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REELING IN THE BOUNTY

EU helps to raise the bar in Myanmar's aquaculture sector

Ye Myint

REPRESENTATIVES from the European Union provided valuable input to stakeholders in Myanmar's fishery industry by providing training on hygiene and safety procedures, said a spokesperson from the nation's industry body.

"Only when our fish farms establish high quality aquaculture practices can Myanmar boost its exports. We very much welcome these types of initiatives," said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of the federation. He made the remarks during a ceremony that was held at the federation in Yangon yesterday.

It was the first training programme of its kind to be provided by the EU and in addition to disseminating information aimed at improving food safety, the course also covered compliance issues for producers and exporters of aquaculture fishery products. The overall goal of the training was to increase the sector's production and exports, said EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia.

"This is an important step towards boosting aquaculture production and improving food safety, whether it be for consumers of the traditional Myanmar meal of mohinga [fish broth] or seafood lovers abroad," he said during the ceremony.

Consumers will benefit from the knowledge acquired during the training, as it will lead to better safety and hygiene standards in the production phase of the country's fishery sector. The



Fishmongers work at the Kyimyindine Central Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon. PHOTO: XINHUA

advice is based on European standards, which are among the world's highest, the ambassador told reporters after the ceremony.

A total of 101 trainees took part in the training, which was held from 7 September to 7 October. They were comprised of personnel from the Department of Fisheries, as well as practitioners from fish farms and hatcheries, processors

and fish feed manufactures and suppliers, as well as veterinary drug suppliers and importers.

The EU upgraded 20 of 116 cold storages in Myanmar that complied with its quality standards, said the general secretary, adding that these factories are now exporting fishery products to the EU. According to the federation, the EU has already approved

exports of aquaculture fish from Myanmar – but will exclude any that export fish caught in the wild as opposed to being bred for farming in captivity.

The EU ambassador told The Global New Light of Myanmar that the next step for the trainees is to undertake practical training with an expert from the EU, Mr Jonah Van Beijnen, which will

begin on 26 November.

Inspection teams from the Fisheries Department will take part in training in January, he added.

According to statistics of the federation, Myanmar exported 6,282 metric tonnes of fishery products at a value of more than \$9 million to the EU market since sanctions were lifted in 2012.

Heavy rainfall warning issued for eight states and regions

Aye Min Soe

MYANMAR's weather bureau on Friday warned of heavy rainfall in the country's upper areas including Sagaing Region, which was badly hit by the floods in July and August.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said that isolated heavy rains are expected

in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions as well as Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states over the next three days.

The unseasonal weather is due to a depression zone that formed over the northern part of the Bay of Bengal and moved into Bangladesh, near Myanmar's Rakhine coast.

In its announcement at 1pm

yesterday, meteorologists said that the storm is likely to weaken after the first 24 hours, but that flooding is highly likely in the affected areas.

The forecast stated that rainfall levels in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Kachin regions, as well as Shan, Chin and Rakhine states could reach three inches with-

in 24 hours. In lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions it is expected to reach about 1.5 inches within 24 hours.

Due to the storm, squalls with rough seas may occur off and along Myanmar's deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine State, with surface wind speeds reaching 40 miles per hour.

There was heavy rainfall on Thursday night in Gangaw, Magway Region: a stream overflowed its banks and landslides caused a train service between Gangaw and Kalay to be suspended.

Meanwhile, Thaphanseik Dam in Magway Region released water through its spillway on Friday morning, according the Irrigation Department.

IN PICTURES

MYANMAR'S LIVING HISTORY



This intricately designed bell is almost a century old, having been crafted by a resident of Theegone village in Meiktila Township back in 1918. The craftsman donated the bell to the monastery to ensure a happy afterlife. Unlike like most monastery bells, it is for decorative purposes only, the monks said. The most unusual features lies in its design: while most bells depict the 10 tales of the Pali Cannon, this bell features a dancing prince with features reminiscent of Hindu-inspired designs. The name of the craftsman 'Maung Hme' adorns the top of the bell, which weighs 137 kilograms. The names of the other donors are also crafted on the bell. PHOTO: CHANTHA

Aged people get free medical care

HEALTH Assistant U Aung Win Hlaing and nurses from Rural Health Department in Tatkon Township provided free medical service to 70 aged people in Phet-thantaung village on



Thursday. They were assisted by the village authorities. The health staff performed medical check-ups on the aged as well as other 32 villagers and consulted them on health issues.—*Tin Soe Lwin*

IPRD encourages reading habit to take root

DEKKINA District Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) brought a mobile library to a local high school on Thursday. The library was received enthusiastically by students, who IPRD staff hope will use the opportunity to gain knowledge and develop regular reading habits. IPRD staff also brought posters depicting anti-drug messages and safety measures that can be taken in the event of a natural disaster.—*District IPRD*

New landmark for Monyin



The new town hall in Monyin can accommodate about 1000 people. PHOTO: GNLM-001

THE Kachin State government has spent K100 million (US\$77,000) on the construction of a town hall in Monyin, with the grand opening held on

Thursday.

The town hall can accommodate 1,000 people in its main hall and contains a number of offices. The opening ceremony

was attended by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Sai and the State Minister of Finance U Nyunt Aung.—*GNLM-001*

Drugs seized from Kawlin woman

A tip-off from a local led Kawlin Township police force to arrest a woman in possession of illegal stimulants with a street value of almost K20 million (US\$15,000) on Thursday.

Police said they waited along the road to Wuntho Town on Thursday until the suspected drug dealer passed by, who was then subjected to a body search by a female police officer. Police seized the pills and have placed Ma Htar in custody.—*Ko Ko Nyein*



Khit Kabar Company is building affordable housing in villages in Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, with funding provided by the Rural Area Development Department. PHOTO: KO KYAW



Children gather at the mobile library set up by Information and Public Relations Department. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

President calls for affordable housing to meet surging demand

THE government is devising strategies to develop Yangon grow as a city sustainably, and this will necessarily include high-rise construction projects, President U Thein Sein said during an inspection tour of Ayeyarwun-Yadana Housing Project and Thilawa Special Economic Zone yesterday.

The housing project will be able to accommodate over 300,000 people, which will offer some relief to Yangon's housing shortage. The project includes more than 16,000 apartments and covers 220 acres of land. Construction began in April 2013.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Soe Thane, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Maung Soe and U Kyaw Lwin, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint.

During the visit to the housing project, union ministers and Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint briefed the president on its project and the collaboration with private firms.

The president said that urban development requires a city to expand vertically due to a lack of space, and called on authorities to prioritise high-rise building projects to ensure adequate accommodation supplies for the city's growing population. He



President U Thein Sein inspects factory in Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

also stressed the importance of providing basic amenities such as reliable water and electricity supplies, and catering to all income brackets. The president and par-

ty then visited Thilawa SEZ and observed a training course being carried out a garment factory, as well as a factory manufacturing radiators and a one-stop

service centre.

Chairman U Set Aung of Thilawa SEZ briefed the president on progress to date of the SEZ, whose first phase opened

last month. A total of 47 companies from 13 countries have invested in the country's first operational SEZ. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General visits naval base in Thanlyin



Warships being built and repaired at military shipyard in Thanlyin. PHOTO: MYAWADY

THE defence forces are committed to nation building tasks and serving the public good as well as fulfilling their immediate duties of national defence, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said yesterday during a meeting with senior military officers at a naval base in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

The commander-in-chief

urged defence personnel to avoid being distracted from their tasks by detractors on social media and certain media outlets. He suggested they try to understand the various issues at play in the contention.

After being briefed on the maintenance and construction of military ships, the senior general encouraged personnel to excel at

their duties and invest every effort in fleet exercises for combat readiness. He urged the group of men to lead by example and uphold a positive image of the defence forces of Myanmar. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also inspected the Department of Maritime Operations and the Damage Control Simulator Project. — *Myawady*

UEC chairman inspects sub-commissions in Kalay

THE Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye inspected the operations of ward elections in Kalay sub-commissions on Wednesday.

He was accompanied by Development Affairs Minister

of Sagaing Region U Tin Hlaing Myint and officials.

The chairman inspected voters' lists and discussed arrangements for advance voting and the disabled in Hlinetharya, Aungzeya and Gyothonebin wards in Kalay. — *MNA*

Overseas voters vent frustration at overseas embassies

May Hnin Aye

THE November 8 election is rife with gossip about electoral restrictions, so it perhaps no great surprise that embassy staff are being bombarded with complaints. It should be made clear at the outset that the election is quite different from the referendum. The latter is no more than a yes-or-no question: a general election is a different story altogether.

The contents of ballot papers vary from constituency to constituency and so does the number of candidates contesting the election, which is why ballot papers are not transferrable. In addition, it is absolutely impossible for anyone to vote unless they can produce a ballot paper.

It is therefore clear that the fault does not rest with the embassies and staff but with the elector-

al system itself. Overseas Myanmar voters are required to register with their respective embassies. Failure to do so means losing the right to vote. Now, more and more Myanmar citizens working abroad are contacting the embassies to secure their voting rights. But unlike other countries, Myanmar is unable to effectively implement that kind of voting system at present.

The embassies have to scrutinise the possible problem of dual nationality, as it is a system that our country does not allow. A citizen is stripped of his or her citizenship if that person is found to be a national of a country other than Myanmar.

It is worthwhile to note that not all countries allow overseas voting for their elections. Therefore, voters abroad should try to develop a level of mutual understanding with embassy staff, because each side has its own difficulties.

EU's aquaculture development project to kick off next year

Ye Myint

THE European Union will launch a 20 million euro (US\$22.7 million) project for aquaculture sector development in Myanmar next year, the EU ambassador said yesterday.

The project will span six years, at a cost in local currency of 30 billion kyat, and will aim to develop shrimp and fish farming techniques at hatcheries across the country, EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

One of the main areas of focus will be Rakhine State, where much of Myanmar's aquaculture sector is based. The announcement was made following a ceremony held to provide certificates to local trainees who took part in an EU-funded and delivered aquaculture course in Yangon.

"The EU is promoting not only quality products but also quality jobs," Mr Kobia told reporters after the ceremony.

According to a member of Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), consultations are underway with EU experts and federation members and all suggestions are being collated.

The aquaculture project is part of a 1 billion euro (\$1.13 billion) EU aid package to Myanmar.

"Myanmar's fishery products will almost certainly gain access to global markets if we can upgrade our cold storage facilities and improve farming techniques," said U Win Kyaing, MFF general secretary.

In 2013, the EU sent its first ambassador to Myanmar in decades, while also restoring Myanmar's access to the EU's generalised system of preferences, which allows developing countries to pay less or no duties on their exports to the EU.

Exports of Myanmar to the EU increased substantially since Myanmar initiated political and economic reforms in 2011, noted the EU ambassador, saying that the country doubled its exports

during that time.

Between 1991 and 2013, Myanmar's aquaculture culti-

vation increased from 12,225 to 180,614 hectares, while production rose from 6,397 to 944,809

metric tonnes. The sector currently employs around 130,000 people, according to official data.



An artificial pond is used for fish farming in Ayeyawady Region, which will benefit from assistance from the EU in 2016. PHOTO: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO)

China to fund \$38.4 million embankment repairs



Aphyauke embankment to be repaired with the assistance of China. PHOTO: SOE WIN

AN agreement has been signed that will see China provide Myanmar with US\$ 38.4 million to repair Aphyauke embankment in Yangon Region in the cool season.

On the invitation of Pres-

ident U Thein Sein, a team of experts from China are carrying out field tests in the area.

During flood in July, the embankment was close to bursting and it took the combined ef-

forts of residents and officials to prevent it from doing so.

The Chinese experts will also carry out field tests in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions.—Soe Win

10 villages receive \$23,000 under ministry's rural development project

THE Rural Development Department of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region has distributed budgetary loans for the 2015-16 financial year to 10 villages.

Project and Economic Minister U Aung Zan, Minister of Transport U Kyaw San, Township Governor U Tun Thein Aung, District officer of rural development department U Kyone Lyan Byone and Township Officer U Kan Chun visited the 10 villages to explain the purpose of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development's Green project.

The villages included Gway Pin Yone, Tabyaythar, Nyaungbin, Kyaukkan, Kan Oo-Kan Pauk, Kan Chaw-Lay Yar, Sike Gone, Nant Thar Hlaing, Kyi Ywar, Ywar Thit, with K30 million (US\$23,000) provided to each village.

As part of the project, loans are being provided to 3,000 villages across Myanmar. In Myingyan Township, five villages were among those included in the project during the 2014-15 financial year, which doubled to 10 the following year and currently stands at 15.—Zaw Min Naing

Election security briefing in Myanaung

A meeting about the special security measures that will be in place during the general election was held in Myanaung Township on 7 October. Township Governor U Min Min Tun gave the opening

speech, while township police officer Tun Pe explained security plans throughout the township as well as election plan devised by the chairman of the township election committee.—Win Bo (IPRD)

Potable water for rural people

MYANAUNG Township Rural Area Development will sink 17 shallow well and 4 deep well in the township in 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thitsarlun Medical Company has implemented the project and the company has finished the sinking of three deep

wells and seven shallow wells which are inspected by engineers of the department. The department sank 14 deep wells and 76 shallow wells from 2013 to 2015 in the township which is located in the northern part of delta.—Win Bo

In India, a test for Modi's economic reforms and Hindu agenda

BANKA — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on the campaign trail in a state election that could define the rest of his term, promising jobs and development in one of the country's most backward areas, while his right-wing party pushes a Hindu agenda.

Braving the scorching sun, thousands of men and women clad in bright shirts and saris trudged miles to Modi's campaign rally last week in the state of Bihar. Voting to the legislature there will start on Monday and the result

will be out on 8 November.

Modi's message to nearly 100,000 people gathered near the banks of the sacred Ganges river was that only his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could make one of India's poorest regions an industrial powerhouse like his home state of Gujarat.

"A BJP government in Bihar will help us work seamlessly to create jobs for the youth, look after our farmers and ensure overall development, which is the antidote to every single problem," Modi said, to rapturous applause.

An impressive tally in the election will give the BJP more seats in the upper house of parliament in New Delhi, where it lacks a majority, making it easier to pass legislation to modernise India's \$2 trillion economy.

However, pundits say a drubbing for the BJP may foment dissent in the party against Modi, while strengthening a hardline faction that believes the prime minister's economic programme loses votes and that he must push Hindu-first policies in Hindu majority, but multi-faith, India.

Eighteen months after the general election that swept him to power, anger in the countryside has already forced Modi to drop a policy to make it easier to take over farmland for industry and infrastructure — key to his economic plans.

And the 65-year-old's aura of electoral invincibility was dented when the upstart, anti-establishment Aam Aadmi Party crushed the BJP in a state election in the capital New Delhi in February.

"If Modi fails to redeem the lost ground by ensuring his party's victory in Bihar, his government's economic reform programme will take a back seat. He'll simply not have the gall to carry out these measures, especially the politically sensitive ones," said Saibal Gupta, secretary of the Asian Development Research Institute, a private think tank. An opinion poll published on Wednesday suggested the BJP was widening a narrow lead, but the prime minister is taking no chances.

Modi plans 20 rallies in the next few weeks in Bihar, and the state's hotels are packed with par-

ty workers from all over the country. While the prime minister takes the high ground promising jobs and growth, his party's campaign has now turned to religious polarisation, a road-tested method of uniting fractious Hindu castes behind the BJP.

Sushil Kumar Modi, a senior party leader in Bihar who is not related to the prime minister, said if the BJP came to power in the state it would impose a strict ban on killing cows, considered holy by many Hindus. Emotions over the issue have been high after the lynching of a Muslim man in a neighbouring state on rumours he had beef at home.

Since Modi took over as prime minister, several BJP states have tightened laws protecting cows. Modi's main rival in the election, Bihar's current Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was a former ally of the BJP who is respected for cleaning up the state's crime-ridden politics and building up its infrastructure.

But their personal political differences led to a break up of the alliance between the BJP and Kumar's Janata Dal-United in 2013.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

"A BJP government in Bihar will help us work seamlessly to create jobs for the youth, look after our farmers and ensure overall development."

Narendra Modi

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Indonesia loses up to \$9 bn from timber clearing

JAKARTA — Unreported forest clearing cost Indonesia up to \$9 billion between 2003 and 2014 in lost timber royalties — about three times the royalties it actually received, an investigation by the country's main anti-graft agency showed on Friday.

An eight-month investigation by the country's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) estimated the value of the lost timber at up to \$81 billion, with the cleared land often used for growing crops or mining.

A copy of its report, seen by Reuters and due to be handed to government ministers on Friday, will put further pressure on President Joko Widodo who has been criticised by green groups and other Southeast Asian nations on forestry policy and for failing to stop the annual "haze" problem from forest-burning.

"Where does the money go — it goes to the corrupters," Dian Patria, group head of corruption prevention for natural resources at the KPK told Reuters. "It could be \$9 billion, it could be more, because these are quite conservative figures."

"This is not only a corruption issue, it's also about the long-term environmental impact."

Home to the world's third-largest tropical forests and a major palm oil and pulp and paper producer, Indonesia will be in the spotlight at the UN's climate change conference in Paris in December. Unregulated land clearing has long been a problem in the country, which lost 1.5 mil-

lion hectares of tree cover last year, up from 1.1 million hectares in 2013.

The KPK report cited ineffective law enforcement, inaccurate production data and auditing by timber plantations, a lack of transparency on royalties data within government ministries, and poor coordination between central and regional governments as causes for the lost timber revenue.

Over the 12 years to 2014, Indonesia earned just \$3.2 billion

from timber royalties, said the report, which comes as Widodo's government battles sluggish economic growth. Late last month, Indonesia announced it would borrow \$4.2 billion from international agencies to cover a widening budget deficit.

The report, which did not name any companies or individuals, highlighted rising timber prices and land clearing for the rapid expansion of palm oil and pulp and paper production, as well as mining.

The worst year for state losses was in 2012, it showed, one year after the government signed off on its ban on primary forest clearing.

The KPK will hand its report to the forestry and finance ministries and the country's audit agency, and will monitor the development of action plans to correct problem areas, Patria said.

If no action was taken within 12 months it could hand its findings to its corruption investigations arm, he added.—Reuters



A labourer unloads timber from Kalimantan Province from, a traditional Indonesian ship. PHOTO: REUTERS

IMF told that amid 'new mediocre' no room for mistakes by central banks

LIMA — Central banks have little room for error in a low-growth world in which over-leveraged and commodity-dependent emerging economies and a slowing China are major risks, top international financiers told the International Monetary Fund's meeting.

Despite \$7 trillion in quantitative easing from banks in industrial nations since the global financial crisis, the world is stuck in a "new mediocre" growth pattern, IMF chief Christine Lagarde said on Thursday.

In a bid to shore up finances and punish companies that arbitrage tax regimes, governments pushed ahead with plans to improve tax collection.

The IMF meeting comes as the Bank of Japan looks poised to extend its money printing programme, known as quantitative easing, as it stares down the barrel of a fifth year of recession.

The European Central Bank is also expected to extend quantitative easing, while the two major central banks closest to raising rates, the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England, are holding their fire.

"It is not the kind of economy in which you can make a mistake," Bank of England Governor Mark Carney told the meeting.

For both the Fed and the Bank of England, inflation targets are far out of reach, although both central banks insist they are ready to hike rates. The Fed's chair, Ja-



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Bank of England's Governor Mark Carney. PHOTO: REUTERS

net Yellen, has said the US central bank is on track to raise rates this year. Markets, however, are not pricing in hikes until next year for both.

The IMF has urged the Fed and the Japanese and European central banks to wait for more signs of recovery before tightening. Lagarde on Thursday repeated her plea to Yellen to stay her hand.

Many emerging markets, once the world's fastest-growing economies which had been expected to shape a new world eco-

nomie order, are now in turmoil. Brazil, Latin America's largest economy, is facing a leadership crisis and is in recession. Russia is engaged in conflicts in Ukraine, and Syria and has been hammered by low oil prices.

China's growth is slowing, although Lagarde was optimistic that the slowdown was manageable. While the world's central banks' money-printing programs have staunch losses in the financial sector, they have failed to reach their goal of boosting global credit.

With widening current account balances and excessive lending to local companies, the IMF estimates that emerging market companies are overleveraged by the equivalent of 15 percent of their economic output, raising the risk of a sudden collapse in credit and of banking crises.

The IMF cut its estimate for growth in emerging economies for a fifth successive year this week, citing the collapse of the "commodities supercycle" in which buoyant demand for raw materials had boosted prices.

From a record of \$145 per barrel in 2008, oil prices have fallen to around \$50, driving holes in the budgets of major producers like Russia and Angola, among emerging economies.

Brazilian Finance Minister Joaquim Levy called on Thursday for cash-rich pension funds and institutions to invest in infrastructure projects, although few seem willing to do so as returns are uncertain in a low-demand world with the risk of financial contagion.

"There are plenty of savings in the world," he told the IMF meeting.

Lagarde repeated the IMF's mantra for structural economic reforms and for those countries with the room to raise spending to do so. However, that appears politically impossible in the euro zone, while in the United States, Congress is deeply divided.

Eurogroup Chairman Jeroen Dijsselbloem shrugged off dire predictions on future growth, at least for Europe, and said policies there were working.

"Already this year, except for Greece, all euro-zone countries will have returned to growth," Dijsselbloem said.

His comments came after a stark message from former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, who has long warned of the risks of "secular stagnation," or permanent damage to growth. Summers chided policymakers for relying on the same old tools to boost demand.—Reuters

Oil extends gains, set for biggest weekly rise since 2009

LONDON — Oil extended gains on Friday and was set for its biggest weekly rise in over six years after US Federal Reserve minutes suggested it was in no hurry to raise interest rates and an influential forecaster predicted a price rally.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, was up 75 cents at \$53.80 a barrel at 1211 GMT, 1.3 percent above the previous close and on track to rise 12 percent this week alone. US crude was up \$1, or 2 percent, at \$50.43 a barrel, the highest level in more than two months.

The US central bank's meeting minutes showed more policymakers than expected agreed to keep the first interest rate hike in a decade on hold. The news also supported equity markets on Friday, with top European stocks climbing to a one-month high. Forecaster PIRA Energy Group issued a bullish oil price prediction on Thursday, saying oil would hit \$70 a barrel by the end of next year and trade at \$75 in 2017.

"The Fed minutes and the



An offshore oil platform is seen at Bouri Oil Field off the coast of Libya. PHOTO: REUTERS

PIRA price forecast are driving prices today," said Tamas Varga, oil analyst at London brokerage PVM Oil Associates.

"The rally may sustain for the short term but it should run out of steam some time next week because we are in a generally over-supplied market."

Investors were awaiting indications on US production with the weekly Baker Hughes rig count expected later on Friday.

In the Middle East, tensions rose in the Syrian conflict after an Iranian Revolutionary Guards general was killed near Aleppo, where he was advising the Syrian army. ANZ lifted its 2016 forecast for WTI crude by an average of 10 percent, saying it saw a quicker run-

down in US crude stocks as a valid reason for the upgrade. It raised its WTI forecast for the third quarter of 2016, for example, to \$47 a barrel from \$41. Analysts at Swiss-based consultancy Petromatrix were more cautious on further gains on the commodity.

"Crude can try to stabilize around the \$50-per-barrel WTI front anchor but to gain another \$10 it will need some support from products and that is not currently the case," they said.

On Brent, Energy Aspects is forecasting prices to average \$68 in 2016 and \$98 in 2017, analyst Richard Mallinson told the Platts Asian Crude Oil Summit in Singapore on Friday.—Reuters

20 nations vulnerable to climate change seek more action

LIMA — Twenty of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, from the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan to the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu, will form a new group on Thursday to press for tougher action to curb warming.

Draft documents for a meeting of finance ministers in Lima, Peru and seen by Reuters, said the 20 represented 700 million people in low- and middle-income nations that were arid, landlocked, mountainous or vulnerable to rising sea levels.

The Vulnerable 20 (V20) group's draft action plan will seek to "strengthen economic and financial cooperation and action to address climate change risks and opportunities" and promote a shift to a low-carbon global economy.

Goals would include "improved access to international climate change finance" to help cope with droughts, floods, melting glaciers and rising sea levels. They said one possibility was a tax on financial transactions.

The 20 said they accounted for just two percent of world greenhouse gas emissions but had suffered an average of more than 50,000 deaths a year since 2010 from impacts they linked to rising temperatures. They estimated that

they faced "escalating losses of at least 2.5 percent of our GDP potential per year, estimated at \$45 billion since 2010."

Members will be Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, East Timor, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam. They said they would also share experiences and work for a sovereign V20 Climate Risk Pooling Mechanism, an insurance facility to spread risks and help recovery after extreme weather events and disasters.

Ministers from the 20 nations are due to approve the documents before meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Lima starting on Friday.

Renato Constantino, executive director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities non-governmental group, welcomed the formation of the V20.

He did not expect it to detract from existing groups, for instance of Least Developed Countries of the Alliance of Small Island States.

"I don't think it complicates the work. I think it clarifies the agenda for developing countries," he said.—Reuters

Asian demand for plastic to defy China's economic slowdown

SINGAPORE — Asian demand for plastic is set to defy economic slowdown in top consumer China and other nations, growing as plunging oil prices make it cheaper to churn out and as fast-expanding online markets boost appetite for items like packaging and wrapping.

Prices in China for polyethylene (PE), the most commonly used plastic which is found in everything from shopping bags to ice cream tubs and even artificial joints, have plummeted over a quarter from a year ago to an average of \$1,140 a tonne last month according to data from commodity research company Wood Mackenzie. That follows a nearly 50-percent plunge in markets for raw material naphtha, a product refined from crude oil NAF-1H-TYO.

And while consumers may be shying away from big-ticket purchases, they are still buying cheaper items which often come in plastic packaging, especially when ordered online, analysts and industry officials said.

Continued growth in appetite in a country of 1.3 billion people is



Women work at a plastic factory in Que Vo District, outside Hanoi. PHOTO: REUTERS

a blow to green groups pressuring for reduced consumption of plastics, and could dwarf many of the potential environmental benefits from steps such as the British government's recent push to curb usage of disposable bags.

But it could be good news for key PE exporting nations such as

South Korea, Taiwan and Japan, potentially bolstering companies like Hanwha Chemical (009830.KS), Formosa Petrochemical Corp (6505.TW), Japan Polyethylene Corporation and Japan's Prime Polymer.

"(Plastic) film seems to be getting a boost from the explosion

of e-commerce in China — what we call the 'Alibaba effect'. All those packages have to be wrapped," said Vince Sinclair, Wood Mackenzie's head of chemicals research for Asia. He was referring to China's biggest e-commerce firm, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (BABA.N), which

has been at the heart of a rapidly-growing online market in the world's No 2 economy.

"Sentiment is quite negative around China commodities overall, but PE has rarely had it so good."

IHS Chemical, a division of research firm IHS Inc (IHS.N), sees China's PE imports rising above 11 million tonnes in 2016 from about 10 million tonnes expected this year and 9.5 million tonnes in 2014.

That is despite the country's economic growth slowing from a breakneck double-digit pace in past decades, as Beijing tries to transform its growth model away from a reliance on heavy manufacturing and exports.

"Chinese demand so far (this year) has been good as falling prices drove buyers to replenish their polyethylene stocks. These buyers' inventories were already quite low to start with," said an official from a North Asian plastics maker that exports to China.

China accounts for over 45 percent of PE consumption in resin form in Asia, said consultancy firm Frost & Sullivan.—Reuters

Apple removes some apps from online store over security concerns



The Apple logo is seen behind new Apple iPad Pros on display during an Apple media event in San Francisco California. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc said on Thursday that it had removed "a few" applications from its App Store, expressing its concern that the security of some users' personal data could be compromised in certain circumstances.

The company said the apps threatened users' security by installing certificates that can expose data to monitoring by third parties. The company did not specify the precise number of apps at issue.

"Apple is deeply committed to protecting customer privacy and security," an Apple spokeswoman said in a statement.

"We are working closely with these developers to quickly

get their apps back on the App Store, while ensuring customer privacy and security is not at risk."

Apps with so-called root certificates route user data to servers where it can be analyzed. That opens the door for network providers to view encrypted traffic, leaving users vulnerable to data breaches.

Among the apps removed was Been Choice, which has attracted attention for its ability to block advertising in apps.

An Apple spokeswoman said the company would release a support page to help users remove the apps in question from their devices.—Reuters

Sao Paulo mayor proposes regulations for Uber, avoiding ban

SAO PAULO — Sao Paulo will introduce new regulations to govern ride-sharing services such as Uber instead of backing an outright ban proposed by local Brazilian lawmakers, the mayor of South America's biggest city said on Thursday.

Mayor Fernando Haddad said at a press conference that the city would create a new class of taxis known as "black cabs," which will accommodate Uber vehicles, and allow for 5,000 operating permits.

Uber issued a statement shortly afterward blasting the decision as unconstitutional, saying that it is not a taxi service and should not be considered as such

for the purposes of regulation.

Earlier this month Sao Paulo's city council voted to ban paid ride-sharing apps such as Uber amid protests by thousands of taxi drivers. Haddad's decision on Thursday effectively nullifies that ban though it imposes certain restrictions on drivers.

To operate a black cab drivers must have official authorization from the city and work as independent contractors, Haddad said, adding that auction terms for operating permits will be published within the next two months.

Uber Technologies Inc's [UBER.UL] service has trig-

gered protests by taxi drivers in cities around the world as it upends traditional business models that require professional drivers to pay steep licensing fees to drive cabs.

Haddad's proposed compromise would be the second respite for Uber in Brazil this year, after the governor of the federal district — home to the country's capital city Brasilia — vetoed a bill banning the ride-sharing service.

Last month the mayor of Rio de Janeiro said he would ban Uber in the city, but left the door open to possible regulation of the service in the future.—Reuters



Taxis are seen parked on the street during a protest against online car-sharing service Uber, in front of the city hall of Sao Paulo Brazil on 8 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

OPINION

Spend a little to save a little

Myint Win Thein

SOUND management of a company involves deciding whether or not to spend money – and how much or how little to spend. Every single kyat spent must deliver a benefit, whether that be long term or short term. No one needs reminding that money shouldn't be wasted. But so long as the need is genuine, chances are it's worth spending what it takes to fulfill that need. Sometimes, the con-

sequences for not spending money are costly of themselves.

Competition in this day and age is fierce and consumers will simply vote with their wallets and choose another company if they're dissatisfied with the goods and service of a company that's desperately trying to keep overheads low.

Another example are the garment firms who are dead against paying their workers more, so they refuse to do so and end up with a striking workforce that prevents them from meeting order delivery dates. It is also undeniable that a workforce that is poorly paid is less productive than a well-paid one because workers take low interest in their work. They are also pressured by their family needs and other work environment, too.

Hiring new staff and then subsequently training

them is very costly – all measures should be taken to keep staff turnover to an absolute minimum. If that means spending a little more on workers, isn't it worth your while? As the old saying goes, 'Sometimes you have to spend a little to save a little.'

Write for us

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

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

Hospital offers free eye surgery to young people

Young people with amblyopia, a condition also known as lazy eye, will receive free eye surgery thanks to one monk's kindness

Khaing Thanda Lwin

NEARLY 200 young people with amblyopia, including 112 children, are set to receive free eye surgery at Shwe Yatu Tipitaka Eye Hospital in Sagaing Region in November.

In celebration of his 50th birthday, Sayadaw Bhaddhanta Vamsa Pala Lankara, a co-founder of the hospital, donated funds for the programme, with aims better the lives of children and young adults with amblyopia by improving their vision and physical appearance.

The operations will be performed from 18 to 21 November by a team from Thailand led by specialist Dr Rattiya Pornchaisuree in cooperation with domestic doctors, the monk said.

Most of the patients are from Myanmar's central dry zones, including Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions.

A total of 108 children have undergone the surgery since the programme began in 2014. The monk plans to continue offering free eye surgery services in the coming years.

The programme prioritises children under the age of 12.



A child receives check-up at Shwe Yatu Tipitaka Eye Hospital in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Young adults also qualify for free operations, especially students and civil servants, without discrimination on the grounds of race and religion, the monk added.

The eye hospital was established by the two Buddhist monks in September 2013 to help people fight eye diseases and loss of vision. Since then,

more than 70,000 patients have received medical treatment free of charge.

The hospital runs mainly on the local and overseas donors. It administers medical treatments to 50-70 eye patients daily.

People with vision problems may contact 09 256 066 151 and 09 794 753 741 or shweyatutipitakeyehospital@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mingalabar Editor U Kyaw Thura

Please allow me to begin by introducing myself. I am a Buddhist monk called Ashin Nandisara and I am a second-year student at Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Yangon.

I would like to make a suggestion, which I believe will be of great help to English language learners in Myanmar. I own a large collection of 'Perspectives' that were published in The New Light of Myanmar (now The Global New Light of Myanmar) from 16 June 2003 to the present. I have really enjoyed reading your column and it has also helped me improve my command of English over the years. I know of many other English language students who also enjoy reading 'Perspectives'. It's part of our daily routine and we're as eager to do it as some are to watch Korean drama series.

My thought is that it would be helpful to those who are keen to improve their English skills if the 'Perspectives' columns were reprinted in book form. Cutting out the 'Perspectives' section from the paper in order to read at our leisure can be a bit inconvenient. Some people do it nonetheless, but I hope you may appreciate the extent of their effort. If the perspectives were published as a book, it would greatly ease the burden on learners and monks who are studying English.

With best wishes,
Ashin Nandisara (Natmauk)

Myanmar women to attend leadership programme in Japan

DAW Khin Thet Maw, general-secretary of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, will represent Myanmar at the 9th CLMV Leadership Pro-

gram in Japan from 5 to 9 October. Businesspersons from economic organisations in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam will also attend the event.—Myanmar News Agency



Daw Khin Thet Maw poses for photo along with her colleagues at Yangon International Airport before departs for Japan. PHOTO: MNA

Saya, please read my palm
and see if I'll live to be

100.

Astrologer

Do you drink or smoke?

No, Sir.

Do you chase skirt?

Certainly, not!

Then, why would you
want to live to be
a centurian? Just
doesn't make sense, man!

TIN AUNG

Students and Student Unions

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

Khin Maung Myint (MPT Retired)

I AGREE that there should be Student Unions at all levels of educational institutions, namely – basic, vocational, college, and the university levels. Students should be allowed to participate freely in their own affairs. It is an international practice, in democratic countries, to allow student unions to flourish. During my university days, the Student Unions were officially formed under the aegis of the university authorities. Elections to choose executive committee (EC) members of the Union were held yearly. The election nights were highlights of our student days. Students, both hostel students and day scholars alike, gathered at the place where the votes were being counted in full view of all the students. Everyone present were in festive moods, some singing and dancing as the emerging votes were being read out aloud. Annual membership fee of three Kyats per annum was officially collected from every student, along with other fees such as tuition, hostel, messing and other miscellaneous fees on registration for the new academic year. These membership fees were handed over to the Student Union to be used for the welfare and benefit of the students.

In my first year, in 1953, at the Mandalay University College (MUC), as it was called in those days, I was very pleased and proud to be issued a Student Union membership card. We looked up to the senior students, who were EC members of the Student Union and had much faith and respect for them as our student leaders. They were my idols and hoped to become like them one day. In my view they were really dignified in their *Pinni Taikpons* or Burmese formal jackets, made of handspun yarns and handwoven local cloths a signature of a politician throughout our history up to this day. The sounds of their wooden clogs or *Khonphanuts*, which were in vogue at MUC, were like music to my ears. All these contributed to my faith and respect for them, as I was a naive sixteen-year-old freshman, for whom everything about the university was new and fascinating.

I was attending classes regularly until the month of October that year, when a turning point in my life emerged. That year the office of the Chancellor of Rangoon University (RU), under whose jurisdiction our MUC

was, issued an order reducing the October or *Thadingyut* holidays from the usual one month to a mere fifteen days. Most of the students, especially those of us who stayed at the hostels were not at all pleased. On the day, we learned the bad news, many hostel students took to the streets of the campus shouting all sorts of dissatisfactions that we fancy, well into the night. Later, I realized that activity of ours did not amount to a demonstration, but just unruly students venting their angers and frustrations, fed-up with the hostellife and were homesick.

That activity, started by the hostel students was continued the next day, drawing more students from the day scholars. The Student Union leaders stepped in, to lead and control the unruly mob. They led a more organized demonstration onto the streets of the city on commandeered motor buses. Looking back to that incident now, I noticed the way they guided the innocent students' angers in the direction they wanted, to achieve their own goals. Later, I learned from experience that it was a communist tactic, the art of mob agitation. It did not benefit the students, but was just a diversion to ease pressure on the rebels, especially the Burma Communist Party (BCP), by keeping the government occupied on the home front.

Here I would like to write how much I contributed to that activity. As I had connections with a motor bus association, I accompanied a student leader there and requested the secretary of that association to commandeer twenty buses that were not on roster to operate that day, at reduced rates for the students' cause. I assured him, I would see to it personally that they get their dues immediately. (However, those poor people did not get the twenty-five kyats, the hiring fee for each bus, at all because the Union leaders did not keep their promises. I learned a bitter lesson, started to doubt our student leaders' integrity and decided not to give any voluntary service to the Union in future.)

We went to downtown areas shouting slogans coined by the union leaders. One such slogan was "Kyaw Nyein, Tha Hla get out, get out". Most of the demonstrators, including myself, did not know for sure, who these two men were and how they were in-

involved in this matter. Anyhow, we were shouting agitatedly at the top of our voices. When we returned our throats were sore from shouting. It was the very first taste of student politics for me.

After that first experience, I stayed away from the student politics and the Union people as much as possible. However, interest in my studies started to wane, after being absent from classes for a long duration during the demonstrations. I hung out at the tea shops on the campus and idled away my precious time after the "1953 October Student Uprising". For the first time in my life, I failed the examinations that year, both in March and June. In those days we had two chances to pass the examinations, one in March and a supplementary in June. The next year was worse, I had made many friends

I would like to advise the new generation students, not to confuse student affairs with politics. They should also be cautious not to be misled or misguided by any individual or organization.

by then, who were just like me, idling and never attending classes. I did not sit for the exams that year to avoid the 3 Fs penalty, which deprived a student who failed three times consecutively, the privilege of remaining as an internal student.

In my third academic year, I transferred to Rangoon (Yangon) University (RU), to distance myself from my friends at MUC, who were bad influences for me. During the two academic years at RU, I passed my exams every year. For the fifth academic year, I returned to MUC, as my *Alma Mater* was about to gain the full-fledged university status that year. That was to become the real turning point of my life. Although I shunned the Union and the student politics, I was drawn back into it once again. This time it was not to oppose the authorities, but to oppose the incumbent student organization itself. The student leaders had been abusing the good offices of the Student Un-

ion, misappropriating the funds and misleading the unsuspecting students.

In 1957, the student organization that was at the helms of the Union split into two factions. I learned from a very close friend, who walked out from the EC membership to form a new faction, that the split was dictated by the fact that the BCP had split, in the jungles. The root cause was the difference of opinions between the two top rebel leaders, Thakhin Than Tun and Thakhin Soe. The latter called his group, the *Red Flag Communist Party*, while the other kept the old name BCP, but was also known as the *White Flag Communist Party*. I started to realize that we were being manipulated by the communists through the Union all along, unknowingly.

It was outrageous, so we gathered likeminded students, most were staunch supporters or sympathizers and including the Vice President of the Union, to discuss the course of action to be taken to oppose the communist infiltration into the student body. After a long and heated discussion, the decision was to part with the incumbent student organization and form an independent and neutral one. Thus, a new student organization was born. Its main objective was to expose the true image of the students who were at the helms of the Union and to oust them by competing them in the annual Elections. The name of our organization was "*Kyaungthar In Ahh*" (Student Strength). Our slogan: "Student strength for the students" became popular. We remained independent from any political or government organizations. There were some attempts to handle and control our organization, but we resisted and never became anybody's puppets. During those days, there were three existing student groups apart from ours', of which the two splintered groups were handled, effectively, by the communists and the other one was backed by the socialists in the AFPFL government.

In the beginning, we enjoyed overwhelming support from the students. All our campaign rallies were jam-packed, as the students were looking forward to a change. Although we did not take any post nor were nominated to run in the election, a friend of mine and I participated actively to promote our newly formed organization. We did all the ground works, such as writing wall posters, sticking posters, production of pamphlets for the campaign

and fundraising. In those days, it was not an easy job to get the pamphlets ready for distribution every alternate day. However, we managed to do that by handprinting painstakingly, one page at a time, using handstenciled wax papers.

During those days, some hardliners among the communist students from MUC, went underground and joined the ranks of the BCP insurgents. However, they were not welcome in the jungles. Being from the educated class and came from well-to-do families, they were not accepted as trustworthy comrades and were eventually executed, accusing them to be government spies. They were ruthlessly beaten to death with *war yin dokes*, bamboo sticks. Another communist student who escaped alive told us, how a group of insurgents among whom he was one, were met at a certain prominent hotel in downtown Mandalay by some Student Union leaders, who supplied them with medicines and uniforms. Where else could the money to purchase those supplies come from, other than from the Union fees we had contributed? A friend of mine, who split away from the main communist-oriented student group, also tried to join the Red Flag insurgents while he was on the run to escape arrest by the authorities in 1957. He later told me that he was detained by the insurgents since his arrival at their camp and they did not believe his story and accused him of being a government spy. Fortunately, he escaped from the insurgents, together with an army officer who also was in captivity.

In conclusion, I would like to advise the new generation students, not to confuse student affairs with politics. They should also be cautious not to be misled or misguided by any individual or organization. Lastly, I would like to suggest, if they want to succeed academically, students should stay away from any form of politics. Student Unions must be for the students' affairs and should not get involved in matters that have nothing to do with them. My personal advice to the new generation students is "Do not let yourselves be used, or in other words, do not be anybody's puppets". This advice is based on my hard-learned lessons. There were many, like me, who had to drop out without graduating after being actively involved in politics; misled, manipulated and wrongly indoctrinated to believe we were working for the students' cause.

Refugee arrivals in Greece surge



Syrian refugees hold a dog as they arrive on an overcrowded dinghy on the Greek island of Lesbos, after crossing a part of the Aegean Sea from the Turkish coast on 8 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

GENEVA — The rate of refugee arrivals on Greece's islands has leapt to 7,000 a day from about 4,500 at the end of September, probably because of fears that the weather will worsen soon, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Friday.

"From what we can see, the numbers are going to be stable (at this level) as long as weather conditions permit," IOM spokesman Joel Millman told a news briefing.

"The pattern has been over the last two years that the worse the waters and the colder the weather, the fewer people are willing to make the trip."

So far this year, 526,797 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean to reach Europe, mainly to Italy and Greece,

while more than 3,000 have drowned, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres will go to Lesbos, one of the main entry points for people coming by sea from Turkey, on Saturday and hold talks with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in Athens in coming days, spokeswoman Melissa Fleming told a news briefing.

"The drama on the Greek island continues unabated," she said, adding that Guterres would visit Greek reception centres. The UNHCR welcomed the start of an EU programme to relocate 160,000 refugees from Italy and Greece to other participating EU countries, as a first group of 19 Eritrean asylum seekers left Italy for Sweden.—Reuters

UN to audit its dealings with entities tied to alleged bribe scheme

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has ordered an audit of all dealings the organisation had with two entities that are the subjects of a US bribery probe, a UN spokesman said on Thursday.

Ban asked the Office of Internal Oversight Services to audit all of the UN's interactions with the Global Sustainability Foundation and the Sun Kian Ip Group, as well as the use of any funds received from them, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. Speaking to reporters at UN headquarters, Dujarric said Ban was "committed to ensuring that funds received from such private entities were handled properly, according to relevant UN rules and regulations."

There "will be no tolerance for any corruption at the United Nations or in the name of the United Nations," he added.

"[There] will be no tolerance for any corruption at the United Nations or in the name of the United Nations."

Stephane Dujarric
UN spokesman

In a complaint filed in federal court in New York on Tuesday, US prosecutors said more than \$1.3 million in bribes were received from Chinese businessmen, including billionaire Macau real estate developer Ng Lap Seng, John Ashe, a former UN ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who was president of the UN General Assembly from 2013 to 2014, was one of six people charged and arrested.

Prosecutors said some of the bribes were arranged through Sheri Yan, chief executive officer of a New York-based organisation, and Heidi Park, its finance director, who were also arrested. The organisation was not named, but the Global Sustainability Foundation website lists Yan and Park as holding those positions.

Ng, also known as David Ng, heads Macau-based Sun Kian Ip Group. Its foundation arm lists several diplomats, including Ashe and Francis Lorenzo, a deputy UN ambassador from the Dominican Republic, as holding leadership positions. Dujarric said the Sun Kian Ip Group Foundation gave \$1.5 million to the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation in May. He said an internal examination showed no irregularities with that money. "All disbursed funds were tracked and accounted for, and there is no evidence that any funds received ... were misdirected or

misappropriated," he said.

Regarding the allegations against Ashe, Dujarric noted that all funds in accounts of the president of the General Assembly are subject to UN rules and regulations and can be audited, even though that post is not on the UN payroll and the persons who hold it are working on behalf of their own governments.

He said that what Ashe and others are accused of doing appeared to be "outside of the realm" of the UN financial system. Dujarric added that the UN has not been contacted by the US attorneys so far. The world body has pledged to cooperate with US authorities if contacted by them.

Ng's lawyer, Alex Spiro, had no immediate comment, but has said previously his client committed no crime. Ashe's lawyer, Robert Van Lierop, has said his client plans to fight the US charges.

"Ambassador Lorenzo welcomes all audits, as transparency is the best policy for those affiliated with dealings in, and for, the United Nations," Brian Bieber, Lorenzo's lawyer, said.

Lawyers for the other defendants did not respond to requests for comment.

The foundations have not have commented despite requests for reaction to the allegations and attempts to reach them on Thursday were unsuccessful.—Reuters

Tunisian mediator group wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO — Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for helping build democracy in the birthplace of the Arab Spring, an example of peaceful transition in a region otherwise struggling with violence and upheaval.

The quartet of the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA), the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH), and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers was formed in the summer of 2013.

It helped support the democratisation process when it was in danger of collapsing, the Norwegian Nobel committee said in its citation.

"This is a great joy and pride for Tunisia, but also a hope for the Arab World," UGTT chief Hussein Abassi told Reuters.

"It's a message that dialogue can lead us on the right path. This prize is a message for our region to put down arms and sit and talk at the negotiation table."

With a new constitution, free elections and a compromise politics between Islamist and secular leaders, Tunisia has been held up as a model of how to make the

transition to a democracy from dictatorship.

"This a brilliant example, I think Tunisia is one of the Arab countries that has done best since the so-called Arab Spring and the upheavals in that part of the world," said Ahmad Fawzi, chief UN spokesman in Geneva.

The Nobel Peace Prize, worth 8 million Swedish crowns (\$972,000), will be presented in Oslo on 10 December.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised the quartet for providing an alternative, peaceful political process at a time when the country was on the brink of civil war.

"More than anything, the prize is intended as an encouragement to the Tunisian people, who despite major challenges have laid the groundwork for a national fraternity which the Committee hopes will serve as an example to be followed by other countries," it said.

Committee head Kaci Kullmann Five told Reuters: "I think it's timely to put the limelight on the positive results that have been obtained in Tunisia to try to safeguard them, to try to inspire the Tunisian people to build further on this basis."

After an uprising that led to the ousting of autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011 and inspired the "Arab Spring" protests, Tunisia now has a new constitution, free elections and a coalition government with secular and Islamist parties.

In 2013, Tunisia appeared to be sliding into a political crisis that would end its transition, with secular opponents demanding that

an Islamist-led government step down. Angered by the assassinations of two of its leaders and emboldened by Egypt's army-backed ousting of an Islamist president, Tunisia's opposition held protests against the ruling Islamist Ennahda party. The government had agreed it would step down but wanted more guarantees of a fair handover.

The UGTT with other civil society partners negotiated between

the two sides, helping form a caretaker government to hold power until new elections were held.

The crisis ended, and last year Tunisia held successful legislative and presidential elections to complete its transition.

Problems remain, however. In March, Islamist gunmen killed 21 tourists in an attack at the Bardo Museum in Tunis, and 38 foreigners were killed in an assault on a Sousse beach hotel in June.

More than 3,000 Tunisians have also left to fight for Islamist militant groups in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring Libya. Some of those jihadists have threatened to return home and carry out attacks on Tunisian soil.

The Nobel Committee's choice came as a surprise. The quartet had not been mentioned in any of the speculation in the run-up to the announcement, which instead focused on Pope Francis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and anti-nuclear weapon campaigners.

"This is extraordinary, incredible, unexpected... It brings support from the world to Tunisia for its democratic process," LTDH member Chocri Dhouibi told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.—Reuters



Kaci Kullmann Five, the new head of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee, announces the winner of the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize during a news conference in Oslo, Norway, on 9 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

UN proposes unity government for Libya's warring factions

SKHIRAT — The United Nations proposed a national unity government to Libya's warring factions on Thursday to end their conflict, but the deal faces resistance from Tripoli's self-declared rulers and hardliners on the ground.

Libya is caught up in a war between the internationally recognised government and its elected parliament, and an unofficial government controlling Tripoli. Each side is backed by rival alliances of armed factions.

Four years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, Western powers are pushing for both sides to accept the UN accord, fearing violence has allowed Islamist militants to gain ground and illegal migrant smugglers to take advantage of the chaos.

Libya's recognised government has operated out of the east of the country since last year when an armed faction called Libya Dawn took over Tripoli, set up its own government and reinstated a former parliament known as the GNC.

The UN proposal comes after months of protracted negotiations between delegates from both sides, who have faced pressure from hardliners and from continued fighting on the ground that has halted part of Libya's oil production.

Delegates from Tripoli's GNC parliament already balked



Damaged homes are seen after clashes between members of the Libyan pro-government forces, backed by the locals, and Shura Council of Libyan Revolutionaries, an alliance of former anti-Gaddafi rebels who have joined forces with Islamist group Ansar al-Sharia, in Benghazi. PHOTO: REUTERS

at proposing candidates for the unity government because they wanted more amendments to the initial deal. But the UN proposal includes GNC members for the government.

"The GNC decided yesterday not to propose names and to ask for more changes in the text," UN envoy Bernardino Leon told reporters in the Moroccan city of

Skhirat, site of recent talks.

"The international community has been very clear that after huge efforts to adapt the text ... It is not possible to continue to do this."

He said the door remained open for the GNC to participate in the proposed unity government. Both the elected House of Representatives and the GNC in

Tripoli are expected to vote on the proposal.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the proposal in a statement issued by his media office, while urging the parties to accept and sign the agreement.

The statement said Ban "urges Libyan leaders not to squander this opportunity to put

the country back on the path to building a state that reflects the spirit and ambitions of the 2011 revolution".

"Now is the time for the parties to the political dialogue to endorse this proposal and sign the agreement without delay," Ban said in the statement.

The deal names six candidates for key posts in the national government. Fayeza Seraj, a lawmaker from the elected House of Representatives, would be prime minister with three deputy prime ministers. Two senior members on a presidential council include a GNC member.

But the proposal faces problems on the ground, including the reaction of militant hardliners on both sides who still see the possibility of gaining more ground through fighting.

Questions also remain about the role in the armed forces of General Khalifa Haftar, a former Gaddafi ally who has become a divisive figure, and over the powers of the two legislative bodies under the national unity agreement.

Libya still has no official national army. Each side is backed by loose alliances of former anti-Gaddafi rebels, ex-soldiers, tribal factions and Islamist-leaning brigades, who once fought Gaddafi's forces but have steadily turned against each other.—Reuters

Israeli-Palestinian violence intensifies

JERUSALEM — A Jewish man stabbed and wounded four Arabs in southern Israel on Friday in an apparent reprisal attack for Palestinian violence during the worst spell of civil unrest in the region for several years.

In the past 10 days, four Israelis have been shot or stabbed to death in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank, and at least a dozen have been wounded by Palestinians wielding knives or screwdrivers in stabbings in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities.

Three Palestinians have also been killed, and scores wounded in clashes with Israeli security forces during stone-throwing demonstrations in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank, leading to talk of a third Palestinian uprising, or intifada.

Palestinian anger is largely focused on events at the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City and fears that Israel is trying to change the status quo at the holy site, revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and by Jews as the Temple Mount.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has denied wanting to change conditions under which Jews are allowed to visit the site but bans non-Muslim prayer, but his assurances have done little to quell Palestinian anger.

Both Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

have called for calm and Palestinian police are continuing to coordinate with Israeli security forces to try to restore order, but there are few signs of the tension and violence dying down.

Palestinian protests were planned in Jerusalem and West Bank cities after Muslim prayers on Friday, and Israel has deployed thousands more police and soldiers. Muslim access to al-Aqsa has been restricted to men over 45 and women.

In the latest attack, a Jewish man in his 20s stabbed four Arab men in the southern Israeli city of Dimona, police said, adding that the motive was "nationalistic".

The mayor of Dimona said the assailant was a resident of the city who was known to police. During questioning, police said the attacker described all Arabs as "terrorists".

Hours later, a 14-year-old Jewish boy was stabbed and wounded by a Palestinian in the Old City of Jerusalem, a woman believed to be Palestinian tried to stab a guard at a bus station in north Israel, and a Palestinian stabbed a policeman near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, Israeli police said.

The policeman's attacker was shot dead, police said.

On Thursday, seven Israelis were stabbed in four separate incidents across the country, in-

cluding the commercial capital Tel Aviv, fuelling concerns about a wider uprising following those of the late 1980s and early 2000s.

The violence now is on a much smaller scale than then but mistrust between Israel and the Palestinians is deep after their last negotiations ended in April 2014 without progress.

A new intifada would further complicate efforts by world leaders to resolve conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and there is little appetite to re-engage in peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians after many failures in the past.

The chances of peace talks resuming before US President Barack Obama's term ends appear slim. Netanyahu has accused Abbas, his Fatah party and the Islamist group Hamas of inciting the violence in East Jerusalem in recent weeks. He reiterated that message at a news conference on Thursday, adding that there was no "quick fix".

"We are in the midst of a wave of terrorism with knives, firebombs, rocks and even live fire," he said.

"While these acts are mostly unorganized, they are all the result of wild and mendacious incitement by Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, several countries in the region and... the Islamic Movement in Israel."—Reuters

Three bridegrooms among 25 killed in Yemen rocket strike

SANAA — Three brothers waiting to get married were killed in a rocket attack alongside at least 22 other people in southwest Yemen on Thursday, residents and medics said.

Local people told Reuters jets from a Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-allied Houthis in Yemen was probably to blame, but the coalition's spokesman said it had carried out no air strikes in that part of the country.

The three brothers were waiting for their brides' party to arrive when a missile hit their house in the town of Sanban in Dhamar region, residents said. At least 50 people were wounded, but the brides were unharmed, locals and medics added.

Officials and residents have accused the Saudi-led forces of killing civilians in two other attacks over the past two weeks, prompting international criticism, but the coalition has denied this and instead blamed rockets fired by the Houthis.

Coalition spokesman Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri said the attack in Dhamar was likely also the work of the Houthis, and accused them of trying to divert

attention from recent reverses by targeting civilians and blaming it on the Saudi-led forces.

The Houthi-run Saba news agency reported that a coalition air raid in Sanban had killed or wounded dozens of people at a wedding celebration and that the toll might exceed 30. Medics from the Dhamar governorate said at least 25 died.

The Arab coalition began its air strikes against the Houthis and their allies, forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, in late March after a push from their northern stronghold towards the southern port of Aden.

The coalition, which is trying to restore Yemen's ousted President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, stepped up air strikes on Yemen's capital Sanaa and other Houthi-held areas after a Houthi missile killed more than 60 Gulf Arab troops stationed in Marib province on 4 September.

Coalition forces on Thursday advanced further up the Red Sea coast from the Bab al-Mandab strait and reached 50 km (30 miles) south of the port of al-Mokha, Asseri said.—Reuters

Collision course with a hurricane: How doomed US ship met its end

NEW YORK — The ill-fated US-flagged El Faro cargo ship sunk by Hurricane Joaquin was sailing at near full speed into the centre of the storm before it lost propulsion amid mountainous waves and brutal winds, according to ship tracking data.

The data on Thomson Reuters Eikon raises questions about the ship owner's assertion that the vessel's captain had chosen a "sound plan" to pass around Joaquin "with a margin of comfort" but was then thwarted by engineering problems. It shows that even before the ship lost power it was in stormy waters that many mariners interviewed said they would never have entered.

After reviewing the data, Klaus Luhta, a former ship's officer and chief of staff at the International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots, went silent for a moment as he contemplated what has been called the worst cargo shipping disaster involving a US-flagged vessel in more than 30 years.

"I don't know what he was thinking — I can't even speculate," said Luhta in a telephone interview. "He headed right into the track."

While the decision-making may appear inexplicable from a dis-

tance, Captain Michael Davidson was an experienced mariner and it is not clear what factors he would have been weighing as he sought to save his ship from calamity. El Faro stopped communicating after reporting early on 1 October that it had lost propulsion, was taking on water and listing. No reason was given for the loss of power.

A spokesman for ship owner Tote Inc, Michael Hanson, declined comment, saying the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the sinking, had asked the company to refer all questions related to the investigation to them. The ship tracking data, which may provide the most complete track yet of the El Faro in the 24 hours before disaster struck, also shows that contrary to some reports the ship did not follow its normal course.

At 6.16 am Eastern Time on 30 September, 10 hours after heading out of Jacksonville, Florida, the ship began deviating from its usual straight-line route to San Juan, Puerto Rico, hugging nearer to the Bahamas but still on course to meet the storm's path, according to the data, which uses a ship's satellite transmissions to track its location and speed.—Reuters

France train attack hero stabbed in California

SACRAMENTO — US Air Force airman Spencer Stone, one of the three Americans who thwarted an August train attack in France, was stabbed several times during a fight outside a Sacramento bar early on Thursday and was hospitalised in serious condition, police said.

The fight was not related to Stone's role in subduing the gunman on a train headed to Paris and there was no connection to terrorism, Sacramento Deputy Police Chief Ken Bernard told a news conference. Stone's assailant, who has not been caught, is not believed to have known Stone's identity, Bernard said. Bernard would not say what caused the fight that led to "significant injuries" to Stone, who was taken to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. "At approximately 1 am,

Airman First Class Stone was involved in a stabbing incident in Sacramento," Air Force spokeswoman Rose Richeson said in a statement.

Police said the altercation began outside a bar in the California capital's midtown district, a gentrifying area with many popular clubs, restaurants and art galleries that retains some rough edges.

"This incident is a very unfortunate altercation between two groups of folks who were enjoying the night life in midtown Sacramento," Bernard said. Stone and two friends, Anthony Sadler and Alek Skarlatos, who is part of the Oregon Army National Guard, took down a man armed with a box-cutter, a pistol and an AK-47 assault rifle on a high-speed train bound for Paris in August.—Reuters

Guatemala landslide death toll tops 220, another 350 missing



Rescue team members look for bodies at an area affected by a mudslide, in Santa Catarina Pinula, on the outskirts of Guatemala City on 7 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

GUATEMALA CITY — At least 220 bodies have been recovered after a massive landslide buried part of a town in Guatemala last week while about 350

people are missing, national disaster agency Conred said on Thursday.

Loosened by heavy rains, a hillside collapsed onto Santa Catarina Pinula

on the southeastern flank of Guatemala City on 1 October, burying more than a hundred homes under tons of earth, rock and trees, and sparking a huge

rescue effort. Conred said 386 people were evacuated after the tragedy, one of the worst in years to strike Central America, a region long been prone to devastating floods.

Entire families were buried alive and hundreds of rescue workers have spent the past week trying to dig out bodies.

Guatemalan authorities initially said up to 600 people were accounted for in the disaster.

Since then, it has given various estimates on the number missing.

Prosecutors in Guatemala said they are looking at whether there was any criminal misconduct at the site after Conred had warned of the risks of building homes in the neighbourhood, which lies at the bottom of a deep ravine.—Reuters

Assembly agrees to restart another nuclear plant in Japan

MATSUYAMA — The Ehime prefectural assembly in western Japan gave its consent Friday to a plan to restart a nuclear power plant despite lingering safety concerns in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns.

The acceptance of a petition for reactivating the No 3 reactor at Shikoku Electric Power Co's Ikata plant and adoption of a resolution stating the necessity of doing so brought the plant a step closer to becoming the country's second nuclear facility to restart under stricter safety regulations. The first was Kyushu Electric Power Co's Sendai complex in southwestern Japan.

The move came after the assembly of Ikata town approved earlier this week a request for restarting the plant, which obtained safety clearance from the Nuclear Regulation Authority in July.

Ikata Mayor Kazuhiko Yamashita is set to meet with new industry minister Motoo Hayashi before conveying his support for the restart to Ehime Gov Tokihiro Nakamura.

Nakamura is expected to separately meet with

Hayashi and make the final decision on the restart. Even if the governor consents, the plant may not be reactivated until next year as further checkups will be required.

About 100 demonstrators gathered in front of the Ehime prefectural office in Matsuyama to protest against reactivation even before the assembly session began.

The government seeks to restart idled nuclear reactors in Japan that meet what it claims are "the world's toughest safety standards," citing the necessity of stable power supply and lower electricity bills that have surged since the Fukushima disaster.

Kyushu Electric restarted the No 1 reactor at the Sendai plant in the

southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima in August, becoming the nation's first utility to do so under the stricter safety regulations introduced after the Fukushima disaster triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan.

Kyushu Electric is also set to reactivate the plant's No 2 reactor as early as next week.—Kyodo News



The assembly of the western Japan prefecture of Ehime giving its consent to a plan to restart a nuclear power plant despite safety concerns in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO (04W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO (04W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.10.2015 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (963)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (963) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2015 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (75)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (75) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIPPING AG:**
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV HERBILAN SUCCESS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HERBILAN SUCCESS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (092N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (092N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (065N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (065N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185



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Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd intends to undertake marine seismic surveys, gravity and magnetic survey and seabed sampling in offshore blocks A-7 and AD-5, which are located in the Rakhine Basin, Myanmar. These activities are proposed to take place between December 2015 and March 2016. Initial Environmental Examination's (IEE) have been prepared by Woodside, AECOM Malaysia and E Guard for the proposed activities. The public comment period has commenced and the draft reports can be viewed at:

- Woodside's webpage: woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation
- Woodside's office in Yangon: 70/LA-2, Golden Valley Road, Bahan Township, Yangon
- E Guard's office in Yangon: No. 99, Mya Kan Thar Lane, Nyein Chan Yay Street, 10 Miles, Pyay Road, Saw Bwar Gyi Gone, Insein Township, Yangon
- Public places in relevant local communities for the A-7 IEE: Ywar Thit, Sin Ma, Nan Thar Pu, Nat Hmaw, Thit Yaung, Yae Kyaw, Pan Hmaw, Sar Par Gyi, Kway Chaing, Thae Phyu, Moe Tein Pyin, Zee Chaing, Hpaung Doe, Kwin Bet and Urban.
- Environmental Conservation Department, Ayeyarwady Regional Office, No. 13 Saw Mill, Shwe Myint Tin Village, Patheingyi
- Department of Fisheries, Ayeyarwady Regional Office, Tae Gyi Kone, Patheingyi
- Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Ayeyarwady Regional Office, Near BEHS No. 2, No.2 Qtr., Patheingyi

Comments on the report can be provided in writing to daniel.clery@woodside.com.au, info@eguardservices.com or feedback.myanmar@aecom.com or directly to staff at Woodside's and EGuard's offices in Yangon. The comment period will end on 30 October 2015.

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Nine Inch Nails, Janet Jackson, Yes among Rock Hall of Fame nominees

LOS ANGELES — Rockers Nine Inch Nails, pop icon Janet Jackson and top-selling 1970s band Chicago were among the nominees announced on Thursday for induction in 2016 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The eclectic list of this year's nominees also ranges from 1970s-era acts such as Yes, The Cars, Steve Miller, Deep Purple and Cheap Trick, to so-called Queen of Funk Chaka Khan and disco sensation Chic, which has been nominated more than 10 times but has yet to gain entrance.

Rounding out the list of nominees for induction are alternative rock band The Smiths, R & B group The Spinners, LA band

Los Lobos, ground-breaking rappers NWA and The JB's.

"This group of nominees represents the spirit of what we celebrate at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," said Joel Peresman, President and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation.

They "underscore the diversity of rock music and where it converges with other genres ... Whether they drew from their predecessors or built on what came before them, they all took something from their roots, transformed it, made it their own."

Jackson, despite her decades-long status as a leading force in pop music, had never been nominated. The 49-year-old sister of pop legend Michael Jackson recently released her first album since 2008. Artists are eligible to

be nominated for induction into the Hall of Fame 25 years after the release of their first record. The hall was established in 1983.

More than 800 artists, music industry professionals and historians will decide who will be inducted. Fans will also be able to vote.

The top five artists selected by the public will comprise a "fans' ballot" that will be counted along with the other ballots to select the 2016 inductees.

Inductees are represented in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, which features exhibits, educational programs, a library and archives.

The Hall of Fame will announce those who are chosen in December, with an induction ceremony in New York scheduled for 8 April.—Reuters



Janet Jackson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez says suffered from lupus, underwent chemotherapy

LOS ANGELES — Pop singer and actress Selena Gomez has revealed in an interview that she was diagnosed with the autoimmune disease lupus, which led to her canceling the end of her tour in 2013, but that the disease is now in remission.

"I was diagnosed with lupus, and I've been through chemotherapy," Gomez, 23, told Billboard magazine. "That's what my break was really about. I could've had a stroke," she said. Gomez canceled concerts in Russia and Australia saying at the time that she needed "to spend some time on myself." The move, followed by a stint at an Arizona rehabilitation facility, generated tabloid rumors of struggles with pills, alcohol, or even difficulties over her breakup with pop star Justin Bieber, which Gomez told Billboard angered her. "I wanted so badly to say, 'You guys have no idea. I'm in chemotherapy,'" she told the magazine in its new issue which was out on Thursday.

"But I was angry I even felt the need to say that. It's awful walking into a restaurant and having the whole room look at you, knowing what they're saying. I locked myself away until I was confident and comfortable again."—Reuters

Composer John Williams to receive AFI lifetime achievement award

LOS ANGELES — John Williams, the prolific composer of numerous memorable movie scores including "Star Wars," "Jaws," "Indiana Jones" and "Harry Potter," will receive a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute, the organisation said Thursday.

Williams, 83, will be feted at a gala dinner next year in Los Angeles, AFI said. The organization aims to preserve the heritage of American cinema.

"John Williams has written the soundtrack to our lives," Sir Howard Stringer, chairman of AFI's board of trustees,

said in a statement.

"Note by note, through chord and chorus, his genius for marrying music with movies has elevated the art form to symphonic levels and inspired generations of audiences to be enriched by the magic of the movies."

Williams, a graduate of New York's Juilliard School, has more than 150 film scores to his name, many which have become embedded into pop culture, such as "Star Wars" or "Jurassic Park." He is known for frequently collaborating with filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

The composer has won five

Oscars out of 49 nominations over his seven-decade career. His score for 1977's "Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope" was named the most memorable film score of all time by the AFI in 2005. Williams is composing the score for the highly anticipated "Star Wars" seventh installment, "The Force Awakens," out in theaters in December.

Other recipients of the AFI lifetime achievement award include Spielberg, Alfred Hitchcock, Tom Hanks, Elizabeth Taylor, Jane Fonda and most recently, comedic actor Steve Martin.—Reuters

Daniel Craig says would rather slit wrists than play Bond again

LONDON — Daniel Craig, the British actor who will be appearing as James Bond for the fourth time in "Spectre" released later this month, has told an interviewer he would rather slit his wrists than play 007 again.

"I'd rather break this glass and slit my wrists," Craig, 47, told an interviewer for Britain's "Time Out" entertainment magazine, when asked over breakfast if he would sign up for the role again.

"No, not at the moment. Not at all. That's fine. I'm over it at the moment. All I want to do is move on," Craig said in the interview which was posted on Time Out's website this week.

The magazine says the interview was conducted in July,

just after filming on the 24th Bond film was completed.

Craig said that living up to the image Bond has to project is onerous, and he had put everything into the latest one.

"Every idea I've had for a Bond movie, I've stuck into this one. It's gone in. The Bond bank is dry. If you're asking me what would I do with another Bond movie? I haven't a clue. Go into space? Let's do it! They already did it. Let's do it again."

"Spectre" will be released in Britain and Ireland on 26 October and in the rest of the world in early November.—Reuters

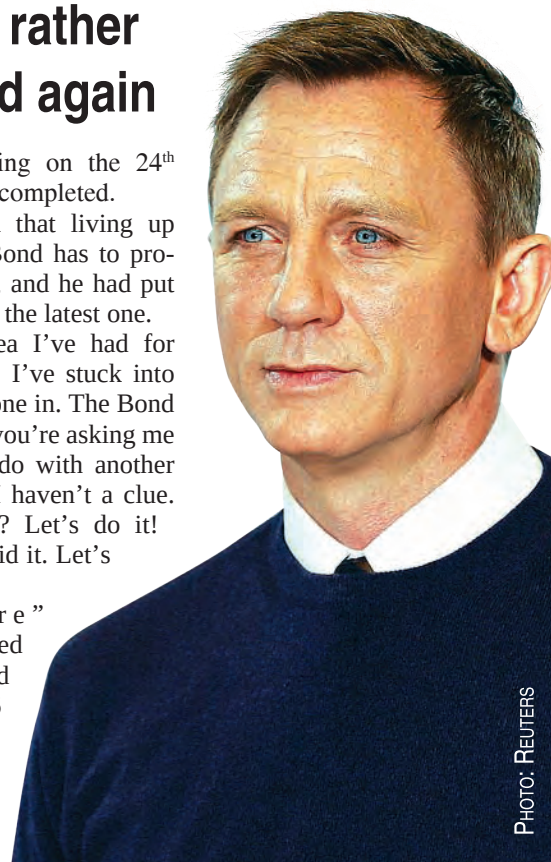


PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: REUTERS

Too young? Teenage model spurs age debate in fashion

PARIS — Amid the chaotic last minute rush typical of a catwalk show, a teenager sits quietly backstage as a hairdresser styles her.

Living a life many young girls around the world dream of, Sofia Mechetner is opening the Paris fashion show of one of the world's most famous labels, Dior.

She is 14 years old, an age some feel is too young to be working in a cutthroat industry.

"I feel ready and I am not alone, I am being looked after, closely," the Israeli model said. "They are treating me really nicely here ... They help me. So the fact that I am 14 years old is not really an issue."

Mechetner, who used to help her mother clean houses to make ends meet, was catapulted into the limelight in July when she opened Dior's haute couture show wearing a sheer white dress.

Her appearance drew criticism and stirred the debate on where to draw the age line in fashion, an industry often criticized for using skinny models.

"Before she started with Dior, she was cleaning houses with her mother. So if she is not too young to clean houses, I don't think she is too young to walk on a show," Mechetner's agent Rotem Gur said.

The use of young mod-



Model Sofia Mechetner presents a creation by Belgian designer Raf Simons as part of his Spring/Summer 2016 women's ready-to-wear collection for Christian Dior fashion house in Paris, France, on 2 October 2015. PHOTO:REUTERS

els in fashion is not new. Kate Moss was scouted at 14 while Naomi Campbell was 15. Celebrity offspring have also modeled young — Romeo Beckham, son of soccer player David Beckham, starred in a Burberry campaign at 12. However there have been industry

moves to make changes, notably during the biannual catwalk shows.

Designers contracted to London Fashion Week must use models aged 16 or over. New York has similar age guidelines. "In Italy we don't use models under 16," Carlo Capasa, head of Ita-

ly's Fashion Chamber, said.

In Paris, the focus this year has been health, with France passing a law banning excessively thin models. "I think you should start modeling at 18," British model Neelam Gill, 20, said. "I cannot imagine going all around the world on

your own. It would be so much pressure."

Dior has not publicly commented on Mechetner's employment and other maisons have also used teenage models. Lily-Rose Depp, actor Johnny Depp's 16-year old daughter, models Chanel eyewear.

"That's the way people want to see (clothes).

The public wants to see them on girls like this. They can identify even if it's not the same age group," designer Karl Lagerfeld said. "That's the girls of the moment. Fashion is about the moment."—Reuters

2015 summer the best in 10 years for Spain's tourism

MADRID — 2015 summer, from July to September, was the best summer in 10 years for Spain's tourism, according to Exceltur, the association that encompasses big companies of the sector in Spain.

Local media on Thursday quoted Exceltur executives as saying that that the sector performance between July and September was "excellent", highlighting that the activity had risen by 3.7 percent during the period when compared with a year earlier.

Exceltur emphasized that domestic tourism rose this summer, recovering the demand that had sharply fallen because of the economic crisis. In July and August, Spaniards' overnight stays

rose by 6.2 percent and consumption increased by 5 percent, recovering pre-crisis levels.

On the other hand, there were 72,762 people more affiliated to the social security system working in the tourist sector when compared with the same period in 2014 and companies said that both sales and benefits had risen.

People working in the hotel industry sector rose by 58,890, those working in the accommodation sector rose by 12,203, while those working in entertainment, travel agencies and air transport increased by 9,942 workers, 1,669 and 916 respectively.

Spain expects to receive a record high of 68 million international tourists this year.

In this sense, Exceltur pointed out that Spain continued to benefit from the political instability suffered by countries in the north of Africa, highlighting increases of arrivals from Britain, France and Belgium. On the other hand, arrivals from Russia have significantly fallen.

Tourism accounts for around 11 percent of Spain's gross domestic product (GDP) and according to Ramon Estalella, from the Spanish Confederation of Hotels and Tourist Accommodation, it is the first and largest employer of Spain.

Spain is the third most visited country in the world after the United States and France and is the second country where tourists spend more money.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

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

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- The Historic Bells
07:40 Am Welcome to the Southernmost part of Myanmar
07:50 Am Sagaing: Youth Leader
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
08:53 Am Art Students: Their Dream
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Travelogue "Chaung Tha at its peak period"
09:40 Am International Dances in Myanmar
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Discovering Tribes "Gaybar Kayin"
10:49 Am A Star for Great Achievement
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State
07:48 Pm Today Myanmar: Broadcasting Law
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature "Sayar Zaw Gyi" (Episode-2) (Service Life and Literary Journey)
08:50 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Tin Win (Beikthano)
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(10-10-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
• Classical Songs
6:15 am
• Teleplay
6:35 am
• Myanmar Ta Gaung Pyu Ta Gaung
7:00 am
• Myanmar Series
7:15 am
• Cassette Drama
8:30 am
• Dramatic Arts
9:10 am
• Musical Programme
10:00 am
• Teleplay
10:10 am
• Myanmar Video
12:00 noon
• Close Down

Aguero to miss Paraguay game with leg injury



Argentina's Sergio Aguero. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero will miss Argentina's World Cup qualifier against Paraguay next week after aggravating a leg injury in his team's shock 2-0 defeat by Ecuador.

Aguero passed a fitness test ahead of the match in Buenos Aires but limped off after 24 minutes to be replaced by Carlos Tevez. Coach Gerardo Martino said the injury to his left leg meant he would not make the game in Asuncion.

"Aguero had a problem from his last game with City, where he played well for 65 minutes," Martino told reporters after the match.

"We looked after him this week, he was moving well, very comfortable, but he felt the strain and unfortunately we are going to lose him." —Reuters

Taekwondo tournament to begin in Toungoo

THE 24th Defense Service Taekwondo Tournament will be held at Aye Chan Phyio indoor stadium in Kay Tu Madi Myo Thit in Toungoo.

The tournament will take place from 12 to 16 October.

Around 200 taekwondo players comprising 23 teams from regional command head-

quarters of the army, navy and air force will compete in the tournament, according to the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation.

In the tournament, 24 gold, 24 silver, and 48 bronze medals are up for grabs, while another two dozen will be presented to for other fighting categories.—Ko Moe

Cricket training rolled out in Tanintharyi Region

WITH the end goal in mind of developing cricket skills in Myanmar, the Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Education and Myanmar Cricket Federation have been conducting training sessions for coaches and referees in Tanintharyi Region.

The first batch of training sessions involved 16 coaches and ran from 24 September 9 October.

"We hope to roll out these training courses in many parts of Myanmar so that

we can cultivate a new generation of top class cricketers," said U Michael Kyaw Min from the federation.

In Mon State, referees and coaches training were provided to 35 coaches from 19 September to 3 October. Aspects of the training included techniques and strategy as well as some of the more technical aspects of the sport. Another session was held for 20 coaches back in early September in Yangon.—Ko Moe

Djokovic extends hot streak in China Open

NOVAK Djokovic kept his juggernaut rolling at the China Open by improving to 26-0 with a 6-2, 6-1 win over local hope Zhang Ze on Thursday which tied him with Jimmy Connors for the second-longest unbeaten record at an ATP Tour event.

The Serbian top seed, a five-time winner at the China Open, is now only behind Rafa Nadal who had a 31-0 run in the French Open at Roland Garros.

The world number one was unable to identify any particular reason for his performance at the tournament and said the conditions here were just in sync with his game.

"The conditions are definitely suitable to my game," Djokovic was quoted as saying by the ATP website (www.atpworldtour.com).

"I feel very pleasant playing on the centre court. I guess as I keep coming back each year with that positive record, obviously it gives me more confidence knowing that I played so well in the past on this court.

"I just keep on going. That's all. There is no particular reason. There are a few things that play in my favour."

Next up for Djokovic in the quarter-finals will be American John Isner, who snatched victory from the jaws of defeat against Australian qualifier John Millman.

The Australian was serving for the match at 6-5 in the second set but Isner broke back then won the tiebreak and then the deciding set for a 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-4 win.

In other men's matches, Fabio

Fognini reached the last eight after a 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 win against number seven seed David Goffin while Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay beat Ivo Karlovic 7-6(5), 7-6(7).

In the women's draw, Spanish rising star Garbine Muguruza made her 22nd birthday one to remember by sealing her spot for the WTA Finals in Singapore with a nervous 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 win over Mirjana Lucic-Baroni.

"I was really nervous before the match, because I knew I could get to Singapore and it was also my birthday," the 2015 Wimbledon finalist said.

But US Open champion Flavia Pennetta

had her hopes of qualifying for the season-ending tournament in Singapore dented when she lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Pennetta, who is engaged to Fognini, has already announced her decision to retire at the end of the season.

Her compatriot and opponent in the US Open final, Roberta Vinci, also went out with a 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 defeat to American qualifier Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Pavlyuchenkova's opponent in the quarter-finals will be Ana Ivanovic who edged out Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 in a thrilling battle.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea and Arsenal fined for fractious London derby

LONDON — Chelsea and Arsenal have been fined 40,000 pounds (\$61,400) and 30,000 pounds by the English FA for failing to control their players during their ill-tempered Premier League London derby at Stamford Bridge last month.

Both teams were involved in a fracas just before halftime and Arsenal finished with nine men having had Brazilian defender Gabriel and Spanish midfielder Santi Cazorla sent off.

Gabriel was sent off for what was seen as kicking out at Chelsea striker Diego Cos-

ta and although he had his red card rescinded by the FA he still received a one-match ban and a 10,000-pound fine for his protests before leaving the pitch.

Cazorla was sent off after 79 minutes for a second yellow card after a foul on Chelsea's former Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

Costa was handed a three-match ban after the match which Chelsea won 2-0. Chelsea, meanwhile, announced on Thursday that former Italy and AC Milan goalkeeper Marco Amelia had joined them on a free transfer.—Reuters



Chelsea's Diego Costa clashes with Arsenal's Gabriel Paulista. PHOTO: REUTERS