accused Tehran of continuing "vehement anti-Semitic rhetoric and threats against Israel."

Iran UN Ambassador Gholamali Khoshrou in turn accused Israel, which is widely presumed to have the region's only nuclear arsenal, of being "the only impediment ... towards realizing a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East."

"Israel continues to block all international and regional efforts to fulfil

this goal," Khoshrou added.

Iran says its nuclear programme is purely for civilian purposes, denying allegations from the United States and its allies that it has sought to develop the capability to produce atomic weapons.

Under the July 14 nuclear deal with the United States and five other nations, sanctions on Iran will be lifted in exchange for long-term curbs on Iranian nuclear activity.

Roth-Snir also raised concerns about the use of chemical weapons in Syria's civil war. He said

the removal and destruction of Syria's declared chemical arsenal was an important achievement. But he cautioned that the government maintained a residual chemical weapons capability while the use of weapons with poison gas in Israel's neighbour was increasing.

"It is all the more troubling that due to the frequent use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime, the use of such agents is emulated by terror organizations and has become almost commonplace during the fighting," Roth-Snir said.—*Reuters*

US warns governments, bankers Iran sanctions still in place

LONDON — The Obama administration has privately reminded foreign governments and US bankers that sanctions against Iran remain in effect, cautioning against a rush by Western companies to invest in Iran's oil industry and other businesses until the country fully complies with the July nuclear agreement.

The US State Department recently cabled a message, known as a demarche, to embassies around the world to reiterate that sanctions on Iran are still in place, diplomatic and government sources told Reuters on Friday.

The demarche stressed that sanctions on Iran would not be lifted until the International Atomic Energy Agency verifies that Tehran has complied with the terms of the deal.

"The United States wants to tell governments not to get ahead of themselves when dealing with Iran," said a London-based diplomatic source.

It is uncertain exactly



A money changer displays US and Iranian banknotes at the Grand Bazaar in central Tehran, on 7 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

when the layers of Western sanctions might be lifted, but experts have said some international financial transactions with Iran would be possible sometime next year if Iran is found in compliance.

US law allows the administration to enforce sanctions by targeting financial institutions in countries that do business with the state-

owned National Iranian Oil Co or its subsidiaries. Companies that breach the sanctions risk fines, asset freezes and being cut off from the US dollar banking system.

In 2014, the United States imposed a record fine on French bank BNP Paribas, which agreed to pay almost \$9 billion to resolve accusations it violated US

sanctions against Sudan, Cuba and Iran.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action hit on 14 July by Iran and six world powers, including the United States, imposes strict limits on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for relief from sanctions.

Iran is counting on an end to sanctions to boost its

UN Secretary-General's Message on The International Day of the Girl Child 11 October 2015

The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals rightly include key targets for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They offer an opportunity for a global commitment to breaking intergenerational transmission of poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination – and realizing our vision of a life of dignity for all.

Our task now is to get to work on meeting the SDG targets and making good on our promises to give girls all the opportunities they deserve as they mature to adulthood by 2030. That means enabling them to avoid child marriage and unwanted pregnancy, protect against HIV transmission, stay safe from female genital mutilation, and acquire the education and skills they need to realize their potential. It also requires ensuring their sexual health and reproductive rights. Girls everywhere should be able to lead lives free from fear and violence. If we achieve this progress for girls, we will see advances across society.

Just after the adoption last month of the global goals for sustainable development, world leaders heard a ringing call from Nobel Peace Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who was flanked in the General Assembly Hall by young people from around the world. "Promise us that you will keep your commitments and invest in our future," she urged.

Three years ago, on the International Day of the Girl Child, I condemned the attack against Malala and called for more opportunities for girls everywhere. Today, I applaud her courage and that of her peers, who only want the chance to contribute to our world.

Let us resolve to invest in today's adolescent girls so that tomorrow they can stand strong as citizens, political leaders, entrepreneurs, heads of their households and more. This will secure their rights and our common future. —*UNIC/Yangon*

battered economy, particularly an oil and gas sector that has shrivelled under Western sanctions.

Business delegations led by senior government officials from major economies, including Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Japan and India, have travelled over the past three months to Tehran to discuss future trade opportunities.

Most significantly, a number of the world's top oil companies including Royal Dutch Shell, France's Total and Italy's Eni have held high-level talks with Iranian energy officials to discuss the development of Iran's vast oil and gas reserves.

An Obama administration source confirmed the demarche was sent recently.

The administration is "routinely in touch with third party stakeholders in the private sector and governments about the terms of the plan," said the official, who is not authorized to speak publicly about the deal and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

In addition to the demarche, US officials have recently held round table discussions with oil industry executives and bankers in Washington and New York to reiterate that sanctions remain in effect. According to the London-based diplomatic source, Iran's decision last month to postpone a key oil conference in London for the fourth time came after US officials conveyed concerns to British diplomats that the Dec. 14 event would take place before the easing of sanctions. It is now planned for February 2016.

Iran's national oil company has said it plans to unveil more than 50 new contracts for development of the country's energy reserves that have been choked under the sanctions at the conference in February.

There has been "a real gap" in the understanding by oil and commodities traders about the complexities of the deal and getting information out there is important, said the Obama administration source.—*Reuters*

Germany, EU deny report on European solidarity tax



Migrants queue in the compound outside the Berlin Office of Health and Social Affairs (LAGESO) as they wait to register in Berlin, Germany, on 7 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — German and EU officials on Saturday denied a media report that Berlin and Brussels were in informal talks about a type of European solidarity tax to help cover the costs of stemming a record-breaking influx of asylum seekers.

“The fact remains: we don’t want tax increases in Germany or to introduce an EU tax,” government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement.

A spokesman for the European Commission also dismissed the report. “There is no such proposal currently on the table or under preparation,” he said, adding the Commission never comments on rumours in the press.

Earlier, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* had reported the Ger-

man government and European Commission were mulling a levy that could be raised through a surcharge on petroleum tax or by increasing Value Added Tax (VAT).

The Munich paper said additional funds from a solidarity tax would be used to help EU member states, such as Spain, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria, secure their borders, as well as to help improve living condition in the home countries of asylum seekers to encourage their citizens to remain there.

The *Sueddeutsche*’s report cited no sources, and was dated Lima, Peru, where Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble was attending an International Monetary Fund meeting.

Last month, German Chan-

cellor Angela Merkel said the country — which is Europe’s biggest recipient of asylum seekers — could handle the surge in new arrivals without raising taxes or jeopardising its balanced budget. But worries about the influx have cut into the popularity of her conservatives.

More than half a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa have poured into the European Union this year, prompting bitter disputes over how to react and share out responsibility and costs.

The European Commission has said EU states, whose budgets risk being stretched by the crisis, might get budget relief.—*Reuters*

UN Security Council adopts resolution on adjusting mandate of UN mission in South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council on Friday adopted a resolution to adjust the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to support implementation of the “Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.”

The resolution will renew the mandate of UNMISS until 15 December. It requests the Secretary-General to review the mandate within 45 days of the resolution’s adoption and provide “an assessment and recommendations, including resource requirements, for necessary civilian and force struc-

ture capabilities for UNMISS deployment and requirements in the context of implementation of the Agreement and to fulfill the mandate.”

The adjustments were made in line with recommendations proposed in the High-Level Implementation Panel on Peace Operations report in June 2015.

To support the implementation of the peace agreement, the resolution stated that UNMISS will support the planning and establishment of agreed transitional security arrangements.

Moreover, the resolution

said that UNMISS will assist the parties with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, as well as with security sector reform.

The 15-nation council adopted the resolution with 13 votes in favor and two abstaining.

UNMISS was established by the council on 9 July, 2011, the day when South Sudan became an independent country after decades of civil war between the north and south of Sudan, which ended in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.—*Xinhua*



The United Nations Security Council adopting a resolution to adjust the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to support implementation of the “Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan” at the UN headquarters in New York.

PHOTO: XINHUA

An American hired gun aims to persuade Britons to leave EU



Gerry Gunster, a Washington-based strategist who has been hired by the Leave.EU campaign, poses for a portrait in his offices in Washington, on 7 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Most Britons have never heard of Gerry Gunster, yet the 48-year-old American could play a major role in whether they vote to leave the European Union at a membership referendum due by the end of 2017.

A referendum veteran, he has been hired by the Leave.EU ‘out’ group to mastermind its campaign to persuade Britons they are better off without the European Union. The advocacy firm he heads, Goddard Gunster, says it has a 90 per cent success rate.

For the man behind Leave.EU, millionaire businessman Aron Banks, Gunster’s expertise will give the ‘out campaign’ more than a fighting chance against those lobbying to stay in the 28-member bloc.

“This is an historic vote,” Gunster told Reuters by telephone from Washington, where he is based. “This is a campaign that is challenging ... but I also feel very positive.”

Although Prime Minister David Cameron has not yet set a date for the referendum, focusing instead on his plan to renegotiate Britain’s relationship with the bloc, those who want to see ‘Brexit’ no matter what are mobilising.

While Leave.EU turns to the

United States to boost its chances, another ‘out campaign’ launched this week, bringing together some of the biggest names in British business to argue that the United Kingdom must reclaim its sovereignty.

With the financial firepower of several billionaires, ‘Vote Leave’ says Cameron is unlikely to persuade other EU leaders to support the kind of reform that it believes Britain needs.

Those campaigning for Britain to stay in the EU are also reading their arguments, with the ‘In Campaign’ launching on Monday in London.

Polls show the gap between Britons who want to remain in the EU and those who back leaving is narrow. Gunster acknowledges that it is generally easier to get people to vote for what they know.

“It is going to be a tricky one,” he said. “You need to not only show people that there is a problem, you need to explain to them that there is a solution to that problem.”

“This is unprecedented and I think like most referendum campaigns, they are volatile and I think it is just way too early to say whether or not people are OK with the status quo.”—*Reuters*

Guatemala landslide toll reaches 253 dead, 374 missing

GUATEMALA CITY — At least 253 bodies have been recovered after a massive landslide buried part of a town in Guatemala last week, with 374 people still unaccounted for, national disaster agency Conred said on Friday.

After heavy rains, a hillside collapsed onto Santa Catarina Pinula on the southeastern edge of Guatemala City on 1 October, burying more than a hundred homes under tons of earth, rock and trees.

Entire families were buried alive and hundreds of rescue workers have spent the past week trying to dig out bodies.

Around 40 families still living in the area have been given official notice that they must leave. The government has promised to build them new homes, hoping to use a plot of land through an expired ownership law, but is still looking at whether to give them financial subsidies in the meantime. The rescue effort will continue through the weekend, Conred said.—*Reuters*

PICTURE OF THE DAY



People dressed as Sally from *Nightmare before Christmas* and the Joker from *Batman* sit in the foodcourt at the New York Comic Con in Manhattan, on 8 October 2015. The event draws thousands of costumed fans, panels of pop culture luminaries and features a sprawling floor of vendors in a space equivalent to more than three football fields at the Jacob Javitz Convention Centre on Manhattan's West side.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ivory Coast leader launches re-election bid with pledge on justice

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara pledged on Friday to improve citizens' access to justice as he launched his bid for re-election in an 25 October, poll he hopes will cement the country's economic recovery following a brief civil war. Ouattara, who is widely expected to win a second term, is presenting himself as the guardian of stability and the new-found prosperity in French-speaking West Africa's largest economy.

Nobody expects a repeat of the civil war that marred the aftermath of the 2010 presidential election, when more than 3,000 people were killed, but doubts linger among investors over Ivory Coast's long-term political and economic stability. Ouattara marked the first day of the official two-week campaign period with a rally in the capital Yamoussoukro that attracted thousands of supporters, some brandishing signs reading "With ADO", referring to the president's initials. "I will make accessibility to, and the independence of, the courts my guiding principle so that every Ivorian, whatever their social standing or ethnic or geographical origin, can trust the justice system," he told the crowd.

"Every Ivorian deserves that the fundamental rights spelled out in our constitution and the Charter of the United Nations be respected," said Ouattara, dressed in a white shirt bearing his own image.

Though Ouattara has won

widespread praise for a rapid economic revival that has seen annual growth rates in recent years of around 9 percent, he has faced criticism over his human rights record.

While the courts have jailed allies of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo, whose refusal to accept Ouattara's victory sparked the 2011 conflict, rights campaigners claim the president has done little to punish the abuses of his own backers. Amnesty International this week accused the authorities of carrying out a wave of arbitrary arrests and abuse targeting opposition supporters in the run-up to the presidential election, an accusation the government denied.

In a series of speeches, allies from Ouattara's ruling coalition urged the president's supporters to ensure a heavy turnout and secure

an outright victory in the first round of the vote. Ouattara faces a deeply divided opposition. Pascal Affi N'Guessan, the head of Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) and the president's likely main rival, is seeking to overcome an internal party split that has seen hardliners call for Gbagbo's supporters to boycott the polls.

Another opposition bloc, the National Coalition for Change (CNC), has struggled to gain nationwide traction and is yet to agree on uniting behind a single candidate in the first round.

"You have to agree that in the 21st century ADO is the candidate who truly responds to the expectations of young people," said Fernandez Kouame, a student and Ouattara supporter present at the rally.—*Reuters*



A supporter of Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara and his party, the Rally of the Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP), attends a campaign rally at Jean Paul II space in Yamoussoukro, on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia, Ukraine fail to reach deal on Kiev debt to Moscow, talks to continue

LIMA — Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov and his Ukrainian counterpart, Natalia Yaresko, failed to reach a deal at their meeting on Friday on restructuring Kiev's \$3 billion (£2 billion) debt to Moscow, but agreed to continue talking.

Ukraine has agreed a debt restructuring deal with a group of its largest creditors in order to plug a \$15 billion funding gap under an International Monetary Fund-led \$40 billion bailout programme, but major creditors still need to approve the plan.

"We stated our position on the need to repay the debt to the Russian Federation," Siluanov said after his talks with Yaresko that took place on the sidelines of the IMF and the World Bank semi-annual meeting.

It was the first meeting between the countries' finance ministers since January, when Ukraine announced its plans to restructure its foreign debt.

"(Yaresko) provided details on the debt restructuring agreement reached with Ukraine's Ad Hoc Committee of creditors and called Russia to participate in that agreement," the Ukrainian side said in a statement.

Russia has said numerous

times that Ukraine must repay the debt in December, when it falls due.

Ukraine has included the \$3 billion Eurobond among the sovereign and sovereign-guaranteed bonds to be restructured, but Siluanov reiterated that Russia does not see the debt as commercial.

Moscow bought the bonds from Kiev before the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich was ousted early last year, opening a rift which widened with the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the pro-Russian rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

"Colleagues from the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance said that they had no such money in the budget and invited us to participate in the restructuring, together with commercial lenders," Siluanov said.

"We are a sovereign (lender). So for us, such conditions are unacceptable."

Yaresko said in her statement that "all creditors can participate in the exchange until 29 October."

Friday's meeting was brokered by Germany and attended by German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble. "We have agreed to continue the dialogue," Siluanov said.—*Reuters*

Can India tap fresh water wisdom for 'smart' cities?

NEW DELHI — Shanti Kushwaha waits anxiously for the water tanker to reach the slums of Seelampur in India's capital New Delhi, bringing a scarce and fought-over essential.

Many of India's urban slums have no piped water, only getting a delivery by public tanker on alternate days. So as soon as the tanker arrives, people rush with buckets and other containers to grab their share.

"This struggle is now part of our life," said Kushwaha. "The water supplied through tankers by the municipal body in our area is not enough."

Frequent quarrels erupt between neighbours trying to get water from the tanker, with everyone wanting

as much as possible. Those who lose out have to fetch water from far-off public hand-pumps, overhead tanks or wells. Others get their water from friends and relatives who have a piped supply. Residents in many other parts of the country face the same problem, including in Bhopal, capital of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, where slum dwellers wait hours for tankers.

"We really have to struggle daily for water," said Ramzan Khan, who lives in Bhopal's Banganga area, explaining that each family tries to fill up four or five buckets.

Independent environmentalist Anupam Mishra said India's cities have a much greater need for pota-

ble water than acknowledged by the government, which cannot supply enough. "A large number of people in cities depend on groundwater, and this has led to a sharp decline in the water table in a number of places," he added.

India plans to develop 100 "smart" cities, creating modern satellite towns around existing cities.

The aim is to create urban spaces where green, high-tech initiatives bring more efficient management of resources, including water and energy, and better services to citizens.

Experts predict the number of people living in Indian cities will touch almost 850 million by 2050, up from 350 million now.

A key question is

how well equipped these "smart" cities will be to handle a bigger inflow of citizens from rural to urban areas — not least when it comes to water.

According to data from India's Urban Development Ministry, at least 30 of 35 big cities have much less water than they need, leaving their inhabitants to deal with daily shortages.

The government has said it will be in a position to meet water demand by 2021, Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ram Kripal Yadav told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

But experts don't believe the government can meet this promise, saying the gap will likely increase

in the coming years.

In a 2012 report looking at water needs for the next five years, the Planning Commission of India said that, in cities with a population of over 100,000, only 73 percent of people were getting sufficient water.

Nearly half the water supply was lost in distribution, as old, rusty water pipes fractured and broke, it added.

"The paradigm for water supply is to grab as much from wherever possible, while laying insufficient, leaky pipeline networks and not monitoring usage or billing," said Nitya Jacob, head of policy for WaterAid India.

"This must change to maximise supply from local

resources such as surface water, rainwater and groundwater," he added.

Members of an expert panel set up by the government to suggest ways to improve urban drinking water supplies have called for clear and effective policy, arguing that official agencies rarely try to preserve precious water sources.

In a report, the panel said city officials, planners, builders and developers had ruthlessly destroyed water bodies in and around cities, despite their important role in re-charging groundwater and ensuring water security. Protecting and restoring those water bodies was crucial to meet rising demand, the panel concluded.—Reuters

More rain, flooding predicted for inundated South Carolina

GEORGETOWN — As state and local officials warned on Friday of the possibility of more flooding in eastern South Carolina, Georgetown County resident Wilma Green said she would heed their advice to evacuate.

"I'm waiting on rescue people to come pick me up," said Green, 70, who planned to leave her home in the vulnerable Dunbar community and stay with her daughter until the floodwaters subsided.

Concerns about additional inundation in four coastal counties and more rain had officials on guard Friday, nine days after a state of emergency was declared because of historic rains that washed out roads, swamped hundreds of homes and killed 17 people in the state.

Emergency management officials in several areas were encouraging residents to leave their homes as a precaution as floodwaters flow south into already-swollen rivers and tributaries toward the At-



A community store in the Dunbar Community is surrounded by water in Georgetown South Carolina, on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

lantic Ocean.

In Jamestown, about 140 households along the Santee River were being urged to evacuate, said

Berkeley County spokesman Michael Mule.

The National Weather Service in Charleston predicted a half-inch of rain

would fall across much of the state starting Saturday morning, with some places getting up to an inch.

That comes after re-

cord rainfall of more than 2 feet (60 cm) in parts of South Carolina.

"It's not a lot of additional rain, but after all

that we've had, this is definitely what we don't need," said weather service meteorologist Steve Rowley.

Governor Nikki Haley said emergency responders would continue monitoring water levels and go door-to-door to let residents know if they were in danger in the coming days.

A Reuters photographer accompanied South Carolina National Guard members on Friday as they evacuated 23 people whose homes were surrounded by flooded roads in the Dunbar community.

Haley met on Friday with US Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who traveled to Columbia and Charleston to take stock of the flooding response and recovery efforts.

The governor would not estimate the financial toll from the record rainfall and flooding.

"This is damage at levels I've never seen before," she told a news conference.—Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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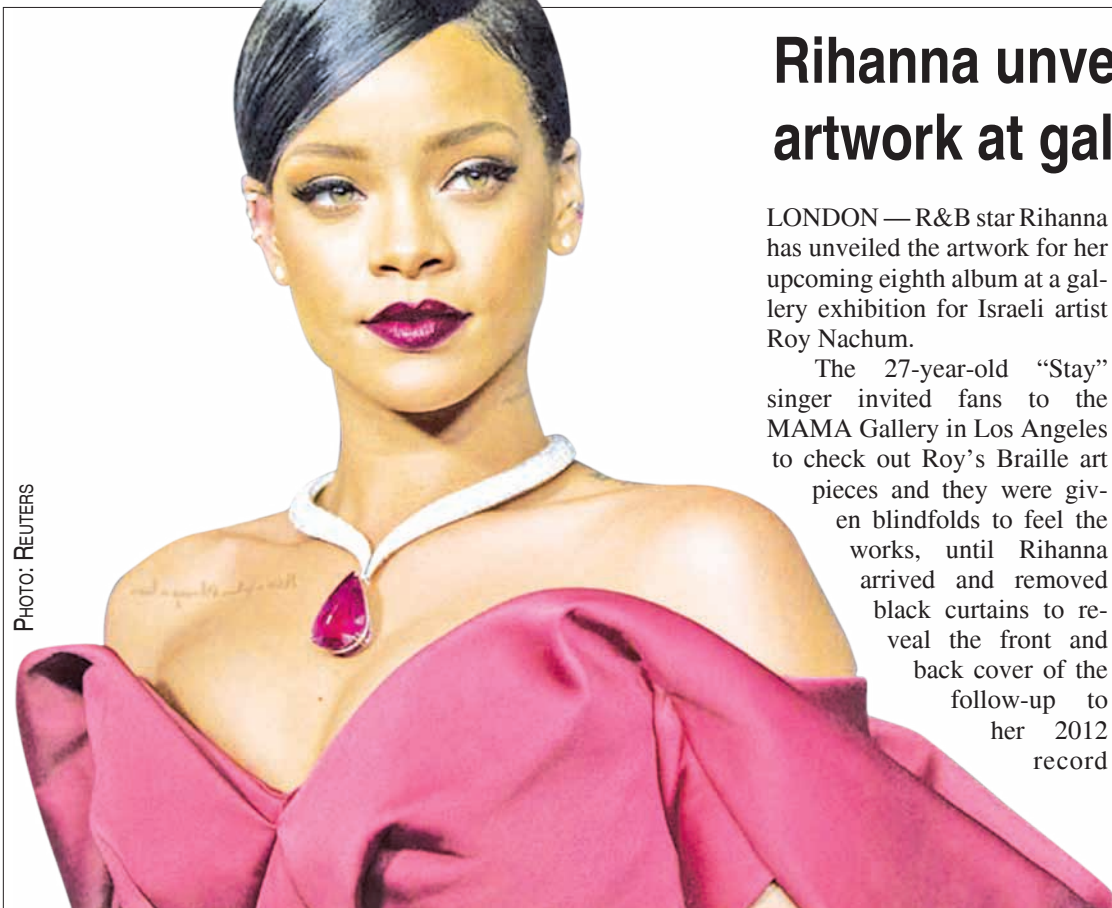


PHOTO: REUTERS

Rihanna unveils new album artwork at gallery exhibition

LONDON — R&B star Rihanna has unveiled the artwork for her upcoming eighth album at a gallery exhibition for Israeli artist Roy Nachum.

The 27-year-old “Stay” singer invited fans to the MAMA Gallery in Los Angeles to check out Roy’s Braille art pieces and they were given blindfolds to feel the works, until Rihanna arrived and removed black curtains to reveal the front and back cover of the follow-up to her 2012 record

Unapologetic, reported Contactmusic.

“In her collaboration with Roy Nachum, Rihanna has changed the history of album art. By continuing to follow her own instincts, her work strives to make an impact by doing the very antithesis of what the public expects,” a statement on the gallery wall read.

The art, which she called her “favourite” cover ever, features a childhood photograph of Rihanna holding a balloon, with her eyes covered by a gold crown. The image is splashed in red and covered with a poem by Chloe Mitchell which is written in Braille. Rihanna’s album is called *Anti*, but she has yet to reveal a release date for the record.—PTI

‘Steve Jobs’ takes big screen deep-dive into the man behind Apple

LOS ANGELES — “It’s like, five minutes before a launch, everyone goes to a bar and gets drunk and tells me what they really think,” Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, played by Michael Fassbender, says with exasperation in a new biographical film.

The phrase sets the tone for Oscar-winning screenwriter Aaron Sorkin’s “Steve Jobs,” a dialogue-heavy reimagining of one of technology’s most revered figures in the moments leading up to three product launches: 1984’s Macintosh, 1988’s NeXT cube and 1998’s iMac.

The film, directed by Oscar winner Danny Boyle and opening in New York and Los Angeles on Friday and across the US next week, explores Jobs through four of his key relationships — with Apple’s marketing head Joanna Hoffman (Kate Winslet), fellow Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak (Seth Rogen), Apple CEO John Sculley (Jeff Daniels) and Jobs’ eldest daughter, Lisa.

Seen across the years, the behind-the-scenes moments aim to shed light on Jobs the man, whether it’s his warm relationship with “work wife” Hoffman, being a protective older brother-type to Wozniak or seeking a pat on the back from father-figure Sculley.

Coming four years after Jobs died at age 56 from cancer, the film is the third film on him, following 2013’s “Jobs” starring Ashton Kutcher and this year’s Alex Gibney’s documentary “Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine.”

It looks at the much-revered technology entrepreneur from yet another angle. Sorkin adapted his screenplay in part from Pulitzer-winning Walter Isaacson’s book: “Steve Jobs.”

Introducing Boyle at a Los Angeles screening on Thursday, Sorkin enthused “you’re never going to meet someone with this talent that has no business being this nice — one of themes we explore.” Unlike Boyle, the film portrays Jobs as contentious, arrogant, stubborn, isolated, troubled, charismatic, witty and often misunderstood.

In heated, passionate and spirited conversations, Jobs is seen struggling to find a balance between his talents and being a nice guy. He makes diva-like demands on long-suffering colleagues for his product launches. He has no qualms about delivering pointed threats or even rejecting his five-year-old daughter as she stands in front of him.—Reuters

Bruno Mars to produce new family series

LOS ANGELES — Grammy-Award winning singer Bruno Mars has inked a deal with NBC to produce a family comedy pilot.

The proposed series, whose pilot is being written by Prentice Penny of “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” and “Happy Endings” fame, centres on a boisterous musical family in the Bronx that takes in their wide-eyed 10-year-old relative, reported Entertainment Weekly.

“Empire” executive producer/Imagine co-founder Brian Grazer is among the executive producers on the single-camera project.

Mars’ music is likely to be used in some capacity on the series.

The 30-year-old “Just the way you are” hitmaker is not the only music star to score a TV production deal in recent weeks.

Earlier, ABC Family announced Nicki Minaj will executive produce and appear

in a family comedy based on her life.

While rapper Pitbull is executive producing “305”, a one-hour Miami drama for Fox.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS



Salma Hayek & Gwyneth Paltrow. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hayek, Paltrow lend voices for equal pay for women in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES — In a week that saw Meryl Streep speak out about equal pay and other actresses of the film “Suffragette” applaud the domestic violence protesters who invaded their premiere, the topic took centre stage at a Los Angeles event on Friday.

The “Power of Women” event hosted by trade magazine Variety honored Oprah Winfrey, Anna Kendrick, YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki among others. On the red carpet, conversation quickly turned to the fight for gender equality in Hollywood.

“I feel that women are more united than ever, and I think it’s now more obvious than ever and that people are beginning to show some support because we are — our demographic — a very strong economical power also as movie-goers,” actress Salma Hayek told Reuters.

On equal pay, an issue highlighted numerous times in the past year as more high-profile actresses demanded the same sala-

ries as their male co-stars, Hayek said it was a problem that went beyond Hollywood.

“This is a problem that is in every single industry,” she said. “If you have the same capacities and you are doing the same job, it is criminal not to pay the same salary.” Gwyneth Paltrow, whose \$9 million in earnings ranked her 12th on Forbes’ list of highest-paid actresses in Hollywood this year, told Reuters that women in Hollywood have been criticized for speaking about disparities in pay.

“You were considered ungrateful, you were considered entitled, so I think it’s amazing that women now are saying ‘we’re going to talk about this. This isn’t fair,’” she said.

When asked if she could foresee a time when pay will be equal between the sexes, Paltrow replied: “I think so. When I look at my daughter and her peers and I look at the millennial women, I think it’s all about to change.”—Reuters

Beirut art museum reopens to tell a troubled city's history



A visitor poses for a photo near an artwork displayed at the Sursock Museum in Beirut Lebanon, on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — A stone's throw from dramatic street protests shaking central Beirut, art lovers gathered to celebrate the reopening of a museum of modern art which they hailed as a symbol of the Lebanese capital's resilience through conflict and turmoil.

The Sursock Museum, an Italianate mansion built for an Ottoman aristocrat, first opened to the public when he bequeathed it to the city more than 60 years ago.

In the 1960s, when Beirut flourished as the Middle East's capital of culture, the Sursock galleries boasted paintings and sculptures by artists from Lebanon and across the world.

a watercolor by Lebanese artist Amine el Bacha and a 1966 piece by British artist David Hockney.

A more permanent exhibition shows the development of Lebanese modern art over the last two centuries.

Mingling with the artists at Thursday's reopening were government ministers, whose resignation was being demanded by scores of demonstrators chanting the refrain of the Arab Spring uprisings: "The people demand the overthrow of the regime".

Riot police fired tear-gas and water cannon to disperse the demonstrators, some of whom threw rocks and water bottles back at them.

"Sursock museum is a part of Lebanon's modern history, a history that the war of 1975 tried to erase."

Rafic Chlala

A former presidential adviser

The country's 1975-1990 civil war all but shut down the museum, and it closed again in 2008 for extensive renovation, before finally opening this week for a third time.

"Sursock museum is a part of Lebanon's modern history, a history that the war of 1975 tried to erase," said Rafic Chlala, a former presidential adviser attending a reception to mark its latest reincarnation. "But this museum resisted and stayed a cultural landmark in Lebanon."

For the next three months, the museum is displaying 200 works of art tracing Beirut's evolution from a provincial Ottoman town in 1800 to a booming national capital in the 1960s — including late 19th century photographs,

The confrontation took place on the edge of Martyrs Square, less than 1 km (1 mile) from the Sursock.

Beirut has been hit by a series of protests in recent months against Lebanon's politicians, who bickered over the summer months while rubbish lay uncollected across the city.

The political deadlock is one fallout of the four-year civil war in neighbouring Syria, which has also brought bombings, economic slowdown and more than 1 million refugees to Lebanon.

Environment Minister Mohammad al-Mashnouk, a focus of the protesters' anger, said the Sursock Museum was a home to the country's artistic and cultural treasures.—Reuters

Rescued Chilean miners were 'battle scarred: author

SANTIAGO — Pulitzer-Prize-winning writer Hector Tobar says the 33 Chilean miners trapped deep underground for 69 days in 2010 were left "battle scarred" from the ordeal, despite quickly becoming minor celebrities after their improbable rescue.

"They had lived through this event that a billion people had seen unfold on television. But what I found out when I got to speak with them was how hurt they were, how wounded they were," Tobar, whose 2014 book "Deep Down Dark" chronicles the miners' tale, told Reuters in an interview.

"They were like guys who had been through war."

The miners' rescue drew heavy international coverage, and Chile's then-president Sebastian Pinera personally greeted the workers as they emerged from a freshly drilled shaft one-by-one in October 2010.

Eventually, the miners chose Tobar to author the official account of their experience. That account in turn forms the backbone of "The 33," a film about their ordeal to be released in the US on 13 November.

Initially, the 33 vowed

to maintain a pact of silence about their time underground so no individual would profit unduly.

But that scheme soon broke down, as outlets offered to pay miners for media appearances, leading some to say the survivors were being opportunistic.

For Tobar, however, who recorded hundreds of hours of interviews with the miners, such criticisms hold little merit.

"They feel like they

have been treated with a lack of respect.

That people sort of see them as these ordinary guys who accidentally got buried underground and hoped to get rich and famous off of it," Tobar said.

"And what they hope that the movie and the book will show them, will show Chile, is that they went through a war underground, that they are battle scarred."

Tobar added that many

survivors were drawn to tears by "The 33," a fictionalized retelling of the miners' time underground which was released in Chile on 6 August.

"For many it was a kind of rebirth and so to see that your near death experience and rebirth played out on the big screen was very emotional for them," he said.

"So there were many tears shed at the screening in Chile."—Reuters



Miner Mario Sepulveda (C) celebrates as President Sebastian Pinera, rescue workers and government officials watch, when he became the second miner to be hoisted to the surface in Copiapo, on 13 October 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

China World Heritage Tourism Promotion Alliance set up in Beijing

BEIJING — China World Heritage Tourism Promotion Alliance was founded in Beijing on Friday to promote the country's 48 world heritage sites abroad.

The alliance, initiated by Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development, now has 32 members including provinces and cities with abundant tourism resources, and world heritage sites such as the Dujiangyan irrigation system in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The alliance will help China develop its own tourism brand, said Wu Wenxue, deputy head of the China National Tourism Administration. It will provide tourists from home and abroad a comprehensive way to learn about China's culture and history, according to Cheng Hong, vice mayor of Beijing.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(11-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 12-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:24	Am	A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
07:43	Am	The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	To My Dream City (Part- 1)
08:50	Am	A Snake Catcher
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake
09:36	Am	Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana
09:54	Am	The Storytellers
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Wet Market in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market
10:35	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-5) Creamy Mushroom Soup & Honey Lemon Drink
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar "Fixing The Rate of Minimum Wages"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature "Sayar Zaw Gyi" (Episode-3) (National Literary Icon in His Old Age)
08:54	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - TodayRepeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - TodayRepeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Entertainment Channel

(11-10-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

• Myo Ma Nyein Music Troupe

6:25 am

• Myanmar Video

7:55 am

• Fashion Show

(Music)

8:10 am

• Teleplay

8:25 am

• Sing & Enjoy

10:30 am

• Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon

• Close Down

Pyanlarbi Bo Min Naing wins Bo Bo Gyi boat race award



Bo Min Naing, the Returnee win the boat race to mark Bo Bo Gyi festival in Taungthaman Lake. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

IN memory of Bo Bo Gyi Nat spirit, residing at Taunthaman Lake in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, Myanmar traditional boat races have been held yearly.

This year's competition took

place on 8 October. In the final match, Pyanlarbi Bo Min Naing (Bo Min Naing the Returnee) won the cup. The first runner-up was Ma Chit-te Maung Lay (Damsel's Young Man).

The boat race was to mark

the annual festival dedicated to Bo Bo Gyi Nat spirit. During the festival, Taungthaman natives return to their homes and present offertories to Bo Bo Gyi. The festival is one of the tourist attractions in the country.—*Tin Maung*

Nadal downs Fognini to reach China final

BEIJING — Rafa Nadal moved within reach of his first hardcourt title in almost two years by extracting a modicum of revenge on new Italian foe Fabio Fognini with a 7-5, 6-3 win in their China Open semi-final on Saturday.

The flamboyant Fognini became the first man to beat Nadal from two sets to love down at a grand slam when he took out the power-hitting Spaniard in the third

round of the US Open last month.

It was one of three wins the unseeded Italian had secured over the 14-times grand slam champion this year but Nadal ensured there would not be a fourth on a chilly day at the National Tennis Centre in Beijing.

The Spaniard came out top of an unconventional opening set which featured five breaks of serve and secured the crucial one

in the sixth game of the second when Fognini struck a backhand long.

A jittery Nadal, who has slumped to eight in the world following injury and a dip in form, wasted three match points before securing victory and a spot in Sunday's final against world number one Novak Djokovic or David Ferrer, who meet later on Saturday.—*Reuters*

England cruise against Estonia to secure ninth win

ENGLAND, who reached Euro 2016 last month, comfortably beat Estonia 2-0 at Wembley on Friday to stay on course to complete a qualifying campaign with a 100 percent record for the first time.

Goals from Theo Walcott after 45 minutes and Raheem Sterling in the 85th gave England their ninth successive win in a qualifying campaign for the first time.

England lead Group E with 27 points from nine games, with Switzerland also qualifying after beating San Marino 7-0 to climb to 18 points. Estonia have a remote mathematical chance of finishing third after Slovenia where held 1-1 by Lithuania.

England manager Roy

Hodgson told ITV: "It was as tough as we thought it would be because we have played against an organised team that are also quite intelligent in the way they play.

"We attacked a lot and saw a lot of the ball and had quite a few chances but it was a question of putting them away.

"But I think we were good value for our 2-0 win. In these type of games if you are not careful and lose your concentration you can slip up.

"People are telling me that this victory tonight will ensure we are seeded for the tournament in France and that is important too." England were never under any threat from an Estonia side that have only scored four goals



England's Theo Walcott scores their first goal during UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifying Group E at Wembley Stadium, London. PHOTO: REUTERS

in nine matches on a generally subdued night at Wembley.

One of the high spots came before kickoff when Bobby Charlton presented fellow Manchester United great Wayne Rooney with a golden boot for breaking his 45-year-old scoring

record with his 50th goal for England last month.

Rooney was out injured but England did not miss him. Ross Barkley created Walcott's opener before halftime with a superb through ball which the Arsenal man collected with a deft right

foot touch before his shot gave keeper Mihkel Aksalu no chance.

Sterling doubled the lead five minutes before the end with an easy chance following a cross by substitute Jamie Vardy, who had only been on the pitch for two minutes.—*Reuters*

Barcelona back Messi in tax fraud case

BARCELONA — Barcelona have given their full backing to Lionel Messi in the Argentina forward's tax fraud case and vowed to fight "external decisions" they say are unfairly targeting the club.

A Spanish court on Thursday ordered Messi and his father Jorge, who are accused of defrauding the Spanish state of 4.2 million euros (\$4.76 million) from 2007 to 2009, to stand trial and the state attorney said Barca's star player should serve a jail sentence of up to 22 months if found guilty.

The Messis' lawyer, Javier Sanchez-Vera, told Reuters on Friday the court hearings would not take place until 2016.

In a statement published late on Thursday, Barca noted the state attorney's stance was "the complete opposite" to that of Spain's public prosecutor, who has said Lionel Messi should not have to answer the charges as his father oversaw his finances.

"FC Barcelona has expressed its affection and solidarity to Leo Messi and his family in such a peculiar situation," the statement said.

"The club shall continue to offer him and his family its full support and assistance in the legal, fiscal and administrative aspects of these proceedings."

Messi is one of several Barca players, including compatriot Javier Mascherano and Brazil forward Neymar, who have

been targeted by the Spanish authorities in recent months. All deny wrongdoing.

The club itself was charged last year with tax fraud in the signing of Neymar from Brazilian club Santos and paid \$18.6 million in what it called a "complementary tax declaration".

They said they remained "convinced the original tax payment was in line with their fiscal obligations".

Barca's legal problems have come on top of a FIFA ban for breaking rules on the signing of minors and president Josep Maria Bartomeu complained last year of what he called a concerted campaign to damage the Spanish and European champions.

He was repeatedly asked who was behind the alleged campaign, including if it might be arch rivals Real Madrid, but he declined to provide any names.

"FC Barcelona condemns the accumulation of totally inadmissible and external decisions that have been going on for some time and that have nothing to do with strictly sporting affairs," Barca said on Thursday.

"They are damaging to the smooth running of the club, its stability and that of the players that form part of it. "The club shall be working with more determination than ever to defend its legitimate rights and is ready for any new challenges that might arise."—*Reuters*