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‘WELL DONE MYANMAR’ Modi and Ban Ki-moon praise general election



The Prime Minister of India (C) Mr Narendra Modi and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (R) phoned President Thein Sein yesterday to commend Myanmar's peaceful general election, which was held on November 8. PHOTO: MNA

THE Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi and United Nations General Secretary Mr Ban Ki-moon phoned President U Thein Sein on Thursday to praise Myanmar's successful general elections, which were held on 8 November.

Both leaders praised the Myanmar government and everyone involved for the smooth and peaceful elections in 2015. They reiterated their willingness to be involved in Myanmar's reform process, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Newly approved businesses to spur job growth

Ye Myint

THE Myanmar Investment Commission said that it expects approximately 2,600 new jobs to be created by businesses approved in November.

Seven domestic and overseas firms have been given the green light to operate in Myanmar as either joint ventures, locally owned or wholly foreign owned enterprises this month, according to a recent statement issued by the commission. The number of approvals in October was significantly higher, with a total of 23, however proceedings at the commission slowed

down somewhat due to the general elections being held on 8 November. The companies given the green light last month will be involved in manufacturing clothing, as well as wood processing and hospitality.

The businesses approved in November will be engaged in manufacturing, construction and telecommunication services.

KBZ Gateway Co., Ltd was among the seven enterprises approved by the commission. The company was granted permission to set up a telecommunications network services on a plot in Bago Region as a local investment.

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Heavy machinery is operated along Hline riverside in Yangon. PHOTO: YE MYINT



An 'earth wave' formation on a road in Indaw causes traffic obstacles and anxiety about landslides among locals.

PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

‘Earth wave’ brings ominous tidings

Maung Chit Lin

A one-metre high earth formation was sprouted across the Indaw-Bamauk Road near Indaw Township, apparently due to shifting underground faults. The formation has become a traffic obstacle and has created anxiety among the local people, who refer to the formation as an 'earth wave'.

The area also suffered torren-

tial rains and landslides in July.

"Landslides are also happening nearly every day, and it has been found that the road has moved significantly over the last 10 to 15 days. The earth wave on the road is getting bigger and bigger," said Ma Yu from Aunggon Village.

The mountain where the landslides are happening seems to be moving to the road, she added.

Vehicles passing the mile post No 203 on the road report that the height of the earth wave has grown to a height of about three feet within a week, said U Aung Kyi of Thakkeyyin Village.

Local people are worried about the earth wave, especially in the wake of an earthquake measuring on 4.6 Richter scale that struck near Indaw Township on 11 October.

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Roundup

ON the fourth-day of 13th Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said an aviation police platoon of the Myanmar Police Force was established at Thandwe Airport in October 2015, but the marine police platoon has not been established yet due to land requirements, vessels and the need for additional planning.

He replied to a question raised by MP U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency on the establishment of the marine police platoon in Thandwe. The MP urged for the formation of the platoon as quickly as possible in order to prevent illegal trade and immigration.

MP U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency asked about the Hluttaw's arrangements to meet the needs of ministries in the Union government and region and state governments.

Deputy Minister at the President's Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied that the Union government coordinates smooth processes for region and state governments and



MP U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency. PHOTO: MNA

the leading bodies of self-administered zones in implementing projects. Moreover, he said the Union government discusses the extension of organisational planning, the opening of new branches and tasks among the departments and ministries at its cabinet meetings.

The Hluttaw approved a bill to amend the Veterinary Education Council Law, as well as bills for road transport, rail transportation and mercantile canal transport.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw roundup



Amyotha Hluttaw MPs discuss bills in the session. PHOTO: MNA

THE secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe explained the cancellation and approval of paragraphs from the legal support bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw during the fourth-day session of

the Upper House yesterday.

The secretary of the bill committee discussed the cancellation and substitution of paragraphs in the bill on the revocation of pension act, and the bills amending the savings bank law,

the insurance law, the criminal procedure law and the penal code.

The speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw sought approval of the Hluttaw for the bills.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MEITI report to cover entire oil and gas sector

MYANMAR'S Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative report, to be released on 2 January, will cover 100 percent of the oil and gas sector, 67 percent of the gems sector and 50 percent of the minerals sector, MEITI-MSG chairman and deputy finance minister Dr Maung Maung Thein said. He spoke at the work coordination meeting of the Working Committee for Transparency in Extractive In-

dustry held at the Ministry of Finance on Thursday.

At the meeting, the chairman of the committee Union Minister U Soe Thane explained that the purpose of the meeting was to fulfil requirements for the EITI report, which had been compiled in cooperation with the World Bank and the International EITI Federation.

He added that Myanmar had been trying to become a

full-fledged member of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, as EITI reports are important for countries relying on natural resources, such as Myanmar.

Committee secretary Union Minister U Win Shein, MEITI coordinator Dr Zaw Oo and other participants reported on the measures taken to meet the requirements of the EITI.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Norwegian finance body to become shareholder of Myanmar Investments Ltd

Jessica Mudditt

Myanmar Investments International Limited announced on Monday that the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund) has signed up to become a shareholder in Myanmar Finance International Ltd. (MFIL), MIL's microfinance joint venture.

Myanmar Investments International Limited (MIL) is the only Myanmar focused investment company whose shares trade on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange, while Norfund is the Norwegian development finance institution owned

by the Norwegian Government to combat poverty in selected countries through private sector development.

One of the areas that it specialises in is microfinance and as a result brings significant experience to MFIL.

Norfund will own a 25 percent shareholding in MFIL, while MIL and its joint venture partner Myanmar Finance Co. Ltd. will own 37.5 percent each. MFIL intends to secure long-term debt facilities to leverage its business and Norfund's participation as a shareholder and its connections with well-established microfinance lenders will greatly assist in this. If required, MIL will consider making additional equity

contributions to MFIL in future.

"Norfund is an experienced investor in microfinance businesses in developing countries where they provide both equity and debt financing. We are delighted that Norfund is joining us as co-investors in MFIL. We look forward to leveraging on Norfund's experience in the sector to build MFIL into one of the leading microfinance companies in Myanmar," said Aung Htun, MIL's Managing Director.

U Htet Nyi, Chairman of MFIL added, "We are honoured to welcome Norfund as a shareholder in MFIL. Their participation validates our belief in both the opportunities that exist in the microfinance space in Myan-

mar as well as the platform that we have already established in MFIL."

MFIL is the first Myanmar focused investment company to be admitted to trading in London and has been established for the purpose of investing in businesses operating in or with business exposure to Myanmar. The Company will target businesses operating in sectors that the directors believe have strong growth potential and thereby can be expected to provide attractive yields, capital gains or both. In addition to investing into local businesses the Company will also partner with foreign companies investing in Myanmar.

Kjell Roland, Norfund's

Managing Director said, "We are impressed with MFIL's progress and are looking forward to being an active shareholder in MFIL. Microfinance is a cornerstone of Norfund's investments in financial institutions in developing countries. Provision of financial services to low-income individuals and micro, small and medium sized enterprises that otherwise would have little or no means of access to capital is essential for enabling economic growth and poverty reduction in Myanmar."

Norfund's investment is subject to typical closing conditions, such as the registration of the new shares and the amendment of the articles of association of MFIL.

Japanese govt praises Myanmar for successful elections

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein received Nippon Foundation chairman Mr Yohei Sasakawa, who is the Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Mr Yohei Sasakawa conveyed the message of the Japanese government, praising the Myanmar government led by President U Thein Sein for successfully and transparently holding a free and fair general election.

The two also discussed further strengthening the friendly

relations between Japan and Myanmar, the development of Myanmar's economic infrastructure, further cooperation in the internal peace process, Japan's assistance in the reconstruction of schools in flood-affected areas and the success of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The meeting was also attended by union ministers U Soe Thane, U Ye Htut, Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Dr Than Aung, deputy minister U Thant Kyaw, and Japan's ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of Nippon Foundation. PHOTO: MNA

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Peace-making Work Committee

Press Release
Nay Pyi Taw, 18 November

- In accordance with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which was signed on 15 October in Nay Pyi Taw, the first coordination meeting on the implementation of the agreement was held on 16 October and the second on 17 and 18 November.
- During the second meeting, the Union Level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee was formed with ten government representatives, ten representative from eight ethnic armed groups and six civilian representatives. The representatives are as follows:-

(a)	Lt-Gen Yar Pyae	- Chairman
(b)	Saw Issac Phoe	- Vice Chairman (1)
(c)	U Pyae Sone	- Vice Chairman (2)
(d)	U Khin Maung Soe	- Member
(e)	Lt-Gen Ye Aung	- Member
(f)	Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung	- Member
(g)	Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw	- Member
(h)	Maj-Gen Min Naung	- Member
(i)	Maj-Gen Aung Soe	- Member
(j)	U Myint Soe	- Member
(k)	Dr Min Zaw Oo	- Member
(l)	Saw Nay Soe Mya	- Member
(m)	Saw Kyaw Than Htay	- Member
(n)	Khun Aung Mann	- Member
(o)	Salai Yaw Aung	- Member
(p)	Khaing Myo Chit	- Member
(q)	U Saung Han	- Member
(r)	Saw Tar Do Mu	- Member
(s)	Sai Lian	- Member
(t)	Reverend Saw Matthew Aye	- Member
(u)	U Ko Ko Gyi	- Member
(v)	Sai Myo Thant	- Member
(w)	U Maung Maung Nyein	- Member
(x)	Thura U Tin Hla	- Member
(y)	Dr Shwe Kah	- Secretary (1)
(z)	Col Wunna Aung	- Secretary (2)

Union Peace-making Work Committee

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker meets Chairperson of NLD

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee and the chairperson of the National

League for Democracy. The two met at the Pyithu Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting was Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw

Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, director-general of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Kyaw Soe, secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee U Win Myint and MP Dr Zaw Myint Maung.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with NLD Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

Newly approved businesses to spur job growth

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However, any international gateway service is to be excluded from the services it will provide, said the commission. In a sign of further investment in the country's telecommunications sector, TPR Myanmar Limited has been permitted to operate as a wholly foreign-owned investment. It will be involved in the

construction of telecom towers and the lease of some to telecom operators. Among the other newly-permitted businesses are Leoplast Industry Limited, Myanmar Awba Group Co., Ltd, Myat Mi Ba Co., Ltd, Mora International Co., Ltd and Myanmar Rock Mountain Co., Ltd. The companies will establish facilities to manufacture plastic

packaging containers, household goods, furniture, agro chemicals, washing powder, liquid soap, bleaching powder, laundry soap bars, synthetic wigs, and crushed stones production in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions. These firms will be running their businesses as either a joint venture or a wholly locally-owned company.

Second economic zone on the cards for Yangon



Scale model of second Central Economic Zone (Mindhamma). PHOTO: SOE WIN

THE second Central Economic Zone (Mindhamma) Project will be built in Mayangon Township in Yangon next year.

The project will include a high-rise building, four offices, five serviced apartments buildings, cinemas, restaurants,

electronic and trade centres, a five-storey shopping centre and other business buildings, including a convention centre. It will be the first integrated mixed development in Yangon City.

First Myanmar Construc-

tion Company Ltd will construct buildings on an area of 36.55 acres of land within Yangon City Development Committee's domain. The economic zone will be located between Tawwin and Mindhamma roads and the go-ahead has been given

by Yangon Region government.

A plan has been set to complete the project within a five-year period. Thilawa Economic Zone, the first one, is already under construction in Thilawa, Kyauktan Township.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Buddha Pujaniya starts in Pyay

The opening ceremony of Buddha Pujaniya was held at Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Pyay, Bago Region, yesterday.

On the occasion, Pyay District's deputy commissioner U Tin Maung Win discussed religious affairs with senior Buddhist monks, while a member of the pagoda board of trustees, U Maung Maung Aye, explained the arrangements for holding the Buddha Pujaniya festival.

Commander of Pyay Regional Control Command Brig-Gen Myint Aung, deputy commissioner U Tin Maung Win and commander of Pyay District police force Police Lt-Col Aung Thet Naing cut the ribbon to open the festival.

At the ceremony, well-wishers offered rice and provisions to 108 members of the Sangha.—*GNLM-017*

Residents in Natogyi to get GSM access



MPT starts installation of cables in Natogyi Township to create GSM access to local people. PHOTO: HTAY MYINT MAUNG

Technicians from Mandalay Region's Myanma Posts and Telecommunications will install a 10-mile Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) cable in Wetlu Village-tract, Natogyi Township, U Myint Thein, said a spokesperson from Natogyi communications station.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) has

already built a communication tower in Wetlu village-tract. The village-tract and the west, central and east Wetlu villages are home to 1,000 households.

MPT recently installed a new cable for upgrading the Nyaung U-Mandalay telephone lines throughout Natogyi Township.—*Htay Myint Maung*

Farmers receive compensation for loss of crops in Meiktila

A 500 KVA Thabyewa-Meiktila-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo national grid was installed in Meiktila, Mandalay Region. The machine was donated to compensate local farmers for loss of their crops. The ceremony was held at the

Township General Administration Department yesterday.

The district's Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon explained the purpose of providing compensation to the farmers. Township Administrator U Myo

Hlaing, Superintendent Engineer U Thein Lwin of the power supply project (north) and officials presented about K26.75 million (US\$ 20,700) to 275 farmers from nine village-tracts for their losses.—*Chan Thar*



Local farmers taking compensation for loss of crops in construction of Thabyewa-Meiktila-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo national grid in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR

Stone plaques at Kuthodaw Pagoda under maintenance



An aerial view of stone plaques at Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

THE Archaeology and National Museum of the Ministry of Culture has been collaborating with Sydney University Buddha Studies Programme of Australia to maintain stone inscriptions at Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay since the beginning of the year.

The stone plaques from Kuthodaw Pagoda were recently included in UNESCO's world heritage listing. The technicians and experts are undertaking preserva-

tion works of the stone plaques and pagodas, taking photo records, translating stone inscriptions from Pali-Myanmar to English and publishing academic articles about the stone, and publishing academic papers about the inscriptions, an official of Archaeology and National Museum's Mandalay branch said.

"The translation and publishing works will be carried out by Sydney University," he said.

"The stone plaques depict Myanmar as it was in the 19th century as well as cultural aspects related to the Buddhist faith," he continued.

Kuthodaw Pagoda (also known as Maha Lawkamarazain Pagoda) was built by King Mindaon in 1859. The pagoda was fenced with three walls and a total of 729 stone plaques on Buddhist Pitaka treatises are kept within its chambers.—*Min Htet Aung*

Department staff to get housing in Natogyi Township



Buildings under construction for accommodation of service personnel in Natogyi Township.

PHOTO: HTAY MYINT MAUNG

THE Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development are funding the construction of apartments for service personnel, which will be located beside Myingyan-Mandalay road in ward 8 of Natogyi Township. To date, 24 apartments out of 100 have been completed, said engineer Daw Theint Theint Tun of the Department of Highways.

She added that apartments will solve existing accommodation difficulties for department employees.

Two three-storey buildings with 12 apartments each have been completed this year, with another two slated for completion in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The apartments can be rented to department staff once the

water and electricity supplies are functioning. Officers and staff will be required to pay 5 percent and 3 percent respectively from their salaries to cover rent.

Dedicated staff apartments built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development are the first of its kind in Natogyi Township.—*Htay Myint Aung*

Yadanabon bank branch opens in Mandalay

YADANABON Bank Ltd opened its second Mandalay branch on 35th Street in Mahaangmye Township on Wednesday.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung Mung, Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu and the bank's General Manager U Maung Maung Gyi were pres-

ent at the opening and visited the treasury and sections of banking services.

Yadanabon Bank Ltd was established by Mandalay City Development Committee in 1992. The first bank branch is located in Pyigyigyi Mingalar bus terminal in Mandalay Industrial Zone-2.—*Tin Maung*



The opening ceremony of the branch of Yadanabon Bank Ltd in progress in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

Wholesale market to open in Mandalay



A scale model of Mandalay Wholesale Market. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

A STAKE-DRIVING ceremony was held for the construction of Mandalay Wholesale Market was held, south of Palak-Sagain roundabout-Mandalay International Airport Road in Singaing on Wednesday.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and officials participated in the ceremony.

Mandalay Green City

Public Company Ltd will build the market, which has been given the go-ahead by the regional government.

The market will include four wholesale complexes and six small buildings. The current schedule is for the first phase of the market to be completed in 2016, with the entire project completed within five years.—*Tin Maung*

MCDC building better drains to prevent flooding

MANDALAY City Development Committee is carrying out improvements work on culverts and drains along roads to prevent flooding during the next monsoon season in Mandalay.

The committee placed asphalt on 66th street between 30th and 35th streets and built concrete drains in Chanayethazan Township. Moreover, a culvert

was built at the junction of 32nd and 66th streets. MCDC members U Aung Htay and U Ye Mon inspected the progress of construction works and instructed officials to construct the drains to the highest standards.

The pair also inspected the clearing of debris from Nadi Canal in the same township and the laying of asphalt on a road in Yinbyan ward.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

China detains suspected spy 'with map in his underwear'

SHANGHAI — Chinese guards near the North Korean border captured a foreigner suspected of spying after he was found with a hand-drawn map in his underwear of military positions along the border, the army-run China Defence News said yesterday.

The suspected spy, caught in late October in Jilin Province after a tip-off from a farmer, was also carrying a high-powered telescope and photos of military facilities, the report said. The report did not identify the nationality of the person. In September and October, China reported detaining some Japanese people for spying. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a news conference in Beijing he did not know anything about the case. Espionage and intelligence gathering activities have been "rampant" in recent years, the report said. It quoted a military official as saying the rise in tourism in the scenic, forested region in northeastern China had created an opportunity for criminals.—Reuters

Asia-Pacific leaders condemn terror, commit to growth



Protesters face riot police near the venues of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the capital city of Manila, Philippines on 19 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Asia-Pacific leaders yesterday condemned the terrorist attacks in Paris, Egypt and elsewhere, and called for co-operation to propel growth as a way to stem terrorism as they wrapped up a two-day summit in Manila.

In a joint declaration, the leaders of the 21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum members also called for increased efforts to meet their goal of creating a region-wide free trade bloc after 12 APEC members agreed last month on what they see as a base trade scheme for the bloc.

"We will not allow terrorism to threaten the fundamental values that underpin our free and open economies," the leaders said in the declaration released at the end of their summit.

The communique referred specifically to the crash of a Russian jetliner in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula last month and the attacks in Beirut and Paris last week in expressing their resolve to never allow such acts to threaten values supporting free and open economies.

The latest in a wave of condemnations of terrorism across

the world since the assault in the French capital came after the Group of 20 major economies on Monday denounced the Paris attacks at a meeting in Turkey, saying they were "heinous."

"Economic growth, prosperity and opportunity are among the most powerful tools to address the root cause of terrorism and radicalisation," the leaders said in the declaration. The APEC members will continue their efforts to combat terrorist financing and prevent militants travelling through advance passenger risk analysis and other measures, they said.

"We will not allow terrorism to threaten the fundamental values that underpin our free and open economies."

APEC Statement

As increasing terrorism poses an imminent risk to global growth, many leaders at a session yesterday said it is important to conclude a region-wide free trade pact, called the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, for long-term growth, Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko told reporters. "We reiterate our commitment...to the eventual realisation of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific," the declaration said.

During the session, the leaders welcomed an ongoing joint study to examine the viability of the APEC-wide trade initiative, Seko said. The study will be completed by the end of next year.

Some leaders hailed the agreement reached last month by the United States, Japan and 10 other APEC members on the Trans-Pacific Partnership framework, Seko added.

The pact covering 40 percent of the global economy as well as another huge multilateral trade initiative, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, have been considered necessary steps for launching the FTAAP trade framework.—Kyodo News

UN group asks Sri Lanka's govt about missing people pledges

COLOMBO — A United Nations experts group urged Sri Lanka's government on Wednesday to make good on its promises to investigate the cases of thousands of people who went missing in the civil war, saying a local probe had revealed only the "tip of the iceberg".

A local commission investigating people's disappearances during the 1983-2009 civil war between government forces and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has said it has received written complaints relating to more than 16,000 missing persons.

"We consider this is the tip of the iceberg considering the many disappearances documented by many commissions," Bernard Duhaime, vice-chair of an UN working group on "enforced or involuntary" disappearances, told reporters in Colombo after a 10-day official visit.

He said the group had visited a former detention centre in the eastern port city of Trincomalee where "interrogation and torture took place" in a navy camp.

"This should be properly investigated. There were more than 12 cells. It apparently shows that it was systematically used for detention facility."

President Maithripala Sirisena's government agreed last month to establish a credible judicial process involving foreign judges and prosecutors to investigate alleged war crimes during the conflict in line with UN recommendations.

His predecessor, Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was unseated in January, rejected requests by the international community to probe war crime allegations, including disappearances while his government rejected visas for UN experts last year.

The UN expert group welcomed the government's cooperation and commitment to establish a dedicated office for missing persons.

"These promises and commitments must now be followed by concrete efforts and tangible results," the group said in a statement.

"The government will need to adopt bold steps to reach out to and create confidence in the victims."

It also raised concerns over reported harassment by security forces of relatives of missing people for speaking to the group's members and suggested such intimidation was continuing.—Reuters

Indonesia's economic slowdown provides death row reprieve

JAKARTA — Indonesia is putting off executions due to the slowdown in Southeast Asia's largest economy, the chief security minister said yesterday, without explaining the connection.

Indonesia has executed 14 drug offenders this year, straining relations with Australia, Brazil, the Netherlands and Nigeria, which all had citizens among those shot by firing

squad. The last executions took place in April. "We haven't thought about executing a death penalty with the economic conditions like this," coordinating security minister Luhut Pandjaitan told reporters. He didn't elaborate.

Indonesia's economy expanded 4.73 percent in the third quarter, slightly faster than the six-year low of 4.67 percent reached in the previous quarter.

Shortly after taking office in October 2014, Indonesian President Joko Widodo signed off on the execution of more than 60 prisoners.

Pandjaitan did not say when the next round of executions would take place. Indonesia has harsh punishments for drug crimes but imposed an informal moratorium on the death penalty for five years before resuming them in 2013.—Reuters

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

India opens boardrooms to women

NEW DELHI — Tanu Anand, an Indian international tax accountant with 13 years experience with multinational firms in India, Singapore and Hong Kong, lost hope of resuming her high-flying career after having a baby last year.

“I sat at home for eight months rather depressed and very low in confidence. All of a sudden here I was, this person with all this international experience with top firms, sitting there with no opportunities or prospects,” said Anand, 36.

“I went for many interviews, but they wanted to put me on a slow career path because I had a baby. There was no balance where I could be a good mother and a good employee. I honestly thought of giving up and starting a bakery.”

A new law may have forced India Inc. to open the boardroom doors to women, but years of sidelining them has led to a high drop-out rate among professionals like Anand — resulting in a shortage of women to fill such positions.

Around 530 out of 5,711 listed firms have been fined by the Bombay Stock Exchange for not having at least one woman director by the deadline. Other companies appointed relatives such as wives and mothers-in-law who are seen as proxies.

Research by Catalyst, a non-profit focusing on women in business, finds the shortage is due to the fact that far more women drop out of the corporate workforce early on in India than in other countries. Catalyst’s 2013 report “First Step: India Overview” found that nearly half of Indian women drop off the corporate employment ladder between junior and mid-levels, compared with 29 percent across Asia as a whole.



Tanu Anand, 36, an Indian international tax accountant, poses along with her daughter Tanvi, at her residence in Gurgaon on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, on 17 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

The main reason cited is the lack of support given to women who want to return to work after having a baby, such as extended maternity leave, crèche facilities and flexible hours.

“...the pipeline is not available. There are not enough women in senior management currently to occupy all the positions that are opening up for women,” said Shachi Irde, Catalyst India’s executive director.

“Organisations have to focus on inclusion at all levels right from the beginning to ensure that they have a healthy pipeline to move up the ladder.”

Studies conducted by Catalyst, McKinsey, Credit Suisse and

others repeatedly show that board diversity leads to better performance in terms of productivity and profitability.

A 2012 report by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, for example, found that stocks of large cap companies with at least one woman board director outperformed those with all-male boards by 26 percent over a period of six years.

Yet, despite increased efforts by companies and governments around the world to lift the number of women in senior corporate roles, their presence remains stubbornly low.

Women hold just 12 percent of boardroom seats world-

wide, and only 4 percent of board chairmen are women, according to a June report by Deloitte after studying almost 6,000 firms in 49 countries.

In India — despite the prominence of a few businesswomen such as Biocon Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar or HSBC country head Naina Lal Kidwai — the lack of women on boards is even more pronounced.

Just 7.7 percent of board seats are held by women in India, compared with 17.5 percent in South Africa and 15.6 percent in the United Kingdom, the Deloitte report showed.

As in other countries, Indian

women climbing the corporate ladder face the usual unconscious gender biases, being perceived as unambitious, not capable enough, or misplaced home makers, experts say.

“Bosses often think that due to family commitments, women cannot stay late in the office, attend events where they can network or take on extra projects. As a result, women are often passed over for promotions,” said Sarika Bhattacharyya, co-founder of Biz Divas, a non-profit promoting female leadership.

“Women themselves are also not visible enough, even when they are ambitious. As a culture and as a gender, we have always been told from a young age to be humble and not boast about our achievements.”

Anand’s fate changed in May when she saw a Facebook post from multinational Genpact, looking for qualified, experienced women wanting to return to work but within a flexible environment as part of their “Career 2.0.” programme.

In less than two weeks, she went through six gruelling interviews before being offered a job as an assistant vice president under a flexible working arrangement.—Reuters

“I went for many interviews, but they wanted to put me on a slow career path because I had a baby.”

Tanu Anand
Indian international tax accountant

Japanese educator sorry for disabled children comments

MITO — A member of an education board in a prefecture northeast of Tokyo apologised yesterday for telling a meeting on education issues that the local government should move ahead to reduce the number of births of disabled children.

Chieko Hasegawa, a 71-year-old education board member and a well-known figure in art dealing, told the gathering Wednesday at the Ibaraki prefectural office building that she “wonders if there are ways to know (whether a baby will be born with disabilities) at an early stage of pregnancy” because abortion is not allowed after four months.

“I hope we can move toward reducing the number of births of

handicapped children in Ibaraki Prefecture,” she added, later admitting to reporters that the remarks were “inappropriate”.

“I thought about the burden that families with disabled children bear, but I was not able to fully explain (what I wanted to say),” she said.

She also apologised in a statement issued via the Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education.

Hasegawa made the remarks after visiting special schools attended by disabled children in the prefecture earlier in the month. Hasegawa is vice president of major art dealer Gallery Nichido and is known for having her portrait painted by US artist Andy Warhol (1928-1987).—Kyodo News



People light candles before releasing a traditional home-made paper balloons into the sky during the annual Tazaungdaing Festival in Taunggyi, Myanmar, on 19 November. PHOTO: REUTERS / SOE ZEYA TUN

OPINION

For the sake of long-lasting relations

Myint Win Thein

During the post war period, many colonised nations declared independence and became sovereign states. However, sovereignty means that a country has the sole right to govern itself and to relentlessly pursue the interests of its own people. Although many smaller countries around the world have proclaimed to be sovereign states, they are in fact economically or politically dependent on powerful countries.

As a result, governments of certain smaller countries sometimes place more emphasis on their relations with powerful countries rather than on the interests of their own citizens. When powerful countries pursue their own interests and their own interests alone when dealing with much smaller nations, the governments in these smaller countries have no option but to surrender. They often have to make decisions that go against the interests of their own people.

In addition, powerful countries also fail to convince the local population of the long-term mutual benefits that occur as a result of their relations with smaller countries. It sometimes seems as if governments in smaller countries are pitched against their own peoples. This can lead to great problems.

As relations among countries should be of mutual benefit to both sides, the more powerful nations should not pursue too much of their own interests at another country's expense. Avoiding the temptation to do so will cement friendlier and more long-lasting relations that are based on mutual benefit and trust.

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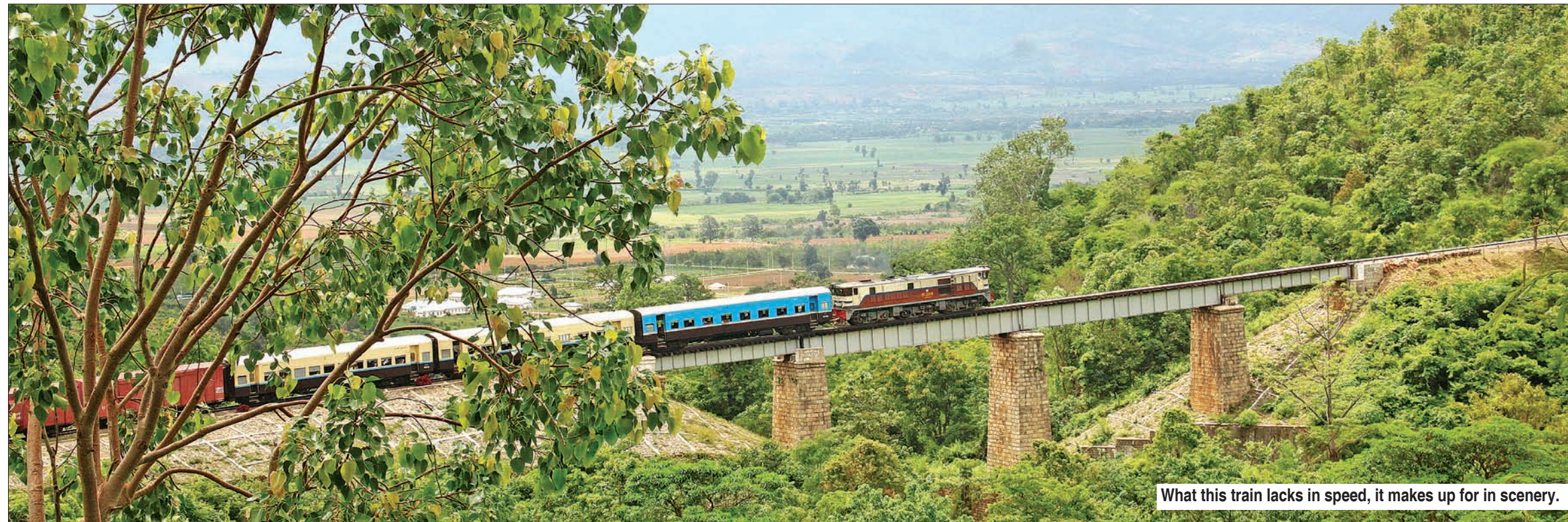
POEM

Peace

The world has turned into a hub of unrest, hatred and revenge. The hardships of our life and the daily toil and pain for survival Has removed the softer feelings and compassion from our hearts. Our sufferings have dehumanized us and made into mechanical lifeless robots. With no feelings for others; and only a selfish desire to grab everything for us only. The life and society has slowly disengaged themselves from one another. Further alienating us from our own self- We are now afraid to look at our own image on the mirror. The world now needs peace- Undisturbed, unprovoked and unconditional peace. We have to take the time to look into our inner self for a moment And think what we could do to restore this peace. If each one of us could sacrifice a small portion of our selfish ego and desire We would be able to see peace, Because it is these evil selfish desires and our uncompromising egos That has turned the world into a poisonous habitat.

Let us all come together,
With our true spirits of self sacrifice
And work together in bringing back peace to the world
For our progress and development,
For a peaceful sleep at night,
For a sun bathed green valley outside our window,
For once again looking at the happy face of an innocent child
And for watching the white dove
That flutters its' wings on the distant blue sky
Shining under the glow of the glorious rays of the sun
With the joys of abundant freedom.

Saiikat Kumar Basu



What this train lacks in speed, it makes up for in scenery.

AWED BY KALAW

Jessica Mudditt

While Inlay Lake and Bagan may be better known to foreign tourists in Myanmar, the former British hill station of Kalaw in western Shan State is getting an increasing number of rave reviews.

Dutch tourist Joost Van Der Velden told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that the three-day trek he did from Kalaw was the highlight of his month-long visit to Myanmar.

"It was an amazing experience – it was the best thing I did," the 23-year-old said while sipping a Myanmar Beer at Yangon's Motherland Inn 2 Guesthouse on the evening before he flew home.

According to data from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, a significant number of tourists are seeking out the pleasures of Kalaw – which include a temperate climate, the forest pines, a gaggle of colonial buildings, bamboo pagodas and a diverse local cuisine. Between Janu-

ary and October this year, almost 13,000 foreign tourists visited the area. A few years ago, the number would have been but a fraction of that (as admittedly was the case elsewhere).

Mr Van Der Velden was travelling solo through Myanmar but he was among a group of five – three of whom were also foreign tourists, plus a guide called 'Uncle Sam' of Uncle Sam's Treks, which is a family-run company based in Kalaw.

The three-day trek includes six hours of trekking on the first day, followed by seven hours on the second – and it's literally all downhill from there, Mr Van Der Velden said.

While it may sound like a lot of legwork, Mr Van Der Velden insisted that the terrain wasn't too tough.

"You don't need to be super-fit – a regular person could do it just fine, as it's never particularly steep. The landscape is amazing and the views are beautiful – particularly on the third day, as Inle Lake comes into view."

Kalaw is the only place in Myanmar where foreigners are allowed to go on overnight treks. Uncle Sam's Treks arranges for guests to spend two nights in villages inhabited by different ethnic minority groups, which in the region include the Palaung, Danu, Pa-O, Taung Yo and Danaw tribes.

"Uncle Sam was the sweetest, most gentle guy. He's quite old, I guess. He said to us, 'Please stop to enjoy what the locals say and hear their stories,'" Mr Van Der Velden said.

Although the Dutch tourist was uncertain which tribal group he'd stayed with on either night, he said the food was delicious and the thanaka on the children was "very sweet."

He also said that the cost of the trek was very reasonable at K38,000, as it included meals, a guide, accommodation and a boat journey.

However one aspect of the trip was a disappointment.

"The countryside in Kalaw is very different from the Netherlands,

where it's very flat. I'd really wanted to see a snake as I've never seen one before. Unfortunately that didn't happen," he said with endearing innocence.

After arriving in Inle Lake by boat, Mr Van Der Velden caught the bus to Bagan.

"Bagan is already a bit too touristy. The trek was authentic. Yangon is a big city, but the people are friendly and were helpful when I got lost. Mandalay? That was my least favourite place – it's humid, crowded, a bit dirty and it's hard to find a good restaurant," he said.

For those who aren't convinced that trekking and sleeping in basic surroundings is for them or are simply too time-poor, visiting Kalaw as a day trip from the state capital of Taunggyi is perfectly possible. I set off from Aythaya winery at around 10 am and was ready to catch my flight back to Yangon from Heho airport by 5 pm that same day.

My guide and driver was Ko Japan, who charged K60,000 for a day of sightseeing in the comforts of

his air-conditioned and immaculately maintained sedan. Incidentally, Ko Japan nicknamed himself after his favourite country – but sadly his dream of visiting Japan is yet to materialise. He drove carefully and wasn't a chatterer, but boy did he have a couple of great tales.

The first went like this... "Back in the sixties – I'm not sure which year – the Russians built a new hospital for Shan State. They gave it to Myanmar as a gift and even staffed it with Russian doctors. One day, the doctors got a call saying that some very important soldiers in Myanmar's army had fallen ill.

Of course the Russian doctors went there right away – and all four were kidnapped by a Shan rebel group who were dressed as government military personnel. The rebel group said they would release the doctors if their warlord was freed from prison – where authorities had recently sent him. After about a month, the warlord was released and the Russians were freed. They went

back to their country after that." Coincidentally, on the day I travelled to Kalaw, a pair of bandits were on the loose after escaping from police the day before in a style not dissimilar to a Hollywood Western. After being sentenced for the crime of drug trafficking the day before, the two men were being driven in a police van to the cells that awaited them. The vehicle was ambushed by members of their gang brandishing weapons and the police had no choice but to set them free or risk losing their lives.

Police checks lined the roads every few kilometres or so (which were lined by a scandalous amount of Ooredoo and Telenor posterage), although Ko Japan told me he suspected the duo had already made it over the border to Thailand.

When I looked at him incredulously, he said: "It would take a long time [to reach Thailand] by road, but through the jungle it's not far at all," he said.

We stopped by the side of the road as our timing coincided with



A woman in Kalaw puffs on a cheroot while waiting for customers at the market, where she sells dried shrimp and pulses.

the passing of a train across a colonial-era bridge. We could hear the diesel train chugging for minutes before it came into view from a side bend and made its way across a skinny bridge surrounded by lush jungle.

"It has to be the world's slowest train," muttered Ko Japan.

His comment seemed fair – the journey from Yangon to Mandalay takes a full 24 hours. For some it's the only viable route if they cannot afford to fork out on a more costly bus ticket.

As soon as we arrived in Kalaw, I went camera-in-hand to the central market, which teems with life and colour. Live eels squiggled on tables, chunks of meat were diced into tiny pieces by women dexterously wielding machetes, and the array of spices, flowers and fresh produce was mind-boggling.

I strolled around the pretty and quaint streets for 45 minutes or so before my appetite got the better of me and I returned to Ko Japan's car. On my request, he dropped me out

of the front of Everest Nepali Restaurant – which is right opposite Uncle Sam's Treks.

The restaurant isn't as out of place as it sounds. Kalaw was founded as a hill station by British civil servants fleeing the heat of the plains during colonial rule, and while the Brits may have left, there remain a significant number of Nepali Gurkas and Indian Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, who built the roads and railway line during the British period. Fortunately, their culinary traditions have been well kept, with recipes handed down from generation to generation. I had high hopes for my meal as I'd been to its 'sister' restaurant in the tourist town of Nyaung U in Inlay Lake. In short, it didn't disappoint, although the décor could have done with a few less buckets of bright orange paint... That said, perhaps it's right on the mark. One of the retaining memories of my brief visit to Kalaw was the vivid colours of its landscape, produce and peoples.



Flower vendors eat lunch on the job at Kalaw market.



This vendor sells fresh eels - it's also possible to buy cooked ones that have been skewered on a stick.



The bright-orange headscarf is worn by female members of the Pa-O tribe.



A Kalaw local nimbly prepares a large fish for sale.

Balkan states start filtering migrant flow to Europe



Members of the Austrian army observe migrants waiting to access Austria at the border near the village of Spielfeld, Austria, on 18 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

BELGRADE — Balkan countries have begun filtering the flow of migrants to Europe, granting passage to those fleeing conflict in the Middle East and Afghanistan but turning back others from Africa and Asia, the United Nations and Reuters witnesses said yesterday.

The move left hundreds of people stranded on borders; on Serbia's frontier with European Union member Croatia, some 400 were denied access to a train and were halted by Croatian police as they tried to cross

the border through fields, a spokeswoman for the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, told Reuters.

Others were stuck in northern land between Macedonia and Greece, where Macedonia has become clearing ground for a possible fence.

What has become the greatest migration of people on the European continent since World War Two has deeply divided the 28-nation EU and fuelled anti-immigration sentiment across the continent.

Calls by some right-wing

European politicians to stop the influx have been fuelled by indications that one of the perpetrators of the 13 November attacks in Paris by Islamist militants, in which 129 people died, reached Europe by infiltrating the chaotic and often unchecked flow of migrants.

UNHCR spokeswoman Melita Sunjic said Serbia had implemented a new approach from late Wednesday: "As of 6 pm yesterday evening, Serbia started turning back (to Macedonia) all but Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans."—Reuters

Iran starts dismantling nuclear equipment, UN report says

VIENNA — Iran has disconnected almost a quarter of its uranium-enriching centrifuges in less than a month, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Wednesday, suggesting it is racing to implement an agreement restricting its nuclear activities.

Under the July deal, sanctions against Iran will be lifted in exchange for measures including slashing the number of centrifuges in operation and reducing its stockpile of uranium.

Officials have been speculating about the speed at which Iran can dismantle the centrifuges, sensitive machines that spin at supersonic speeds to purify uranium to levels at which it can be used as fuel in power stations or, potentially, weapons.

Disconnecting and moving the machines is a time-consuming process if it is to be done without damaging the equipment, making it one of the steps most likely to delay implementation of the deal, and therefore

the lifting of sanctions.

"They have been dismantling centrifuges that did not contain hexafluoride," the senior diplomat said, referring to uranium hexafluoride, the feedstock for centrifuges.

"Dismantling centrifuges that have or have had hexafluoride is a much more complicated thing than the clean ones."

A confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency to its Board of Governors, seen by Reuters, said Iran had moved around 4,500 centrifuges from their positions at the Fordow and Natanz enrichment sites between 18 October and 15 November.

The speed at which Iran dismantles the centrifuges is central to the question of whether Tehran can implement the deal reached in July with the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany and China before parliamentary elections in February.

Under the July deal, Iran agreed to reduce its number of installed centrifuges to around 6,100 from 19,000, according to the United States. Of the remaining 6,100, only about 5,100 will be used to enrich uranium.

Iran was also carrying out an annual inventory at all its enrichment sites, meaning that enrichment had stopped across the country, the report said.

"This is the first time at this point in time that none of the three enrichment plants are operating," the senior diplomat said. Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium had increased by 460.2 kg in the past three months to 8,305.6 kg, the report said. Under the deal with major powers, that stockpile must be slashed to no more than 300 kg.

The senior diplomat, however, said the increase was a normal fluctuation.

"There is nothing special in that. It's the normal way," he said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Obama says can close Guantanamo while keeping Americans safe

MANILA — US President Barack Obama said yesterday that he could close the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba while keeping Americans safe, but acknowledged he would likely face tough resistance from Congress.

Obama — in Manila to attend the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit — said the jail had become a recruiting tool for groups like Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for last week's Paris attacks.—Reuters

Russia to West — Drop Assad demands and we'll unite against Islamic State

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday the West had to drop its demands about the political exit of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad if it wanted a genuinely international coalition against Islamic State militants.

Lavrov, who said there was still no agreement about Assad's political fate after international talks in Vienna, said he had detected a change in the West's position since the Paris attacks and the bombing of a Russian passenger plane.—Reuters

Chad extends state of emergency over Boko Haram attacks

N'DJAMENA — Chad's national assembly extended a state of emergency in the western Lake Chad region by four months on Wednesday following a double attack by Boko Haram militants that killed some 12 people.

"The state of emergency is prolonged by 147 unanimous votes by the parliament for four months. That is to say it will end on 22 March," a ruling party deputy told Reuters. The initial emergency was authorised

on 9 November and was set to last 12 days.

The government wanted a six-month extension but deputies opposed it, another deputy told Reuters.

Chad helped force Boko Haram to cede territory earlier this year, undermining the Islamist group's six-year campaign to carve out a Nigerian caliphate. The rebels have since ramped up attacks in remote border areas around Lake Chad.—Reuters

Plane makes emergency landing in Bulgaria over bomb threat

SOFIA — An aeroplane with 161 people aboard made an emergency landing in the Black Sea city of Burgas yesterday, following a bomb threat while en route to Egypt from Poland's capital of Warsaw, Bulgarian authorities said.

All passengers and crew were evacuated, but no explosives have been found aboard, a spokeswoman for the Burgas airport told Reuters, adding that the airport remained closed.

"The plane landed in Burgas at 05.48am (0348 GMT) after a request for flight number LLP8015 travelling from Warsaw to Hurgada to make an emergency landing, due to a report of the presence of explosives on board," the press officer said.

A passenger who alerted crew about a possible bomb admitted on questioning to having consumed alcohol, a police spokeswoman said.—Reuters

Sarajevo gunman commits suicide after killing two soldiers

SARAJEVO — A gunman who shot and killed two Bosnian soldiers and wounded another committed suicide on Wednesday after police surrounded his house on the outskirts of Sarajevo, authorities said.

The attacker, identified as Enes Omeragic, opened fire with an automatic weapon at a betting shop near the army barracks in the Rajlovac neighbourhood of the capital, killing two

Bosnian armed forces servicemen. While fleeing the scene, he also fired at a city bus wounding a third soldier. The bus driver and two passengers were injured by broken glass, a Sarajevo police spokesman said. "A shot fired at a member of the armed forces is a shot at Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Denis Zvizdic, the Balkan country's prime minister, after an emergency government meeting.—Reuters

McDonald's operator sued after diners exposed to hepatitis A

LOS ANGELES — A customer sued the operator of a McDonald's restaurant in Waterloo, New York, on Wednesday after diners were exposed to food and drinks prepared by a worker with hepatitis A, the virus that causes contagious liver infections.

The lawsuit was filed in New York state court in Seneca County against Jascor Inc. It seeks class-action status for potentially affected customers, who plaintiffs said could number more than 1,000.

Representatives from Jascor could not immediately be reached for comment. Most McDonald's restaurants are operated by franchisees rather than McDonald's Corp.

The Seneca County Health Department on 13 November

confirmed a case of hepatitis A in a food service worker at the Waterloo McDonald's.

Public health officials said diners had a low risk of contracting the illness, but urged those who had consumed food and/or drinks from the restaurant on 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 November to consider treatments if they were not previously vaccinated against hepatitis A.

Christopher Welch, the plaintiff in the lawsuit, purchased and consumed products from the restaurant on at least one day when the infected worker was on duty, according to the lawsuit.

A food worker with hepatitis A can contaminate food, drinks, utensils and dishes by failing to wash his or her hands after going to the bathroom. — Reuters



The sign for McDonald's in Times Square in New York. PHOTO:REUTERS

Many children with cancer were born with genetic risk: US study

CHICAGO — Gene sequencing of more than 1,000 children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer found that as many as 8.5 percent were born with genes that increase their risk of developing cancer, US researchers said on Wednesday.

Of the children with cancer risk genes, only 40 percent came from families with a known history of cancer, suggesting that family history was not a strong predictor of childhood cancers, the researchers reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"This paper marks an important turning point in our understanding of pediatric cancer risk and will likely change how patients are evaluated," Dr James Downing of St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, who worked on the study, said in a statement.

Downing and colleagues

"Our results explain why children, who have not lived long enough to accumulate a critical number of cancer-causing mutations, can still develop cancer."

Richard Wilson

Washington University School of Medicine

said the findings make the case for comprehensive genetic sequencing of pediatric cancer patients, looking at both healthy tissue and tumour tissue.

Such data could be used to manage a child's care, and also to counsel other family members, including siblings, who may be at risk.

In an editorial published in the same journal, Dr John Maris of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia said the study "provides firm ground on which to reconsider how to approach the pediatric patient with cancer."

In the study, researchers sequenced both tumour and normal tissues from 1,120 children with cancer and found that 8.5 percent had cancer risk genes within their normal tissue that increased their risk of developing cancer.

By comparison, only about 1 percent of individuals in the general population carried those mutations.

"Insurance companies often initially refuse to pay for this kind of genetic testing. However, this paper shows the importance

of genetic testing in childhood cancer," said Dr Jaime Vengoechea, a geneticist at Emory University who was not involved with the research.

Richard Wilson of Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, who contributed to the study, said experts have long suspected that many childhood cancers could be traced to a genetic predisposition, and now the findings confirm it.

"Our results explain why children, who have not lived long enough to accumulate a critical number of cancer-causing mutations, can still develop cancer," he said.

Dr David Bailey, chief executive officer of Nemours Children's Health System, who was not involved with the study, called it "a seminal paper that raises the awareness of folks outside the oncology world about the need for testing." — Reuters

Alarming new 'superbug' gene found in China

LONDON — A new gene that makes bacteria highly resistant to a last-resort class of antibiotics has been found in people and pigs in China — including in samples of bacteria with epidemic potential, researchers said on Wednesday.

The discovery was described as "alarming" by scientists, who called for urgent restrictions on the use of polymyxins — a class of antibiotics that includes the drug colistin and is widely used in livestock farming.

"All use of polymyxins must

be minimised as soon as possible and all unnecessary use stopped," said Laura Piddock, a professor of microbiology at Britain's Birmingham University who was asked to comment on the finding.

Researchers led by Hua Liu from the South China Agricultural University who published their work in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal found the gene, called *mcr-1*, on plasmids — mobile DNA that can be easily copied and transferred between different bacteria. This suggests "an alarm-

ing potential" for it to spread and diversify between bacterial populations, they said.

The team already has evidence of the gene being transferred between common bacteria such as *E.coli*, which causes urinary tract and many other types of infection, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, which causes pneumonia and other infections.

This suggests "the progression from extensive drug resistance to pandrug resistance is inevitable," they said.

"(And) although currently confined to China, *mcr-1* is likely to emulate other resistance genes ... and spread worldwide."

The discovery of the spreading *mcr-1* resistance gene echoes news from 2010 of another so-called "superbug" gene, *NDM-1*, which emerged in India and rapidly spread around the world.

Piddock and others said global surveillance for *mcr-1* resistance is now essential to try to prevent the spread of polymyxin-resistant bacteria. — Reuters

Astronomers see planet still growing in its stellar womb

CAPE CANAVERAL — Astronomers have taken the first images of a planet still in formation, a discovery expected to shed light on how giant planets manage to beef up early in their lives, research published on Wednesday showed.

Astronomers used a telescope in Arizona to peer at a young star located about 450 light-years away in the constellation Taurus.

The star, known as LkCa 15, is similar to the sun, but only 2 million years old.

Unlike the 4.6 billion-year-old sun, LkCa 15 is still surrounded by a disk of gas and dust, the raw materials for planet building. Within the disk is a big gap, some 50 times wider than distance between Earth and the sun.

Astronomers previously suspected that a giant planet was orbiting in the gap. Research published in this week's issue of the journal *Nature* confirms the find with infrared images of the planet, along with what appear to be one or two sibling planets.

Scientists also for the first time discovered the chemical footprints of superheated hydrogen gas streaming from the dust disk onto the planet, evidence that it is still forming, said Stephanie Sallum, a University of Arizona astronomy graduate student who led the team. "This young system provides the first opportunity to study planet formation and disk-planet interactions directly," Sallum and colleagues wrote in *Nature*.

Of the nearly 2,000 confirmed planets discovered beyond the solar system, none are still in the formation stage.

In a related commentary also published in *Nature*, Princeton University astrophysicist Zhaohuan Zhu said the discovery will help scientists hone their theories about how planets are formed.

For example, more work is needed to explain the giant planet's location and why it is still growing. Scientists also cannot account for how the planet is generating the massive magnetic fields that are believed to be responsible for super-charging its hydrogen gas feeding lines. The discovery also demonstrates a technique to find other baby planets by searching for the telltale hydrogen gas emissions. — Reuters

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 26th NOVEMBER 2015 (Full-moon day of Tazaungmone), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (276YFR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (276YFR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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

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

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3 killed, 185,000 left without power after Washington State storms



A car sits in the flooded waters of the Stillaguamish River in Stanwood, Washington, on 18 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEATTLE — About 185,000 homes and businesses remained without power in Washington state late on Wednesday, after a storm blew down trees and triggered mudslides, killing at least three people, authorities said.

Governor Jay Inslee declared a statewide emergency because of the storm, which left a wide swath of the Puget Sound region under flood watches and warnings.

In the Spokane area of eastern Washington, utility Avista warned it could take three to five days to restore services to nearly 115,000 customers without power. The city closed schools af-

ter winds up to 70 mph (113 kph) tore through the area.

In Oregon, fallen trees, mudslides and floods shut down roads across the western part of the state on Tuesday night, including a 50-mile (80-km) stretch of Interstate 84 that authorities declared impassible into midday Wednesday.

Several other highways remained closed, Washington state police said.

At least three people were confirmed to have died in storm-related accidents, authorities in Washington state said.

A motorist was killed on Tuesday near the city of Monroe, northeast of Seattle, when a tree fell from a

cliff onto his car, said Snohomish County Fire Chief Merlin Halverson.

"Many roads are closed from downed trees, active power lines, flood waters," Halverson said. "It's a hell of a mess here."

In Spokane, police said a woman was killed by a falling tree, while another woman died on State Route 904 southwest of the city when a tree struck her car, state police said on Twitter.

Puget Sound Energy, which supplies customers in parts of Seattle and its suburbs, said fewer than 30,000 customers remain without power, down from a peak of 220,000 customers.

To the north, in Snohomish County, the public utility district said about 40,000 customers were without power late on Wednesday, down from 150,000 the night before.

Mudslides and other debris blocked roads.

King County, home to Seattle, reported severe flooding on the Snoqualmie River, moderate flooding on the Green River and minor flooding on the Cedar River.

An airport in Olympia received record daily rainfall of 2.08 inches on Tuesday, the National Weather Service said. The previous record was 1.61 inches, set in 1959.—Reuters

Remade 'terror school' offers hope for German immigrant challenge

BERLIN — A decade ago, the Ruetli school in Berlin's Neukoelln District became a symbol of all that was wrong with Germany's integration of immigrants.

Its teachers begged city officials to shut it down because of violence. Hooded students were filmed pelting police and reporters gathered at the school's entrance with cobblestones.

Today, Ruetli is transformed and the scenes from 2006 a distant memory. Some 33 million euros (23.02 million pound) in public money have been pumped into the school over

the past few years and the widow of former German president Johannes Rau is a patron.

Violence is down sharply and a gleaming new event hall houses art exhibitions and a state-of-the-art gymnasium.

For wealthy Germany, which faces a mammoth challenge to integrate and educate hundreds of thousands of refugees — many of them fleeing war in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq — the radical remake of Ruetli is an example of what is possible if politicians embrace the task with commitment

and resources.

Conversely, the Ruetli of ten years ago is a reminder of how integration can veer off course when the authorities don't get behind it.

"What we've learnt is that integration needs to be shaped," said Cordula Heckmann, principal of the Ruetli school and a teacher there since 2001. "The years of experience we've had with people coming to us shows that this process cannot be left to its own devices."

Ruetli is located in a heavily Arab and Turkish neighbourhood where 52

percent of the inhabitants have a migrant background and 71 percent depend on welfare benefits.

Germany's post-war experience with immigration was shaped by the arrival of thousands of "Gastarbeiter", or guest workers, from southern Europe and Turkey in the 1960s and 70s.

Despite the label, few returned to their home countries and today about 20 percent of all Germans have a migrant background. The numbers are much higher among young people.—Reuters

With no one at the helm, Portugal faces instability



Sonia Silva, 41, poses at her fish stall in Almada's market, near Lisbon, Portugal, on 18 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

ALMADA — In the Portuguese town of Almada, Communist activists are handing out leaflets that bear the hammer-and-sickle logo and triumphantly proclaim: “Government destroyed, victory for the workers’ struggle”.

It seems like a throwback to a bygone era. But a leftist alliance could soon be in charge of Western Europe’s poorest country — a prospect that alarms the business and conservative political elite just as it seemed Portugal had weathered economic crisis.

The different sides are staking out hard positions and many are calling this Portugal’s most critical political moment since the Carnation Revolution of 1974, when a dictatorship was overthrown by young army officers and democracy brought in.

After an inconclusive election led to the ousting of the centre-right government, President Anibal Cavaco Silva is weighing up his choices and it is not yet certain that a leftist alliance led by the Socialist Party (PS) will take power.

But Portugal is undoubtedly in for a period of political instability and polarisation that could undermine investment and hence the country’s fragile economic recovery.

The rise of the left is also a push back against austerity imposed by Berlin and Brussels and threatens to undermine the European drive for sounder public finances and more competitive economies. And it may foreshadow events elsewhere in Europe. In Almada, across the River Tagus from the capital Lisbon, 41-year-old Sonia Silva, who runs a fish stall in the market, said the coun-

try’s problems were about the poor being squeezed while the rich cruise along as usual. She complained about high taxes and worsening schools and hospitals.

“The situation is extremely difficult. We pay and get nothing back,” she said. “I have no way of escaping from tax, everything we earn we have to declare. The big firms have people thinking 24 hours a day about how they can avoid tax.”

Fewer people were shopping at her stall, she said, because they went to the cheaper supermarkets where they could rack up credit on cards, even though the fish was not so fresh. The best prospect for her children would be to emigrate, she said.

“The Portuguese have already been punished. This idea of an alternative is creating hope.”

Armenio Carlos
Labour union leader

The political crisis arose after Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho’s centre-right coalition won most votes in an election on 4 October but failed to win a parliamentary majority in a backlash against austerity.

The Socialists led by Antonio Costa then formed an alliance with the hardline Communist Party (PCP) and the Left Bloc to oust Coelho. President Cavaco Silva must now decide whether to allow them to form a government. The decision could take weeks. For Antonio Saraiva, president of the Portuguese

Business Confederation, instability would be economically disastrous.

“Portugal needs to attract investment, foreign and domestic, and therefore needs stability. National tranquillity right now does not exist,” the dapper Saraiva, known here as the Boss of the Bosses, said in his office overlooking the Belem waterfront.

“What we fear the most is that the reforms initiated under the previous government may be interrupted if a government majority based on the current parliament majority of PS, PCP and Bloco is formed.”

When the euro crisis first broke out in 2010, Portugal was seen as a domino that might knock down bigger countries such as Spain and Italy. But it has been lauded by euro zone leaders for sticking to an austerity strategy laid out after it received 78 billion euros (£54 billion) in the bailout in 2011. The Socialists main economic architect, Harvard-trained Mario Centeno, has said a Socialist-led government would abide by austerity plans in general. But some measures could be reversed, including tax increases, and cuts to pay and pensions. The Communist Party posters plastered on walls in Lisbon read “Defend April” — a reference to the 1974 revolution. Armenio Carlos, head of the Communist-linked CGTP labour union, has the air of a man who is relishing the fight.

“The Portuguese people’s stance at the election was one of rejection of the policies of the centre-right,” he told Reuters. “The Portuguese have already been punished. This idea of an alternative is creating hope.”—Reuters

Australia parliament to probe port lease to Chinese company

SYDNEY — Australia’s parliament may hold an urgent inquiry into the lease of Darwin Port to a Chinese company, after concerns were raised about Chinese control of an Australian strategic asset, local media reported yesterday.

According to The Australian newspaper, the upper house inquiry would examine consultations between the Northern Territory, of which Darwin is the capital, and the federal government, including the Defence Department, as well as the port’s strategic importance.

The Northern Territory government agreed last month to a 99-year lease of

the port by the Landbridge Group in a deal valued at about A\$506 million (US\$362 million).

Landbridge, owned by billionaire Ye Cheng, is a large company involved in ports and logistics, real estate, international trade and petrochemicals. According to a statement issued Wednesday by Darwin Port Corp., the Shandong-based company will help to boost Australia’s trade with Asia by developing the port’s infrastructure and utilizing its extensive networks in the region.

Since the deal was announced last month, concerns have increasingly been raised over Land-

bridge’s perceived links to the Chinese military, though some commentators have said such links are not meaningful as many Chinese firms operating overseas have such connections.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has said the Defence Department had been consulted about the deal and was not concerned as it will not affect port facilities available to the Australian military.

“The concerns about defence issues or related issues were fully dealt with by our security agencies,” Turnbull told reporters in Manila on the sidelines of a regional summit.— *Kyodo News*

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION AND LAND CONSOLIDATION
SCHEMES IN MYANMAR
UNDER
THE LINE OF CREDIT FROM
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**

1. Sealed bids are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter called the employer), from the qualified and resourceful Contractors (hereinafter called the bidders) registered in India for procurement of farm machinery and implements for Development of Irrigation and Land Consolidation Schemes in Myanmar.

Tender Description	Bidding Document Fee (USD)
Procurement of farm machinery and implements for Development of Irrigation and Land Consolidation Schemes in Myanmar	500

2. The bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders upon submission of a formal request on payment of a non-refundable fee indicated above for each set of tender documents.
3. The bidding documents will be available from the office as noted in paragraph 8 on any working day with effect from **27.11.2015 to 7.1.2016 (from 9.00 hr. to 16.00 hr. local time)**.
4. Pre-bid meeting will take place at the below address at **10.00 hr (local time) on 21st December, 2015** for discussions of various issues raised by the prospective bidders. The matters requiring clarification shall preferably be intimated by the bidders to the employer through email at aungwinamd@gmail.com, 07 (seven) days in advance of the date of **pre-bid meeting**, with a copy to the Project Management Consultant, i.e. WAPCOS Ltd. (commercial@wapcos.gov.in)
5. The bids duly completed in all respects as described in the bidding document shall be submitted, in a sealed envelope, to the employer **on or before Friday 8.1.2016 at 10.00 hr (local time)**, and shall be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of opening of bid initially, subject to the extension from time to time. The bids will be opened thereafter in the presence of the bidder’s representatives at **10.00 hr. (local time) on 8.1.2016** at the address mentioned above.
6. The bid must be accompanied, in a separate envelope duly sealed, by a bid security of **as indicated above with validity of 118 days** initially, subject to the extension from time to time as desired by the employer in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB). The bid without the bid security shall be summarily rejected.
7. The bid received after the expiry of the stipulated time of submission shall not be considered. The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at on its discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever. The employer is not bound to accept the lowest offer / bid and reserves the right to negotiate with bidders.
8. Contact Address is as mentioned the following.

**Building No.15
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar.**
**Telephone No- +9567-431172, Fax: +95-67-431246
www.moai.gov.mm**

Ashok Amritraj awarded honorary doctorate by a London Varsity

LONDON — Tennis champion-turned Hollywood filmmaker Ashok Amritraj has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of East London for promoting talented moviemakers from across the world, including India.

Amritraj has brought over 100 films to life, creating a remarkable USD 2 billion in worldwide revenues, the university said in reference to his honorary doctorate of arts awarded here.

“To receive my doctorate of arts from a wonderful educational institution, the University Of East London, is truly a great honour. I have enjoyed my past 30 years of filmmaking, working

with great stars and discovering new talent. I was humbled to hear that I am the university’s sole honoree this year for their doctorate of arts,” 59-year-old said. Born in Chennai, Amritraj won acclaim as a young man through his achievements on the tennis court and played in every major professional tennis tournament, including Wimbledon and the US Open, and represented India in international competitions. “When I count my blessings, I am grateful for having smashed a path or several paths through the very dense and self-protective thickets of an art and industry which appear, and are in reality, daunting,” he said.

His filmography as produc-

er includes hits such as ‘Bringing down the House’, ‘Premonition’, ‘Machete’, ‘Blue Valentine’ and ‘Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance’.

“He has worked with numerous Hollywood stars including Robert DeNiro, Sandra Bullock, Bruce Willis, Jennifer Aniston, and Andrew Garfield and built relationships with studio heads, politicians and royalty,” the university said in a statement.

His company, Hyde Park Entertainment Group, is seen as a connect between east and west, promoting collaborations among talented filmmakers and others across India, Asia and the US.—PTI

Music by Grateful Dead, Fleetwood Mac among Grammy Hall of Fame inductees



Grateful Dead members Bob Weir (C) and Bill Kreutzmann (L) attend The Madison Square Garden Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony at Madison Square Garden in New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Music by rockers the Grateful Dead and Fleetwood Mac, jazz greats Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong and singers Blondie and Roberta Flack will be enshrined in the Grammy Hall of Fame, The Recording Academy said on Wednesday.

Grateful Dead’s 1970 album “American Beauty,” named one of Rolling Stone magazine’s 500 greatest albums of all time in 2012, will be inducted after the band ended its 50-year-run this year with a final tour.

Fleetwood Mac’s 1975 self-titled record, which includes the hits “Rhiannon” and “Say You Love Me,” will also be placed into the music vault, as

well as “The Basement Tapes,” the 1975 album by Bob Dylan and The Band.

A total of 26 albums and songs across all genres that are at least 25 years old, were selected by a committee put together by the Recording Academy — hosts of the annual Grammy Awards — to be inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

The selected music is considered to have either “qualitative or historical significance.”

“These works have influenced and inspired both music creators and fans for generations and we are proud to induct them into our catalog of distinguished recordings,” Neil Portnow, president and chief executive officer

of the Recording Academy, said in a statement.

Among the jazz and blues inductees this year are “Miles Smiles,” the 1967 album by jazz great Miles Davis and his quintet, Roberta Flack’s 1969 record “First Take,” and Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong’s collaborative 1956 album “Ella and Louis.”

Punk new-wave band Blondie’s disco-influenced “Heart of Glass,” the song that helped push the band into the mainstream, will also enter the Grammy Hall of Fame, along with Little Eva’s 1962 pop song “The Loco-Motion” and Joan Jett & The Blackhearts’ raucous “I Love Rock ‘N Roll.” —Reuters

Snippets of Adele’s ‘25’ leaked, removed days ahead of release



PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Parts of Adele’s much anticipated new album “25” were reported on Wednesday to have been leaked online ahead of the official 20 November release of the Grammy-winning British singer’s first release in four years.

Adele’s 2011 album “21” won six Grammy awards and sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, and the new release is expected to be the biggest selling album of 2015.

An Adele fan posted on Twitter a photo on Tuesday of what looked like the CD of the new album, claiming it was obtained at a Target store. The fan, with the Twitter handle @HausofFrancis, invited followers to “retweet if you want me to leak it.”

The fan later posted what appeared to be a tweet from Adele’s record label, XL Recordings, ordering the removal of the “infringing material” and threatening legal action.

“25 leaked and it wasn’t me,” @HausofFrancis tweeted on Wednesday.

Target Corp said it was not responsible. “This is not a Target album,” the retailer said in a statement. Representatives for independent label XL and for Adele, who recorded a concert in New York City on Tuesday night, did not return requests for comment.

In a separate case, two-minute snippets of all 11 tracks from the album were reported to have been briefly available online late on Tuesday through a British online record store. The link had been taken down on Wednesday.

Billboard magazine estimated last month that “25” could sell up to 1.8 million units in North America alone its first week on sale. The first single and music video from the album, “Hello,” smashed digital sales records and views when they were officially released last month. A second single, “When We Were Young,” was released on Tuesday and has already been viewed more than 7 million times on streaming platform Vevo. —Reuters

Sam Bailey joins ‘Chicago’ musical tour

LONDON — Singer Sam Bailey has announced that she will be touring the UK with the “Chicago” musical in 2016.

Bailey will star as Mama Morton alongside former “Coronation Street” actress Hayley Tamaddon (Roxie Hart) and ex-“EastEnders” star John Partridge (Billy Flynn) on the tour, which will stop off at 17 planned locations, reported Digital Spy.

Bailey was recently

dropped by Simon Cowell’s record label Syco just 14 months after winning “The X Factor”.

She has previously appeared with her own show in the West End. Bailey she isn’t the first “X Factor” winner to turn to musicals. Matt Cardle has been appearing in “Memphis the Musical”, Alexandra Burke has starred in “The Bodyguard”, and Joe McElderry has been in a number of shows in the West End.—PTI

From Shanghai to Sydney, tourists think twice about Paris trip

SHANGHAI — Fresh violence on the streets of Paris and bomb threats against Air France flights have rattled the global tourism industry, with travellers from wealthy Asian nations thinking twice about trips to Europe.

Tour operators canceled package trips and some predicted a further slowdown in bookings as jittery travellers hold off on immediate plans or look to go elsewhere.

Some big-spending Chinese tourists are shunning Paris for now and opting instead to visit Germany and other European cities in the wake of the second major attack this year on the French capital. Some Chinese visiting Paris last weekend swiftly diverted to Switzerland, said Jane Chen at travel firm Ctrip in Shanghai.

More than 2 million Chinese were expected to visit France, the world's leading tourist destination, this year, up from 1.7 million last year, according to Chinese state media citing the country's ambassador to France. For Japanese, France is the 12th most popular travel destination.

The likely blip in foreign arrivals will further pressure the French economy, particularly if tourist unease lasts through

the Christmas season. Tourism generates more than 7 percent of annual GDP, with Paris alone drawing in 32.2 million visitors last year.

"I still want to go to Paris, but after this incident I won't go within a year," said Vickie Zheng, a 27-year-old realtor in Shanghai.

"My impression of Paris is that it's a romantic city, but after this I think the security situation has been neglected and there are risks. If I was traveling this would influence me," added Li Maoqing, 29, a Shanghai salesman.

An employee at CITIC Tourism in Beijing said business related to France was expected to remain "sluggish". "Unlike earthquakes or natural disasters, a terrorist attack will leave people with fear for ... at least three months."

Among Asian airlines operating regular flights to the French capital, a spokesman for South Korea's Asiana Airlines said it stepped up security for Paris flights.

"Our passengers are really concerned about the attacks in Paris," added K.W. Nieh, a senior vice president at Taiwan's Eva Airways, noting a rush of cancel-



The Eiffel Tower is lit with the blue, white and red colours of the French flag in Paris, on 16 November.

PHOTO: REUTERS

lations following Friday's attacks in Paris that killed 129 people.

"On Sunday alone, we had 50 cancellations out of 300 bookings. Paris has always been a fully-loaded route for us, but loading has dropped to 70-80 percent since the attacks."

Several airlines, such as Air

China and Singapore Airlines, waived cancellation fees for those booked on flights to Paris in the coming days or weeks.

Dennis Bunnik, Chairman of Council of Australian Tour Operators Inc, said clients are "definitely nervous," though this is currently low season for travel-

ling to Europe.

"People have realized that terrorism can happen anywhere, so if your time's up, then unfortunately you'd get caught in it," he said. "What this sort of incident would do is delay people booking, but won't stop them from travelling."—Reuters

Qatar slavery museum aims to address modern exploitation

DOHA — Amid thatched ceilings and arched doorways in a traditional Qatari house in Doha, a projector beams a quote by Abraham Lincoln onto a wall: "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong."

The Bin Jelmoed house in Doha is the first museum to focus on slavery in the Arab world, and it opens as the gas-rich Gulf monarchy faces accusations by rights groups of modern-day slavery of migrant workers before the 2022 World Cup.

Qatar has denied exploiting or abusing workers and says it has implemented labor reforms. The museum itself is funded by the government and was inaugurated last month with a visit by Qatar's Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the mother of the current emir.

Little discussed in schools and official histories, slavery is

tackled head-on by museum directors who believe it has too much to say about their past and future to be ignored any longer.

"Development has been so fast in Qatar, we wanted to look at how things changed, how Qatar was affected by slavery and how slaves were integrated into society," said Hafiz Abdullah, the museum manager.

Slavery in Qatar was abolished only in 1952, and tightly knit populations there and in other Gulf states descend both from African slaves and the Arabs who traded and owned them.

The museum, an old white-washed house whose courtyard was once crowded with East African slaves waiting to be sold, is a rare contemplation of the past in a tangle of high-rise buildings reaching toward the future.

Videos and audio panels

chronicle Qatar's role in a lucrative slave-trade network extending across the Indian Ocean and the ordeals of its victims: men pressed into risking their lives pearl diving in Gulf waters and workers brought by force from Africa to work on oil rigs after World War II.

Antique photos show black slaves standing beside masters and their camels, adopting the flowing robes and waist-belt daggers that marked their slow entrance into Arab culture.

Proceeding deeper into the halls, displays approach the persistence of slavery throughout the world.

An image of Nepalese laborers in blue overalls on a Doha building site carries the caption: "Many construction workers in rapidly industrializing parts of the world, especially the Gulf region,

are considered to be contractually enslaved".

With nearly \$200 billion worth of infrastructure projects planned before Qatar hosts the World Cup, hundreds of thousands of workers have been recruited from countries such as India, Nepal and Bangladesh to power Qatar's construction boom.

Rights groups criticize Qatar's "kafala", or work-sponsorship system, that puts foreign workers, who account for 94 percent of its work force, at the mercy of their employers.

The museum explicitly links historic slave-trading to human trafficking and bonded labor.


"The story of slavery did not end in 1952," Adullah said. "People need to focus on human exploitation today and how we can change that."

Qatar has promised reforms to the kafala system and in October amended a law on how migrant workers apply to leave the country, which was hailed by local commentators.

"Qatar has abolished the last manifestation of slavery," Qatari columnist Mohammed al-Qahtani posted on Twitter, referring to the current sponsorship system as a "monopoly over human souls".

Human Rights Watch said the reforms don't go far enough - they still require workers to get their employer's permission to change jobs or leave the country.


In the museum's final room visitors are encouraged to raise a hand to symbolize their rejection of slavery and take a selfie which is projected onto a mosaic on the wall — a gesture which may provide little comfort to low-wage workers nearby.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(20-11-2015, Friday)

<p>6:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mono & Sweet Song <p>6:15 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>6:40 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song Programme <p>7:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Drama Series 	<p>7:55 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Drama Series <p>8:40 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>9:40 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary <p>9:55 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video
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Myanmar International

(20-11-2015 07:00 am~ 21-11-2015 07:00 am) MST

<p><u>Today Fresh</u></p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:26 Am Interesting Features of Rakhine</p> <p>07:47 Am Dhamma School</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab</p> <p>09:39 Am We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board</p> <p>09:54 Am Kid's Home</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Indian Footsteps</p>	<p>10:33 Am The Caves</p> <p>10:49 Am MURAL PAINTING BAGAN</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p><u>Prime Time</u></p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:26 Pm An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa</p> <p>07:54 Pm Paper Flower</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-1) In Memory of Him & His Childhood</p> <p>08:50 Pm Culture Shows: Theatrical Art</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>
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Registration opens for Myanmar's first 3D walk

ONE of Myanmar's leading retailers, CMHL (City Mart Holdings Co., Ltd.) and ASEAN's leading food and beverage company F&N (Fraser and Neave Limited), have joined hands to open Myanmar's first 3D Walk to encourage healthy, active lifestyles at this year's Active Family Day Out Event.

The event will raise awareness on the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle to Myanmar families who want to embrace healthier living.

Registration to sign up to be a part of the very first 3D Walk is open from 16 November to 2 December. Participants can register at Marketplace by City Mart, City Mart Thamine, City Mart Junction Maw Tin and Ocean Super Centre Shwegondine from 10am to 8pm. All registration fees will be donated to the Yankin Children Hospital.

The event will be held on 6 December from 6am to 11am at People's Park and the booths will

remain open all day. The event is open to people of all ages and will feature a wide variety of activities.

In addition to the 3D Walk, which is the main event, participants will be able to receive a free medical check-up, road safety tips, sports education, fitness advice and play games. Books, health products and nutritious foods will also be on sale at the event. In addition, there will be a health talk by a renowned doctor and conversations with professional athletes and actor Kyaw Kyaw Bo.

Last year's Active Family Day Out Event attracted 2,000 participants and included a variety of activities to entertain both adults and children.

"Last year we donated all the proceeds we collected from the event to charity, and we will do the same this year. The registration fee is 2,500 kyats for one form," said Daw May Zin Soe Htet, the marketing director of City Mart.—GNLM



A registration centre of the 3D Walk at City Mart Junction Maw Tin. PHOTO: SUPPLY BY CITY MARK

Judo championship to be held in Yangon

THE 11th Japan Cup Open Judo Championship will take place at Aung San Gymnasium in Yangon on 23 and 24 November.

Top performing players will be tentatively chosen to trial for the national team, the secretary of Myanmar Judo Federation (MJF) U Aung Naing Swe said.

"Talented players will be invited to train for the upcoming SEA Games in Malaysia," he said.

The championship will include various classes for youths including 55-kilo, 60-kilo and 66-kilo classes and winners will receive medals, but not cash prizes.

The two-day event is being organised with assistance from the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar.—Ko Moe

Mogok marks Dipavali festival with badminton tournament

THE Baho Badminton Club in Mogok Township held men's and women's badminton tournaments to mark the Dipavali festival at its gymnasium from 15 to 17 November.

The tournament was divided into senior and junior singles and doubles events, as well as an over-50 double's event. More than 200 players from Mandalay, Yangon, Mogok and Shwebo participated in the tournament. Club Chairman U Pain, Patron U Maung Lay and officials presented cash prizes to the winners.

Aung Aung (Yangon) placed first in the senior singles event, while Myat Min Thu (Mogok)

placed second, and Chan Win Oo (Taninthayi) and Aung Tun Oo (Yangon) tied for third.

Ronald Ko Ko (Yangon) and Win Lin (Mogok) won the senior doubles event, while Myo Min Tun (Mogok) and Aung Htain Lin (Aung) placed second, and U Maung Lay and U Tin Maung Nyunt (Mogok) took third prize.

Ko Gyin and Tin Maung Sein (Aung) won the over-50 doubles event.

Chairman of the Mandalay Region Badminton Subcommittee U Myo Kyaw Win gave prizes to the winners in the men's singles event, doubles event and over-50 doubles event.—Tin Maung



An official presents prizes to the winners in the men's and women's badminton tournaments in Mogok. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

Sterling has point to prove as Man City face Liverpool

FOUR months after quitting Liverpool for Manchester City, Raheem Sterling will have the first opportunity to justify the move by getting one over his former employers when the teams meet at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

Sterling joined City in the close season in a deal worth up to 49 million pounds, but the circumstances surrounding the transfer left a bitter taste in the mouths of many Liverpool fans.

Sterling's relationship with Liverpool had soured in the lead up to the transfer after he gave an unauthorised interview to the BBC. His agent Aidy Ward also angered the club by saying the England winger would not sign a new deal at Anfield — even for 900,000 pounds a week.

Sterling has since said he has no regrets over quitting Liverpool and the Premier League table already offers some justification for the move.

Manuel Pellegrini's City side are top of the league, level on points with Arsenal. Liverpool, on the other hand, are still settling down under new boss Juergen Klopp and are 10th.

City, who stalled with a goalless draw against bottom side Aston Villa last time out, could welcome back Sergio Aguero, David Silva, Pablo Zabaleta and Samir Nasri from injury.

Arsenal are unbeaten in their last six league games but visit



England's Raheem Sterling and France's Bacary Sagna in action during their International Friendly match. PHOTO: REUTERS

West Bromwich Albion on Saturday looking to mend the defensive frailties that nearly cost them defeat by local rivals Tottenham Hotspur before substitute Kieran Gibbs rescued a point.

Manchester United, who trail third-placed Leicester City by a point, face 11th-placed Watford with a doubt hanging over their striker Anthony Martial, who injured his foot in the 2-0 friendly defeat by England at Wembley on Tuesday.

Michael Carrick could also be missing for United after suffering ankle ligament damage in England's 2-0 defeat in Spain on Friday.

High-flying Leicester City sit one point behind the leaders and visit Newcastle United, who

are one place and two points outside the relegation zone.

Pressure is mounting on Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho after a torrid start to the season for the champions. The Blues, who host Norwich City, have lost seven of their 12 league games, including the last three, and are languishing in 16th place.

Midfielder Cesc Fabregas told Spanish paper Marca this week: "The results aren't doing our performances justice. We're playing better but we aren't having any luck."

Spurs and West Ham United clash at White Hart Lane on Sunday in a London derby with both sides locked on 21 points in fifth and sixth place respectively.—Reuters