

President inspects development tasks in Rakhine State

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THE PALM OF PEACE

Current signatories set to extend truce offer to non-signatories

Ye Myint

DESPITE the fact that the recently agreed ceasefire agreement applies only to the eight signatory groups a number of diplomatic overtures are being made between signatories and non-signatories to attempt to create a more inclusive picture in the near future according to a statement from the ceasefire signatories.

Before the signing of the ceasefire agreement on 15 October the represented ethnic factions had already discussed aligning themselves politically to aid the nation's peace process, said Salai Yaw Aung of All Burma Students' Democratic Front, one of ceasefire signatories.

"As it is an important matter we called on the government to continue negotiations with non-signatories" said Salai Yaw Aung, adding that it is imperative for those groups not yet named in the ceasefire agreement to be involved in the peace process.

Despite not having total inclusiveness at the moment the government is looking to expand the ceasefire said U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre.

The centre's working group will host talks with any groups,



Together with U Hla Maung Shwe (far left), U Khuensau Jaryen (second from right) and Dr Min Zaw Oo (far right), ABSDF's Salai Yaw Aung speaks at a press conference last Saturday at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon. PHOTO: YE MYINT

signatories or non-signatories, who are available and willing to attend meetings in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 4 to 11 November, added the senior adviser.

Dr. Min Zaw Oo, the MPC's programme director provided information on activities in Chiang Mai, saying that there will also

be meetings on the formulation of ceasefire monitoring guidelines by working groups of the Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC.

The meeting is separate from talks held between ethnic signatories, non-signatories and ethnic armed groups in the attempt to expand on the peace

agreement, he said.

Representatives from the government and eight ethnic signatories met in Yangon for the first time on 29- 31 October having finalised the military code of conduct for both sides and formed a Union-level JMC.

According to the post-signing

guidelines the second JMC meeting is scheduled to take place in Nay Pyi Taw after the second Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting-JICM on 16 November. The second JICM is set to be held 30 days after the signing of the ceasefire between the government and ethnic groups.

White ballot paper sections will appear yellow at polls: UEC

THE Union Election Commission announced yesterday that political logos containing sections of white will appear yellow on the ballots as they are printed on yellow paper imported from Indonesia.

In its statement the UEC requested that political candidates clarify to voters the possible change in colour of their party logos if those logos include white sections.

To prevent the use of coun-

terfeit ballot papers for the upcoming November 8 election the government has imported Light Yellow W/F Paper (80 gsm) with security marks from the P T Pura factory in Indonesia.

A watermark of the UEC's logo is featured on the ballot paper to prevent counterfeiting, according to the statement.

The UEC also urged voters to take note of the names of candidates and parties along with their logos when they cast their

votes on Sunday.

The Union Election Commission has ordered more than 125 million ballot papers from the state-run Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE) for the upcoming general election, said PPE managing director U Aung Myo Myint at a press conference in Yangon in mid-September.

The ballots are costlier but of higher quality than those used in the 2010 election, U Aung Myo Myint said.—GNLM

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Correction

Please read "Male candidates make up the 86.8 percent of the total with 5,274 and women making up the rest with 800 (13.2%), according to the statistics from the UEC" instead of second sentence in the second last paragraph in the news under headline "More than 10,500 observers to monitor 8 November election" on the front page of this daily issued on 3-11-2015.—GNLM

Tatkon residents pay respect to senior citizens

RESIDENTS of Tatkon Township paid respect to senior citizens over the age of 90 at a ceremony on 1 November.

The senior citizens and attendees recited *Namo Tassa* three times. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe, township administrator U Yi Mon, town elders, departmental officials, NGO staff and village administrators paid respects to the 226 elders.

After that, the officials gave Thadingyut gifts and medicine to the senior citizens.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*



Local people pay respect to older persons in Tatkon. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN

Mandalay holds diabetes prevention talks

IN honour of World Diabetes Day, which falls on 14 November, educational talks on nutrition and diabetes prevention were held at the Hotel Mandalay on 1 November.

Diabetes specialist Professor Dr Aye Aye Aung of the Mandalay General Hospital explained diabetes prevention strategies and habits for a healthy lifestyle.

Dr Aung Moe Myint introduced Naturally Better products to the audience.

Data show that two people in the world develop diabetes every 10 seconds, and four million die of the disease every year. The disease can happen to anyone, regardless of age, the doctors explained.

Professor Dr Aye Aye Aung explained the symptoms of the disease and other diseases that occur in diabetic patients. She encouraged audience members to take daily half-hour walks for exercise and to maintain healthy diets.

World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign for diabetes around the world. It is held on November 14 each year and was first introduced in 1991.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo sprinkles scented water on express bus of GI group before its maiden trip. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG

GI Group launches Myawady-Yangon-Mandalay-Muse express bus route

BUS company GI Group introduced a new Myawady-Yangon-Mandalay-Muse route on 31 October. At the launch ceremony in Myawady, District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo said Myawady, which borders Thailand, is now easily accessible via the Asian Highway. He urged the bus line to take every caution for passengers' safety.

The opening was also at-

tended by GI Group patron U Thein Oo, chairman U Zarni Aung, members of parliament and local officials. Two express buses will operate the route. A ticket for the Myawady-Yangon sells for K12,000, or K14,000 to include additional services.

The new route ends in Muse, Shan State, which borders Yunnan Province, China.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

Chinlone skills demonstration marks successful completion of rice offering

A RICE offering ceremony to members of the Sangha took place at the religious hall in Wunna Theikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 1 November.

Local people donated provisions to more than 300 Buddhist monks and nuns from 33 monasteries, led by Minwun Hill Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandimasara.

In commemoration of the successful completion of rice offering ceremony, Aung Zaw Lin, gold medallist in the 27th SEA Games, traditional chinlone professional Daw Ni Ni Mar and other players demonstrated their skills together with local enthusiasts at the Swethahar Traditional Chinlone Club in Pinyinman.—*Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)*

Township MCWA provides uniforms to members

THE Tatkon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association held an educational health talk in conjunction with a ceremony where uniforms were given to association members at the Township General Administration Department on 1 November.

Chairperson of the association Daw Aye Aye Mar made a speech, while the head of the township's Public Health De-

partment Dr Tun Tun explained HIV/AIDS prevention techniques.

Health staff Daw Thin Thin Hlaing and Daw Khin Mar Htwe demonstrated hand washing and gave talks on dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Officials presented 100 uniforms to members of the township association.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Workshop focuses on voting process for voters with disabilities



A speaker discusses voting process for voters with disabilities. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

MYANMAR Independent Living Initiatives held a workshop on 1 November to explain the voting process to people with disabilities. The workshop was held at the Dinga Hotel in Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay. The workshop was attended by officials of the Social Welfare Department, parliament members, civic organisa-

tions and journalists.

MILI members spoke about the challenges eligible voters with disabilities face in Myanmar and how to alleviate these challenges on voting day. The politicians and other attendees at the workshop discussed possible solutions.

According to the 2014 national Myanmar, there are 2.3

million people with disabilities in Myanmar, comprising 4.6 percent of the total population of 50 million.

The Union Election Commission has allowed voters with disabilities to be accompanied at the polling booth by other voters to help in the voting process, said a Social Welfare Department official.—*Maung Pyithu*

President inspects development tasks in Rakhine State

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein, together with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and deputy ministers, arrived in Sittway in Rakhine State on Tuesday morning.

The president and party were welcomed by acting Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Mya Aung, officials and local people before proceeding to Mrauk-U. In Mrauk-U the president and party attended the golden umbrella and diamond orb hoisting ceremony of the Mahapyinnyakyaw Pagoda.

The president offered 50 Buddha images and 50 solar lamps to Alodawpyay Sayadaw and Kathina robes to the abbot of Buywetmahnyo Monastery. The Maha Pyinnyakyaw Pagoda is located in the compound of Minister Maha Pyinnyakyaw and was built during the reign of King Min Yaza Gyi in AD 1600.

The president met with Hluttaw representatives, members of the township management committee, the township development supporting committee, the township development affairs committee, departmental officials and town elders at the meeting hall of Mrauk-U District General Administration Department. At the meeting the president said that he had visited Mrauk-U on 6 August to deliver relief aids to flood victims. The president pointed out that one-third of the country was hit by various natural disasters at the end



President U Thein Sein cordially greets local ethnic women in Mrauk-U. PHOTO: MNA

of last July but with the cooperation of government agencies, both national and local and the local civilian population, the situation had returned almost to normal and it was now necessary to attempt to improve living conditions and increase disaster resistance. The president added that during the about five years of the term of the

government, efforts have been made to implement reform measures without bloodshed. He said it requires careful planning to shift from one political system to a completely different system. He added that it is important for the image of the nation to hold the November 8 elections in a free and fair manner. There are concerns at home

and abroad for stability before and after the elections. Over ten thousand observers including about one thousand international observers and over 9,000 local observers will monitor the elections. The international community does not have great confidence due to the lack of democratic culture and experience in Myanmar, the president said.

In conclusion, the president urged local people to cooperate with the government to hold the elections in a free and fair manner. The district commissioner, officials of the CB KMA Foundation and the chairman of Mrauk-U township development affair committee reported on flood relief efforts and regional development tasks. The group inspected new houses for flood victims donated by the CB KMA Foundation in Htamarik New Village and the reconstruction of a middle school hit by floods in Mrauk-U. The president met with Hluttaw representatives, members of the township management committee, the township development supporting committee and the township development affairs committee departmental officials and town elders at Yarmaung Hall in Minbya.

A town elder expressed thanks for the President's time and listed the township's development needs. The president and party later returned to Sittway and inspected the renovation of Sittway Point.

A local official reported on the renovation of the Sittway Point Beach, which has been renovated at the cost of K 2 billion under the arrangement of Rakhine State government.

The president visited Sittway, Mrauk-U and Minbya on 6 August and Buthidaung and Yathedaung on 7 August to inspect relief efforts following Cyclone Koman.—*Myanmar News Agency*

85 more Myanmar fishermen arrive home

OFFICIALS of the Relief and Resettlement Department flew home 85 Myanmar citizen fishermen in the second group arrival from the Open Distress Camps in Port Blair, India, yesterday.

They arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening where they were welcomed by departmental officials, officials of various region and state govern-

ments and representatives from the International Organisation of Migration (IOM).

Provided to returned fishermen was emergency cash, clothing, equipment, SIM cards and top-up cards before they were transported to their homes. 243 Myanmar fishermen have arrived back home from India over the last two days.—*Zaw Min Latt*

Employers to assist staff in voting this Sunday

May Zu Zu

AIR Kanbawza airlines has announced that they will make sure their on-shift workers will be able to vote this Sunday by offering them transport to ballot box locations.

"We told our staff not to miss the chance to vote so we will provide transport for them. We will pick up airline staff from the airport at 5:30 am for voting. We will allow staff from the 9 am to

12 noon shift to return home to vote and evening shift staff who have voted in the morning will be picked up from home and taken to the office. As Myanmar citizens we must not lose our chance to vote freely," said U Khin Maung Kyaw, chief administration officer of Air Kanbawza.

A money changer in Kamayut Township who is normally open Sundays has vowed to close for election day to enable staff to vote in the general elections.

Tatmadawmen must take ethnics into account, abide by rules of UEC

TATMADAW must give first priority to the safety and peace of ethnic communities and be ready to defend them, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told servicemen from Sittway Station yesterday.

The commander-in-chief of defence services urged the Tatmadawmen to elect Hluttaw representatives who can join hands with the Tatmadaw in achieving regional development goals. He said that in Rakhine State, MPs should feel



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents books to a senior military officer. PHOTO: MYAWADY

free from the influence of foreign organisations. He stressed the need for Tatmadawmen to abide by the rules and regulations of the Union Election Commission in regards to advanced voting.

The senior general noted that the Tatmadaw is supporting the

signing of the ceasefire agreement with armed ethnic groups.

The senior general presented books to families of the station through a senior military officer, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe gave sports equipment to the station commander.—*Myawady*

Police launch investigation into bus attack

YANGON police have launched an investigation to identify the group of unidentified men who attacked the Parami 174 Bus line at a Tamway traffic stop in Bahan Township on Monday.

Six unidentified men in a vehicle apparently blocked the bus at the traffic lights before attack-

ing the bus driver and conductor with iron rods. The bus driver and conductors had earlier got into an argument with a man driving Honda Insight (2J/---), which tried to overtake the bus at 8-mile junction, according to the police.

The driver of the Honda and about five other people boarded the

bus and assaulted the driver and conductor with iron rods. When the bus driver and conductors fled they smashed the front and back windshields and windows of the bus.

One female passenger fainted due to shock and another was injured as she tried to flee the assault.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

ASEAN defence ministers meetings plus related meetings to kick off in Malaysia



Delegates pose for a group photo before the opening of the ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat in Subang, Malaysia, on 3 November 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

SUBANG — The ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat and the Third ADMM-Plus will kick off here from 2 to 5 November, with the attendance of delegates from 10 ASEAN member states, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries.

Themed "Maintaining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People," the ADMM-Plus is set to see around 320 delegates discussing global and regional security and defence issues.

Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said here Monday in a press conference that the defence ministers of ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States will attend the event. He said that the Malaysian Armed Forces will be conducting a special briefing on the Malacca Straits Patrol to the four ASEAN states, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand on the side-line of this series of meetings.—Xinhua

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Philippine court unlikely to rule on US security deal before Obama visit

MANILA — The Philippine Supreme Court is unlikely to rule on a constitutional challenge to a new US-Philippine security agreement before President Barack Obama visits Manila later this month, with a decision expected next year, a court source said.

The deal gives US troops wide access to Philippine military bases and approval to build facilities to store fuel and equipment for maritime security, but it was effectively frozen after left-wing politicians and other opponents challenged its constitutionality last year.

With tension growing over China's island-building in the disputed South China Sea, Philippine political experts had ex-

pected the Supreme Court to issue a ruling before Obama attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Manila on 18-19 November.

The Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) was signed just days before Obama last visited Manila in April 2014.

A court source, who declined to be identified, said domestic political issues were likely to take priority.

"I expect the court to decide on the military deal next year, before the elections in May," the source said, referring to national elections scheduled for May 2016.

Supreme Court spokesman

Theodore Te said it was unclear when the court would issue a ruling.

Experts had already said any further delays to the agreement might raise eyebrows in Washington given Manila has been the most vocal critic of Beijing among the claimants to the South China Sea and has urged the United States to push back against China's territorial ambitions.

Last week a US warship challenged the territorial limits around one of Beijing's artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago, prompting China's naval chief to warn that a minor incident could spark war in the South China Sea.

"It is painful to watch a case

so vital to Philippine national security mired in judicial indecision," said Patrick Cronin of the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

To be sure, US-Philippine military ties are already robust.

Philippine military officials say there has been an increase in US exercises, training and ship and aircraft visits in the past year under Obama's "rebalance" to Asia. But the EDCA would take the relationship a step further, partly by giving US forces broad access to the Philippines. "There is no doubt the US will be disappointed. But the process demonstrates judicial independence where due diligence is expected," said Philippine security expert Rommel Banlaoi.—Reuters

British journalists jailed for Indonesia visa violations, could be freed immediately

BATAM — An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced two British journalists to two months and 15 days in jail after they were convicted of violating immigration laws by working without appropriate visas.

Neil Bonner and Rebecca Prosser were arrested in May in Indonesia's western island of Batam, where they were filming a documentary about piracy in the Malacca Straits for the London-based production company Wall to Wall, with fund-

ing from National Geographic TV.

The two could be freed immediately due to time served.

"I don't think journalism is a crime."

Neil Bonner
British journalist

Foreign journalists must have a work visa to report in Indonesia. "The defendants have been proven legally and convincingly guilty of committing a criminal offence as foreigners," Judge Wahyu Prasetyo Wibowo said.

Prosser said the guilty verdict made the world's fourth-most populous country a "more dangerous landscape for journalists". "I feel a sense of sadness because it's journalism on trial and we have been found

guilty," Bonner told reporters. "I don't think journalism is a crime."

Last year, two French journalists were convicted of misusing their tourist visas to work as journalists in the politically sensitive Papua province and spent 11 weeks in detention before being sent back to France.

The court also fined the two 25 million rupiah (\$1,845) each. The prosecution had asked for a five-month jail term.—Reuters

Indonesia to deport Indian on Interpol most-wanted list



Police escort Indian gangster Rajendra Nikalje, widely known as Chhota Rajan, at police headquarters in Denpasar, Bali, on 2 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — Indonesia will deport one of India's most wanted men on Tuesday to face charges in more than two dozen murder cases at home.

Rajendra Nikalje, widely known as Chhota Rajan, was arrested by police on Indonesia's resort island of Bali last week, ending a two-decade-long international manhunt.

Rajan has been on Interpol's wanted list since 1995 suspected of running a crime syndicate that engaged in extortion, arms strug-

gling and contract killing.

"There are no administrative problems now. We have prepared everything (for his deportation)," Bali police spokesman Hery Wiyanto said, adding he would be flown back to India late on Tuesday.

Rajan, 55, had been living incognito in Australia, but fearing his enemies would find him, was able to fly to Bali where he was arrested without resistance, according to news reports.

India's national security

adviser devised a plan to secure the arrest of Rajan as part of a strategy to hunt down India's most-wanted man, Dawood Ibrahim, Indian police and ministry sources told Reuters. The two are believed to have worked together.

Ibrahim is accused of masterminding a dozen bombings and grenade attacks in Mumbai in March 1993, killing 257 people and wounding more than 700 in the deadliest such attack in the nation's history.—Reuters

Japan delivers 2 boats to Vietnam to help boost security capability

DANANG — Japan on Tuesday delivered two secondhand fishing boats to the Vietnamese coast guard for use as patrol boats in a move to help Hanoi strengthen its law enforcement capability amid China's muscle-flexing in the South China Sea.

The provision of the vessels is part of a grant-in-aid deal

signed between the Japan and Vietnam in August last year.

The ships delivered in the central Vietnamese city of Danang will be refurbished as patrol boats.

The grant-in-aid deal provided for the delivery of six vessels to the Vietnamese side, with four, including the latest two, having

been delivered.

Japan is set to provide additional vessels to Vietnam under a separate agreement reached last September in Tokyo between Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of Vietnam's ruling Communist Party, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.—Kyodo News

Arizona grandpa leaves girl, 5, in desert with gun

PHOENIX — An Arizona grandfather has been arrested and accused of leaving his five-year-old granddaughter alone in the desert with a loaded and cocked .45-caliber handgun and the instruction to "shoot any bad guys," authorities said on Monday.

Paul Armand Rater, 53, was booked into the Fourth Avenue Jail in downtown Phoenix on suspicion of two counts of felony child abuse and one count of felony child endangerment stemming from incident on Sunday night. Deputies said he and the

child left their home in Buckeye, about 30 miles (48 km) west of Phoenix, in a pickup truck early on Sunday afternoon and that the girl was reported missing four hours later.

She was eventually located in the desert by her mother and an off-duty firefighter. The child was holding the powerful pistol.

"She was given the gun and told to shoot any bad guys," Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio told Reuters by telephone. "I don't know how a five-year-old can tell a good guy from a bad

guy, but that's what she said she was told." Rater was later located at a store where he told deputies the vehicle had broken down and that he had left the girl under a tree in the desert because she was complaining she could not walk anymore, court records showed. He admitted leaving the girl with his gun, "while he went for a few drinks and a cheeseburger," the sheriff's office said.

The child was returned to her mother and state child welfare authorities were alerted, the sheriff's office said.—Reuters

US hails Japan-China-South Korea summit, 1-on-1 talks between Abe, Park

WASHINGTON — The US government on Monday welcomed the trilateral summit of Japan, China and South Korea at which the leaders of the three Northeast Asian neighbours agreed to revive their annual talks after a three-and-a-half year hiatus.

"We support their efforts to improve relations among the three countries," Elizabeth Trudeau, director of the State Department's Press Office, said in a press briefing. "We believe strong and constructive relations between South Korea, Japan and China support regional peace and prosperity, which serves our interests and the interests of the region."

At their talks in Seoul on Sunday, Japanese Prime Min-

ister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Park Geun-hye agreed to advance their partnership in the spirit of "facing history squarely and advancing toward the future" despite disputes over territory and views on wartime history.

On the first one-on-one talks between Abe and Park held on Monday, Trudeau said Washington welcomes the two leaders' agreement to accelerate their efforts to resolve the "sensitive issue" of "comfort women" forced to work in wartime brothels for the Japanese military. Many of those women were from the Korean Peninsula, which was under Japan's colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.—Kyodo News

Nikolic: Campaign includes sharing film on social networks



Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic. PHOTO: TANJUG

BELGRADE — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic urged all friends of Serbia to join the campaign against Kosovo becoming a UNE-SCO member and share the film on the destruction of Serbian cultural heritage in

Kosovo-Metohija (KiM) through social networks.

The film shows crimes against Serbian cultural heritage committed by Kosovo Albanians from 1999 until now.

Nikolic also said that UNE-SCO's General Conference will decide in several days whether Serbian churches and monasteries and Serbian cultural heritage in KiM should be put under the protection of those who burnt them and destroyed them in 2004.

The Serbian president called on all friends of Serbia to help prevent this from happening by downloading the film on <https://youtu.be/5kU1Jw-flxFg> and sharing it on social networks.—Tanjug

China's ruling Communist Party says to accelerate military reform

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party will seek to build the capability to win an "informationized war" by 2020 as part of accelerated reform of the armed forces, state media reported on Tuesday.

China will make significant progress toward realizing "mechanization and informatization" by 2020, and build a system capable of "winning an informationized war and effectively fulfilling the mandated mission of building modern military strength with Chinese characteristics", the Xinhua news agency reported.

The reform pledge was contained in a communique issued nearly a week after the

Party's Central Committee held a high-level policy meeting to set a 13th Five-Year Plan.

Xinhua released parts of the document via its microblog.

China will advance "rule of law" over the armed forces, Xinhua said, and reach reform goals by 2020. The leadership is expanding a sprawling anti-graft campaign that has ensnared high-ranking military officers. Fuelled by double-digit annual spending on defence, China's growing military strength and increasingly assertive stance on territorial disputes have rattled the United States and its allies in Asia.—Reuters

Austria drafts law to deter most Afghan migrants



A migrant child looks through a train window at a new winter refugee camp in Slavonski Brod, Croatia, on 3 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — Austria's cabinet proposed a bill on Tuesday to deter Afghan migrants from coming to the country located along a major migration route across Europe and facing record numbers of asylum requests this year.

The move follows the German interior minister's call for Afghans, who make up a large proportion of the hundreds of thousands of migrants seeking refuge in Europe, to stay in their home country.

Austria's new law would force most Afghans to wait for

three years, rather than one year under current rules, to bring their families to Austria as well as to prove they have an independent source of income, health insurance and a flat.

"This is a political decision. Making family reunification rules stricter mainly affects Afghans," Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told ORF radio.

"It is important for us to create clear rules here and of course to decrease (Austria's) attractiveness."

The law, due to pass parlia-

ment next month and be implemented from mid-November, would apply to those granted "subsidiary protection" — which mainly applies to Afghans — rather than those being granted full political asylum, such as most Syrians.

Austria got a total of 46,000 requests for asylum in the first eight months of this year, with nearly 10,500 from Afghans, according to interior ministry data. That made them the second-largest group of asylum seekers here after almost 13,000 Syrians.—Reuters

US admiral, in China, says freedom of navigation operations no threat

BEIJING — Freedom of navigation operations by the United States should not be viewed as a threat, US Pacific Command commander Admiral Harry Harris said on Tuesday after a US warship challenged China's territorial assertions in the disputed South China Sea last week.

"We've been conducting freedom of navigation operations all over the world for decades, so no one should be surprised by them," Harris said at a Beijing university, in comments released by the US military.

"I truly believe that these routine operations should never be

construed as a threat to any nation."

"The United States takes no position on competing sovereignty claims to land features in the South China Sea and we encourage all claimants to solve disputes peacefully, without coercion, and in accordance with international law."—Reuters

No coherent strategy for Syria air strikes, UK MPs say

LONDON — Britain should not extend its air strikes against Islamic State fighters into Syria until there is a clear strategy to defeat the militants, a committee of MPs said, dealing a blow to Prime Minister David Cameron.

Cameron has said he wants to do more to tackle Islamic State and hopes to seek parliamentary approval to carry out attacks in Syria. Britain is already involved in bombing IS targets in Iraq and has provided allies with surveillance over Syria.

"We believe that there should

be no extension of British military action into Syria unless there is a coherent international strategy that has a realistic chance of defeating ISIL and of ending the civil war in Syria," parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee said in a report published on Tuesday.

"In the absence of such a strategy, taking action to meet the desire to do something is still incoherent." The report is a setback for Cameron, who is trying to build cross-party support for extending strikes and wants to avoid a repeat of his 2013 parliamentary defeat

over plans for British air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The committee, chaired by a parliamentarian from Cameron's ruling Conservative Party, said the government should not seek parliamentary approval until it gives details of its plans.

It also called on the government to explain how British involvement would improve the chances of the international coalition's success against Islamic

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia's Aeroflot replaces A321 plane on Moscow-St Petersburg route

MOSCOW — Russian state carrier Aeroflot has replaced an Airbus A321 aircraft on its Moscow-St Petersburg route due to technical issues, TASS news agency quoted a source as saying on Tuesday.

The source said the plane had engine problems but had not left the ground.

An A321 plane crashed in Egypt on Saturday killing all 224 passengers and crew, most of whom were Russian. The flight was operated by Aeroflot rival Kogalymavia.—Reuters

South African prosecutors begin arguments in appeal court to convict Pistorius of murder

BLOEMFONTEIN — South African state prosecutors began their appeal to have paralympian Oscar Pistorius' conviction scaled up to murder from culpable homicide for killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day 2013.

Pistorius was released from prison into house arrest last month after serving a fifth of his five-year prison term.

During the trial, the state failed to convince judge Thokozile Masipa of Pistorius' intent to kill when he fired, leading to his conviction for negligent killing or culpable homicide.—Reuters

Clashes in Turkey's Kurdish southeast kill one, curfew ordered

DIYARBAKIR — Security forces backed by helicopters imposed a curfew in parts of a southeastern Turkish town on Tuesday and one man was killed in clashes with Kurdish militants, security sources said, the first death since a weekend election heightened tensions.

The Turkish military meanwhile said it had carried out air strikes on Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant bases across the border in northern Iraq on Monday, suggesting there will be no let-up in its campaign in the wake of the vote.

The ruling AK Party won back a parliamentary majority on Sunday in a major victory for President Tayyip Erdogan, who has pledged to continue operations against the PKK after a two-year ceasefire collapsed in July.—Reuters

Djuric advocates reinforcement of UN mission in KiM

BELGRADE — Head of the Serbian government's office for Kosovo-Metohija (KiM) Marko Djuric and new UNMIK head Zahir Tanin discussed further cooperation and dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

At Monday's meeting, Djuric pointed to the importance of isolating the status issue during the dialogue, implementing the Brussels agreement and establishing the community of Serb municipalities.

He advocated reinforcement of the UN mission in KiM, especially when it comes to protection of the Serb community and the rights of internally displaced persons, the office for KiM issued in a statement.

Djuric stated that Belgrade is against Kosovo's UNESCO bid, adding that addressing the issue of cultural and historical heritage and the Serbian Orthodox Church outside the dialogue on normalization of relations with Pristina is unacceptable.—Tanjug



British Tornado jet. PHOTO: REUTERS

State. Committee chair Crispin Blunt said there was no expectation that British intervention in Syria would be militarily decisive, and there was no "coherent and long-term plan for defeating ISIL and ending the civil war".

He said there was now an "alarming range" of international

actors involved in Iraq and Syria, with Russia's decision to support Assad by launching strikes against Islamists in Syria further complicating the picture. "These forces desperately need coordinating into a coherent strategy and that is where our efforts should be focused," Blunt said.—Reuters

Rare cyclone batters Yemen, thousands flee homes



A man gestures as he tries to save a vehicle swept away by flood waters in Yemen's island of Socotra, on 2 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAIRO — A cyclone with hurricane-force winds made landfall on Yemen's Arabian Sea coast on Tuesday, flooding the country's fifth-largest city Mukalla and sending thousands of people fleeing for shelter.

Officials and meteorologists say the storm is the most intense in decades in the arid country, whose storm response is hampered by poverty and a raging civil war.

In the provincial capital Mukalla, whose 300,000 people are largely ruled by al Qaeda

fighters since the army withdrew in April, water submerged cars on city streets and caused dozens of families to flee to a hospital for fear of rock slides.

Residents said the seafront promenade and many homes had been destroyed by the cyclone, called Chapala, and officials in the dry hinterland province of Shabwa said about 6,000 people had moved to higher ground.

"The wind knocked out power completely in the city and people were terrified. Some residents had to leave their homes and es-

cape to higher areas where flooding was less; it was a difficult night but it passed off peacefully," said Sabri Saleem, who lives in Mukalla.

There were no initial reports of injuries.

An al Qaeda militant on Twitter prayed for deliverance from the storm and said that a US pilotless drone was flying especially low over the city, where the militant group's deputy leader was killed in an air strike in June.

"May God cause it to crash," said the man, going by the name

of Laith al-Mukalla.

"God spare us your wrath, and place the rains in heart of the valleys and mountains."

The cyclone first hit the remote Yemeni island of Socotra, killing three people and displacing thousands.

An island of natural beauty, Socotra is home to hundreds of plant species found nowhere else on Earth and lies 380 km (238 miles) off Yemen in the Arabian Sea. Its 50,000 residents speak their own language.

Meteorological agencies pre-

dicted Chapala would hit land around Balhaf, site of Yemen's liquefied natural gas terminal, and weakening as it advanced towards the capital Sanaa in the country's north.

The facility has been mostly shuttered since the start of a war in March between a Saudi-led Arab military coalition and the Iran-allied Houthi movement which controls Sanaa.

It was not immediately clear if the terminal, once a lifeline for Yemen's weak economy, suffered damage.—Reuters

Fourteen kidnapped aid workers released in eastern Congo

KINSHASA — Fourteen aid workers kidnapped two days ago by unidentified assailants in the eastern Rutshuru region of Democratic Republic of Congo have been released, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Dozens of people have been kidnapped in Rutshuru this year by armed militias and criminal gangs. The area is still plagued by rebel groups following a 1998 to 2003 war that killed millions, mostly from hunger and disease.

The group of 14 kidnapped on Sunday were employees of

a Congolese non-governmental organisation.

"We are very happy to learn that the 14 aid workers kidnapped on Sunday have been released," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Congo said on its Twitter feed.

Local government officials could not be reached for comment.

A spokesman for OCHA did not immediately have further details on the circumstances of the release, nor could he confirm their nationality.—Reuters

Iraq sacks trade ministry officials in graft probe

BAGHDAD — Iraq's acting trade minister has sacked seven senior ministry officials wanted on graft-related charges, including the head of the grain board, two ministry officials said on Tuesday.

Iraq is one of the world's biggest importers of wheat and rice.

The grain board is responsible for procuring grain internationally and from local farmers, and any disarray in the ministry is bound to raise concerns over Iraq's ability to secure strategic commodities.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the move by minister Moham-

med Shia al-Sudani was part of "a comprehensive operation... to cleanse the ministry of officials who have any hint of corruption".

Iraq issued an arrest warrant last month for then Trade Minister Milas Mohamed Abdul Kareem after a corruption investigation into bribes, illegal benefits and the misuse of his position.

"This corruption and violations smear the reputation of the country," one of the officials told Reuters. "If this situation continues, it could lead to dire consequences in the Iraqi trade sector."

Several Trade Ministry officials have faced corruption allegations in the past, and four ministry

security guards are being prosecuted for allegedly killing a ministry media adviser in September with a bomb attached to his car.

Abdul Kareem is among the most senior officials to face judicial action since Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced a reform campaign in August after nationwide protests erupted over corruption, poor electricity and water services and unemployment.

The upheaval at the trade ministry is an important test of whether Abadi will be able to push through the reforms, which have exposed the country's political fault lines.—Reuters

OPINION

What the end of politics would be like?

Myint Win Thein

With the elections around the corner in Myanmar candidates are campaigning for victory. They propose the changes they will bring about if they are elected by the people. No politician, whether ruling or in opposition, proposes the status quo. It is natural for politicians to propose change during

election campaign. The world is changing, one cannot offer the voter nothing.

Politics is defined by various philosophers in different ways. For laypersons, it simply means change. In the history of mankind, man always demands change or progress. That is why every politician promises change when they vie for votes of the people. If there were nothing left to change in the world the first things to face extinction would be politics. Political science would become a dead language that is studied just for personal interest. Politicians would not be spared, they would also extinct.

However, the world always changes. As a result, everyone has to decide their politics even though they do not compete in elections. It is

worth asking what the lives of people would be like if nothing was left to be changed in the world or if there were no politics in it. Would it be like the hell or the heaven? Would the world stop changing? It is a question to be answered by political philosophers.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Hotels can accommodate increasing number of tourists

Ko Moe

THE number of foreign tourists visiting Myanmar will double to 10 million in 2016, U Tin Win, Chairman of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Yangon Zone) said yesterday.

"Tourist number will probably rise from February up until the Maha Thingyan Festival period in 2016. Even after the general election has finished the number of tourists will be rising," he said.

From January to September 2015, tourist arrival through Yangon International Airport numbered 759,181 in comparison with 677,007 from the same peri-

od the year before.

The number of visitors from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong from January to September 2015 was less than that of 2014 while this year's tourists from China, Japan, Korea and India increased over 2014 numbers. Tourists from other Asian countries were 75 percent of the total number until September, 2015.

From January to August 2015 more than 800,000 tourists entered Myanmar by air or ship while more than 2.2 million tourists visited the country through border entrances.

Although the number of tourists is increasing day by day,

Myanmar's hotels can give them adequate accommodation, said U Tin Win.

"Hotels are sprouting up across the nation to accommodate tourists," he said.

A total of 340 hotels are operating across the nation in 2015, compared with 290 in 2014.

The government has established 17 hotel zones—Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Monywa, Magway, Pyin Oo Lwin, Hpa-an, Kengtung, Bagan, Chaungtha, Ngwe Saung, Ngapali, Loikaw, Inlay, Mawlamyine and Dawei.

Tourist arrival is highest in the Yangon, Mandalay, Inlay and Bagan hotel zones.

Japan grants US\$610,317 for non revenue water reduction in Mayangon Tsp



Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI sprinkles scented water on plaque for handover of non revenue water reduction project in Mayangon Township. PHOTO: GGP

THE Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has granted US\$610,317 for a humanitarian assistance programme "The Project for NRW (Non Revenue Water) Reduction in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region".

The handover and opening ceremony of the project took place at Myaing Hay Wun Garden, Mayangon Township on 30 October 2015.

Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, U Hla Myint, Mayor of Yangon, U Soe Si, Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee (YCDC) Member, Dr. Atsushi MASUKO, President of TSS Tokyo Water Co., Ltd, Mr. Shinichi YOSHIDA, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Tokyo Waterworks, and Representatives from Toyo Engineering Corporation and Mitsui & Co., Ltd attended the ceremony.

An around-the-clock and stable water supply system is essential for the lives of people as well as for the industry. According to the survey data in 2012, Mayangon Township has the largest number of leakage repairs in Yangon Region. To improve such situation, the Japanese Government in cooperation with Japan Consortium supported the installation of required equipment and materials, the renovation of the water supply network, the installation of an efficient water cleaning system, and the maintenance training for YCDC counterpart engineers.—GNLM

POEM

History is a fiction

History down the ages has been a socio-economic fiction.
It has always been the sweet and happy
Story of the rich and powerful in their own words and terms.
History does not reflect the true story,
But always the relative truth
From the perspective of the victorious and politically powerful.
History is the story of the rule
That is designed, dictated and formulated
By the clever rules and administrators and the beneficiaries;
And never by the poor or the public.
It is always for the poor; but never of the poor and by the poor.
It is always the stories of the kings and emperors,
Dictators, governors and politicians.
History changes from time to time
To carefully cater to the need of the one in power and strength.
History is a statement
That always depends
On the perspective of its beneficiaries.
History is the tool of propaganda
History has been the servant of the rich and the powerful.
History has been bent and redesigned and custom designed.
According to the need of the time
And the owner that dictates it
History has been the candy can
In the hands of a clever kid;
That uses the candies from the can to serve his broader interest,
Twisting and turning its dimension and dynamics to suit a hidden agenda.

Saikat Kumar Basu

There was a girl called Miss Bright,
Who could travel faster than light.
She went off one day in a relativistic way,
And came back the previous day.
Hey, hey.... heh. Tr la la.



He went crazy after
studying General Relativity.
Poor chap.

TIN AUNG



Engineers and workers of Myanma Railways upgrade railroad section on Yangon-Mandalay rail line. PHOTO: SOE WIN

Yangon-Mandalay express train to take only 12 hours by 2016

THE Yangon-Mandalay express train is planned to take only 12 hours from the beginning of 2016 according to the Myanmar Railways of Ministry of Rails Transportation. The duration will be far more convenient for travellers, said an MR official.

The current ride takes 14 hours at a speed of 65 km per hour (40 mph). Be-

fore that the ride had been 16 hours.

MR has been implementing the necessary construction work with heavy machinery, especially on the Yangon-Mandalay railroad as it is the main line. The work began in the 2013-2014 budget year and is currently 60% completed.

— Soe Win (MLA)

Traditional medicine, health services provided to locals of Ottarathiri Tsp

A MEDICAL team from the 100-bed Traditional Medicine Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw provided free health services to locals of Zawanatheidi ward in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

The team led by senior traditional medicine practitioner Daw Soe Soe Maw along with district traditional medicine officer U Hla Maw and hospital staff treated a total of 56 patients, giving them indigenous medical aid.

Medical teams from the capital's traditional hospital routinely visit communities to offer their services, said a hospital staff.—*Shwe Ye Yint*



Health staff provide healthcare services to local people in Ottarathiri Township. PHOTO: SHWEYE YINT

Mandalay Ward election sub-commissions handing out voter identity slips

WARD election sub-commissions of Mandalay District have from the 2-7 November to hand out voter identity slips to their respective citizens. Ward officials have toured districts disseminating the slips and spreading word of their availability.

The slips have been issued specifically for voters who have lost their citizenship security cards.

Voters were previously told to bring their citizenship security cards to the

ballot booths on election day this Sunday, 8 November.

The election commissions have assured con-

stituents that if an eligible voter does not have the slip they will not lose the right to vote at the General Elections.

The voter identity slips indicate the voter's name, ballot booth, and serial number in the voters' list, birth date, citizenship security card number and parent's names and address. The slips are to be produced by voters at polling stations on election day.

The slips will streamline important checks on voter identity, necessary to the security and fairness of the election, said an election sub-commission member.—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

Demonstration at No 9 long staple cotton field in Chauk

A THRIVING staple cotton field in Supoathtan village in Chauk Township of the Magway Region was demonstrated as a model field on Monday. Departmental officials, staff and local cotton farmers total-

ing over 150 attended to observe the methods and growth of the cotton field of farmer U Tin Maung.

The demonstration show was conducted by the industrial crop office of the Agriculture Depart-

ment, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Region agriculture officials explained the field's GAP (good agricultural practices) applied as well as the quality seeds used.

The observers were

explained the advantages of cultivating high priced No 9 long staple cotton which is suitable for the local soil. The observers were handed out pamphlets on cotton cultivation.

—*Township IPRD*



Local ethnics attend mass rally to support signing of NCA in Myawady. PHOTO: TUN TUN Oo (MYAWADY TOWN)

Township residents support ceasefire agreement

MYAWADY held a rally at Myasandi Park in ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State yesterday in support of the recently signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the government and eight ethnic groups. The NCA was signed on 15 October in Nay Pyi Taw.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*



Members of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association U Ye Naung Win Myint, Dr Min Htet, Dr Win Maw Phyo and Dr Wai Htoo Kyaw seen at the airport before departure for Bangkok, Thailand on 1 November to attend Young Entrepreneur Network Development Program from 1 to 7 November. PHOTO: MNA

Crude oil prices remain under pressure from oversupply

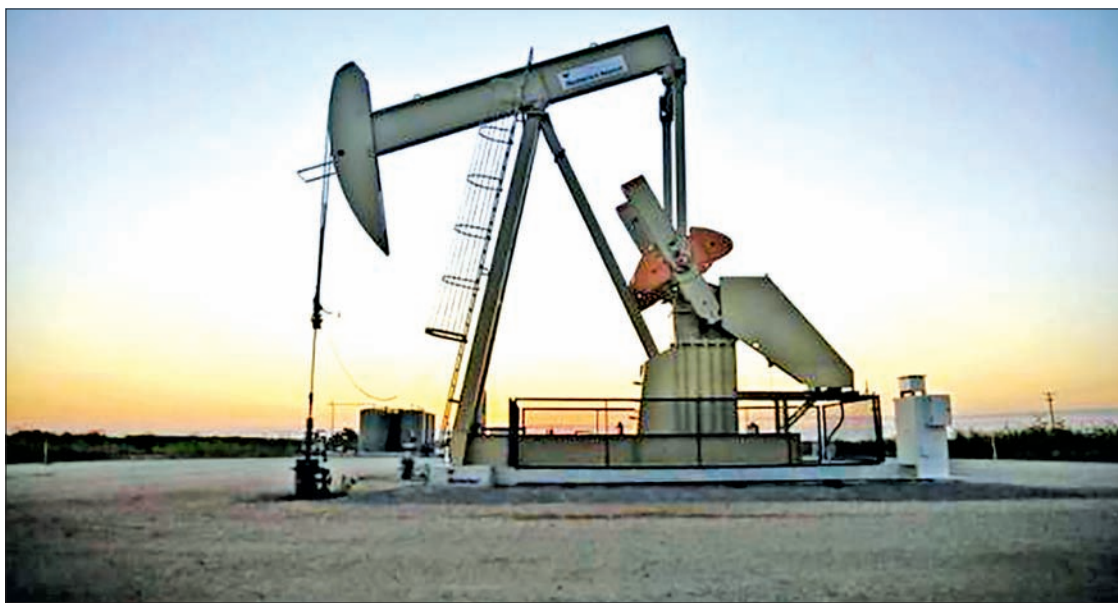
SINGAPORE — Crude oil futures were pressured on Tuesday by oversupply and worries the dollar will strengthen when the US Federal Reserve eventually raises interest rates.

Benchmark US crude futures were trading at \$46.17 per barrel at 0628 GMT, up just 3 cents from their last settlement after falling in the previous session due to a rise in stockpiles.

Internationally traded Brent dropped 8 cents to \$48.71, down 8 cents from its last close, under pressure from Russian production hitting a post-Soviet peak while China's demand outlook weakened.

"Crude continues to remain under pressure due to emerging supply-side news and slowing Chinese demand. Russian oil output broke a post-Soviet record in October for the fourth time this year. News from Iran is also painting a negative picture," ANZ bank said in a morning note.

Meanwhile, Gulf oil pro-



A pump jack operates at a well site leased by Devon Energy Production Company near Guthrie, Oklahoma.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ducers are delaying some field maintenance until next year to keep production high and reduce costs as they forecast ongoing low oil prices in 2016.

An expected dip in US oil production as a result of low

prices is unlikely to be enough to significantly reduce a glut, which is seen remaining at over 1 million barrel per day on average for 2015.

"Our framework suggests that (US) production would drop

by 35,000 barrels per day in 2016 at the current rig count under our well deferral scenario, more than the 20,000 barrels per day year-on-year decline estimated a week ago," Goldman Sachs said. But it added that "a

rapid draw-down of the observed backlog of uncompleted wells could lead to higher production later this year and in 2016".

US crude oil stockpiles likely rose by 2.7 million barrels last week, growing for a sixth consecutive week as supply outstrips demand, a Reuters poll showed. Industry group the American Petroleum Institute (API) will issue its preliminary inventory data on Tuesday before official numbers on Wednesday from the US government.

At the same time, traders are keeping an eye on US monetary policy as a rise in American interest rates would likely push up the dollar against other currencies, making oil imports more expensive in some other countries.

"With the focus on US economic data this week, anything supportive of the Fed raising rates could see commodity markets come under some pressure," ANZ said.—Reuters

In rare appearance, Larry Page discusses new Alphabet structure

SAN FRANCISCO — In a rare public appearance, Google co-founder and Alphabet Inc CEO Larry Page explained why he was spurred to create a whole new structure for the company he created with Sergey Brin almost two decades ago.

"I want to push the envelope for what's possible for an innovative company with large resources," he said during a Q&A session with Fortune editor Alan Murray at the magazine's Global Forum 2015 in San Francisco.

He said the new company would operate a little bit like a venture capital firm, a little bit like Berkshire Hathaway Inc, the conglomerate controlled by billionaire investor Warren Buffett, whom Page admires. There are "aspects of Berkshire to Alphabet," he said, but it's too early to tell how the new company would function. Whimsically addressing how the name came about, he credited Brin with it. "It's only fair since I chose Google."

He also tackled a question on Google's efforts in China, saying "we've always had operations in China," and adding "we'd like to do more." He said he had "delegated this question to Sundar," referring to Sundar Pichai, the new CEO of Google Inc, Alphabet's search engine unit.—Reuters

Israel wonders if too much competition a bad thing in mobile market

TEL AVIV — Israel's mobile phone market looks set to consolidate as concerns grow that cut-throat competition is undermining firms' ability to invest in infrastructure, leaving Israel trailing other nations despite its reputation as a high-tech leader.

Five years ago, an Israeli family might pay \$300 a month for mobile phone services. Today, a family of six can get all its calls, messages and 10 gigabytes of data for as little as \$30 a month.

The 90 percent price drop stems from reforms introduced by the government since 2011 to boost competition and stop what it saw as price gouging by a trio of companies.

Consumers have gained, but operators are suffering - profits have been wiped out, share prices and dividends have been cut back and capital spending has fallen 20-40 percent since 2010.

Despite its world-leading

technology, Israel now lags behind other OECD countries in communications infrastructure.

Israel is just starting to roll out fourth-generation mobile networks, several years behind most OECD countries.

The government is also concerned about a drop in Israel's ranking in Internet speeds. At 46 megabits per second, Israel is far below the OECD average of 77, despite being a tech hub.

The lagging infrastructure led the government to worry its reforms may have gone too far and damaged investment.

"We have a problem with the implementation of the reform because the companies don't have enough money to invest in infrastructure," Shlomo Filber, director general of the Communications Ministry, told Reuters.

The government is now considering allowing consolidation in the market that would enable prices to rise and permit companies to make more profit to plough back into infrastructure.



A woman walks past a branch of Cellcom, Israel's No. 1 mobile phone operator, in Tel Aviv, Israel. PHOTO: REUTERS

Filber said he is not opposed to mergers, as long as there is enough competition and no negative impact on infrastructure.

That contrasts with the tougher line on telecoms mergers being taken by European regulators, who have scuppered a mobile deal in Denmark and voiced scepticism that bigger operators

will spend more on network upgrades.

Having started with three operators and then expanded to 10, Israel is heading back to four. Two small virtual operators, which piggyback off other networks, are merging and several companies are bidding to buy upstart Golan Telecom.—Reuters

LatAm needs to step up fight against poverty as economies slow: UN agency

SANTIAGO — As Latin American economies slow down, governments need to make more efforts against poverty, the Santiago-based UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said Monday.

The agency's recommendation is based on its new study on inclusive social develop-

ment which will be presented at the three-day Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru, on Monday.

The study highlights the importance of creating productive and decent jobs, since wage income represents 80 percent of total household in-

come on average in the region, said ECLAC.

The organisation acknowledged that the region has in the past decade made notable progress in diverse areas of social development, but much more remains to be done.

More than half of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean lives "in situa-

tions of indigence, poverty or vulnerability to poverty," said the ECLAC. Countries in the region must make "significant efforts ... to comply with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, especially the first one, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty in all its forms by 2030," the agency said.—Xinhua

Space revolution hatching in a New Zealand paddock

AUCKLAND — The next revolution in space, making humdrum what was long the special preserve of tax-funded giants like NASA, will be launching next year from a paddock in New Zealand's remote South Island.

The rocket launch range is not just New Zealand's first of any kind, but also the world's first private launch range, and the rocket, designed by Rocket Lab, one of a growing number of businesses aiming to slash the cost of getting into space, will be powered by a 3D-printed rocket engine — another first.

The 16-metre carbon-cased rocket being assembled in a small hangar near Auckland Airport will weigh just 1,190 kilograms, and with fuel and payload will be only about a third the weight of SpaceX's Falcon 1, the first privately developed launch vehicle to go into orbit back in 2008.

The remote launch site is no accident.

"One advantage of New Zealand being this little island nation in the middle of nowhere is that's the perfect place to launch a rocket," said Rocket Lab's CEO Peter Beck.

Ships and planes need re-routing every time a rocket is launched, which limits opportunities in crowded US skies, but New Zealand, a country of 4 million people in the South Pacific, has only Antarctica to its south.

Rocket Lab, part funded by Lockheed Martin Corp, is aiming for up to one launch a week from around 2018, costing just under \$5 million each, a tenth of typical launch prices now, and

vastly increasing business access to space. Even NASA, struggling to shift its launch backlog, this month awarded Rocket Lab and rivals Firefly Space Systems and Virgin Galactic contracts totaling \$17.1 million to launch tiny satellites into orbit from 2017.

Rocket Lab recently signed a deal with Silicon Valley-based Moon Express to send a rocket to the moon in 2017 in a bid to win Google's \$20 million Lunar X prize for the first company to send a probe that broadcasts images from the moon.

Moon Express has already contracted for five launches with Rocket Lab and plans to send robotic spacecraft continually to the moon for exploration and commercial development of natural resources such as platinum.

Its CEO Bob Richards accepts there will be glitches and a steep learning curve, but believes companies like Moon Express are making the future as the low-cost launch brings to businesses what used to require the resources of a superpower.

"The emergence of commercial space today will have the same impact as the emergence of commercial aviation did in the early 1900s," he said.

The bread and butter of new launch companies will be the burgeoning small satellite industry, as players such as Google, Virgin and Samsung [SAGR, UL] plan satellite constellations to carry communications infrastructure and gather data from low-earth orbit.

"We're not about building a rocket; we're about enabling the small satellite revolution," said Rocket Lab's Beck.



Rocket Lab CEO Peter Beck speaks alongside a Rutherford rocket engine in Auckland, New Zealand, on 20 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Three separate internet broadband ventures to provide low-cost internet from the top of the Himalayas to the middle of the Sahara desert are being planned by One Web, Samsung and SpaceX, with support from Google. These alone will require 6,000 new satellites in the next four years, Rocket Lab predicts.

The Satellite Industry Association says just over 200 satellites were launched in 2014, nearly double the previous year.

Not everyone believes there will be enough demand to support the growing number of launch companies.

"The market can't sustain that many; there's going to be a thinning out of the herd," said Daniel Lim, vice president of

disruptive innovations at space services provider TriSept Corporation. Others say launch cost is still too high at around \$5 million, when for \$40,000 companies can rideshare on a larger rocket to launch a nano-satellite, if they can tolerate long waiting lists and don't need control over timing or trajectory.

But space startups have been proving popular with investors. "Investor dollars are increasing their flow," said Sean Casey, head of Silicon Valley Space Centre, a business accelerator for space startups. "Venture capitalists are looking for a return on investment and the possibilities of disruptive technologies."

The largest 100 new space companies received more than

\$2 billion investment in 2015, around four times more than in 2009, according to data from New Space Global.

That is still dwarfed by NASA's \$17.6 billion budget last year, but many say small companies offer options and a risk appetite that government agencies cannot.

Sandy Tirtey, a hypersonic engineer who leads the vehicle team at Rocket Lab, used to work for the European Space Agency, but lost patience with the red tape required to make small design changes.

"I had enough of all these processes," he said. "We're not spending all day feeding paper work, we're spending all day solving problems," he said.—Reuters

Embattled stem cell researcher Obokata stripped of doctorate

TOKYO — Waseda University said Monday it has revoked the doctoral degree given in 2011 to Haruko Obokata over the alleged falsification of papers on "STAP cell" research that was initially seen as a groundbreaking stem cell discovery.

The university's President Kaoru Kamata told a press conference in Tokyo that the 32-year-old former Riken institute researcher submitted her corrected thesis within the one-year deadline, but the content did not reach the level required for evaluation.

In a statement Obokata criticized the revocation procedure as being "unfair" because examiners were apparently seeking to reject her thesis anyway, according to a lawyer representing her.

Obokata's previous academic work came under scrutiny after allegations of data falsification and fabrication surfaced in pa-

pers she and fellow researchers published last year, in which they claimed to have succeeded in creating stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency cells that they said can grow into any mouse body tissue.

The papers appeared in the British science journal Nature in January 2014, but were retracted in July the same year.

Also in July last year, Waseda University, which launched an investigative panel separately over her doctoral thesis, concluded that her work contained copyright infringements and other flaws. The university, however, also acknowledged there had been serious flaws in the guidance and screening process, and said in October last year that it would give Obokata a one-year period to correct her dissertation before revoking the doctoral degree. Obokata's lawyer Hideo

Miki said Obokata was upset about the outcome, saying Waseda University reached its conclusion by "placing emphasis on the social atmosphere" rather than for academic reasons.

She was told by an examiner of the thesis, "It is obvious that we cannot acknowledge you as a doctor when considering the reactions seen among (academic) circles," according to Miki.

The scandal has shaken stem-cell research and sparked a debate about research ethics.

In September, seven laboratories based in the United States, China, the Netherlands and Israel confirmed that STAP cells could not be reproduced using the method promoted by Obokata and her co-authors despite more than 100 attempts. Riken also said what was touted as STAP cells originated from embryonic stem cells.—Kyodo News

Risk of contracting fatal infectious diseases lies in blood: Australian study

MELBOURNE — Australian scientists have found a way to predict the likelihood of someone contracting a fatal infection as many as 14 years before the onset of the disease. The Melbourne University researchers, who worked in conjunction with Finnish counterparts, said a person's predisposition to certain diseases — such as pneumonia and sepsis — could be detected in their blood.

The study, published in science journal Cell Systems on Tuesday, discovered heightened levels of certain proteins in the bloodstream determined whether the person would live or die, in relation to infectious diseases. A specific protein, GlycA which is made in the liver, and transported throughout the bloodstream, was the key biomarker that allowed scientists to predict an individual's chances of survival decades in advance.

"Elevated GlycA (protein) levels are telling us that there is an overactive immune system and that overactive immune system is likely to be chronic," Michael Inouye, a worker in the university's Centre for Systems Genomics, told Fairfax Media on Tuesday. The scientists analysed raw data provided by Finland researchers, who analysed the blood and DNA samples of 10,000 volunteer participants.

The health records of each participant were followed up 14 years later, with their history — a clean bill of health, death or injury — matched-up to the original amount of GlycA detected within their body. Scott Ritchie, a computational biologist involved in the study, said those at an increased risk of death or hospitalisation had abnormally high, dormant levels of GlycA, without already contracting an infection.—Xinhua

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Couples prepare to have their photo taken on the Bund in Shanghai, China, on 3 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A-6 IEE REPORT

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte. Ltd. proposes to undertake the drilling of an exploration well in Block A-6 located in the Rakhine Basin, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in December 2015. An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) has been prepared by Woodside (the Operator), AECOM Malaysia and E Guard for the proposed activity. The report can be viewed at:

- Woodside's webpage: woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation;
- Woodside's office in Yangon: 70/LA-2, Golden Valley Road, Bahan Township, Yangon;
- E Guard Environmental Services Co., Ltd's office in Yangon: No. 99, Mya Kan Thar Lane, Nyein Chan Yay Street, 10 Miles, Pyay Road, Saw BwarGyi Gone Qr., Insein Township, Yangon;
- Township General Administration Department, Quarter. (3), Yone Paung Sone Road, Thar Baung;
- Environmental Conservation Department, Ayeyarwady Regional Office, No. 13 Saw Mill, Shwe Myint Tin Village, Pathein;
- Department of Fisheries, Ayeyarwady Regional Office, Tae Gyi Kone, Pathein;
- Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Ayeyarwady Regional Office, Near BEHS No. 2, No.2 Qtr., Pathein;

Feedback on the report can be provided in writing to daniel.clery@woodside.com.au, info@eguardservices.com or feedback.myanmar@aecom.com or directly to staff at Woodside's and E Guard's offices in Yangon by 18 November 2015.

Zimbabwe arrests editor, reporters over elephant poaching story

HARARE — Zimbabwean police said on Tuesday they had arrested an editor and two reporters from a state-owned newspaper for publishing falsehoods after reporting that a police commissioner and junior officer were involved in a spate of elephant killings. Poachers have used cyanide to kill 60 elephants in the Hwange national park in the west and the northern part of the country since late September. *Sunday Mail* editor Mabasa Sasa and reporters Tinashe Farawo and Brian Chitemba were arrested on Monday and were held at a Harare police station, Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) national spokeswoman Charity Charamba told a news conference.

The newspaper group

that owns the weekly newspaper, Zimpapers Ltd, said it would issue a statement later on Tuesday. The newspaper reported in its latest edition that an unnamed assistant police commissioner, a police officer, rangers from the parks agency and Asian businessmen were part of a syndicate being investigated for the poaching of elephants in Zimbabwe. Charamba denied the police were investigating any of its officers for poaching. She said the three reporters would be charged with publishing or communicating false statements that were prejudicial to the state.

"The falsehoods have dented and tarnished the image of the (police) organisation for no apparent reason. The story does not only affect ZRP but the entire secu-

rity apparatus," Charamba said. Police want the reporters to identify the assistant police commissioner allegedly involved in the poaching. The three reporters are expected to appear in court by Wednesday. The charge carries a fine of \$5,000 or sentence of up to 20 years upon conviction.

Charamba said police had since August this year recovered 70 elephant tusks, 30 kg of ivory, 100 kg of cyanide and arrested eight people linked to poaching.

Elephant conservation groups said in 2013 that as many as 300 elephants died in Hwange park after poachers laced salt pans there with cyanide. The government strongly disputed the figure, saying only a few dozen animals had died.—*Reuters*

Former senior Chinese official jailed for 12 years for graft

BEIJING — A Chinese court has sentenced a former top aide to the country's disgraced security chief Zhou Yongkang to 12 years in prison for corruption, state broadcaster China Central Television

(CCTV) reported via its official microblog on Tuesday.

Li Chongxi, once the top political adviser in the southwestern province of Sichuan, one of Zhou's old strongholds, was indicted

on corruption charges in April. He is among a slew of former Zhou allies to face punishment for graft amid a sweeping anti-corruption campaign by the ruling Communist Party's leadership.—*Reuters*

Poor nations struggle to spend climate aid billions — charity

LONDON — Billions of dollars pledged by developed nations in climate finance over the last decade remain unused as poor countries that often most need the money are ill-equipped to spend it, international charity WaterAid said on Tuesday.

Despite donors' willingness to provide funding, vulnerable countries worst hit by rising climate pressures such as droughts and floods often lack the capacity to implement, manage and oversee projects to help them cope, WaterAid said.

"Countries that are most in need of adaptation finance are also those that are least able to spend it," WaterAid analyst Louise Whiting told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

More support is required to help countries get ready to use climate finance "so they can actually spend the money and get it to where it is needed", she added.

Just 15 percent of the \$21.1 billion in climate finance approved by developed countries from 2003 to 2014 has been disbursed, and little of it went to the world's poorest countries, WaterAid said in a report based on research by development consultancy Oxford Policy Management.

Sub-Saharan African

countries received less than 2.5 percent of total climate funding in that period despite being among those at greatest risk from extreme heat and erratic rainfall, and being responsible for only a tiny fraction of planet-warming emissions, the report said.

Just 16 percent of climate finance has been used for adaptation programmes, while the vast majority of the money is being spent on reducing carbon emissions in middle-income countries, it said. WaterAid joined other anti-poverty charities in urging world leaders due to agree a new deal to curb global warming at a U.N.

summit in Paris next month to boost funding for efforts to adapt to climate change impacts.

WaterAid said it was alarming that, despite growing evidence linking climate change to water security, only a fraction of climate finance goes to securing access to clean water during floods or droughts, jeopardising development gains.

"For families living in extreme poverty, with fragile access to safe water, good sanitation and hygiene, these lengthening dry seasons and intensifying monsoons wipe out years of work and further

entrench the cycle of poverty," Whiting said in a statement. "Safeguarding basic services including clean water, sanitation and hygiene helps communities recover faster and become more resilient to climatic extremes."

More than 650 million people around the world live without access to clean water and 1.2 billion live in areas of water scarcity, WaterAid said, citing United Nations' figures. They will become even more vulnerable as their already scarce resources are further exposed to climate-related threats, WaterAid said.—Reuters



Villagers walk on a street as the haze shrouds Pulau Mentaro village in Muaro Jambi, on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. PHOTO: REUTERS

Food safety, trade should improve nutrition, boost development: FAO and WTO

UNITED NATIONS — The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreed on Monday to promote international food trade and safety in ways that improve nutrition and allow small-scale producers to have better access to international agricultural markets.

"We look forward to ensuring fair trade of agricultural and food products through this stronger (FAO-WTO) cooperation," FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said in a press release.

"On the one hand trade is likely to play an increasing role in meeting the growing demand from food-deficit countries. On the other hand, greater trade openness may undermine the capacity of local people to produce their own food," he was quoted as saying at an event at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

According to the press release, Graziano da Silva warned that failure to reach a balanced solution on issues relating to production and trade of agricultural products could derail the international community's recently agreed sustainable development goal to eradicate world hunger.

WTO's Director-Gen-

eral Roberto Azevedo stressed that "we seek to ensure that the global trading system works for all, that it is fair and balanced," in a way "which supports growth and development and allows people to access the goods and services that they need" including food.

"When I visit developing countries, especially in Africa ... business people tell me about the difficulties they face in meeting the required standards," he said.

It is essential to provide capacity building for producers in developing countries, an area of work where the WTO and FAO are seeking to deepen their collaboration, he added.

Azevedo referred to the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled for December in Nairobi, Kenya, where the role of agriculture — especially in development and in improving the lives of people in least developed countries — will be high on the agenda. Issues for discussion include addressing trade restrictions that impact imports, such as the lowering of tariffs, the need to minimize domestic agricultural subsidies, and the "distortions these programmes produce," Azevedo said, as well as the need to eliminate export subsidies.—Xinhua

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

(TENDER NO. 4(T)MPE/MIXED LPG (1)/2015-2016)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mixed LPG (1,800 MT ± 5%).
2. Tender Closing Date : **1.12. 2015** at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : **1.12. 2015** at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : **Within 14th -18th February 2016**
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing **5.11.2015** on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

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Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon. 4th November 2015

SO THAT U MYO MIN THEIN AND EVERYONE MAY KNOW

Under the Directive of Daw Aye Sandar, living at No. 128, Aye Chan Tha Yar Yay Street, U Nine Ward (48), Dagon Myothit (Northern), Yangon Region, it is declared as the following;

My Client Daw Aye Sandar is the Legal Managing Director in "STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MARKETING (SAM) COMPANY.

Other Director is Daw Thida Swe.

It is declared to know the General Populace, that U Myo Min Thein and SAM Company has No Absolute Concern/Connection and apart from it the Company does not assign him Any Duty to perform.

If Anyone performs to cause Losses/Impacts towards the Business of Company, Finance, Prestige, it is declared in addition, that lawful Action shall be taken.

Assigned Director

Daw Aye Sandar

Under Directive

Daw Thae Su Mon

U Win Swe Oo

Higher Grade Pleader

Advocate

No. 126(First Floor), 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th November, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay Regions, Shan and Chin States, scattered in Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine 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 Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Adele's 'Hello' breaks 1 million digital sales in record

LOS ANGELES — British singer Adele smashed records with her comeback single "Hello", selling more than 1.1 million digital songs in the first week and becoming the first song ever to break the 1 million download mark on the Billboard charts.

Adele also roundly beat Canadian teen heartthrob Justin Bieber, whose latest single "Sorry" sold 276,800 downloads in its debut week, taking second place, according to data released by Nielsen Music on Monday for the past week.

"Hello" was the first single from Adele's upcoming new al-

bum "25", to be released this month, and follows a four-year break from music after her "21" album won six Grammy awards and sold more than 30 million copies worldwide.

"Hello" was streamed 47.5 million times globally on Spotify, making it the most-streamed song over a week in the online streaming platform's history.

The music video also broke records at entertainment platform Vevo.com, delivering more than 27 million views in the first 24 hours after its release last week.

Nielsen Music said the previous best-selling digital song



PHOTO: REUTERS

in a single week was American rapper Flo Rida's "Right Round" in 2009, which sold 636,000 downloads. On the Billboard 200 album chart, Australian pop punk band 5 Seconds of Summer grabbed the No.1 spot selling 192,000 units of their new release "Sounds Good Feels Good."

That pushed country singer

Carrie Underwood into second place with her new album "Storyteller" with some 177,000 units sold. Blake Shelton, country music star and a judge on TV show "The Voice," saw his greatest hits collection "Reloaded; 20 #1 Hits" debut in 5th place.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song

sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Canadian rapper The Weeknd held on to the No. 3 position with "Beauty Behind the Madness," and last week's chart toppers, Pentatonix, slipped to 8th with their self-titled album of a cappella songs.—*Reuters*

Movie awards season kicks off with Hollywood Film Awards



Actor Robert De Niro accepts the Hollywood Career Achievement Award at the Hollywood Film Awards. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEVERLY HILLS — The movie awards season kicked off on Sunday with the 19th annual Hollywood Film Awards, honoring performances from released as well as upcoming films.

Will Smith received the Hollywood Actor Award for "Concussion", in which he portrays a pathologist who diagnosed a degenerative brain disease suffered by US football players.

British actress Carey Mulligan received the Hollywood Actress Award for her role in "Suffragette" while Swedish actress Alicia Vikander received the Hollywood Breakout Actress award for "The Danish Girl".

Jane Fonda won the Supporting Actress Award for her work

in "Youth". She said it was "pretty surprising" to still be working at 77, but added that things were slowly changing for older actors.

"Not fast enough, but we keep pushing and we'll continue to, so that more older people, more older women in particular and more women in general have jobs in front of and behind the camera," she said.

Benicio Del Toro received Hollywood Supporting Actor Award for "Sicario".

Also receiving awards were actor Robert De Niro, who was honored for Career Achievement and producer Ridley Scott, who received the Hollywood Producer Award for "The Martian".—*Reuters*

Monica Bellucci has immense respect for Shah Rukh Khan

LONDON — Italian actress Monica Bellucci, who is all set to play the Bond girl in "Spectre", is impressed with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan whom she met in Morocco.

When asked whether she would like to work in Bollywood, the 51-year-old star said, "Ah, Bollywood, I can't say anything. I can't sing. I can't

dance. But, I met Shahrukh Khan once in Morocco and he is a really kind hearted man. I am glad that I met him and I have an immense respect for him."

Bellucci feels Bollywood films are entertaining and Indian cinema is doing well.

"Bollywood has many talented and good directors and in today's time and Indian Cinema is doing really good. There's

something different happening out there," she said at the world premiere of the movie in London recently.

"Spectre", the 24th James Bond film from Albert R Broccoli's EON Productions, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, and Sony Pictures Entertainment, is set for release in India on 20 November, 2015 in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu.—*PTI*

Rocker Rod Stewart continues song writing return with new album

LONDON — Singing about a soldier serving abroad or bedtime for his young son, rocker Rod Stewart continues his comeback to song writing with new album "Another Country" and says his attitude to penning tracks has changed with age.

The 70-year old singer, who gained fame with the band Faces before enjoying solo stardom, has previously said song writing was a slow process for him.

"Time", released in 2013, was his first self-penned album in years, following several covers, including the popular "The Great American Songbook" album series.

"In the old days, when I was



PHOTO: REUTERS

with the Faces and my solo albums, (song writing) was more like being at school doing homework," Stewart told Reuters. "But actually now, I enjoy the process. It's something, I think, has come with age."

With his spiky hair and raspy voice, Stewart is known for hits such as "Maggie May" and "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?". He says his new album is "pretty varied". "There's ... 'Way Back

Home', which although I wasn't around ... (is) memories I've garnered from my brothers, sisters and parents about what London was like after the war," he said. "Otherwise there's a song on there about putting my son to bed."

Stewart has long been candid about his rock and roll party lifestyle. Today's music scene is a lot tamer than his 1970s heyday, he said.—*Reuters*

Culture fest with a twist



Performers from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region at their pavilion at the expo.
PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — A wide range of displays, from cultural to cutting edge, marks this year's exhibition. Sun Ye looks up the stalls that celebrate art forms of dozens of countries and China's many provinces.

The 2015 Beijing Culture Expo this year features the Belt and Road Initiative, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei integration and various initiatives in technology and finance.

The 2015 China International Culture and Creative Industry Expo, now in its 10th year, was launched on Thursday at Beijing's China International

Exhibition Centre.

A full slate of forums, exhibitions and competitions in the culture and creative realm will be held through December across the city.

Some parallel sessions will also be held in Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province.

Exhibitors from more than 40 countries and regions have gathered for the event.

The expo also has delegations from 23 provinces.

"The Beijing Culture Expo is the window to understand China's creative sector and its cut-

ting-edge industries," Li Wei, vice-president of the expo's organising committee and secretary-general of the Beijing municipal government, said at the opening ceremony.

In the 10 years since the expo was launched, Beijing's creative sector has gone on to become one of the pillars of the city's development, says Li.

The sector has grown at a rate of 17.3 percent annually since 2006.

In 2014, it contributed 13.2 percent to the city's gross GDP.

The deals signed during the last nine expos are

worth 590 billion yuan (\$93 billion), according to official statistics.

"The expo provides fuel for the growth of industry," Li says. "At the expo, you can always catch the tempo of the times."

The theme this year is "promote cultural prosperity and facilitate innovation".

As the Belt and Road Initiative continues to expand its influence in nearly all realms of business inside and outside the country, the expo also shows the project's impact on the cultural front.

Local crafts and artistic products from regions along the Silk Road, from Kyrgyzstan to the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, are on show.

Previews of Silk Road-themed performances, from 3-D projection shows to extravagant dance dramas, travel to the Silk Road's cultural destinations and even holiday resorts are all being promoted at the expo.

Yu Haibo, deputy director of the culture expo organising committee office, says: "This is the window to display Chinese culture."

As Beijing and Tianjin cities, and Hebei province have begun regional integration, their common cultural roots and history are also being highlighted at the event.—Xinhua

Kenya seeks to reassure tourists of safety at World Travel Market

NAIROBI — Kenya's tourism marketers have traveled to Britain to reassure international tourists of their safety while travelling in the country.

About 50 marketers led by Cabinet Secretary Phyllis Kandie will be showcasing their tourism products at the 36th World Travel Market (WTM) in London for four days from Monday.

"We are in London to now re-affirm our resilience and that Kenya is safe for our tourists, the government has put in place a raft of security measures to scale up security for both the visitors and tourists alike," Kandie said in a statement issued in Nairobi on Monday.

Kenya Tourism Board (KTB)'s key strategy during the event will be Kenyan culture and conservation.

The statement said the county governments, tour operators, hoteliers are among the delegation to promote their tourism products and services.

KTB Managing Director Muriithi Ndegwa has expressed his optimism of reversing the down-ward growth fol-

lowing a number of marketing strategies KTB has put in place.

British government has revised its travel advisory on Kenya last Thursday.

"The move is a major boost to the strategies already in motion to improve the tourism sector that is now picking up. The UK remains one of our top source markets and the revision of travel advisory will further enhance the arrivals from this market," Ndegwa said.

"It is a positive endorsement and recognition of government's efforts in improved security for both citizens and tourists alike," he added.

Kenya will be among the over 5,000 suppliers of travel and tourist products who are meeting to discover and negotiate the latest travel industry trends and opinions, at the WTM, one of the largest tourism fair in the world.

Kenya has set aside 100 million US dollars, up from the previous 50 million dollars budget to revamp the tourist sector.

Kandie said the tourism sector plays a critical role in Kenyan economy due to its huge multiplier effects.—Xinhua

Americans becoming less religious, especially young adults: poll

NEW YORK — Americans are becoming less religious, judging by such markers as church attendance, prayer and belief in God, and the trend is more pronounced among young adults, according to a poll released on Tuesday.

The share of US adults who say they believe in God, while still high compared with other advanced industrial countries, slipped

to 89 percent in 2014 from 92 percent in 2007, according to the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study. The proportion of Americans who say they are "absolutely certain" God exists fell even more, to 63 percent in 2014 from 71 percent in 2007. The percentage of Americans who pray every day, attend religious services regularly and consider religion important

in their lives are down by small, but statistically significant measures, the survey found.


The trend is most pronounced among young adults, with only half of those born from 1990 to 1996 absolutely certain of their belief in God, compared to 71 percent of the "silent generation," or those born from 1928 to 1945. Younger people also are

less likely to pray daily, at 39 percent, compared to "silent generation" adults at 67 percent. Young adults are also much less likely to attend religious services, the survey found. On the other hand, 77 percent of Americans continue to identify with some religious faith, and those who do are just as committed now as they were in 2007, according to the survey. Two-thirds of re-

ligiously affiliated adults say they pray every day and that religion is very important to them, the survey found.

The survey also found religious divides among the political parties, with those who are not religiously affiliated more likely to be Democrats, at 28 percent, compared to 14 percent of Republicans. About 38 percent of Republicans identify as evangelical Protestants —

the largest religious group in the party, the survey found. Catholics make up 21 percent of each major political party. Orianna O'Neill, 21, a student at Beloit College in Wisconsin who comes from a non-religious household but sometimes prays, said she thinks the anti-science, anti-gay rhetoric of some politicians may be turning some young people away from religion.—Reuters



09:50 Am Beach Food Delivery

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am All About Orchids

10:40 Am Around The Maha Boditahtaung

10:51 Am Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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 The Most Prominent Resort And Residence - Ngapali

07:50 Pm Sagaing: Guitars

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The Sphinx Of Egypt And The Manousiha Of Myanmar

08:41 Pm Up Against The Tide

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday 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)

(4-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 5-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Chef Life "Moe Moe Khaing"

07:36 Am Shrinking Footprints

08:03 Am News

08:25 Am Excavation At Kawhmu

08:35 Am One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo

08:44 Am A Pilgrimage To Prominent Pagoda In Pakokku

08:57 Am Myanmar General Election 2015 (Ambassador of UK)

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Lady Pilot

09:37 Am Products Of Myanmar - Myanmar Circular Stone Slab



Entertainment Channel

(4-11-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am

- Mono Classical Songs

6:20 am

- Teleplay

6:30 am

- Fashion Show

6:45 am

- Teleplay

7:00 am

- TV Drama Series

7:55 am

- TV Drama Series

8:45 am

- Catch Asia News (Part-15)

9:00 am

- Musical Programme

9:10 am

- National Symphony Orchestra

9:25 am

- Myanmar Movie (Back & White)

12:00 noon

- Close down

Mourinho needs a win as Dynamo Kiev visit London

CHELSEA manager Jose Mourinho will be scrutinised more closely than ever as his ailing side take on Dynamo Kiev in Champions League Group G on Wednesday.

Despite having won the competition twice, with Porto and Inter Milan, the Portuguese is under increasing pressure now that the Premier League champions have been beaten five times in their past seven games.

They have slumped to 15th place in the table and key players such as last season's player of the year, Eden Hazard, are badly out of form.

Although fans remain generally supportive, chanting Mourinho's name during the 3-1 home defeat by Liverpool on Saturday, some players are becoming disenchanted, according to media reports.

That means it is another big week for him, with the Kiev game followed by a visit to Stoke City, who knocked Chelsea out of the Capital One Cup on penalties last Tuesday.

The goalless draw away to

Dynamo two weeks ago was one of Chelsea's better performances of a poor season. They hit the post twice and could easily have won, but failing to do so left them on four points in Group G, one behind the Ukrainian champions.

Porto top the group with seven points and could extend their lead against Maccabi Tel Aviv, who have lost every game so far.

"Everyone can see how much hard work we are putting in and we are playing well, but the results are not coming for us," Nigerian midfielder Jon Obi Mikel told reporters after the defeat by Liverpool.

"The goals and the wins are not coming, but you can see we are playing for the manager and we are right behind him. There is no doubt about it. If anyone can turn this around I definitely think he is the one."

Kiev's Portuguese international Miguel Veloso also backed his compatriot Mourinho, with a post on his Facebook page.

"Say whatever you want to



PHOTO: REUTERS

say," he wrote.

"Unfortunately, I had the chance to exchange a few words with this man only twice in my life. I already used to be his fan, now I am even more."

Dynamo, who have no injury problems, won 2-0 against Metalist Kharkiv at the weekend, a fourth successive win that kept them second on goal difference behind Shakhtar Donetsk at the

top of the table.

In the Champions League, they scored a late equaliser to draw 2-2 at home to Porto and then won 2-0 in Tel Aviv before the first Chelsea game.—Reuters

District volleyball tournament to reveal local talents

Ko Moe

THAYAWADY District's Deputy Commissioner's Cup Men's Volleyball Tournament will be held at the district's gymnasium from 11 to 13 November according to assistant director U Win Khaing Tun of the Sports and Physical Education Department.

Eight teams from townships in the district will take part in the tournament.

"The tournament aims to turn out talented players for the district" said the officer.

The winning team will be awarded K300,000 and a championship trophy. The second place team will receive K150,000 and the third, K100,000.

The Okpo Township team has been added to the competition with new team members in training whilst other township teams are making preparations.

Thayawady District is made up of Monyo, Nattalin, Minhla, Gyobingauk, Zigon, Letpadan, Thayawady and Okpo townships.

Fans have right to protest against UEFA: Pellegrini

LONDON — Manchester City supporters have the right to boo the Champions League anthem to express their dissatisfaction with European football's governing body, manager Manuel Pellegrini has said.

UEFA launched disciplinary proceedings against City under regulations concerning the "disruption of the competition anthem" after fans jeered while

it was played before the Premier League club's 2-1 home win over Sevilla on 21 October.

"I think everyone has the right to boo or protest on different things," Pellegrini told reporters ahead of Tuesday's return game in Spain.

"If they boo then they feel there's something UEFA is not doing right."

The Chilean's comments

come in the wake of club captain Vincent Kompany describing UEFA's investigation as "a joke".

"There is nothing holy about the Champions League anthem," the Belgium defender had said.

We have played many games in Europe where there has been racial abuse — we have had to put up with it."

City's fans are frustrated with UEFA over the organisa-

tion's decision to play a Champions League match against CSKA Moscow behind closed doors last year because of a series of offences, including racial abuse, from the Russian club's fans.

City supporters who paid to travel to Moscow for the game were not compensated by UEFA, while some CSKA fans were reported to have attended the fixture.—Reuters

Garde watches on as Tottenham beat Villa to go fifth



Mousa Dembele celebrates after scoring the first goal for Tottenham against Aston Villa. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur left new Aston Villa manager Remi Garde in no doubt about the challenge he faces after a 3-1 victory kept the beleaguered club bottom of the Pre-

mier League on Monday.

Garde, named as Villa's new boss earlier in the day, watched from the stands as they slumped to a seventh straight league defeat to leave them with only four

points from 11 matches.

Tottenham extended their unbeaten league run to 10 to move up to fifth in the table, above West Ham United on goal difference, one point off the top four.

The hosts took the lead when Mousa Dembele forced his way into the penalty area and scored with an angled shot after three minutes and youngster Dele Alli powered in a low shot from the edge of the penalty area on the stroke of halftime.

Jordan Ayew pulled one back for Villa after 78 minutes to give them a glimmer of hope before Harry Kane sealed the victory for Spurs with a curling shot to round off a superb move in the third minute of stoppage time.

Garde, sitting in the front row of the director's box at White Hart Lane, would have taken heart from a spirited late push from Villa but they will need to

show a far greater improvement if they are to avoid relegation.

Villa, with caretaker manager Kevin MacDonald in the dug-out, lacked confidence and rarely troubled Spurs, although Leandro Bacuna struck the post with a shot just before Ayew scored.

"For the new manager, the shift the players put in shows that there is something for the manager to work with," MacDonald said.

Garde's first match in charge is against leaders Manchester City on Sunday and his first six matches are all against teams in the top half of the table.

With Tottenham unbeaten in the league since losing to Manchester United on the opening day of the season, hopes of a challenge for a top-four finish are rising, but manager Mauricio Pochettino is not getting carried away.—Reuters