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DON'T BE MISLED: UEC UEC sole source of election results: chairman

THE only authoritative source for general election results, which will take place on Sunday, is the Union Election Commission, said the commission's chairman yesterday.

During a meeting with local broadcast media in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Tin Aye said there is a likelihood that wins and losses will be posted on social media networks after individuals obtain publically available information from polling stations. However he cautioned that such information should not be treated as confirmation.

Votes will be tallied at polling stations at township and district sub-election commissions. The registration of valid votes will also take place at these commission centres, the chairman added.

Region and state sub-election commissions will scrutinise results registered at the township and district level, U Tin Aye said.

He went on to say that the UEC's election results scrutinising committee will undertake a final scrutiny of results before issuing public announcements.

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A voter casts an advance vote for the general election on November 8 at a polling station in Bago yesterday. PHOTO: AYE MYIN SOE

K5,000 coin to commemorate gvt's five years in office

A COMMEMORATIVE K5,000 silver coin will be issued to mark the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's first term of office, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday.

The coin is composed of 92.50 percent silver. It has a diameter of 25 millimetres and weighs 20 grammes.

It will not be accepted as valid currency and it costs K30,000 to purchase.

According to a CBM's press release, the number of commemorative coins is limited and they will be available at Myanmar Gems Enterprise's sales centres.

Myanmar's currency is almost exclusively limited to notes: a 5 kyat coin was issued in the 1990s but it is now extremely rare, and due to inflation, impractical.

The coin has the State emblem on the front, featuring 5,000 Kyats and production date of 2015 in Myanmar language beneath. The front of the coin is surrounded by Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar above and Central Bank of Myanmar below, written in Myanmar language.

A royal white elephant is depicted on the back of the coin, with English featured on the back of the coin.—*Myanmar News Agency*



The front of the commemorative coin.



The reverse side of the coin.

Thandaunggyi gets deep clean



Volunteers participate in sanitation on roads in Thandaunggyi. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

SANITATION tasks were carried out along local roads in Thandaunggyi, Kayin State, recently with the participation of officers and other ranks from Bayinnaung Station, departmental personnel, teachers, students and local citizens. The crew cleared bushes, grass and plastic bags from the roads and streets and cleaned in and around drains.—Township IPRD

Political parties, local officials of Kyaukme discuss elections

THE Kyaukme District Election Commission, district authorities and local political parties held a meeting on Sunday in Kyaukme town of Shan State to review the arrangements for the holding of the General Elections this Sunday, 8 November.

Commission officer U Kyaw Kyaw explained in detail the voting process and the role of election observation

groups and media representatives covering the election. Those present on behalf of political parties took the opportunity to clarify policy and pose questions to the commission.

District Election Sub-commission chairman U Tun Win spoke on problems that may arise during the elections and the policy of the committee in addressing them.—Myint Aung

Course on seed, soil preparation and disease control run in Meiktila

TOWNSHIP officers of Meiktila and Yamethin districts attended a technology course on seed, soil preparation and disease control for agricultural production in Meiktila town of Mandalay Region on Monday.

The 35 officer attendees are from townships of Meiktila, Wundwin, Mahlaing, Thazi, Yamethin,

and Pyawbwe.

The course was run to update the township officers knowledge of agricultural technologies. They have been instructed to apply the methods in their respective areas and educate farmers.

Agricultural law was also lectured on by regional senior officials during the course.—Chan Thar (Myeiktila)

Striking workers reach agreement with World Jin factory boss

Ko Moe

STRIKING garment workers from the World Jin garment factory will return to work as an agreement was reached on Tuesday with their employer about appointing a new in-charge for the South Korean owned factory, according to the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection

Department (FGLLID).

“The factory boss agreed to appoint a new local in-charge for the workers and will allow striking workers to return to their jobs,” said U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, an assistant director of the FGLLID, who participated in negotiations between the employer, workers and government representatives.

Around 300 workers out of more than 500 employed at the factory took part in protests, demanding the factory’s boss to sack a Korean in-charge of the garment factory and to allow the striking workers to return to the job.

The two sides will sign employment contracts when the workers return to the factory.

Department officials inspect progress of Emerald Green Project



Officials of District Rural Development Department inspect livestock breeding in villages. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

RESIDENTS of Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, are currently conducting development projects with assistance from the Emerald Green Project.

Staff officer U Than Win

Soe and staff of the Ottara District Rural Development Department inspected the book-keeping systems for agriculture, livestock breeding, production, cottage industries and various projects in

Sibinhaya and Gwaybintoe villages in the township yesterday.

They spoke about the importance of book-keeping for local economic projects.—Shwe Ye Yint

War veterans, families receive cash assistance



Hinathada Township WAO provides cash assistance to its members. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW

THE Hinathada Township War Veterans Organisation in Ayeyawady Region provided cash assistance to its members at the township office on Tuesday.

Officials of the township organisation individually presented K50,000 to three war veterans, each over 75 years old, K25,000 to 434 members, and K25,000 to university students.

A grant of K1.5 million (US\$1,175) was provided by the Myanmar War Veterans Organisation Central Committee to basic education students who are descendants of township WAO members.—Kyaw Kyaw

President visits five towns in Rakhine State



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by local people in Thandwe. PHOTO: MNA

ADEQUATE transportation and power supplies are vital to ensuring regional development, President U Thein Sein said yesterday morning to local officials and the public during his visit to five

towns in Rakhine State.

The president visited Sittway, Thandwe, Taungup, Yanbye and Manaung and was accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing, as well as union ministers and the acting Rakhine State chief minister and senior military officers.

In Sittwe, the president paid homage to Buddha images at

Lawkananda Pagoda, where he also met local elders and departmental officials. He pledged to provide improved telecommunications to residents.

He called for greater efforts to create jobs in the region by promoting agricultural and maritime products.

He urged locals to keep up the momentum of ongoing development projects and to help ensure the rule of law in the region. He promised an adequate supply of water after the reclamation of the Kandawgyi Lake, a major water supply facility in Sitwe with a distribution capacity of 1.2 million gallons per day.

According to officials, K2.41 billion (US\$1.8million) will be spent on upgrading the water facility, which after completion will be able to provide 4.6 million gallons to the town per day, whose current daily demand stands at 2.6 million gallons.

During the president's visit, three members of the public donated K140 million

(US\$109,790) for development projects in Rakhine State. The president donated money for the pagoda through the board of trustees.

In Taungup, President U Thein Sein urged department officials and residents to strive for regional development by encouraging small and medium enterprises.

In Yanbye, the president explained recovery efforts in the region's flood-hit areas to departmental officials and locals, urging them to take the holding of free and fair elections as a national concern.

In separate meetings with officials and locals in Manaung and Thandwe, the president discussed development measures, focusing on landscaping works and power supplies and calling for the promotion of tourism.

The president left Thandwe for Magwe Region, where he visited Magwe Myathalun Pagoda and donated money.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits military commands in Pyin Oo Lwin

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, also Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with officers, other ranks and their families at military commands and military training schools in the Pyin Oo Lwin military base in Mandalay Region from 2 to 4 November.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win gave a brief account of the history of the Tatmadaw [army] and how it restored independence from colonialists. He also spoke of foreign intrusions in Myanmar and how the army defended successfully defended its national territory.

He stressed how the army had helped maintain peace over the past five years and protected the lives and properties of the people, referring to the successful signing of the nationwide peace agreement with eight ethnic armed organisations last month.

He called for an implementation of democratic reform in an organised way, stressing the need to make an intelligent choice for the country's future leader in the upcoming elections scheduled to be held on 8 November.—*Myanmar News Agency*

UEC reminds election observers, voters to observe secret voting system

THE Union Election Commission has reminded election observers that they should not ask voters which party they voted for within 15 yards of a polling station, in line with the secret voting system.

The statement released on Wednesday also reminded voters not to respond if they are asked which candidate they voted for

or to voluntarily tell others which candidate they voted because such actions can be considered canvassing.

The UEC's statement also quoted Section 61 of the Hluttaw Election Law, which prohibits: canvassing; soliciting a voter to vote for a particular candidate; and exhorting or inducing a voter not to vote for a candidate.

According to the law, whoever is found guilty of committing one of these acts inside the polling booth or within a radius of 500 yards of the polling booth on the election day shall, on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with a fine not exceeding K100,000, or both.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Traditional medicine hospital opens in the capital

UNION Minister for Health Dr Than Aung and Nay Pyi Taw Council member Dr Paing Soe opened the Nay Pyi Taw Traditional Medicine Hospital in Pobbathiri Township yesterday.

The 100-bed, two-storey building was constructed at a cost of K918.17 million (US\$719,000), with funding provided by the union government.

The hospital will specialise in treating paralysis and other types of nerve damage as well as having paediatric and gynecology departments said the hospital's medical superintendent, physician U Wai Win.

The hospital will be staffed by 42 traditional medicine practitioners and assistants.

Since 2011, President U

Thein Sein's administration has opened 50 traditional medicine district clinics and 197 township clinics. It has also opened another two 100-bed hospitals, six 50-bed hospitals, one 25-bed hospital and nine 16-bed hospitals — each of which provide healthcare services using traditional Myanmar medicine.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Don't be misled: UEC

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The UEC will set up a media centre at its office in Nay Pyi Taw and an information centre at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon will perform the same function.

Representatives from Myanmar Radio and Television, Myawady TV, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Forever Group, MITV and Skynet attended yesterday's meeting.

U Tin Aye received a Chinese delegation of election observers led by Mr Sun Guoxiong, Special Representative of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to discuss preparations underway for the general election.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Cruise ship docks in Yangon

A CRUISE-LINER carrying more than 500 people arrived at Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal in Yangon on 3 November.

MV Silver Shadow is operated by US-based Silver Cruises, it is carrying 336 passengers and 290 crew members. The tourists and crew members were welcomed by Permanent Secretary U Yi Mon of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

It is the vessel's third voyage

to Myanmar, with previous trips taking place in November and February of last year. The cruise-liner is scheduled to return to the commercial capital in December.

The tourists aboard MV Silver Shadow are scheduled to visit sites in downtown Yangon as well as Thanlyin, Bago, Bagan and Mandalay. The MV Silver Shadow will depart for Langkawi Island in Malaysia on 6 November.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Cruise-liner MV Silver Shadow at MTT. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN defence chiefs cancel joint statement over South China Sea row

KUALA LUMPUR — Plans for a ceremonial joint statement at the end of a Southeast Asian regional defence forum were dropped on Wednesday after differences between China and the United States over the mention of disputes in the South China Sea in the document.

Officials from Malaysia, which is hosting the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) defence chiefs meeting, did not immediately comment on reasons for the cancellation. However, in a revised schedule of the day's programme, the signing ceremony for the 'Kuala Lumpur Joint Declaration' was dropped.

Earlier, a senior US defence official said China was lobbying Southeast Asian nations to drop any reference to concerns over the South China Sea in the statement.

"The reason is because the Chinese lobbied to keep any reference to the South China Sea out of the final joint declaration," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

"Understandably a number of ASEAN countries felt that was inappropriate. It reflects the di-



Participants pose for a group photo after the ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus in Subang, Malaysia, on 4 November 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

vide China's reclamation and militarisation in the South China Sea has caused in the region." The US official added, "This was an ASEAN decision but in our view no statement is better than one that avoids the important issue of China's reclamation and militarisation in the South China Sea."

China's Defence Ministry,

however, blamed "certain countries" outside Southeast Asia, a pointed reference to the United States and Japan.

They "tried to forcefully stuff in content to the joint declaration", and the responsibility for failing to come up with a joint statement was completely with those countries, the ministry said in a microblog post. Wednes-

day's gathering brought together the 10 Southeast Asian defence ministers, along with ministers from countries such as the Australia, China, India, Japan and the United States. The meeting, first held in 2006, is a platform to promote regional peace and stability.

The meeting is taking place a week after a US warship challenged territorial limits around

one of Beijing's man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago with a so-called freedom-of-navigation patrol.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

Officials this week said the United States and Japan were pushing to get concerns about the South China Sea included in the joint statement. Beijing had made clear as early as February that it didn't want the South China Sea discussed at the meeting, a second senior US defence official said earlier in the week. Malaysia had agreed to include a mention of the South China Sea in the final statement, said a Philippine defense official travelling with the defence minister.

The official declined to give specific details but said the Philippines, which traditionally argues for a stronger stance against China's territorial ambitions, was satisfied with the reference. "It's better than not having it in the document, but of course we could have a better statement," the official said.—Reuters

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Thai junta turns to populist subsidies to ease farmer tensions

BANGKOK — Thailand's junta has approved \$1.3 billion in rural subsidies, akin to the populist policies of the government it ousted, to appease disgruntled and politically powerful farmers who are struggling with record low commodity prices and weak exports.

The rural heartland of Thailand's deposed leader Yingluck Shinawatra and her exiled billionaire brother Thaksin is hurting as a result of the military government's economic policies, stirring discontent and the threat of protests.

The military government had pledged to wean farmers off expensive subsidies used by the previous government which it ousted in a 2014 coup.

But last week it approved measures worth around \$1 billion to help rice farmers and on Tuesday gave the greenlight to \$365 million to help rubber farmers who had threatened to rally in defiance of a ban on political gatherings.

"In a situation of economic difficulty they have to stimulate consumption and what they think is: give grassroots people money and it will circulate," said Gotham Arya, an adviser to the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies at Bangkok's Mahidol University.

"Though the junta's action is exactly the same as previous governments, they claim that this time money will not leak."

Gotham Arya

Adviser to the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies at Bangkok's Mahidol University

"Though the junta's action is exactly the same as previous governments, they claim that this time money will not leak," said Arya.

Such measures would have been unthinkable immediately after the coup which ushered in a junta pledging to "clean up" Thailand and move the country away from corruption associated with politicians and their populist policies. But seventeen months on, incomes in rural areas, where more than 34 million Thais live, have collapsed and farmers in the world's second-biggest rice exporter and top rubber exporter have been calling for the re-introduction of subsidies. Thailand's farmers have been at the centre of a decade of political turmoil.

Military attempts to disperse 10 weeks of protests by Thaksin's "red shirt" supporters in 2010 left scores dead and sparked the worst violence in modern Thai history.

The subsidies are the latest in a raft of measures, including soft loans through village funds, by

newly appointed Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, one of the architects of the Shinawatra's populist policies, to appease farmers and boost the economy.

But while aid is rising, farmers remain critical of the junta, which has not guaranteed crop prices as farmers demand, and their measures are far from the scale of Yingluck's schemes.

"Rubber prices drop. We make less money. I would rather see the government help raise rubber prices," said Samai Sribang, 58, a rubber farmer.

A Yingluck rice programme which paid almost 50 percent above global market prices, cost around \$14 billion, and fuelled criticism of vote-buying. She also spent \$620 million building rubber stockpiles under a price support programme.

In January, a military-appointed legislature impeached Yingluck for negligence over the rice scheme that distorted markets and built up massive rice stockpiles.—Reuters

Nearly 700 flights canceled as Bali airport closed over volcanic eruption

JAKARTA — Indonesia has closed Bali airport, one of its busiest international terminals, cancelling hundreds of flights, because of ash spewed by a volcano on a nearby island, authorities said on Wednesday.

The resort island's Ngurah Rai airport will be closed until Thursday morning and will reo-

pen after a re-evaluation of the situation, officials said.

"A total of 692 flights have been canceled," airport authorities said in a statement.

Mount Rinjani on the nearby island of Lombok has been spewing ash since last weekend.

"Tremors due to volcanic

activities are continuously recorded and potential of more eruption is still high," the meteorological agency said in a statement.

Media reported the volcanic eruption had also delayed the deportation of one of India's most-wanted men, Rajendra Nikalje, widely known as

Chhota Rajan.

He was arrested in Bali last week after a two-decade-long international manhunt.

Tens of thousands of travellers in Bali were stranded during peak holiday season in July when the airport was closed due to volcanic eruptions on Mount Raung in East Java.—Reuters

Taiwan, China leaders to hold first meeting since 1949

TAIPEI — Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold talks with his counterpart on neighbouring Taiwan on Saturday, the first meeting of leaders from the two rivals since the Chinese civil war ended in 1949, coinciding with rising anti-China sentiment on Taiwan.

Both sides said the leaders would discuss cross-strait ties at the unexpected meeting in Singapore, weeks ahead of elections in January which the pro-China Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang (KMT), is likely to lose to the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which traditionally favours independence from China.

Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, who steps down next year due to term limits, has made improving economic links with China a key policy since he took office in 2008. He has signed landmark business and tourism deals, though there has been no progress in resolving their political differences.

DPP presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen said the announcement was out of the blue.

"I believe people across the country, like me, felt very surprised," she said in prepared remarks to reporters. "... to let the people know in such a hasty and chaotic manner is damaging to Taiwan's democracy."

Political experts said China could be working to shape the result of the elections by trying to show that ties would continue to improve if Taiwan remains ruled by the KMT.

DPP spokesman Cheng Yun-peng said the timing of the meeting was suspect. "How can people not think of this as a political operation intended to affect the election?" he said. Some said it could backfire, given increasing anti-China protests, especially among the young. In what was seen as a backlash against creeping dependence on China, the KMT was trounced in local elections last year. Younger Taiwanese in particular worry about Beijing's influence.

"Any meeting between the leaders of China and Taiwan would be delicate, but the coming Taiwanese elections add to the political risks for both sides," said John Ciorciari, an assistant professor at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

"Ma Ying-jeou and Xi Jinping are doubtlessly concerned that their summit will help Tsai Ing-wen expand her lead as the Taiwanese electorate drifts away from the mainland."

Small groups of protesters gathered outside Taiwan's parliament on Wednesday.

Communist China deems proudly democratic Taiwan a breakaway province to be taken back, by force if necessary, particularly if it makes moves toward formal independence.



Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou (L) and Chinese President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: REUTERS

China, which has repeatedly said it won't interfere in the election, will nonetheless be sending a message that good ties with Taiwan can only continue if the island's leaders accept China's bottom line, which is that there is only "one China".

The Communists and Nationalists both agree there is "one China" but agree to disagree on the interpretation. Taiwan has been self-ruled since Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the island following their defeat by Mao Zedong's Communists at the end of the Chinese civil war.

"... as long as Taiwan's leaders accept there is one China, then leaders from both sides can meet."

Zheng Zhenqing
Beijing's Tsinghua University
Institute of Taiwan Studies

Ma's office said in a statement the purpose of his trip was to "maintain the status quo". He would not sign any agreements, nor issue any joint statements with China, it added.

Zhang Zhijun, head of China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said the leaders would "exchange views on promoting the peaceful development of cross-Taiwan Straits relations", according to a statement carried by the official Xinhua news agency. He called the meeting a milestone that would help manage conflict and would gain "wide support from all walks of life across the Strait and the international community".

The two leaders were expected to have dinner after their meeting and will address each other as "mister", Zhang said, presumably to avoid calling each other Mr. President, as neither officially recognises the other as head of state.

The meeting came about after Chinese and Taiwanese officials met in the Chinese city of Guangzhou last month, he added.

Speaking to Reuters in an interview on 1 October, Ma said Taiwan was not ready to discuss unification with China. While economic and social gaps between the two were narrowing, their political differences remained wide.

Ma has made no public comment since the midnight announcement from his office but will hold a news briefing on Thursday.

Zheng Zhenqing at Beijing's Tsinghua University Institute of Taiwan Studies said it was wrong to link the meeting directly to the election but that it did underscore a determination to get Taiwan to recognise the "one China" principle.

"It's being made on consideration for the long term, to clearly show that as long as Taiwan's leaders accept there is one China, then leaders from both sides can meet," he said. "This has to be the basis of the relationship."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters it was too early to call the meeting a turning point.

"We would certainly welcome steps that are taken on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to try to reduce tensions and improve cross-strait relations," Earnest said. "But, you know, we'll have to see what actually comes out of the meeting."

Previous Chinese attempts to influence Taiwan's elections have backfired.

In 1996, then-Chinese President Jiang Zemin ordered missile tests and war games in the seas around Taiwan to try to intimidate voters not to back Lee Teng-hui, who China believed was moving the island closer to formal independence. The crisis brought the two sides to the verge of conflict and prompted the United States to sail a carrier task force through the Taiwan Strait in a warning to Beijing. Lee won the election by a landslide.

Both China and Taiwan have good ties with Singapore. In March this year, Ma flew there to pay his respects after the death of the city-state's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew. In 1993, Singapore was the location of the first direct talks between China and Taiwan since 1949.—Reuters

Australian intelligence says spike in 'terrorism financing'

SYDNEY — Australia's anti-money laundering agency says reports of suspected "terrorism-financing" tripled in the past year, with over A\$50 million (\$35.92 million) which could be used to support Islamist militants being investigated.

The financial intelligence agency, AUSTRAC, said in its annual report released this week that it had recorded a trebling of "suspicious matter reports" that could be linked to funding of militant groups. It recorded up to 367 reported cases in 2014-15 from 118 a year earlier.

"The volume of terrorism financing in Australia is linked to the number of Australians travelling to join terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq," the report said.

Roughly A\$53 million dollars, A\$11 million in cash, was reported as suspicious to the agency. The funds may have been intended to cover a variety of activities, including paying family members who died in operations, AUSTRAC said.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalised Muslims or by home-grown mili-

tants returning from fighting in the Middle East, having raised its threat level to "high" and unleashed a series of high-profile raids in major cities.

Security analysts have put the number of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria, travelling from scores of countries around the world, in the thousands. AUSTRAC said in the report that it was monitoring around 100 people.

About 120 Australians are believed to be fighting with Islamic State and other militant groups in Iraq and Syria, with several believed by intelligence agencies to hold leadership positions in Islamic State.

Australian citizens now face up to a decade in prison for travel to overseas areas declared off-limits and the government has worked to halt the flow of funds overseas.

Canberra last year shut a money transfer business linked to the family of suspected Australian Islamic State fighter Khaled Sharrouf on suspicions it transferred up to A\$20 million to foreign militants. Sharrouf was killed in Iraq earlier this year.—Reuters

Strong quake damages homes in Indonesia

JAKARTA — A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck the eastern Indonesian island of Alor on Wednesday, severely damaging homes and other buildings, residents and authorities said.

Indonesia's disaster management agency said there were no reports of casualties from the quake which also rattled neighbouring East Timor.

"Some buildings were damaged including a relatively big church just near the border and telephone lines were temporarily damaged," said Daud,

an official with the national disaster management agency.

The epicentre was 83 km (52 miles) northwest off the East Timor capital of Dili, said the United States Geological Survey (USGS), which initially said the quake was 6.8 magnitude. No tsunami warning was issued.

Another quake struck off the west coast of Indonesia's most populated island of Java, causing buildings in the capital Jakarta to shake but there were no immediate reports of damage.—Reuters



Residents walk on a collapsed building in Blang Mancung village Aceh province. PHOTO: REUTERS

Greece carries out first relocation of refugees



Refugees get on a dinghy to sail off for the Greek island of Chios from the western Turkish coastal town of Cesme, Turkey, on 4 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — Greece on Wednesday carried out the first relocation of asylum seekers from its territory to Luxembourg, part of an EU-approved plan to ease the burden on border nations inundated by this year's influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Six families from Syria and Iraq were being relocated from Athens, among the first under a 780-million-euro, two-year scheme funded by the European Union.

Smiling parents holding young children posed for "selfies" with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn beside an aeroplane on the runway of Athens international airport, before boarding their flight, live footage broadcast by state television showed.

"Thirty in the face of thousands who have fled their homes in Syria and Iraq is a drop in the ocean," Tsipras said.

"But we hope that this becomes a stream, and then a river

of humanity and shared responsibility, because these are the principles upon which the European Union was built."

More than 580,000 refugees have entered Greece through its long sea border with Turkey this year. In September, the EU approved the transfer of about 160,000 asylum seekers from member states directly affected by the crisis.

About 86 people have already been transferred directly from Italy to Sweden and Finland under the scheme.

The death toll from drowning among refugees making the short but dangerous crossing from Turkey to Greece's outlying eastern islands has risen in recent weeks.

From the beginning of the year until 29 October, at least 435 people died, including many children.

Such danger could be avoided if refugees were registered and entered legal relocation schemes from Turkey itself, Tsipras said.

The crisis has created a tough logistical, financial and humanitarian challenge for cash-strapped EU member Greece, which signed up to its third international bailout this year, though Greeks themselves are by and large sympathetic to the migrants' plight.

But it has triggered bickering among other EU partners on how to handle one of the biggest humanitarian crises in decades. EU member state Hungary has erected fences to keep migrants out.

Tsipras was speaking behind a large frame of a photograph of three elderly Greek women bottle feeding an infant and singing it a lullaby while its refugee mother looks on. It was taken on Lesbos, an island which has received the bulk of refugees.

"This photo is the real, good face of Europe, and that's the Europe we want to live in," Tsipras said. "Not in a Europe which builds walls and erects barbed wire fences."—Reuters

Regional stability is very important for Serbia: PM

BELGRADE — Serbia finds regional stability very important and Belgrade will do everything to safeguard it, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said ahead of his trip to Sarajevo, where he will take part in a joint session of the Serbian government and the BiH Council of Ministers on Wednesday.

Vucic told Belgrade TV B92 that he does not fear for his security after the attack in Srebrenica on 11 July this year, and added that in a few days he will

go again to that place where a development and investment conference is scheduled to be held. "Serbia will allocate considerable money for this small municipality. We will come back and help," said Vucic, highlighting the importance of cooperation with BiH in all spheres.

We will fight for the closest possible relations, BiH is one of the most important export destinations and this is important for us, said Vucic.—Tanjung



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic .

PHOTO: TANJUG

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maldives declares state of emergency

MALE — The Maldives declared a state of emergency on Wednesday, as the Indian Ocean island nation's political upheaval intensified following a suspected assassination attempt on the president.

Citing a threat to national

security, the foreign ministry said on its official Twitter feed that the state of emergency would remain in force for 30 days. Umar Naseer, minister of home affairs, confirmed that the emergency had been declared.—Reuters

Turkey may hold referendum on executive presidential system

ANKARA — Turkey may hold a referendum on changing the constitution to create an executive presidential system and discussions on the issue will accelerate in the period ahead, President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman said on Wednesday.

Ibrahim Kalin was speaking three days after the ruling AK Party clawed back a ma-

majority in a general election, a triumph for Erdogan, whose ambition for stronger presidential powers rests on the AKP controlling parliament.

"An issue like the presidential system can't be decided without the nation. If the mechanism requires a referendum, then we will hold a referendum," he told reporters.—Reuters

Romania coalition leader says PM nominee may not be politician

BUCHAREST — Romania's ruling leftist coalition led by the Social Democrats (PSD) will not necessarily propose a new prime minister from the party ranks, their leader Liviu Dragnea said on Wednesday, possibly opening the way for a technocrat premier.

"It would be very hard to propose and support a political person as prime minister any-

more. It may not be (from) PSD," Dragnea said after an emergency coalition meeting. "Our priority is to preserve stability of the country."

Victor Ponta quit as prime minister earlier on Wednesday after street protesters demanded cabinet resignations as the death toll from a weekend Bucharest nightclub fire climbed.—Reuters

Helicopters winch migrants from sea off Cyprus

ATHENS — Twenty-six people thought to be Lebanese and Syrian were winched to safety by helicopters off Cyprus in an overnight operation when their sailboat began to sink in rough seas, authorities said.

Radars picked up a distress signal from the boat sailing off the island's south-eastern tip, which is prone to very strong sea currents. Police said a number of passengers required medical treatment for hypothermia.

"The occupants of the sailboat said they had set off from Lebanon," a police spokesman said.

Media reports suggested they were attempting to reach Greece, the primary gateway to the European Union for

close to 600,000 migrants and refugees fleeing war this year.

Cyprus is the closest EU member state to the Middle East, but has seen none of the mass influx of arrivals of its EU border counterparts, with most arriving on the island by accident. The island is not a member of the border-free Schengen area and grants asylum requests very sparingly, according to non-governmental organisations.

About 115 migrants from Syria arrived on a British base in southern Cyprus in mid-October, but Britain has been at pains to emphasise that the territory is not a 'back door' way into the UK. Migrants protested against their living conditions at the base on Sunday, media reports said.—Reuters

Quake of magnitude 6.8 strikes off East Timor

SINGAPORE — An earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck 83 km (52 miles) west-northwest off the East Timorese capital of Dili, the United States Geological Sur-

vey said on Wednesday.

There was minor damage but no immediate report of casualties from the quake, which struck at a depth of 143 km (89 miles).—Reuters

Egypt's Sisi says Britain, other NATO members must do more in Libya

LONDON — Britain and other NATO members involved in toppling Muammar Gaddafi must do more to help prevent the spread of Islamist extremism in Libya, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi told the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper ahead of a visit to London.

Britain took part in 2011 air strikes in Libya, which is now caught up in a conflict between two rival governments and their armed fac-

tions. That has left a security vacuum that has allowed Islamic State militants to gain ground—a fact that Sisi also used to defend his country's human-rights record.

"It was a mission that was not completely accomplished ... Libya was left without the leadership when it needed our help most. Now we have the situation where the will of the Libyan people is being held hostage by militant groups," Sisi,

who is due to begin a visit to Britain on Wednesday, told the paper.

"We need to stop the flow of funds and weapons and foreign fighters to the extremists. All the members of NATO, including Britain, who took part in the mission to overthrow Gaddafi need to give their help."

Sisi said more also needed to be done to tackle the spread of Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

"The map of extremism and instability is expanding and not retreating. We need to reassess our priorities," he said. In a separate interview with the BBC, Sisi defended his domestic human rights record, using the example of countries like Libya.

"Don't forget that we are plagued by terrorism along the 1000 km border with Libya, and Sinai and around Egypt," he said. "We need stability so the rest of

Egyptian society can survive."

Human rights groups have accused Egyptian authorities of widespread violations since the army toppled the country's first democratically elected president, Islamist President Mohamed Mursi, after mass protests against his rule two years ago.

"No one is oppressed in Egypt, but we are living through incredible times,

" Sisi said. "Egypt doesn't want to become like other countries in the region.

"What about the millions of Egyptians who face hardship every day? What about their human rights? What about the millions of young people who want a job and education? Our friends in the West know that we face monumental problems and if we work together we can find a solution."—*Reuters*

Plane crashes in South Sudan, dozens killed



The scene of a cargo airplane that crashed after take-off near Juba Airport in South Sudan on 4 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

JUBA — A Russian-built cargo plane with passengers on board crashed on Wednesday after taking off from the airport in South Sudan's capital, killing dozens of people, witnesses said.

An official said three people on board survived.

The precise death toll was not immediately clear after the Antonov-12 B plane turbo prop plane crashed soon after take off, leaving chunks of wreckage, bodies and cargo strewn along a bank of the

White Nile River.

The Civil Aviation Authority said the number of dead was still being counted.

A Reuters witness saw 41 bodies, some of which were covered by cloth. A police officer, who did not give his name because he was not authorised to speak to the media, also put the death toll at 41. Another witness counted at least 32 killed.

Presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny told Reuters the plane was

carrying 18 people, including the six foreign crew, according to official documents. He said 15 of them died and three South Sudanese nationals survived, including a child.

"This is the number given to us by the (control) tower," he told Reuters in reference to those on board. Asked about figures suggesting a higher toll, he said it could be people killed on the ground but said he had no indication about any such deaths.

Officials said the plane belonged to freight and logistics firm Allied Services Ltd. Officials at the company could not immediately be reached for comment.

"We have rushed to the site of crash which is located near the airport, southeast of Juba International Airport (across the river," said the chief executive of the Civil Aviation Authority at Juba airport, Stephen Warikozi.

"We have secured the site of crash and also we

are in the stage of recovering bodies and black box," he said. "We are still now recovering the dead bodies and we cannot give you the exact number."

The plane, registration number EY406, had been on its way to Paloch, in the north of South Sudan, Warikozi said.

The presidential spokesman said the six crew were comprised of five Armenians and one Russian. He said all the others on the flight were South Sudanese.—*Reuters*

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OPINION

What it takes to make a transition without bloodshed

Myint Win Thein

COUNTRIES across the world have undergone dramatic transitions from one political system to another. Unfortunately, some countries underwent the change through violent means, resulting in wars and the flight of thousands of refugees. Few nations can claim that they were able to transform their political system

smoothly and without bloodshed.

Those that can are justifiably proud of their peaceful transition as it shows the political maturity of their people. Myanmar claims to be currently undergoing a peaceful transition. A transition without bloodshed means that all problems are solved through political means and without armed conflict. In fact, elections are a mean of change without bloodshed. Myanmar's elections must therefore be free from violence. In addition, they must be free and fair. All parties must stand on equal ground.

The outcome of the elections must not be controversial. Another measure of reform in Myanmar is the peace deal with armed ethnic groups, because armed conflicts involve bloodshed almost by definition. It claims casualties on both sides and causes swathes of the population to become internally displaced. Civil war must be put to an end before we

may claim that Myanmar is undergoing a peaceful transition to democracy. Issues affecting ethnic groups must be solved through political dialogue. It is therefore vital that the terms of the ceasefire agreement be adhered to. Only then can Myanmar truly claim to be undergoing a peaceful transition without bloodshed.

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 thantunaungnlm@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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Through your esteemed daily, I would like to inform that Myanmar is dangerously moving towards serious national drinking water crisis due to lack of proper management of scanty water resources further complicated by over exploitation and non-judicious use in several islands and remote rural localities as well as in the city areas. The aggressive use of ground water by the construction industry across the nation without proper monitoring and surveillance and due to lack of comprehensive legal framework in restricting indiscriminate and non-judicious water

use is further jeopardizing the future water crisis; and in several localities even accelerating the process by severe depletion of the ground water table. Furthermore, due to lack of availability of soft agricultural loans and credible crop insurance options, Indonesian farmers are over applying chemical fertilizers and pesticides to secure stable crop productivity every year and as a result unfortunately damaging the delicate, highly fragile, complex local ecosystems by building pest resistance, killing farmer friendly insects and other biological organisms, inducing undesirable mutations in numerous local vertebrates and invertebrates surviv-

ing in and around agricultural fields and most unfortunately contaminating the scanty local water resources. Over application of several harmful and toxic agricultural chemicals or agro-chemicals is contaminating the highly fragile, local ecosystems being washed by rain or irrigation system accumulating in local water bodies irreversibly changing physical, chemical and biological characteristics of available surface water resources such as rivers, pools, ponds, waterfalls, ditches, drains, marshes, pens and bogs. The contaminated water in due consequence is having negative impacts on the health of humans, livestock, cattle, poultry and the wildlife.

Some of these harmful chemicals even percolate downwards and contaminate the pre-

cious ground water resources further impacting the vulnerable water resources. The cumulative impacts of such indiscriminate water use and pollution will have severe impacts on the economy of Myanmar unless steps are taken to conserve water, promote judicious use of available water resources, educate people regarding the impending national drinking water crisis and train them to act responsible for water use and take active role in sustainable use of water resources. Being located in the sub-tropics, Myanmar is blessed with abundant rainfall throughout the year and a significant amount is not utilized due to non-availability of a comprehensive water policy for the nation. Rain water harvesting can be an important approach to deal with the challenges of water crisis in

the nation and strengthening the future security of potable water by storing and conserving this natural resource through proper planning and management. The traditional, sustainable, harvest system used by local farmers for several generations in the past has been replaced by modern agricultural practices for short term gains. We need to look back into those environment friendly practices for protecting the fragile local ecosystems and fresh water resources (both surface and ground water) for securing a better future for the hard working and resilient people of Myanmar. The future could be better if we decide to act in time.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

International organisations call on 2015 election winners to prioritise children

Ye Myint

TWO leading children's organisations have called on Myanmar's future leaders and lawmakers to prioritise children's health and welfare if elected during the November 8 polls.

In a joint press release issued yesterday, UNICEF and the Save the Children suggested a series of policy reforms that they claim would drastically improve the lives of Myanmar children and their families.

The two organisations recommend that current budget allocations for education, health and social welfare be increased from nine percent to 15 percent.

They also called for the consolidation of the recently-established framework for the Social Protection Strategic Plan and the National Education Sector Plan, the finalisation of the draft Child Law, to implement a series of specific measures for children in their first 1,000 days of life and to ensure free and compulsory education.

The organisations stressed the

need to ensure 100 percent birth registration by 2017, the reduction of the under-five mortality and malnutrition rates by 50 percent by 2020 and reducing school drop-out rates for those above the age of 10 by 70 percent.

"This election is a time to inspire the future leaders to become champions for children in the new Union Parliament," said Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF's representative to Myanmar.

"Our mission doesn't end after the elections. We are committed to keep working with elected candidates so that they keep their promises to children."

According to a press release issued yesterday, the two child-focused agencies spearheaded a campaign to put children at the heart of policymaking in the months leading to the election, engaging with more than 80 political parties.

Thirty-seven parties have prioritised children in their electoral manifestos and campaigns, states the press release.

"From our experience on the ground, we know that children are eager to learn and want to break

free of the poverty cycle," said Kelly Stevenson, country director for Save the Children.

"In Myanmar, 1.6 million children, or 20 percent of children aged between 10 and 18 are work-

ing. Some are exploited with low wages or being forced to work in hazardous conditions. These vulnerable children are also at risk of recruitment into the armed forces and trafficking," she said.

The two organisations stressed that the historic general election in Myanmar presents an opportunity for new leaders to commit to children, stated the joint press release.—GNLM Staff



Historic general election in Myanmar presents an opportunity for new leaders to commit to improving of lives of children, the UNICEF and the Save the Children say. PHOTO: CREDIT TO UNICEF MYANMAR

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Tada-U Township

A CEREMONY to hoist a religious umbrella, diamond orb and pennant shape vane atop Thambuddhe Bayyankin Pagoda was held near the toll gate of the Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Sakar-in village, Tada-U Township, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday.

Chief Minister of the region U Ye Myint and well-wishers

conveyed the tiers of umbrella, relics, diamond orb and pennant shape vane round the pagoda.

The group stored relics in the upper reliquary of the pagoda and hoisted the umbrella tiers atop the pagoda. The consecration ceremony was held at the pagoda with recitation of religious verses by the Buddhist monks.—*Maung Pyi Thu-Mandalay*



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and party hoist diamond orb atop the pagoda.
PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

Taw Win Development Foundation sends faculty members of tech universities abroad



An official meets faculty members of universities before their foreign trips. PHOTO: SOE WIN

A TOTAL of 30 faculty members of the Universities of Technology from Hmawby and Thanlyin of Yangon Region, including the two rectors, left the country on Monday for study tours which are sponsored by the Taw Win Development Foundation. The tours will give them international exposure and enhance their expertise. It will benefit the stu-

dents they are teaching, said the foundation's chairman U Ko Ko Htwe.

They will visit Thailand's Rajamangala University of Technology in Thanyaburi, Asia Institute of Technology (AIT) and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. They will also tour a high tech products factory during their five-day study tour.

The study tour cost K 30 million, according to U Ko Ko Htwe.

There will be follow-up training, workshops between foreign and local faculty members of technology universities, and further study tours for other faculty members of technology universities across the country, added the chairman.—*Soe Win (SP)*

Gravel road to connect villages and Zayawady



Departmental officials inspect construction of village road in Zeyawady. PHOTO: PYU MYINT Oo

A VITAL gravel village road which connects Zayawady town of Toungoo District in Bago Region with its Kyetpaungchaung village tract is being

constructed by the district Rural Development Department in its 2015-2016 budget.

RDD Deputy Director General U Myint Oo came

to inspect the construction of the 12 ft wide and 2.5 mile long road. Construction began on 8 August.—*Pyu Myint Oo*

Basic Traditional medicine course opens in Ottara District

A BASIC course on traditional medicine was opened in Ottara District of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday with the coordination of the district Traditional Medicine Department and the district Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee.

The course was conducted at the district General Administration Department.

District MCWSC chairperson Daw Kyi Kyi Yin

and district TMD head U Htwe Maung explained the basic principles of traditional medicine, medicinal leaves and fruits, the four basic properties of matter according to Buddhist scriptures (solidity, heat, cohesion or fluidity and volatility or mobility) and about the process which promotes exhalation of excess heat from the body.

The 40 local trainees were given learning aids at the three-day course.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

Flood-hit Pwintbyu Township rehabilitated by Magway Region Government



Local people waiting for assistance from Magway Region government. PHOTO: THAN NAING Oo

THE Magway Region Government has continued its support to the severely flood affected townships of Pwintbyu in Minbu District. As of last Monday the four wards and 151 villages of the township were provided with one bag of rice per month for each household. Township administrator U Thet Oo and officials made the distribution. Locals are delighted, said a community

elder. (1bag =50 kg)

A total of 25,393 households will be provided with 50 kg of rice every month. 318 destroyed houses will each be donated K 150,000 and 43 partially-damaged houses will be provided with K 25,000 each, said a township official.

Altogether, K 48.775 million (US\$38200) was provided to the flood-damage houses of Pwintbyu Township.—*Than Naing Oo-Ngaphe*

TV networks open labs to read the minds of viewers

NEW YORK — TV networks are trying a new tactic to understand what shows and commercials people like to watch: read their minds.

Comcast Corp's NBCUniversal and Viacom Inc are each opening labs where they will study TV viewers in mock living rooms filled with infrared cameras tracking their biometrics — such things as eye movements and facial reactions made while hooked up to skin sensors and heart monitors.

Viacom's lab, which is being built in New York, will include electroencephalograms (EEGs) to monitor peoples' brain waves while watching television. And ratings firm Nielsen Holdings, which just bought neuroscience firm Innerscope Research earlier this year, is adding facial coding and biometrics to its labs, which currently conduct eye tracking and perform EEGs.

Networks have tried for years to find out what viewers think, but their technology is still mostly based on surveys and asking watchers to turn dials about what they like and don't.

The new biometric data avoids questions, tapping straight into physical response.

"The problem is that when you ask someone how they respond to things, they sometimes think about it or they overthink it," said Alan Wurtzel, president of research and media development at NBCU. "This is the closest to what's going on inside your brain."

As more viewers fast-forward through ads, and advertisers increasingly shift their budgets away from TV in favor of digital ads, networks see neuroscience and biometrics as a way for them to target ads better and improve relations with advertisers. The experience of The Ad Council, a New York-based organisation that creates ad campaigns for non-profits and government agencies, shows how using biometrics could help boost response from viewers. It has worked with Nielsen Neuroscience to test some of its ads.

In testing one ad, for The Shelter Pet Project, which promotes the adoption of pets from local animal shelters, viewers were engaged by watching a

mixed-breed dog playing with the screen and reaching out to viewers. But the parts of viewers' brains triggering memory weren't firing when the message about contacting Shelterpet-project.org appeared on the screen, said Patty Goldman, research director with Ad Council.

So Ad Council tweaked the ad to add audio encouraging viewers to visit the site. While it's not known how much the change affected the results of the ad, the Ad Council did have success with the entire campaign, seeing average monthly visitors to the Web site increase to 174,000 from 74,000 within the first three months of the campaign. NBCUniversal, which opened its lab in Orlando, Florida, in September, wants to be able to tell which scenes elicit the strongest emotional response from viewers, and then use those scenes in its promotional ads, said Wurtzel.

Viacom is examining different kinds of viewer focus and ultimately wants to find the best time for a commercial, so that, for example, if a scene elicits a response from expectant mothers



The NBC and Comcast logo are displayed on top of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, formerly known as the GE building, in midtown Manhattan in New York on 1 July 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

it can plug in a diaper ad; if the scene makes people hungry, it's time to run an ad for food. Viacom, whose offerings include Nickelodeon and MTV, has been working to improve the ratings of many of its top networks, which have been in decline.

The concern is that the new process, which at \$30,000 to \$100,000 per study costs about twice as much as normal focus groups, may not improve sales.

"Just because their brain cells are lighting up during a commercial, doesn't necessarily mean they are going to buy the product, they may simply find the commercial engaging," said Beth Rockwood, senior vice president, market resources and advertising sales research at Discovery Communications, which is looking into possibly doing more with neuroscience research. —Reuters

Verizon signs content deal with NBA



A woman is cashed out at a Verizon store in New York's financial district on 12 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications Inc signed an exclusive deal with the National Basketball Association to bring daily league highlights to Verizon's new mobile video streaming app Go90, the New York Times reported on Wednesday.

The deal, which is expected to be announced Wednesday morning, will also bring new original series and give GO90 access to some live games, the paper said.

With the agreement, Verizon will now be the official wireless provider of the NBA, the newspaper said.

Also, the company will become the title partner of the NBA All-Star Slam Dunk contest and a partner of the NBA Draft, NYT said.

Verizon, in October, launched its mobile video app "GO90" with more than 8,000 titles available to users as well as over 35 exclusive original series.

The US wireless carrier also said the exclusive original series count on Go90 is likely to double by year-end.

Verizon and NBA could not be reached immediately for comment outside regular business hours. —Reuters

UK's NIESR nudges down growth forecasts

LONDON — Britain's economy is likely to grow slower than previously expected this year and next, after posting the fastest expansion among major advanced economies last year, a think tank predicted on Wednesday.

Gross domestic product should expand by 2.4 percent in 2015 and 2.3 percent in 2016, down slightly from August forecasts of 2.5 percent growth this year and 2.4 percent growth in 2016, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research said.

NIESR's forecasts are a shade weaker than those of economists polled by Reuters last month, while a more recent poll shows that investors expect the Bank of England to trim its growth forecasts too when it publishes new ones on Thurs-

day. "Domestic demand will continue to be the main driver of growth this year and next as households take advantage of purchasing power improvements from the low inflationary environment and firms continue to invest," NIESR said.

NIESR said growth remained solid and that it still expected the BoE to raise rates for the first time since 2007 in the first quarter of next year. But it saw an increased chance of the rate rise being delayed until in the second quarter — in line with a recent Reuters poll where economists delayed their rate hike bets to that same period.

After that, rates were likely to rise by just half a percentage point a year, reaching 2 percent by 2018.

Britons are currently bene-

fitting from zero inflation, low interest rates and a pick-up in wage growth, after they saw their disposable incomes dwindle during the financial crisis.

British economic growth slowed more than economists had expected to 0.5 percent in the three months to September, against a backdrop of financial market turmoil in China and a sharp fall in construction.

But NIESR said the slowdown was "temporary" and that the economy would rebound in the fourth quarter — a view supported by a manufacturing survey this week which showed factory activity hitting a 16-month high in October.

NIESR said it expected inflation to average close to zero for 2015 as a whole, before rising to 1.1 percent in 2016. — Reuters

Suzuki lifts full-year net profit outlook on strong India, VW stake sale

TOKYO — Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp on Wednesday lifted its annual net profit forecast by 14 percent, citing better-than-expected earnings in India and windfalls from the sale of its stake in Volkswagen AG.

Japan's fourth-largest automaker said it now expects a net profit of 125 billion yen (\$1.03 billion) for the year to 31 March, 2016, up from its previous forecast of 110 billion yen.

For the six months to 30 September, its net profit jumped

46.5 percent to 79.05 billion yen as it booked a profit of 36.7 billion yen from the sale of its Volkswagen stake.

Strong results during the period at its Indian unit, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, also helped, it said. — Reuters

Watch your mouth: Allosaurus had monstrously gaping jaws

WASHINGTON — You might call the Jurassic Period meat-eating dinosaur Allosaurus the ultimate big mouth.

A new study analyzing dinosaur jaw musculature found that this fearsome hunter that prowled North America about 150 million years ago was able to crank open its jaws between 79 and 92 degrees, wider than a right angle.

With a skull length of about 3 feet (90 cm), that means a jaw gape of more than 31 inches (80 cm), a terrifying threat to the plant-eating dinosaurs stalked by Allosaurus, a beast more than 33 feet (10 metres) long.

Its maximum jaw gape angle was larger than Tyrannosaurus rex, an even bigger carnivore that roamed North America about 66 million years ago and was certainly no slouch in this capability. T. rex was able to open its jaws an impressive 63.5 and 80 degrees.

“Swift ambush predators such as Allosaurus had the larg-

est jaw gape among the studied dinosaur species, which is consistent with the requirement for a predator hunting larger prey,” said paleontologist Stephan Lautenschlager of Britain’s University of Bristol.

“Tyrannosaurus, in comparison, was able to exert continuous muscle force during different gape angles, which would be necessary for an animal biting through thick flesh and crushing bones.”

The study examined three species, meat-eaters Allosaurus fragilis, Tyrannosaurus rex and herbivore Erlikosaurus andrewsi. All belong to the group of two-legged dinosaurs called theropods. Erlikosaurus was a strange pot-bellied dinosaur with scythe-like hand claws. It reached about 20 feet (6 metres) long and lived about 90 million years ago in Central Asia. Its maximum jaw gape reached 43.5 to 49 degrees.

Lautenschlager said Allosaurus and T. rex most likely

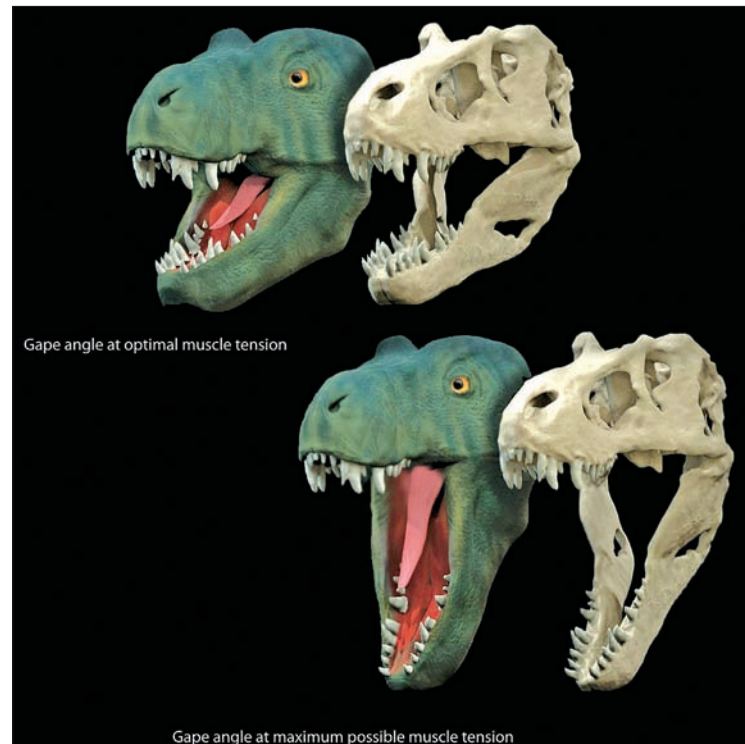
used their maximum jaw gape only rarely, “probably only in cases when large prey had to be captured.” Their optimal gape angle was 28 degrees. Understanding jaw gape provides a deeper understanding of dinosaurs and helps shed light their capability to feed on certain types of prey, Lautenschlager said.

Tyrannosaurus boasted a large, massively built skull with dagger-like teeth.

Allosaurus possessed a more gracile skull, with curved, serrated teeth. Erlikosaurus had a slender and narrow skull, a beak-like snout tip and leaf-shaped teeth.

For the study, digital models were created based on CT scans of fossil skulls, with jaw muscles reconstructed on the basis of features left on the bones where the muscles were attached.

The research was being published on Wednesday in the journal Royal Society Open Science. —Reuters



A life reconstruction and skull model of Tyrannosaurus rex showing the jaw gape at optimal position to produce muscle force and the maximal possible jaw gape. Illustration by Stephan Lautenschlager at the University of Bristol. PHOTO: REUTERS

NASA must impliment more oversight of rocket parts: accident investigators

CAPE CANAVERAL — Independent NASA accident investigators said the US space agency should “perform a greater level of due diligence for major system components” in rockets that deliver cargo to the International Space Station following a 2014 explosion.

The recommendation came in the investigators’ report on the explosion of Orbital ATK’s Antares rocket that destroyed a load of cargo for the space station.

It may spur calls for more oversight of NASA’s use of commercial contracts to deliver cargo — and soon crew members — to the space station.

NASA shared development costs for those programmes with its commercial partners, while earlier rockets were fully government-funded.

Separate accident investigations are underway to determine the cause of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket failure on 28 June 2015, which claimed another load of station cargo. NASA hired both Orbital and privately held Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, to fly cargo to the station after the space shuttles were retired.

The US space agency is working on a similar programme with SpaceX and Boeing to fly crew. Orbital, in a report obtained by Reuters from the Federal Aviation Administration on Tuesday, said the 28 October, 2014 Antares explosion was most likely caused by an engine manufacturing defect, while NASA said it could also have been caused by a design



An unmanned Antares rocket is seen exploding seconds after lift off from a commercial launch pad in this still image from NASA video at Wallops Island, Virginia. PHOTO: REUTERS

issue or debris in the engine.

Both investigations said a fire and explosion in the rocket engine’s liquid oxygen turbopump caused the booster to fail about 14 seconds after liftoff from Wallops Island, Virginia.

Orbital said the cause of the failure was most likely a manufacturing defect in a turbopump in one of the rocket’s two AJ-26 engines, a Soviet-era motor refurbished and resold by Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings Inc.

Aerojet in September paid

“We know the Russians build excellent engines, but we don’t know how the quality control is.”

Analyst Marco Caceres

Orbital \$50 million to settle the dispute.

Orbital plans to replace the AJ-26 engines with a new Russian-made engine manufactured by Russia’s NPO Energomash.

First flight of the refurbished Antares is expected in 2016.

The use of Russian engines is controversial — they have been banned from use in rockets carrying military payloads — but analyst Marco Caceres, with Teal Group, says NASA has no choice if they want competition. “We know the Russians build excellent engines, but we don’t know how the quality control is,” he said.

“To a certain extent, it’s a moot point because NASA doesn’t have a lot of choices.” The NASA investigators said a manufacturing defect was possible in the Antares case, noting that a defect also was found in a separate AJ-26 engine that exploded during testing in May 2014. But they said it was not clear the defect alone could have caused the explosion. —Reuters

Chipotle now linked to 35 confirmed E. coli cases

LOS ANGELES — The number of confirmed E. coli food poisoning cases linked to Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc (CMG.N) in Oregon and Washington state rose to 35 on Tuesday, as the company announced steps to improve food safety.

Chipotle, which is grappling with its third food safety incident this year, has closed all its 43 restaurants located in and around Seattle and Portland because of the E. coli O26 outbreak.

Eight Chipotle restaurants have been tied to the outbreak. The company on Tuesday said it is deep cleaning and fully sanitizing the temporarily shuttered restaurants and replacing all food in them.

Chipotle is also testing the food in its Washington and Oregon restaurants and distribution centers, and it has hired two food safety consulting firms to assess and improve its food safety standards. A company spokesman declined to say whether news of the outbreak has hurt sales at the popular burrito chain.

A dozen of the 35 confirmed cases involving Chipotle were in Oregon and the remainder were in Washington state, state officials said. Two additional confirmed E. coli cases in Washington came from people who said they had not eaten at Chipotle before falling ill, officials said.

The current outbreak has resulted in 12 hospitalisations so far but no deaths, the state officials said. The number of cases is expected to rise as more diners learn of the outbreak. As of Monday afternoon, Washington health of-

icials were interviewing an additional 25 people who became ill, said Dr. Kathy Lofy, the state’s top medical officer.

Investigators are searching for the source of the contamination and suspect it involves fresh produce. Still, it may be difficult to pinpoint the culprit since many of Chipotle’s dishes include similar ingredients, said Dr. Jeff Duchin, health officer for public health for Seattle and King County. Health officials have urged anyone who ate at Chipotle as early as 1 October and suffered vomiting and bloody diarrhea to see their healthcare provider.

A woman sued Chipotle in federal court in Washington on Monday, saying she was infected with E. coli after eating at one of the chain’s restaurants in Vancouver on or about 21 October. She tested positive for the strain of E. coli linked to the outbreak and is seeking \$75,000 in damages. A Chipotle representative declined to comment, saying the company does not discuss pending legal actions. If health officials are unable to find the single ingredient that is the source of the outbreak it puts the legal burden completely on Chipotle, said Bill Marler, a Seattle food safety lawyer. Marler has sued Chipotle multiple times. Those cases involve a 2009 E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in Colorado, a 2015 salmonella outbreak in Minnesota and a 2015 norovirus outbreak in California.

E. coli O26 tends to produce milder illness than E. coli O157:H7, which can cause kidney failure and death. —Reuters

A desert called reform

Paul Currian

HAVE you been having doubts about your vocation as an aid worker? Perhaps you feel that the Sphere Standards don't contain the answers to the really big questions in life? Perhaps you've lost your faith completely — maybe even stopped attending the weekly cluster meetings? You're not alone; if you've been reading my previous columns for IRIN, then you've probably noticed that I have an ongoing crisis of faith in the humanitarian sector.

When it came to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), however, I was Fox Mulder rather than Dana Scully. No matter how implausible it sounded, I had solid evidence that aliens were taking over the planet the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was organising a global consultation process that involved 23,000 people around the world. And I became a true believer when Jemilah Mahmood — who I have known for years, and who seems to be relatively well-respected across different parts of the sector — was appointed as Chief of the WHS Secretariat.

Sadly my belief lasted about as long as it took for Jemilah to quit. It's coincidental that shortly before she quit, the WHS process took a sharp left turn towards... well, towards Stephen O'Brien, the inspirational new head of OCHA (and highest UN humanitarian official) who inspired this column through his inspirational interview with IRIN last month. O'Brien chal-

lenges those of us working in the sector who believe that the humanitarian system is broken. According to his interview, "the system is not broken. It's simply financially broke."

If that sounds familiar, that's because he said the same thing in an interview in September. And because Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, also said in September that the "humanitarian community is not broken... But we are financially broke." And because the World Food Programme's statement to the WHS Global Consultation reaffirmed that "the humanitarian system is not broken, but it is certainly stretched."

You might have spotted a pattern emerging.

It's no great surprise that the UN agencies are closing ranks on this issue, since they have a vested interest in the existing structure. The donors are likely to go along with that, since it's politically easier to make vague commitments for future disbursements rather than it is to make concrete plans for institutional reform. At this stage, the NGO community is still too fragmented to present a common platform, which doesn't leave too many stakeholders to nail our 95 Theses to the church door, or at least nail emerging proposals to the doors of the summit venue in Istanbul.

Clearly this status quo narrative is becoming the official UN line going into the WHS, enabling O'Brien to say that "the UN doesn't have to change" with a



The creeping Sahara desert also threatens life in Diffa, Niger. PHOTO: IRIN

straight face. Not only is UN reform off the table, but O'Brien is anxious for IRIN (and presumably everybody else) to stop talking about "concrete items which might make a marginal difference". What does that leave us with? O'Brien talks about "ever-greater efficiency, ever-greater transparency, ever-greater accountability"—which translates into business as usual, just with more infographics.

Some people are keeping the faith — the usually hard-nosed AidLeap bloggers feel that we have to "get over the imperfections of the process and focus on getting the most out of this rare global opportunity" — but my hopes for the WHS were dashed. I turned to Aid Worker Jesus to figure out what to do about my crisis of faith, but all he said was: "If thy sector is already headed for a Summit my son, then we must return from it with tablets, or upon them." (Thanks Aid Worker Jesus, but if I'd wanted cryptic re-

sponses I'd have gone to the UN General Assembly.)

Going back to that formula of "broke, not broken", it becomes clear that there is a bigger vision for the WHS. WFP's statement goes on to say that the WHS "is an opportunity to agree necessary reforms to humanitarian financing and to generate additional resources". That's right: the WHS is the UN's biggest fundraising opportunity ever.

There's no doubt that humanitarian financing is a critical issue. Yet we know that lack of funding isn't the main problem. Otherwise the response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami — the first and possibly the last time where we had more money than we knew what to do with—would have been 100 percent successful. Unfortunately, the multi-agency Tsunami Evaluation Coalition found "many examples of poor quality work" in which "international agencies often brushed local capacities aside" supported by

donor decisions "based on political calculation and media pressure".

We've improved a lot since then, but none of those fundamental problems have been addressed satisfactorily, as a glance at Ground Truth Solutions' Community Survey shows: six months after the Nepal earthquake, 73 percent of respondents felt that their priority needs were not being met. More importantly, none of those problems were the result of a lack of funding, and none of them will be solved by more funding. More funding for bad practice doesn't lead to good practice: it leads to more bad practice. Even the inter-agency initiative looking at the Future of Humanitarian Financing didn't limit its recommendations to finance: it found that the system is "out of step with the realities of the world in which it operates and is far from fit to meet the challenges of the future". The fundamental problem is the business model of the hu-

manitarian sector—and that means a pressing need for structural reforms.

What's strange is that, until quite recently, the UN agencies appeared to be painfully aware of this need. The first clause of the WFP Management Plan 2014-16 says that it was designed to make the organisation "fit for purpose". In the aftermath of the Ebola pandemic, a report commissioned by the World Health Organisation found that the organisation "does not currently possess the capacity or organisational culture to deliver a full emergency public health response" and proposed measures to make the organisation—once again—"fit for purpose". Back in January, UNHCR's Guterres even wrote an article that said: "The aid architecture we built after the Second World War is no longer fit for purpose," under the heading: "A broken system".

By the time of the global consultation, their line had changed completely. Few were expecting the WHS to be more than a talking shop, but we were hoping that we could at least be talking about these substantive issues facing the entire sector. With OCHA company men now steering the process, it seems increasingly likely that the UN will be leaving little room for genuine systemic change. Still, it seems like Stephen O'Brien has enough faith in the WHS for the entire sector, so maybe it's worth asking—what if he's right, and the system is working exactly how it's supposed to?

Somehow, that terrifies me even more than the idea that the system is broken.—IRIN

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (667)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (667) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (311)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (311) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (084W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (084W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
For **Thilawa Global Logistics Co., Ltd.**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 5th November 2015 kmma@kcyangon.com

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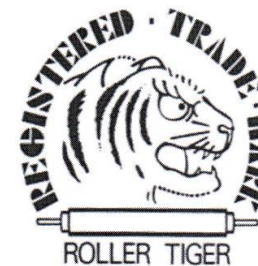
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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 5 November 2015 Imm@kcyangon.com

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
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C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre(UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dated 5th November 2015 kmma@kcyangon.com



MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

Open tenders are invited for three (3) cars (1 Mini Van and 2 City Car) at our Yangon Project.

Tender No: MSFMM005V3
Tender Closing Date and Time: 18 November, 2015, 17h30
Tender Opening Date and Time: 20 November, 2015, 11h00

Tender documents and detailed information are available Mon-Tue 08h30-17h30, 09 Nov-10 Nov 2015 at our office at No 4, Highland Avenue Lane (1), 6 Quarter, 7 Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

Project Coordinator
Médecins Sans Frontières
(+95) (01) 9660147



MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

Open tenders are invited for two of DCA-30ESX 50Hz Mono phase Generators at our Yangon Project.

Tender No: MSFMM005G2
Tender Closing Date and Time: 18 November, 2015, 17h30
Tender Opening Date and Time: 20 November, 2015, 09h00

Tender documents and detailed information are available Mon-Tue 08h30-17h30, 09 Nov-10 Nov 2015 at our office at No 4, Highland Avenue Lane (1), 6 Quarter, 7 Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

Project Coordinator
Médecins Sans Frontières
(+95) (01) 9660147

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BLUE MOON VOY NO (1513)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE MOON VOY NO (1513) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (0019S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (0019S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (095N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (095N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (145N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (145N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th November, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Shan States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:

Rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Kayin and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th November, 2015: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th November, 2015: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th November, 2015. Partly cloudy.

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Sam Smith premieres new single 'Drowning Shadows'



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Singer Sam Smith has released a new song titled "Drowning Shadows" as a preview of his upcoming project "In the Lonely Hour: Drowning Shadows Edition".

The 23-year-old singer, who announced that he will re-release his successful 2014 debut album, "In the Lonely Hour," said that the song was "the saddest" one he had ever written, reported Acheshowbiz.

The Grammy-winning singer

said he wrote the song even before his breakout hit "Stay With Me".

The "Money on My Mind" hitmaker shared that the song was about him sitting in a taxi on his way home when he came to a crossroads.

"One would lead to gay clubs and one would go home. I was in such a lonely sad place, I'd have to decide whether to stay out or go home," he said.

The track, however, could not make it to the original "In the

Lonely Hour" album as things did not work out at that time.

"I always loved it, but something didn't happen right with the production when we were going through different versions of it. Something didn't work. I thought of it recently when we were thinking about the repackaging, and we went in and just did it with piano."

"The Drowning Shadows Edition" is coming out on 6 November.—PTI

Tarantino won't be intimidated over movie boycott calls

LOS ANGELES — Director Quentin Tarantino said on Tuesday he would not be intimidated by police unions who have called for a boycott of his movies over remarks he made at a rally against police brutality.

In his first remarks on the growing controversy, the Oscar-winning director told the Los Angeles Times that he was not a "cop hater" and that his words had been misrepresented.

"I'm not being intimidated," Tarantino told the newspaper. "Frankly, it feels lousy to have a bunch of police mouthpieces call me a cop hater. I'm not a cop hater. That is a misrepresentation. That is slanderous. That is not how I feel."

The National Association of Police Organisations (NAPO) last week joined calls by police unions in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia for a boy-

cott of Tarantino's films, including his December release "The Hateful Eight."

The NAPO also asked officers to stop providing security, traffic control or technical advice for any of the film maker's projects after Tarantino's remarks at a New York rally against the killings by police of black civilians.

"When I see murder, I cannot stand by, and I have to call the murdered the murdered, and I have to call the murderers the murderers," Tarantino was quoted as telling protesters from the podium at the rally last month.

"All cops are not murderers," Tarantino told the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday. "I never said that. I never even implied that."

"Their message is very clear. It's to shut me down. It's to discredit me. It is to intimidate me. It is to shut my mouth, and even more important than that, it is to send a message out to any other prominent person that might feel the need to join that side of the argument."—Reuters



Director Quentin Tarantino poses on the red carpet. PHOTO: REUTERS

Priyanka Chopra bags People's Choice Awards nomination

LOS ANGELES — Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra has made it to the final nomination in the Favourite Actress in a New TV Series category of People's Choice Awards 2016.

The 33-year-old "Mary Kom" actress, who has made it to the top five, will be competing with big names like Jamie Lee Curtis, Emma Roberts, Marcia Gay Harden and Lia Michele.

"Wow my first nomination for #Quantico... Feel like a true debutante again. Thank u @peopleschoice <http://goo.gl/xibY9Z> fingers crossed," Priyanka tweeted the voting link.

In her debut American TV thriller "Quantico" the "Gunday" star plays the lead role of a young FBI recruit Alex Parish.

The news of her being one of 15 actresses vying for a final nomination in the category came

last month.

This is the first nomination the former Miss World has earned for the show.

"My first nomination for #quantico. Only six episodes in. Let the voting begin.#pcas <https://instagram.com/p/9pi-aqUJswv/>," she wrote.

Apart from the actress, the show has also bagged the final nomination in the Favourite New TV Drama category.

"Double whammy! #Quantico nominated too! Yay," Priyanka posted.

"Quantico" has also received an order for six more episodes from ABC.—PTI

Kate Winslet set for BAFTA career retrospective

LONDON — Actress Kate Winslet will discuss her career at a special "BAFTA A Life in Pictures" event on 4 December.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) said the event would take place at the organisation's London headquarters next month, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The "BAFTA A Life in Pictures" series features on-stage interviews with some of the film world's leading talent.

Among past speakers are Kenneth Branagh, Cate Blanchett, Todd Haynes, Ang Lee, Helen Mirren, Alan Rickman, Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson.

Winslet, 40, has received seven BAFTA nominations, winning twice.

She was awarded her first BAFTA in 1996 for her supporting role in "Sense and Sensibility" and a second in 2009 for her leading role in "The Reader".

Winslet was named British Artist of the Year at the BAFTA Britannia Awards in Los Angeles in 2007. She began her film career in 1994 starring in "Heavenly Creatures".

In 1997, she starred in "Titanic". Her BAFTA-nominated roles include "Iris" (2002), "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" (2005) and "Finding Neverland" (2005).

The actress will next be seen starring in "The Dressmaker" with Liam Hemsworth and Hugo Weaving.—PTI

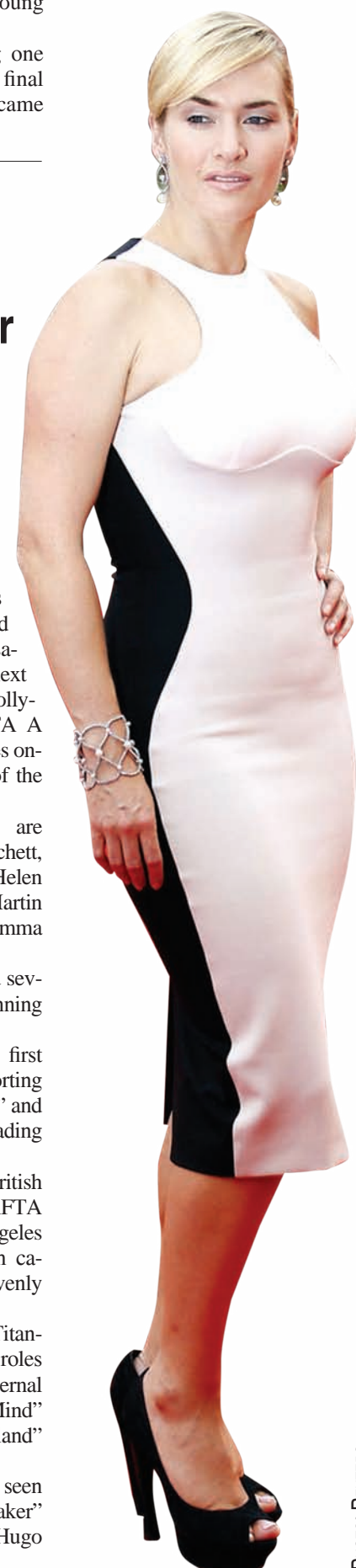


PHOTO: REUTERS

Rome's refilled Trevi Fountain basks in restored glory

ROME — Water coursed back into Rome's Trevi Fountain for the first time in over a year on Tuesday as the city showed off the latest privately-funded restoration of its prized landmarks.

The stone rendering of Tritons guiding the shell chariot of water god Oceanus glowed with new high-tech lighting after the most drastic clean-up in its more than 250-year history.

Marking the end of an aqueduct said to have carried "Virgin Water" to ancient Rome, the fountain now boasts fresh pumps and a pigeon deterrent system following a 2.2 million-euro (\$2.4 million) facelift.

The work, sponsored by fashion house Fendi, began in 2014, some 25

years after the last major restoration, amid concern over stone laurel leaves tumbling from the facade.

"We heard two years ago just by chance that the fountain was losing pieces and we immediately called the Rome government," Fendi Chief Executive Pietro Beccari said.

Transparent barriers around the basin and a footbridge that had allowed visitors to observe restorers at work were removed, returning the scene of screen siren Anita Ekberg's late night dip in the 1960 film *La Dolce Vita* to its former glory.

Tourists in the piazza, named after the three roads ("tre vie") that once met there, waited to throw a coin into the newly-crystalline water in homage to the tradition that doing

so guarantees the thrower a return trip to the Italian capital.

"It's in the movies and it's beautiful, especially now that it's been all cleaned," said Hannah Cowley, 33, a nurse on her honeymoon from Australia.

"I've been watching it on (a live online camera) and hoping and hoping and hoping that it would be ready while we are here."

Known for its luxurious furs and Baguette handbags, Fendi is one of many private firms that have poured money into monuments across the country as a three-year recession hit state coffers.

The company has also paid to restore Rome's "Four Fountains" and the Fascist-era "Square Colosseum".



People take pictures during the opening ceremony of Rome's Trevi Fountain on 3 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Culture Minister Dario Franceschini has called for more public and private investment in Italy's heritage, and introduced tax cuts of up to 65 percent

for these donations.

Elsewhere in the Eternal City, luxury shoemaker Tod's is completing a restoration of the Colosseum, jeweler Bulgari is

overhauling the Spanish Steps and Russian tycoon Alisher Usmanov has pledged to restore an ancient basilica in Rome's forum. — Reuters

Tourists flock to Korea to learn K-Pop dance

BEIJING — Foreign tourists are flocking to South Korea to learn the latest K-Pop dance moves.

This is serious business and some people have already been practicing. Seoul city has 30 percent of foreign tourists who are visiting because they want

to ride that wave, according to media reports on Tuesday.

If the first mention of "K-Pop," or Korean pop music, brings up memories of PSY's dance video, you should know that "Gangnam Style" is three years ago.

Now, the most popular hit boy band is Exo and girl band Girls' Generation. If you want to master their dance moves, come to the place where the stars rehearse and learn from a real K-pop dance instructor.

Seoul city government

has partnered with the Korean entertainment companies to promote such dance classes in the hope the city will lure more foreigners.

K-Pop, TV dramas and the food are all part of the "hallyu" wave of pop culture that is sweeping across the globe.—Xinhua



South Korean pop band Girl's Generation. PHOTO: REUTERS

Margaret Thatcher's iconic handbags go to auction

LONDON — Handbags owned by late British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, whose apocryphal use of them to bludgeon opponents gave rise to the term "handbagging", are to be auctioned after a museum said talks about adding items from her wardrobe to its collection had led nowhere.

The bags are among 350 "historic and personal lots", also including clothes, signed copies of speeches, Thatcher's wedding dress, her red prime ministerial dispatch bag and items of jewelry, that the auctioneer Christie's said on Tuesday would be offered at its London showroom on 15 December and later online.

Thatcher, who died in 2013, was Britain's longest-serving prime minister of the 20th century and the

only woman to have held the office, but is remembered by many on the left of British politics as highly divisive.

The term "handbagging" was coined in the 1980s by Thatcher's fellow Conservative member of parliament Julian Critchley to describe her style in cabinet meetings, the Oxford English Dictionary says, defining it as an action by a woman to "verbally attack or crush (a person or idea) ruthlessly and forcefully".

The auction was announced after London's Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A), Britain's main repository of historic articles of clothing, said in a statement carried by British media that it did not deem the articles appropriate for its collection.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(5-11-2015 07:00 am ~ 6-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
07:51 Am Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am To The Blue Ridge Mountains of Rhododendrons
08:36 Am Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
08:53 Am Myanmar General Election 2015 (Ambassador of Brazil)
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Products Of Myanmar - Seashells Products
09:44 Am Insight Myanmar "PACE Takes Steps for Election"
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Family of Toys
10:46 Am Myanmar General Election 2015

(Ambassador of United States of America)
10:49 Am Pet Fish Biz
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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 A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)
07:47 Pm Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image In Rakhine
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:40 Pm Now in Yangon
08:44 Pm Jeyyanandi (A Day in the Life of a Nun)
09:03 Pm News
09:26 Pm Let's Cook (EP-8) Caesar Salad and Scrumptious Crackers with Assorted Toppings
09:50 Pm Art Students: Sculpture
(10:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (10:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(5-11-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am
• Mono Classical Songs
6:20 am
• Fashion
6:40 am
• Teleplay
7:00 am
• TV Drama Series
7:50 am
• TV Drama Series
8:50 am
• Teleplay
10:10 am
• ABU Radio Song Festival
10:30 am
• Myanmar Video
12:00 noon
• Colse Down

Susie Wolff to retire from motorsport

LONDON — Britain's Susie Wolff, the first woman driver in 22 years to take part in a Formula One grand prix weekend, on Wednesday announced her retirement from motorsport at the end of the year.

The 32-year-old Williams development driver accepted her dream of racing in Formula One was not going to happen and she now wanted to help the next generation of women drivers reach the top.

"I dared to be different, I want to inspire others to do the same," she wrote in a blog on the Huffington Post website.

Wolff, whose husband Toto is the Mercedes motorsport director, was appointed Williams development driver in 2012 and last year made a breakthrough when she took part in free practise for the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

She subsequently also

took part in practise at the 2014 German Grand Prix and in Spain and Britain again this season.

No woman has raced in Formula One since 1976 and the last before Wolff to take part in a grand prix weekend was Italian Giovanna Amati who failed to qualify with Brabham in 1992.

"I got oh so close," she said on Wednesday. "I wanted and fought very hard to make it onto that starting grid but the events at the start of this year and the current environment in F1 the way it is, it isn't going to happen.

"I can only tell you, I gave it my all," she added. "Do I think F1 is ready for a competitive female racing driver that can perform at the highest level? Yes. Do I think it is achievable as a woman? Most definitely.—Reuters

Djokovic downs Bellucci to reach third round in Paris

PARIS — World number one Novak Djokovic was given a decent workout by Brazilian Thomaz Bellucci as he opened his Paris Masters campaign with a 7-5, 6-3 second-round win on Tuesday.

The world number one, bidding to win the Paris indoor title for an unprecedented third time in a row, broke to love in the last game of the opening set, playing tighter when it mattered.

He broke again in the eighth game of the second set as Bellucci sent a forehand long and closed out the match on serve to snatch his fifth win against Bellucci in as many en-

counters.

"The last match I played indoors was last year in London. So that's why it's always tricky to start out well," Djokovic told a news conference.

"I have had a few things that I could have done better tonight. But again, all in all, it was a very solid match."

"I played against a player who was in form and who is playing well and gave me a hard time.. it's always good to have a test like this."

Top seed Djokovic, who already has three Paris Masters titles to his name, next faces a Frenchman, 14th seed Gilles Simon or Benoit Paire.—Reuters

Malaysia to play World Cup match in Palestine

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia will proceed to play next week's World Cup qualifier in Palestine but have the option to withdraw up to 24 hours before arriving in Hebron if safety becomes an issue, the country's sports minister said on Wednesday.

Malaysia had written to FIFA three times to request the 12 November Group A match be moved to a neutral venue after a month of violence in the Palestinian territories but minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the fixture would now go ahead as planned.

"I am confident that they

can go to Palestine. I have communicated with the Palestinian ambassador to Malaysia and he has given his assurance of safety for our team in Hebron," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur.

"I, myself, have received a personal assurance from the Palestinian ambassador and he will personally accompany our team from the border to the stadium.

"He said the Palestinian government will facilitate our team's passage through checkpoints controlled by the Israeli regime," Khairy added.—Reuters

Triumphant City march into last 16 by crushing Sevilla



Manchester City's Fernandinho scores their second goal against Sevilla during UEFA Champions League Group Stage at Estadio Sanchez Pizjuan, Sevilla, Spain, on 3 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEVILLE — Manchester City threw off their shackles, went for goals and reached the Champions League last 16 with two games to spare by demolishing Sevilla 3-1 with a brilliant first-half attacking display in Group D on Tuesday.

First-half goals from Raheem Sterling, Fernandinho and Wilfried Bony sent City into the dressing rooms 3-1 up at half-time with the contest already effectively over.

City top the section with nine points, a point ahead of Ju-

ventus who drew 1-1 at Borussia Moenchengladbach. Sevilla have three points above the Germans who now have two.

In what captain Vincent Kompany described as probably their finest ever performance in the competition, City were far too strong for a Sevilla side that had won their last 10 home matches in European competition.

The Spaniards were as good as buried by the 11th minute in front of their own fans at the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium.

Man-of-the match Sterling,

with his best performance since his 49-million-pound move from Liverpool, ignited City with an eighth minute goal.

The England winger then had a key role in setting up Fernandinho who headed the second three minutes later.

Benoit Tremoulinas headed Sevilla's back into the contest after 25 minutes before Bony wrapped up the victory with City's third in the 36th.

Like Sterling, it was Bony's first Champions League goal.—Reuters

Rooney equals Law goal record as United go top

MANCHESTER — A thumping header from Wayne Rooney ended Manchester United's scoring drought and secured a 1-0 Champions League victory over CSKA Moscow as they went top of Group B on Tuesday.

United seemed to be heading for a fourth successive goalless draw before Rooney met a Jesse Lingard cross and sent a bullet of a header soaring past CSKA keeper Igor Akinfeev and into the roof of the net in the 79th minute.

It was the England striker's 237th goal for the Old Trafford outfit and drew him level with Denis Law as the club's second

highest scorer, 12 behind Bobby Charlton.

Despite dominating possession throughout the encounter, United had struggled to break down the resilient Russians whose own attacking ambitions were limited to infrequent counter attacks.

United, who had previously failed to score in Premier League encounters against Manchester City and Crystal Palace as well as a League Cup clash against second tier Middlesbrough, mustered little more than half chances until Rooney's winner.

The result left the group per-

fectly poised with United on seven points, one clear of VfL Wolfsburg and PSV Eindhoven, who won 2-0 at home to the Germans on Tuesday. CSKA are bottom with four.

"It is unbelievable because we created at least 12 chances tonight and had to wait a long time," United manager Louis van Gaal told BT Sport.

"Before that they could have scored and then it is a different match. I am happy. We played well."

United began brightly, fizzing the ball around the slick surface with intent.—Reuters