

No reason not to accept election results: Senior General

PAGE 3

Election day sees high voter turnout

PAGE 2

ANALYSIS  
Respect the people's wishes after the election

PAGE 8

# DAWN OF A NEW ERA

## Millions vote in historic election

PEOPLE across Myanmar went to the polls yesterday to cast their votes in the country's historic general election, which has been billed the most free and fair in decades. Voter turnout was estimated at 70 percent, with throngs of people turning up to polling stations in the early hours of Sunday morning before polling stations opened at 6 am.

Ninety-one political parties fielded candidates for the general election, which included ethnic minority parties as well as the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD).

President U Thein Sein and his wife Daw Khin Khin Win cast their votes at a polling station in Zabuthiri Township, with foreign diplomats and local and foreign observers present. The township's 59,635 eligible voters cast their ballots at 33 polling stations.

Local and foreign election observers, along with diplomats and journalists, were present to observe voting at polling stations across the country.



See page 3 >> President U Thein Sein and his wife Daw Khin Khin Win smile after casting their votes in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEW AGENCY

# Yangon abuzz with voters' enthusiasm

**Khaing Thandar Lwin, Ko Moe**

THE general election kicked off at 6 am yesterday, with long lines forming outside polling stations around Yangon Region hours before the official opening time.

Traffic congestion around the city was conspicuously light.

Among the voters was Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy, who cast her vote at a polling station in Bahan Township. Local and foreign journalists and observers crowded into the compound as she arrived.

Yangon Region Chief Minis-

ter U Myint Swe voted at polling station No. 1 on Khayaymyaing Road in Thingangyun Township yesterday morning.

Two auxiliary election police were deployed to each polling station for additional security, and police patrolled the city throughout the day.

Yangon Region had 5,495 polling stations and more than five million eligible voters.

Three polling stations were set up in Kyimyindine, Sangyoung and Mayangon townships to accommodate voters who are visually impaired.

Voters at some polling sta-

tions experienced delays as the polling stations were inundated by high voter turnouts across the board.

Ma Yin Nyein, a lawyer from No. 2 Ward in Mayangon Township, said she waited for hours outside the polling station.

See page 2 >>

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# Government and people of Myanmar do not recognize the term “Rohingya” as it is an invented terminology

1. Recently, Fortify Rights and International State Crime Initiative released papers containing genocide of so called “Rohingyas” in Rakhine State and other various unfounded allegations. Such accusations were orchestrated internationally at a

time the Human Rights Council is reviewing the national report of Myanmar under the Universal Periodic Review, and when the country is at an important juncture of holding the multiparty General Elections. At the same time, Al Jazeera News Agency broadcast a

similar fabricated news.

2. Such news and papers were prepared on baseless, deceptive and false allegations. The Government and people of Myanmar do not recognize the term “Rohingya” as it is an invented terminology. In this respect, the

Government of Myanmar categorically rejects the unfounded allegations mentioned in the said papers and news broadcast.

3. Such unfounded allegations are interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar and disturbing the peace and tranquility of the

country, as well as causing distrust towards the peace loving people of Myanmar. Therefore, Myanmar strongly rejects such malicious acts.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw  
8 November 2015



Officials count votes at a polling station in Tamway Township.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Yangon abuzz with voter enthusiasm

>> from page 1

Some polling stations in Kyauktan Township attracted about 1,600 voters each, but each had 11 volunteers on site to handle the process, according to an observer who spoke to *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on the condition of anonymity.

The observer also said polling stations in neighbourhoods populated by day-labourers were crowded, within voters being forced to spend hours in the sun, while polling stations in wealthy areas attracted far fewer voters.

“I observed that rich peo-

ple are not interested in voting. Day-labourers and lower-class people are more afraid of losing their voting rights than rich people,” he said.

The similarities between logos of different political parties confused some voters while they cast their votes due to the weakness of voter education, said Ko Maung Maung, a voter from South Dagon Township.

A few people were not included in the voter lists in Mayangon Township, according to the township’s election sub-commission.

“Not too many—only about four to six per ward were not found on the voter lists,” said U Win Maw, the chairman of the Mayangon Township election sub-commission.

Elderly and disabled people also voted at the polling stations on election day, even though they were eligible to cast advance votes before the election.

“The election is free. I voted for the party I love. But I had to wait more than one hour outside the polling station,” said U Maung Maung from Mayangon Township.

## Aged, disable people choose voting on election day than casting advance votes

Aye Min Soe

DESPITE having rights for casting advance votes before the election day, aged and disabled people cast their votes at polling stations on the election day.

People lined up outside polling stations early morning about two hours ahead of the opening time of the polling stations, to cast their votes for the historic election.

Among the early-morning voters, aged and disable people were also found.

“I don’t want to cast the advance vote. I cast my vote on the election day by myself. Now, I feel I have already done my duty for the new generation,” said U Aung Myo Tint, 81, from the Tamway Township. He went to the polling station around 4.30 am and waited there until the station opened at 6 am.

His 81-year old wife also took pride to cast her vote on the election day by herself.

However, U Maung Kyi, 87, from the same township complained that his 77-year old wife who is suffering partly paralyzed due to stroke did not get chance to give advance votes at home as local electoral officers did not come their home until the last minute ahead of the election day.

“I walked to the polling sta-

tion this morning very slowly and cast my vote. I am happy to do this because a vote is very important for our country,” says U Maung Kyi, “but, I am very sorry for my wife.”

Meanwhile, Daw Khin Win Kyi, 86, flanked by her son and grand daughter, walked out the polling station after casting her vote.

“While I cast my vote, I pray for winning of the party I love,”

the old woman said.

Polling stations have seen aged and disable people in the morning of the election day than after noon, giving priority to them to cast votes, according civilian police for the election.

“I came here to cast my vote by myself. I also did casting my vote on the election day in the previous election,” said U Hlaing Win, a wheelchair user from Mayangon Township.

## Election day sees high early voter turnout

Ye Myint

KEEN voters in Yangon’s suburbs endured long lines and waits of over an hour to cast their ballots at respective voting stations as voter turnout was high on election day.

Myanmar held its 2015 general elections across the country yesterday, with early-bird voters braving long lineups to vote.

“Some dwellers queued up at their ward’s polling places before the 6 am polling station opening for the vote,” said Ko San Kyaw from Insein Township, Yangon’s north district.

“People seem to cast their votes early due to some concern they would be unable to later in the day,” said Ko Kyaw Oo, a trishaw driver from another ward in the township.

“As for me, I am not worried

about the possible late voting after 4 pm closing time as I know voting will be allowed for people queuing in the compound of the polling station after 4 pm.”

Voters *The Global New Light of Myanmar* interviewed in some wards of Insein Township were on the whole upbeat about the voting process, with no complaints about waiting.

Ballot papers are clean and legible. It is also found that the ink was not spread after having the ballots stamped, they said.

With concerns that votes could be disqualified if voting is not done properly causing the ink on ballots to smudge, most voters briefly blew the ink before folding their ballots, they added.

Their views were echoed by voters in Hline and Mayangon Townships.

But, a 20-year-old young

man in Shwepyitha Township expressed concern over a situation in which part of a word was written on his ballot paper while the staff was filling his name and the voting number in the other side of the paper before tearing the paper in two parts.

“I am concerned that my ballot would be invalid as I was denied to get a new one for the marked paper. They said ‘no problem’, but I got worried.”

As suburb dwellers braved long queues to cast ballots in the polls, election observers conducting their tasks were seen in polling places.

Two female observers from PACE, an election observation organization in Myanmar, said that more than 600 dwellers had voted until 11 am at a polling station where 1,300 voters were registered.

“We do only observation,



An old woman gets an ink mark on her index finger after voting in Shwepyitha Township on election day. PHOTO: YE MYINT

counting the number of voters who got to the polling booths,” one of them said. “I worried about whether crowds will die down in the late afternoon,” said one of the observers.

A returning officer of a polling station in Mayangon Township told the GNLM around 2.30 pm that around 190 voters are still at their homes while more than 500 had voted at the booth.



# President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Cambodia

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia, and His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the occasion of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 9 November 2015.—Myanmar News Agency

## DAWN OF A NEW ERA

>> from page 1

In Ottarathiri District in the Nay Pyi Taw council area, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye observed the voting process after casting his vote.

Polling stations closed at 4 pm nationwide, with returning officers then uncovering ballot boxes to begin recording results before respective representatives. The counting of votes of began shortly after 4 pm, with live coverage broadcasts on local television stations.

In Nay Pyi Taw's Dakkhinathiri district, 273 polling stations were provided

for 400,796 voters. The district's electoral officers urged returning officers to ensure that all voters within the precincts of the polls at the close of voting did not lose their chance to vote. Some polling stations were instructed to remain open after 4 pm to ensure that voters who arrived before 4 pm but were still waiting in line were not denied the opportunity to vote.

There were 340 polling stations for the 351,816 voters in the capital city's townships of Tatkon, Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri and Ottarathiri.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and his wife

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon cast their votes at a polling station in Lashio township, Shan State. Vice President U Nyan Tun and his wife cast advance votes in Zeyatheikdi ward election sub-commission office in Zabuthiri Township on 29 October.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann and his wife cast votes in Kanyutkwin, Pyu Township, while the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint cast their votes at a polling station in Pyidawtha Ward, Pyawbwe Township.—Myanmar News Agency



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham casting vote into ballot box of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives in Lashio. PHOTO: KYI KHAING ZAY



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann casts vote for Hluttaw representative in Kanyutkwin of Pyu Township. PHOTO: MNA



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint casts vote in general elections in Pyidawtha Ward in Pyawbwe Township. PHOTO: MNA

# No reason not to accept election results: Senior General



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing casting vote for Amyotha Hluttaw representative in Zeyathiri Township. PHOTO: MYAWADY

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the media after casting his vote in yesterday's general election that the results will be accepted.

Defence services personnel and their families cast their votes at polling stations across the country during the general election, which began at 6 am on Sunday.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cast their votes at polling station No. 1 in the compound of the Commander-in-Chief's (Army) office in Anarawhta Ward, Zeyathiri Township in Nay

Pyi Taw at 9.15 am.

After casting his vote, the senior general responded to questions raised by the media. He said that he hoped that the party most trusted by the people would win the elections and that there was no reason not to accept the election results, as the results are chosen by the people of Myanmar.

He added that he hoped that the representatives of various parties elected by the people would cooperate in the interests of the country's development.

The senior general also pointed out that it was necessary for the public to abide by the law and to accept the results, which will be announced by the Union

Election Commission. He said that any transfer will adhere to the requirements set out in Myanmar's constitution. The senior general urged the public to exercise their democratic rights responsibly.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Nwe, Joint Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air Force) and Commander-in-Chief (Air Force) General Khin Aung Myint and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Admiral Tin Aung San and his wife and senior military officers also

cast their votes at the same polling station yesterday morning.

Officers and other personnel, along with their families, cast their votes at other polling stations in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

Members of regional military commands also cast their votes at polling stations across the country.

International and local observers, as well as representatives from political parties, monitored the election at the polling stations set up for defence service personnel, while local and foreign media were present to cover the historic elections.—Myawady



## Large voter turnout in Mandalay

THRONGS of people turned out at daybreak to cast their votes at polling stations in the seven townships of Mandalay District. Voting began at 6am and ended at 4pm.

Chairman of the Mandalay District election sub-commission U Sein Thin, along with local and international election observers and diplomats, observed the voting process.

Media personnel were granted access to polling stations at the Central Command Headquarters in Nanmyo (Royal City) and Pyin Oo Lwin Station.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



A voter with disability by wheelchair comes back from polling station after voting in Mandalay District on election day. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

## Driving course launched in Pobbathiri

A DRIVING course began on Saturday at the Road Transport's driving school in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The department lies under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, and its current course has 25 students, who are learning about various road signals and laws. They will also learn some basic mechanics skills using Toyota Corolla Saloons.

The courses are held once a month and incorporate both practical and theoretical lessons, said the department's assistant director U Chit Maung.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

## International observers carry out duties in Meiktila



Laotian observers from ASEAN Delegation Visit meets officials of polling station in Meiktila.

PHOTO CHAN THAR

MEMBERS of the ASEAN Delegation Visit from Laos and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) observed Myanmar's general election yesterday in Meiktila, Mandalay Region.

Ms Thatsaolaphone and Mr

Phetla Thanthavongsa of the ASEAN Delegation Visit, U Nyunt Maung of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and U Thuta Oo of the Union Election Commission visited a polling station in Myoma Ward in Meiktila, where they met representatives of politi-

cal candidates and members of the public.

Members of the ASEAN Delegation Visit and IDEA also observed voting processes for the general elections in Nay Pyi Taw, Meiktila, and other parts of Mandalay.—*Chan Thar*

## Three new asphalt roads for Chanmyathazi

A CEREMONY was held for the opening of three new asphalt roads in Aungpinle Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, on 6 November.

Mandalay mayor U Aung Mounng formally opened the newly-upgraded roads, which are

named Ingyin, Thazin and Thar-

aphi. The Mandalay City Development Committee and local residents funded the laying of asphalt on the 690-foot-long Ingyin road, the 685-foot-long Thazin road and the 685-foot-long Thar-

aphi Road. Each road is 16 feet wide.

The ceremony was also attended by the secretary of the Mandalay City Development Committee U Khin Maung Tin and local residents.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

## Meiktila locals delighted with election experience

VOTING began in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, at 6am for Myanmar's general election, with witnesses saying the voting process was carried out smoothly. A number of voters were visibly jubilant about being able to cast their votes, and queues started forming well before the official opening time.

A young voter at Polling Booth 1 in Myoma Ward said the voting process went unhindered and added that he wished Myanmar's political candidates well.

Township election com-

mission chairman U Than Win, township election security management committee chairman and township administrator U Myo Hline, Mandalay Region deputy police commander Police Col Thet Naing, Meiktila District deputy commissioner U Tint Wai Thon, district police chief Police Lt-Col Saw Nay Lin, township police force commander Police Major Maung Shwe and special police forces made regular inspections of the township to ensure the atmosphere remained calm and that voters were able to freely cast their votes.—*Chan Thar*



People in queue waiting for their turn to vote at polling station in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR



# VOTING IMAGES ACROSS MYANMAR



Polling officials help a senior citizen mark his left little finger after voting in Monywa. PHOTO: IPRD



Observers and journalists cover news on voting of people at Basic Education Post-Primary School No 3 in Bahan Township. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT



Norwegian diplomats looking at voter lists announced in front of polling station in Market Ward, Mingaladon Township. PHOTO: THIHA THU



Local people in queue waiting for voting at polling station in Mayangon Township. PHOTO: KO MOE



A citizen casting vote into ballot box of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives in ChaungU. PHOTO: IPRD



Local people waiting for voting at basic education school in Sulegon Ward, Monywa Township. PHOTO: IPRD



## Cambodia frees Hong Kong tourist after flying drone over Royal Palace

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia had freed a tourist from China's Hong Kong who was arrested Saturday morning for flying a remote-controlled miniature aircraft over the Royal Palace, a senior police officer confirmed yesterday.

The man was identified in a police report as Wong Tiga China, 40.

"We decided to release him on Saturday evening after we found that he had no any bad purposes in flying the drone over the Royal Palace," Sieng Sen, director of the Interior Ministry's Internal Security Department, told Xinhua.

"We educated him about the ban on drones in Phnom Penh and had him sign a contract to promise not to do it again," he said.

The Phnom Penh Municipality has banned flying drones without a permit since 16 February after a German male tourist flew his camera-toting drone into the Royal Palace and was spotted by Queen Mother Norodom Monineath as she performed her daily exercise routine.—Xinhua

# Modi heads for defeat in Bihar election, early returns show



Supporters of the Janata Dal (United) party celebrate after learning of the initial election results at their party office in Patna, India. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Narendra Modi was heading for defeat yesterday in a key election in India's big state of Bihar, signalling the waning power of a leader who until recently had an unrivalled reputation as a vote winner.

A defeat would be a setback for Modi's push to pass economic reforms because he needs to win most of the state elections in the next three years to gain full control of parliament.

An anti-Modi alliance was ahead in 125 seats in the 243-seat regional assembly, enough for an outright majority, unofficial tallies compiled by television channels showed.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata

Party led in 103 seats of 238 where trends were clear, dealing a heavy blow to his leadership after he campaigned actively across the poor eastern state.

"The writing is on the wall. Modi's magic has failed and we have clearly won the battle," said Sanjay Singh, a spokesman for the regional parties led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Bihar is a gauge of many issues shaping Indian politics and the outcome will have a direct impact on Modi's premiership. If independent, its 104 million people would be the world's 13<sup>th</sup>-largest nation, more populous than Germany.

Modi turned the election into a referendum on his leadership

**"The writing is on the wall. Modi's magic has failed and we have clearly won the battle."**

**Sanjay Singh**  
Spokesman for regional parties

after he addressed at least 30 campaign rallies, a departure from tradition in state elections, which usually centre on local issues and regional leaders.

The BJP is in a minority in

the upper house of parliament, where seats are allocated according to a party's strength in the states, enabling the opposition to block Modi's reforms, including the biggest overhaul of taxes since independence in 1947.

Some TV channels rushed early in the count to "call" a handsome victory for Modi, and BJP party workers set off firecrackers and danced in the streets in celebration.

But as unofficial results trickled in, the picture quickly changed and by late morning all channels were predicting a win for Kumar. Official partial results, trickling in more slowly, also put his regional 'grand alliance' ahead.—Reuters

## Poll shows most Thais supportive of single-ballot voting method

BANGKOK — Most Thais are in favour of casting a single ballot to select Members of Parliament (MPs) from both constituencies and the party list, an opinion poll released yesterday showed.

More than 60 percent of a total of 1,156 respondents surveyed nationwide from 2 to 7 November voiced support for using only one ballot when voting for constituency and party list MPs, according to the results of a poll by the Suan Dusit Rajabhat University.

The survey was conducted as the Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) resolved to maintain a German-styled mixed member proportional (MMP) electoral system, which was proposed by a previous charter drafting body.

Unlike their predecessors, however, the present CDC decided to use a single-ballot voting system instead of a two-ballot one.

While the majority of the respondents believed it was easy for them to understand the single-bal-

lot method and for votes to be counted, 39.02 percent still preferred to cast two ballots, one for a constituency MP and the other for a political party.

Thailand expects to have a new general election around mid-2017, according to the government's current roadmap, which allows six months for drafting a new constitution, four months for holding a public referendum, another six months for drafting organic laws and four more months

for election preparations. Meanwhile, another poll released Sunday, which was conducted by the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), showed 54.88 percent of 1,250 respondents agreed that politicians found guilty of corruption should be banned from politics for life.

Additionally, 61.68 percent believed that politicians convicted of election fraud should be banned from elections for good, the NIDA poll showed.—Xinhua

## Bangladesh police arrest 7 militants, including 4 Pakistanis

DHAKA — Police in Bangladesh have arrested seven suspected militants including four from Pakistan they believe to be members of the banned militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), a senior police official said on Saturday.

They were arrested in the airport area of the capital Dhaka. Police said they had recovered jihadi books, CDs, four Pakistani passports, mobile phones and thousands of Pakistani rupees. "The Pakistanis are involved in the fake currency business to finance ter-

rorism activities in Bangladesh," said Monirul Islam, a joint commissioner of the detective branch of police. Police suspect that those arrested were active members of the JMB and that they had gathered to make future plans and rebuild their network, Islam told re-

porters. "Now we will interrogate them to find out whether they were involved in recent attacks and killings in the country."

He said they had valid passports and, according to those documents, had visited Bangladesh frequently.—Reuters

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## PICTURE OF THE DAY



Columns of water reaching up to 30 metres high are discharged over traditional farmhouses during an annual water-discharge drill in the village of Shirakawa in the central Japanese prefecture of Gifu yesterday. The Shirakawa-go and neighbouring Gokayama regions were declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 1995 for their farmhouses' steep thatched roofs, designed to withstand heavy snow in winter. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## US presidential hopeful Rubio defends credit card use

WASHINGTON — Presidential candidate Marco Rubio put more than \$7,000 in personal expenses on a Republican Party credit card during a nearly two-year period while he was a Florida state lawmaker, but he reimbursed all the charges, his campaign said.

In its latest response to scrutiny over Rubio's personal spending, his campaign on Saturday released details of 22 month's worth of charges on an American Express credit card issued to him while a state representative.

The US senator has long faced questions about his personal finances, but his recent rise in public opinion polls has renewed attention over how he has managed his money as rivals try to score points over the US economy. Rubio has said he paid for all his personal charges but has acknowledged that the expenses were confusing.

From January 2005 through October 2006, Rubio charged \$64,777.82 on the card, \$7,243.74 of which was for eight personal expenses, according to the campaign. "Marco paid his personal charges directly to American Express," his campaign said. "The Republican Party of Florida did not pay for any of Marco's personal expenses. Further, taxpayer funds were not used for any political or personal charges on the card."

Some of the personal charges included \$3,756.24 at a Miami-based tile store and others to a hotel and a car rental agency in Las Vegas, a Honda dealership and a children's activity centre, it added. The Las Vegas charges stemmed from a business trip that Rubio extended to visit relatives, the campaign said. It did not say why Rubio put the other personal expenses on the card.

Earlier this week, Rubio told ABC: "In hindsight, I would do it differently to avoid all this confusion." Rubio's finances were an issue during his 2010 run for the US Senate, and he has faced questions over his mortgage payments and a liquidated retirement account. On Tuesday, Republican rival Donald Trump, a businessman and television personality, pounced on Rubio. "He is a disaster with his credit cards," the businessman and television personality told a press conference. "He certainly lives beyond his means."

"I only have one debt in the world, which is my mortgage on a home for me and my family," Rubio told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Wednesday. "I obviously don't come from a wealthy family." Also this week, fellow Florida Republican and rival Jeb Bush pointed to Rubio's spending, the *New York Times* reported. —Reuters

## UNICEF warns over new humanitarian crisis for children in post-earthquake Nepal

KATHMANDU — UNICEF has expressed its serious concern over the children of Nepal as the possibility of humanitarian crisis looms over.

Issuing a press statement on Saturday, Anthony Lake, executive director of UNICEF, expressed worry over the condition of children who were blown by the 25 April massive earthquake earlier and now are reeling under national crisis.

"The declining stocks of gas, food and medicines, together with the closure of schools due to political strife in the Terai plains and shortages of fuel throughout the country, are inflicting damage to the lives of the children", Lake said in the statement.

Lake, who was in Nepal for a two-day trip, added "The temporary shelters built after the earthquake can provide even minimal protection from the coming winter. The current harvest is weak because of light rains. Cooking gas and other fuels are in short supply. Shortages of medicines could severely impact the capacity to deal with diseases like pneumonia over the coming cold months. A new humanitarian crisis may loom". UNICEF has urgently appealed to all involved to think not only of the coming winter, but of the longer term future as well. —Xinhua

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## Sri Lankan charged with assassination plot in Maldives

MALE — Police in the Maldives have charged a Sri Lankan man with planning a sniper attack on President Abdulla Yameen just weeks after a blast ripped through his boat in an alleged assassination attempt, officials said on Saturday.

The chain of Indian Ocean islands has been plunged into political turmoil since the 28 September explosion on the presidential launch as it was about to dock in the capital Male, injuring the first lady and two aides. Yameen was unhurt. Yameen, who has accused several members of his government of being involved in the boat blast, drew international criticism earlier this week for imposing a 30-day state of emergency after officials said explosives and arms were found near his official residence and elsewhere in the capital.

Maldivian Home Minister Umar Naseer said the Sri Lankan suspect, a 27-year old man, was arrested on 24 October. Naseer linked the alleged sniper plot with September's blast on the presidential boat and said the discovery of explosives near the official residence pointed to a third assassination plan.

"There's a clear connection between the three. There could

be further attacks planned. We're verifying the sniper's background," Naseer told Reuters. "Though a sniffer rifle hasn't yet been found, police have recovered a telescope and bullet used in such rifles. It's now established that the suspect knew that his target was the president. Investigations have confirmed that there was a planned sniper attack on the president."

The Maldives foreign ministry said in its official Twitter feed that a Sri Lankan citizen was in police custody for conspiring to assassinate Yameen.

"Investigations reveals some Maldivians paid the Sri Lankan to carry out the operation," the ministry said. Government officials say evidence shows the boat explosion was caused by a bomb targeting the president, although the US Federal Bureau of Investigation — asked by Maldivian government to examine the scene — said there was "no conclusive evidence" of a bomb attack. The United States, rights groups and the Commonwealth of mostly former British colonies have called on the Maldives — a popular tourist destination — to lift the state of emergency and end a crackdown on dissidents. — Reuters

## Horses, vehicles unearthed in Western Han Dynasty cemetery

NANCHANG — Vehicles and sacrificed horses were found in a tomb in Nanchang city in east China's Jiangxi Province, the first tomb excavated south of the Yangtze River with real vehicles.

Archaeologists discovered five well-preserved horse-drawn vehicles, each with four sacrificed horses, in the corridor of the main tomb of "Haihunhou" (Marquis of Haihun) dating back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- 25 A.D.).

The Haihunhou cemetery is located in Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province. It covers some 40,000 square meters with eight tombs and a chariot burial site, with walls that stretch for almost 900 metres.

Archeologists suspect that the main tomb is that of Liu He, grandson of Emperor Wu, the greatest ruler of Han Dynasty, one of the most prosperous periods in China's history. Liu was given the title "Haihunhou" (Marquis of Haihun) after he was deposed as emperor after only 27 days, dethroned by the

royal clan because of his lack of talent and morals. Haihun is the ancient name of a very small kingdom in the north of Jiangxi.

According to archaeologist Xin Lixiang, vehicles with four horses indicates that the owner of the vehicle was among the highest level of the Han Dynasty. More than 3,000 accessories embellished with gold and silver were found at the same time.

"Some of the accessories are not from the Central Plain, they might come from western regions," said Hu Dongbo, professor with School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University.

The team have also found more than 10 tonnes of Wuzhu bronze coins together with more than 10,000 other gold, bronze and iron items, unearthed along with jade articles, wood tablets and bamboo slips.

The excavation began in 2011. The next stage of the archeological work will be to look for items locked in the coffin of the central mausoleum. —Xinhua



## OPINION

### Respect the people's wishes after the election

Myint Win Thein

**V**oting in Myanmar has just concluded, and polling station officials are counting the votes. The people have voted for the political parties they support. The official results will be announced in the coming days.

During the campaign period, political parties made promises and said they would accept the

choice of the people. However, politicians tend to pursue their own policies despite public objections when they hold office.

Most of the people continue to suffer from the same problems they have endured for decades. Though the government may change, nothing has changed significantly in their lives. Politicians' promises seem to be short-lived.

Elections are just one aspect of Myanmar's on-going transition. Nonetheless, some politicians have already hailed the reform of Myanmar as a transition without bloodshed. It is too early to judge this country's transition.

For a transition to be considered a success, people must enjoy significant changes in their lives. If politicians continue to neglect the desires of the people after the elections and pursue their own agendas,

nothing will change in the lives of the people. For the people, it will be a transition without change.

Therefore, it is important for the victors of this election to accept the decisions of the people. Only then can Myanmar's transition bring true change.

### 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](mailto: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.*

## Overcoming Culture shock and Avoiding No-no

Tommy Pauk

**W**E all belong to human race, but live in different regions or continents throughout the world. Human race can be divided into different groups due to their geographical habitat. The people from each group share the same language, history and culture. Different people who live in different geographical places on earth have different culture. Culture refers to the traits of a population's behavior, values, practices, beliefs and religion. We need to understand and respect diverse culture around the world. These days people travel or visit different countries in order to be friendly or familiar with different group of people or races around the globe. Due to tremendously advance telecommunications and transportation, we can get closer to overseas countries and communicate with them easily and conveniently.

Nowadays, many people work in different countries for a long-term or short-term assignment. e.g. the diplomats, businessmen, tourists, journalists. Under these circumstances, they face different culture and they ought to obey the host country's culture and deal with local people in harmonious way. Whoever visits or works or studies in a foreign country, he or she ought to show respect and behave in conformity with the cultural norms of the people of the country concerned. Culture is an identity of a race which reflects the standard of its society. Every group of people in different society cherishes, loves and values their own culture. We should not have narrow-minded attitudes towards alien cultures. We should get rid of ethnocentric

feelings so as to avoid cultural misinterpretation about other people's culture. Some narrow-minded people say that they must protect the influence of alien culture. Generally, this concept seems acceptable to some extent. However, as for multicultural societies like The US and Singapore, it is totally impossible to protect the influence of alien culture. No matter the different cultures prevail in a certain society, the most important thing is that we must live together with mutual respect and sincerity. Furthermore, the practice of giving importance to all cultures in the world is a must indeed. We all must cherish our own culture and respect alien cultures as well. We shouldn't discriminate nor insult to different cultures of the people around the world.

As we all know, culture shock is a feeling of uncertainty, confusion or anxiety that people experience when visiting, doing business in or living in a society that is different from their own. Culture shock can arise from a person's unfamiliarity with local customs, language and acceptable behavior, since norms can vary significantly across cultures. The feeling of culture shock can dissipate over time. Visitors to a new country, for example, will at first be unfamiliar with the nuances of local culture, but will learn how to adapt as interactions with people continue. Culture shock can be daunting for those who do business or study abroad, but they need to overcome it with some helpful acts or behaviors in dealing with the people of different cultures.

Basically, they might face language barrier which is the most important problem for the visitors to communicate with the locals. Using English language could be a part of solution to the

problem, but not everyone can speak English in some countries. The visitor who is going to do business on long term basis must make an effort to learn the local language for the purpose of communications with the locals. Then he or she can achieve smooth and effective communications with the people of the host country. It takes time to acculturate and adapt to new surroundings, a new culture and a new life style. So the patience is required. The visitors and students should get to know people in their new environment. They need to respectfully ask questions, read local newspapers and attend a variety of traditional festivals and events. They shouldn't take cultural familiarity or knowledge at face-value. This means that superficial knowledge about rituals, customs and protocol can be misleading. They must treat the locals with sense of humor so that friendly relationship can be established and the locals will admire the visitors. Keeping open mind is helpful for them to understand the culture of the people in the country they are staying for doing business or studying as well.

If the culture shock persists among global people, we will not be able to deal with each other for trade, diplomatic relations and socio-economic co operations and tourism etc. How can we overcome the culture shock by learning alien cultures broadly. For instance, if a certain westerner has to work or study in some eastern countries, he or she ought to learn about the cultures of eastern countries beforehand. Conversely, a certain easterner has to learn about the cultures of the western countries if he or she has to work or study in western countries

beforehand.

As a result, we will be able to facilitate the process of cross-cultural understanding smoothly. Mutual respect and understanding on culture are fundamental requirements for establishing the foundation of friendship or meaningful relationship among nations in the world as well. Also we must develop the meaningful relations with those around us in a foreign country in which we stay there for some purposes. Being not very friendly among the global people and lack of learning about alien cultures cause the feeling of culture shock. When we suddenly expose to an unfamiliar foreign country for the purpose of long-term study or business or work, we definitely feel culture shock due to our above stated weaknesses.

It is also very important to avoid no-no or proscription when you are in a foreign country or in a certain community. No-no is a thing or a way of behaving that is not acceptable in a particular situation. No-no is proscribed by a society as improper or unacceptable act or behavior or thing. No-no is similar to that of taboo in social life in any society indeed. You must be familiar with the customs or ritual or tradition or religion of the local people in a certain society. For examples; In Myanmar, foot wearing in the Buddhist monastery compound and within the precincts of pagoda is definite no-no. Hugging and kissing of adults in public are also no-nos in Myanmar. In Singapore, chewing the quid of betel and chewing gum in public areas are no-nos. You must bear in mind that you will encounter different social situations when you are visiting in a different society or in different community.

We must avoid doing things or a way of behaving

which is proscribed or prohibited in a community or in a foreign country. It is compulsory to avoid no-no in human society regardless of any race or any country or any community. In other words, avoiding no-nos reveal the due respect for multicultural norms or customs in respective societies and communities in the world. When we stay or visit any country, we will come across with such prohibitions and we should not neglect these customary rules or disciplines or religious values. We must follow dos and avoid don'ts in visiting countries so that we can develop goodwill and understanding among human beings.

The practice of overcoming culture shock and avoiding no-nos will lead us to convenient and harmonious relationships with other people in cultural differences in the world. It is advisable for the people, who plan to visit or study or work abroad, must make preparation for learning specific alien culture. If they do so, they will be able to overcome the culture shock in foreign countries. Use information technology and explore different cultures on earth easily!!!

### About the author

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

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on behalf of the resilient people of Myanmar for establishing democracy and peace in the country within three decades through peaceful and progressive.

The Election Day is a monumental milestone in the history of modern Myanmar. Let us all pray together to the almighty for the different communities, ethnicities, religious groups and broadly the people of Myanmar for the stability, peace and economic progress of the nation. Let us join hands in compassion to remember the rich socio-cultural legacy of Nepal, forget and forgive our misunderstandings and pain and dream for better days to ease our deeply hurt souls to have the spiritual strength to overcome all obstacles. Let me extend my salute to the democratic people of Myanmar once again for creating history and walking steadily in the path of socio-cultural unity and socio-economic empowerment of the nation. 30 million people of Myanmar is participating in this election and is a proud reminder of the strength of democracy around the globe.

**Thanking you  
Sincerely yours  
Saikat Kumar Basu**



# The origins of a rattan empire

*Ya Ma Htar Rattan House turns your wildest woven foliage dreams into a reality*

Jacob Goldberg

THERE'S only one place in the world where you can light your home with lamps made of rattan frog figurines purchased from an online community populated by foreigners who think they know everything—that's Yangon. But while the city's progression into a hub for creative energy is widely applauded, its rustic charms tend to be more subtle.

For instance, it's easy to glance past a tasteful rattan toilet paper holder in the bathroom in the lobby of the Sule Shangri-La Hotel, even though it has a history that involves people from many corners of the country.

Nyan Lin Htun, the owner of Ya Ma Htar Rattan House, shared some of that history with *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Ya Ma Htar, a shop on Bagaya Street facing Dagon Centre in Yangon, consists of a small ground-floor room crammed with rattan handicrafts of all shapes and sizes. The shop first opened around the corner on U Wisara Road in 1994, before moving to its current location two years later.

Nyan Lin Htun and his family didn't set out to run a rattan showroom.

"We got the idea when my wife and mother-in-law were looking for rattan decorations for our home," he said.

This was before the concept of rattan accessories was in vogue in Myanmar. Rattan craftspeople in the early 1990s tended to produce utility items — primarily baskets — for farmers and shopkeepers. But these women saw a particular beauty in the material and sought to diversify the range of rattan products available.

The family visited a rattan factory to find out if they could procure some decorative rattan items, the meagre variety of which was generally reserved for export. Seeing the potential for a domestic market for rattan, the factory owners asked Nyan Lin Htun and his family if they would store some decorative rattan goods in their ground-floor apartment in Dagon Township and see how they would sell.

"Our first batch sold out in a week," he said.

Realising that rattan goods were a viable commodity in Yangon, particularly among expatriates, Nyan Lin Htun converted his apartment into a rattan showroom and got in touch with craftspeople who specialise in rattan—rice farmers in Ayeyawady Region who weave rattan during their free time.

"Most of our merchandise is produced by women from Ayeyawady. The furniture is made by men," he said.



The interior of the shop. PHOTO: JACOB GOLDBERG

In the early days, the designs were simple. Nyan Lin Htun sold place mats and baskets, but as customers poured in and shared ideas for new designs, he passed the ideas along to his suppliers, whose rattan-weaving skills were more than equal to the task of diversifying.

Today, Ya Ma Htar sells office accessories, lamps, chairs, tables and the famous frog-shaped containers, which were created at the initiative of a single family in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, and now serve as hampers, desk ornaments and even lamps.

These items often sell by the batch. The shop supplies rattan goods to the well-known restaurant

chain YKKO and the luxurious Sule Shangri-La Hotel. It even sells one item—some sort of secret cheese tray—exclusively to the restaurant Sharky's; the two signed a contract prohibiting Ya Ma Htar from selling the item anywhere else. The most expensive item produced by Ya Ma Htar is an ornate, collapsible room divider, which sells for K120,000 (US\$93), while the cheapest is a small *chintone*, or cane ball, which sells for K500 (\$0.39).

Nyan Lin Htun used to have to travel to Ayeyawady Region several times each month to share new design ideas with his suppliers, who make about the equivalent of 25 percent of the retail price of

each item they produce. But with telecommunications technology taking off in Myanmar, he can now send photos of design ideas and measurements via Viber to families in the delta. The final products are delivered several times each week to Aung Mingalar Bus Terminal in northern Yangon. Nyan Lin Htun said that these days he only needs to visit the rattan-weaving families once every three months.

Ya Ma Htar doesn't just serve as a depot for fine rattan goods; it also has a hand in maximising their aesthetic appeal. When the woven rattan accessories and furniture arrive at the bus terminal, they are blank and bland.

"They wouldn't sell," Nyan Lin Htun said.

So he and his staff varnish, polish and paint the items, making them more durable and attractive to those looking to beautify their surroundings.

"We only accept handmade rattan, palm and bamboo items—no plastic," the shopkeeper said.

And this definitely appeals to his customers, as does the durability and aesthetics of the materials. He said that his best customers are expat teachers at private schools in Yangon; namely the International Language and Business Centre (ILBC) and Yangon International School (YIS).

To a certain degree, rattan-sellers in Yangon are keeping the industry alive. According to Nyan Lin Htun, younger members of families who supply his merchandise aren't interested in learning the technique of crafting rattan into the amazing array of shapes available in his store. But the few who choose to master it are kept afloat by rattan's popularity among Ya Ma Htar's international clientele.

In the 21 years since the store first opened, it has subsumed the lives of Nyan Lin Htun and his family. The ground floor of his apartment remains a showroom, while the second floor serves as a storage facility for surplus rattan baubles. His wife and mother-in-law, whose idea it was to explore the rattan universe in the first place, now live on the third floor of the building—the highest room in the tallest tower of this family's rattan-strewn urban castle.



A coat of varnish on a collapsible rattan divider makes it more durable, and more valuable. PHOTO: JACOB GOLDBERG



## UK's Cameron to give strongest warning over possible EU exit

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron will give his strongest warning this week that he might back Britain leaving the EU unless other European leaders agree to his demands for reform of the bloc, media reported on Saturday.

Cameron is due to outline British demands for renegotiation of its European Union membership terms in a letter to the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, to be published on Tuesday.

In a speech the same day, he will say that if no deal can be reached, he could back a British exit when an in/out referendum is held before the end of 2017.

"If we can't reach such an agreement, and if Britain's concerns were to be met with a deaf ear, which I do not believe will happen, then we will have to think again about whether this European Union is right for us," Cameron will say, according to the media reports.

"As I have said before - I rule nothing out."

Cameron has faced criticism both at home and abroad for not spelling out details of the conces-

sions he is seeking from other European leaders with detailed discussions expected to accelerate before a summit next month.

The reports said Cameron's letter to Tusk would include demands such as barring in-work benefits for EU migrants for four years, an exemption from any closer EU integration, and more powers for national governments to block EU legislation.

While Cameron has never ruled out campaigning to leave the EU if he failed to secure any agreement, media said the tone of the speech was his strongest assertion to date that the status quo was unacceptable. However, in his speech Cameron will also repeat that he wanted Britain to remain in the 28-nation bloc, which it joined in 1973, and was confident a deal could be struck which would suit Britain and its partners. He will also deliver a strong message to both those campaigning for a British exit and for those who want to stay in the EU regardless of whether reform could be achieved.

"Those who believe we should stay in the EU at all costs need to explain why Britain



PHOTO: REUTERS

should accept the status quo. I am clear that there are real problems with this," he will say, according to the reports.

"Those who think Britain should just leave now also need to think hard about the implications of their arguments. What would being outside the European Union mean for our economic security?"

Opinion polls show most Britons favour staying within the EU although support for the bloc for remaining versus leaving has narrowed in recent months.—Reuters

## European Council president urges Germany to help secure borders

BERLIN — Germany needs to be tougher in the refugee crisis and do more to help secure Europe's external borders, European Council President Donald Tusk said ahead of a meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday.

While Tusk praised Germany's leadership role as the most liberal and tolerant in European history, he urged Berlin to do more to get the current situation under control.

"Leadership responsibility also means securing Europe's ex-

ternal borders together with other member states," Tusk told Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper.

"I understand why due to historical reasons, Germany may have difficulty setting up a strict regime on its borders. But for Germany, European leadership responsibility also means controlling Europe's external borders if necessary energetically in a pan-European unit."

Tusk, a former Polish prime minister, has repeatedly stressed the urgency of tightening Europe's

borders, while Merkel has pushed for states to show "solidarity" and share responsibilities for refugees. In October, Tusk rebuked fellow European leaders by calling arguments over how to accommodate refugees "naive" as long as Europe fails to stop them surging over its borders.

Tusk is due to dine with Merkel on Sunday in Berlin ahead of an EU-Africa summit in Malta on Wednesday and EU leaders meeting on refugees on Thursday.—Reuters



Refugees and migrants embark to Turkish Coast Guard Search and Rescue ship Umut-703 off the shores of Canakkale, Turkey, after a failed attempt to cross to the Greek island of Lesbos, on 7 November 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Serbian soldiers take part in military exercise in Germany

HOHENFELS — Combined military exercises, in which members of the Serbian Army (VS) also take part, are underway at the US Hohenfels training centre.

The exercise dubbed Combined Resolve V features 99 members of the VS's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion, a Tanjug reporter covering the training said.

The exercise is organised

by the US European Command, and members of VS will be taught tactics in armed conflicts and how to cooperate on the ground with military units from different countries. Combined Resolve V features more than 4,600 participants from 16 countries, 10 of which NATO allies, while the others are members of the Partnership for Peace programme.—Tanjug

#### Russia returns 11,000 Russians from Egypt in 24 hours

MOSCOW — Russia has returned 11,000 Russian tourists from Egypt in the last 24 hours, RIA news agency reported yesterday, citing Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich. More people were expected to be brought back on

Sunday, he was quoted as saying. Around 80,000 Russians were stranded in Egypt after the Kremlin had grounded all flights to the country on Friday following the crash of a Russian airliner in the Sinai Peninsula.—Reuters

#### Croatia holds parliamentary election, conservatives have narrow lead

ZAGREB — Croats began voting on Sunday in a parliamentary election, their first since joining the European Union in 2013, and the winner faces a tough task nurturing a fragile economic recovery and dealing with large numbers of migrants transiting the country.

More than 6,500 polling stations opened across the country at 7 am (0600 GMT) and will

close at 7 pm (1800 GMT). The first, preliminary, official results will be released at 10 pm (10.00 pm BST).

Opinion polls suggest the opposition HDZ-led Patriotic Coalition will win by a narrow margin of about five parliamentary seats, an outcome likely to entail lengthy coalition talks with smaller parties.—Reuters

#### Egypt crash to spur demand for strict aviation security: Emirates

DUBAI — Emirates Airlines President Tim Clark said yesterday he expected the crash of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt would result in demands for stringent aviation security worldwide.

Speaking at the Dubai Airshow, Clark added that he had ordered a security review, but was not suspending any flights

as a result of the disaster.

Islamic State militants fighting security forces in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula have said they brought down the Airbus AIR.PA A321, which crashed 23 minutes after taking off from the resort of Sharm al-Sheikh a week ago, killing all 224 passengers.—Reuters

#### Palestinian killed, 3 Israelis injured in fresh attack in West Bank

JERUSALEM — Israeli police shot and killed a Palestinian teenager yesterday after he carried out an attack in the West Bank that left three Israeli settlers injured, Israeli officials said. Police said the attacker rammed his vehicle at commuters who were standing at the Tapuah Junction, south of Nablus. Border police opened fire toward him and "neutral-

ised him." A later statement said the suspect, a 17-year-old resident of a-Ram, a Palestinian suburb of Jerusalem, died of his wounds at the scene. His name was not immediately known.

Israeli emergency service said two injured civilians were evacuated to hospitals in a serious condition and another one sustained light injuries.—Xinhua



# Yemen fighting kills more than 50 people

CAIRO — More than 50 people were killed in Yemen in the past two days in fighting pitting an Arab coalition against Houthi fighters backed by troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, medical sources and residents said on Sunday.

In Taiz, medical sources told Reuters 29 people including eight civilians were killed in clashes in Yemen's third largest city, where relief workers have said fighting has blocked food supplies and left thousands of people in extreme hunger.

About 30 people were killed in fighting in Damt district in Dhalea governorate in the south, residents said.

At least 5,600 people have been killed in seven months of war in Yemen, the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula, and the United Nations says the hu-

manitarian situation, exacerbated by the Arab coalition's blockade of Yemeni ports, grows worse every day.

The conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthis and army units loyal to Saleh against armed groups who support exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi alongside a Saudi-led Arab coalition.

The coalition is fighting to restore Hadi to power following the Houthis' seizure of control of much of Yemen in late 2014 and early 2015, and reverse what it sees as an expansion of influence by Iran, the regional rival of Riyadh.

Several residents said the Houthis and the forces loyal to Saleh had taken control of Damt district, and of al Qabbayta district in Lahej governorate.

Other residents said without elaborating that anti-Houthi



Fighters loyal to Yemen's government prepare a machine gun on a truck at the frontline of fighting against Houthi fighters in Sirwah, in Yemen's northern province of Marib, on 5 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

fighters had made a tactical withdrawal from those locations, and were receiving air support from the coalition.

Peace efforts have made only limited progress.

All major combatants have

publicly agreed to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2216, which calls on Houthi and Saleh forces to withdraw from the country's main cities and surrender arms captured from Yemeni government forces.

But while Hadi and the coalition have previously demanded that this happen before talks begin, the Houthis and Saleh want talks to address the mechanism for implementing Resolution 2216.—Reuters

# Defiant Moroccans hold rare protest over water, power prices

TANGIER — Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets in the northern Moroccan city of Tangier on Saturday to protest over high prices for water and electricity, despite government assurances and calls to end the rallies.

Large-scale protests are rare in Morocco, where the king still holds sway. When pro-democracy unrest toppled leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya in 2011, the palace calmed similar protests with limited reforms, spending and tougher security.

Saturday night's protest was the latest in a series of rallies that started three weeks ago. It took place days after authorities said the government was working with the French-owned company running the services to review the bills and called the city's population to stop protesting.

"Shame, shame, they sold us out to colonialism," chanted the protesters as they marched through downtown Tangier.

Still, the rally was smaller than last week in Tangier when thousands protested in Morocco's largest street demonstration since the 2011 pro-democracy protests.

A statement from the government earlier this week warned "citizens to not follow those who want to make mischief". It also said the interior minister has given strict orders to the company to execute the bill review measures as soon as possible.

Water, wastewater and electricity businesses in the cities of



Protesters shout slogans during a demonstration against the power utility company Amendis, for what demonstrators say are the company's high electricity bills, in Tangier on 7 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tangier and neighbouring Tetouan have been operated since 2002 by Amendis, an affiliate of France's Veolia Environnement (VIE.PA).

Redal, another Veolia subsidiary, is operating in the capital Rabat, Sale and the municipalities of Temara and Bouznika.

After the 2001 Arab Spring, an Islamist-led government took power for the first time in Morocco and made structural reforms, in particular in public finance, its top priority.

It started with reducing the cumbersome subsidies which led to rising prices of water and electricity. Amendis has blamed the government's programme to rescue the state-run

power utility that imposed a new pricing structure in 2014. It also pointed to peak power and water demand during the summer.

Last year, Moroccan local authorities blocked a deal by Veolia Environnement to sell its businesses in Morocco to investment fund Actis for about 370 million euros (\$504 million) due to a dispute over investments.

Sources from the company and from the government said Veolia dropped the sale plan and convinced authorities to review the concession contracts. The review is yet to be approved by the local councils in cities where the company has been involved.—Reuters

# Iran plans to attend next round of Syria peace talks

DUBAI — Iran will attend the next round of Syria peace talks, a top advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted as saying on Saturday, a week after Tehran threatened to withdraw from the process.

World and regional powers including Iran met in Vienna on 30 October to discuss a political solution to Syria's civil war. Days later, Iran threatened to pull out of the next round of talks, blaming the "negative role" played by regional rival Saudi Arabia.

"Iran will be actively present in (Syria peace) talks, while announcing its standards and preserving its red lines," Ali Akbar Velayati, Khamenei's top foreign policy advisor, was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency.

"We will support our ally, Syria, not only in defence field, but also in political arena," he added.

Iran supports Syria's President Bashar al-Assad against rebels backed by regional powers including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey.

Diplomats have said the next round of international talks is likely to begin later this week.

The 30 October talks, which failed to reach a solution, marked the first time Iran and Saudi Arabia were at the same table to discuss Syria's civil war, which has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced millions over nearly five years.

**"We will support our ally, Syria, not only in defence field, but also in political arena."**

Ali Akbar Velayati  
Advisor to Iran's Supreme leader

The war has evolved into a wider proxy struggle between global powers, as Russia has joined the Assad-Iran axis and Western powers have stepped up support for Gulf Arab-backed rebels.

Iran has said it could support Assad's departure only if he is ousted in elections held after a ceasefire.

Western and Gulf Arab powers say the Syrian strongman, whose crackdown on initially peaceful protests in 2011 triggered the war, must leave power as part of any credible peace process.—Reuters



# Will climate change bring more disease?

Philippa Garson

NEW YORK — Climate change is having a profound impact on animal habitats, but what disease risk does this pose for humans?

Scientists estimate that almost 75 percent of new (and re-emerging) diseases affecting humans at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century were transmitted through animals. Among these so-called “zoonotic” diseases are AIDS, SARS, H5N2 avian flu and H1N1, or swine flu.

Barbara Han, from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, describes bats, pigs, and birds as “mixing vats” for viruses like Ebola, Hendra, Nipah, avian and swine flus that can spread to humans. As wild animals lose their habitats through deforestation, they come into closer contact with domestic animals and people. Extreme weather events and a warmer climate are also disrupting animal habitats, breeding cycles, and migration patterns.

With so many variables in the equation, drawing correlations between climate change and disease poses enormous challenges for scientists.

Vector-borne diseases like malaria, Lyme, dengue fever, West Nile and chikungunya offer the clearest examples of how a warming earth is impacting on disease spread, scientists say. As the earth heats up, pathogen-carrying mosquitoes and ticks are moving further north, spreading these disease into countries and regions not previously affected, like the northern states of the United States, Canada, Sweden and parts of Europe. Dengue fever, which currently infects around 400 million people every year, could spread to as many as five or six billion by 2080 as temperatures continue to rise, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Besides these vectors moving into areas of higher latitude and altitude, there is also evidence to show that more extreme and uneven weather patterns and catastrophic weather events such as floods can contribute to the spread of these diseases, says Han.

The World Health Organisation, while acknowledging that “measuring the health effects from climate change can only be very approximate”, nevertheless predicts that in 15 years time a quarter of the 250,000 potential annual deaths from climate change could come from malaria spreading into new areas.

However, whether more people will get sick as a result of these shifting disease patterns is not so easy to determine, says Richard Ostfeld, also from the Cary Institute. “There is some evidence to show that as vector-borne diseases spread northwards, they’re also disappearing from really warm places that are getting too warm. There is also



A Liberian man holds out bush meat to sell along Liberia/Sierra Leone border. PHOTO: IRIN

some evidence that malaria will start to decline or disappear from areas that are getting too hot or too dry,” which could mean, says Ostfeld, that “there is no net change in the number of people at risk.”

With so many variables in the equation, drawing correlations between climate change and disease poses enormous challenges for scientists. There is no earth-mimicking laboratory for control experiments to be conducted, for one thing. For another, teasing out climate change from human-driven loss of animal habitats is difficult, when the two are closely linked and often impact on each other. Not only are the clearing of forests and planting of exotic species having a profound impact on animal habitats, but increased urbanisation and development is also contributing to a warmer planet.

“It’s much more complicated than people seem to think,” says Han. “Part of the problem with communicating climate change is that when you communicate the complexity you risk losing the attention span of the public. Simplifying it creates polarising debates that plays into different agendas,” she says.

For these reasons, some researchers were wary of being interviewed. A couple were blunt about the fact that — despite media reports to the contrary — the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa could not directly be attributed to climate change.

Many scientists are unequivocal that a link between climate change and disease spread to humans can be made.

Some scientists have speculated that extreme weather patterns may have played a role in the outbreak: dry seasons followed by heavy rainfall have caused fruit to proliferate, possibly bringing bats and apes together and allowing the disease to transmit between the species. Deforestation has also steered bats ever closer to humans to find food. Another hypothesis is that climate change, by diminishing traditional food sources and causing more people to eat bush meat (one way of transmitting the disease), has

helped to spread Ebola.

But biological anthropologist Peter Walsh, from Cambridge University, says there is very little data to support claims of climate change and urbanisation contributing to Ebola emergence, “and there is a lot of data that doesn’t.”

“The vast majority of outbreaks have occurred in really remote areas and not heavily settled areas,” he says, adding that while there is some evidence of “seasonal variation of outbreak probability,” there is no credible evidence that “outbreak probability has increased with a warming climate”.

Nevertheless, many scientists are unequivocal that a link between climate change and disease spread to humans can be made. The difficulty is proving causality. Han believes the case “can absolutely be made.” The issue, she says, is “not whether, but how”.

Certainly fruit bats are garnering plenty of attention in Australia, where their changing feeding patterns, possibly related to climate change, have been linked to the spread of the Hendra virus, which has proved fatal to horses and humans. The Nipah virus, also transmitted by fruit bats, has been passed on to pigs and humans in Malaysia, also with fatal consequences.

“We have strong evidence that land use change and habitat clearing has dramatically changed feeding patterns of fruit bats — flying foxes — in Australia,” says Raina Plowright, an infectious disease ecologist at Montana State University.

Fruit bats that normally feed off the nectar of Eucalyptus trees are now feeding off less nutritious fruit from trees planted in horse paddocks and peri-urban and urban areas, she explains. “Climate change is having an impact on whether the Eucalyptus trees flower, but we don’t have an algorithm to make a direct link between climate change and flowering patterns.”

Plowright adds that the interaction between habitat loss and climate change complicates the picture. “These two major processes influence animal behaviors and the spread of pathogens from animals to people, but we don’t understand the links very well,” she says.

In a paper, she writes that determining the role played by climate change, pollution and ecosystem destruction in emerging infectious diseases can only come about through “systematic interdisciplinary cooperation. By analogy, in a jury trial, multiple lines of evidence that connect the suspect to the crime scene, the weapon, and the motive are often required before a verdict can be reached.”

The way climate change is affecting disease patterns in animals is easier to demonstrate in some cases, say scientists. Research on monarch butterflies in the United States, for example, has shown how a combination of climate change and the introduction of an alien milkweed species, has affected their migration patterns and increased disease levels.

Ecologists Dara Satterfield

and Sonia Altizer from the University of Georgia explain how exotic milkweed often grows year-round in the southern US when winters are warm, without many hard freezes. Climate change could worsen the problem. The pathogens on the milkweed, which normally die off on native milkweeds during cold winters, can now accumulate on the plants all year, sickening the butterflies.

Ostfeld, from the Cary Institute, adds that other, better-studied diseases — such as blue tongue virus, which attacks sheep and goats and is transmitted by biting midges — are on the increase because of warming climates in Europe.

Another excellent example, he adds, is avian malaria in the Hawaiian islands. The parasite is transmitted by mosquitoes that — as the climate warms up — are moving up in elevation and attacking native, vulnerable populations of birds. “The climate link is pretty well established there,” Ostfeld says.

Avian flu or H5N1 that emerged in China in 1997 raised widespread panic about the potential of a pandemic. Researcher Kurt Vandegrift, who co-authored a paper entitled, “Ecology of avian influenza viruses in a changing world,” says he sees climate change as one of many “threat multipliers”, that could impact on migratory behaviour and potentially trigger new bird flu outbreaks.

“Land use change that leads to higher waterfowl densities, stress, or proximity to domestic birds, will likely lead to increased influenza transmission within flocks and increased cross-species transmission,” he writes.

California’s wetlands have diminished by 90 percent, which has reduced their stopover locations. “This decline in stopover locations for migrating waterfowl must lead to more crowding and increased contact rates which, if transmission is density dependent, will lead to increased prevalence and increased potential for recombination events of viruses like avian influenza,” Vandegrift told IRIN.

However, while he says climate change could have an impact on “avian influenza epidemiology,” exactly how remains an unknown. “We can’t put fly-way paths in environmental chambers so it’s really difficult to make predictions.” —IRIN

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# US navigation moves in S China Sea will continue



US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter (R) speaks with US Navy Cmdr. Robert C. Francis Jr. PHOTO: REUTERS

SIMI VALLEY — The United States will conduct freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea again, US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said in a speech on Saturday, although he gave no timeline for any such actions.

Carter's comments, de-

livered at a defence forum at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California, came at the close of a trip to Asia, where he cruised on a US aircraft carrier operating in the South China Sea and blamed Beijing's island-building for rising tensions in the region.

In October, a US guided-missile destroyer, the USS Lassen, challenged territorial limits around one of China's man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago with a so-called freedom-of-navigation patrol.

"We've done them be-

fore, all over the world," Carter said, in reference to the operation. "And we will do them again." A rising and more ambitious China and a Russia intent on flouting the international order mean the US military must adapt its strategies and operations, he said. "How China behaves will be the true test of its commitment to peace and security," Carter said. "This is why nations across the region are watching China's actions in areas like the maritime domain and cyberspace."

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. "China has reclaimed more land than any other country in the entire history of the region," Carter said.

The United States is "deeply concerned" about the extent of land reclamation and the prospect of further militarization there, which could lead to a greater "risk of miscalculation or conflict," he said.

The United States is responding to China's moves by putting its "best and newest" assets in the Asia-Pacific and investing in space, cyber, missile defense, and electronic warfare, he added. Another challenge for the United States is Russia's "provocations," including in Europe and the Middle East, Carter said, adding that Russia has violated the sovereignty of Ukraine and is trying to intimidate Baltic states. He also criticized Russia for prolonging Syria's civil war, although he said it was possible Russia could play a constructive role in ending the conflict.—Reuters

## UFO off California? Streaking light was missile test, Pentagon says

CALIFORNIA — Social media lit up on Saturday night with reports of streaking lights across the skies from California to Arizona, but the phenomenon turned out to be a Navy missile test flight launched off the southern California coast, the Pentagon said.

A Pentagon public affairs spokesman said a US Navy Strategic Systems Programmes Trident II (D5) missile test flight was conducted at sea from the USS Kentucky, in the Pacific Test Range off the coast of Southern California.

Users of social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook posted photos, comments and video of the lights, wondering whether they might have come from everything from a meteor to a UFO.

The tests of the unarmed missile were part of a scheduled, on-going system evaluation test, according to the spokesman, Commander Ryan Perry.—Reuters

# Death toll from Romania fire reaches 41, former mayor arrested

BUCHAREST — Nine people died on Saturday from injuries sustained in a fire at a nightclub in Romania eight days ago, bringing the number of dead to 41 in a case which has sparked protests and led to the resignation of the government.

Two of the latest victims died in the Netherlands, where they had been transported for specialised treatment.

A little over 100 people are still in hospital and more than 40 of them are in serious or critical con-

dition, Romania's interim prime minister, Sorin Cimpianu, said. The fire broke out late on 30 October at a rock concert in the Colectiv nightclub in the capital Bucharest. Fireworks set insulation foam ablaze, triggering a stampede towards the single exit and trapping many of the roughly 400 people inside. Tens of thousands of people subsequently took to the streets across Romania, angry at a public administration widely seen as corrupt, and the protests continued even af-

ter the cabinet resigned. On Saturday several thousand protesters — though less numerous than on previous days — rallied for a fifth consecutive day to chant "Corruption kills" and "We won't go home, the dead won't let us". Consultations over a new Romanian prime minister will resume next week after initial talks with political and civil society leaders yielded no candidate, President Klaus Iohannis said. On Saturday, anti-corruption prosecutors said they had taken Cristian

Popescu Piedone, mayor of the Bucharest district where Colectiv is located, into custody. He had resigned in the wake of the protests.

They said evidence had shown that Piedone granted a working permit for the club despite the fact it did not have authorisation from firefighters. "Given that several ... events took place ... in broadly unsafe public conditions, the lives, health and physical integrity of the audience and staff were permanently put in danger," prosecutors said in a state-

ment. The club's three owners were taken into custody on 2 November. City hall clerks and the owners of the company that installed the fireworks were also being investigated. The fire has prompted an outpouring of community support, with people donating blood and money and volunteers taking food and drinks to hospitals for medical staff and victims' families.

Outside the club, people continued to light candles and lay flowers in remembrance.—Reuters

# US Coast Guard suspends search for man who fell from cruise ship

NEW YORK — The US Coast Guard said on Saturday it had suspended its search for a 35-year-old Brazilian man who fell from a cruise ship early Friday as it sailed through the night in waters off the Bahamas.

The Royal Caribbean Cruises ship Oasis of the Seas reported the man missing at about 1 am (0600 GMT) on Friday, saying in a statement that crew mem-

bers saw him "intentionally going over the side of the ship." "We would like to extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones and all that have been affected by this tragedy," said Captain Todd Coggeshall, the chief of response management for the Coast Guard 7<sup>th</sup> District.

A video posted on YouTube appeared to show passengers on the ship calling to a man in shorts hold-

ing on to a life boat support bracket, as the ship moved swiftly through the sea at night. "Because of you, this happened ... Let go of me! Get off of me!" he shouted in English, before seeming to lose his grip and fall into the ocean out of view.

The video was later removed from YouTube.

The search by both airplane and helicopter crews throughout Friday covered

931 nautical square miles, the Coast Guard said.

Two small boats were also launched to search for the man who was last seen wearing a pink shirt and white shorts, according to the Coast Guard.

He has not been publicly identified by authorities.

The Oasis of the Seas can carry more than 5,000 passengers and has a crew of nearly 2,400.—Reuters

## Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 10<sup>th</sup> November (Tuesday) Deepavali National Day 2015, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

## Myanmar Fiber Optic Communication Network Co., Ltd (MFOCN)

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**MRTV Entertainment Channel**

(9-11-2015, Monday)

6:00 am	• Momo Classical Songs	7:50 am	• TV Dramaseries
6:20 am	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	8:35 am	• Golden Music of Old Stars
6:40 am	• Fashion Show	8:50 am	• Myanmar Video
7:00 am	• TV Dramaseries	9:55 am	• ABU Radio Song Festival

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17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Strand Hotel





PHOTO: REUTERS

## Johnny Depp tapped to voice 'Sherlock Gnomes'

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Johnny Depp is going to be a recognizable voice in "Gnomeo and Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes".

The 52-year-old "Black Mass" star has taken the role of the titular character in the Paramount animated film, reported Ace Showbiz. "Sherlock Gnomes" is the follow-up to 2011 animated movie "Gnomeo and Juliet" which starred James McAvoy and Emily Blunt.

The first movie earned USD 200 million worldwide and gathered solid reviews, prompting Paramount to launch a sequel plan.

In the new film, Gnomeo and Juliet look to legendary detective

Sherlock Gnomes to investigate a string of garden gnome disappearances in London.

McAvoy and Blunt will be back to voice Gnomeo and Juliet once again. No other stars from the first film such as Michael Caine and Jason Statham have been confirmed to return. "Kung Fu Panda" helmer John Stevenson is directing the film from Ben Zazove's script. Elton John and David Furnish will work together with Steve Hamilton-Shaw and Carolyn Soper to produce the film. "Sherlock Gnomeo" will hit theatres on January 12, 2018 during the MLK holiday weekend.—PTI

## John Lennon guitar sells for over \$2.4 million at California auction

LOS ANGELES — A guitar stolen from the late John Lennon in the 1960s sold for \$2.41 million on Saturday at an auction in Beverly Hills, California, and a Beatles drum head went for \$2.1 million, fetching some of the highest prices ever for items of rock and roll memorabilia.

The 1962 J-160E Gibson acoustic guitar had for decades been in the possession of John McCaw, a novice musician who bought it in the late 1960s without knowing it had been stolen from the legendary Beatle several years before, said auctioneer Darren Julien.

Half of the proceeds from the sale of the guitar, which was stolen from Lennon at a December 1963 Christmas concert, will go toward the Spirit Foundation, a charitable organization that he and his widow, Yoko Ono, created, Julien said.

The instrument's authentic-

ty was determined by its matching serial number and wood grain, among other things, Julien said. The buyer, who paid \$2.41 million at a Julien's Auctions event, has asked to remain anonymous, Julien said.

Though only in Lennon's possession for just over a year, the guitar had an illustrious history. Lennon bought it at a Liverpool music shop in 1962 and used it on recordings of a number of Beatles songs, including "P.S. I Love You" and "Love Me Do," according to Julien's Auctions. He also is said to have strummed it while writing several Beatles hits with Paul McCartney, such as "I Want To Hold Your Hand" and "All My Loving."

"It's such an important part of Lennon's career and Beatles history," Julien said. "I knew it would go over \$1 million; I had no idea it would go over \$2 million." The price far surpasses the

\$965,000 paid at a 2013 Christie's auction for the electric guitar Bob Dylan played at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, where he shocked folk traditionalists with a set of rock songs.

According to Guinness World Records, a Fender Stratocaster guitar sold for a record \$2.7 million at a 2005 charity event in Qatar. The instrument had been signed by the likes of Keith Richards, Eric Clapton and Paul McCartney.

On Saturday, another big seller at the Julien's Auctions event was a Beatles drum head, which is the membrane stretched over a drum.

The drum head, which was used by The Beatles when they made their historic appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1964, sold for \$2.1 million, Julien said.—Reuters

## Sam Smith suffers throat infection

LONDON — Singer Sam Smith has a throat infection and he says the pain is so bad it feels as though he has a 'tennis ball' stuck in his throat.

The "Writing's On The Wall" singer has been struck down with the illness and has been left in agony with his swollen glands, reported Femalefirst.

In an Instagram post, he revealed: "Feeling very sorry for myself. Throat Glands are so big. Feel like I have a tennis ball down my throat (sic)."

Despite his illness, Smith

was able to unveil a cover of Amy Winehouse's "Love Is A Losing Game" taken from "In The Lonely Hour: The Drowning Shadows Edition" — the new special edition of his debut album.

In May, Smith, 23, underwent voice corrective surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital Voice Center to repair his damaged vocal cords and spent weeks under doctors' orders not to speak. He made a full recovery from his operation.—PTI



Photo: Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Lana Del Rey to receive Billboard Awards honour

LOS ANGELES — Singer Lana Del Rey is to be honoured for her originality at the 2015 Billboard Women In Music Awards.

The "Video Games" singer will be presented with the Trailblazer award at the New York ceremony on 11 December in recognition of the "inspiring and interesting path" her career has taken, reported Billboard magazine.

"Lana Del Rey has done things her way from the moment

she first burst on the scene (sic), and continues to make brave and bold choices that defy convention," said awards show boss Janice Min. "She's a trailblazer from her music to her mystery to her multitude of other interests. She keeps everyone awaiting her next move." Lady Gaga is set to receive the Woman of the Year prize while Selena Gomez will be honoured with the Chart Topper Gong.—PTI

## Leonardo DiCaprio pays tribute to parents

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio paid tribute to his parents as he collected the Actors Inspiration Award at a movie industry gala. The 40-year-old actor was feted at the Screen Actors Guild Foundation's 30th anniversary celebration in Los Angeles, where he received a top honour for his movie work and philanthropic efforts, reported Vanity Fair. "I was blessed with two incredibly supportive parents who listened to the harassment of their overly assertive son and drove him to auditions after school even though they had very little time for it," he said.



PHOTO: REUTERS

"I'm going to take one moment here, because this isn't nationally televised, to embarrass both of them, but they're sitting here tonight.

"Mom, Irmelin, George, I would not be receiving this award and I would not be the actor that I am or be able to do any of the philanthropy that this job has given me the opportunity to have, and I wouldn't be the person I am without the both of you, so thank you.—PTI



## Sotheby's moves more than \$300 million in Impressionist, modern art

NEW YORK — Sotheby's set a new record for a blue period Picasso with a double-sided erotic portrait at Thursday's \$300 million-plus auction of Impressionist and modern art, which helped dim the memory of a flabby result just one night earlier.

Making steady if unspectacular prices, just over three-quarters of the 47 works on offer found buyers, with the \$306.7 million total including commission comfortably beating the \$275 million low pre-sale estimate. Sotheby's had tagged the high estimate at about \$370 million.

Picasso's "La Gommeuse" blue period portrait as expected achieved the top price, fetching \$67.5 million, meeting its \$60 million expectation. Estimates do not include commission of just over 12 percent.

The sale marked a recovery of sorts from the auction house's widely touted sale of the collection of its one-time owner and

chairman Alfred Taubman, who was famously convicted and briefly imprisoned in 2002 after a price fixing scandal that also enveloped archrival Christie's.

That auction made \$377 million, barely making its low estimate.

Officials seemed to breathe a sigh of relief, with Simon Shaw, co-head of Impressionist and modern art worldwide, lauding what he called "a small sale that packed a real punch," and saw "a very strong result for any various owner sale in the category."

The auction house noted its \$1.67 billion Impressionist and modern total for the year so far was already the highest in its 271-year history.

Other highlights included Van Gogh's atmospheric landscape, "Paysage sous un ciel mouvementé," which sold for \$54 million against a pre-sale estimate of \$50 million to \$70 million, and Kazimir Malevich's "Mystic Suprematism," being

sold by the artist's heirs, which went for \$33.9 million (estimate \$35 million to \$45 million).

At least two of the top 10 lots were bought by Asian private collectors, continuing a trend of recent seasons.

But in a sign that prices for top-tier works might be moderating, the sale's top-priced works all sold at the very lowest end of their estimate ranges.

David Norman, Shaw's partner, explained that with expanding markets like those of the past five years, estimates tend to lag behind rising prices.

"It's a smart market at the higher price levels," Norman said. "People are not going to be led by estimates."

"We're seeing great prices, but there isn't a relentless, frothy competition and inflation," he added.

The auctions continue next week at Sotheby's and at rival Christie's which holds three major evening sales.—Reuters

## Titanic menu, JFK limo license plates head to auction

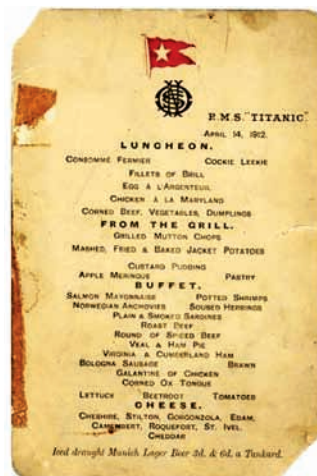


PHOTO: REUTERS

DALLAS — A menu from the last dinner served to first-class passengers aboard the Titanic before it sank in 1912 is among a few surviving artifacts from the ill-fated ship's journey that will be auctioned off on Saturday.

The menu will be up for bid in a sale that includes a pair of license plates from the limousine that drove President John F. Kennedy through downtown Dallas when he was assassinated on 22 November, 1963.

Opening bid on the license plates is \$40,000 while pre-bidding on the menu reached \$44,000 on Friday, according to Dallas-based Heritage Auctions.

The menu featured a selection of oysters, filet mignon, roast duckling, squab and other delicacies, topped off with desserts such as Waldorf pudding or peaches in chartreuse jelly.

Besides the menu, other Titanic relics up for sale include a recently discovered distress telegram sent

by Western Union to the ship's ownership company in New York informing officials that the Titanic had struck an iceberg and was in trouble, the auction house said.

"Sinking fast — come to our assistance," it read.

The luxury ocean liner foundered in the Atlantic Ocean on after striking an iceberg on 15 April, 1912 during its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York. Some 1,500 people lost their lives.

Officials with White Star Line claimed in a Congressional inquiry that the company never received notice of distress from the Titanic.

Opening bid for the telegram is \$20,000, the auction house said. The items "shed light on two aspects of the story that have long been part of the lore of the Titanic," said Tom Slater, director of Americana for Heritage Auctions.

Heritage officials said it is uncertain whether the telegram was the delivered version or a duplicate, retained copy. An anonymous collector of Titanic memorabilia has owned it for about 15 years, according to Heritage officials. The menu was put up for auction by an anonymous collector. It is signed by five businessmen who wrote their addresses on the menu while sharing a dinner table on 14 April, 1912. Four of the five survived the disaster, according to the auction house. The license plates from Kennedy's limousine were tossed in the trash at a Cincinnati, Ohio, company that retrofitted the vehicle after the assassination. When new plates arrived, the old plates were discarded, the auction house said.—Reuters

## Japanese cultural, tourism events held in Thailand

BANGKOK — Events to promote Japanese culture and tourism took place this weekend in various parts of Bangkok, with an eye on boosting Thai people's interest in Japan and luring tourists from Thailand.

The "Japan Weekend" events, organised by the Japan External Trade Organisation together with Japanese government entities and the private sector, featured youth pop culture in-

cluding music and manga as well as introduced sightseeing spots in Japan.

Among the highlights were mini concerts by Japanese pop singers and idol groups such as Yui Makino, Choucho and Akamaru Dash, while the manga event displayed original works of Japanese cartoonists and introduced Japan's electronic comic books to Thai readers.

The tourism fair provided

information for self-guided travellers whose numbers have been rising dramatically and a business matching session between tourism-related companies of both countries.

"Japan Weekend" is part of the Japanese government's initiatives to promote tourism and cultural content in the growing markets of Asia-Pacific countries where the working-age population is increasing.—Kyodo News



### News Channel in Brief

(9-11-2015, Monday)

6:00 am

- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

- Physical Exercises

6:35 am

- Documentary

7:35 am

- People's Talks

8:00 am

- News/ International News

8:35 am

- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 am

- News/ International News

10:30 am

- Head Line News

10:35 am

- Weekly Entertainment

11:35 am

- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:00 noon

- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm

- Tasty Trip

1:05 pm

- Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

1:45 pm

- Teleplay

3:35 pm

- People's Talks

4:35 pm

- University of Distance Education

(TV Lectures)

— Third Year (Zoology)

5:00 pm

- News/ Weather Report

5:35 pm

- Socio Economic Scenes

6:35 pm

- Documentary

7:00 pm

- News

7:15 pm

- TV Drama Series (Part-1)

7:30 pm

- Head Line News

7:35 pm

- TV Drama Series (Part-2)

8:00 pm

- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm

- News
- TV Drama Series
- Teleplay



Myanmar International

(9-11-2015 07:00 am~10-11-2015 07:00 am)MST

#### Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:26 Am Myanmar Master Class "Artist Win Pe Myint"
- 07:40 Am SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:26 Am Living in Off-Season
- 08:39 Am Five-Stars Ocean Liners in Myanmar Water
- 08:55 Am [Doctor] [Painter]
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am Kayah Style
- 09:34 Am Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana
- 09:53 Am Temple Stalls
- 10:03 Am News
- 10:25 Am History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- 10:50 Am Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
- (11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)
- (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

#### Prime Time

- 07:03 Pm News
- 07:26 Pm Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-2)
- 07:53 Pm Gardener: Rose Plantation
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad)
- 08:43 Pm A Life In The Ring
- (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)
- (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
- (For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



## Martinez hails Everton's wanted man Lukaku

LONDON — Roberto Martinez praised Romelu Lukaku after the Belgium striker scored Everton's goal in a 1-1 draw at West Ham United on Saturday, saying it was no surprise that his player was attracting the attention of other clubs.

Media reports this week said French champions Paris St Germain and other leading European sides were looking to prise Everton's most expensive signing away from Goodison Park.

Former Chelsea forward Lukaku's goal was his seventh of the Premier League campaign, and his seventh in as many appearances against the London side.

"I've got no worries about attracting attention because that is what you want," Everton manager Martinez told reporters. "If you're signing players and nobody feels that they're doing well, then as a manager you've got a big, big problem.

"He's in a very good moment and when he's on the pitch I feel he's capable of scoring against anyone."

Lukaku's goal just before halftime was pure class. He ran on to a defence-splitting pass



West Ham's Winston Reid in action against Everton's Romelu Lukaku during Barclays Premier League at Upton Park on 7 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

from Brendan Galloway, kept his cool as he rounded goalkeeper Adrian and stroked the ball into the empty net.

That cancelled out Manuel Lanzini's 30<sup>th</sup>-minute opener, an equally memorable moment. He collected the ball on the edge of the box before curling a lovely shot into the top corner of the net.

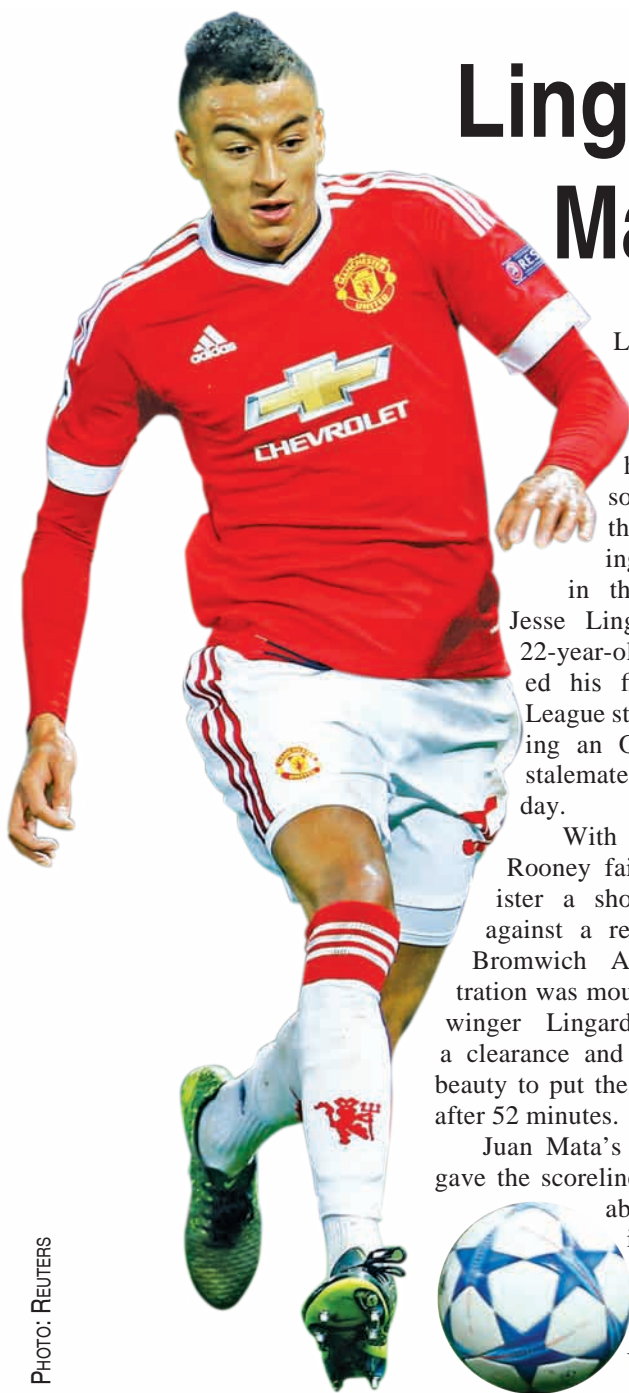
A draw was probably a fair result and it left West Ham fifth in the table with 21 points and Everton eighth, four points behind.

"I can't be unhappy with the way we played. It was a good game against a good team. They (Everton) deserved something from the game," said West Ham manager Slaven Bilic.

"Nearly a third of the way through the season we have to be happy."

West Ham have beaten Arsenal, Manchester City, Liverpool and Chelsea this term while Everton's only league defeats have come against big guns City, Arsenal and Manchester United. —Reuters

## Lingard proves solution to Man Utd's striking woes



LONDON — Manchester United found a home grown solution to their goalscoring problems in the shape of Jesse Lingard as the 22-year-old celebrated his first Premier League start by breaking an Old Trafford stalemate on Saturday.

With Wayne Rooney failing to register a shot on target against a resolute West Bromwich Albion, frustration was mounting before winger Lingard controlled a clearance and curled in a beauty to put the hosts ahead after 52 minutes.

Juan Mata's late penalty gave the scoreline a comfortable look, but it was another largely frustrating day for the United fans

who watched their team dominate possession without carving out sufficient chances.

Lingard was handed his United debut as a substitute by Louis Van Gaal, in his first competitive match in charge, against Swansea City last season but a knee injury in that game wrecked his season and he has had to wait for his chance ever since.

After starting home and away against CSKA Moscow in the Champions League, and putting in some impressive displays as a substitute in the Premier League, that chance came on Saturday and Lingard fully justified Van Gaal's faith with his first United goal.

"We played three games in a row without scoring a goal, though we had more than enough chances. That's why you look for solutions and one of those was to bring Jesse into the team," Van Gaal, who turned down loan requests for Lingard in the close season, told reporters.

"I'm very happy for him, he deserves it because I think he played very well. I'm a hap-

py manager today."

Van Gaal's side enjoyed 76 percent of possession in the first half but could find no way through a West Brom side content to sit back and wait for counter-attacks.

"Everybody knows who has played football that the most difficult way to score is against a very defensive team. The space is only at the wings and we have tried to do that," said Van Gaal, whose team are fourth, a point behind leaders Manchester City who visit bottom club Aston Villa on Sunday.

"The only way you can play against such a defensive, organised team is the way we do it, you need patience."

And in another message to United's demanding fans, the Dutchman added: "When you are yelling 'attack, attack, attack' and you attack for 85 minutes, you have to think as a fan, is it alright to yell? But they want to know they have to score.

"We have to score goals, that my mother knows and my grandmother." —Reuters

## Nishikori fit for ATP World Tour Finals

TOKYO — Injury-hit world No. 7 Kei Nishikori is "100 percent okay" to play at the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals, his management announced on Saturday.

Nishikori was forced to retire from his Paris Masters third-round match trailing 7-6(3), 4-1 against Richard Gasquet on Thursday due to pain in his left side abs. But hospital tests showed no major abnormalities.

"The diagnosis was light inflammation and (Nishikori) will be 100 percent okay," his management said. Nishikori's ab problem was the latest injury scare for the 25-year-old Japanese star, who sat out last month's Swiss Indoors with a sore right shoulder. Nishikori had already secured one of the eight qualifying berths for ATP World Tour Finals getting underway in London on 15 November before playing in Paris. —Kyodo News

## London Olympic champ Murata wins non-title fight in US

LAS VEGAS — Japan's London Olympic middleweight champion Ryota Murata won his first fight in the United States on Saturday, defeating Gunnar Jackson of New Zealand in a 10-round non-title bout in Las Vegas.

The 29-year-old Murata won on a unanimous decision to extend his unbeaten record since turning professional two-and-a-half years ago to eight wins, five of them knockouts.

Murata started strongly and continued to land right hooks and body blows on Jackson, smiling every time he returned to his corner at the end of the round.

But he was unable to score any decisive punches as Jackson got his head down and defended, and Murata's smile disappeared when the final gong sounded. "I could not finish (Jackson) off. I got something like two effective punches each to his face and body but it's no good if you are not going anywhere after that," said Murata.

"I could not respond to expectations and it was a lame performance," he said. "I'm ashamed by my weak boxing. I wanted a knockout. My condition was great but I could not take any positives from that." —Kyodo News