

## Cooperation with UN lays foundation for Myanmar's foreign policy: Dr Sai Mauk Kham

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# DEVELOP DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

## Myanmar Palm oil imports reach 400,000 tonnes a year

Ye Myint

MYANMAR imports around 400,000 tonnes of palm oil annually to fill the gap between national edible oil consumption and production, according to an official of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association.

Domestic production of edible oil made from peanuts is around 500,000 tonnes a year while the country's edible oil consumption is around 900,000 tonnes, U Sann Linn, vice-chairman of the association, said yesterday.

Annual per capita edible oil consumption is estimated as about 12 kg in Myanmar, which totals around 600,000 tonnes a year for the entire population, he said, adding that about 300,000 tonnes is annually consumed by restaurants and food-processing businesses.

On peanut oil production which is insufficient to meet local demand, the vice-chairman commented that good price obtained for peanut exports is a factor that reduces domestic production.

He also pointed out huge difference in prices between peanut oil and palm oil, making peanut oil unaffordable for most households.

"Peanut oil is priced at K 7,000 or 8,000 a viss (1.6 kilograms) while palm oil can be bought at a price of around K 1,500 a viss."

A survey conducted by the



Locally-produced peanut oil on display at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon. PHOTO: YE MYINT

Myanmar Marketing Research and Development in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine found that peanut oil is the preferred cooking oil of housewives aged between 25 and 50, but they mostly choose to buy palm oil

due to lower price.

According to the vice-chairman, although there are about 3,500 peanut oil mills nationwide, only a small number of mills are in operation.

Only when there is greater

cultivation of edible oil crops, availability of technology and modern farm equipment and electricity, and banking sector development for growers and millers, can domestic production develop, contributing towards higher con-

sumption of locally produced edible oil, said U Thein Han, former chairman of the association.

The former chairman made the comment in his address at the 23rd annual meeting of the association yesterday.

## Parliamentary meetings to be resumed on 16 Nov

PARLIAMENTARY meetings will be resumed on 16<sup>th</sup> November, according to the announcement of the parliament Saturday.

The statement signed by Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which is made up of Pyithu Hluttaw, lower house, and the Amyotha Hluttaw, upper house, said that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, will hold its 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting at 1.30 pm in Nay Pyi Taw.

Amyotha Hluttaw (the upper

house) will also hold its 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting at 10 am in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 November, according to the announcement of Amyotha Hluttaw signed by its Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.

Pyithu Hluttaw (the lower house) will hold its 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting at 10 am in Nay Pyi Taw on the same day.

The parliamentarians are to report their presence to the Hluttaw on 14 November but not later than 15 November.— MNA

## Securities and Exchange Supervisory Commission meets underwriters

SECURITIES and Exchange Supervisory Commission held talks with officials from 10 companies which are tentatively selected to act as players in the country's capital market yesterday.

In his address, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein who is also chair of the commission, called on the firms to make collaborative efforts on ensuring the development of the stock market.

He warned that it is not sure to make profits within five years, urging them to take this point into consideration.

As a strategy, Yangon Stock Exchange is set to start as an equity market before moving towards derivative market and future market, the chair said.

Licenses will be issued to securities companies following inspection on their investments of K 15 billion each and com-

pletion of arrangements to start their underwriting businesses, he added.

According to the chair, Yangon Stock Exchange is set to launch this early December.

Next, Mr Shohei Yano from Japan Financial Services Agency who is also an adviser to the Ministry of Finance made a presentation of service fee for the business.— Myanmar News Agency

# Parliament Int'l Relations Committee chairman returns from Switzerland



Myanmar parliamentary delegation participates in the 133rd meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from 17 to 21 October in Switzerland. PHOTO: MNA

U HLA MYINT OO, chairman of the International Relations Committee of the parliament has arrived back in Yangon after attending the 133rd meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from 17 to 21 October in Switzerland. The chairman spoke on behalf of the speaker of the Union Parliament, delivering a speech at a meeting last Tuesday. He met with the Hon. Mr Nigel Evans, leader of UK's delegation on 18 October and the Hon. Mr Saber Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union two days later. The chairman was welcomed home by the Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (the Lower House) at the airport.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## 147<sup>th</sup> Street Thadingyut Lights Festival begins

AS it is currently Thadingyut (the end of the Buddhist Retreat) Myanmar Buddhists are preparing to hold the lights festival. Residents of 147th Street in Tamwe Township began the festival yesterday by consecrating the Buddha Image kept temporarily in the Street's hall. To mark the festival the residents will offer alms to over 70 monks on Monday.

There will be a period of donation from 27 to 29 October and religious verses will be cited on those days by members of the Buddhist Associations.—*Ko Chit*

## Moepwint provides citizenship cards in Myingyan

Under the second Moepwint Special Project, an initiative of the Immigration and National Registration Department of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, 126 citizens including 67 men and 59 women were issued national identity cards at Myingyan town in Mandalay Region on Thursday. The event was held at No 2 Basic Education High School where students and

teachers were lectured on the importance of the cards which every adult Myanmar citizen must receive. Local department officials said tours have been made around the township to provide identify cards to adult citizens who do not yet possess one. The project is being conducted with the cooperation of district and township INRDs and local school teachers.—*U Zaw Min Naing*



Immigration and National Registration officers issue citizenship scrutiny cards to locals in Myingyan. PHOTO: U ZAW MIN NAING

## Shwemaunggwat Village provided with solar panels



Solar panels provided by the Rural Development Department have reached Shwemaunggwat Village .

PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN IPRD

THE Rural Development Department has provided electricity to all 65 households of the remote village of Shwemaunggwat in

Tatkon Township by harnessing solar power. A village elder led a ceremony on Thursday to thank the Ministry of Livestock, Fish-

eries and Rural Development for providing solar panels at a cost of K 12.35 million.—*Tin Soe Lwin IPRD*

## NCA support rally in Kyaukme

A TOTAL of 7500 Kyaukme locals of Shan State rallied on Friday in support of the recently signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the government and eight ethnic armed groups. The NCA was signed on 15 October in Nay Pyi Taw. The rally, which drew townspeople from nine wards and 19 villages started early in the morning and traveled to pay homage to the Union flag at the township sports ground.—*U Myint Aung*



Locals in Kyaukme shout slogans in support of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

## Cooperation with UN lays foundation for Myanmar's foreign policy: Dr Sai Mauk Kham

MYANMAR celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressing the ceremony. Dr Sai Mauk Kham described the country's cooperation with the UN as the foundation for its foreign policy and stressed the country's determination to commit itself to the realisation of prosperous and sustainable development. Speaking about UN achievements in the global

peace effort the vice president cited the deployment of 16 Peace Corps over four continents.

"Myanmar has opened a new chapter in the peace process by joining the UN Peace Corps in South Sudan and Liberia," he said.

He noted that the world body is engaged in the fight against poverty, hunger and armed conflict while playing a crucial role in empowering women and other marginalised peoples and protecting the rights of millions. He recognized

the UN's leading role in providing humanitarian assistance to the country's disaster relief measures. Myanmar encountered a tsunami in 2004, Cyclone Nagis in 2008 and widespread flooding two months ago.

The vice president lauded the UN as a trustworthy body and a welcome addition to the country before praising UN staff for their selfless and exemplary work. He expressed thanks for the UN's continuing support

of Myanmar and for the encouragement received from the international community. Regarding the recent signing of the nationwide peace agreement between the government and the eight armed ethnic groups the vice president said it was a vital step to ending internal armed conflict. Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin read out a message sent by President U Thein Sein and UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Des-



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers speech at the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day. PHOTO: MNA

sallien, the message from UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon before an awards ceremony celebrated students who have won awards in the composition competition held in honour of the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations

Day. The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945. 51 countries became signatories to the UN Charter at that time. Myanmar became the UN's 58<sup>th</sup> member three years later. —Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin presents award to a student at the ceremony to mark United Nations Day. PHOTO: MNA



UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien presents award to a student at the ceremony to mark United Nations Day. PHOTO: MNA

## Japanese vaccine to be added to govt's immunisation program

*Around 200 children are hospitalised for viral encephalitis every year in Yangon*

### Khaing Thanda Lwin

THE government has added a Japanese encephalitis vaccine to their regular immunisation program according to Dr Kyaw Linn of the Yangon Children's Hospital.

According to hospital figures around 200 children are treated for viral encephalitis each year. These children come mostly from Yangon, Rakhine and Ayeyawady and the Kayin and Mon states. Children under 15 are the most at risk group. Young patients have little chance

of a complete recovery. Many die or are left permanently disabled.

"One-third of those infected die whilst two-thirds are left disabled" said Senior Consultant Pediatrician Dr Kyaw Linn. "There is no fluctuation in the rate of outbreaks. It has remained steadily around the 200 mark. The rate would fall if children were vaccinated."

Mosquitoes, pigs and long-necked birds are known virus carriers. There is no cure for the disease at this time but it can be successfully immunised against. Currently

the government is unable to conduct an encephalitis immunisation program nationwide. The vaccine is available only in private hospitals and clinics at a price of about K30,000 (US\$23) per injection. Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus is the leading cause of preventable encephalitis in Asia. To reduce the outbreak of JE a Southeast Asia Encephalitis Project will be launched in Myanmar no later than 2017 in cooperation with Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, Dr Kyaw Linn said.



Physicians gather at Symposium on Viral Encephalitis in children. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

## Myanmar to attend 25<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference

MYANMAR scouts will take part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference in South Korea which will be held from 3 to 8 No-

vember according to Dr Tin Nyo, Chairman of the Myanmar Scout Committee.

During the conference the participating nations are expected to extend an offer

of membership to Myanmar into the World Scout Bureau, he said at a press conference in Yangon yesterday. —Myanmar News Agency



Scout member nations expected to extend an offer of membership to Myanmar into the World Scout Bureau. PHOTO: KO LATT-MNA

**ELECTION COUNTDOWN**  
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

**14** DAYS



Paper lanterns are popular among Myanmar during Thadingyut Festival across the country. PHOTO: CHAN THA

## Traditional paper lanterns selling well for coming Thadingyut Festival in Meikhtila

A SELLER of traditional hand-made paper lanterns at Meikhtila's Central Market says her wares have sold very well in the lead up to the Thadingyut Lights Festival which will take place in late October. Business was much better than last year, she said, adding that Myanmar lanterns sell better than Chinese made ones as they are cheaper. Traditional lanterns, priced from K250 to K700, are made in nearby Myingyan Township. The Chinese lanterns, by comparison, go for between K2500 - K8000 a piece. The Thadingyut Lights Festival is celebrated after the four month Buddhist Retreat which ends on Wednesday. Pagodas, Buddhist houses, roads and community buildings hang the colorful paper lanterns during the festival. —Chan Tha

## Ballot boxes arrive in Meikhtila



Ready to vote. PHOTO: CHAN THA

BALLOT boxes for voting were delivered to Meikhtila Township and will be distributed to ward and village election committees according to township election committee chairman U Than Win.

A total of 1202 boxes were provided for 293 booths in wards and villages of the township.

The ballot boxes include

advanced votes and Shan ethnic seat ballots. Meikhtila Township has one Phithu Hluttaw (Lower House) constituency, one constituency for Amyotha Hluttaw and two constituencies for Mandalay Region Hluttaw. Fifteen candidates from five political parties and two independents are contesting the seats in the upcoming General Elections on 8 November.—Chan Tha

## Election and media law explained in Toungoo

The Toungoo District Information and Public Relations Department held a meeting on the coming elections, its rules and regulations and the laws governing media coverage to department staff yesterday. IPRD

personnel including photographers who will cover the elections were reminded of the media rules and regulations which they are to abide by. The code of civil service was also reiterated to the staff.—GNLM-017

## Natural Gas Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

A LIQUIFIED Natural Gas Workshop (LNG Workshop) was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday under the guidance of the Ministry of Energy and the World Bank Group. The workshop, held at the Theingaha Hotel, was opened by the Deputy Minister for Energy U Myint Zaw and the Group's Practice Manager Ms Julia Fraser. The workshop was attended by deputy ministers of the Ministries of

Energy and Electrical Power, the World Bank's Senior Energy Specialist Mr. Alan Townsend, senior ministry officials and specialists, LNG economic sector development implementation committee members and representatives of foreign LNG companies. The attendees, totaling about 80, conferred for the purpose of developing the LNG market in Myanmar. Their focus was current world

demand for and the supply of LNG, its production and market situation, regional differentiation of prices, future LNG production and potential distribution points, market analysis, international LNG marketing ethics, the placement and size of LNG plants and on floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) which are needed to process LNG. —Ministry of Energy

## Successful plantation of navia grass in Meikhtila

THE 20 acre navia grass plantation in Nyuangpinthaya Village of Meikhtila Township is so successful that the plantation is currently distributing grass free of charge to farmers who register an interest in growing according to

plantation owner U Khin Maung Win. Grazing cattle on grass is more economical than buying maize to feed them, he said. The grass only needs replacing only every five to six years according to U Khin Maung who is

in the cattle breeding business. U Khin Maung suggested that the arid Meikhtila Township of Mandalay Region would benefit hugely from growing navia grass as would the local breeders and growers.—Chan Tha



Grazing cattle on grass is more economical than buying maize to feed them. PHOTO: CHAN THA

## Football fan Xi calls for more sports cooperation between China, Britain



Chinese President Xi Jinping, accompanied by British Prime Minister David Cameron, visits the City Football Academy in Manchester, Britain on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

MANCHESTER — Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping, a well known football fan, on Friday called for more exchange and cooperation between China and Britain on football as well as other sports.

Accompanied by British Prime Minister David Cameron,

Xi visited the Manchester City Football Academy, which is sponsored by the Manchester City Football Club, champion of the Barclay Premier League in 2013-2014 season.

Xi and Cameron enjoyed an exhibition from the Manchester-based National Football Museum

in which major historical artifacts, including the first World Cup ball, were on display, according to the official website of the club.

Compared with other sports activities, football spreads in a wider range. Garnering the largest fan number, football has broad influence and is deeply loved by people

all over the world, said Xi.

A highlight of the visit was the inclusion into the National Football Museum's Hall of Fame of former Manchester City player Sun Jihai, a Chinese player who played 130 times for Manchester City between 2002-2008, said the website.

Sun was the first Chinese player to score in the Premier League and was last month named as the club's ambassador to China.

In 2011, Xi outlined his three wishes to China's football — to qualify for another World Cup, to host a World Cup and to win a World Cup championship.

While China has yet to achieve those goals, a profound reform in this field has been carried out in the country.

Hailing Britain as a football power and the headstream of modern football, Xi said China should learn from Britain in many aspects.

"Sports exchange is an important part of people-to-people exchanges. I hope the two sides could strengthen their cooperation in sports, including football, to improve people's health and China-Britain friendship," said the president. Xi is wrapping up his "super" state visit to Britain, the first one for a Chinese top leader in a decade.—Xinhua

## 2<sup>nd</sup> group of S Koreans head for DPRK for family reunion

SEOUL — The second batch of South Koreans on Saturday headed for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to meet their long-lost DPRK relatives at the reunion event for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

A total of 254 elderly South Koreans from 90 families left at about 8:45 am local time (2345 GMT Friday) for DPRK's Mount Kumgang resort from Sokcho city in South Korea's northeastern coast where the participants in the reunion event spent last night for preparations.

A convoy of buses carrying the participants, mostly in their 80s and 90s, crossed the demilitarized zone dividing the two Koreas into the North, scheduled to have the first face-to-face at about 3:30 pm in the mountain resort after more than six decades of separation.

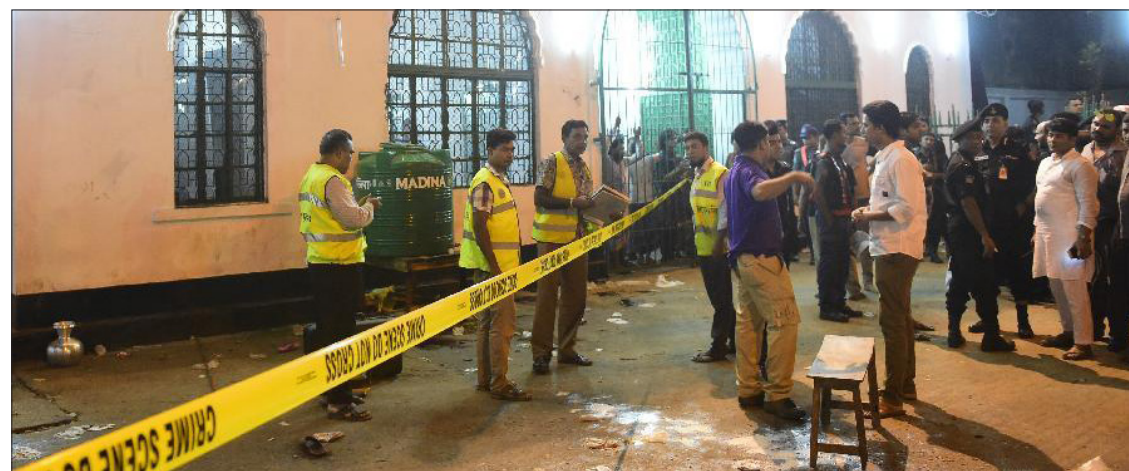
Coming from the DPRK to take part in the highly charged event, which was agreed in late August after high-level military talks to defuse tensions that had pushed the Korean peninsula to the brink of armed conflict, will be 188 people.

Only 12 hours of face time will be given to the separated families through six two-hour sessions, including lunch and dinner gatherings in public and communal meetings. Only one private face-to-face will be allowed during the three-day event.

The face time is extremely short for the divided families due to their advanced age and frailty. With some 65,000 South Koreans being on the waiting list for the family reunion, the vast majority of them are highly likely to have no chance to meet their relatives in the North or even know whether they are still alive.

Scores of South Korean participants were on wheelchairs due to their poor health, and some rode ambulances to the North as they have difficulties making the journey by bus.—Xinhua

## Blasts in Bangladesh target Shias, kill at least one, wound dozens



Bangladeshi security forces stand guard after bomb attacks in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 24 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

DHAKA — A series of blasts targeting Shia Muslims in Dhaka killed at least one person and wounded dozens more early on Saturday as they gathered for a procession in the old part of the Bangladesh capital to mark the holy day of Ashura, police said.

Police cordoned off the area and were investigating the blasts, which they said were caused by

improvised explosive devices. They said it was unclear who carried out the attack.

Witnesses said that people ran frantically after blasts, losing their flip-flops and sandals as they scattered. "It is our apprehension that blasts were carried out only to panic the people and to create a chaotic situation," Colonel Ziaul Ahsan, an additional director general of

the elite Rapid Action Battalion, told reporters. At least 10 people were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and most of them were in a stable condition, according to Nazimunnesa, a deputy director. Attacks on the Shia minority have been rare in Sunni majority Bangladesh, but Sunni militant groups have become more active.—Reuters

## Japanese arrested for drug, gun possession in Thailand

BANGKOK — A Japanese man has been arrested in Thailand for possessing more than 2 kilograms of an illegal stimulant drug and an unauthorized automatic gun, while three others were apprehended for trying to bribe the police into releasing him, Thai police said Saturday.

Yutaka Itakura, 34, was arrested in Bangkok on Friday with around 2.3 kg of methamphetamine that he was selling to a police spy. Police also found money worth more than \$30,000 in his room. He tried in vain to bribe the police into releasing him. Police also arrested three other Japanese

men after they came to offer a bribe in exchange for Itakura's release. Itakura has been charged with possessing illicit drugs with intent to sell them, selling illegal drugs, possessing an unregistered gun and offering a bribe to police. He could face the death penalty found guilty of the drug-related

charges. He is believed to have links with a Japanese gang that runs a drug business in Thailand and is also suspected of using Thai women to transport drugs abroad.

Thai police are coordinating with the Japanese police to investigate how Itakura came to possess the drugs.—Kyodo News

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# Clinton wins major union endorsement in US presidential race



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — US presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton on Friday won a major union endorsement after a momentum-gaining week in her bid to win the Democratic nomination in the November 2016 election.

The 1.6-million-member AFSCME endorsed Clinton for the White House, a boost in her efforts to woo labour and lock down a key Democratic constituency. Unions are typically a key source of volunteers and fundraising for Democrats in presidential elections.

The nod caps a series of positive events for Clinton, from a standout debate performance to the bowing out of a major potential rival, that are adding their weight and fundraising power to

a campaign that had seen support slip as recently as this month.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees said in a statement it had gathered feedback from members over six months. Polling data showed a majority of members would support Clinton in the Democratic primary.

“What we also heard was AFSCME members want the candidate who will be the most effective champion for working families, and who will be able to deliver a victory in this critically important election,” union president Lee Saunders said in the statement. “AFSCME members believe that candidate is Hillary Clinton.”

Clinton’s poll numbers slid

ahead of the first Democratic debate on 13 October, but a solid performance there gave her a swift boost among her party’s voters.

Just over a week later, an emotional Vice President Joe Biden, standing in the Rose Garden of the White House with President Barack Obama by his side, said he would not enter the race for the 2016 election, despite months of deliberation.

His decision removed a major potential obstacle to Clinton’s hopes to avoid a protracted, damaging primary fight.

And on Thursday, Clinton’s cool-headed testimony before a sometimes testy, 11-hour Congressional hearing on Benghazi earned her not just compliments

but cash: The hour after the hearing ended was the best fundraising hour of the campaign, even without a specific appeal to donors, according to a Clinton aide.

Nevertheless, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who is pressing Clinton on her left, also gained support after Biden’s announcement.

Sanders has collected union endorsements of his own, including National Nurses United and a number of local unions throughout the country.

Forty-seven percent of Democrats favour Clinton as a nominee, versus 31 percent for Sanders, according to a five-day rolling poll by Reuters/Ipsos through 23 October.—Reuters

## Witness in US terror trial of London cleric spared prison

NEW YORK — A former follower of radical London imam Abu Hamza al-Masri avoided prison on Friday after providing what a US prosecutor said was over a decade of “unprecedented” cooperation in terrorism investigations that led to the conviction of his onetime mentor.

James Ujaama, 49, was sentenced to time served by US District Judge Katherine Forrest in Manhattan after testifying last year at Abu Hamza’s trial about his role trying to establish a training camp that prosecutors said was aimed at supporting al Qaeda.

“After you leave this courtroom today, you will leave this matter behind you,” Forrest said.

Ujaama, who already spent six years in prison, initially pleaded guilty in 2003 in federal court in Seattle, where he lived, to conspiring to provide goods and services to the Taliban and agreed to cooperate.

Out of prison, he fled to Belize in 2006 in violation of the plea deal, an act Forrest attributed to his fear of testifying.



James Ujaama, a former follower of radical London imam Abu Hamza al-Masri, exits the Manhattan US District courthouse in New York on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Following his arrest, Ujaama pleaded guilty in 2007 to more serious terrorism-related charges but continued cooperating.

He testified in 2014 against Abu Hamza, who was convicted on terrorism-related charges and sentenced in January to life in prison.

Ujaama also cooperated against two of Abu Hamza’s followers, Oussama Abdullah Kassir, who following a trial was sentenced in 2009 to life in prison, and Haroon Aswat, who pleaded guilty and was sentenced last week to 20 years in prison.

Prosecutor John Cronan said that testimony was only a fraction of Ujaama’s overall cooperation, which largely remains confidential.

“The cooperation here was extraordinary, largely unprecedented, and the court should sentence him accordingly,” Cronan said. At Abu Hamza’s trial, Ujaama testified that he discussed with Abu Hamza in 1999 creating a training camp in Bly, Oregon, which prosecutors said was intended to support al Qaeda. In a fax to Abu Hamza, Ujaama said the land “looks just like Afghanistan,” and that Oregon was a “pro-militia and fire-arms state” where stockpiling weapons for training would be easy.

Following that fax, Abu Hamza directed Aswat and Kassir, both of whom lived in London, to travel to Oregon to assist establishing the camp, prosecutors said. Peter Offenbecher, Ujaama’s lawyer, said his client intended to assist the Taliban, not al Qaeda.

Ujaama is studying for a doctorate and in court said he wanted “to move on with my life.”

“I wish I had never gotten involved with Abu Hamza, and I think he’s a bad man,” he said.—Reuters

## EU’s Juncker wants decisions on Balkan refugee crisis on Sunday



Migrants as they make their way on foot after crossing the Croatian-Slovenian border, in Rigonce, Slovenia on 22 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said he wanted to get a group of EU leaders to agree on short-term measures to tackle the migrant crisis in the western Balkans at a summit on Sunday.

Concern is growing about hundreds of thousands of migrants arriving in Europe, many from war zones in the Middle East, and camping in western Balkan countries in ever colder conditions as winter approaches.

Juncker has summoned EU leaders from the region and Chancellor Angela Merkel from Germany, which is taking in more

refugees than any other EU state, for talks on Sunday.

“They will discuss urgently needed, common operative answers to the current humanitarian demands and decide on short-term measures,” Juncker told German newspaper group Funke, which includes the Hamburger Abendblatt.

“We need more cooperation and a closer agreement between the countries in the region to master the situation,” he said.

The situation for migrants deteriorated after Hungary sealed its borders with Serbia and Croatia, leaving many stranded in other

overwhelmed states.

Merkel, a driving force behind the Sunday meeting, will argue for distributing migrants within the EU directly from initial registration centres, according to Der Spiegel weekly.

German media have also reported that Juncker will present a 16-point plan at the talks, including an undertaking not to send migrants from one country to another without prior agreement, according to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

In the interview, Juncker also praised Merkel for focusing on the refugee crisis, which she has described as a bigger challenge for Europe than the Greek debt debacle.

“I very much value the fact that the chancellor has not been driven off her course by opinion polls. Because this is not about short-term popularity but about substance,” he said.—Reuters

**“We need more cooperation and a closer agreement between the countries in the region to master the situation.”**

**Jean-Claude Juncker**  
President of European Commission

# Kerry sees new Syria talks next week, does not rule out Iran role



Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu (L), US Secretary of State John Kerry (2<sup>nd</sup> L), Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir (3<sup>rd</sup> L) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pose during a photo opportunity before a meeting in Vienna, on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday he expects new talks on Syria to begin as soon as next week, and did not rule out participation by Iran, President Bashar al-Assad's closest ally, which has been kept away from past peace conferences.

Along with counterparts from allies Saudi Arabia and Tur-

key, Kerry met for two hours on Friday in Vienna with Sergei Lavrov, foreign minister of Russia, which has transformed momentum in the 4-year-old Syrian civil war by bombing Assad's enemies.

So far all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict have foundered over the demand by the United States, European countries, Arab states and Turkey that Assad leave

power as a pre-condition for peace, which he refuses to consider.

"What we agreed to do today is to consult with all parties and aim to reconvene, hopefully as early as next Friday, with a broader meeting in order to explore whether there is sufficient common ground to advance a meaningful political process," Kerry told reporters.

"I am convinced ... that today's meeting was constructive and productive and succeeded in surfacing some ideas, which I am not going to share today, but which I hope have a possibility of ultimately changing the dynamic."

Asked if a meeting next week could include Iran, Kerry said he would not speculate on who might attend. But he added: "We want to be inclusive and err on the side of inclusivity rather than exclusivity."

Iran has not been invited to previous international peace conferences on Syria, all of which ended in failure, while the war, which has so far killed more than 250,000 people and driven mil-

lions from their homes, has raged on.

Russia has long maintained that Iran should be included in Syrian peacemaking. Lavrov said he hoped Iran, as well as Egypt, would be invited to the next round of talks.

"We requested that future contacts take place in a more representative format," he said in comments broadcast on Russian television.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said Friday's meeting had failed to achieve consensus over the future of Assad. Kerry, too, acknowledged wide differences with Moscow and Tehran over the future of the Syrian leader.

"Diplomacy has a way of working through very difficult issues that seem to be absolutely contradictory and, on their face, begin at odds. And this is one of those issues where the statements clearly — and current positions — are at odds," Kerry said. "But if we can get into a political process, then sometimes these things have a way of resolving themselves." —Reuters

# South Africa's Zuma caves in on fees amid violent student protests

PRETORIA — South Africa's President Jacob Zuma on Friday ruled out university fee increases next year after a week of angry protests by students across the country in the first signs of the post-apartheid 'Born Free' generation flexing its muscle.

Police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades at students who hurled rocks and lit fires on the grounds of Union Buildings, where the government

has its offices in Pretoria, demanding Zuma come outside and address them.

But security officials feared for his safety, and Zuma remained inside, making the fee freeze announcement to the media instead.

"We decided against it because it was not safe," a state security official told Reuters. "There were students there with stones." A second source confirmed the change of plan.

The protest caps a week of angry demonstrations over the cost of university education — prohibitive for many blacks — amid frustration at the inequalities that persist two decades after the end of white-minority rule.

"On the matter at hand we agreed that there will be a zero increase of university fees in 2016," Zuma said after meeting in private with student leaders and university management.

Some of the more than 12,000 students who gathered at Union Buildings in Pretoria welcomed Zuma's announcement, but others said the measure fell short of their demand for free education.

"It's a partial victory. It's not a victory worthy of celebration. It just means that we are safe for this year," Busisiwe Mashiqa, 29, a student at Fort Hare University said.

"There are many issues that need to be addressed and affordability is the main issue."

Kenneth Matshili, 21, a student in Pretoria, said: "It's better that we resolve the issues once for all. I am saying I want free education for all in our lifetime."

Tuition fees vary across universities, but can run as high as 60,000 rand (\$4,500) per year for medical students in a country where white households still earn six times more than black households, according to official figures.

But low growth since a 2009 recession has forced the government to keep a lid on spending, meaning that it has little spare cash to offer students in the form of enhanced subsidies. The government, which subsidises universities, has said it cannot afford the free education that students are demanding. —Reuters



Protesters chant slogans as they burn portaloos during a protest over planned increases in tuition fees outside the Union building in Pretoria on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Kosovo lawmakers flee tear gas as opposition protests EU-brokered accord

PRISTINA — Opposition politicians in Kosovo released tear gas in parliament for the second time in a day at midnight on Friday to obstruct a scheduled session as police clashed with hundreds of protesters in Pristina streets demanding cancellation of an EU-brokered agreement with Serbia.

The parliament session scheduled for 4 pm (1400GMT) had been postponed for later in the evening after opposition politicians released tear gas in parliament, sending lawmakers rushing from the debating chamber in the third such incident in two weeks.

The session was due to be held at midnight but was cancelled after opposition MPs opened two canisters, releasing tear gas.

At about the same time, the police fired tear gas at hundreds of protesters who gathered in front of the parliament building throwing petrol bombs.

The opposition is protesting against a European Union-brokered agreement with Serbia, from which Kosovo declared independence in 2008, and a separate accord demarcating Kosovo's border with Montenegro.

"We will continue to resist until these two agreements are cancelled," Donika Kada Bujupi of the opposition Alliance for the Future of Kosovo told reporters after letting off a teargas canister in the chamber in the afternoon.

The opposition says the agreement with Serbia, which grants ethnic Serbs in Kosovo greater local powers and the possibility of funding from Belgrade, represents a threat to the small country's independence.

The head of a visiting mission from the International Monetary Fund, Jacques Miniane, said the IMF was concerned at the developments in parliament and that they would damage investors' confidence.

"This is delaying the approval of important legislation, some of which is critical to the government's economic reform agenda and to the viability of Kosovo's Fund-supported program," Miniane said.

In June Kosovo reached a deal with the IMF for a 185 million euro (\$204 million) stand-by deal.

The United States, the biggest supporter of the young state, has said recent developments will hurt Kosovo's ambition to join the European Union. —Reuters

## OPINION

## Change starts with ourselves

Kyaw Thura

**P**EOPLE tend to judge one another by appearances rather than behaviour. More often than not judging by appearance is entirely misleading. It is in fact behavioural change that can help us tackle major social and political obstacles through the pollination of ideas and the development of a common understanding.

The upcoming election on 8 November is

heralded as being the bellwether for sweeping democratic reform. There has, however, been widespread speculation concerning the impact the election will have on the country's future.

At a time when stark ideological differences between political figures and ethnic groups in Myanmar act as potential triggers for instability and conflict it is the responsibility of all voters to be informed and to be aware that there exist unscrupulous and dubious political factions.

If change is the name of the game in politics today we must be always aware of the fact that we have real options and a real chance for change if the people can work together. The government, the parliament, the political parties, the civil society and the common people are all responsible for positive behavioural change and for positive national development. The need to make the change happen plays a critical role in deciding the path

our country will take over the next five years.

It is therefore necessary for all of us to collectively and individually reshape our behaviour in a positive way. We cannot have a responsible government and a civil society unless we accept positive behavioural change as an integral part of the journey to peace, prosperity and stability.

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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.*

# Giving more attention to research at universities

Myo Myint

**I**N this Age of Globalization, universities all over the world are playing many critical many functions. Geoffrey Boulton and Colin Lucas (2008) in their paper "What are universities for?" published in LERU, point out that as crucial national assets, governments all over the world consider universities as "vital sources of new knowledge and innovative thinking, as providers of skilled personnel and credible credentials, as contributors to innovation, as attractors of international talents and business investment into region, as agents of social justice and mobility, and as contributors to social and cultural vitality." Among the many functions enumerated above, two functions, teaching and research are still considered as the core functions of universities. As Boulton and Lucas note, research and teaching "interact powerfully to generate emergent capacities that are adapted to the needs of the times, embodying and creating the potential for progress through the ideas and the people that will both respond to and shape an as yet unknown future." In Myanmar, the majority of higher education institutions are universities and all of them offer both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, while the more prestigious ones like Yangon University and Mandalay University also offer doctoral programmes. Research is given its due place at Myanmar universities. It is compulsory for all post grad students at Myanmar institutions to conduct small scale research as part of their studies. Similarly, faculty members are encouraged to do individual and team researches. Faculty members are given incentive to carry out individual and collaborative research by offering research grants, holding annual research conferences at universities, selecting best re-

search papers, publishing annual university research journals and holding research competitions at university, Lower Myanmar, Upper Myanmar and national levels. However, despite the support and drive to do research, many faculty members who have submitted research proposals fail to keep to the deadline for their researches, and many are unable to complete their researches before their transfer to other institutions. This may be due to the fact that even though there is a follow-up system in place at universities regarding the completion of researches, there is no penalty system and there is lack of understanding by faculty of the importance of research to them or to the country. At one time, as incentive, research was one of factors considered in giving promotion and so faculty members were more enthusiastic about doing research which has waned since it no longer plays a role in promotion. In addition, while research methodology is offered as a subject to postgraduate students at the majority of university departments, there are few activities at universities to update faculty with new developments in research methodology.

For a developing country like Myanmar, research at universities play an important role because it contributes to raising the quality of university faculty and teaching, and the development of not only the education sector but also other sectors and the various regions and states. In the education sector, research and teaching interact in a multiplicity of positive ways. Many of the university teachers who conduct research feel they are more capable teachers because of the better mastery of their fields of specialization due to knowledge gained from their research and while doing literature surveys. They find that their teaching has also improved as they can incorporate the latest

discoveries from their research and other researches they have studied. They also feel that their thinking skills and the way they view things have improved vastly by doing research. In return, better researchers are nurtured due to improved teaching. Moreover, prestige gained from research also helps universities to retain and draw the best academics to them. So also, researchers and research facilities at universities can assist government departments, industries and enterprises in catering to their research needs and assisting them to develop new products, and services. Similarly, in the social fields, research conducted at universities can help advance knowledge, correct past errors and discover peoples' lacks, needs and wants. In return, research conducted for external organizations and private enterprises can also generate income which can be used to improve research facilities of the university concerned.

Since at this stage of development, the country needs the research services of universities, how can more interest in research be generated among faculty? With so many young qualified people wanting to teach at universities, when recruiting, only those who are interested in both teaching and research should be selected. So also, once appointed, so as not to frighten them with the complexities of research, young faculty should be initiated to research with simple ones and then move on to more complex ones. Faculty should also be made to explore new areas instead of simply making a few changes and replicating other researches. If education authorities decide that faculty members need to also possess research skills, then their research record should be taken into consideration in giving promotions. Rectors and heads of departments should see that

as part of their responsibilities, they need to promote research capabilities of their institutions, provide proper supervision and have a follow-up system to ensure that researches are of high quality and that they are finished according to the deadline. As research methodology keeps advancing along with technology, to update faculty with the latest research methodology, it should be made compulsory for faculty members who have gone abroad on further studies should on their return, if they have acquired new research techniques, disseminate it to their colleagues. In addition, as all universities now utilize computers, they should have a database on completed and ongoing researches so that they are not replicated at other universities and that time, effort and money are not wasted. Moreover, as part of university-enterprise/industry collaboration for the development of the nation and themselves, universities should market their research capabilities, seek the patronage of both the private and public sectors and generate income through research which can be utilized to improve their research facilities. It is also time for universities, if they want to raise their quality, to introduce a reward system for those faculty outstanding in

teaching and research instead of treating all faculty, whether hard-working and enthusiastic, or laid back and apathetic, as equals.

Those who know Myanmar well acknowledge that it possesses an abundance of human and natural resources, many untapped and unknown. Also, as a developing country, Myanmar faces a myriad of political, social, economic and environmental challenges. Therefore, there is no dearth of areas to be explored, there is no shortage of topics to be researched, and there will be no disappointments of not being able to make new findings. There is no doubt that research can have a many positive impacts on the institution, faculty and students. It can bring dynamism and prestige to the university, renewed vigour, better analytical thinking skills and improved teaching skills to faculty, and better insights to the chosen field of studies to students. It can also assist in perfecting existing knowledge, making new discoveries, promoting national development and improving the lives of ordinary people. Hence, our universities and their administrators, professors and faculty members, who are all leaders in education, should be more enthusiastic about research and give more time and thought to it.

What do you find down there, fella? A country classified as LDC but with a fair share of billionaires who made their fortunes through unscrupulous means, Great Spirit.



TIN AUNG



# Authorities send mixed messages about Yangon curfew

Jacob Goldberg

If you ask Yangon residents why the city's bars and restaurants close at 11pm, they will likely cite at least one of several theories, some of which have alternatively been dismissed and corroborated by different local authorities.

The first theory that municipal authorities imposed the curfew following an incident in May in which an American citizen was sexually assaulted by a taxi driver after exiting a bar frequented by foreigners. On May 21, the American embassy released a security notice to US citizens in Yangon, offering them a series of six tips for avoiding unwanted encounters with taxi drivers.

Following the list of tips, however, the notice says: "Burma continues to be a safe country to visit. The recent incidents are not typical." So is the crackdown on Yangon's nightlife, which some bar owners say has brought about a 40 percent slump in their profits, a safety measure against something that rarely happens?

This question, and the observation that beer stations, KTV joints and nightclubs continued to stay open in the months following the imposition of the curfew on expat haunts, has led some to believe that the curfew is a buffer against instability in the run-up to Myanmar's national election. Perhaps, the sceptics say, the assault incident was a pretext for imposing tighter social control on the people of Myanmar's largest city.

Such scepticism is warranted. Back in July, *The Myanmar Times* quoted Yangon Region government advisor U Aung Kyaw Soe as saying neither explanation for the curfew was valid and that the recent enforcement of the closing time is not the result of any new laws.

"Clubs and bars are allowed to open until 11pm and no later. This hasn't changed – clubs and bars have not been ordered to close early because the election is drawing near, or because of an incident," the advisor told *The Myanmar Times*.

However, U Maung Naing, the head of the Mayangon Township Administration Office, who is responsible for the enforcement of the curfew in his the township, suggested the opposite.

"The authorities have enforced the law starting in September in an attempt to tighten up security in the region as the election draws near," he told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

But wait. What happened



This beer station turns off its lights at 11pm. PHOTO: RACHEL WONG

in September? Haven't bars had to close at 11pm since May?

One owner of a Yangon bar that is popular among expats offered an explanation. (He declined to be identified in this article.)

"Expat bars were targeted after the sexual assault incident in May. Nightclubs and other locally oriented bars have only been subject to the curfew over the last couple months," he said.

The bar owner also mentioned that locally owned bars and nightclubs were subject to the curfew only after a violent incident that took place at DJ Bar, a popular nightclub,

and after recent spikes in the city's methamphetamine trade.

U Maung Naing, however, denied that the curfew was related to any specific crimes in Yangon.

Also puzzling is that while beer stations around the city have begun closing, or at least turning off their lights, at 11pm, big clubs like DJ Bar remain open hours past that.

U Maung Naing shed some light on this discrepancy.

"The curfew affects all licenced bars, including foreigner bars and restaurants, because they are legal. For example, KTV establish-

ments must follow the curfew order because they have been granted licences by the authorities to operate their businesses. But, for massage businesses and nightclubs, they have no licences and are [technically] illegal," the Mayangon Township official said, subtly referencing the well-known fact that **Yangon's most prominent businesspeople, those with the deepest connections to the government, frequent and own some of these establishments.**

So if expat bars came under the curfew immediately following a sexual assault incident that elicited a statement from the US embassy,

and if locally owned bars were included following violent and drug-related crimes, yet the authorities deny that these incidents are related to the enforcement of the curfew, what are we left with?

The only theory with any official support is that the curfew is related to the upcoming election. Why, then, would some authorities deny this?

**Perhaps the case of Yangon's 11pm curfew offers some insight into how the Myanmar government prefers to impose social control.** Reasons for the curfew were not given when expat bars were first subjected to it. The community was forced to rely on the sexual assault incident as a justification, even if many still have doubts about it.

The next stage was the imposition of the curfew on locally owned establishments in September, which was hardly recognised as a separate event. The small expat community had been given four months to become accustomed to the curfew before it was quietly imposed upon millions of local residents.

The curfew is not a real curfew – people do not need to be in their homes when the clock strikes 11. It is unclear what Nay Pyi Taw might be seeking to achieve by removing Yangonites from venues for social engagement at 11pm, even during election season. Whatever the answer is, the people on top are certainly doing a good job of maintaining the curfew's air of mystery.



Yangon expats wait for a taxi outside a closed KTV hall in Sanchaung Township. PHOTO: RACHEL WONG

# Suicide bomber kills 16 at procession for Shi'ite holiday in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — A suicide bomber killed 16 people in Pakistan on Friday at a procession in Sindh Province for the Shi'ite Muslim holiday of Ashura, police said.

The blast, which also wounded dozens, was the second in two days to hit the festivities surrounding Ashura.

No one immediately took responsibility for Friday's bombing, but a Sunni Muslim militant group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, had claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack and threatened more violence against Shi'ites.

Fears of sectarian violence have been heightened this year since Taliban splinter groups pledged allegiance to Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim militant group based in Syria and Iraq that has repeatedly attacked Shi'ites.

Analysts say Pakistani groups hoping for patronage want to impress Islamic State.

Local police official Muhammad Saeed said that 16 people including two children had been killed in the early evening blast in Jacobabad district, about 450 km (280 miles) north of the city of Karachi.

"Yes, it was a suicide attack on the procession," Saeed told Reuters by telephone.

Another police officer, Niaz Ali, said at least two dozen people participating in the procession were wounded.

A suicide bombing at a



A girl injured by a suicide bombing lies on a bench at a hospital in Jacobabad, Sindh Province, Pakistan on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Shi'ite mosque in the southwestern province of Baluchistan on Thursday killed at least 10 people.

Security has been beefed up across Pakistan for the two days of Ashura. Shi'ites were holding public gatherings and marches in most major cities on Friday and Saturday to commemorate the death of Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

Mobile phone services

were being suspended in major cities on both days in a bid to foil remote-controlled bombings. Police also set up extra checkpoints and restricted movement in some areas.

Shi'ite Muslims make up about 20 percent of Pakistan's population. The rest are mostly Sunni Muslims.

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which once enjoyed the support of Pakistan's powerful spy agency, the Directorate for Inter-Ser-

vices Intelligence, has claimed responsibility for the deaths of hundreds of civilians, mostly Shi'ites.

Security forces have in recent years cracked down on the group, and killed its leader Malik Ishaq in July.

An LeJ spokesman, Usman Saifullah Kurd, told local newspapers on Friday that the group would "carry out suicide and other attacks, even on Ashura day."—Reuters

## Nine killed after mortars hit protesters in Benghazi

BENGAZI — At least nine people were killed and dozens more injured in Libya's second city Benghazi on Friday when mortar shells hit a protest against a United Nations proposal for a unity government to end a political crisis, medical sources said.

Four years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is caught in a conflict that pits the internationally recognised government and its armed backers against a rival government set up by an armed alliance that took over the capital last year. Waving banners and placards, more than 2,000 people had taken to Benghazi's al-Keesh square to demonstrate against the UN proposal when at least seven mortar shells hit the crowd, the hospital sources said. More than 20 were wounded.

Benghazi has become one front in Libya's multi-sided war, with General Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army forces fighting an alliance of Islamist fighters and former anti-Gaddafi rebels. Indiscriminate shelling and rockets sometimes hit civilian areas in the city, which is split into areas controlled by the rival armed factions. In some neighbourhoods, life continues as usual, with banks and restaurants open, while fighting has reduced other areas to rubble. The United Nations has presented a proposal for a national unity government between the two main political factions to end the chaos, but attempts to reach a deal have stalled as both sides face resistance from within their ranks.—Reuters

## Russia wants Syrian elections, prepared to help Free Syrian Army

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday the Kremlin wanted Syria to prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections and that Moscow was ready to provide air support to the Free Syrian Army.

Lavrov's comments represented a dramatic shift in Russia's position and followed a meeting in Vienna on Friday with the United States and other countries to discuss a political solution to the Syria crisis.

"External players can not decide anything for the Syrians. We must force them to come up with a plan for their country where the interests of every religious, ethnic and political group will be well protected," Lavrov told Russian state TV.

"Of course they need to prepare for both parliamentary and presidential elections."

Lavrov said he felt other countries were finally beginning to better understand the situation



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov holds an impromptu press conference following a day of meetings in Vienna. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Syria despite their continued rhetoric aimed against President Bashar al-Assad, a shift he said gave Moscow hope that the political process there could be moved forward in the foreseeable future.

Russia also stood ready to provide air support to the Free

Syrian Army, said Lavrov, if the United States would help it identify where what he called "the patriotic opposition" was. He said the continued US refusal to coordinate its campaign in Syria with Moscow was "a big mistake."—Reuters

## Two Iranian fighters killed in Syria

ANKARA — Two members of a unit of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have been killed in Syria, including an ex-bodyguard for Iran's former president, Iranian media reported on Friday.

"Today, two of IRGC's Ansar forces were martyred in Syria. Reports of the martyrdom of 15 people are wrong," Iran's Tasnim news agency quoted Ramezan Sharif, a spokesman for the IRGC, as saying.

"Abdollah Bagheri Niaraki and Karimi were martyred in Syria while protecting a religious site near Aleppo."

The spokesman gave no first name for Karimi.

Niaraki, who for a while was the bodyguard of former hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was killed on Thursday, the semi-official Fars news agency reported. Iran is the main regional ally of Syrian President Bashar

al-Assad and has provided military and economic support during Syria's four-year-old civil war.

Tehran says it has been offering "military advice" to the Syrian army in its fight against Islamic State militants and other rebel groups, and that it has sent fighters only to defend Shi'ite shrines.

Sources told Reuters this month that hundreds of troops had arrived since late September to take part in a major ground offensive planned in west and northwest Syria, in the biggest deployment of Iranian forces yet.

Sharif said the presence of the IRGC "has increased since the recent field developments in Syria", but gave no further details.

Four Iranian commanders were killed this month fighting in Syria, and an IRGC commander was killed in June.—Reuters

## Answering the call of love: Low tones go a long way

WASHINGTON — The howler monkeys whose guttural calls reverberate through Central and South American rainforests possess a secret that the males of the species may prefer to be left unrevealed.

Howler monkeys make among the loudest, deepest sounds of any land animal, and males use their roars to attract the ladies for mating and intimidate other males.

But scientists on Thursday said they have discovered a curious paradox: males that make the lowest-frequency calls are considered the most alluring to potential mates but are endowed with the lowest reproductive po-

tential. The research focused on a cup-shaped bone, the hyoid, located above the larynx that creates a resonating chamber to amplify vocalizations.

Among nine howler monkey species studied, those with the biggest hyoid produced the deepest and lowest-frequency calls, but also had the littlest testes for sperm production.

“We discovered that the largest hyoid bones were found in howler monkey species with the smallest testes volume, and vice versa,” University of Utah anthropologist Leslie Knapp said.

University of Cambridge biological anthropologist Jacob Dunn called it an “evolutionary

trade-off” for male howler monkeys between vocal tract and testes size.

“This means that different species of howler monkeys either invest in one of these traits or the other, but not both,” Dunn said. “I think the main message is that when it comes to reproduction, you can’t have everything.”

Howler monkeys, found from southern Mexico to Argentina, spend most of their time in tall trees with the help of their gripping, prehensile tails, munching leaves, fruits and flowers. Their howls can be heard 3 miles (5 km) away.

“Howls sound a bit like the roar of a lion, but many howlers produce even deeper and more complex sound,” Knapp said. “Deeper howls suggest large body size, so howlers with deep howls give the impression that they are bigger than they really are. This is an advantage for males that are competing to mate with females.”

Males in species that live in “harem” groups of one male and multiple females have a very large vocal tract but small testes. Males in species with multiple males and females per group have smaller vocal tracts but larger testes.

“This is probably because the females in these species will mate with several males, and so the males have evolved to produce more sperm to increase their chances of fertilizing an egg,” Dunn said. The research appears in the journal *Current Biology*.—Reuters



A black howler monkey vocal chorus is seen at the Biological Field Station Corrientes, Argentina in this handout image released to Reuters on 21 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## WHO experts signal victory over one of three polio strains

GENEVA — The world should stop vaccinating children against one of the three strains of the crippling polio virus as part of a drive to eradicate the disease once and for all, a group of health experts has advised the World Health Organisation.

There is no cure for polio, which attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours of infection.

Currently, the primary tool against the disease is an oral vaccine, which zaps all three types of polio.

The group is now recommending switching to a vaccine that only targets types 1 and 3, between 17 April and 1 May 2016, as type 2 has not been detected since 1999 and use of the vaccine itself can occasionally, inadvertently, aid the spread of the disease in countries with poor vaccine coverage.

“This week a momentous decision was made. And the decision was to go ahead and make the switch because we think we can eradicate polio. This is a huge step towards that,” the chairman of the group, Jon Abramson, said on Friday.

The world has only once managed to eliminate a disease, which was smallpox, but now was the time “to pull the trigger and go for polio eradication”, Abramson said.

A global vaccination campaign has all but beaten all three types of the wild polio virus, with only Pakistan and Afghanistan reporting cases this year.—Reuters



A boy receives polio vaccine drops at a clinic in Kiev, Ukraine. PHOTO: REUTERS

## World’s first malaria vaccine delayed as WHO experts urge caution



Jon S Abramson, Chair of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization attends a news conference at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

GENEVA — The world’s first malaria vaccine is promising but should be used on a pilot basis before any wide-scale use, given its limited efficacy, World Health Organisation (WHO) experts said on Friday.

The decision is likely to delay a possible broad roll-out of the shot for between three and five years.

GlaxoSmithKline’s Mosquirix could, in theory, help stop millions of cases of malaria in young children in Africa at risk of the deadly mosquito-borne disease.

However, it is less effective than vaccines against many other diseases and there is uncertainty as to whether countries can effectively administer the four doses needed.

Jon Abramson, chairman of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts, or SAGE, said experts recommended there should be three to five demonstration projects in children aged five to 17 months before considering wider use.

These projects could involve up to 1 million children and would likely take three to five years to run, he added. SAGE did not recommend the use of Mosquirix, also known as RTS,S, in young babies.

Committee experts said it was vital to give all four doses of the vaccine to ensure optimal efficacy, even though getting children back for multiple repeat shots could be challenging.

“If we can’t get four doses of this vaccine into the children, we’re not going to be using it,” Abramson told reporters.

“What we are recommending is that before we have widespread use of this vaccine — and we wouldn’t necessarily use it in a very low incidence area, but in all medium and high areas — that we know that we can get that fourth dose in.”

Hopes that GSK’s vaccine could wipe out malaria were

dampened when trial data in 2011 and 2012 showed it reduced malaria episodes in babies aged six to 12 weeks by only 27 percent, and by about 46 percent in children aged five to 17 months. Part of that could be down to genetics.

GSK said it was ready to work with the WHO to support the pilot implementation of the vaccine. “We hope this will provide the additional information needed about how to best deliver the vaccine in a real-world setting,” a spokeswoman said.

Abramson said the vaccine was likely to cost around \$5 a dose, or \$20 for a four-dose course, which is four times the cost of an insecticide-treated bed net. It could be funded by the GAVI international vaccine alliance, though no decision on this has yet been made.

“If this vaccine is not effective and we use it widely we will have spent a ton of money which could have been better placed,” Abramson said.

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said SAGE was right to be wary about using a costly intervention with a patchy record.

Adrian Hill, a vaccine expert at Oxford University’s Jenner Institute, told Reuters: “This really underscores the need for work on developing other promising malaria vaccine candidates to be accelerated.”

Alternative malaria vaccines are still at least five to 10 years away from being licensed.

This year alone, there have been an estimated 214 million new cases of malaria, with around 438,000 deaths.

GSK has said it will not make any profit on Mosquirix, since a planned mark-up of just 5 percent on the cost of production will be reinvested in research on tropical diseases. The shot also contains an adjuvant, or booster, made by US biotech company Aenus.—Reuters

## Massive storm Patricia hits Mexico's Pacific coast but skirts big cities



An employee of a car rental company tapes up a glass door as he prepares for Hurricane Patricia in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on 22 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

PUERTO VALLARTA — Patricia, one of the strongest ever hurricanes, crashed into western Mexico with rain and winds of up to 165 mph (266 kph), hammering coastal areas but skirting major cities and causing less damage than feared. Mowing down trees, flooding streets and battering buildings, Hurri-

cane Patricia plowed into Mexico as a Category 5 storm on Friday evening before grinding inland. It rapidly lost power in the mountains that rise

up along the Pacific coast and was downgraded to a tropical storm by Saturday morning.

So far, it appeared that major damage had been averted because the powerful storm did not hit large population centres.

Around 15,000 tourists had been hurriedly evacuated from the beach resort of Puerto Vallarta as people scrambled to get away from the advancing hurricane, whose massive swirl over Mexico could be seen clearly from space.

"It sparked chaos here, it ruined a lot of things, took down the roof, lots of trees. Things are in a bad state where we work," said Domingo Hernandez, a hotel worker in the resort of Barra de Navidad near to the major port of Manzanillo.

Thousands of residents and tourists ended up in improvised shelters, but there were no early reports of fatalities and many felt

they had escaped lightly.

The storm hit land near the area of Cuixmala, home to one of Mexico's most exclusive getaways, at 6:15 pm (2315 GMT) on Friday, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Cuixmala, located between the major port of Manzanillo and Puerto Vallarta, has over the years played host to a colourful assortment of world leaders and eccentric billionaires.

The area is sparsely populated but there are small towns, and it was not clear yet how much damage they had suffered.

At one point generating sustained winds of 200 mph (322 kph), Patricia was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere.

Even though it lost some power before coming ashore, it was still a Category 5 storm, the strongest on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale. Such

storms are relatively rare and are capable of causing devastating destruction.

Patricia's edges caused flooding in parts of Puerto Vallarta, but the resort escaped the worst of the storm and dozens of tourists were able to leave shelters and return to their hotels on Friday night.

"I don't think there's going to be a big problem with the water," said Dario Pomina, 43, manager of the Posadas de Roger hotel in the city centre. "Things are more or less okay."

Brian Shelley, a tourist from Chicago, rode out the storm eating burgers with other guests at a boutique hotel on a hill in Puerto Vallarta.

After talking one of his panicked travelling companions into staying, he was glad the storm turned out to be less punishing than was feared.

"I've seen bigger waves on normal days," he joked.—Reuters

## Ivory Coast's Ouattara calls for massive vote turnout amid no-show fears

ABIDJA — Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara wrapped up his re-election campaign on Friday with a star-studded concert in the commercial capital Abidjan, calling on his supporters to turn out massively to vote amid fears many will stay home.

Ouattara is heavily favoured to win Sunday's ballot, meant to draw a line under a decade-long crisis which ended in a brief 2011 civil war that killed over 3,000 people in the wake of the last presidential vote.

A peaceful election is crucial to reassuring investors who have flooded into the nation, francophone West Africa's largest economy and the world's leading cocoa exporter, as it has re-emerged as one of the continent's rising stars.

Tens of thousands of Ivoirians lined Abidjan streets to catch a glimpse of Ouattara as his caravan made its way to the central Place de la Republic where his final campaign event was held.

Taking the stage after

string of local music stars, Ouattara implored his supporters to pick up their voter cards and head to the polls. "You must vote Sunday, vote massively. We're going to deliver a knock-out punch," he said over supporters' chants of 'ADO, ADO', the nickname derived from his initials. "Go show to the whole world that the crisis is finished in Ivory Coast."

Early this year, Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans (RDR) secured the support of its main coa-

lition partner, the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI), which is not fielding a candidate on Sunday.

The Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo, whose refusal to accept Ouattara's 2010 election victory sparked the civil war, is deeply divided. Former prime minister Charles Konan Banny also pulled out of the race for the presidency on Friday, becoming the third of 10 candidates to withdraw, alleging irregularities.—Reuters



Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara of the Rally of the Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) party and his wife Dominique Ouattara wave during his last campaign rally, ahead of the October 25 presidential election, in Abidjan on 23 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1009W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (309)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (309) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (094N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (094N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

# Former Japanese WWII soldier owes survival to foot injury



Nobuo Yokota in Sendai, northeastern Japan, points to a map of the Korean Peninsula while recalling his experiences as a prisoner of war there after Japan's surrender to the Allied Powers in World War II. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

SENDAI — A former Imperial Japanese Army soldier says he owes his survival in World War II to a foot injury he suffered as a prisoner in a camp in

Korea. Like many Japanese boys during the war, Nobuo Yokota, now 88, voluntarily joined the army when he was 17 years old. From 9 August, 1945, he

fought against Soviet army troops in Ranam in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula.

"The Soviet tanks were big and fast, and ours were no match," Yokota recalled.

Informed of Japan's defeat by the Allied Powers on 16 or 17 August that year, he saw that some of his fellow soldiers were happy as they believed they could return to Japan.

But Yokota and others became prisoners of war and were forced to walk for five days without food to a camp in Komusan. The camp was a school building surrounded by bars and the prisoners initially slept in outside trenches.

As the prisoners had to live on a small amount of beans served once a day, many of them died of malnutrition.

Life in the camp was extremely tough in the winter. When the temperature fell 20 C below zero, it was impossible to dig graves for fellow prisoners who died.

While he was working on a railway construction site, a wooden sleeper fell from a freight car and land-

ed on Yokota's foot.

At the hospital he was sent to he was ordered to do odd jobs, such as delivering meals to an ailing prisoner infected with typhus. The patient was covered in lice.

When Yokota imagined that he would eventually fall into the same state and die, he became more eager than ever to return to his home in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture.

One day at the hospital, Yokota was visited by a friend who bid him farewell, saying that he was returning to Japan. Yokota later learned that the friend was among the prisoners sent to labor camps in Siberia.

As many prisoners died in Siberia, Yokota believes he might have died there if he had not had the foot injury.

Yokota returned to Japan in March 1947, arriving at the port of Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture.

"I survived only because I was lucky," Yokota said. "Defeat in the war was truly miserable and I don't want to remember anything about it."—*Kyodo News*

## Where are the bodies buried? Hope for families of Colombia's 45,000 missing

BOGOTA — The last time Dario Sierra knew his 84-year-old father was alive was during a phone call with a rebel from Colombia's FARC guerrilla group demanding he pay a \$135,000 ransom for his father's release.

Thirteen years on, the old man is still missing.

"All I know is that 14 guerrillas kidnapped my father, tortured him, and then killed him when I couldn't pay the ransom within two weeks," said 69-year-old Sierra.

"I've searched for his body in all the corners and mountains of Colombia. The truth remains buried. People say I'm the old man looking for another old man. It's been 13 years of pain."

According to the official victims' register, 45,000 Colombians have disappeared, victims of a five decade war between government troops, right-wing paramilitary groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and other guerrilla groups.

For decades the relatives of the disappeared have campaigned for the government to step up efforts to locate unmarked graves, and for armed groups to break the silence surrounding Colombia's missing and say where bodies are buried.

Hopes have now been raised that the whereabouts of the disappeared will come to light. Negotiators at peace talks between the government and FARC leaders agreed last week to create a special unit to search for the missing once a final deal to end a war that has killed over 200,000 people is signed.

"The government as well as the (FARC) insurgency will collaborate to speed up the work of locating, identifying and handing over the remains of the victims," Ivan Marquez, rebel leader and chief negotiator told reporters in Havana, Cuba, where peace talks are taking place.

The agreement addresses the issue of victim's rights as part of peace talks, which reached a breakthrough in late September when the two sides vowed to sign an accord by March 2016.

"What was agreed seeks to alleviate this pain, the profound pain of the families of the disappeared," Humberto de la Calle, the government's top peace negotiator, told reporters in Bogota.

The government also said it would speed up efforts to exhume the bodies of people who had been killed in fighting with security forces and who were then buried in unmarked graves known as "N.N." in cemeteries across Colombia.

The relatives of the disappeared say burying the remains of their loved ones is crucial to healing the wounds of war and to salvaging some kind of reparation and justice.

"Just 10 years ago, the issue of forced disappearances wasn't even talked about in Colombia. The truth about what happened to the missing is fundamental to us," Teresita Gaviria, whose son disappeared 16 years ago, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.—*Reuters*

### WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2015:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2015:** Partly cloudy.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1041W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1041W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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## American singer Redfoo entertains Myanmar music fans



Redfoo in action. PHOTO: MAUNG SEIN LWIN

YANGON — American singer Redfoo performed at International Music Festival at Shwe Htut Tin compound in Yangon yesterday.

Accompanied by Malaysian DJ Darren Ashley and singers from other countries and local

signer Ar T and DJ Wine, Redfoo entertained Myanmar music lovers.

The festival is aimed at enabling our people to enjoy a joint performance of local and international artists but also raising funds

for flood victims in the country, said organizer Ko Terry Tin. Despite ticket prices hike, numbers of music fans thronged the event jointly organized by Polyphonic Music & Entertainment.—Maung Sein Lwin (*Myanma Alinn*)

## Commemorative concert featuring Chinese pianist marks UN's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

UNITED NATIONS — To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the world body held a commemorative concert featuring Lang Lang, a renowned Chinese pianist, in the United Nations General Assembly Hall on Friday.

Asian pop songs, Western classical scores and gospel music filled the General Assembly Hall as the UN celebrated its birth seven decades ago.

The concert was organised by the United Nations Department of Public Information in collaboration with South Korea's permanent mission to the UN and the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS).

Lang, United Nations messen-

ger of peace, performed with South Korean artists, while five children from different countries expressed their wishes for the world in both their mother tongues and English.

The Chinese pianist, who has been a goodwill ambassador of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) for over 10 years, was selected by the UN chief as a United Nations messenger of peace in 2013 with a focus on a key UN priority: to get into classrooms 57 million children around the world who are currently not receiving an education.

On Saturday, the United Nations Day will be observed, which marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, which

symbolized the birth of the UN.

"The United Nations works for the entire human family of 7 billion people, and cares for the Earth, our one and only home," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message to mark the UN Day.

"As we shine a light on this milestone anniversary, let us reaffirm our commitment to a better and brighter future for all," he added. As part of the UN Day celebration and the "Turn the World UN Blue" campaign, the United Nations General Assembly Hall and Secretariat Building will be awash in blue, the official colour of the UN, on Friday and Saturday.—Xinhua

## Kevin Costner says his first novel aims for the ages

WASHINGTON — Oscar-winning director Kevin Costner has turned novelist in a big way, kicking off with an adventure yarn aimed for the ages that weighs in at a doorstopping 784 pages.

"The Explorers Guild," which the 60-year-old "Bull Durham" star co-wrote with Jim Baird, is set against the backdrop of World War One. It tells of a group of adventurers on a global quest to find a mythical city.

The "idea that this book is going to be read 150 years from now ... might be lofty," Costner told reporters in Washington on Friday, flanked by Baird and

illustrator Rick Ross.

"It might not take its place among the books that we love so well, but we wanted it to."

"The Explorers Guild," Costner's first novel, incorporates comic-book style illustrations by Ross, an artist Costner said he found on the classified ad website Craigslist.

"I love the idea of the physicality of heroes trying to use their wits and their resources to get themselves out of trouble," said Costner, who compared the book to Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."

Costner pitched the story as

an animated film about eight years ago, but said Hollywood was not interested. He ended up using his own money for the book project.

"I've found that some of the things that I have loved the most, I have had to pay for," said Costner, who also funded his film "Dances with Wolves."

The movie won seven Academy Awards in 1991, including an Oscar for Costner in his debut as a director.

Subtitled "Volume One: A Passage to Shambhala," Costner and Baird said "The Explorers Guild" might be the first of a series.—Reuters

## Chris Rock's Lamar Odom joke hints at what's in store at Oscars

NEW YORK — Comedian Chris Rock gave a glimpse of the provocative humour he may bring as host of the Oscars ceremony with a tweet about sports and reality TV celebrity Lamar Odom that drew both scorn and applause on Friday.

"Here's to Lamar Odom on being the first guy in history to have coke and hookers save his marriage," Rock tweeted to his 3.5 million Twitter followers, adding "Stay strong Lamar."

The tweet came in the week that Odom, 35, and his estranged wife Khloe Kardashian, 31, called off their divorce as the former basketball star recovers from collapsing into a coma at a Nevada brothel after reportedly using cocaine.

Rock, 50, was named this week as host of the 2016 Academy Awards ceremony in February. It will be his second stint at the helm of the movie industry's biggest night after a 2005 performance that made headlines for his barbed comments about race and politics..

"Not sure if I should consider this inappropriate or hail you as a God damn genius," replied one man, Jeff Rothman. "HAHAHA! I love it...!!! That's the Chris Rock we know..Cheers!!!" tweeted Fernando Zapata.

Others took Rock to task, with Posh saying "shame on u!!!" and Chanti tweeting "how insensitive."

Odom, a former National Basketball Association star player, is said to be making progress but faces a long period of rehabilitation with concerns over his kidneys and other organs, celebrity media have reported. TMZ.com said he underwent two emergency surgeries in Los Angeles on Thursday. Odom's and Kardashian's 2009 courtship and marriage were featured in the reality shows "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and "Khloe and Lamar." The couple split up in 2013 amid rumors of cheating and drug abuse by Odom but divorce papers signed in July were never finalized and were withdrawn earlier this week.—Reuters

## Katy Perry to spend her birthday with Hillary Clinton



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Katy Perry always celebrates her birthday partying out with friends, but this year the singer has decided to keep it low key and will attend Iowa campaigning for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

The singer, who will be turning 31 on 25 October, has opted for a week-long celebration with more than 70 friends in Marrakech, Morocco last

year, said The Hollywood Reporter. "I've always done big parties, and I always love a themed birthday. But I went so crazy last year, it's time to tone it down and not make it so much about me," Perry said.

The "I Kissed a Girl" hit-maker will attend the Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Des Moines, Iowa, for the presidential candidate on her birthday.—Reuters

## Abandon restaurant tipping? New York City could set new trend



Danny Meyer, restaurateur and the CEO of the Union Square Hospitality Group speaks during an interview on CNBC on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — The centuries-old tradition of tipping at New York restaurants predates the Statue of Liberty and seems woven into the fabric of a city that often sets social trends for the rest of the country.

But now Restaurateur Danny Meyer, owner of tourist hotspot Shake Shack, upscale Union Square Cafe and The Modern, is tipping the tables on gratuities, saying he will eliminate them at 13 of his New York City restaurants and increase base wages for cooks and servers while raising base prices. Gratuities generate tens of billions of dollars a year for servers, and the practice is not expected to disappear overnight. Some restaurants have already discontinued tipping while others ended discretionary tipping by including a base tip on the check. But tips on merit are still widespread.

Experts said such a move by a man like Meyer is sure to start the industry rethinking a practice that is as much a given as cutlery on the table.

“He’s taking the first, very visible step in going in that direction,” said Cydna Bougae, clinical assistant professor at New York University’s Tisch Centre for Hospitality and Tourism. Even so, she observed, “there’s going

to be a lot of wait and see with the industry.”

Meyer has portrayed the new policy as part of a growing national movement to assure a minimum hourly wage of \$15 for workers at fast-food restaurants and other service businesses.

The National Restaurant Association, a trade group that is opposed to the \$15-an-hour initiative, said restaurants should decide their own tip policy.

“It’s vital that restaurants continue to have the freedom to choose what works best for their business and their workforce to keep the industry thriving as a leading jobs creator for our country,” the association said in a statement.

“The no-tip model remains a limited concept with a handful of restaurants testing it nationwide.

“We have found the practice of tipping has traditionally attracted millions of employees to our industry and still has strong support from American diners.”

Meyer, whose Union Square Hospitality Group has 1,800 employees, said last week he would implement the policy next month at The Modern, a high-end eatery near the Museum of Modern Art, and phase it in at other restaurants over the next year. —Reuters

## The next big thing in Korean beauty: muscles

SEOUL — Looks no longer centre only on the face in beauty-obsessed South Korea, where more women are hitting the gym to improve muscle tone and physical health.

As the ideal of beauty evolves in a country that is a trendsetter in cosmetics and the pursuit of plastic surgery, women’s fitness has become a growth business, say purveyors of health products, from diet supplements to dumb-bells.

“Women used to starve in order to lose weight. Now they exercise,” said celebrity trainer Ray Yang, who leads a workout session during the Body Show, a weekly television event targeted at women that is now in its second season.

South Korea is a beauty powerhouse, with a \$12-billion cosmetics industry and home-grown brands from the likes of Amorepacific Corp and LG Household & Healthcare riding a wave, or “hallyu”, of cultural exports, from television dramas to pop music.

In July, Olive Young, a health and beauty chain owned by CJ O Shopping, began selling health products targeted at women, including dumb-bells and a mini gym ball.

Lotte Shopping’s rival chain LOHB’s said annual sales of items such as gym balls, jump ropes and dumb-bells were up 9 percent this year by 15 October.

## Alaska tribe to get back totem pole taken by US actor in 1930s

JUNEAU — A totem pole taken by the Hollywood actor John Barrymore from an Alaska tribe 84 years ago is being returned to the village after decorating the yards of California mansions for years and being stored in the basement of a museum in Hawaii.

The 30-foot-tall carved wooden obelisk belonging to the Tlingit tribe is due to reach Alaska on 6 November from Honolulu, capping a journey that began in 1931 when Barrymore took it during a sailing trip along the coast.



Ray Yang (bottom), a celebrity trainer, leads participants taking part in a workout session during TV program ‘The Body Show’ at a gym in Seoul. PHOTO: REUTERS

As in other Asian countries, the popular depiction of Korean women has tended toward the slim, fair-skinned and demure, reinforcing gender stereotypes in a male-dominated society. Until recently, physical fitness was not much of a priority for Korean women, despite an emphasis on appearance that has fueled a \$5-billion plastic surgery industry, which accounts for a quarter of the global market.

Thinness was so prized that young women often steered clear of sports such as hiking and cycling, for fear they would leave them with thicker legs.

“Women used to think muscles would have side effects, or negative effects, on their body type and looks,”

said Kim Min-jeong, a professor of global sports science at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

The desire for a more robust physique comes as female workforce participation reached a record high this year, while Koreans of both sexes are delaying marriage and childbirth.

Many fitness conscious Korean women are adopting as role models well-toned celebrities, from domestic K-pop girl group Sistar’s Hyorin, to global figures such as US first lady Michelle Obama and Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge.

“The strength, the outer beauty of muscles, the positive attitudes and energetic images of these women be-

come the motivation,” said Kim. “Women now have higher social status and bigger roles in society.”

The number of fitness centres registered in South Korea has increased steadily, growing more than 5 percent last year to stand at 7,363 outlets, government data show. At one exercise center in Seoul recently, 29-year-old You Ri-seul followed the same routine as the men, from barbell drills to a rowing-machine session and dead lifts.

“Female celebrities with healthy images became popular in the mass media in recent years, so I think a more healthy-looking body is ultimately becoming the wannabe model,” she said.—Reuters

Apart from that, Langdon said he has been unable to find evidence from the tribe or beyond that suggests it was a legitimate acquisition.

Barrymore, a screen actor and grandfather of actress Drew Barrymore, put the pole on display in the garden of his California mansion, Langdon said.

In 1944, American actor Vincent Price and his wife bought it from Barrymore’s estate and installed it in their yard, where it stayed until 1981 when the couple donated it to what

would become the Honolulu Museum of Art, Langdon said.

Langdon tracked the pole to the museum after finding a photo showing Price beside it in a yard. He went to Hawaii on behalf of the tribe in 2013.

“It became clear from his research that the totem pole was a sacred object of cultural patrimony and we immediately decided the totem pole should be returned home,” said Stephan Jost, director of the Honolulu Museum of Art.—Reuters

**mitv Myanmar International**

(25-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 26-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Prehistory
07:50	Am	Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Thadingyut Festival, Heart & Soul
08:38	Am	Clay Toy Pots Festival
08:55	Am	Scented Buddha Images
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Hills Of Phowintaung And Shwebataung
09:44	Am	Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater

09:53	Am	A Traditional Doctor
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
10:33	Am	Oboist and His Life
10:53	Am	TECH School
<b>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b>		
<b>Prime Time</b>		
07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Let’s Cook (EP-7) Seafood Baguette Pizza and Sizzling Garlic Prawn
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar “Food Safety”
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-1)
08:52	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
<b>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (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) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</b>		
<b>(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</b>		

**MRTV Entertainment Channel**

(25-10-2015, Sunday)

<b>6:00 am</b>	<b>6:45 am</b>
• Myo Ma Nyein Music Troupe	• Sing & Enjoy
<b>6:20 am</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
• Teleplay	• Channel Zero (Part-7+8)
<b>6:30 am</b>	<b>9:20 am</b>
• Musical Programme	• Myanmar Movie
	<b>12:00 noon</b>
	• Close down



Thakaya Township team became champions of the novice class Sepak Takraw competition, beating Botahtaung Township team. PHOTO: MNA

## Thakayta win Sepak Takraw Cup

THE FINAL matches of the novice class Sepak Takraw competition took place at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium on Friday. Thakayta Township beat Botahtaung Township and won the championship shield. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe was present to award it to the winning team.

Best player award went to Tin Maung Latt of the Thakayta team. Yangon Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint honoured the donors who sponsored the event.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Halep and Sharapova drawn together at WTA Finals

SINGAPORE — Top seed Simona Halep was pooled with grand slam winners Maria Sharapova and Flavia Pennetta in a formidable looking Red Group for the end-of-season WTA Finals on Friday.

With world number one and defending champion Serena Williams opting out after narrowly missing out on a rare calendar Grand Slam, Romanian Halep is the highest seed for the eight woman end-of-season championships which begin on Sunday.

Halep, who lost to Williams in the final last year after beating the American in the pool stage, was drawn against Italian Pennetta, who lifted a shock US Open title after compatriot Roberta Vinci beat Williams in the last four.

The Romanian, winner at

Indian Wells earlier this year, will also take on Russian multiple grand slam winner Sharapova, who lost in the Australian Open final to Williams in January.

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, who won her 16<sup>th</sup> career title in China last week, rounded out the group from which the top two will advance to the semi-finals after round robin play.

Awaiting them will be the heavy hitters of the White Group, where Wimbledon finalist Garbine Muguruza of Spain and twice champion of the grass court major Petra Kvitova were pooled together.

They were joined by Germany's Angelique Kerber, who completed the rare feat of winning WTA titles on green clay, red clay, grass and hard-

courts this year. Czech Lucie Safarova, who only qualified for the singles field on Thursday, was the other player in the group.

Safarova, the world number nine and French Open runner-up, will also play in the doubles with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands where she has been drawn in the same pool as Muguruza and partner Carla Suarez Navarro.

### Singles

#### Red Group

Simona Halep (Romania), Maria Sharapova (Russia), Agnieszka Radwanska (Poland), Flavia Pennetta (Italy).

#### White Group

Garbine Muguruza (Spain), Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic), Angelique Kerber (Germany), Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic).—*Reuters*

## Myanmar to encourage cricket

THE MYANMAR Cricket Federation (MCF) will be hosting a cricket tournament for young players from Basic Education High Schools in Yangon Region. The event will be held at the Shwe Pin Lon National Cricket Ground in South Dagon Township from 12 to 15 November.

16 men's teams and 12 women's teams formed from 17 schools across the Yangon Region will compete in the tournament.

Outstanding contestants will be selected for the State and Region level competitions of Yangon Region.

"We will be selecting outstanding cricket players to play in the State and Region level matches and those who excel in that competition will be considered for the SEA Games," said U Michael Kyaw Min from MCF.

Last year's tournament winner was Basic Education High School No 2 in Thakayta Township.

The federation has been training cricket coaches and referees to help foster interest and participation in the game here in Myanmar and has been holding annual cricket tournaments for schools in the Yangon Region since 2006.—*Ko Moe*

## Rookie Stegmaier leads second round in Las Vegas



Brett Stegmaier tees off on hole number seven during the second round of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open at TPC Summerlin at TPC Summerlin. PHOTO: REUTERS

LAS VEGAS — PGA Tour rookie Brett Stegmaier vaulted into the lead when play was suspended in fading light late in the second round at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in Las Vegas on Friday.

On a day when Tony Finau made an albatross, Stegmaier upstaged his better-known rivals to pick up six shots in 15 holes at TPC Summerlin in the Nevada desert.

The 32-year-old from Connecticut, in only his fifth start on tour, was among 14 players unable to finish before darkness.

Stegmaier, on 11-under, heads fellow Americans Chad Campbell (67), Morgan Hoffman (66) and Tyler Aldridge (68) by one stroke. Aldridge, a journeyman who has played most of his competitive golf on satellite tours in the United States and Canada,

nearly holed out with his second shot at the par-four 18<sup>th</sup>, tapping in from six inches for his third birdie in the final four holes.

He was delighted to be in contention for a maiden PGA Tour title after playing just one full season on the US circuit, back in 2009.

"I'm very pleased," the 31-year-old told Golf Channel.

"I am hitting the ball well, putting well and things are going my way. It feels great (to be back on the PGA Tour).

"It's been a while and I've put a lot of hard work in. I'm just looking forward to what's to come."

American world number five Rickie Fowler, the highest-ranked player in the field, opened with a one-over 72 on Thursday, but bounced back with a 65 that featured an 80-foot putt for eagle at

the 13<sup>th</sup> to move within six shots of the lead.

"It's nice to have a tee time tomorrow," Fowler said after ensuring he would make the cut.

"I didn't hit the centre of the (club) face a whole lot yesterday. (Today I) made a couple of good swings, got things going, made a few putts."

Big-hitting compatriot Finau had the shot of the day when he holed out with his second shot from 235 yards at the par-five 13<sup>th</sup>.

Finau was not far away from a second albatross two holes later when he drove the green at the par-four 15<sup>th</sup> where his ball landed a few feet left of the pin.

He birdied the hole, but double-bogeyed the next and, with one hole left, will miss the cut unless he birdies the 18<sup>th</sup> hole on Saturday morning.—*Reuters*

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