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# JMC ADMINISTER TRUCE

## Monitoring mechanisms, strict boundaries can reduce fighting recurrence

Ye Myint

SETTING the exact boundaries of each side's territory and having monitoring mechanisms can reduce the risk of recurring conflict between the government and rebel ceasefire signatories by up to 80 percent said a programme director at the Myanmar Peace Centre yesterday.

Boundaries had been set with some groups earlier but with others it is going to start now, MPC's director Dr Min Zaw Oo told the media at a press conference after a Joint Monitoring Committee's first meeting at the centre in Yangon.

The mechanisms will allow both sides to deal with possible clashes during the transition period before the monitoring process comes into effect, added the director.

Formation of state-level and regional committees is included in the mechanisms said U Khunsau Jaryen, adviser to Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army, one of ceasefire signatories.

He reiterated the importance of public involvement in monitoring signatories to see whether they have fully adherence to the agreement.

According to the press con-



**Representatives from the government and eight ethnic armed groups applaud the conclusion of discussions. Agreed are post-ceasefire steps that must be adhered to until 30 days after the signing of the truce. PHOTO: YE MYINT**

ference the Union-level joint monitoring committee has been formed at the three-day meeting with Lt-Gen Yar Pyae appointed as chair-

man, Saw Isaac of Karen National Union as first vice-chairman, Dr Shwe Khar of Chin National Front and Col Wunna Aung as secretary-1.

The committee will be com-

prised of six civilian members, one of whom will serve as the second vice-chairman.

The second meeting is scheduled to take place after approval

for the agreement the two sides reached at the first meeting and from the second Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on 16 November in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Myanmar indexed by World Bank's Doing Business 2016 Report, improvements seen

THE World Bank released its Doing Business 2016 Report on Wednesday. The ten criteria listed in the report are applied to all economies in the world. The study contains quantitative measures of regulations for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, access to electricity and closing a business.

The World Bank be-

gan studying Myanmar and started published the country's place in its reports in 2013. Out of 189 countries Myanmar was ranked 182 in terms of ease of doing business according to the World Bank's Doing Business 2014 Report.

The country has climbed the World Bank's ranking for ease of doing business, moving from 182th out of 189 countries in last year's report to 167th in the new index released last Wednesday. Myanmar's achievements this year make it the sec-

ond most improved country in the world in this category.

The reason for the dramatic shift is the government's relaxing of rules and regulations for the registration of a company and changing the registration period for a new company from more than six months, which it was in the past, to just three days today.

The government's efforts were aimed at cultivating enterprise and initiative to stimulate business growth and market

confidence. The Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index has shown that Myanmar's place has climbed from 180 in 2011 to 172 in 2012, 157 in 2013 and 156 in 2014.

The yearly index is a recognised factor in regional economic planning and has real world consequences as reflected by the increased confidence in the Myanmar economy both domestically and abroad and in flowering regional trade relationships.

Maung Ti Kar

## Winners of Myanmar National Literature Award announced

THE National Literature Award Selection Committee under the Ministry of Information selected U Win Pe (MyaZin), U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Paw Tun) and U Ko Lay (Ko Lay-Inwa Gonyi) as Lifetime Achievement Award winners. The winners will receive a cash award of K2.5 million.

The committee also chose National Literary Award winners for 2014. The Myanmar National Literature Award for Fiction went to Sabei Phyu Nu and the same award for collected short stories

went to Kyu Hnit. The winners will get K 1.5 million each as their award.

The Sarpaybeikman Manuscript Selection Committee announced the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award. The first prize winners in each category will receive K 700,000, the first runners up, K 500,000 and the second runners up will receive K 300,000.

The awarding ceremony will be held on 12 December at the National Theatre in Yangon.—Myanmar News Agency

## Thailand's royal family donates Kathina robes to Members of the Sangha



The Royal family of Thailand holds annual ceremony to donate Kathina robes to Members of the Sangha. PHOTO: MNA

THE royal family of Thailand offered Kathina robes to Members of the Sangha in Yangon on Saturday.

The ceremony, held at the Naga Cave Monastery in Mayangon Township, was attended by 25 invited Members of the Sangha led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka, Committee Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Don Paramudwinal, representatives of Thailand's royal family

and the ambassador and staff of the Thai embassy in Yangon.

During the ceremony Union Minister U Soe Win expressed his delight at the annual donation from the royal family of Thailand, saying that he hoped the peoples of their two nations might become closer through the donation.

The royal family donated robes and K 40 million to the Members of the Sangha during the ceremony.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win opened a din-

ner to mark the Deepavali Day celebration in Myanmar.

At a dinner hosted by Myanmar-India Entrepreneurs' Association at the Strand Hotel in Yangon on Saturday Union Minister U Soe Win and Chairman of the association U Shwe lit oil lamps to open the ceremony.

He expressed his hope that the entrepreneurs of Myanmar and India would find business opportunities while following the teachings and maintaining a healthy mutual respect of Buddhism and Hinduism.—GNLM

## Thai Expo 2015 opens in Mandalay, 114 companies participate



Responsible personnel visit Thai Expo 2015 on opening day of the expo in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

THE Thai Expo 2015 began in Mandalay in the township of Chanayethasan's Diamond Plaza on Thursday. The Expo aims to strengthen the long term trade relationship between Myanmar and Thailand says Commercial attaché Mr.Chainarong Keratiyutwong of the Thai Embassy.

The commodities displayed at the exhibition included food stuff, beverages, consumer goods, cosmetics, Thai indigenous medicines, interior decorations, kitchen wares, clothing, footwear, electrical items, computers, stationary, sugarcane products and agricultural/indus-

trial goods which are produced by 114 companies of neighboring Thailand. The commodities were shown at 128 booths.

There were demonstrations of Thai cooking and fruit tastings at the event. The Expo ends on 1 November.—(ThihaKoKo - Mandalay)

## Commander-in-Chief meets service personnel of Myeik Station

WHICHEVER political system the country practices the main duty of the Tatmadaw is to carry out the service of national defence said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with service personnel of the Tatmadaw in Myeik Saturday.

The Tatmadaw is required to be maintained so that it can be relied upon by the people to

carry out the defence of the nation, he added.

At the meeting the Commander-in-Chief also expanded on his signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and the efforts needing to be made to maintain peace in Myanmar.

He presented books and food to the families of the members of the Myeik Station.—Myawady



Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to families of the member of the Myeik Station through a senior military officer. PHOTO: MYAWADY

## Mandalay District Election Commission demonstrates voting process

MANDALAY Region's township/ward/village election commissions were demonstrated the use of ballot booths and the voting process by the Mandalay District Election Commission at the Indoor Stadium of Bahtoo Sports Ground in Mandalay on Thursday.

Mandalay Region Election Commission Chairman U AungHtut, commission members, booth officials, civil observance organizations and voters attended the event.

The meeting demonstrated booth items and distribution standards, the process of hand-

ing out advanced votes, how to receive advanced votes, the opening and closing of ballot booths, the voters' voting process, dealing with valid and cancelled votes and the sealing of the vote counts.

Mandalay Region, home to about 4.4 million eligible voters, will accommodate 5384 ballot booths.

A total of 399 candidates from twenty different parties along with independents will be running in the 8 November General Elections, according to a region commission member.—(MaungPyithu-Mandalay)

# President sends messages of felicitations to Algeria

NAY PYI TAW — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and His Excellency Mr. Abdelmalek Sellal, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2015. — MNA

## Government aims for reform: President U Thein Sein

THE success in many sectors of reform measures is a product of the government's gradual and peaceful approach to change, President U Thein Sein informed locals in two townships of Taninthayi Region yesterday morning.

On his inspection tours of Dawei and Kawthaung townships the president met local people and explained the government's recovery efforts in disaster-affected areas across the country.

He claimed that the achievements made in areas such as economy, education, health, transport infrastructure, telecommunications, power and water supplies are to be attributed to the government's systematic management of political, economic, executive and private sector reform legislation.

He urged local people to ensure that the upcoming general

elections are carried out in a free and fair manner. The general election has been scheduled to be held on 8 November.

During the tours the president visited the Loka Mara Zein Pagoda in Dawei and the Pyitaw Aye Pagoda in Kawthaung. At the pagodas he offered flowers and water, lit oil lights and donated money through the boards of trustees. While in Kawthaung he looked at development projects and the landscaping of the hillock on which the Statue of King Bayintnaung stands.

During the trips President U Thein Sein was accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers U Soe Thane, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun, U Zeya Aung and Dr Than Aung. — Myanmar News Agency



President U Thein Sein pays respect to an elder woman during his tour of Myeik. PHOTO: MNA

## Myanmar Institute of Information Technology gets new building



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for photo together with faculty members and students at opening of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the opening ceremony of the new main building of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay on Saturday. The building was constructed under the friendship and technological cooperation program between India and Myanmar.

Also present were Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, various other region ministers, the ambassador of India to Myanmar, officials, faculty members and students.

Outstanding students made speeches to open the new six-story building.

The vice president unveiled the signboard and stone plaque of the building which includes an India-Myanmar friendship logo.

Afterwards the vice president and officials sprinkled scented water over the friendship monument and stone plaque of the building before inspecting the building and posing for photographs with

guests. In a speech later the vice president said that the building is an example of international friendship and technical cooperation.

The first computer science courses conducted at Yangon University and the Yangon Institute of Economics were in 1970, the vice president added.

In 2007, full universities of

computer science were established and Myanmar now has 27 such institutions. The vice president said that the highest degree courses in computer science like Ph.D (IT) and Ph.D (CHT) are being offered in Yangon and Mandalay and that doctorate degree holders are being produced here.

The universities are training graduates in information technology while the Information and Communication Technology Institute, established in cooperation with JICA in 2007 and the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills, was founded in 2008 in order to generate technicians.

The vice president added that the new building opened today is the result of long-term friendship and technical cooperation between India and Myanmar and that India provided lab equipment, teaching aids and technology. The vice president said that it is an opportunity to study international technologies at home as India will offer assistance to train instructors over the next five years.

A post graduate diploma student expressed thanks to close the ceremony. — Myanmar News Agency

# Raising funds for disaster victims through traditional entertainment

Comedians, actors coming together to make a difference in the lives of those affected

**Khaing Thanda Lwin**

A POPULAR Anyeint troupe comprised of local celebrities will begin entertaining in three towns in Australia to raise funds for the rehabilitation of flood-affected regions, organizer U Arkar Kyaw said.

The charity concert will be held in Australia early next year by the Hnin Si Yin Gwin Modern Performance Troupe which plans to stage the event at Bowan Hall in Sydney on 13 February, at Springvale Town Hall in Melbourne on 20 February and at Casa D' Abruzzo Club in Western Australia (WA) on 27 February.

"The comedians are likely to joke about current affairs and everyday life during their performances. It's a fun, light hearted vibe," said Director U Myo Min.

The overseas event will be directed by Mg Myo Min (Yin Twin

Phyit), and the famous actors Min Maw Kun, Nay Toe, Kyaw Kyaw Bo and Tun Tun who will perform comedy while actresses Phu Sone and May Kabyar will perform traditional dances. The troupe has been performing charity events every year since 2006. They established the Hnin Si Yin Gwin Social Support Foundation this year with the aim of helping people in need.

This is the second time the foundation has performed charity events for disaster victims. The troupe could potentially collect more than K300 million (US\$235,478) from its fundraising tour which will be spent directly on aid to victims of natural disaster in Myanmar.

Torrential monsoon rain during June and July this year caused floods and landslides across wide parts of the country leaving many people homeless and without basic services.



The celebrities will participate in the entertainment in Australia to raise funds for the rehabilitation of flood-affected regions. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

## Growers of asters in Tatkon Township enjoy demand

FARMERS growing monsoon asters in Changyi village of Tatkon Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are currently enjoying a boom. As the rainy season comes to an end and devotees pay homage to pagodas and monas-

teries during the Thadingyut Holidays asters are in demand to be offered for use in ceremony. The local people offer the colourful flowers to Buddha at their home shrines. The flowers are essential to every traditional offering. Vil-

lage aster grower U Naw Ni says that as some areas were inundated by flooding the locally grown asters are going for a good price. He added that weather this year in Tatkon has been good for growth. He revealed that by investing just

K500000 to grow an acre of asters he expects to reap a profit of three million kyat over the four-month flower growing season.

Cold season asters will be harvested over the coming months.—(Tin Soe Lwin IPRD)



Asters growers in Tatkon enjoy good income as the flowers are in high demand in the open season. PHOTO: (TIN SOE LWIN IPRD)

## Pyawbwe holds meeting on advanced voting and ballot collection

PYAWBWE Township and ward/village election commissions in Mandalay Region held a coordination meeting on Friday to address matters concerning ballot booths and advanced voting in preparation for the 8 November General Elections. The meeting was held at the township General Administration office.

The meeting focused on the process of disseminating advanced vote slips to voters, the building of booths and the distributing of ballot boxes, stationary and other items to the booths. The township will have a total of 291 voting booths. Township election commission chairman U Soe Myint and other members took account of the needs of the ward/village election commissions and answered various queries.—(Min Min Htwe -Pyawbwe)

## MNHRC inspects prisons and detention centres in Kawthaung and Myeik

A TEAM from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) comprising of Commission Members U Zaw Win and Dr Nyan Zaw visited prisons and detention centers in Kawthaung

and Myeik, Taninthayi Region from 6 to 10 October.

The team sent recommendations and suggestions to the Ministry of Home Affairs based on its findings and made a press re-

lease (No-14/2015) about the visit which was posted on its website [www.mnhrc.org.mm](http://www.mnhrc.org.mm).

Before visiting Kawthaung and Myeik in 2015 the MNHRC visited Insein Central Prison in

Yangon Region in March, prisons and detention centers in Sittway and Buthidaung townships in April, a prison in Monghsat, Shan State in May, Mandalay Central Prison and work station in Pathe-

ingyi Township, Mandalay in July and prisons and detention centers in Nawngkhio, Hsipaw and Lashio Townships in Shan State as well as the Thayawady Prison in Bago Region in August.—MNHRC

# Thousands of Filipinos beat last day of voters' registration for 2016 polls

MANILA — Thousands of Filipinos trooped Saturday to different local offices or designated places of the Commission on

Elections (Comelec) to beat the last day of the voters' registration for the 2016 synchronized national and local elections.

The different voters' registration sites were open until 9:00 pm to accommodate the last minute registrants.

Aside from the regular Comelec offices nationwide, the poll body also set up registration sites inside the malls and town plazas, among others.

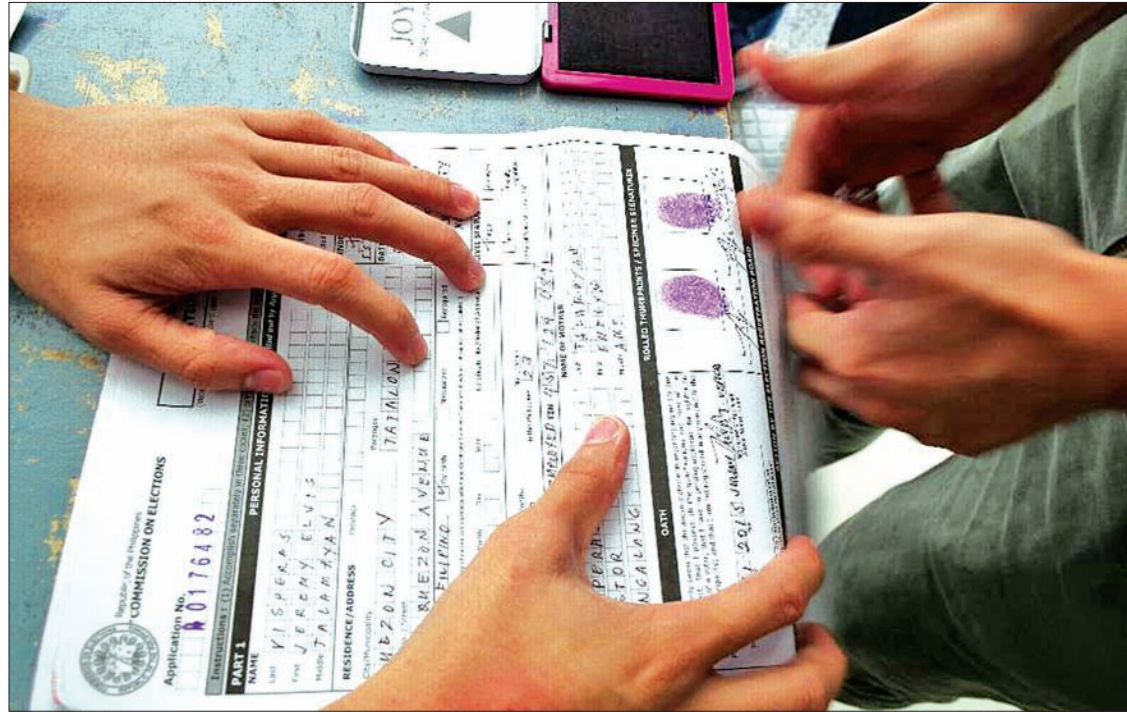
The Comelec is expecting up to 54 million registered voters for the automated elections in May 2016.

About 18,000 positions from president down to city and municipal councilors have to be filled up in the upcoming polls.

Earlier this month, those interested to run in the national and local posts filed their certificates of candidacy before the Comelec.

For the national posts alone, a total of 130 Filipinos filed their certificates of candidacy for president, 19 for vice president, and 172 for senator.

The poll body has until 10 December to declare the qualified candidates.—Xinhua



A man leaves his thumbmarks on his application for voter's registration for the coming 2016 national elections in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 31 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Cargo ship capsizes off Vietnam's HCM City, 5 missing

HO CHI MINH CITY — Five sailors were missing after a Vietnamese cargo ship capsized off Ho Chi Minh City coast Friday night, local media reported.

By Saturday morning, 11 sailors of Hoang Phuc 18 cargo ship, which capsized some 7 nautical miles from the coast of the city's Can Gio rural district, had been rescued, online newspaper Dan Tri (People's Intellectual Standard) reported.

Local frogmen were trying to extricate sailors still trapped inside the hull, but strong winds were hampering their efforts.

The 2,000-ton ship sailed from the southern Dong Nai Province on Wednesday.

Strong winds drove three excavators and trucks loaded on the ship to its starboard before a fierce wave made it capsize, local online newspaper VnExpress reported. At least two missing sailors were believed to be still alive, VnExpress quoted a rescue official as saying.—Xinhua

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## Nepal's two major parties vie for vice-presidential election

KATHMANDU — Nepal's two major parties have fielded candidacies in the vice-presidential election to be held on Saturday.

The largest party Nepali Congress registered the name of Amiya Kumar Yadav while the third largest party the UCPN (Maoist) fielded the name of Nanda Kishor Pun as their presi-

dential candidates at the Parliament, on Friday, officials told Xinhua.

According to the Parliament Secretariat, the vice-presidential election results will be made public on Saturday itself. The new vice-president will replace Mr. Paramanand Jha who was elected as country's first vice-president on 23 July, 2008.

UCPN (Maoist) candidate Pun is highly likely to become the Himalayan country's second vice-president as he is backed by the ruling parties which hold the majority seats in the Parliament, political observers in Kathmandu said.

Mr. Pun, who is currently a standing committee member of the UCPN (Maoist), played a key

role as the deputy commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) during a ten-year-long civil war between the state and the Maoists party that ended in 2006.

Nepal is going to elect the second vice-president after it became federal democratic republic in 2008 ending a 240-year monarchy.—Xinhua

## India eyes bankruptcy reform to ease decades of gridlock

MUMBAI — A group of government-appointed advisors has recommended sweeping changes to India's outdated and overburdened bankruptcy system, aiming to modernise a process that takes several years and costs investors and taxpayers billions.

The changes would be the most ambitious overhaul to date of rules governing the liquidation or revival of companies in India, a country with no single bankruptcy code and where competing laws, unclear jurisdictions and inadequate resources can leave cases languishing for decades.

The proposals, to be handed to the Finance Ministry as early as Monday, will impose deadlines for the first time and establish a network of insolvency professionals to lighten courts' workload and tackle delays, T.K. Viswanathan, chairman of the

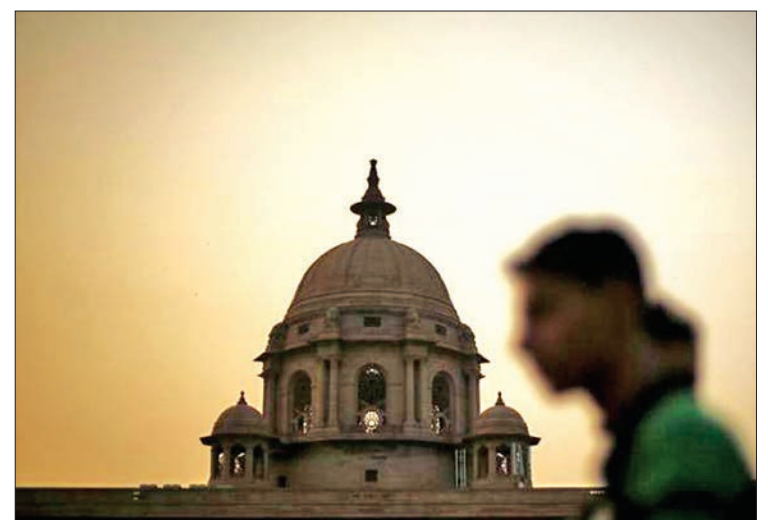
Bankruptcy Law Reform Committee, told Reuters.

Under current rules, even deciding whether to save or liquidate an ailing company can take years, leaving it in the hands of managers who can — and do — strip assets with impunity. Under the proposed changes, a decision would have to be reached in 180 days — even 90 days for fast-track applications, Viswanathan said.

"The whole essence of our exercise is that everything is done within time," he said.

Foreign and domestic investors say the difficulty in exiting ventures can deter them from entering.

Cases such as the protracted collapse of liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya's Kingfisher Airline empire have burnt investors. The airline was grounded in 2012



A commuter walks past the building of Ministry of Finance during dusk in New Delhi. PHOTO: REUTERS

with some \$1.5 billion in debt and its shares are now worthless, but creditor banks seized his former Mumbai headquarters only this year. The fate of his Goan villa is stuck in a prolonged court tussle.

India ranks 130 out of 189 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report, below Lesotho

and Cameroon, not least because of its poor performance in resolving insolvency.

The World Bank says it takes 4.3 years on average, more than twice as long as in China, with an average recovery of 25.7 cents on the dollar, one of the worst among similar size economies.—Reuters

# Russian airliner with 224 aboard crashes in Egypt's Sinai Region

CAIRO — A Russian airliner carrying 224 passengers and crew crashed in Egypt's Sinai peninsula on Saturday, and a security officer at the scene said most passengers appeared to have been killed.

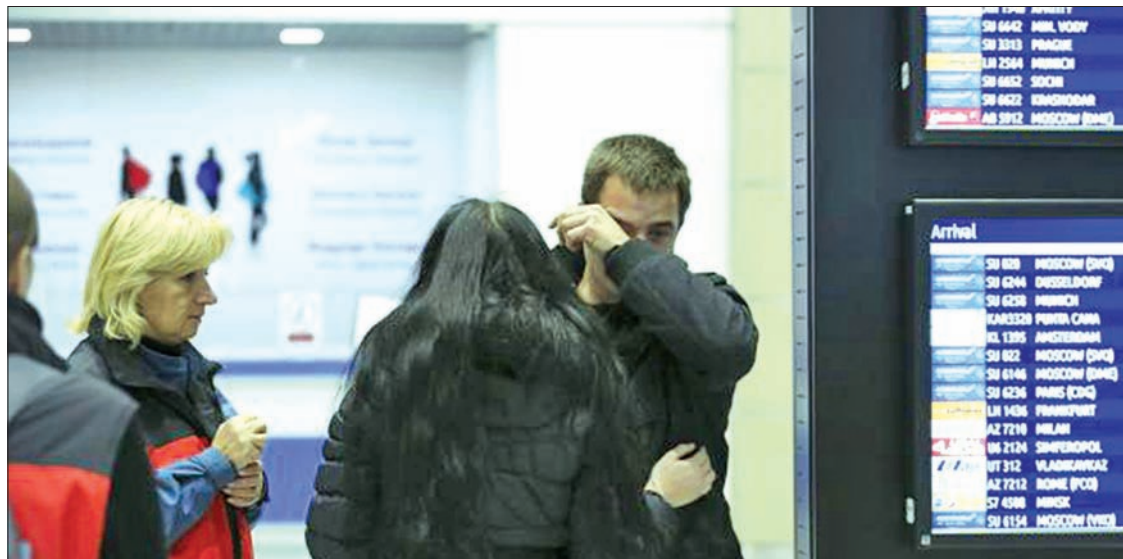
The Airbus A321, operated by Russian airline Kogalymavia under the brand name Metrojet, was flying from the Sinai Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to St Petersburg in Russia when it went down in a desolate mountainous area of central Sinai soon after daybreak, the aviation ministry said.

An authoritative Sweden-based aviation tracking service said the aircraft, having made an apparently smooth take off, lurched into a rapid descent shortly after approaching cruising altitude.

"I now see a tragic scene," an Egyptian security officer at the scene told Reuters by telephone. "A lot of dead on the ground and many who died whilst strapped to their seats."

"The plane split into two, a small part on the tail end that burned and a larger part that crashed into a rock. We have extracted at least 100 bodies and the rest are still inside," the officer, who requested anonymity, said.

Sinai is the scene of an insurgency by militants close to Islamic State, who have killed hundreds of



A man reacts next to Russian Emergencies Ministry members at Pulkovo airport in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 31 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Egyptian soldiers and police and have also attacked Western targets in recent months.

Russia, an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, launched air raids against opposition groups in Syria including Islamic State on 30 September.

Civil Aviation Minister Mohamed Hossam Kemal was quoted in a cabinet statement as saying it was too soon to determine the cause of the crash. Security sources said there was no indication the Airbus had been shot down or blown up.

Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail was heading to the crash site in the Hassana area 35 km (22 miles) south of the Sinai Mediterranean coastal city of Al Arish with several cabinet ministers on a private jet, the tourism ministry said.

Russian television showed film of anxious relatives and friends waiting for information at St. Petersburg's Pulkovo airport. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a day of national mourning for Sunday.

The A321 is a 185-seat me-

dium-haul jet in service since 1994, with over 1,100 in operation worldwide and a good safety record. It is a highly automated aircraft relying on computers to help pilots stay within safe flying limits.

Saturday's crash is the second fatal accident involving this variant of the A320 jetliner family, according to data from the Flight Safety Foundation.

Airbus said it had no independent information on the crash and declined to comment on the aircraft involved.

Emergency services and aviation specialists quickly began an inspection of the wreckage for any patterns of damage that could point to the cause. One of two flight recorders was quickly found, but wreckage was scattered over a wide area.

The security officer said 120 intact bodies had been found.

"We are hearing a lot of telephones ringing, most likely belonging to the victims, and security forces are collecting them and putting them into a bag," he said.

The aircraft took off at 5:51 am Cairo Time (0451 BST) and disappeared from radar screens 23 minutes later, Egypt's Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement. It was at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 metres) when it vanished from radar screens.

Accidents at cruising altitude are one of the rarest categories of accidents but also among the most deadly, accounting for 13 percent of fatal incidents but 27 percent of fatalities since 2005, according to Boeing.

According to FlightRadar24, an authoritative Sweden-based flight tracking service, the aircraft was descending rapidly at about 6,000 (2,000 metres) feet per minute before the signal was lost to air traffic control.—Reuters

## SW China earthquake damages over 12,000 homes



Rescuers prepare to go to quake-hit Changning County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

KUNMING — Over 12,000 houses have sustained varying levels of damage after a 5.1-magnitude earthquake hit the small town of Datianba in southwest China's Yunnan Province, the local civil affairs department said Saturday.

The earthquake happened at 7:26 p.m. on Friday in Changning County under Baoshan City at a depth of 10 kilometres. No casualties have been reported.

According to the provincial civil affairs department, 856 people were forced to evacuate, while 168 houses collapsed and over 12,000 were damaged.

Villager Yang Wenxue was at home when the quake struck. The walls of his bedroom cracked.—Xinhua

## 22 Thai villagers found aged over 100 years

BANGKOK — Twenty-two villagers in northern Thailand have been found aged over 100 years, a government official said on Friday. The centenarians, including 18 females and four males, are all residents of the same province, Uttaradit, according to Upaiporn Mahanil of the Social Development & Human Security Ministry, who recently conducted a demographic survey.

They live with their families in several districts of Uttaradit province and are known as permanent vegans, who apparently prefer boiled vegetables with spicy dips.

Many are seen tending to daily routines and walking about without a cane or help from others, the official said.

The oldest one, a female named Wan Rodsook, is now 108 years old while one other, a 107-year-old, has more than 100 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom currently reside in the northern province.

They are among four of the centenarians who have lived since the time of King Rama V the Great.—Xinhua

## Pakistan collects earthquake damages data

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani officials said on Friday that survey teams are busy gathering data of damages in areas affected by Monday's powerful earthquake.

The earthquake mostly affected the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and its adjoining tribal regions.

Information Minister Perwaiz Rashid and Chairman of National Disaster Management

Authority Major General Asghar Nawaz told a joint press conference in Islamabad that hundreds of teams have been deputed to expedite the work.

They said the teams consist of representatives of army, local government and district administration.

The federal and provincial governments have also announced relief package for the affected people. Nawaz said

eight helicopters, three C-130s and two Fokker aircraft are engaged in relief activities.

Three relief camps and 27 distribution points have jointly been established by army and district administration in the affected areas.

The Foreign Ministry said on Friday that the government has no plan to seek foreign aid and will carry out relief activities through own resources.

"Let me say that a number of countries and the UN have offered assistance in the wake of 26 October earthquake. We are grateful for this expression of support and solidarity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said.

"The government is responding effectively to the situation, through its own resources," he said at his weekly briefing.—Xinhua

## US to send special forces to Syria, truce sought after peace talks

VIENNA — The United States disclosed plans on Friday to station its first ground troops in Syria for the war against Islamic State, saying dozens of US soldiers would be sent as advisers to groups fighting the militants.

Washington announced the small special operations force shortly before 17 countries, the European Union and the United Nations called for a nationwide truce in Syria's civil war at talks in Vienna, attended for the first time since the conflict began in 2011 by President Bashar al-Assad's ally Iran.

The United States said it would deploy fewer than 50 troops to northern Syria beginning in the coming weeks in an open-ended mission. Officials said the forces were not meant for front-line combat.

The participants in Vienna, including the United States and Russia, said "substantial differences remain" though they agreed it was "imperative to accelerate all diplomatic efforts to end the war" and the ministers will reconvene within two weeks.

In a rare hint of diplomatic progress, Iran signalled it would back a six-month political transition period in Syria followed by elections to decide Assad's fate, although his foes rejected the proposal as a trick to keep Assad in power.

In addition to Assad's fate, on which delegates said no breakthrough had been expected, sticking points have long included the question of which rebel groups should be considered terrorists and who should be involved in the



Rebel fighters aim their weapons as they demonstrate their skills during a military display as part of a graduation ceremony at a camp in eastern al-Ghouta, near Damascus, Syria. PHOTO: REUTERS

political process.

In Washington, US officials said the small special forces contingent in Syria would work with local "moderate rebel" groups to fight against Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, and that it should not be considered a combat mission.

"The president has been quite clear that there is no military solution to the problems that are plaguing Iraq and Syria. There is a diplomatic one," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in Washington.

Earnest said the special forces' mission would be to "train, advise and assist" local groups, adding: "I think if we were envisioning a combat operation, we probably would be contemplating more than 50 troops on the ground."

In Alaska, US Defence Secretary Ash Carter told reporters, "Our role fundamentally and the

strategy is to enable local forces, but does that put US forces in harm's way? It does, no question about it."

Carter did not rule out further special forces deployments to Syria if the initial one is successful.

Islamic State has seized swathes of eastern Syria and northern Iraq and proclaimed a caliphate to rule all Muslims.

The United States has conducted a bombing campaign against Islamic State targets in Syria since September 2014. But the deployment of even a small number of ground troops marks a significant change in Syria policy for President Barack Obama, who has been averse to committing troops to Middle East wars.

For example, Obama said in a nationally televised address in September 2013: "I will not put American boots on the ground in Syria."—Reuters

## Osborne to take EU reform push to Berlin next week

YORK — Britain's Chancellor will outline how he wants to protect London's financial services industry in a reformed European Union when he travels to Germany next week.

Prime Minister David Cameron is trying to convince other EU leaders to agree to changes in the way the 28-country bloc is run ahead of Britain's in-out membership referendum which is due to be held by the end of 2017.

"We are now starting to negotiate directly with our colleagues in Europe through the European Council and setting out more detail of what we think is required," Chancellor George Osborne said on Friday in the English city of York.

Osborne said that in Berlin he would add details of how the British government hopes to achieve its twin aims of addressing the concerns of voters at home about the relationship with Europe, whilst convincing European peers that British-led reforms will improve the bloc.

Polls show British voters are largely split on whether to leave the bloc, with a small majority currently saying they would vote to stay a member.

In talks with his German counterpart Wolfgang Schaeuble, Osborne, one of Cameron's lead negotiators

in Europe, is expected to explain Britain's fears that ever-closer integration of the euro zone could leave London sidelined in financial policymaking, affecting its banking sector.

Protection for states in the EU but outside the 19-member single currency area is a key priority for Britain, whose financial services industry accounts for around 8 percent of the economy.

*The Financial Times*, citing unnamed European ministers and officials, reported that Britain is seeking an "emergency brake" to allow countries which are in the EU but outside the euro zone to delay decisions that could threaten their interests.

Cameron has sought to defuse frustration among fellow EU leaders over a lack of detail on his demands for new EU membership terms by promising to send them his wish-list in writing in early November.

Cameron's spokeswoman said on Friday that a letter outlining the reform plans is likely to be sent in the week commencing 9 November.

When asked about the possible timing of the vote, Osborne said: "We will hold the referendum when we have a deal we can recommend to the British people."—Reuters

## Germany's ability to act on migrants threatened, Merkel deputy says

BERLIN — German's Social Democrat vice chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel, warned on Friday that a dispute among the conservatives over how to handle record inflows of migrants into the country was jeopardising the government's ability to act.

Merkel and Horst Seehofer,

the leader of her Bavarian sister party, have frequently clashed over how Germany should deal with the estimated 800,000 to 1 million it expects this year, many of them from war zones in the Middle East. Merkel, the leader of the Christian Democrats (CDU), has favoured an open-door policy

and says Germany can cope.

Seehofer, head of the Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria, the entry point in Germany for many of the migrants, has said the existence of the conservative bloc was at stake if she did not "correct" her asylum policy.

Gabriel, leader of the Social

Democrats, the junior partner in the ruling coalition, said in an interview with Spiegel Online that the conservative parties were acting "irresponsibly" and creating even more uncertainty among the population as concerns mount that Germany cannot deal with the new arrivals.

"Given the big challenge our country is facing due to strong immigration of refugees, the dispute between the CDU and CSU is now threatening the ability of the government to act," he said. He cited no examples of government work being held up.

"The longer the dispute in the conservative bloc lasts, the more people will turn away from politics and the more ground the right-wing radicals will gain," Gabriel, who is also Germany's economy minister, said. In a development that could help control the flow of refugees into Germany, Thomas Kreuzer, head of the CSU in Bavaria's regional parliament, said Germany and Austria had agreed on a procedure to deal with those

new arrivals coming into the southern state. Under the agreement, 50 refugees per hour could cross into Bavaria at five agreed border crossing points, he said.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere earlier this week called Austria's recent handling of refugees "out of order" as "refugees, without warning and after dark, were being driven to the German border", he said.

The conservatives have declined in opinion polls in recent weeks, with a Forsa poll showing them dipping two points to 36 percent support, their lowest level in three years. Recent surveys have shown the right-wing anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) gaining support.

Earlier this week, Bavarian Finance Minister Markus Soeder said the relationship between the CDU and CSU was going through its trickiest patch since 1976, when there was a major fight between former party leaders Helmut Kohl and Franz-Josef Strauss.—Reuters



Migrants are cleared by German police officers after crossing the Austrian-German border from Achleiten, Austria, in Passau, Germany, on 29 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## OPINION

## No more boys like Jack, please!

Kyaw Thura

It is not hard to imagine why most children, if not all, hate to go to school although they might be too timid to admit so directly. This should not be taken as a small matter. Unfortunately, children are starting to feel that going to school is an unavoidable mandate from their parents and society. What is intimidating them? What so turns them off the idea of learning?

The sight of children carrying a lot of books in their backpacks has become commonplace these days. Whilst people might think that many books equals a lot of knowledge there is a lack of stimulation in heavy textbooks and a strong missing element of the mas-

ter-student relationship. You can't have an interesting conversation with a book, children know that much.

Forcing children to interact only with their books, having them write out times tables and mathematical sums endlessly to rope learn the basic principles is a heavy handed, dull way of teaching children. It sucks the joy out of education – it drains the passion from students. They no longer want to learn, which is a natural state of being for all children until they feel their curiosity blunted by bland, one sided teaching.

Naturally, children want their parents and teachers alike to satisfy their curiosity about the world and the materials and ideas that they are exposed to at school. The driving passion to learn about everything around us will naturally fade somewhat when we enter adulthood, but it doesn't have to fall silent – familiarity breeds contempt. We ought to, as adults, challenge ourselves to seek knowledge from both the familiar and the unfamiliar. Our world is as interesting and as varied as we allow it to be.

It is important for caretakers to understand that curiosity is natural, whereas admonishment for that action

is abnormal. Typically, children love to ask questions, solve problems in their own way and express ideas. Being stopped from doing so often enough will cause feelings of marginalisation and, in the worst cases, a slow slide into depression. It fosters the thought that our opinions and thoughts and feelings do not matter in the broader scheme — the text book stays silent on those sorts of questions.

It is therefore important for all of us to respect their right to play, explore and learn. The oft-quoted saying "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" perfectly encapsulates the problem we face.

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## Thank you for the memories

Myo Myint

IN Myanmar, Thadingkyut, or the end of the Buddhist Rains Retreat is celebrated with a three days of festivities when pagodas, streets and houses are decorated with multicoloured lights, lanterns, candles and oil lamps. The Full Moon Day of Thadingkyut has much religious significance to the people of Myanmar. It marks the end of Lent and commemorates the day when the Buddha preached the Abidhamma Pitika, or the higher doctrine, to His mother, who was reborn as a deva in the celestial abode of Tushita and to thousands of other devas as expression of gratitude to His mother who died soon after giving birth to Him. Hence, Thadingkyut also serves as an occasion to acknowledge the debt we owe to our parents, elderly relatives, teachers, superiors and other benefactors. It is also a time to ask for forgiveness for past transgresses, to express one's gratitude, to share memories, to reconnect with elders we have not visited for a long time, and to connect members of the old generation with the new generation of children of relatives, colleagues

and former students.

For those who have served as teachers, it is the time for seeing the harvests of the uncountable crops they have sown and nurtured throughout their career as teachers when their students, past and present, come to pay respect to them. It is a time when elderly, middle aged and young persons become children and teenagers again as they sit before their former teachers and together they take a stroll along memory lane and recall the joys and tribulations of being students and youths. The former students are surprised at how much of their antics and naughtiness, their strength and weaknesses, and their failures and successes their teachers remember. On their part, the teachers are astonished to find the monkey of the class become a staid businessman, the mouse of his batch become a senior administrator, the peahen of the class, always preening herself, become a teacher like themselves, and the Romeo of the class settled with a wife and three children. The teachers are also amazed at how much their former students still remember, some after many decades, the advice and scolding they have given, as well as the

slips of the tongue, and the blunders that they and their colleagues have made, and the mishaps they have experienced – forgetting what they are saying in the middle of a sentence, falling off the stage while writing on the board, false buns coming undone, contact lenses popping out, being seen by their students at the Inya bund or the cinema with one's intended, etc., etc. But, they are also most gratified to note that their former students, some who have become successful entrepreneurs, senior officials, company executives, social workers, teachers like themselves, owners of prestigious schools, and some toughened by the trials and tribulations of life, still listen with respect and attention to their admonitions and advice, even though their former students know much more about the challenges and trickeries of the contemporary world than themselves. They also appreciate the attention and the generous gifts showered on them by their former students, even though it may be just once a year, and proudly boast to friends, relatives and neighbours about how fortunate it is, to have served as a teacher. Technology has also been put to

service in Thadingkyut to pay respect to teachers. For those teachers who own mobile phones, former students in other towns and countries, post messages of remembrance and good wishes. On this day, teachers also remember the unfortunate ones and the black sheep among their students – those who failed to complete their education due to their own fault, or due to family problems, those who have become immoral due to bad company, those who have passed away early in life, and those who are facing life's many challenges. While blessing those who visited them, those unable to turn up are also included in their blessing.

For the former students, who individually or in groups, visit their old teachers at Thadingkyut, it is a time of happiness as well as sadness, as with the passing of each year, they note the steady decline in their teachers. Their once eagle-eyed teacher who noticed their every move in class now, could recognize them only when they are just a few feet away. Their teacher who could hear every whisper in the classroom now could only hear them when they shout out what they want to say. Their primary teacher who once ran after them at break time to prevent them from hurting themselves could now hardly walk a few steps. Their teacher, who when they were students could teach

non-stop the whole day, now has a hard time speaking coherently. Every year, they continue to learn lessons from their teachers that the once powerful figures of authority, dependability and security in their early life are also vulnerable to age and ill health.

As we retired teachers celebrate another Thadingkyut, on behalf of the many teachers, the very old, the slightly old, and the still youthful, I thank the thousands of students for the memories we treasure, some sweet, some bitter-sweet, and some lesson giving, but always heart-warming. Your visit to us on this day, whether you bear a small gift of a dozen oranges, or a large sum of money matters little for many of us. What matter are the kind thoughts and the comforting words you bring that we have made a difference in your life, and that together with your parents we have helped you to be strong in body and mind, and provided you the knowledge and the life and professional skills that you now use to boldly face the many challenges in life, and that you will remember us even beyond the day we will no longer be with you to celebrate Thadingkyut, make us feel that all the time that we have given, and the many personal sacrifices that we made as teachers have been worth it!

## Deputy Minister attends International Buddhist cultural conference in Bangladesh

THE Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr. Tin Shwe and his party attended an international conference on Developing Sustainable and Inclusive Buddhist Heritage and Pilgrimage Circuits in South Asia's Buddhist Heartland on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The conference was held in the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was organised by the Bangladesh Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in collaboration with United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The objectives of the conference was to bring all actors and stakeholders together in an open dialogue to discuss prominent issues and set directions for the sustainable development and promotion of cross border Buddhist tourism circuits and routes in South Asia and the Asia Pacific, according to a conference statement.

During the conference director Daw KhinThan Win discussed the promotion of Pilgrimage tourism and travel within the Greater Mekong region and collaboration between government and private sectors.—Myanmar News Agency



Deputy Minister Dr Tin Shwe delivers an address at International Buddhist cultural conference in Bangladesh. PHOTO: MNA



# Bowling is harmless

*Right Track Lanes offers Yangon residents more than one way to have a good time.*

**Jacob Goldberg**

**A**UNG MYO, the director of Right Track Lanes, one of Yangon's two bowling alleys, doesn't care about profits. He doesn't do any marketing. Some days, the bowling alley stays empty all day, without a single customer. Aung Myo is also unconcerned about aesthetics; the linoleum that used to cover the floors of his establishment has mostly peeled back, revealing the concrete beneath. These are the marks of a man for whom bowling is not a livelihood, but a passion.

Right Track Lanes came under Aung Myo's leadership unexpectedly. The bowling alley was opened by a group of South Korean investors who partnered with the Myanmar government in 1999 with the aim to give civil servants a place to bowl.

Aung Myo's parents owned the trucking company the Koreans hired to move machinery into the alley. The investors asked Aung Myo, who had never bowled before, to be their assistant. From that moment, Aung Myo began learning the ins and outs of running a bowling alley. He also spent two years in Seoul, ultimately mastering the roles of technician, mechanic and electrician. When the government realised Aung Myo could run the place himself, they ended their partnership with the South Korean investors, three of whom Aung Myo says were making US\$3,000 per month, and appointed Aung Myo to take their place.

Aung Myo also mastered bowling during his time at Right Track, or at least enough to serve as the coach of Myanmar's bowling teams, the Special Olympics men's and women's teams. He and the Myanmar women's team won silver medals at the Special Olympics in Australia

in 2013, and two of his players won bronze medals at the SEA Games that same year. They all practice at Right Track Lanes on Saturday mornings.

But bowling is still not popular in Myanmar, Aung Myo said in an interview with *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

"Myanmar people don't want to pay 2,000 kyats for a round of bowling. They want to go to the KTV," he said.

So he doesn't try very hard to attract new players. For those who don't already know about the place, the only evidence of Right Track's existence is an oversized bowling pin on a two-metre pedestal on an otherwise nondescript section of Lay Daung Kan Road in Tamwe Township. The pin leads curious potential bowlers down a long, shaded lane that ends in a clearing surrounded by trees. The only building in the clearing is Right Track Lanes.

"I would like to see a busy night every night," Aung Myo said. "I also like seeing foreigners here."

Rather than renting out shoes and charging more for games, Right Track Aung Myo has designed Right Track to serve as a venue for people who know what they're looking for. Serious bowlers can come in and play a serious game, but the alley also serves cheap Myanmar Beer and plays top-40 pop songs for those looking for a more social experience, both of which Aung Myo takes pride in.

"Bowling is an indoor game, which is good for Myanmar. It also allows many people to play at the same time. And it doesn't cause tension. People can have conversations, drink beer and relax. It's harmless," he said.

Right Track Lanes is open every day from 9am to 10pm, and it usually stays open later for people who are having a good time.



Yangon residents enjoy a night of bowling and socialising. PHOTO: JACOB GOLDBERG



Right Track Lanes director Aung Myo. PHOTO: JACOB GOLDBERG

# Palestinian wielding knife shot dead: Israeli police

JERUSALEM — Israeli security forces shot and killed a Palestinian who ran at them with a knife in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, police said, as a month-long wave of violence showed no signs of abating.

An Israeli police spokeswoman said that at a checkpoint in the northern West Bank a Palestinian holding a knife ran toward a security officer who called on him to stop.

“When he did not heed those calls the security man shot toward him in order to neutralise him and as a result the terrorist was killed,” spokeswoman Luba Samri said. Palestinian medical officials said he was 18-years-old.

This month’s surge in violence, the worst since the 2014 Gaza war, arose in part from religious and political tensions over the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem’s walled Old City that is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

A growing number of visits by religious Jews to the al-Aqsa

plaza — Islam’s holiest site outside Saudi Arabia and revered in Judaism as the location of two destroyed biblical temples — have stirred Palestinian allegations that Israel is violating a “status quo” under which non-Muslim prayer there is banned.

Israel says such allegations are false and that their voicing by Palestinian officials and circulation in Arab social media has been inciting the violence.

Since the latest unrest began on 1 October, at least 65 Palestinians have been shot dead by Israelis. Of those, 38 were assailants armed mainly with knives, Israel said, while others were shot during violent anti-Israel protests. Many were teens. Eleven Israelis have been killed in stabbings and shootings. Many Palestinians are also frustrated by the failure of numerous rounds of peace talks to secure them an independent state in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East War.

On Friday the Palestinian Health Ministry said an eight-month-old baby had died in the West Bank as result of inhaling tear gas fired by the Israeli military in the area. Hospital officials told Reuters the infant had a prior health condition and that it was unclear what had caused his death.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said the army was looking into the incident.

Palestinians say Israeli police and soldiers are using excessive force, while Israel says lethal force is justified against deadly threats.

On Saturday Israeli police said it had looked into footage which has surfaced on social media, appearing to show a paramilitary police officer shooting a wounded Palestinian lying on the ground, after he had carried out a stabbing attack in the West Bank city of Hebron on Thursday. Reuters was unable to independently verify the video.

A police statement said the



A Palestinian medic reacts after after he was pepper sprayed by an Israeli soldier during clashes near the Jewish settlement of Bet El, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, on 30 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Palestinian had just stabbed a soldier and that the officer seen in the footage told him not to move. When he appeared to be moving toward him, the officer concluded the man could still be a threat, possibly strapping an explosive device or carrying another weapon and shot him again.

In a separate incident, an Israeli paramilitary police officer was suspended from duty, Israeli Border Police said, after he had driven through a West Bank refugee camp and over loudspeakers said: “If you keep throwing stones at us we will shoot gas at you until you die.”—Reuters

## Saudi says Assad, Iran-backed foreign forces must quit Syria

RIYADH — Russia and Iran must agree to a date and means for Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad to quit the country, and agree to withdraw all foreign forces from Syria, Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said in an interview with Sky News Arabia broadcast on Saturday.

Arch regional competitors Saudi Arabia and Iran, whose rivalry has been aggravated by their support for opposing sides in Syria, both took part in talks to find a peaceful solution for the country for the first time in Vienna on Friday. Jubeir said in the interview the Vienna talks, which will resume within two weeks, would show how serious Assad and his backers Iran and Russia were in seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis.

“Our two points where we differ from them are on a date and means for Assad’s departure, and the second point is on a date and means for the withdrawal of foreign forces, especially Irani-



Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Adel Ahmed Al-Jubeir. PHOTO: REUTERS

an ones. These are the two basic points without which there can be no solution,” he said.

Assad and Iran accuse Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies of being behind terrorism in Syria through their backing of rebel groups. Those countries say they only arm and finance secular or moderate Is-

lamist rebel groups.

Saudi Arabia has characterized Assad’s use of air power and artillery in Syrian cities as genocidal and has described the presence of Iranian military forces and Shi’ite Muslim Iraqi and Lebanese militia in Syria as a foreign occupation.—Reuters

## German UN official set to take up Libya post: diplomats

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council on Friday approved the appointment of German UN official Martin Kobler as the new UN special envoy to Libya, said diplomats, though it was unclear when he would take over mediating stalled peace talks.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon notified the 15-member council in a letter, seen by Reuters, of his intention to replace the current envoy Bernardino Leon with Kobler. But the letter did not

specify when Kobler would take up the role.

A senior UN diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Leon was currently due to leave on 6 November, but that could be extended if there was a sudden breakthrough in his mediating efforts.

Libya has fallen into turmoil with its internationally recognised government and elected parliament on one side and a self-styled administration holding Tripoli on the other, each backed by re-

gional, tribal or Islamist armed factions. After months of negotiations, Leon has presented Libya’s rival factions with a proposed national unity government, but hardliners on both sides have resisted the power-sharing deal and talks are at a standstill.

The conflict has pushed the North African state to the brink of collapse four years after the fall of longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi. The chaos has allowed Islamic State militants to gain a foothold in the country.—Reuters

## UN causes food-poisoning with deliveries of old, ‘mouldy’ biscuits to Syria, says rights body

ANKARA — The United Nations sent hundreds of boxes of “mouldy” high-energy biscuits that were past their ‘sell-by’ date to besieged people in Syria this month, causing widespread food poisoning, according to a humanitarian watchdog on Friday.

The UN, which has gone to great lengths to get aid and supplies to 4.6 million Syrians living in hard-to-reach areas, helped trucks loaded with humanitarian aid reach the towns of Madaya and Zabadani near the Lebanese border earlier this month.

According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, consignments of biscuits that were delivered had passed their ‘sell-by’ date in September and could be the only cause of an outbreak of food poisoning among almost

200 residents who came to makeshift hospitals. The biscuits were “mouldy and rotten” and had been poorly stored, the watchdog said in an online report.

In a statement, the UN said 320 out of 650 boxes of the biscuits sent to Zabadani and Madaya as part of a relief convoy on 18 October had expired in September but denied that eating them posed a threat to health.

“We can confirm that this was the result of an unfortunate human error during the loading process,” said Yacoub El Hillo, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria.

He added that UN workers and humanitarian partners in Syria were “taking the issue very seriously and working to immediately rectify the situation.”—Reuters



United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Chief and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O’Brien waves to a Syrian refugee boy as he leaves after a visit to a makeshift settlement in Saadnayel in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Australia to review vehicle emissions testing after VW scandal

PERTH — Australia will review its standards and testing procedures for vehicle emissions, the government said on Saturday, after media reports said the recent scandal involving Volkswagen cars highlighted the country's relatively lax standards.

In a joint statement, the environment, major projects and energy ministers said they would set up a working group aimed at reducing harmful vehicle emissions and increasing fuel efficiency in cars sold in Australia.

The move comes after media

reports following the Volkswagen scandal said Australia's standards for vehicle emissions were lower than in other developed nations, largely due to attempts to cut costs for the local car manufacturing industry which has been unable to compete with imports and will cease production entirely in 2017.

Volkswagen is embroiled in a global recall scandal after tests showed that thousands of vehicles had been fitted with devices designed to mask the level of emissions.—Reuters

## Google sued by express delivery driver seeking wages

SAN FRANCISCO — A driver for Google's same day delivery service filed a proposed class action lawsuit against the company on Friday, alleging it improperly classified her as an independent contractor and owes expenses.

The case, filed in a Massachusetts state court, comes days after Amazon Prime Now drivers filed a similar lawsuit against Amazon.com Inc in California.

The level of benefits owed to workers in the on-demand economy has been the subject of litigation in the courts, and debate in the US presidential race.

Like drivers in the Amazon case, Google Express driver Anna Coorey said in her lawsuit that she was hired by an intermediary courier service but is required to

work only for Google during her shift. Drivers wear Google Express uniforms and are required to accept every delivery assigned to them during each shift, the lawsuit said.

That makes drivers employees under Massachusetts state law, attorneys for Coorey argue, who should be paid overtime and other expenses.

A Google spokesman could not immediately comment on the lawsuit.

Ride services Uber and Lyft face similar lawsuits from drivers, brought by the same law firm which filed the case against Google on Friday. The case in Suffolk County Superior Court is Anna Coorey vs. Google Inc and Beavex Inc.—Reuters

## Cyber security stocks to rise following Talk hack attack

LONDON — The hacking scandal at broadband provider TalkTalk has heightened interest in stocks and companies dealing in cyber security, with some fund managers betting on more growth in the sector.

British police said on Friday that they had arrested a second teenager in connection with the breach at TalkTalk, which may have led to the theft of personal data from among the company's more than 4 million customers.

TalkTalk was not the first such incident, but traders and investors said it should re-ignite interest in companies offering protection against hack attacks.

Market research firm Gartner has estimated that global spending on IT security is set to increase 8.2 percent in 2015 to \$77 billion. Corporations around the world will spend \$101 billion on information security in 2018, Gartner says.

That has caught the attention of financial markets. The ISPY exchange-traded-fund, which lets investors hold a basket of cyber security stocks — such as Cisco Systems and Sophos Group — has risen around 3 percent.

"As cyber crime continues to grow, governments and companies are prioritising cyber security as an essential investment. This is a sector we can expect to dominate headlines and corporate budgets," said Kris Monaco, the head of ISE ETF Ventures.

Others focused on some relatively small British stocks whose shares have risen, in contrast to those of TalkTalk



A man walks past a company logo outside a TalkTalk building in London, Britain. PHOTO: REUTERS

whose stock has fallen 6 percent in the last week.

Falanx Group has climbed 15 percent over that same period. NCC Group and Corero Network Security — an offshoot of the former Corero software business — have risen 3 percent.

Corero's products include software that protects against attacks on Internet sites and domain addresses.

NCC has similar services, including one to test how vulnerable a company is to "phishing" — where internal emails are hacked by someone posing as an employee or outside contact — while Falanx has services monitoring clients' computer infrastructure for signs of suspicious activity.

John Blamire, a former British Army officer who is chief executive at Falanx, said customer interest had risen since the attack on TalkTalk.

"Incidents such as the one at TalkTalk actively brings at-

tention to organisations such as ours," he said.

To be sure, stocks such as these would carry the usual risks associated with "small cap" stocks with a relatively small market valuation — less liquidity, which can then make them more prone to a slump and harder to sell than bigger stocks.

Nevertheless, they have attracted some big-name investment houses, with Liontrust Asset Management holding a near 10 percent stake in NCC while Blackrock Investment Management has a near 3 percent holding in Corero. Both Liontrust and Blackrock declined to comment on those holdings.

Mark Slater, chief investment officer at Slater Investments, holds around 3 million NCC shares in his company's portfolio, and he expected NCC and others to continue to grow. "The nature of the Internet makes it open to attack. These problems are not going to go away."—Reuters

## Britain's Sun tabloid to remove paywall to boost readership

LONDON — Britain's biggest-selling newspaper *the Sun* is to take down its online paywall, after the Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid failed to win enough readers in the latest troubled digital experiment for a traditional publisher.

The scrapping of the online subscription, introduced in 2013, marks the failure of *the Sun* to carve out a niche online, unlike its fierce rival the *Daily Mail*, which boasts one of the most popular websites in the world.

The decision to remove the paywall is also the first strategic change from Rebekah Brooks since she returned to oversee the Sun and its stablemate the Times as the chief executive of Murdoch's British newspaper arm.

Brooks, who returned to the company in September, had spent the previous four years clearing her name after she was accused

of being part of a criminal phone hacking campaign to dig up news stories.

"I have every confidence that this digital evolution will ensure that the unique space *the Sun* occupies in British culture will be preserved — and enhanced," Brooks said in a note to staff.

The website will be free to read from 30 November, although some paid-for products will be retained.

The paper's implicit admission that people were not willing to pay online for its brand of witty journalism comes as the media industry is divided over whether paywalls or online advertising are the remedy to the sector's struggles at a time of declining print revenue.

"For popular journalism generally, I think it's incredibly difficult to run a subscription model for that kind of content,"

Douglas McCabe, a media analyst at Enders Analysis, said.

"This isn't premium financial information," he added.

Newspapers that have made a success of online paywalls include the *Financial Times*, the *New York Times* and Murdoch's *Wall Street Journal* and the *Times of London*, which will keep the payments, despite the change at its sister paper.

The move to scrap the paywall, the only one to be used by a British tabloid, is designed to rejuvenate the paper.

In September it had 1.1 million unique browsers a day, according to ABC data, far behind the *Daily Mail* on 13.4 million and the Mirror Group titles on 3.9 million. Actual sales of the Sun newspaper fell by 34 percent in Brooks' absence.

McCabe said he expected the newspaper to now develop



Copies of The Sun newspaper are seen on a newsstand outside a shop in central London. PHOTO: REUTERS

their social media strategy and to try to deliver as big an international audience as possible for advertisers.

"They do have a very pow-

erful brand, and I don't think that brand has been destroyed in any way. It still has real resonance in the marketplace," he said.—Reuters

## Russian calls for Cold War civil defence training to be revived

NOVO OGARYOVO — Russia's authorities should revive the old Cold War practise of training civilians on how to respond in the event of a large-scale nuclear attack, a senior government official said on Friday.

Speaking after a meeting of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, Dmitry Rogozin, the deputy prime minister in charge of the defence industry, said the United States was upsetting the nuclear balance by developing new weapons systems.

Russia had no choice but to react to the aggressive capabilities of the United States, he said. "Measures for countering the aggressor could include those that concern Russia's strategic nuclear capability, that is reciprocal measures so that, God forbid, no one gets a crazy idea in their head," Rogozin said. There could be other measures "so that the population, if nonetheless they were subject to that kind of aggression, could avoid colossal losses. ... Civil defence should be recreated," he said.



A schoolchild wearing a gas mask and a protective suit participates in a civil defence competition between local schools in Russia's southern city of Stavropol. PHOTO: REUTERS

During the Cold War, Soviet authorities built a system of bomb shelters in case of a nuclear attack, and school children were trained how to put on protective masks. Posters telling people how to respond hung in schools and workplaces. Many Soviet citizens were sceptical that any of the precautions could save them if there was an attack, but the training, known as civil

defence, was compulsory. The practise was abandoned under the last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who with US leaders negotiated a programme of nuclear arms cuts that eased tensions.

But under Putin, relations between Washington and Moscow have soured, with the two sides at loggerheads over the conflict in Ukraine, ways to end the crisis in Syria

and human rights issues. The Russian leader has spoken often of the United States' and its allies encroaching into eastern Europe and threatening Russia's national security.

At a forum in the southern Russian city of Sochi earlier this month, he said a missile shield planned by the US military was a direct threat to Russia's nuclear capability.—Reuters

## Turkish election to shape political landscape for a decade

ISTANBUL — President Tayyip Erdogan is unambiguous about what he wants from an election on Sunday, casting it as a pivotal moment for Turkey: a return to the single-party rule he presided over for more than a decade until June.

The outcome of the second parliamentary election this year will be important not only for Turkey's domestic stability and its role in resolving the conflict in Syria and Europe's migration crisis, but also for Erdogan himself. The NATO member and EU candidate nation of 74 million is confronted by a slowing economy, deep social divisions, suicide bombings and renewed conflict in its Kurdish southeast, plus the chaos in neighbouring Syria and an influx of refugees. Erdogan has made no secret of his ambition to create a presidential system, a constitutional change almost impossible unless the Islamist-rooted AK Party he founded regains the majority it lost in June's election and dominates parliament.

"Turkey has no time to

lose ... Sunday is a breaking point for our country ... If our people give a single party a chance, then stability will continue," Erdogan told reporters at a reception on Thursday night at his 1,000-room palace, a grand symbol of the "new Turkey" he wants to build. "On the morning of 2 November, everyone together will undoubtedly show respect and stand up for the result ... After that hopefully the new Turkey won't relieve the trouble we have experienced in the last five months." If the AKP fails to secure a majority, it may have to share power with the main secularist opposition — an outcome Western allies, foreign investors and many Turks say might ease social divisions and keep Erdogan's hunger for greater power in check. If the AKP wins a majority or misses by a margin narrow enough to embolden it to govern alone anyway, its opponents fear Turkey will be led further down a path of authoritarianism and disregard for Western values on free speech and the rule of law.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## Romanian nightclub fire leaves 27 dead, 155 injured

BUCHAREST — A fire and explosion in a Bucharest nightclub killed 27 people and injured 155 during a rock concert that featured fireworks late on Friday, Romanian government officials and witnesses said.

In one of the capital's worst disasters in decades, about 400 people, mostly young adults, stampeded for the exit as the club in the basement of a Communist-era factory filled with smoke.

Several witnesses said there were fireworks inside the club. Colectiv Club's Facebook page said the show would feature pyrotechnic effects.

A pillar and the club's ceiling went up in flames and then there was an explosion and heavy smoke, the witnesses said.

TV footage showed police officers and paramedics trying to resuscitate young people lying on the pavement while sirens wailed with more ambulances deployed to the scene.

"There was a stampede of people running out of the (Colectiv) club," a man who escaped without shoes told Reuters.

A young woman who was released from the hos-



Emergency services outside a nightclub in Bucharest, Romania. PHOTO: REUTERS

pital after minor injuries described the club bursting into flames.

"In five seconds the whole ceiling was all on fire. In the next three, we rushed to a single door," she told television station Antena 3.

The victims were admitted to 10 hospitals in Bucharest, said Deputy Interior Minister Raed Arafat.

"The situation is slowly stabilising ... we have many people with burns, intoxicated with smoke and people squashed," he said, adding many victims

have no identification.

Deputy Prime Minister Gabriel Oprea said an investigation into the causes of the incident was already under way, and the health minister launched a public appeal for blood donations.

Romania's President Klaus Iohannis said in a statement: "I want to assure you of all support from rescuing forces and ask you to trust they put all efforts to limit the impact of this catastrophe."

An emergency meeting of cabinet ministers was set for early on Satur-

day to assess the incident.

Some of the deadliest nightclub disasters in the world were started by fireworks.

In the southern Brazilian college town of Santa Maria in 2013, a musician lit an outdoor flare inside the Kiss nightclub and started a fire that killed at least 241 people, investigators said.

Fireworks were also blamed for nightclub fires in Russia's Perm that killed 156 people in 2009 and in Argentina's Buenos Aires in 2004 that killed 194.—Reuters

## Two dead as torrential rain, tornadoes lash central Texas

AUSTIN — At least two people were killed when a storm with high winds and heavy rains pelted central Texas on Friday, flooding highways, causing evacuations after rivers overflowed and spawning tornadoes that ripped through buildings outside San Antonio.

The body of one man swept away by raging waters when his vehicle was caught southeast of Austin has been recovered, a Travis County emergency official said, adding one elderly woman was still missing.

Near San Antonio, US Army officials said the body of an individual, who was washed downstream when a vehicle was picked up by fast moving flood waters, was found on Friday afternoon on Camp Bullis. The names of both victims have not been released.

There were more than 40 high-water rescues in the area with about 13 inches (33 cm) of rain falling within a few hours in parts of the region south of the state capital of Austin, officials said. Some area rivers hit record flood peaks, the US Geological Survey said, adding the levels began to drop from Friday afternoon.

More than 200 low-water crossings were closed due to the storm, which hit in

the same area where flooding in late May caused more than 20 deaths. The Austin Fire Department responded to about 500 calls for help while some residents in the nearby city of San Marcos were told to boil water for safety. Hays County issued evacuation orders and set up shelters for hundreds along the Blanco and San Marcos rivers, two waterways hard hit by the May floods.

In Floresville, about 30 miles (48 km) southeast of San Antonio, a high school wall was ripped apart by high winds that also tossed a recreational vehicle trailer onto the roof of a hotel, TV video from the area showed.

"I am seeing the tires from the trailer on the roof of the Holiday Inn Express," Floresville resident Donna Rudolph-Miller told reporters. In Seguin, east of San Antonio, about 20 structures were damaged and five homes destroyed, city officials said.

The storm caused operations to halt for several hours at Austin's main airport. The ground floor of the Austin Air Traffic Control Tower and Terminal Radar Approach Control facility was flooded by approximately six inches (15 cm) of water during the storm, airport officials said.—Reuters

## FBI spy planes flew 10 times over Freddie Gray protests-documents

WASHINGTON — The FBI deployed at least 10 flights of surveillance planes equipped with advanced aerial surveillance technology, including infrared and night-vision cameras, to monitor the Baltimore riots earlier this year, according to government documents obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The flights, totaling more than 36 hours and involving at least two planes, occurred over Baltimore from 29 April to 3 May, showed the flight logs provided to the ACLU under the Freedom of Information Act. The ACLU, a civil rights group, released the logs to Reuters and other news organisations on Friday. Half of the flights carried Baltimore police, in addition to FBI officials, and a majority of them occurred at night over Baltimore during several days of civil disorder that followed the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody. The FBI has previously acknowledged that surveillance flights occurred.

In congressional testimony last week, FBI Director James Comey did not elaborate in detail on how surveillance flights are conducted or approved.



Police officers clear the street after protestors blocked traffic on the first day of pretrial motions for six police officers charged in connection with the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Maryland. PHOTO: REUTERS

But he acknowledged that planes were also used at the request of local authorities during protests last year in Ferguson, Missouri, after the shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black man, by a white police officer. The documents released by the ACLU "fill some of the gaps that we and the public have had about the government's use of surveillance technology on these planes," said Nathan Freed Wessler, a staff attorney at the ACLU, which is concerned about privacy and profiling issues raised by aerial surveillance.

The Baltimore Police Department referred ques-

tions about the flights to the FBI. In a statement to Reuters, FBI spokesman Christopher Allen said each Baltimore flight "produced infrared and day color, full-motion FLIR (forward-looking infrared) video evidence which is maintained in accordance with record retention policies."

An FBI memo dated 1 May described the support provided at the request of the Baltimore authorities.

"The potential for large scale violence and riots throughout the week presents a significant challenge for the Baltimore Police Department for airborne surveillance and observation,"

the memo noted in its justification of the flights.

One plane used was a Cessna propeller plane that, according to documents from the Federal Aviation Administration, possessed an infrared camera mount and a multi-sensor camera system manufactured by FLIR Systems, an Oregon-based company.

The widespread and largely secretive use of aerial surveillance has drawn attention from Congress, where lawmakers in recent months have pushed the FBI to be more forthcoming about the legal authority and technical scope of such flights.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (094)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (094) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (067N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (067N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 (Dewali Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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## WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Kachin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of increase of rain in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

## Batman adversary Harley Quinn tops 2015 Halloween costume search



Danielle Pierson attends New York Comic Con dressed as Harley Quinn from DC Comic's Batman comics in Manhattan, New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — America's most popular Halloween costume this year could be Batman adversary Harley Quinn from the DC Comics series, according to Google.

Quinn's stock is rising thanks in part to keen anticipation of the 2016 film "Suicide Squad," which will star Australian actor Margot Robbie as Quinn along with Jared Leto and Will Smith.

"Harley Quinn" was the

most-searched term in relation to Halloween costumes across the United States, according to Google's Frightgeist, a tool that tracks top queries on the search engine.

The Quinn searches were especially popular in cities including Houston, Philadelphia and Seattle, according to the data by Frightgeist.

On Twitter, hashtags including #SuicideSquadHalloween #HarleyQuinn, #SuicideS-

quad were actively trending on Friday.

Other characters including Batman and Joker from "Suicide Squad" — a film about imprisoned supervillains executing dangerous black ops missions in exchange for clemency — were among the top 10 costume searches on Google.

Other popular costumes were Minnie Mouse, Wonder Woman, and characters from the movies "Star Wars" and "Minions."

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was the only politician to show up on the Frightgeist list of popular costume searches.

The celebrity real estate tycoon ranked No. 105 nationwide. Harley Quinn costumes sold for \$52-\$55 on average at online retailers including PartyCity.com and BuyCostumes.com.

A recent report by the National Retail Federation estimated total Halloween spending in 2015 to top \$6.9 billion, with the average American planning to spend \$74.34 on decorations, candy, costumes and more.—Reuters

## Adele to perform concert special in New York city



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Grammy award-winning singer Adele will perform at Radio City Music Hall for a NBC concert, in New York City on 17 November 2015.

The 27-year-old songstress, who recently released the first single "Hello" from her upcoming album "25", will be performing a special one-night-only concert in the US, said The Hollywood Reporter.

The show will be broadcast-

ed as a one-hour NBC special, titled "Adele Live in New York City", on 14 December.

This will be "Skyfall" hit-makers her first US concert since 2011.

"25", which is the follow up for her 2011 album "21", will be released 20 November. The concert special is executive produced by Lorne Michaels, Adele and Jonathan Dickins, and directed by Beth McCarthy-Miller.—PTI

## Keira Knightley makes Broadway debut in Zola's 'Therese Raquin'



Actress Keira Knightley. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Keira Knightley makes her Broadway debut in a new adaptation of Emile Zola's "Therese Raquin", taking to the stage as a woman trapped in a loveless marriage, who begins an affair with her husband's friend.

The British actress, who has been nominated twice for an Oscar, portrays the title character in the play based on the 1867 novel.

On the first night of previews on 1 October, an audience member interrupted the performance by shouting at Knightley and tossing flowers on stage.

"It's live theater and things happen. And the whole point of it is that our job is to stay within the story because there is a lot of other people who have come to watch it," Knightley said at the opening

night's red carpet on Thursday.

"It's really important that they get the experience ... Obviously you get sometimes where you simply can't continue, which is what happened on our first preview. But I think everybody has to put their chin up and just get on."

Knightley, known for films such as "The Imitation Game", "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Pride & Prejudice", made her theatrical debut in "The Misanthrope" in 2009 in London's West End. She returned to the London stage in "The Children's Hour". In this play, presented by the Roundabout Theater Company at New York's Studio 54, the set takes the audience back and forth between scenes and even features a lake on stage.

Two-time Tony Award winner Judith Light plays Madame Raquin, Therese's aunt, Gabriel Ebert portrays Therese's husband Camille while "Constantine" actor Matt Ryan plays her lover, Laurent. "Therese Raquin" runs until 3 January.—Reuters

## Screenwriter Ryan Murphy honoured at amfAR gala

LOS ANGELES — Screenwriter Ryan Murphy, known for television shows such as "Glee" and "American Horror Story" was honoured at amfAR's star-studded Inspiration Gala on Thursday in recognition of his contributions to the fight against AIDS. Hollywood actress Julia Roberts presented Murphy with an amfAR Award of Inspiration at the event, which raised \$3.1 million for the Foundation for AIDS Research.

Pop singer Lady Gaga performed on the night, which also included an auction offering a Timothy White photograph of Elizabeth Taylor as well as a walk-on role in "American Horror Story: Hotel" among the prizes for sale.

Other guests at the gala included Gwyneth Paltrow, who hosted the benefit, Sharon Stone and "Glee" actress Lea Michele.—Reuters

## US General Patton's gold pocket watch sells for \$137,000

NEW YORK — A gold pocket watch that once belonged to celebrated World War Two US tank commander General George Patton and that he took with him on battlefields early in his military career fetched \$137,000 at auction in New York on Thursday.

The 1909 Five Minute Repeater by Patek Philippe made for Tiffany & Co was a gift from Patton's parents for his graduation from the US Military Academy at West Point.

The watch had originally been priced at \$600 but Patton's parents purchased it for \$350 because "it was thicker than the usual style," Patton wrote in a memoir in 1927.

The watch was sold to an anonymous buyer, according to officials with Dallas-based Heritage Auctions. The watch remained for eight decades in the family of the late general, who commanded the Seventh US Army in the Mediterranean and Europe during World War Two.

Patton also commanded the Third US Army in France and Germany following the Allied invasion of Normandy.

After Patton's death in 1945, the watch was handed down through several generations. "My wish for the watch has always been that it be cherished as a beautiful timepiece and as an interesting historical memento,"



A gold pocket watch that once belonged to US military war hero General George S. Patton Jr. is pictured on 29 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

said Patton's grandson Robert Patton, who put the watch up for auction.

The watch is inscribed "Lieut. George S Patton USA, from his Father and Mother, June 11, 1909."

"General Patton's relationship with his parents, and especially his father, George S. Patton II, was very close," Jim Wolf, director of fine timepieces for Heritage, said in a statement.

Historians have documented through Patton's writings that he carried the watch with him while

fighting against Pancho Villa in 1916 and in combat with the US Army Tank Corps during World War One, Wolf said.

"I carried it in Mexico and France," Patton wrote. "It keeps perfect time and is a great watch. Aunt Nannie bought me a chain to go with it."

Patton did not carry the watch into battle during World War Two. Instead, he stored it in the Boston-area home that he and his wife purchased in 1928, the auction house said.—Reuters

## Dutch city commemorates 150 years after launch of Japan-ordered ship

DORDRECHT — A Dutch city held a ceremony Friday to commemorate 150 years since the launch of a ship commissioned by the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1867), with descendants of the vessel's Japanese crew attending the event.

The Kaiyo Maru launched on 12 November, 1865, in the renowned shipbuilding city of Dordrecht, was the largest wooden warship built in the Netherlands at the time. At the ceremony, Dordrecht Mayor Arno Brok said the city hopes to resurrect memo-

ries of the big shipbuilding project, which has been forgotten by many people, and bolster its ties with Japan.

A commemorative plaque was placed at the site of a shipyard where the Kaiyo Maru was built and an exhibition introducing the ship also began at a museum in the city. It will be held until March next year.

Takamitsu Enomoto, 80, a great-grandson of Takeaki Enomoto, a Tokugawa naval officer who led a fleet including Kaiyo Maru, said his ancestor studied in the Netherlands and contributed to

the modernisation of Japan.

"I'd appreciate it if many people learn about history. It will help boost friendship between Japan and the Netherlands," he said.

The Kaiyo Maru became a flagship for the Tokugawa shogunate after its arrival in Japan, but became stranded and capsized amid a rainstorm off the town of Esashi in northern Japan's Hokkaido in 1868 during a civil war between the shogunate and forces seeking to return political power to the emperor.—Kyodo News

## Let the West know East, exhibition of Chinese paintings to kick off in New York

NEW YORK — "For most Americans, they can't really understand the Chinese characters and calligraphy, but they are attracted by their beauty and magic," Joseph Scheier-Dolberg, assistant curator in the Department of Asian Art in New York's Met Museum, said Friday.

Celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, his department is staging, from Saturday, a special exhibition entitled "Masterpieces of Chinese Painting," which presents the historical evolution of the brush arts of China from the Tang dynasty (618-907) to the present.

"By highlighting the

collection's most notable work of art, the exhibition will provide visitors with a rare opportunity to learn about the history of Chinese painting and calligraphy through some of the best examples available from each era," Scheier-Dolberg said.

The exhibition will begin with early works from the Tang and Song dynasties including the oldest and most storied piece in the museum's collection of Chinese art — Han Gan's Night Shining White, an eighth-century painting of the favorite horse of Emperor Xuanzong.

The painting bears seals and inscriptions dat-

ing to the eighth century. Alongside it is one of the few surviving Chinese paintings from the 10th century — the imposing Palace Banquet, which depicts a lavish courtly scene in the women's quarters of the palace.

"Most Westerners have different levels of knowing about Chinese culture, but they are learning to study and appreciate the Chinese art and culture little by little through these kinds of exhibitions," Scheier-Dolberg told Xinhua.

He said art of the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) is a highlight of the Met's collection.—Reuters

**mitv Myanmar International**

(1-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 2-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Richly Blessed Gem Land
07:51	Am	MONASTERY (Shwe In-Pin Kyaung)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part-1)
08:41	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part-2)
08:56	Am	Myanmar General Election 2015 "Ambassador of UK"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	To The Land Of Countless Temples — Bagan Trip (EP-1)
09:52	Am	Myanmar Street Food
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Street Vendor "Spreading Knowledge"
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-8) Caesar Salad and Scrumptious Crackers with Assorted Toppings
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Technology in Election
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-3)
08:53	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass "Aung Thiha"
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

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

## Iraqi woman draws flowers, praying for peace

TOKYO — When she was bedridden as a child with leukemia during the Iraq War, Hawraa Jamel found that the only way she could feel hope for a better future was by drawing flowers.

Now 19 and a senior high school student, she began her drawings after she contracted leukemia at the age of 9. She struggled with the disease for two years.

Some of the over 1,000 drawings she has done so far appear in a Japanese picture book titled "Haura no Akai Hana" (Hawraa's red flowers). The text is by Maki Sato, secretary general of the Japan Iraq Medical Network (JIM-NET), a Tokyo-based organisation mainly providing medical assistance to treat children with leukemia and cancer in the Middle East country.

Jamel said she recovered largely because of moral and logistical support from JIM-NET.

"Japanese people saved my life," she said. "I want to thank them a thousand times."

This past summer, she was invited by the organisation to Japan to draw Japanese flower pieces and to have exchanges with Japanese children during her two-week stay.

Jamel was born in Samawah, southern Iraq in July 1996. After being hospitalised, she saw many patients dying from leukemia.

She wondered whether she, too, would die as her body weakened and her pains became severer day by day. Depleted uranium bombs used following the 2003 invasion of Iraq led by the United States have been blamed for the disease. One day at hospital, a teacher for child patients handed Jamel colored pencils, telling her to draw anything she liked.—Kyodo News



Hawraa Jamel, a 19-year-old girl from Iraq's Samawah, shows a copy of a picture book published in Japan, "Hawraa's red flowers," in an interview during her visit to Tokyo on 1 August 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Coutinho double seals Liverpool win at Chelsea

LONDON — Philippe Coutinho scored twice as Liverpool recovered from an early deficit to beat struggling Premier League champions Chelsea 3-1 at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and pile more pressure on Blues manager Jose Mourinho.

Ramires headed Chelsea in front after four minutes but Mourinho's side looked woefully short of confidence as Liverpool hit back to claim a first league win for new boss Juergen Klopp.

Coutinho rewarded Liverpool for an impressive recovery by curling in an equaliser in the third minute of first-half stoppage time.

The Brazilian put Liverpool in front after 74 minutes with another curler following Christian Benteke's knock down and Benteke condemned Chelsea to their third home league loss of the season with a low shot into the corner with seven minutes left.

With Mourinho standing glumly on the touchline, Liverpool fans chanted: "You're getting sacked in the morning".

Chelsea had already made the worst start to a season for Premier League champions and now have only 11 points from 11 games played, leaving them in 15<sup>th</sup> place.—Reuters

## Asia MBX Championship 2015 on in Nay Pyi Taw

DEPUTY Minister for Sports U Zaw Win attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia MBX Championship 2015 at Mount Pleasant Cycling Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

Sixty athletes from 10 Asian countries participated in the championship which is divided into four categories: under 19 junior males and females and the over 19 senior males and females.

Secretary of Asia Cycling Federation Mr. Chooi Boo Woong, chairman of the Myanmar Cycling Federation U Khin Maung Win and director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Htay Aung awarded medals to the contestant winners.

In the over 19 senior male class, Nagasako Yoshitaku, Yoshimura Jukia, and Matsushita Tatsumi, all from Japan, won the first, second and third prizes. In the over 19 senior female class Carr Amanda from Thailand won first prize, Lu Yan from China won second prize and Seko Haruka of Japan won third prize.

The under 19 junior male class the first prize winner was Yamaguchi Daichi from Japan while Hasegawa Yuto, from Japan, won second prize and Kaewsrikhao Sittichok, from Thailand, won third prize. In



Athletes participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia MBX Championship 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

the under 19 junior female class the first prize winner was Fines Sienna Elaine from the Philippines, Kitawanitsathian Chitikan from Thailand won second prize and Ma Khine Zin Moe from Myanmar came third.

In the Special Time Trial competition for women Ma Khine Zin Moe from Myanmar

won first prize, Chutihan Kita from Thailand won second prize and Chan Yuan Lyu from China won third prize.

Daichi Yamaguchi from Japan won first in a separate round, Yuto Horegawa from Japan came second and Sitichole from Thailand came third.

According to the Myanmar Cycling Federation 60 athletes and 20 coaches from 10 countries had registered for the championships with teams flying in from China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Timor-Leste.—Myanmar News Agency

## Myanmar Wave Rider Cup & KTA Race Open 2015 complete



Myanmar Wave Rider Cup & KTA Race Open 2015 tournament ended at Chaungtha Beach. PHOTO: MNA

THE Myanmar Wave Rider Cup & KTA Race Open 2015 tournament came to an end on Saturday.

Myanmar Wave Rider Cup & KTA Race Open 2015 was conducted by the Myanmar Yachting Federation under the Ministry of Sports and hosted contestants from Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, Singapore, China, India, and Myanmar.

The tournaments included three competitions; Kiteboarding, Stand Up Paddle (SUP) and Windsurfing. In the Kite boarding

tournament, TT Men Class Winners and TT Women Class Winners, Formula Men Class Winners and Formula Women Class Winners were awarded. Contestants from Thailand and Germany won first prizes. In the Stand Up Paddle (SUP) tournament, Myanmar contestants won top prizes, the Windsurfing Class first prize winners were Myanmar athletes.

During the closing ceremony General Manager of Myanmar Yachting Federation U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint presented awards to the winners.—Myanmar News Agency

## Myanmar traditional boxers victorious but fans disappointed

Soe Maung Oo defeats Thai opponent but draws fan criticism

SOE Maung Oo triumphed over his Thai opponent in the fourth round of the Myanmar traditional boxing match in Mandalay on Friday night. During the first three rounds Thailand's Walchart was dominating the game but come round four he could no longer resist the right upper cut and knee attacks of his Myanmar opponent.

"The match definitely looked fixed because the Thai was easily leading in the first three rounds but it's clear that he surrendered to his Myanmar opponent in the fourth round."

Those were the words of a long time Myanmar boxing fan who felt let down by the match he had paid to attend even though his country had won.

He disappointedly criticised the event and accused the competition organisers of match fixing.

The challenge included

four fights between Myanmar and Thailand. In the second and third matches the Myanmar boxers downed their opponents in the second round and first round respectively. Fans expected to see exciting drawn out clashes between Myanmar and

Thailand but were apparently disappointed by the end result. Event organisers have not publically commented on the fan accusations of match fixing.

Other fights took place between Myanmar compatriots but drew much smaller crowds.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)



Soe Maung Oo defeats Thai opponent in the fourth round. PHOTO: MAUNG SEIN LWIN