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Yangon community throngs to light festival



People ride Ferris Wheel at festival of lights on Yegyaw Road on Sunday. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Aye Min Soe

A festival of lights on Yegyaw Road in Pazundaung Township began on Sunday, attracting many members of the Yangon community.

The Yegyaw Festival launched five days ahead of the Thadingyut Full Moon Day, which

falls on 28 October this year and marks the end of Buddhist Lent. Buddhist communities are preparing to hold light festivals across the country.

Yangon residents thronged to Yegyaw Road to enjoy the festival, which features Ferris wheels, funfairs, food stalls and shops.

“I had to have K200,000 to authorities to get a place for my food stall for five days. I earned a good profit,” said Mya Mya, who sells Myanmar traditional sticky rice stalks at the festival every year.

The festival will end on 29 October.

Visitors can enjoy funfairs,

shopping, traditional dance performances and comedy during the early days of the festival.

The last two days will feature a festival of lights to celebrate the Thadingyut Festival, said a resident.

Yangon will see a series of festivals in the upcoming opening

season, which starts on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut on 28 October. Residents of 147th Street in Tamwe Township also began the festival Saturday 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.

Yangon hospital offers free surgeries for cleft lip, palate

Children born to low-income families are more likely to have cleft lips or palates

Khaing Thanda Lwin

VICTORIA HOSPITAL in Yangon will offer surgeries to people with cleft lips and palates this month, said Professor U Soe Tin, the hospital's chief executive advisor.

Around 100 patients will receive treatment at the hospital be-

tween 27 October and 6 November. The hospital will also offer free screening services to cleft lip and palate patients starting today.

The free surgery programme was organised by the Victoria Health Support Foundation in cooperation with the American non-profit organisation Alliance for Smiles with the aim of reduc-

ing the treatment gap and offering better future to patients.

This is the third time the programme has been conducted by the two organisations, and there are plans to continue providing free surgical services in the coming years, one organiser said.

Cleft lip and palate is the most common birth defect. The

diseases are congenital defects, affecting one in 700 people. More than 170,000 children worldwide are born with cleft lips, palates or both each year. The condition causes difficulty in eating, breathing and speaking.

At least 6,000 children are born with cleft lips or cleft palates in Myanmar every year, accord-

ing to data based on records from the Central Women's Hospital.

Children born to low-income families are more likely to have the disease, a surgeon said.

“Although local and overseas charitable organisations carry out free surgeries in the country, the treatment gap for cleft lips and palates is still high.”

NCA support rallies kick off in Muse, Kutkai, Namkham



Supporters of NCA gather to hold mass rally to show their support for truce agreement. PHOTO: MUSE (IPRD)

RESIDENTS of Muse, Kutkai and Namkham in northern Shan State held rallies in their towns on 24 October 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 in the presence of President U Thein Sein. The rallies were held at each town's city hall.

Local ethnic leaders asked the demonstrators whether they agreed

to NCA, and many responded that they approved wholeheartedly and committed to implementing the initiatives of the ceasefire agreement.

Over 1,000 people rallied in Namkham on Saturday.—*Muse (IPRD)*

Apartments for squatters to go up in Mandalay



Apartments under construction for homeless in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: MAUNG PYITHU

THE Mandalay City Development Committee and construction companies have been building apartments since January 2014 that will be rented to squatters living along the banks of the Ayeyawady River and other domestic migrant workers living near jetties in Aungmyethasan Township.

Each of the 22 six-story buildings will have 12 units measuring 30 feet by 20 feet, and each apartment will have bathrooms, toilets, kitchen and bedrooms. The 1,584 apartments are being built on Strand Road in Aungmyethasan.

Some buildings are scheduled to be completed in Decem-

ber. People who are currently living on bamboo barges or on the river banks with proper legal household papers and have reported to their ward administration offices will be prioritised when they seek accommodation at the apartments, according to an MCDC source.—*Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)*

Red Cross members donate blood in Otharathir, Pyinmana

RED Cross members in Otharathiri and Pyinmana townships donated blood at the 200-bed Pyinmana Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw, on 23 October.

The hospital's medical superintendent Dr Kyaw Myint offered words of honour to the 34 blood donors, which included 23 men and 11 women. The donors were

provided with free examinations for blood pressure, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, malaria and other conditions. They were also given vitamins.—*Thant Maung*

Japan Expo Mandalay 2015 comes to City Hall

MYANMAR Promotional Services (MPS) Co.Ltd will hold the Japan Expo Mandalay 2015 at Mandalay City Hall from 26 to 28 October, said a company official.

The exposition will be sponsored by Japan's Toyota and Ever Seiko companies. It will showcase exclusive prod-

ucts from 31 Japanese companies, including Yamaha Gandamar, Denyo, Omoto, Taiyo, Ace, Hitachi and Kracle.

The event will feature entertainment shows and lotteries for the audience twice per day during the exposition, according to the MPS official.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Archway of Japan Expo 2015 in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Traditional medicine hospital to be built in Pyawbwe

THE Ministry of Health is in the process of opening a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital in Pyawbwe, Mandalay Region. The Department of Traditional Medicine will carry out the project, according to a ministry source.

The township's only current medical facility is an indigenous medicine clinic, which will be upgraded into a hospital. Previously, the clinic's patients who required hospitalisation

were referred to Mandalay's traditional medicine hospital. The patients have faced much difficulty travelling to

Mandalay, including financial constraints, the source said.

The one-story concrete hospital will be built at a cost of K154.2 million (US\$120,643), which will be provided by the Union Government Allotment Fund for the 2015-2016 Financial Year, the official added.—*Min Min Htwe (Pyawbwe)*



Members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association who are going to participate in Student Exchange Program organized under ASEAN-India Program and MWEA officials at airport before going to India. PHOTO: TIN TUN AUNG

President sends messages to Austria

NAY PYI TAW — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria and His Excellency Mr. Werner Faymann, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Austria, which falls on 26 October 2015.—MNA

Thanbyuzayat to hold Kyaik Khami Pagoda festival

A religious festival will be held for seven days at a famous pagoda in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, according to local people.

The festival will take place at the Kyaik Khami Pagoda from 27 October to 2 November, with organisers saying the celebration is an annual event.

Festive celebrations will

include music and drama performances, a festival of 9,000 oil lamps and food donations to Buddhist pilgrims.

The pagoda festival is regarded as one of the most popular in Mon State.—*Ko Chit (Mudon)*

Kyaik Khami Pagoda in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. PHOTO : KO CHIT



Irrigation facility, rice plantations inspected in Meiktila

U Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, inspected farming projects in Meiktila on 22 October.

During the tour, the deputy minister inspected the irrigation supply to rice plantations in Wundwin Township and gave instructions on the cultivation of mixed crops.

At the construction site of the rubber dam in Kon village,

he urged officials to make efforts to irrigate more acres of farmland.

The dam is being constructed as part of a greening project in the region. Upon its completion, the irrigation facility is expected to supply water to 33,000 acres of farmland.

In Nyaungkan village, the deputy minister inspected successful rice plantations.—*GNLM*

Arid zone farming demonstrated in Myingyan

A demonstration of agricultural techniques was displayed at the Arid Zone Agriculture Research Centre in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, on 24 October.

Myingyan District Agriculture Department officials demonstrated the cultivation of tomatoes, peanuts, various beans and sesame with small amounts of water. They also

demonstrated soil preparation and the use of organic fertilisers.

The demonstration was meant to promote cultivation during the arid zone's rainy season.

It was also viewed by agricultural officials from Taungtha, Nahtogyi and Nganzon townships.—*U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

Myawady prepares for successful elections

MYAWADY district and township election committees held a meeting on 23 October to ensure a successful general election.

The coordination meeting in Myawady, Kayin State, was attended by District Election Security Management Committee chairman District Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, local election commission members, local police officials and administrators.

There will be special booth policemen on duty at the ballot booths for security, according to a meeting attendee.

The general election will be held on 8 November across Myanmar.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

Yangon head and neck hospital to expand



Union Health Minister Dr Than Aung sprinkles scented water on a stake driven to launch expansion of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Specialist Hospital in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

THE Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Specialist Hospital in Yangon will receive a new five-storey building in order to accommodate a growing number of patients. The building will be 215 feet long, 70 feet wide and 70 feet high.

The new building will be fitted with three elevators, an X-ray room and an operating room. In addition, a new staff housing facility will be built within the hospital compound. It will be 63 feet long, 56 feet wide and 48 feet high.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the new construction project was held yesterday. It was attended by Union Health Minister Dr Than Aung.

Both buildings will be built at a cost of more than K2 billion (US\$1,564,760), funded by the union government.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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**13
DAYS**

Suspect in Thai royal defamation case dies in jail

BANGKOK — A policeman who was under investigation as part of a high profile royal insult probe has died in custody after he hanged himself in his cell, Thailand's justice minister on Sunday.

Police Major Prakrom Warunprapa had been jailed by a court on Wednesday along with two other people as part of a probe into a group of people who allegedly falsely claimed ties to the monarchy for personal benefit. The other two people charged are Suriyan Sujaritpalawong, a well-known fortune teller, and his assistant, Jirawong Wattanathewasilp.

Prakrom hanged himself in his cell on Friday and was pronounced dead after being taken to hospital, said justice minister Paiboon Koomchaya.

"It would appear that the suspect hung himself. The jailed person was found dead in his cell and authorities tried to revive him," Paiboon told Reuters.

"Right now we are doing the autopsy. Whatever the result we will have to accept it because this is a high profile case of huge public interest."

Thailand has the world's harshest lese-majeste law which



Thailand's lese-majeste suspect Suriyan Sujaritpalawong (C) is escorted by police officer as he arrives at military court in Bangkok, Thailand. PHOTO: REUTERS

makes it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen, and heir to the throne or regent. Under Article 112 of the criminal code, anyone convicted of insulting the monarchy faces up to 15 years in jail for each offence.

The investigation comes at a time of heightened anxiety over the health of 87-year-old King

Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is convalescing at a Bangkok hospital after being treated by doctors for 'water on the brain'.

His frail health has added to the political uncertainty surrounding Thailand since a 2014 coup. Nervousness over the succession has formed the backdrop to a decade of political crisis in

the country. The investigation also comes at a time when the military government is cracking down on perceived royal defamation. There have been numerous prosecutions since the coup.

Critics of the law say it is often used to pursue opponents of the country's military and royalist elite.—Reuters

Cambodia convicts university graduate of posting bomb threat on Facebook

PHNOM PENH —

A Cambodian court has convicted a student, who was arrested on 28 September for posting a bomb threat on Facebook, and sentenced him to 15 months in prison, with 14 months suspended, meaning he will walk free on Wednesday.

Local media reported on Sunday that Tao Savoeun, 26, a fresh graduate at the South-East Asia University in northwestern Cambodia's Siem Reap Province, was arrested two days after he posted to Facebook a bomb threat against Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sar Kheng, who was scheduled to award certificates to students at the university on 28 September.

The man wrote, "Wait until Samdech (honorary title for Sar Kheng) arrives, plant a bomb to kill all together." The trial for the man was held by the Siem Reap Provincial Court on Thursday and a verdict was pronounced on the same day, DAP News website reported, citing Presiding Judge Chhun Chanseyha as saying.—Xinhua

3 Abu Sayyaf militants killed, 4 soldiers wounded in S Philippines clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Three Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) militants were killed when government troops attacked a group of ASG members in the mountain of the southern Basilan province on Sunday, a Philippine army official said.

Col. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of Army Scout Rangers, said the encounter occurred shortly before noon while around 50 Abu Sayyaf militants gathered at the mountain of Baiwas village in Sumisip town.

At least four soldiers were also wounded in the gunfight, the military said.

Bautista said the troopers clashed the militants, killing three on the spot, and gunfight ensued for almost an hour which left several other militants, including four soldiers, wounded.

The Abu Sayyaf group broke into small factions and withdrew with their wounded companions, Bautista added.

The 400-strong ASG, founded in the early 1990s by extremists, is notorious for a series of kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decades.—Reuters

Rainfall eases Indonesian wildfire-triggered haze in S Thailand

BANGKOK — Rainfall has helped improve the air quality in Thailand's southern provinces, which were shrouded with haze resulting from Indonesian forest fires, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) said Sunday.

Following rains brought by northeasterly wind, the levels of particulate matter up to 10 micrometres (PM10) in the southern part dropped to 58-87 micro-

grams per cubic meter, within the safety limit of 120, DDPM Director-General Chatchai Promlert said. The PM10 readings in the provinces of Songkhla, Phuket, Phang Nga, Yala and Satun, Pattani and Narathiwat were recorded at 87, 81, 77, 61, 60, 59, and 58 micrograms per cubic metre respectively, DDPM figures showed.

Songkhla's Hat Yai district, which used to be worst hit by the

haze, has started to see better air, water and road visibility, thus allowing flights to operate normally, according to media reports. Tourism is also picking up.

Relevant provincial agencies have been instructed to step up efforts to mitigate the haze and residents in haze-affected areas advised to refrain from outdoor activities and wear masks when staying outside, Chatchai said.—Xinhua

Japan, Australia eye high-level security meeting late November

TOKYO — Japan and Australia are making final arrangements to hold a meeting of their defence and foreign ministers possibly in late November, a Japanese government source said Sunday, with technological cooperation on submarines to be high on the agenda.

At the so-called "two-plus-two" meeting to be held in Australia, the Japanese ministers will also seek to build trust with the new Australian government led by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who in September ousted his predecessor Tony Abbott known for having close ties with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The upcoming talks, the sixth of their kind, follow the last

ones held in June last year in Tokyo. Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defence Minister Marise Payne are expected to attend the meeting.

But the talks could be pushed back to December if circumstances do not allow, the source said. Japan is fiercely competing with France and Germany to be selected by Australia as a partner to develop submarines for its navy, with each country urged to submit proposals required for the competitive evaluation process by the end of November.

To win its bid for what Australia calls the "largest defence procurement programme in its

history," Japanese defence and foreign ministers are likely to pitch the advantages of partnering with Japan on the issue.

Japan is crafting a proposal based on its Maritime Self-Defence Force's Soryu-class diesel-electric submarines, seen as highly advanced with their stealth capabilities. Japan and Australian ministers are also likely to discuss ways to promote security cooperation and how to deal with China's growing maritime assertiveness.

Turnbull, who won a sudden party leadership challenge, is labeled by Chinese media as pro-China. Final adjustments are being made for the Australian prime minister to visit Japan in December.—Kyodo News

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PICTURE OF THE DAY



South Korean Kim Wol-sun (L) meets with her North Korean son Joo Jae Eun during the separated family reunions at Mount Kumgang resort, North Korea, on 24 October 2015. Nearly 400 South Koreans crossed the heavily armed border into North Korea on Tuesday full of joyful anticipation at reuniting with family members separated for more than six decades since the 1950-53 Korean War. PHOTO: REUTERS

Seven people taken to hospital after brawls near Turkish Embassy in Tokyo

TOKYO — At least seven people were taken to hospital Sunday after a series of brawls apparently involving Turks and Kurds broke out near the Turkish Embassy in Tokyo, police said.

More than 500 people had gathered at the embassy which began accepting overseas votes for the 1 November general election in Turkey when the first quarrel broke out around 6:50 am, they said.

The Metropolitan Police Department later mobilized its riot squad to guard against further trouble in the area of Shibuya Ward near the embassy northeast of JR Harajuku Station, where there are also offices and residential buildings.—*Kyodo News*

South Korea fires warning shots at North patrol boat near border

SEOUL — South Korean navy fired warning shots at a North Korean patrol boat near the rivals' disputed maritime border, where sailors on both sides have been killed in past exchanges of fire, the two sides said on Sunday.

The incident, which took place on Saturday, coincided with the holding reunions of families separated during the 1950-53 Korean War under an August accord that ended an earlier

standoff and called for better ties.

South Korea's navy fired several shots at a North Korean patrol boat that crossed the disputed maritime border on Saturday, forcing it to retreat, a South Korean defence official in Seoul said by telephone, asking not to be named.

The North did not return fire or take other action, the official said.

North Korea has rejected the so-called Northern Limit Line

(NLL), which was drawn up at the end of the Korean War, as the maritime border, insisting on a line further to the south.

The two Koreas remain technically at war because no peace treaty has been signed after the war, and despite several moves to normalise ties, the peninsula is tensely divided.

A North Korean spokesman said the South fired at its vessel conducting "routine" operation, calling it a "serious provoca-

tion," and warned such action could spark military confrontation and refuel tensions on the Korean peninsula.

"There will be only a war disaster, far from the improvement of the North-South relations, as long as the South Korean military warmongers go reckless," the unnamed spokesman said in comments carried by the official KCNA news agency.

Naval clashes in the region since 1999 killed doz-

ens of sailors on both sides. In 2010, a South Korean navy vessel was sunk in a torpedo attack that killed 46 sailors. The South blames the North for the attack but Pyongyang denies any role.

In August, the two sides agreed to work for better ties, ending a tense confrontation at the land border that involved trading of artillery fire. The family reunions were seen as one step in improving ties.—*Reuters*

More than 53,000 Beijing couples opt for second child

BEIJING — More than 53,000 couples in Beijing have applied for a second child since the city changed its birth control policy in early 2014.

By the end of September, 53,034 couples in Beijing had submitted applications, among which 48,392 couples were approved. Of the potential mothers, 57 percent were aged between 31 and 35 years old.

China introduced its family planning policy in the late 1970s to rein in population growth by limiting most urban couples to one child and most

rural couples to two, allowing the birth of a second child if the first child was a girl.

A major policy change at the end of 2013 allows couples nationwide to have a second child if either parent is an only child.

Beijing, with permanent population in excess of 20 million, estimated that the new policy would increase this number by more than 270,000, with around 54,200 additional births annually until 2019, when the figure will peak and begin to go down steadily.—*Xinhua*

IS claims credit for bombings on Bangladeshi Shias' Ashura mourning procession gatherings

DHAKA — A young Bangladeshi was killed while 70 others were injured in the explosion of three home-made bombs, police said on Saturday, in the third attack claimed by Islamic State (IS) group jihadists.

According to the jihadist threat monitoring portal, SITE Intelligence Group, IS claimed responsibility for the bombings in an online statement.

The authenticity of the statement has not been confirmed by Bangladesh police.

Thousands of Shia Muslims gathered in the old Dhaka's Hussaini Dalan, a key venue for majlis or gatherings of Ashura, where the bombs were detonated early Saturday. Ashura, or the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic calen-

dar, is observed in Bangladesh as well as in other Muslim countries to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, and his followers.

IS had earlier claimed the killings of an Italian and a Japanese national in Bangladesh.

Kunio Hoshi, the Japanese, was gunned down four days after Italian aid worker Cesare Tavela was shot dead in Dhaka, on 28 September.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduuzaman Miah said Saturday morning that the bomb attack was premeditated and could be part of a bigger plot to destabilize the South Asian country.

"I don't think extremists or

Sunni sympathizers launched the attack," Miah said, although he did not elaborate.

For his part, Police Chief AKM Shahidul Huq said vested interest groups, which are against the trials of war criminals in the country, may have launched the attack to create instability.

Following the fresh attack, the UK and Australia have updated travel warnings for their citizens in Bangladesh.

Since the killing of the two foreigners, countries including the United States have repeatedly raised alarms of the presence of Islamic State in Bangladesh.

But the Bangladeshi government categorically ruled out the presence of IS link in the country.—*Xinhua*

Sanders contrasts his record with Clinton's at Iowa dinner

DES MOINES — US presidential candidate Bernie Sanders contrasted his record with that of Hillary Clinton on key issues, including his early support for same-sex marriages and consistent opposition to the Iraq war, during a Democratic fundraising dinner in Iowa on Saturday.

The annual dinner in the early-voting state has become a bellwether of Democratic support, and it was the first time that Sanders, Clinton and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley have appeared on the same stage since the first Democratic debate on 13 October.

While the debate was a largely genial affair in which the candidates complimented one another and disagreed on policy specifics, Sanders used the Jefferson-Jackson dinner, attended by more than 6,000 Democrats, to highlight differences with front-runner Clinton, without mentioning her by name.

The US senator from Vermont, who calls himself a democratic socialist, has gained on Clinton in recent polls.

Sanders spoke first and re-



Democratic presidential candidates (L-R) Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley greet the crowd at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Des Moines, Iowa on 24 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

mind the crowd of his early support for same-sex marriage, his vote against the US war in Iraq, his criticism of trade pacts and called opposing the Keystone XL pipeline to bring Canadian oil to the Gulf of Mexico a "no brainer."

Each point was a nod to previous positions taken by Clinton or her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who appeared for the first time on the campaign trail in Iowa on Saturday.

Bill Clinton signed a 1996 law, which has since been over-

turned by the US Supreme Court, that prevented same-sex couples from receiving federal spousal benefits.

Hillary Clinton, as a US senator from New York, voted to invade Iraq, but says based on what she knows now that was a

mistake. Clinton recently opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact negotiated by the Obama administration and the Keystone pipeline, which is under review by the US State Department. Both processes began when Clinton held the top post at the diplomatic agency.

A victory in Iowa, which holds the first party-nominating contest on 1st February, can set the tone of a presidential campaign. President Barack Obama delivered a breakout performance at the 2007 Jefferson-Jackson dinner as a relatively unknown US senator from Illinois. He went on to win the state.

"About eight years ago all of the political experts talked about how another Democratic candidate for president just couldn't win, he was unelectable," Sanders said on Saturday. "Remember that guy? What was his name? Oh, it's President Obama."

"Well Iowa, I think we are going to prove the pundits wrong again," Sanders added, drawing some of his strongest applause of the night.—Reuters

Poland votes, conservative euro-sceptic party looks set to win

WARSAW — Poles vote in an election on Sunday that could end nearly a decade of economic and political stability in the country by bringing to power a conservative, euro-sceptic party whose policies diverge from those of many of Poland's European allies.

If opinion polls are correct, the ruling Civic Platform (PO), a pro-market, centre-right grouping in power for the past eight years, will lose to the conservative Law and Justice opposition party (PiS), run by the twin brother of late president Lech Kaczynski, Jaroslaw.

Most polls show PiS as the frontrunner on more than 30 percent. PO is second with just over 20 percent.

Several small parties are also running, spanning the political spectrum from ultra-right to liberal and extreme left.

Distrustful of the European Union and an advocate of a strong NATO hand in dealing with Moscow, PiS opposes joining the euro zone in the near future, promises more welfare spending on the poor and wants banks subject to new taxation.

Michal Zurawski, a man in his mid-30s who voted for PiS in the morning in central Warsaw, said he backed the party's anti-corruption narrative and economic programme.

"Their offer is targeted at those who are less affluent and that suits me. Taking care of this group and creating better social and labour conditions for them is good, will benefit Poland's economy and the country as a whole," Zurawski said.

PiS also opposes relocating migrants from the Middle East to Poland, arguing they could threaten Poland's Catholic way of life — raising the prospect of tensions with the EU on the issue.

On the campaign trail, Kaczynski and other PiS leaders have sought to tap into anger that the economic success is not more evenly shared out and into nationalist sentiment fanned by immigration fears, particularly among young voters.

Poland, a country of 38 million people, has seen its economy expand by nearly 50 percent in the last decade.

It was the only EU member not to slide into recession after the 2008 financial crisis. But pockets of poverty and stagnation remain, particularly in the east.

"There is a broader phenomenon of a return to national, religious, community values being seen all across Europe," said political analyst Aleksander Smolar. "PiS uses clear ... language in this respect."—Reuters

Support for Merkel's conservatives at 3 year low on refugee crisis

BERLIN — Support for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives has dropped to its lowest level in more than three years, a poll showed on Sunday, as her allies in the state of Bavaria stepped up criticism of her handling of the refugee crisis.

Horst Seehofer, head of the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria, the entry point for most migrants coming to Germany, said that the existence of the conservative bloc was at stake if she did not "correct" her asylum policy. The Emnid poll put Merkel's conservatives down 1 percentage point at 36 percent, its lowest since September 2012, with the opposition Greens gaining 1 point to reach 10 percent.

The other main parties remained unchanged with the So-

cial Democrats (SPD), who share power with Merkel, at 26 percent and the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has made gains in recent weeks, at 7 percent.

Merkel has been criticised by some conservatives for opening up Germany's borders to Syrian refugees, a move they say has spurred more migrants to come. Critics, especially in Bavaria, want to introduce limits on the number of refugees allowed to enter the country.

Germany expects at least 800,000 refugees this year, almost 1 percent of the population. As towns struggle to look after migrants and tackle right-wing attacks on shelters, her mantra that Germany will cope looks optimistic to many voters. On top of pres-

sure from Seehofer's CSU, veteran German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble, who media pointed out in weekend articles has always nurtured ambitions to be chancellor, also warned of a dire atmosphere within the party.

Der Spiegel weekly quoted Schaueble as saying at a meeting of Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) that the mood was "dramatic" and the party faced a crucial test if the latest measures to ease the situation in Germany did not help.

A new law to speed up asylum procedures and deportation for migrants from southeastern Europe took effect on Saturday and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung reported Germany wants to increase repatriations to Afghanistan.—Reuters

Smoke bombs thrown at police during migrant protest

LONDON — Projectiles including smoke bombs were thrown at police on Saturday outside a London train station where a protest to highlight the plight of migrants seeking refuge in Britain was taking place, transport police said.

Protesters gathered against the detention of migrants who walked along the Eurotunnel to Britain and those who have died at the French port of Calais, a posting on a website called "Calais Migrant Solidarity" read.

There is currently a camp in

the Calais area of around 6,000 migrants fleeing war, political turmoil and poverty outside Europe.

Pictures on a news website showed over a dozen police holding protesters behind metal gates placed in front of an entrance to London's King's Cross St Pancras station, from where Eurostar trains to continental Europe arrive and depart. Images on Twitter showed protesters holding a banner inside the station reading: "Close Down Yarl's Wood and All Detention Centres", referring to centre where new arrivals await

immigration clearance. British Transport Police said in a statement that they had been facilitating a peaceful protest at the station when others arrived.

"Around this time a number of other individuals arrived at the station causing disorder, and missiles, including smoke bombs were thrown at police officers." The Daily Mail reported on its website that up to 150 protesters tried to enter the station. Transport police were not immediately available for comment when contacted by Reuters.—Reuters

Israel says citizen, likely Arab, used paraglider to enter Syria

JERUSALEM — Israel said on Sunday that one of its citizens, probably a member of the country's Muslim Arab minority, had illegally flown to rebellion-racked Syria by using a paraglider to cross the Golan Heights frontier.

Israeli media gave the man's age as 23 and quoted investigators as speculating that he sought to join Islamic State or other insurgents trying to bring down Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The penetration, which took place on Saturday evening, prompted intensive searches. Witnesses on the fortified Golan reported that Israeli aircraft were circling and dropping illumination flares.

The military issued a brief statement on Sunday saying that its investigation "indicates that the civilian that entered (Syria) is a resident of Jaljulia," a largely Muslim Arab town in central Israel.

A Syrian rebel whose group operates in the area said the paraglider had come down either in Quneitra province or western Deraa. Local rebel groups include the Southern Front alliance affiliated with the Free Syrian Army, the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front, and a group called the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, which other rebels believe is affiliated with Islamic State.

Israel's Army Radio said the man flew eastward against the prevailing wind, an indication he went deliberately and was not blown into Syria by accident.

Arabs, most of them Muslim, make up 20 percent of Israel's population. Though often sympathetic to the Palestinians, they seldom take up arms against the Jewish-majority state.

Israel is publicly neutral on the Syria's four-year-old civil war but bans travel there by its citizens. In recent years it has stepped up scrutiny of those suspected of trying to reach the country through intermediary states like Turkey.

Israel's Shin Bet security service, which is investigating the paraglider penetration, says that more than 40 Arab citizens and Palestinians from Israeli-held East Jerusalem have tried to join Islamic State in its Syrian or Iraqi fiefdoms.—Reuters

Ivory Coast votes in first post-war presidential poll

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara was heavily favoured to win a second term in a vote on Sunday seen as crucial to turning the page on a decade-long political crisis that ended in a brief civil war in 2011.

Ouattara, whose leadership has helped the West African nation re-emerge as a rising economic star on the continent, is facing a divided opposition — but a partial boycott and voter apathy could result in low turnout.

A peaceful election is crucial to reassuring investors who have flooded into the world's top cocoa grower, drawn by growth rates of around 9 percent over the past three years as other African economies have crumbled due to the commodities crash.

More than 6 million Ivoirians are registered to cast their ballots at around 20,000 polling stations, with voting officially beginning at 7 am (0700 GMT).

At a primary school in the western city of Man, a witness saw hundreds of people waiting to have their identities verified by new biometric technology before heading into the voter booths.

In a number of locations, however, voting materials arrived late, causing delays.

"We've been here since 5 o'clock this morning, but as you can see for yourself there's nothing," said Zacharia Traore, a shopkeeper and one of hundreds of people waiting to vote at a school in the city of Gagnoa.

An elections commission of-



People wait for their turn to vote in the presidential election at a polling station as voting equipment arrives in Gagnoa, in western Ivory Coast on 25 October, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ficial said the same problem had affected many polling stations in the area. And voters in the Yopougon district of the commercial capital Abidjan were also forced to wait for ballots to arrive.

"I am here to do my civic duty. I want to do it quickly then get back home," said Yopougon resident Stephane Adou.

While few expect serious violence will mar the election, soldiers, police and gendarmes have been deployed across the country to secure the vote.

Reinforcements of security

forces arrived overnight in Gagnoa, the home region of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo, whose refusal to recognise Ouattara's 2010 poll victory sparked the civil war.

He is now in The Hague awaiting trial before the International Criminal Court charged with crimes against humanity.

Leaders of a break-away faction of Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) have called for a boycott of the polls, and their strongholds in the west and in certain parts of Abidjan are potential flashpoints for violence.

The FPI has been joined in their boycott call by three candidates, including former Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, who pulled out of the vote saying the process was stacked in Ouattara's favour.

Voter turnout will be critical to legitimising Ouattara's mandate if he indeed wins the poll as expected.

Of the six candidates seeking to unseat him, FPI president Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who is leading his party's moderates, is expected to be his chief challenger.—Reuters

US, Saudi Arabia to bolster support for moderate Syrian opposition



US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with King Salman of Saudi Arabia in Diriyah Farm, Saudi Arabia on 24 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

RIYADH — The United States and Saudi Arabia agreed to increase support to Syria's moderate opposition while seeking a political resolution of the four-year conflict, the US State Department said after Secretary of State John Kerry met King Salman on Saturday.

Kerry was in Riyadh for meetings with the Saudi monarch, crown prince, deputy crown prince and foreign minis-

ter — the last stop in a trip that also included Vienna, where he met counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Russia.

"They pledged to continue and intensify support to the moderate Syrian opposition while the political track is being pursued," the State Department statement said after Kerry's meetings in Saudi Arabia. It did not spell out what kind of support would be offered.

Rebels have appealed for more military support from foreign backers, including Saudi Arabia, to confront major Syrian army offensives. Those offensives are backed by Lebanese Hezbollah and Iranian fighters and Russian air strikes.

The United States and Saudi Arabia, together with other states opposed to Assad, already provides some military support to Syrian rebels. That includes training by the Central Intelligence Agency and anti-tank missiles.

Kerry said in Vienna on Friday he expected new talks on Syria to begin as soon as next week. So far, all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict have foundered over the demand by the United States and its allies that Assad leave power, which he refuses to consider.

Saudi Arabia, a strident opponent of Assad, has said he must be removed from power to eliminate the militant Islamic State. Riyadh has also criticised Russia's bombing campaign in Syria.

Foreign Minister Adel al-

Jubeir said after the Vienna meeting that he and his fellow participants had not reached consensus on Assad's political future.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the Kremlin wanted Syria to prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections.

Washington has criticised Moscow, which has been bombing Islamist militants in Syria since 30 September, for focusing most of its firepower on groups supported by the West and its allies rather than Islamic State.

Until now, the Mremlin has said it is impossible to distinguish between terrorists. In comments that suggested a shift its position, Lavrov said Russia would be ready to help Western-backed Free Syrian Army rebels, if it knew where they were.

Rebel groups fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army have been supplied with weapons through Jordan and Turkey. But they complain the support falls far short of their needs.—Reuters

OPINION

The value of a politician's apology

Myint Win Thein

FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologised today for bringing the UK into the war into Iraq based on false information.

When politicians make bad decisions, the costs are countless lives, gigantic losses of property and the futures of millions of children.

But the same decisions cost politicians only an apology.

Before the Iraq War, many people objected to the justifications for entering the conflict, but politicians like Tony Blair neglected those voices. He led the UK into the war in Iraq, spending billions of dollars of public taxes and sacrificing hundreds of his countrymen's lives.

Now, the world has realised that the war in Iraq was a failure. Some may characterise Blair as successful because he used to be the prime minister of a great country.

However, it is undeniable that the consequences of Blair's decisions created a hell for millions of people. No one is sure when the disaster currently taking place in Iraq will be over; it is unlikely to end in the foreseeable future.

A decision can be made within a few seconds, but its consequences cannot be remedied even within a few decades. Therefore, it is important to judge the success of a politician by consequences of what the politician has done rather than the position the politician held.

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Job Pride in Working Life

Tommy Pauk

WEmust think, understand and respect wisely of the people who involve in different jobs according to their caliber, knowledge and skills. Even from the President's job to undertaker's job respectively, they do have their own job pride as they can handle or do their jobs properly and efficiently. We cannot superficially judge the jobs of others without knowing their functions. A proper system and technique are required to do for each job. If someone is qualified enough to handle the job, he would become a good staff or worker. Then he might take his or her job pride because he or she is confident to do the job correctly and efficiently. However, those who get jobs unfairly through nepotism or favoritism are in exception. In this very case, those who want to get the job on merit lose the chance of getting job indeed. Everyone involves in working life is entitled as very important persons or VIP of a certain society concerned. For example, the street cleaners or sweepers or garbage collectors are also very important persons as they contribute sanitation services to their society with their respective skill, knowledge and experience. Unless they do their jobs, the unhygienic, dirty, filthy and mucky situation will prevail in our environment. Who is going to do this job in place of them? We ought to respect and understand their jobs and positions. They take job pride and we all have to recognize that their jobs are also important and essential for the society concerned. Some silly people blindly or thoughtlessly or conceitedly judge that these jobs are unimportant or easy ones. How stupid their judge is!

Everybody holds the different nomenclatures or names of positions in working life. The main aim is to earn a living honestly. As saying goes; 'Experience is the best master', they move up the ladder in

due course. Confidently, they take job pride in their working life. Job may vary according to the nature of work i.e. blue collar's job, white collar's job, administrator's job, engineer's job, housekeeper's job and so on. They perform their duties and responsibilities actively. If some unscrupulous superiors of their unit or department or offices meddle in their job performance, the member of staff usually get frustrated with the superiors' stupid behaviors. In this case, the behaviors of superiors are a detriment to smooth operations at the work place.

We all must respect to the people who are apt and dutiful in doing a particular work. The new or fresh university graduates seek suitable jobs, but it is fairly hard to find the right jobs related to their knowledge or major subjects acquired from universities or colleges. As soon as they are appointed, they are given on the job training. After some time, they are put to first-track scheme for promotion. Those who graduated from Technological Universities or Engineering colleges or Technical school or Institutes of medicines need apprenticeship or internship or some training for their respective jobs. Afterwards, they start working in their professions. Theoretical knowledge, practical training and practical experiences are the most essential requirements for work. Later, they attain work experiences in their professional fields indeed. As for them, they do the professional jobs in working life.

Everyone has to take job pride in working life not only for earning but also for valuing his own job. If the job is not involved in crime or immorality or injustice, we must value that job and take pride of it. That's our own dignity and prestige which are higher than the so-called higher rank positions. In working life, we may encounter with the persons who do not take job pride but try to take opportunity of grabbing the unfair way of moving up the ladder for promotions. They have no ability, no job pride and no

spirit of team work. They usually fawn or lick the boots of the higher rank officials instead of trying to be outstanding employees. Those involve in odd jobs must overcome the inferiority complex and take job pride so that they can happily work in the working life.

Individually, people are involved in full-time job, part-time job, long term contracted job, short-term contracted jobs, temporary job and permanent job to make a living. Therefore, their earnings or remuneration or honorariums cannot be the same. Nevertheless, they take job pride because they all are engaged in decent job assignments and they are confident in their ability to do the job properly. For example, the model fire fighters, model factory workers and the model road traffic police take pride in their jobs and they are very dutiful and efficient. They should be given merit awards for outstanding work. Some jobs are grossly indecent, the persons who do those jobs feel guilty psychologically and they do not take job pride. There are various jobs in human society. Among them, those who work as freelancers or service providers can earn variable payment. Their earning is not fixed yet, but their average earning is greater than the average earning of the staff. They do have own pride for their professional jobs. A Myanmar maxim says: 'If a person does a decent job, he or she can be proud of it.' In fact, every position is prestigious, from top to bottom in an office or a factory or a government agencies e.g. from the job of an errand boy to the job of a manager. Prestige lies in the good the conduct of workers or staff or managers in the respective government agencies concerned. Furthermore, the usages; 'job with low prestige and job with high prestige' are actually used for discrimination in bureaucratic mechanism. Nowadays, these phrases are no longer used in any organization in the advanced society. However, if a staff or a manager commits malpractice or corruption,

he or she is in low prestige personally. Ineptitude of the staff in handling their jobs could be solved by giving them proper training. This is not a big problem. What matter most is to motivate them to take job pride in working life for their personal prosperity and the progress of the organization concerned.

The conceited persons or the persons who lick the superiors' boots in the government agencies must pay attention to the following; —

Do not despise the job holders whose job positions are lower than yours. No matter who you are and what you are, you must understand and know about the jobs of others. Apart from your job, you do not meticulously or precisely know about the jobs of others since you are lack of knowledge about them. You cannot do their jobs properly indeed. You, the conceited person cannot work alone and you must depend on your subordinates for the entirety of the department or corporation or corporate or agencies etc. For example, the position holders such as Director General, Managing Director, CEO, and General Manager Deputy Managers are the ones who cannot work alone and they are a part of human resources indeed. Moreover, even you cannot say that you are important, smarter and superior than others. In this case, don't say personal pride and show off boastfully. You must be tamed by yourself in order to realize that

you are not a flawless person. You must bear in mind that you are just one of the members of the staff for carrying out the team work. You are not superman! Don't think highly of yourself, but think highly of your subordinates' capability, cooperation and support which enable you to accomplish the tasks successfully. Actually, job pride in working life implies that you are not to be proud of your job position but to be proud of your caliber, skill and experience in doing your job. Also you are not supposed to display your good qualities boastfully or blow your own trumpet. The expression; "I know everything" is the slogan of fools! Don't assume that your work is the best. Having too much pride in yourself and what you do can be detrimental to both you and your corporation concerned. Take a job pride and do your job efficiently and excellently in working life!!!

About the author

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' College in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Our buddy, Tha Gi, had married a widow.
That guy is good at recycling & reusing.



TIN AUNG

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

U Khin Maung Myint (MPT Retired)

I had been contemplating on writing an article about the nuisance of the plastic bags and styrofoam packagings, for quite a long time. As I had turned my attentions to other subjects, I haven't given serious thought to it. However, a few days ago, while I was surfing the SKY NET TV channels, I unexpectedly stumbled onto a familiar scene that I had seen not very long ago. It was a performance by a Filipino group, El Gamma Penumbra, that won the first place in the 2015 Asia Got Talent competition held in Singapore.

The show was broadcast live on the television. It was a shadow show performed by a group of young men and women. They performed many episodes as they progressed up to the finals. The themes of all the episodes were related to the Mother Nature. The audience in the hall and I, who watched the shows live on the TV, were mesmerized by their performances. As they were shadow shows, the audience saw only the silhouettes changing patterns. Although there was no dialogue, the story they told by their choreography was so amazing and managed to send clear messages.

The scene I mentioned above was an excerpt from their final and

prize-winning performance. It was aired between the programmes on a TV channel, every now and then, to create public awareness of the adverse effects of the indiscriminate littering of the plastic bags. The title of this article, I must admit, is lifted from that video clip. Though it is short, I believe it is very precise and could be very effective in sending the message to the public.

As I lived alone and am in good health and still able, I did my household chores myself. That include cleaning the house, shopping, cooking and laundry. Each day when I returned from my daily walk, I usually did my shoppings. Every item bought were packed in plastic bags, so everyday I brought back at least five to six of those bags. These bags would pile up in a matter of few days if I do not dispose them daily. I must say they are becoming the most annoying garbage in my house nowadays, as I am preoccupied with my writing, I sometimes tend to litter them absent mindedly. Just imagine how much, a sizeable family would be stocking them up. According to some estimates, millions of plastic bags are being used all over the world each day.

If these bags are not disposed off systematically, they are bound to cause devastating effects to the environment and hence to the ecosystem

too. The most visible effects would be the clogging of the drains that would lead to flooding in the cities and towns, causing inconveniences and posed health risks to the populace. Most of these plastic wastes would be discharged into the streams, creeks and rivers, polluting the water and causing waterborne diseases and killing the fishes, in the extreme cases. Eventually they reached the seas and the oceans, causing damages to the coral reefs, which are the habitats and spawning places for the marine life, thus endangering them.

The use of plastic as packagings should be avoided at all costs, as they are made from petroleum products, which are mostly inorganic and are harmful to the health. Thus they are nuisances, which we are knowingly putting up with.

As for me I had started to **reduce** the use of the plastic bags. Whenever I went shopping for groceries and meat, chicken or fish, I used to take along an eco-friendly bag or a "**green bag**" as they are called. For the vegetables, I asked the vendors not to use the plastic bags, but to put them directly into my bag, as for the meat, chicken or fish, I had to unavoidably accept the plastic bags. However, that had reduced the number of plastic bags brought home, drastically. So, I would like to suggest the use of the "**green bags**" when shopping for food stuffs.

If the "**green bags**" are not readily available and must unavoidably

use a plastic bag, **reuse** it as many times as possible before throwing it away. This too will assist in reducing the number of plastic bags disposed daily. If everyone can adopt the above practices, it would drastically reduce the plastic wastes that are damaging our ecosystems and save our planet from disasters.

The **recycling** of the plastic bags would also contribute to the reduction in the production of new ones and thus put a hold on the increase of the plastic bags. In most countries, large scale recycling are being carried out and in some countries they are incinerated in environment-friendly incinerators.

The styrofoam are also causing great problems today. They form the bulk of the urban garbage and the marine debris. Their production impacts, on the fuel consumptions, the environments, the greenhouse gas effects and the health are very high. Like the plastic bags, they do not decompose easily, but unlike the plastic bags, they are un-recyclable. Due to the fact that recycling them are not cost-effective, they are not included in the recycling process and thus they are categorized as non-recyclable. They could take decades or even hundreds of years to decompose, even if they are buried underground. Studies had found that consuming foods packaged in styrofoam containers could cause serious health problems, especially the warm and oily foods, and also the acidic and alcoholic beverages. Over 100 cities in the US and Canada and some in Europe and Asia had banned them due to their negative effects on health.

I think most of the people in our country are not aware of the health hazards and the adverse consequences of the littering and the use of the plastic bags and the styrofoam products. So awareness campaigns should be carried out to educate our people. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that it is important to **reduce, reuse and recycle** the plastic bags. In many countries, paper and fabric shopping bags that are biodegradable are being increasingly used. Also, recyclable plastic bags and biodegradable plastic bags are rapidly replacing ordinary plastic bags. As for our country, those eco-friendly shopping bags may still be out of reach for most people.

Thus, we should reintroduce the use of our traditional packing materials — the banana leaves, the lotus leaves, the *In* leaves (အင်္ဂုလ်) and certain species of palm leaves. They are abundant in our country and were being used from the time immemorial, until the discovery of polyethylene and polystyrene, which are used for making the plastic bags and styrofoam containers. These leaves are readily decomposable, organic, harmless and their decompost wastes would contribute greatly in fertilizing the soil. Last, but not least, by introducing them, businesses in their productions would generate more incomes for the rural population, and enhance their livelihoods. Let us save the "**Gaia**", our Mother Earth, by doing away with the un-desireable products.

To stay brainy, go brain-jogging

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

(A dialogue between a grandson and a grandpa)

(1)

Grandson Oh, grand-pa, what are you doing?

Grandpa My dear, I'm reading a book.

Grandson Really? Grandpa, you're too old to learn. I think. In fact, you're in your twilight years. Why and what are you learning for? Please don't bother yourself that much.

Grandpa Well, my kid. I believe, learning is a never-ending process. It is a life-long process. We live to learn and learn to live, so said the scholars.

Grandson Interesting. Please explain what you mean, grandpa.

(2)

Grandpa Thanks for your interest, sonny. Great scientists through their research, now claim that "brain is just like a muscle; you use it or you lose it; if you wish to keep your brain sharp, active and alert, go brain-jogging". And furthermore, those scientists also claim that if you don't want to suffer from dementia, senility, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, when getting old, you

must go brain-jogging. It is a must.

Grandson Wonderful. Tell me please, grandpa, what do you mean by brain-jogging?

Grandpa Brain-jogging means you read, read and read, sonny. To explain it to you furthermore, I think, I can't do any better than to brief you on what I have learnt from the famous scholars' writings and great scientists' research. An American writer, Mr. Norman Lewis explained it in his book entitled "Word Power made easy" as follows:

"All normal human beings are born with a powerful urge to learn. But, almost all of them lose this urge, even before they have reached maturity. The adults who lose this urge, who no longer feel that "lack of learning becomes a nuisance, stop learning, and once they stop learning, they stop growing intellectually and they stop changing. And, when and if such a time comes, then the author said, "this is perhaps the most insidious of human

tragedies". But, he added that "fortunately the process is far from irreversible. If you have lost the powerful urge to learn," you can regain it. And if you can recapture the powerful urge to learn with which you were born," you can go on learning. "No matter what your age".

(3)

Grandson Oh, amazing, grandpa. Please go on.

Grandpa Sonny, after all "no educative process is ever the end, it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living." So, in this "knowledge age", we must be happy and feel honoured to belong to a constant learning society.

Grandson How can I thank you enough, my dear grandpa? Please teach me more.

Grandpa My pleasure? You are a university graduate. It means, I think, you now know how to learn. I'm just sharing my knowledge and experience with you, if I may say. You can't be "taught" how to speak and write better English, or your own mother tongue better. You have to learn it.

Grandson Thanks a lot, grandpa.

Grandpa Now, you are a university graduate, an educated gentleman and

an officer. Well, sonny, your parents have made the best, cost-effective, mutually beneficial investment in you. And mutually beneficial, I mean, to you, to your own parents, and to the society you belong. Simply put "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest". After all, the purpose of education is to make a man more useful, more useful to himself, and more useful to others. Therefore, my dear, let's learn and grow as the days go by. Herein, grow, I mean, intellectually. Last, but not the least, I would like to advise you, simply, sincerely and yet strongly to upgrade and update yourself through constant learning. "Your life, live it well," my dear sonny.

Grandson Oh, grandpa, do you mean to say "to stay brainy, go brain-jogging"?

Grandpa Of course, yes.

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TalkTalk expects criminals unable to steal money after cyber attack

LONDON — British broadband provider TalkTalk said on Saturday it did not believe the authors of a cyber attack against it this week would be able to steal money from its customers.

The firm said on Friday it had received a ransom demand from an unidentified party claiming responsibility for the cyber attack that may have led to the theft of personal data from its

more than 4 million customers.

“It is a smaller attack than we had originally thought,” Chief Executive Dido Harding told Sky News.

“Any credit card information that has been stolen has the six middle digits of the credit card blanked out so cannot be used for financial transactions,” she said.

The company, which has

had two other data breaches this year, also said that the attack did not hit its systems and that customers’ website account passwords had not been accessed.

But British business leaders on Saturday warned about the danger of cyber crime and urged police to make the issue an urgent priority, saying firms faced continual security breaches. —Reuters

Volkswagen to freeze promotions due to emissions scandal

FRANKFURT — Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) will freeze managerial promotions next year at its VW division as part of a savings drive to help meet more than 30 billion euros (22 billion pounds) of costs arising from the diesel emissions tests scandal, a German business magazine said on Saturday.

The German company also plans to re-use as many parts as possible in the next generation of its popular Golf model to save hundreds of millions of euros, according to the Manager Magazin report, which cited Volkswagen sources. Europe’s largest carmaker is battling the biggest busi-

ness crisis in its 78-year history after admitting last month it installed software in diesel vehicles to deceive US regulators about the true level of their toxic emissions.

The company has already set aside 6.5 billion euros (\$7.2 billion) in provisions in the third quarter to pay for fallout from the scandal. Manager Magazin said Volkswagen now saw the total cost swelling to more than 30 billion euros.

Analysts expect Volkswagen to report a 3.5 billion euro operating loss for the third quarter when it publishes its financial results on Wednesday, down from a

year-earlier profit of 3.2 billion.

Works council chief Bernd Osterloh rejected the idea of a halt to promotions, saying such a move would be “merely symbolic” and at the expense of workers.

“We expect to see other symbols first: for instance, clear statements on management’s stance on bonus payments. The motto needs to be to lead by example,” he said in an e-mailed statement.

Joerg Hofmann, the new head of Germany’s powerful IG Metall union, said workers’ representatives must have a bigger say in setting bonuses at VW to help prevent future crises.

“What will the performance-bonus systems be in future at VW?,” he told Deutschlandfunk radio in an interview to be aired on Sunday. “We want to be part of the decision-making on this.”

“It is about ... being able to counter a corporate culture directed at just one goal: cost cuts at any price!”

Asked if VW would have to cut jobs, he said: “We are driving in thick fog at the moment.”

Volkswagen, which declined to comment on Saturday’s report, has said it will cut investment plans at its VW division — the largest by revenue — and speed up cost cutting to cope with the cost of cleaning up the emissions scandal. —Reuters



Volkswagen logos adorning a sign outside a dealership for the German automaker located in the Sydney suburb of Artarmon, Australia on 3 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Toshiba to sell image sensor production line to Sony

TOKYO — Toshiba Corp. is finalizing an arrangement to sell its production line for image sensors at a plant in southwestern Japan to Sony Corp. in an effort to restructure its semiconductor business and help rebuild its operations hit by an accounting scandal, company sources said Saturday.

The deal, expected to amount to around 20 billion yen (\$165 million), would mark Toshiba’s effective withdrawal from the image sensor business. The plant in Oita City accounts for most of Toshiba’s output of the product, which is used in smartphone cameras and other devices.

The plant’s image sensor production line mainly produces CMOS image sensors for processing images as part of its system LSI business, the sources said. As Toshiba will try not to fire the nearly 2,600 employees, some would be transferred to the Sony group, while others would be moved to Toshiba’s mainstay Yokkaichi factory in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, which produces NAND flash memory chips, they added.

Sony, which has the world’s top share in CMOS sensors, has unveiled a plan to enhance its investment in facilities for the product to meet growing demand by procuring 420 billion yen

through public stock offerings and other means. Following the scandal in which Toshiba padded profits over years, leading it to lag in restructuring loss-making businesses, President Masashi Miromachi has indicated plans to restructure semiconductor and home appliance businesses for announcement as early as November. The scandal has forced its three successive presidents to step down from their executive posts of the time, and caused the company to revise downward its profits for the period from April 2008 to December 2014 by a total of 224.8 billion yen on a pre-tax basis and 155.2 billion yen on a net basis. —Kyodo News

Nasdaq 100 index may see record with Apple earnings due Tuesday

NEW YORK — The Nasdaq 100 .NDX index, dominated by US technology stocks, may set a record high next week, helped by good earnings from Apple Inc (AAPL.O) expected on Tuesday.

Technology shares led the US stock market’s recovery this week from its worst correction in four years in August, thanks to gains in Alphabet (GOOGL.O), Amazon (AMZN.O) and Microsoft (MSFT.O), after the three companies reported better-than-expected earnings results.

The Dow Jones industrial average .DJI rose 0.9 percent to 17,646.70, the S&P 500 index .SPX recovered another 1.1 percent to 2,075.15, and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC closed the week up 2.27 percent at 5,031.86.

Shares across Asia, Europe and the Americas all climbed, boosted by Thursday’s message from European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi that he was ready to increase the ECB’s bond buying programme, and by an interest rate cut by China’s central bank.

Factors this coming week that may provide further support for US stocks include a Federal Reserve policy meeting, which is not expected to raise interest rates yet, a report on US third-quarter economic growth, and earnings from Apple (AAPL.O).

The Nasdaq 100 index, including Apple, is just 1.5 percent below its year high and 4.0 percent from its record high back in March 2000.

Intel (INTC.O) and Microsoft (MSFT.O) have seen their stocks recover more than 30 percent each since 25 August, while Amazon (AMZN.O) and Facebook (FB.O) rose 28 percent and 23 percent, respectively. But the ‘underperformer’ among these companies has been Apple (AAPL.O), up only 14.8 percent from its 25 August close, less than the Nasdaq 100’s 15.1 percent gain in that time. In contrast to Microsoft, Facebook, Alphabet and Amazon, Apple (AAPL.O) shares did not post record or multi-year highs this week, even though it rose 7.2 percent, the largest weekly gain in a year.

On Tuesday, though, Apple is expected to report \$51.1 billion in revenue, a 21.3 percent increase compared to the same quarter of last year. Earnings are seen at \$1.879 per share.

“The bar has been raised a bit on its earnings report from where it was a week ago. The price action is telling you there’s more optimism built



A man walks past a backlit Apple logo during an Apple media event in San Francisco, California on 9 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

into it,” said Michael James, managing director of equities trading at Wedbush Securities in Los Angeles.

Options market action shows traders expect Apple shares to move roughly 5.0 percent by the end of next week. The average move for the stock the day after its report in the last eight quarters was 4.4 percent, up or down.

“Will an above-estimate from Apple and raised guidance help? Sure it will. But we could still get there without that happening,” said James of the possibility of the Nasdaq 100 hitting a record.

“The power of the moves in some of these large cap tech stocks has been breathtaking,” he said. Chip makers were also among the top five percentage gainers in the Nasdaq 100 since the index closed at its 2015 low on 25 August, with SanDisk (SNDK.O) topping the list with a 70 percent jump on the back of a takeover bid from Western Digital (WDC.O).

The overwhelming leadership from established technology companies is a positive for this market move higher, according to Kim Forrest, senior equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group in Pittsburgh.

“The last time the Nasdaq 100 was the market leader a lot of it was speculative investments, but these (tech) companies actually return money to shareholders,” she said.

“Tech deserves the leadership; the stock market is rewarding growth.” While technology stocks have led the market recovery, biotech stocks have been a drag on performance.

The Nasdaq Biotech Index .NBI is down 3.5 percent from its 25 August close, and more than 20 percent below its year high. The three index components with the largest declines in market capitalization in the last eight weeks are Mylan (MYL.O), Illumina (ILMN.O) and Biogen (BIIB.O). —Reuters

Some doctors and midwives don't know postpartum diabetes risk

LONDON — Some doctors and midwives may underestimate the risk for postpartum diabetes among women who develop a version of the disease during pregnancy, a small British study suggests.

Researchers focused on the risk of what's known as type 2 diabetes, which is linked to obesity and aging and happens when the body can't properly use or make enough of the hormone insulin to convert blood sugar into energy.

Women who have a version of the disease known as gestational diabetes during pregnancy are at greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Even though medical guidelines in the UK and many other countries stress the importance of regular screening for type 2 diabetes among women who had gestational diabetes, researchers found a lack of consensus among general practitioners, obstetricians and midwives on responsibility for immediate postpartum screening.

Roughly four in five midwives and half of obstetricians were either unsure about the risk of diabetes or underestimated the odds that women who developed this complication during pregnancy would experience it again later in life.

"Although the majority of cli-

nicians were aware that gestational diabetes is a risk factor, it is worrying that many underestimated or were unsure of the risk," lead author Dr. Girish Rayanagoudar of Queen Mary University, Barts Health NHS Trust in London, said by email.

About half of women with gestational diabetes develop type 2 diabetes within five years, and they are at risk even if initial screenings after pregnancy are normal, noted Rayanagoudar.

To understand how health professionals thought about risk and approached postpartum screening, Rayanagoudar and colleagues surveyed 106 clinicians in East London and West Midlands in the UK in 2014.

Nearly all the clinicians said they offered advice on diet and exercise as part of postnatal care for women who had gestational diabetes.

Most said they screened women for diabetes from six weeks to three months after delivery and then annually, if the results were normal.

The findings point to the need for a uniform screening strategy as well as a need to increase awareness about the long-term consequences of gestational diabetes, the authors argue in the *European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*.



A baby reacts in front of a poster at the Guangzhou Women and Children's medical centre in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. PHOTO: REUTERS

While the study is small, the findings mirror results from other research on type 2 diabetes screening among women who have previously had gestational diabetes, the authors note.

"The survey may be small, but its impact is global," Dr. Sanjay Kalra, a consultant at Bharti Hospital, Karnal, in Haryana, India and the executive editor of the *Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

The lack of consensus on screening is particularly worrisome for women with an elevated risk after gestational diabetes, Kalra, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. Women who are of South Asian descent or obese are even more likely to de-

velop type 2 diabetes after gestational diabetes than other women, he noted.

To minimize the risk of diabetes after delivery, "healthy diet and activity can be followed by all, including nursing mothers," Kalra advised. "Breastfeeding may have the potential to (help prevent) diabetes, and should be actively promoted."—Reuters

3-D printed models of heart, arteries developed

WASHINGTON — Researchers have used a new inexpensive 3-D printing method to develop models of heart and arteries out of biological materials.

The advance could one day lead to a world in which transplants are no longer necessary to repair damaged organs, researchers said.

"We've been able to take MRI images of coronary arteries and 3-D images of embryonic hearts and 3-D bioprint them with unprecedented resolution and quality out of very soft materials like collagens, alginates and fibrins," said Adam Feinberg, an associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

"We should expect to see 3-D bioprinting continue to grow as an important tool for a large number of medical applications," said Jim Garrett, Dean of Carnegie Mellon's College of Engineering.

Traditional 3-D printers build hard objects typically made of plastic or metal, and they work by depositing material onto a surface layer-by-layer to create the 3-D object.

Printing each layer requires sturdy support from the layers below, so printing with soft materials like gels has been limited.

"The challenge with soft materials — think about something like Jello that we eat — is that they collapse under their own weight

when 3-D printed in air," said Feinberg.

"So we developed a method of printing these soft materials inside a support bath material. Essentially, we print one gel inside of another gel, which allows us to accurately position the soft material as it's being printed, layer-by-layer," he said.

One of the major advances of this technique, termed FRESH, or "Freeform Reversible Embedding of Suspended Hydrogels," is that the support gel can be easily melted away and removed by heating to body temperature, which does not damage the delicate biological molecules or living cells that were bioprinted.

As a next step, the group is working towards incorporating real heart cells into these 3-D printed tissue structures, providing a scaffold to help form contractile muscle.

Bioprinting is a growing field, but to date, most 3-D bioprinters have cost over USD 100,000 and require specialised expertise to operate, limiting wider-spread adoption, researchers said.

Feinberg's group, however, has been able to implement their technique on a range of consumer-level 3-D printers, which cost less than USD 1,000 by utilising open-source hardware and software.—PTI

Taiwan reports more dengue cases

TAIPEI — The number of dengue cases reported in Taiwan has risen to 26,910 as of Friday since the outbreak in May, said the island's disease control center on Saturday.

On Friday, the island reported 261 new cases, 150 in the southern city of Kaohsiung and 102 in Tainan, according to the department's update on its website.

Two new deaths related to dengue were reported on Fri-

day, taking the death toll to 122, the department said.

The spread of the epidemic seems to have slowed in Tainan, where 21,044 cases have been reported, but the outbreak in Kaohsiung remains at peak, said the statement.

The epidemic outbreak has been the worst in years though the island is hit by the disease frequently.

A total of 24,860 patients have recovered, while 34 re-

mained in intensive care units at hospitals.

Health authorities have warned residents of the similarity between symptoms caused by dengue and ordinary flu, calling on them to stay alert.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne, potentially fatal disease that mainly affects people in tropical and subtropical regions, causing fever, nausea and muscle and joint aches.—Xinhua

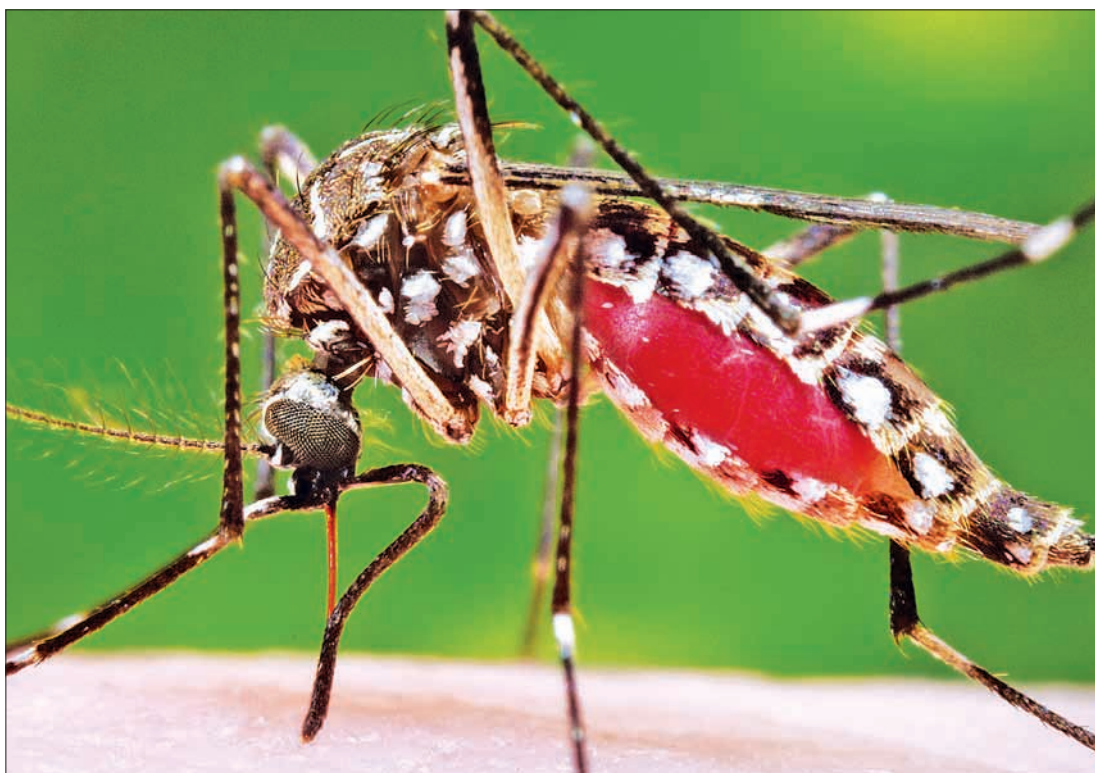


PHOTO: REUTERS

Pompeii restorers dig and scrub against clock as EU funding deadline looms



Tourists visit an ancient Roman cobbled street at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Pompeii, on 13 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

POMPEII — Years of neglect at the ancient Roman city of Pompeii are being dug and scrubbed away in a last-minute bid to keep money flowing from a huge European Union-backed renovation programme.

Workers in hard hats beaver away as tourists visiting the Italian World Heritage site peer through screens and wire fences at ruins of ancient houses where restorations are going into overdrive.

Submerged under volcanic ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, Pompeii is one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world, giving a unique glimpse into daily life under the Roman empire.

But years of mismanagement and corruption have exacerbated decay at the sprawling, 66 hectare

(163 acres) site, prompting the European Union to intervene. In 2012, it pledged 78 million euros (56.8 million pounds) to finance urgently needed repairs.

Italy threw some 27 million euros behind the Great Pompeii Project, which aims to rebuild collapsed arches, right sagging walls, clean frescoes and protect the area from water-logging.

Fast forward three years and only around 21 million euros out of the total 105 million euros on offer have been spent. Unless the site managers do the rest of the work by the original 31 December deadline, they risk losing access to this money to pay for it.

“We are really working against the clock,” said superintendent Massimo Osanna, an ex-university professor chosen by the government to take over in

early 2014 to make a break with the site’s scandal-ridden past.

“If the timing had been respected more at the beginning we wouldn’t have this concentration of work that is causing problems now,” Osanna said in a makeshift workshop where technicians are restoring plaster casts of Vesuvius’s victims.

The project got bogged down in squabbles over who should lead the work and extra checks and balances put in place to keep contracts from falling into the hands of the local mafia.

Osanna said the pace of work has almost doubled since late 2014, with around 30 technical interventions underway.

“It has become a really busy city,” he said. “Not just visitors but workers, engineers, architects, experts — just think of

managing the parking! These are all small things but taken together they become enormous.”

The hubbub is causing headaches at a site which attracts more than 2.5 million visitors a year.

“People find houses closed, lots of construction sites open, and it is difficult to get around,” said Stefano Vanacore, who has directed the restoration of several homes of ancient Pompeians, including the recently re-opened Villa dei Misteri.

“If it weren’t for the December deadline we would have done everything more gradually,” he said. Twenty new technicians have been hired, but there is still not enough help to go around, said architect Maura Anamaria, who is overseeing 18 million euros-worth of restorations.

“Each of us needs help and you cannot satisfy everyone’s demands, you just can’t. There are too many sites open and each one is complex,” Anamaria said.

Even after the current flurry of work is over, the site will need a long-term maintenance programme to keep it from degrading again as it had when former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi’s government declared a state of emergency in 2008.

A third of the city has never been excavated and soil movements threaten the fragile ruins. Earlier this month, heavy rain raised the floor in the house of Roman nobleman Julius Polybius.

Italy now has until the end of 2015 to present a request to the European Commission to take the project into the following year with new funding.—Reuters

MERS-affected S Korean man dies, death toll reaches 37

SEOUL — A 66-year-old South Korean man who was treated for infection with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus died Sunday, the health ministry said.

South Korea’s first MERS-related fatality in about three and a half months brings the total death toll to 37. Since the first case of MERS infection in the country was confirmed on 20 May, a total of 186 people have been found to be infected.

The man visited Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul in late May, accompanying his wife who had been infected with MERS, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry.

He was confirmed to be infected with the virus in mid-June and underwent a lung transplant operation, but his condition did not stabilize even after testing negative for MERS.

The prestigious Samsung Medical Centre had been pinpointed as the epicenter of the potentially fatal virus, with about half of all infections in the country having occurred at the facility.

Almost all those who were infected with MERS in South Korea have recovered and left hospital, except for a 35-year-old man who was once cleared of infection but is undergoing treatment again after testing positive earlier in October.—Kyodo News

Car slams into crowd at Oklahoma parade; 4 killed, dozens injured

STILLWATER — A car with a suspected drunk driver at the wheel barreled into crowds watching a homecoming parade at Oklahoma State University on Saturday, killing four people and injuring more than 40 others, authorities said.

Witnesses told of bodies being flung dozens of feet into the air as the gray Hyundai Elantra plowed into the throng at the intersection of Main Street and Hall of Fame Avenue in Stillwater, some 80 miles (130 km) northeast of Oklahoma City, at the end of the parade.

Stillwater Mayor Gina Noble and local police said the car crashed through barricades and struck an unmanned police motorcycle before carving through the mass of spectators.

“At first we thought it was part of the show,” Konda Walker, a 1991 graduate of OSU, told the local Stillwater News Press. “People were flying 30 feet (9 metres) into the air like rag dolls.”

Representatives for OU Medical Centre in Oklahoma City said the hospital received eight victims from the crash, five of them children, ranging in condition from good to critical. One of those patients, a 2-year-old child, later died.

Stillwater Medical Centre said in a statement that its staff had treated about 40 patients aged 2 to 65. About half of them had been released by Saturday evening.

The driver, identified as 25-year-old Adacia Avery Chambers, was taken into custody on suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol, said Captain Kyle Gibbs of the Stillwater Police.

“I’ve been here 29 years and I can’t recall an incident of this magnitude,” Gibbs told reporters at the scene.

The suspect does not appear to have been a student at Oklahoma State University, Gibbs said. Mayor Noble said in a statement that Chambers was a resident of

the city. Megan Lantz of Ponca City, Oklahoma, told the Oklahoman newspaper that about 100 people were standing on the corner at the time the car, going be-

tween 45 and 50 mph (72-80 kph), struck the crowd.

“We were facing the parade and heard tires squealing and then started to hear the car hit-

ting things and people and there was screaming and people running away,” Lantz, 32, told the paper for a story on its website.—Reuters



People attend to the injured at the scene of a car crash after a car drove into a homecoming parade at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on 24 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Texas deluged by rain in Patricia's wake, flash floods hit Houston

HOUSTON — Heavy rains fueled by the meeting of two storm systems, one the remnants of Hurricane Patricia, pounded southeastern Texas, triggering flash floods and derailing a freight train

as the heavy weather descended upon Houston early on Sunday.

The National Weather Service predicted 6 to 12 inches (15 to 30 cm) of rain for coastal areas, including

southwest Louisiana, by Monday morning, exacerbated by tides up to five feet (1.5 metre) and wind gusts up to 35 mph. The rain systems were intensified by Patricia, which was downgrad-

ed to a tropical depression after crashing into Mexico's west coast as a powerful hurricane.

As the storms moved eastward early on Sunday, cities in the state's flood-prone Gulf of Mexico region braced for the impact. They include Houston, the state's second-most populous metropolitan area with 6.1 million people.

Mayor Annise Parker warned residents to stay away from wet roads after dark and be aware of flash floods, which the National Weather Service said were occurring in the city early on Sunday. No one was reported hurt, but several motorists were stranded.

Flash flood warnings were in place until 4 am Central Daylight time for

eight southeastern Texas counties. Among them are Harris County, which includes Houston, and Galveston County. Some areas could get more than a foot of additional rain. Officials urged vigilance, reminding residents of deadly past flooding. A series of storms in May triggered floods and led to 21 deaths.

"Some people lost their lives in high-water incidents," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, whose county includes Houston. "We're going to get a lot of rain tonight and it's going to result in some high-water situations, so for heaven's sake be careful."

In Galveston, authorities urged voluntary evacuation of the elderly and residents with medical issues on

the Bolivar Peninsula near Galveston Bay. The storms could hinder transportation to and from the peninsula. Power outages are also possible as a result of gale force winds, authorities said.

Navarro County, about 50 miles (80 km) south of Dallas, was one of the hardest-hit areas. The tiny town of Powell got 20 inches (50 cm) of rain over 30 hours, according to meteorologist Brett Rathbun of Accu-weather.—Reuters



Local residents visit a road which was flooded by Bull Creek after heavy rain in Austin, Texas on 24 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 28th October (Wednesday) End of the Buddhist Lent Day 2015, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (12:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify during next (48)hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin 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 moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Kayah and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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(26-10-2015 07:00 am~ 27-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:26 Am Tapestry- A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
- 07:45 Am Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:26 Am Magnificent Thadingyut Festival
- 08:32 Am We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board
- 08:47 Am Shweku Backdrop-One Of Myanmar Prestige
- 08:53 Am Art Students: Theatrical Art
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
- 09:39 Am The Iron Rider

- 09:52 Am Sweet Delicacy Of Pathein
- 10:03 Am News
- 10:26 Am Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
- 10:49 Am A Star for Great Achievement
- (11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- Prime Time**
- 07:03 Pm News
- 07:26 Pm Food Trip (EP-1) Part -1
- 07:48 Pm A Pretty Custom of Kandayawady Asia Vut A @ Rice Pounding Competition
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Shan - Flat-Rice-Noodle Soup)
- 08:41 Pm Porcelain and Glass
- 08:48 Pm Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- (For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(26-10-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
- Mono Classical Songs
- 6:20 am**
- Myanmar Series
- 6:45 am**
- Fashion Show
- 7:00 am**
- TV Drama Series
- 7:50 am**
- TV Drama Series
- 8:50 am**
- Teleplay
- 10:00 am**
- Golden Music of Old Stars
- 10:25 am**
- Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon**
- Close down

Titanic biscuit sells for 15000 pounds at UK auction

LONDON — The “world’s most valuable biscuit”, which survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, has fetched a whopping 15,000 pounds at an auction in the UK, while a photograph believed to be that of the iceberg which sank the liner sold for 21,000 pounds.

The Spillers and Bakers Pilot cracker, from a survival kit in a lifeboat, was “the world’s most valuable biscuit,” said Auctioneer Andrew Aldridge from Henry Aldridge & Son auctioneers in Wiltshire.

The biscuit was sold to a collector in Greece, far exceeding its presale estimate of between 8,000 pounds and 10,000 pounds.

The cracker was saved by James Fenwick, a passenger on the Carpathia which picked up Titanic survivors.

He kept it in an envelope complete with original notation, “Pilot biscuit from Titanic lifeboat April 1912”.

The auction also saw a photograph purporting to show the iceberg that sank the ill-fated liner selling for 21,000 pounds,

‘BBC News’ reported.

The estimated guide price had been between 10,000 pounds and 15,000 pounds.

Titanic had been four days into a week-long Transatlantic crossing from Southampton to New York when it struck the iceberg on 14 April, 1912, killing more than 1,500 people.

The grainy black-and-white photograph was captured the day after the luxury liner sank.

It was taken by the chief steward of steamer the Prinz Adalbert, who was at the time unaware of the tragedy that had occurred the previous day.

A cup presented to the captain of the Carpathia also sold for 129,000 pounds to a UK collector. It was given to Captain Arthur Rostron by survivor Molly Brown, paid for by donations from wealthy passengers after the disaster.

Aldridge said the price paid for the cup made it the third most valuable item associated with the Titanic story to have ever been sold.—PTI

Hollywood legend Maureen O’ Hara dies at 95

LOS ANGELES — One of the last surviving stars of golden age of Hollywood, Maureen O’ Hara, 95, died on Saturday.

Dubbed as “The Queen of Technicolor” the Irish actress died with family by her side at her Boise, Idaho home, reported Variety.

Often described as “fiery”, she displayed her versatility in films like “How Green Was My Valley” and Carol Reed’s “Our Man in Havana”.

She worked with directors ranging from Alfred Hitchcock to Chris Columbus, but is best remembered for her works with John Ford, particularly in her pairings with John Wayne.

O’Hara starred opposite Wayne in five films including, “Rio Grande”, “McLintock!”, “Big Jake”, “The Quiet Man” and “The Wings of Eagles”.

Although she gave memorable performance in various Hollywood films like, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”, “Miracle on 34th Street”, “Our Man in Havana” and “The Parent Trap”, the Dublin native never won an Academy Award.

However, in 2014, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences presented her with an Honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards.

Born Maureen FitzSimons, on 17 August, 1920, in a suburb of Dublin, she received training in drama and dance and went on to perform in amateur theatre at the age of 10.

Her movie career began

when Charles Laughton signed her to a seven-year contract with his company, Mayflower Films.

O’ Hara’s first major bigscreen appearance was in 1938 with Hitchcock’s “Jamaica Inn,” starring Laughton.

She received “The Queen of Technicolor” nickname from Dr Herbert Kalmus, who invented the process.

Her casting by the Irish-American director Ford in Fox Studio’s “How Green Was My Valley” won her wide notice and critical recognition.

Apart from her powerful acting, O’ Hara was also a decent singer and showcased her soprano voice on the albums Love Letters From Maureen O’Hara and Maureen O’Hara Sings Her Favourite Irish Songs. She was also the star of the 1960 Broadway musical Christine. The actress got married three times.

Her first marriage was with producer George Brown from 1939-41. She then went on to tie knot with director Will Price, who she said was an abusive alcoholic. They got divorced in 1953. Her last marriage was with aviator Charles Blair, whom she wed in 1968.

Blair died in plane crash in 1978 and she continued to take care of his commuter seaplane business. O’Hara’s autobiography, “‘Tis Herself,” was published in 2004.

She is survived by a daughter and a grandson.—PTI

Duran Duran to receive first MTV Video Visionary Award



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — English new wave/synthpop band Duran Duran will be honoured with the first ever MTV Video Visionary Award at the MTV EMAs.

The “Rio” hitmakers will receive the honour for their unique sound and strong visual sense, and for influencing a generation of musicians with some of the greatest pioneering music videos of all time, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

In a statement, the band — fronted by Simon Le Bon — said, “It is no coincidence that our rise was paralleled by the growth and ultimate world domination of MTV. The birth of music videos as a way to simultaneously bring our music to a global audience revolutionised the business.”

Besides thanking MTV, the band also took the opportunity to extend their gratitude to the various directors they’ve worked

with over the years. They said: “We took this new short form of film making and tried to make it our own. We have had some incredible experiences over the years making our videos.”

“We have worked with some of the most talented directors in the world — without whom we would not be honoured here today. We are really proud to be the recipients of this new award. Thank you MTV.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Louis Tomlinson to work on new girl band with Simon Cowell

LONDON — One Direction member Louis Tomlinson will be working on a new girl band with music talent promoted Simon Cowell, during the break from the band.

The 23-year-old singer said he has various things on mind and feels lucky to work with Cowell, reported Mirror.

“I’ve got a little label in print so I’m trying to work with that at the moment. I’m lucky enough to be working with Simon. We’ve got a few different projects going on at the moment one of which is we’re trying to put a girl band together.”

It’s really exciting to be involved in the different side of it, the background.” Tomlinson said.—PTI

Condolences U Aye Thein,

69 years

Director (Retd), Irrigation Department
Executive Director, Planning Department
Neo Energy Oasis Development Co., Ltd

Our deepest condolences go to the family of U Aye Thein, Executive Director, Planning Department, Neo Energy Oasis Development Co., Ltd, for his demise on 23-10-2015. Uncle U Aye Thein, may your soul rest in peace.

Members of the Board of Directors and Staffs
Neo Energy Oasis Development Co., Ltd

Four-day dance carnival Udbhav Utsav begins in Gwalior

GWALIOR — International Dance carnival 'Udbhav Utsav' kicked off here in a colourful ceremony with troupes from Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and South Korea presenting scintillating performances.

Kathak exponent Padamshree Shovana Narayan inaugurated the four-day event last night at the Indian Institute of Tourism

and Travel Management (IITTM).

At the inauguration, Narayan said the annual carnival being held since more than a decade has become popular not only in India but abroad as well and the number of foreign countries participating in it is an example of it. She heaped praises on 'Udbhav', an NGO, and Greenwood Public School for jointly holding the car-

nival, saying such event binds people globally and encourage dance art.

The event started with a scintillating performance of the troupe from Kyrgyzstan that left the audiences awe-struck.

The dance troupes from Sri Lanka, Bulgarian, Nepal and South Korea with their performances enthralled the gathering of dance aficionados.—PTI

Missouri's Gateway Arch monument built on rigged votes, protests

ST. LOUIS — When the last section of St. Louis' Gateway Arch, an American landmark as iconic as the Statue of Liberty, was hoisted into place on 28 October, 1965, it was the concluding act of a story that began more than 30 years earlier.

From rigged votes in a bond election to fund the project, to a famous father-son mix-up when the winning architect was alerted, to a civil rights protest high above ground, some of the Arch's rich, complicated history during those three decades has largely been forgotten as the 630-foot-tall, stainless steel structure nears its 50th anniversary.

The monument, meant to celebrate America's western expansion, has taken on different interpretations over its lifetime.

Bob Moore, resident historian at the Arch, called the structure "an icon of the modern age," but said it also represented the taking of land from Native Americans and Hispanic people.

While today's television viewers may know the Arch better as the centerpiece of the SyFy series "Defiance," the seed for its creation was planted in 1933, when attorney Luther Ely Smith, returning by train to his home town, saw the blight of the riverfront and proposed building the structure.

Two years later, city leaders, eager for jobs and federal money, asked vot-



The Gateway Arch is seen in St. Louis, Missouri. PHOTO: REUTERS

ers to approve a bond issue in an election which had an unusually high turnout and approval rate. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch investigated the results and found the vote was fraudulent, winning a Pulitzer Prize for its revelation.

Starting in 1939, 37 blocks of the city's riverfront were demolished, but wartime priorities left the space unused until a de-

sign competition following World War II.

The competition opened in 1947, attracting 172 entries with ideas ranging from abstract sculpture to a covered wagon. Entries came from Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen and separately from his noted father Eliel, both living in the Detroit area.

The committee picked Eero's design of a catena-

ry arch as the winner, but mistakenly alerted Eliel he had won. Eero and his team took home a combined \$90,000 for a design that Smith called a "brilliant forecast into the future." A catenary is a chain that supports its own weight.

Still, Saarinen's design quickly came under fire, with some saying it looked too much like the arch planned for the 1942 Rome

Exposition in Fascist Italy, while others described it as a giant croquet wicket.

Design critics didn't slow the plans, but a lack of funding did as the start of construction was delayed until 1963, two years after Saarinen died from a brain tumor.

Lawsuits also delayed the building of the Arch, which ended up costing about \$13 million.

Construction of the constantly curving structure, the world's tallest in stainless steel, was a challenge as the bases of the two legs could not be off even as little as 1-64th of an inch or the final pieces would not fit together properly.

Underwriters had predicted more than 10 people would die during construction, but in fact, no one did.—Reuters

South Africa to relax visa rules after tourism industry suffers

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa will make its new visa rules easier for visitors with children and those from India, China and Russia, after tourism numbers dropped this year, the government said on Friday.

Industry leaders have said the new rules are costing around \$540 million a year in lost revenue by

making it more complicated for foreigners, drawn by natural attractions such as the Kruger National Park, Table Mountain and the Sterkfontein Caves, to visit.

South Africa's cabinet accepted recommendations from a committee appointed by President Jacob Zuma in August to look at the rules' impact, the Depart-

ment of Home Affairs said in a statement.

A rule requiring a parent to carry a child's unabridged birth certificate when visiting South Africa will be relaxed to allow the original or a certified copy to be shown just at the visa application stage, the department said.

Tourism Minister

Derek Hanekom said in July the rules had to be relaxed after a "worrying drop" in visitor numbers, but Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba argued at the time that they were needed to guard against child trafficking.

Visitor numbers from China dropped sharply because prospective visitors had to appear at the South

African embassy or consulate in person, which could require a long trek.

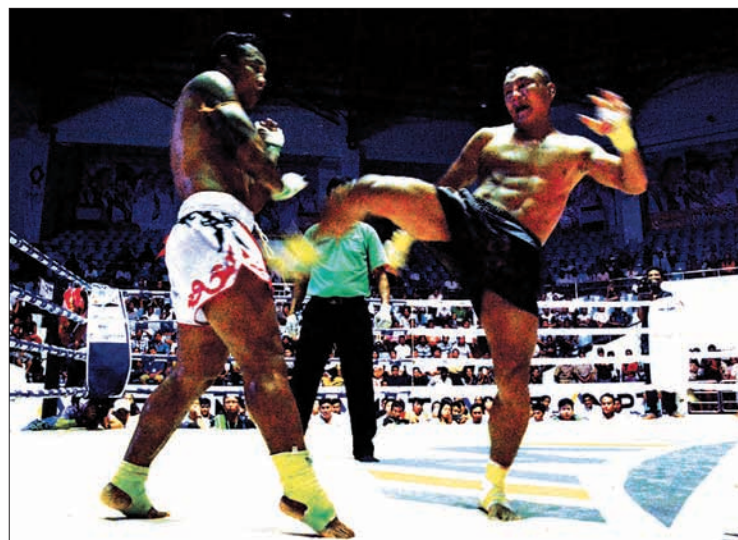
The department promised to "ease the process of application, in particular for tourists," from countries like China, India and Russia.

These could include a long-term multiple entry visa for over 3 months and

up to 3 years for frequent travellers, the department said.

South Africa is considering a visa-waiver for India, China, Russia and other countries and visas on arrival for visitors who have valid visas for Britain, the United States, Canada or other countries that apply stringent checks.—Reuters

Fans unimpressed by traditional boxing match



Myanmar Traditional Boxing matches at Theinbyu traditional sport stadium on Sunday. PHOTO: MIN HTET

Maung Sein Lwin

BOXING fans expressed dissatisfaction with a traditional Myanmar boxing match between Saw Nga Man and Saw Gawmu at the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Championship on Sunday. The competition was organised by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and the Myanmar Me-

dia Management at the Theinbyu traditional sport stadium.

Yesterday's matches included two three-round matches, two four-round matches and seven five-round matches. Min Htet Aung (Our Tradition), Mike Rai (Shwephu), One Star (Shwephu) and Saw Htoo Zaw emerged as winners in knock-out matches.

Fans also said they were im-

pressed by a match between Soe Lin Oo and Thapyay Nyo. However, the rest of the matches resulted in draws.

"Almost all matches today were good matches, but the headlining match between Saw Nga Man and Saw Gawmu was not satisfactory. It seemed they were not really playing, and they were cheating their fans. We were disappointed. However, the match between Soe Lin Oo and Thapyay Nyo was really great," said a fan named U Sai Naung. Among Sunday's matches, two three-round matches between Fighter (White New Blood) and Aung Nay Oo (Our Tradition) and between Shwe Wa Tun (Shwe Thaugyin) and Naung Lon Phyan (Peace) ended in draws. In the four-round match between Min Htet Aung (Our Tradition) and Saw Thu Rain (Bravery), the former was able to knock out his rival with a left kick and repeated punches.

Similarly, Mike Rai defeated Saw The Oo in a knockout match.

At the end of the match, boxers paid respect to 20 elderly former boxers.—*Myanma Alin*

Halep storms to victory in WTA Finals opener

SINGAPORE — Romania's Simona Halep kicked off her campaign for a maiden WTA Finals title in emphatic fashion with a thumping 6-0, 6-3 victory over US Open champion Flavia Pennetta in the opening match of the eight-woman season-ending tournament on Sunday.

The world number two is the highest ranked player in the field after Serena Williams, who has won the tournament the last three years, withdrew citing the need to rest after a year spent carrying injuries.

Halep crushed Williams in round robin play a year ago before losing to the American in the final and her love of the Singapore Indoor Stadium hard court was evident in a first set she wrapped up in 26 minutes after breaking serve three times.

The Romanian had arrived in Singapore under an injury cloud after picking up an ankle knock at the start of October, but the 24-year-old moved effortlessly around the court on Sunday and withstood Pennetta's attempts to get

back into the contest.

The 33-year-old Italian played more like she had on her way to a stunning victory in New York last month in the second set but her resistance ended in a marathon eighth game when she dropped serve to trail 5-3 after staving off three break points.

Pennetta, who announced she would retire from tennis at the end of the season, forced only two break points, both in the opening game of the second set, during the entire match and her unforced error count of 27 made life much easier for Halep. "I am so happy to be back in Singapore and glad that I was able to play really well today," Halep said in a courtside interview. Round robin play continues later on Sunday when world number three Maria Sharapova takes on Agnieszka Radwanska in a contest between the other two players in the 'Red Group'.

The 'White Group' consists of Garbine Muguruza, Petra Kvitova, Angelique Kerber and Lucie Safarova.—*Reuters*

Joy for Wenger, gloom for Mourinho as Arsenal go top

LONDON — Bitter rivals Arsene Wenger and Jose Mourinho had wildly contrasting afternoons on Saturday as Arsenal went top of the Premier League and champions Chelsea lost again with their manager being sent off.

Wenger, once dubbed "a specialist in failure" by the Chelsea boss, punched the air in delight after Arsenal beat Everton 2-1 at a rain-lashed Emirates Stadium.

Mourinho, however, failed to show up at his post-match news conference after the Stamford Bridge club slumped to sixth from bottom following a 2-1 defeat at London rivals West Ham United.

On another bleak day for Chelsea they finished with 10 men after having Serbia midfielder Nemanja Matic sent off. The mood of the visitors was not helped at a wet Upton Park when Cesc Fabregas had a first-half goal harshly disallowed for offside.

Arsenal won their fourth successive league match after headers from Olivier Giroud and Laurent Koscielny in a three-minute spell in the first half helped them go top for the first time since

February 2014. They have 22 points from 10 games and will stay at the summit until at least Sunday when Manchester City, second on 21, play Manchester United, fourth on 19, at Old Trafford.

Chelsea's fifth league defeat of the season meant West Ham finished the day in third place on 20 points after a venomous first-half shot into the bottom corner from Mauro Zarate and a late header from substitute Andy Carroll gave them victory.

Gary Cahill briefly drew Chelsea level with a close-range shot in the 56th minute after referee Jon Moss had ordered Mourinho to the stands when the outspoken Portuguese had approached him at halftime.

"The mood in the dressing room is not great, like you'd imagine when you lose games," Cahill told the BBC. "The lads are devastated.

"You're left scratching your head sometimes. In the first half the Fabregas goal could have been given and we had the goal that was nearly over the line. That sums

up the way we're going." Cahill was referring to a first-half header from Kurt Zouma that went within millimetres of a goal. Chelsea's defeat summed up Mourinho's season.

Since falling out with former first team doctor Eva Carneiro on the opening day, he has been involved in several other controversial incidents.

Last week Mourinho was fined 50,000 pounds by the FA for comments he made about referees when Chelsea lost at home to Southampton on 3 October.

Mourinho, who sat in the directors' box until eight minutes from time at Upton Park, is now

facing another FA fine for not speaking to the media and a fresh punishment for being sent from the dugout.

While the Portuguese was a picture of abject misery, Wenger ended the day with a broad grin.

The Frenchman was delighted his team won again following their 2-0 victory over Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"When you win such a big game like Tuesday night and you can win again straight after, it tells you a lot about the mentality of your team," said Wenger.

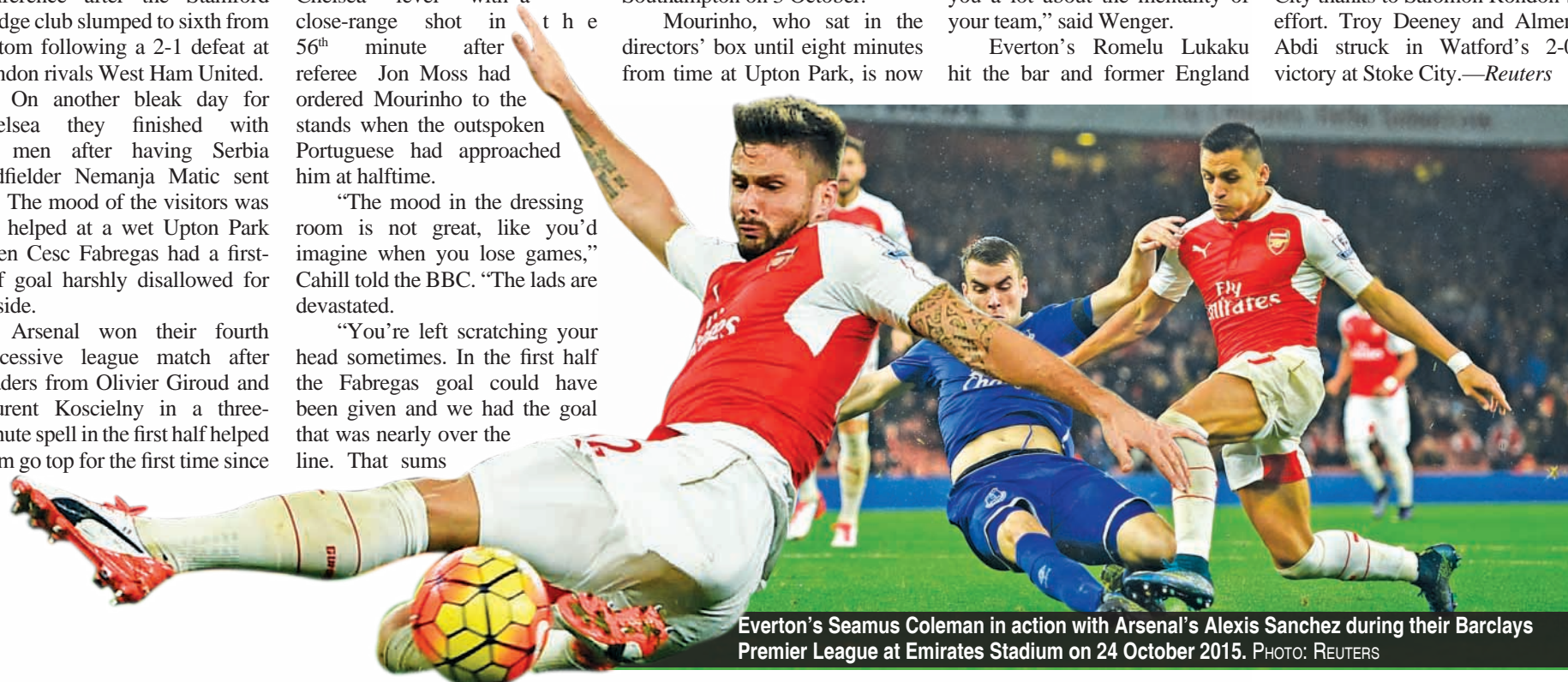
Everton's Romelu Lukaku hit the bar and former England

midfielder Gareth Barry was shown a late red card but Arsenal were good value for their win.

Ross Barkley was on target for Everton in the 44th minute.

Elsewhere, Leicester City beat Crystal Palace 1-0 to stay fifth with England striker Jamie Vardy scoring for the seventh successive league match.

Swansea City won 2-1 at struggling Aston Villa with goals from Gylfi Sigurdsson and Andre Ayew while West Bromwich Albion triumphed 1-0 at Norwich City thanks to Salomon Rondon's effort. Troy Deeney and Almen Abdi struck in Watford's 2-0 victory at Stoke City.—*Reuters*



Everton's Seamus Coleman in action with Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez during their Barclays Premier League at Emirates Stadium on 24 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS