KEEP THE BOWL FULL
Purchase of rice for reserve expected to occur after summer paddy harvest

DESPITE a proposed plan to buy rice for state reserve following the possible impacts of El Niño, the rice purchases are expected to begin after the summer paddy harvest due to the recent hike in the price of rice, according to an official from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

“The rice reserve scheme aims to ensure domestic rice sufficiency. It is impossible to buy rice at the moment due to the increase in local rice prices. So, rice purchases for reserve are expected to start at the end of April or the beginning of May,” said Dr Soe Tun, vice-chairman of the MRF.

But the vice-chairman highlighted the importance of launching the rice reserve, giving a reason that no one knows how much El Niño will impact the country.

Myanmar has no rice reserve since last year, said Dr Soe Tun, predicting that the next government is expected to address the problem in August and September.

Describing the local rice prices as the highest in the world, Managing Director U Ye Min Aung of Myanmar Agribusiness

Labourers, employers reach agreements to break EC deadlock

EMPLOYERS and representatives of employees reached five agreements to break the deadlock for finalizing the Employment Contract (EC), according to Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM).

Following the government asking the two sides to seek ways to start finalizing the EC after the 31st January tripartite meeting in Yangon, employers and representatives of the employees held talks again on 8 January.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to amend the controversial points in the EC in coordination with each other and to form a committee for drafting an employment contract, according to a statement released by CTUM Tuesday.

The two sides would work together to formulate the EC draft and to articulate it to employers, workers and the government, said the statement.

The 31st January tripartite discussion on finalising the Employment Contract (EC) between employers and employees of various manufacturing plants did not reach an agreement to set a deadline for the signing of the agreement by the remaining factories, companies and workers across the country.

The trilateral meeting included representatives from the government, employers and employees and it focused on the issues connected with ‘probationary period for workers’ and ‘termination of contract’ regulations prescribed in the EC contract draft, according to an official from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, who also attended the meeting.

The three parties will meet again on 13 February, and employers and employees will discuss the contract’s sticking points.
Relief supplies for fire victims arrive in Namhsam from various parts of country

THE Namhsam fire victims received construction materials including bags of cement yesterday. Relief supplies for fire victims are arriving in Namhsam from various parts of the country.

The Shwetaung Group of Companies donated 6,270 bags of cement while other wellwishers presented other construction materials and foodstuffs including rice and edible oil.

According to sources, 12 wellwishers donated K42,430,000 to the victims, and a cash donation centre received K84,409,000 yesterday.

Tatmadawmen, police force members and local people are taking part in the removal of debris in the fire-stricken town.

GSM service resumed in the town since 5 pm on Monday.—Kyaukme IPRD

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw creates 15-member Joint Bill Committee

THE first regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for its second day with a focus on the process of forming a Joint Bill Committee yesterday.

First, Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 3 clarified the formation of the Joint Bill Committee, its duties and functions.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Thant informed parliamentarians of the formation of the 15-member Joint Bill Committee, naming Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung as the chairman, U Tun Aung alias U Tun Tun Hein and U Zaw Min of Nawngkio Constituency as the vice-chairmen, Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 3 as the secretary and U Stephen of Kengtung Constituency as the joint secretary of the committee.

According to the second day of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, its third day session is scheduled to be held today.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar hosts workshop on public awareness of ASEAN Community

A WORKSHOP on public awareness of the ASEAN Community was held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, Dr Kan Zaw and U Aye Myint Kyu spoke on the occasion.

The workshop, set for two days, held discussions on matters of building the ASEAN Community in political, security, economic and socio-cultural sectors and the role of civil society organisations in the ASEAN Community.—Myanmar News Agency

Awareness Raising Workshop on ASEAN Community held

THE Opening Ceremony for the “Awareness Raising Workshop on ASEAN Community” was held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, U Aye Myint Kyu, Union Minister for the Ministry of Culture delivered their opening remarks related to the establishment of the ASEAN Community. Following the remarks of the Union Ministers, Mr. Achim Munz, Country Representative of Hanna Seidel Foundation, gave a speech.

Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries responsible for the three ASEAN community pillars, and the Chairman of UMFCICI also attended the Session. A total of 50 representatives from Government Ministries, private sector and CSOs participated in the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to promote public awareness of ASEAN Community Building among all stakeholders including government officials, members of the private sector and the CSOs. The workshop was co-organised by the responsible ministries for the three ASEAN Community Pillars: Political and Security Community, Economic Community, Socio-Cultural Community: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Culture and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

The workshop will continue until 10th February. —Myanmar News Agency
President U Thein Sein conferred Presidential Awards for Excellent Performance on 33 bodies yesterday for their endeavour for the country.

The presidential awards have been conferred annually since 2012 on those who strive for development of the country’s economy and socioeconomic life of the people.

So far, 21 Buddhist monks and 460 people already received the awards by the president.

Before the presentation, the president delivered an address.

(Following is an unofficial translation of the address of the president.)

I would like to greet all those who are present here including Union ministers, region/state chief ministers and regular ministers, distinguished guests and award winners.

Since taking office in April 2011, our government has aimed to fulfil the two common desires of the people in ensuring peace, stability and development. The government has presented excellent performance awards to those who strived for the growth of the country and for the socioeconomic development of the people since 2012.

For this year, organisations which have made great strides in the successful realisation of the government’s sweeping reform process are set to be awarded.

Since 1 April, 2011, our government has been trying hard to turn the Tatmadaw government into a democratically-elected government, a centrally planned economy into a market economy and armed conflicts into a situation paving the way for ensuring a lasting peace.

Unlike other countries with a transition process to democracy focusing on political reform only, a sweeping reform process involving implementing of political, economic, administrative and private sector development matters took place in our country. Simultaneously, the government launched a peace process with the concept of ensuring development and democracy through peace.

Despite the strong desire of our government to build a new democratic nation, the country moved away from democracy in 1962 when it was brought under centralised control, including political and economic systems.

So, our government has strived to nurse our newborn democracy into a mature one. It is a great success that the country has achieved certain changes that have led to democracy after encountering challenges, difficulties and practical experience requirements.

The government, the people and Tatmadaw worked together to make a difference during the five-year period, bringing about democracy and positive developments to the second largest country, home to more than 50 million people, in the ASEAN region and with more than 60 years of armed conflict.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who believed and cooperated with me in implementing my policies.

I would like to also give special thanks to those from international organisations, local and foreign experts and non-government organisations who helped us realise our reform policies through the exchange of views and meetings.

Our government could have put the country on the right track to democracy. Now Myanmar is heading towards a bright future with stability and full potential for achieving democracy among other countries that have experienced the process of democratisation in the 21st century.

That’s why excellent performance awards were presented to organisations for significant progress made during the past five years. The award presentation is a gesture of honouring leaders who led those organisations and their colleagues.

Our government’s term is set to end soon but the country’s reform process goes on. It is required for the progress achieved in the past five years to reach to a durable stage, and steadfast efforts are needed to see the completion of the process and to work to address the ongoing challenges.

So, I would like to stress the need to make our best efforts to promote the interest of the nation and its people whatever role you play without falling prey to racism, partisan or ideological differences.—Myanmar News Agency

**President’s Excellent Performance Award**

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<td>Group striving for sustainability of Inlay Lake and environmental conservation</td>
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<td>Group striving for nationwide census</td>
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<td>Group striving for taking ASEAN Chair</td>
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<td>Group striving for successful holding of SEA Games</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Group striving for launching Presidential scholarship programme and upgrading of Yangon University</td>
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<td>Group striving for upgrading Yangon General Hospital and promoting health care services</td>
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<td>Group striving for preservation of ancient edifices</td>
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<td>Group striving for peace process</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Group striving for placing three Pyu cities on the UNESCO world heritage list</td>
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<td>Group striving for lifting economic sanctions on the country</td>
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<td>Group striving to become a member country of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative</td>
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<td>Group striving for successful holding of multi-party democracy general elections</td>
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**Purchase of rice for reserve expected . . .**

>>> From page 1

Public Corporation Limited said at a meeting between the Ministry of Commerce and rice traders recently that it is hard to purchase rice for reserve due to rice price hike.

According to the managing director, there are enquires from foreign countries regarding the exporting of rice to Myanmar.

It is needed to launch the scheme in order to control increasing rice prices in the domestic market and to respond to climate change, said Dr Soe Tun. According to the MRF vice-chairman, MRF suggested the government buy between 200,000 and 500,000 tonnes as reserve stock.
Tritone 8 miles junction condominium project launched

THE Tritone 8 miles junction condominium project is going to be implemented near 8 miles junction on Pyay Road in Mayagong Township, Yangon, with US$150 million investment by the Living Square Co and Korea-based Hanwha Corporation.

With the aim of fulfilling the housing needs of Yangon residents, the project has been initiated on 2.034 acre of land, beginning last June.

It is estimated the structure will be finished by the end of 2018.

The project includes 424 apartments in three towers, car parking allowing 774 vehicles, a luxury shopping complex, swimming pools, gyms, sauna and indoor golf range.

Home automation systems, 23 escalators and security system will be installed within the condominium.

Each apartment will be between 1,700 and 2,300 square feet.

It will be the first condominium being installed with advanced technology, a project manager said.—Soe Win (MLA)

Crime News

Car burglars arrested in Nay Pyi Taw

THREE young men suspected of stealing money from parked cars along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, were caught in the act yesterday and arrested by police on 7 February.

Acting on a tip-off, police from the Shwedwingon Myoma Police Station, led by Sub-In-pector Thet Shwe, were patrolling the car park when the gang of burglars arrived in a Pro-Box car and attempted to steal money from parked cars.

Chit Oo Maung, 22; Kyaw Min Naing, 27; and Zin Lin Aung (Aka Zin Lay), 25, are all from Lewe Township.

The police seized a knife, a pair of pliers, seven pencil-sharpening knives, two screw drivers, two catapults, two flashlight, a Zenith watch, K10,000, three mobile phones and the burglars’ ProBox car.—Ko Ko Nay

Yabba and firearm seized in Hpa-An

A LOCAL anti-drug squad seized Yabba at Kannar road, Hpa-An township, Kayin State on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, members of the police arrested Aung Zaw Htet, 31, Min Min Oo, 28, Kuon Sit Paing alias Pho Aung, 26, Saw Myint Oo Kyaw alias Naw Htoo, 22, and Aung Tun Win alias Kalarlay, 23 with 91 Yabba.

When interrogated, the suspects admitted that they had received the pills from one Kyaw Soe Lwin, 32.

Local police station has detained the five men while searching for Kyaw Soe Lwin.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Mon Police station discovered a gun of Germany manufacture during their raid on his place.

A 22 wheel vehicle turned over

A 22 wheel vehicle driven by Aung Kyaw Soe, 25, turned over when he lost control on Yangon-Mandalay road, near Nyaung Pin Gaing village, Yedashe, Bago region on Sunday.

The driver of the vehicle was not injured.

The driver is being charged for his careless driving by police station.—Ko Lwin (Swar)
South Korea says working with US, Japan on ‘strong’ North Korea sanctions

SEOUL/WASHINGTON — South Korean President Park Geun-hye spoke with US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday, agreeing to work for “strong and effective” UN sanctions against North Korea following its weekend rocket launch.

North Korea says it put a satellite into orbit on Sunday, but the United States and its allies see the launch as cover for Pyongyang’s development of ballistic missile technology that could be used to attack the United States.

In a telephone conversation yesterday, Park and Obama agreed various sanctions outside the UN were also needed to punish North Korea, Park’s office said in a statement.

“The two leaders agreed for the two countries to cooperate closely for the adoption of strong and effective sanctions resolutions as a united response by the international community against the North’s nuclear test and a rocket launch using ballistic missile technology,” the presidential Blue House said.

The UN Security Council on Sunday strongly condemned North Korea’s rocket launch and promised to take action, while Washington vowed to ensure the 15-nation body imposed “serious consequences” on Pyongyang as soon as possible.

However, China, North Korea’s key ally and a veto-wielding member of the United Nations Security Council, has resisted harsh sanctions sought by the United States and South Korea following the North’s 6 January test of a nuclear device. Pyongyang claimed it was a hydrogen bomb.

A senior US official said in a statement that China agrees any new UN resolution on North Korea will include additional sanctions and go beyond previous resolutions, but Beijing is urging Washington to put even more pressure on Pyongyang.

China is in “unique position” as North Korea’s neighbour and ally and is urged to take steps to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, the official told Reuters.

“It’s clear to me that our Chinese friends have indicated that the UN Security Council’s response will include sanctions and does need to go beyond previous resolutions,” he said.

“The key of course is what exactly are the specific actions that we are going to take together and that’s the focus of our efforts right now,” the official said. “We have made clear that China can do more and needs to do more.”

Proposed sanctions have not been made public, but one diplomat told Reuters that Washington was hoping to tighten international restrictions on North Korea’s banking system. Beijing was reluctant to support that step for fear of worsening conditions in its impoverished neighbour, the diplomat said.

This week, the top US military commander will discuss North Korea’s latest satellite launch with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts as part of efforts to strengthen military ties between the three countries, US defence officials said on Monday. The United States and South Korea announced after the missile test they had begun formal discussions about the possibility of deploying an advanced missile defence system to which China has objected, arguing it could undermine its strategic deterrent.—Reuters

Thai-US security ties still feel chill of 2014 coup

WELLINGTON

New Zealand’s capital city Wellington was rocked by 5.7 magnitude earthquake yesterday, according to the country’s earthquake monitoring service.

The quake’s epicenter was 35 km (22 miles) southeast of St Arnaud, a small town in the north of the country’s South Island, at a depth of 62 km (13 miles), according to Geonet’s website.

Reuters witnesses felt shaking in Wellington, which has a population of around 450,000. There were no initial reports of damage or injury.

Earthquakes are common in New Zealand, whose two islands lie along the Australia-Pacific tectonic plate boundary. A shallow 6.3 magnitude earthquake devastated the South Island’s Canterbury region in 2011, resulting in nearly 200 deaths and leveling Christchurch, the country’s second-largest city.—Reuters

Earthquake measuring 5.7 magnitude felt in New Zealand capital
Shark nets fail to protect swimmers on Australian beaches

CANBERRA — Shark nets used at most Australian beaches to protect swimmers do nothing to reduce the chance of being attacked, a new research has revealed.

Analysis of data compiled over 50 years by Laurie Laurenson, from Victoria’s Deakin University, has found no correlation between the population of sharks and the number of attacks.

Laurenson suggested that measures such as nets and drum lines that were designed to lower shark populations were not making people any safer.

“It can show statistically that there is no relationship between the number of sharks out there and the number of attacks,” Laurenson said in comments published by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) yesterday.

“It’s just simply not there. I’m surprised that it’s not there but it’s not there.”

Barry Bruce, a shark expert at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), said while shark nets have caught sharks it does not mean they have prevented attacks.

“If you go out and you can’t see anybody, what don’t you know is whether that shark would have ever bitten anybody and we don’t know how many sharks swim through that area that didn’t get caught,” Bruce said yesterday.

A net, such as those used on Australian beaches, is a fishing device rather than a barrier, Bruce said. “It’s a couple of hundred meters long, there might be two at a beach which is many, many kilometers long.”

They are set at a depth offshore where they don’t reach to the surface so they only come up six meters or so from the bottom in 10 meters of water. In some respects you have to be an unlucky shark to get caught,” he said.

In a three-month period in 2014 drum lines in Western Australia (WA) caught 172 sharks, 163 of which were tiger sharks and none were great whites.

However, Laurenson’s data reported first tiger sharks have not killed anyone in WA for over 20 years.

There were 18 recorded shark attacks in Australia in 2015 according to the International Shark Attack File published on Tuesday resulting in two fatalities in New South Wales and Tasmania respectively.—Xinhua

Pakistan probe: no evidence links militant group to Indian air base attack

ISLAMABAD — A special investigation team set up in Pakistan to probe a deadly assault on an Indian air base last month found no evidence implicating the leader of the group India blamed for the attack, Pakistani security officials said yesterday.

The officials said the team interrogated Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar and his associates and found no evidence linking him with the 2 Jan- uary attack on the Pathankot air base in northern India that killed seven Indian military personnel.

“We searched their homes, seminaries, hideouts and also ex- amined their call records for past three months and found nothing dubious,” a security official with links to the investigating team said.

The raid on the air base stalled efforts to revive bilateral talks be- tween the nuclear-armed neigh- bours after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unsched- uled visit to his Pakistani counter- part, Nawaz Sharif, in December.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since becoming separate countries in 1947, two of them over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

A spokesman for India’s foreign ministry declined to comment on reports of the special investiga- tion team’s findings.

In January, Pakistani authorities detained Azhar and several members of his e-Mohammad, sealed offices belonging to the outfit, and shut down several religious schools run by the group.

The security officials said on Monday that Azhar remained in custody, but did not say whether authorities were considering his release.—Reuters

Campaign continues for Australian submarine contract

CANBERRA — An Australian submarine contract continued to be fiercely contested by Japan, France, and Germany yesterday, with the French bidder seemingly taking a swipe at Japan’s submarine capa- bility.

The Australian government is accepting confidential bids for a contract to construct eight submarines for the country’s navy, with a preference for the fleet to be built locally in Adelaide.

Sean Costello, CEO of the Australian subsidiary of French defense firm DCNS, told the Aus- tralian Defence Magazine Confer- ence that awarding the contract to DCNS would further strengthen the relationship between Australia and France.

“Where Australia selects France it selects enduring, geopo- litical alignment and surety of sup- ply,” he said.

In what national broadsheet The Australian called “a thinly dis- guised swipe at Japan,” Costello told the conference that, as the only nation with fully submarine power, France was the logical choice.

“France is a complete subma- rine power and has national policies to remain so. A complete subma- rine power is one that can safely de- sign, build, operate and sustain any class of submarine on an enduring basis,” he said.

“Whatever the future holds, only cooperation with complete submarine power provides Austral- ian with strategic choices.”

Costello’s comments came af- ter The Financial Times reported that the United States has expressed concern over France’s security measures regarding highly sensitive US military secrets. This has led to speculation in Australian newspapers that France is less likely to be chosen for the contract. Repre- sentatives from Japan’s contender, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., toured Adelaide-based shipbuilder ASC with the South Australian pre- mier and minister for defence yes- terday.—Kyodo News
From beyond the grave, ‘Iron Lady’ Thatcher haunts Britain’s EU debate

LONDON — A quarter of a century since Margaret Thatcher was deposed by her own party, Britain’s ‘Iron Lady’ has stirred a row: Would the hero of Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservative party have voted to leave the European Union? ThATCHER, who died in 2013, grappled with Britain’s EU relationship, supporting membership while in power but also scolding Brussels with a ferocity which ultimately triggered the party coup which ended her premiership in 1990.

When former foreign policy aide Charles Powell suggested Thatcher would have supported the essence of Cameron’s EU deal and voted for membership in a referendum likely in June, he prompted an angry response from supporters of membership in “a European super-state”.

But opponents say neither Thatcher, as leader of the opposition in 1975, nor Cameron, who would have to submit to what they say is a doomed European super-state, should have been in office at the time.

In a vote that both supporters and opponents agree will shape Britain’s 21st century fate, both sides are invoking the authority of Thatcher and her hero Winston Churchill to support their cases. Supporters of membership say a British exit, or Brexit, would ditch attempts by Thatcher to preserve Britain’s global clout by hedging European integration with a “special relationship” with the United States.

But opponents say neither Thatcher nor Britain, which was never in our membership of the EU.

“I must be a new low for the stay in campaign when they turn to the dead to support them,” said Conservative lawmaker John Redwood who once worked as Thatcher’s chief policy adviser.

“I find it disappointing that Lord Powell should presume to be able to communicate with the dead and tell us what they are thinking,” said Redwood, who opposes EU membership.

“Beyond the sensitivities of enrolling a deceased leader into a political campaign, the intensity of the row illustrates both the depth of feeling in Cameron’s party as well as the ambidexterity of Thatcher’s own legacy.

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“One was certainly times thinking,” said Redwood, who opposes EU membership.

Two corpses found in Mexico after apparent abduction

MEXICO CITY — The remains of two young people who disappeared in eastern Mexico have been identified, authorities said on Monday, in a case that echoes the 2014 abduction and apparent massacre of 43 students that sparked international outrage.

The people were part of a group of five Mexicans abducted weeks ago by state police in the state of Veracruz and handed over to members of a local criminal group, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

The skeletal remains of the two youth were discovered at a ranch in Tlalixcoyan, Veracruz, about 240 miles (390 kilometres) from the capital, where authorities also found evidence of drugs and illegal fuel storage.

Four killed in crash of Russian military helicopter

MOSCOW — Four people were killed when a Mi-8 helicopter owned by the Russian Defence Ministry crashed on Monday in the Pskov region of northwestern Russia, local news agencies reported, quoting the ministry.

TASS said the helicopter was on a training flight when ground control lost contact with it.

Accidents involving Mi-8 aircraft are frequent in Russia, which has been criticised for its poor air safety record. In June 2014, 15 people died when a helicopter crashed into a lake in the northern Murmansk region.

Kurz: Sealing of borders would overburden Western Balkans

SARAJEVO — Austria does not want to simply close its borders and leave the Western Balkan states to deal with the refugee issue on their own, but rather to find a common solution to the problem, Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said in Sarajevo on Monday.

At a press conference with Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Igor Crnadak, he said that if Austria just closed the borders, the Western Balkans would be overwhelmed by refugees.

BiH is not being hit by the tide of refugees, but it would like to help overcome the crisis, Crnadak said, adding that Sarajevo was willing to assist and take on the responsibility.

During the conference, Kurz and Minister of Civil Affairs Adil Osmanovic signed a bilateral agreement on scientific and technical cooperation to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between Austria and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Indonesia jails seven for supporting Islamic State

JAKARTA — An Indonesian court yesterday handed down prison terms to seven men accused of supporting Islamic State amid a security crackdown on the militant group’s suspected sympathisers in the world’s most populous Muslim-majority nation.

Indonesia has been on high alert since a bomb and gun attack in the capital Jakarta last month claimed by Islamic State stamped the group’s presence in the region for the first time. Eight people were killed, four of them the attackers themselves.

“What was proven was the defendants’ intent to conspire in, assist, and prepare terrorism-related activities,” presiding judge Syahlan, who only goes by one name, said, adding that it was not necessary to prove they had actually carried out any attacks.

Eight died, 150 hurt in train crash in Bavaria: police

BAD AIBLING, Germany — Eight people were killed when two trains collided head on in southeast Germany yesterday, police said, adding about 150 people were injured, including 50 seriously.

The collision took place on a single track and one train was derailed, said a police spokesman.

The cause was unclear and police said that, alongside the rescue effort, investigations were starting into establishing what had happened.

The crash between two local passenger trains happened at 6.48am local time (0548 GMT) near Bad Aibling in southern Germany near the border with Austria.

Dozens of rescue teams were on site and helicopters carried some of the injured people to nearby hospitals. The area was sealed off. The trains’ operator, Meridian, is part of French passenger transport firm Transdev, which is jointly owned by state-owned bank CDC and water and waste firm Veolia.

It runs trains, tram and bus networks in 19 countries and had revenues of 6.6 billion euros in 2014. State-owned Deutsche Bahn is responsible for the track. The line has a system that makes a train brake automatically if it goes through a red light.

Police will hold a news conference at 12.00 local time (1100 GMT).

TAINAN developer arrested on suspicion of negligent homicide

TAINAN — Prosecutors in the southern Taiwan city of Tainan have arrested the developer of a building which collapsed during an earthquake yesterday killing at least 39 people, a government legal official said yesterday.

Hsiao Po-jen, director of the legal affairs department of the Tainan city government, told Reuters the developer had been arrested on suspicion of negligent homicide, according to information he received from local police.

World 710 February 2016

NEWS IN BRIEF
To be true to the name fourth pillar

Khin Maung Aye

With the freedom of press granted by the incumbent government as part of the democratisation process, the media be it print or electronic or internet has greater influence upon the readers, audience and viewers. In addition, all the print media publications could have saved time, money and energy since then, as they were no longer needed to undergo pre-press censorship process handled by the Press Scrutiny Board under the Ministry of Information.

It is worth recalling that this censorship board was formerly under the ministry of home affairs in order to ensure that legal action could be taken against those who had violated the rules and regulations regarding publications. This censorship team is now handling chiefly the application for publication licences and registration. Nevertheless, the censorship is still there in the form of post auditing. They are still checking all the publications to find out if the printed materials are in line with the political policy of the incumbent government. Although the Ministry of information has stopped pre-press censorship, it has provided a policy framework within which all newspapers, journals and magazines are to cover the news and report in an ethical manner.

It is true that legal action is very rarely seen taken against the violators these days. As the media industry has now the press council to intervene in cases of disputes, complaints and grievances on the part of either the publishers or readers or a third party affected by the news reports carried in the newspapers, journals and magazines. However, the press council cannot take legal action against the violators because media are not controlled by the law; they are monitored by journalist ethics. As ethics are not binding, the violators cannot have legal action taken.

This being so, it is of utmost importance for the journalists to be ethical. In this function, the authorities are necessary to promote the importance of strict abidance by the journalist ethics. The Global New Light of Myanmar would therefore, like to urge all journalists to change their mindset to become law-abiding citizens and ethical journalists in order to be true to their existence as the fourth pillar.

Global literacy

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

NOW the world is rapidly changing. In the new millennium, information technology, IT, or digital revolution is gaining momentum and growing stronger with everyday. And IT tools, such as computer, the Internet, electronic mail or e-mail are very much in use in every part of the world. As regards the Internet, Mr. Kofi Anan, former UN Secretary General has said ‘the internet is the fastest growing instrument of communication in the history of civilization and it may be the most rapidly disseminating tool of any kind ever’

To the credit of the Internet, the world seems to be getting smaller and smaller. What happens in one part of the world is known to the other part within seconds or minutes. What a wonderful IT tool! Well, let’s say it again, the world seems to be getting smaller and smaller, so much so that we do fondly call our world “the global village.” And in this global village of ours, we make more and more contacts and communications with each other, states with states, peoples with peoples.

You may like it or not, the digital revolution is real and irreversible. With it, the world is changing, living. And in this living world, the English language has also become increasingly popular. Why? Simply because it has become a must - have tool. On the Internet, the 50 per cent of the web-pages are in English. So, to keep ourselves abreast of the changing world, we must have global literacy.

I hope, you may wish to ask me; what do you mean by global literacy? Well, let allow me put it this way. “Global literacy means the ability to access and converse with the rest of the world with IT tools, such as — computer, the Internet and the mastery of English language as the international lingua franca.” With regard to the growing popularity of English, I would like to mention a news report as follows:

“English is already the second language in about 75 countries, the first language in more than 30 territories, and has far more speakers outside of Britain than in it.”

And now, I would like to present to you something about the Internet as follows: The Internet is the world’s largest computer network. It is not a piece of software or hardware. It’s a huge collection of computer, cables, and people. When people talk about the Internet, they generally aren’t thinking of the physical computers, wires, routers and other gadgets that compose the network, but of the collection of people, software, and tools that they “see” online. To the technologically minded, the Internet is a network of computer networks that talk to each other using Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) Internet Protocol (IP). TCP/IP is a set of rules that define how messages can be sent between computers. A communication protocol allows different kinds of computers using different operating systems to communicate with each other. That is important because the Internet isn’t made up of any single type of computer system. Using TCP/IP, hundreds of different types of computers are able to communicate on the Internet. This common set of protocols makes it possible for a user anywhere in the world to type on the Internet to communicate with people or software based on any of the other networks connected to the Internet. “To most of the people who use the Internet, the Net isn’t about networks, protocols, and operating systems; it’s a community of people. A very large community, which we might even call it “a global village”. The Internet is a locale, a place, it is the closest thing that we have to a “cyberspace”, which is an electronic place where people and programs work, learn, and coexist (sometimes peacefully, sometimes not).”

Within the last few years the term “the Internet” has slipped into everyday language, invading our newspapers, magazines and even our TV sets. Less used defined, the Internet is an international network — or rather a network of networks — at the heart of which lies a number of powerful and permanently linked computers. To join the Internet, you connect your computer to your Internet provider, and are then able to talk to and disseminate information to every other computer on the Internet.

In this write-up, I would like to present only a few significant Internet-related terms and their definitions as follows:

(A) WWW = World Wide Web. It is probably the largest method of information dispersion on the Internet today.

(B) Protocol = It is an agreed standard for network devices to exchange information with each other.

(C) HTTP = Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. It is the method by which the web page data is transmitted.

(D) NNTP= It stands for Network News Transfer Protocol.

(E) Website = Website means the Internet storefronts that must stay open continuously for business.

(F) Web page = It is a page in the website allotted for the Internet user or the Internet company concerned.

(G) Home Page = It is the first page of a set of pages.

(H) Download = Transfer of files/data from one computer system to another.

(I) E-mail = It’s a correspondence system by which you can transmit text, pictures, sounds and other digitized materials across the world in a matter of seconds.

(J) Newbie = A new user, who probably doesn’t know a lot about the Internet.

(K) User’s Network = It’s the electronic infrastructure of the late 20th century.

(L) Node = Any device that knows a lot about the Internet.

(M) Binaries = Binariness are not texts or files. They are pictures, programs.

(N) Netsuite = Network etiquette, a cultural code of conduct, a dignified, but not universally agreed standard of behavior expected on the Internet.

(O) Hacker = A technically savvy/wise computer enthustiast who derives joy from exploring other people’s computer systems, although not necessarily with intent to damage.

(P) Upload = To send files/data from one computer system to another.

(Q) Cyberspace = It’s the electronic infrastructure of the late 20th century.

(R) Software = We have two kinds of software.

(A) Freeware

(B) Shareware

(F) Freeware = Free of charge. You can download some files and information from the Internet without any payment for them.

(T) Shareware = You can use and try out some files and information form the Internet for a specified period of time – free of charge. After that, you have to make some payment to use it.

In conclusion, I would like to express my view that the “Internet” is not merely a dot.com fad which will come and go. It’s a tool of the digital revolution, a part of our daily life. It will keep on going. The Internet, in fact, is a great thing on which we can do so many cool things. So, let’s go on learning to achieve global literacy and become a global citizen through the use of the Internet. But, may I advise you, sir, to think global, but to act local, by protecting, preserving, and propagating our values, roots, and identities.

Reference
(1) Your Internet Consultant, Mr. Kevin Savet.
(2) Internet culture in easy steps. MR. John Smith.
(3) Compuspeak (B.B.C) "*****"
Shortage of fertilizer befalls Thabaung township after sales increase

THABAUNG, a township in Ayeyawady Region, sees strong sales of farmland fertilizers and pesticides, since the start of the new year has caused a shortage in availability of the products, it is learnt from agricultural supply shops.

A combination of an increase in crop damage from pests this year, and the fact that the first months of the new year is when farmers fertilize their crops, has meant there is more of a usage and demand for fertilizers and pesticides.

“We’ve having such goods sales of fertilizer at the minute, even to the point where well sometimes completely sell out of stock,” said Daw Min Thaung, owner of an agricultural store in Thabaung township.

The fertilizers brands quickest off the shelves are Palay, Tsupar and Shwe Nagar, while an average bag of fertilizer fetches between 20,000-26,000 kyats. However, the current trend in sales has bumped up the price of a bag by 2,000 kyats, it is known.

“As we’ve had good sales of paddy this year, we need to be sure to use fertilizer on our crops to be able to withstand damages from pests and insure a bountiful harvest for the coming year.” said U Thant Zaw Linn, from Hsate Thwar village.

The shortage in supplies of fertilizer can be attributed to a lack of large agricultural supplies in the main town and few wholesalers in rural areas, say agricultural store owners.

In Thabaung right now, sales of fertilizer are good. “We’re selling more than in the year previous. Supply can’t keep up with demand as there is only one [agricultural] shop per village.” said a paddy trader, U Ko-Oo.

The township of Thabaung boasts 70 village tracts comprising over 490 villages, while the main business activity conducted in the region is agriculture with an average cultivation acreage of up to 100,000 acres.—Myitmakha News Agency

Gold fish lovers on the increase in Mandalay

GOLDFISH breeders in Mandalay have expanded their market to fulfill the needs of local goldfish lovers, selling different species of the variously coloured fish.

“We currently display various kinds and sizes of goldfish in plastic bags for sale at a place in front of the Mandalay Palace moat two days per week, with prices ranging from K2,000 (US$1.58) to K15,000 ($11.87),” a breeder said.

“We also sell glass boxes to keep goldfish in”. “Oranda, Black Moor and Bubble Eye species see high demand, more so than others in the region.”

A pet lover elaborated on his feeling of keeping fish, saying that he believes keeping goldfish bring good financial luck.—Taintaman

Mushroom growers see better prices

FARMERS in Magway Region generate handsome profits from their family mushroom farming businesses, locals say. Mushroom farming has been increasing in Kyauktan Village in Minbu Township, Aungmyitta A, B and D wards in Magway Region within a year.

“We usually cultivate mushroom seeds in seven foot long and 3 foot wide tanks for two weeks. The easiest and simple techniques for mushroom growing help farmers produce between six and twelve viss (1.6 kilograms) per tank,” said Tin Tin Lynn, a grower from Aungmyitta Ward.

She added: “We normally sell our produce at least K3,200 (US$2.53) per viss to buyers, mostly from markets across the region including Kantha Market, Mingalar Market and Magway Myoma Market.”

Farmers also see a high demand for dried mushrooms as a vegetarian society in Magway Region prefer mushrooms over other vegetables because of its powerful health benefits.—Zwe Htet Shin

Myanmar migrants arrested in Thailand on suspicion of gambling

Those assisting with Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand have made it known that Thai police have arrested a group of football playing Myanmar migrants in the heavily Myanmar populated southern Bangkok township of Mahachai after being suspected of carrying out gambling activities.

“What’s really going on here is the police looking [for an excuse to arrest Myanmar migrants] as they don’t have a proper case against them. If Thai nationals place 10,000 or 20,000 bhat bets [on football games] then the police won’t arrest them. They’ve made these arrests on purpose.” explained Ko Ye Min from the Aid Alliance Committee for Myanmar Workers (AAC).

It is known the aforementioned Myanmar migrants living in the Mahachai suburb were rounded up and arrested by police during one of their habitual Sunday football playing sessions.

The aforementioned migrants support group followed to assist the migrants on February 6 where they were being held in custody at the Htachhayay police station.

The AAC urges those Myanmar migrant workers living in Thailand not to take part in gambling activities involving football, but to just play purely for fun.

“We just want Myanmar migrants to play normal football, not even for a bet of 10 bahts.

In accordance with current Thai law, legal action can be taken against those even betting over bottles of water. That’s why we don’t want people to place any bets on the football they play, but just play for fun,” added Ko Ye Min.

There were over half a million Myanmar migrant workers residing in Thailand in 2014, while a migrant worker survey this year puts numbers above 600,000.—Myitmakha News Agency
Russian firepower helps Syrian forces edge towards Turkey border

BEIRUT/ONCUPINAR, (Turkey) — The Syrian army advanced towards the Turkish border on Monday in a move that will help Ankara on its battlefronts against Daesh by Russia and Iran that rebels say now threatens the future of their nearly five-year-old insurrection against President Bashar al-Assad.

Iranian-backed militiamen played a key role on the ground as Russian jets intensified what rebels call a scorched earth policy that has allowed the military back into the strategic northern area for the first time in more than two years.

“Our whole existence is now threatened, not just losing more ground,” said Abdulk Rahman al-Najmawi from Liwa al-Tawheed, an insurgent group. “They are advancing and we are pulling back.” He said he feared a repeat of such heavy aerial bombing we must minimise our losses.”

The Russian-backed Syrian government had over recent days amounts to one of the biggest shifts in momentum of the war, helping to turn the tide of a war that has floundered for years.

Syrian forces have said they could soon fall to the government. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was still in talks for two weeks, which collapsed last week after they had begun in earnest.

The Syrian military and its allies were almost five km (3 miles) from the rebel-held town of Tal Rafaat, which has brought them to around 25 km (16 miles) from the Turkish border, the rebels, residents and a conflict monitor said.

“We should demand a Supreme Court and parliament chooses an interim president,” Celestin rejected the week-old agreement, saying parliament was elected in the first round of voting can be used, it is dialogue,” he said.

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There are now around 77,000 refugees taking shelter in camps on the Syrian side of the Turkish border, Turkish Prime Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said on Monday. He said that a worst-case scenario could see as many as 600,000 at Turkey’s border.

After around a week of heavy Russian air strikes, Syrian government troops and their allies broke through rebel defences to reach two Shi’ite towns in northern Aleppo Province on Wednesday, choking opposition supply lines from Turkey.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she was “appalled” by the suffering of Aleppo, blaming primarily Russian bombing and suggesting a UN Security Council resolution Moscow signed in December.

Kerem Kink, Vice President of the Turkish Red Crescent, told reporters at the Oncupinar border crossing that Syrian forces were fleecing Russian strikes in panic. The closure of the road to Aleppo risked a much larger scale repeat of crises in Ghouta, a besieged Damascus suburb, or even Madaya, a blockaded town were residents have starved.

The route to Aleppo is completely closed and this is a road that was feeding all the main arteries inside Syria. Unless this is reopened, you will see Aleppo falling day by day into a situation as in Madaya and Ghouta and you will see a deepening humanitarian crisis,” he said.

“They are hitting any vehicles that are on the move, they are hitting aid trucks,” he added. “We really urge that the Russian attacks on Azaz and Aleppo should stop, because if there is such a policy, to clear this area of all human beings... then we may not be able to cope with the influx.”—Reuters

The protests have left one person dead.

A group of eight opposition leaders that includes Celestin rejected the weekend agreement, saying parliament was elected in the same tainted election and should not choose an interim administration. The group wants a Supreme Court judge to choose the next leader instead.—Reuters

PM calls for peace on Haiti’s first day with no president

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Protesters Haitians should end weeks of street protests by calling for a dialogue to create a transitional government. Prime Minister Evans Paul said on Monday, during his first day as the temporary head of the troubled Caribbean nation.

Paul was prime minister under former President Michel Martelly, who left office on Sunday without an elected successor after a botched election saw a second-round of voting cancelled due to the protests.

Under an 11th-hour agreement at the weekend, Paul will stay in office until parliament chooses an interim president.

“We should demand peace and dialogue. That is the only weapon that we should use, it is dialogue,” Paul told Reuters.

“We don’t need to mobilise people on the streets anymore, because all the demands expressed on streets are now on the table of state institutions.”

Under the agreement, Paul, who made his own run for the presidency in 2006, would be succeeded by a consensus prime minister once parliament chooses a president.

A presidential runoff due to be held last month was scrapped after protesters took to the streets in force and opposition candidate Jude Celestin threatened to boycott the vote over allegations that fraud has been committed in round one. The first round saw ruling party candidate Jovenel Moise, who came first.

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 12th February (Friday) Union Day 2016, being a public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar
5-yr-old girl becomes youngest ‘Doctor of Yokai Monster’

OKAYAMA — Mana Unemoto has become the youngest person ever to be awarded the title “Doctor of Yokai Monsters.”

Mana, 4, from Bizen, in Okayama Prefecture, western Japan, was born on October 25 and has been shown by Japanese media to have a gift for remembering yokai, fictional monsters from Japanese folklore. She scored 76 out of 100 in the exam and has pulled out of a Singapore educational operations in November last year through on what she starts, said — Kyodo News

US researchers find new bacteria that causes Lyme disease

ATLANTA — Researchers have discovered a new bacteria that causes Lyme disease in humans, a US health agency said Monday.

Researchers discovered Borrelia mayonii after studying blood samples of patients in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota who were suspected of having Lyme disease from 2012-2014, the CDC said. Samples from six out of 9,000 patients showed “unusual results” and prompted further study, the health agency said.

The newly discovered bacteria is similar to Borrelia burgdorferi in that it initially causes fever, headache, rash, and neck pain and later arthritis associated with Lyme disease, according to the CDC.

KOBÉ — A Japanese man in his 50s has died after receiving a living-donor liver transplant at a Kobe hospital last month, raising to seven the number of fatalities among patients suspected of having Lyme disease.

The man received part of his sister’s liver at the Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre and died in December, the sources said. Reeling from the revelation last April concerning the high number of fatalities among its liver transplant recipients, the medical institution, which opened in November 2014, suspended medical operations in November last year and has pulled out of a Singapore clinic and a project in Indonesia as well.

Sierra Leone discharges last known Ebola patient

Sierra Leone was first declared free of Ebola in November before Jalloh’s case emerged and raised fears of a new upsurge. Health experts expressed concern that many of the routine procedures established to contain the virus were not carried out in her case.

Dozens of people who may have come into contact with Jalloh before she died remain missing, and the health ministry has urged them to come forward. That effort has been hampered by fear and suspicion in local communities.

“The will be no punitive action against them and we will treat them if they are sick,” Tunis said.—Reuters

FREETOWN — Sierra Leone’s last known Ebola patient has been released from hospital, medical officials said on Monday, allowing authorities to begin a six-week countdown before declaring the West African country free of the virus once more.

38-year-old Memunatu Kalokoh was discharged from hospital on Friday, said Col Sahr Foday, the head of the Sierra Leone Army Medical Unit where she was admitted.

Kalokoh is the aunt of Mariatu Jalloh, the 21-year-old student who died of the virus last month in Freetown, the country’s capital. The case triggered a country-wide hunt for the region Ebola-free. The case triggered a country-wide hunt for the virus, which killed more than 11,300 people in two years, mostly in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

A health worker wearing protective gear stands outside a quarantine zone in a Red Cross facility in the town of Koidu, Kono District in Eastern Sierra Leone in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

A deer tick, or blacklegged tick, Ixodes scapularis, is seen on a blade of grass, in this undated picture from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. PHOTO: REUTER

But Borrelia mayonii adds nausea, vomiting and widespread muscle and joint pain, and causes a higher concentration of bacteria in the blood, the CDC said.

There are an estimated 300,000 cases of Lyme disease in the US annually, according to the CDC. The disease is rarely fatal, and most patients recover after a few weeks of oral antibiotics, the agency said.

The patients infected with the new bacteria were treated successfully with the same antibiotics used for those with Borrelia burgdorferi, the CDC said.

It is too early to say whether the newly discovered bacteria will be more or less dangerous than Borrelia burgdorferi, said Jeanine Petersen, a CDC microbiologist.

“We have fairly limited information in that our study described six patients,” she told Reuters. “We need more patients in order to capture the full spectrum of those who might have less severe symptoms and those who might have more severe ones.”

It is likely that the bacteria is a “recently emerged” organism since it did not appear in previous, extensive testing of blood samples of patients suspected of having Lyme disease, Peterson added.—Reuters
Spanish King Felipe arrives for a meeting at Zarzuela palace in Madrid, Spain, on 28 January. Photo: Reuters

Politics, princess’s trial cast Spain’s King Felipe in testing role

MADRID — Sympathy for the Spanish monarchy is in short supply among the spectators heading into a theatre in Madrid’s edgy Lavapies district, where an irreverent look at the former King Juan Carlos’ fall from grace is playing to sell-out audiences.

His son and successor, King Felipe VI, who is trying to steer the crown through a period of sweeping change in Spain, also gets faint praise from the crowd. The play, called “El Rey” (the King), is billed as a fresh look at the monarchy’s place over the past 40 years and questions whether Juan Carlos really had a useful role in shaping modern Spain. It is less than flattering. Felipe, 48, took over the throne in June 2014 after his father abdicated following a series of embarrassing episodes. He is now facing his biggest test yet after the most fractured election result in decades left Spain without a clear government and thrust him into the role of broker between political parties. At the same time, his sister Princess Cristina is standing trial on fraud charges, the first time a Spanish royal has been put before a criminal court. The new king’s attempts to draw a line under the family scandals and modernise the monarchy have restored some of its popularity but scored few points with the theatre crowd in a neighbourhood known for its leftist roots.

“I suppose that given he is from a new generation, that he married a journalist, he might have a different attitude,” said Jose Antonio Ortega, a retired theatre director waiting in the crowded bar to take his seat in El Teatro del Barrio. But Ortega doubted whether Felipe had any scope to bring change to an institution he sees as an anachronism. Others Spaniards may have embraced the monarchy’s fresher, more frugal image under Felipe in the 18 months he has reigned. A poll in June 2015 showed a record 61.5 per cent approved of the parliamentary monarchy system, more than at the height of Juan Carlos’ popularity.

Felipe has also managed to build up the type of personal following his father once enjoyed, with approval ratings of nearly 75 per cent. Juan Carlos was at one time revered, largely for his role in smoothing Spain’s transition from dictatorship to democracy and in particular in foiling a coup attempt on 13 February, 1981, when heavily-armed civil guards took over the parliament.

But a series of gaffes in recent years, including a luxurious elephant-hunting trip to Botswana in 2012 at a time of severe economic hardship for many Spaniards, eroded a huge amount of support for the royals.—Reuters

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Construction, Department of Highways

(Invitation for Prequalification)

Date: 92 February 2016
Loan Agreement No: MY-P6
IPF No: my-P6/JICA/JCB/PQ/15-16/0001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (GOM) has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the Procurement of Civil Works Contractor for Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase II. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.

2. The Ministry of Construction (the Employer) intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for the Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase II (Access Road Project). The Project comprises of the following components:

- Reconstruction/widening of the current single carriageway (2-lane road) to double carriageways (4-lane road) with median with a total length of 8.7km.
- Relocation of the existing overhead/underground power lines (0.4kV, 6.6kV, 11kV and 33kV) to the underground about 45 km linear length.
- Reconstruction/widening of the current single carriageway (2-lane road) to double carriageways (4-lane road) with median with a total length of 8.7km.
- Relocation of the existing overhead/underground communication lines (copper and optical fiber cables) to the underground about 51 km linear length in total.

3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in May 2016.

4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans (April 2012).

5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the address given below, from 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m., on the submission of a written Application to the address below.

6. The complete set of the PQ Documents are available in CD-ROM and will be obtained free-of-charge by interested Applicant(s) from 9 to 19 February 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below.

7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below on 28 and 29 March 2016, from 10.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. Myanmar local time and be clearly marked “Application for Prequalification for Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase II (Access Road Project).

U Win Pe
Director General
Director General’s Office, Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Building No. (11), Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: +67-407074, 067-407603, 095312243, 095070469, Email: winpe81@gmail.com, copy to: khinchat57@gmail.com, kyikyithe@gmail.com, easterly@eimy@gmail.com

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(2 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-074(15-16)</td>
<td>600 Series Well Head Equipment &amp; Accessories (2 Sets)</td>
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<td>900 Series Well Head Equipment &amp; Accessories (1 Set)</td>
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<td>Mud Agitator Unit with (15KW) Motor</td>
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<td>Spares for GM 8V-71 Engine Ex Cementing Unit (21) Items</td>
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<td>Spares for Drawwork and Catwork(28)Items</td>
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<td>Adaptors, Flanges and Gate Valves(24)Items</td>
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<td>(9)</td>
<td>IFB-082(15-16)</td>
<td>Rig Floor Handling Accessories(28)Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<td>(10)</td>
<td>IFB-083(15-16)</td>
<td>Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit</td>
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<td>(11)</td>
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<td>Low Bed Trailer (50 Ton) (2) Nos</td>
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<td>(12)</td>
<td>DMP/L-013(15-16)</td>
<td>Generator (18KVA) with Diesel Engine</td>
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<td>(13)</td>
<td>DMP/L-014(15-16)</td>
<td>95mm Cable, 1 Core, Aerial Bundle Cable, AL / XLPE (3500) Meters</td>
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<td>DMP/L-015(15-16)</td>
<td>10 HP Induction Motor Complete with Motor Starter (10) Sets</td>
<td>KS</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time - 9 - 3 - 2016, 16:30 Hrs
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 10th February, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67-411097/411206

Ministry of Energy
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender (1/2016)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars (CIF Yangon) and Myanmar Kyats (MPPE Warehouse Yangon).

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<td>200 GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time - 9 - 3 - 2016, 12:00 Hrs
Tender documents are available at our office starting from 8 - 2 - 2016 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone: +967-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
ON BOARD THE AGIOS EFSTRATIOS, (Greece) — They waved, cheered and let out sighs of relief as their rubber boat, packed with dozens of mainly Syrian and Afghan refugees, approached the Greek coast guard ship that would rescue them at open sea near the island of Lesbos.

After being pulled aboard one by one, the men, women, and children staggered, exhausted and relieved, to the boat’s rear, where they huddled alongside strangers on Monday and waited quietly to be transported to the shore.

They were among more than 300 people, including scores of children and babies, rescued in under two hours from six rubber dinghies by the Greek vessel Agios Efstratios, patrolling near the Turkish border.

By early afternoon, more than 1,500 refugees and migrants reached the eastern Aegean island, a sharp rise in the rate of arrivals from Turkey after days of gale force winds and freezing temperatures. Over a million people fleeing war, persecution and poverty in the Middle East and Africa have taken rickety boats across the Mediterranean to Europe since early last year. Over 50,000 people have arrived in Greece in 2016, the United Nations’ refugee agency, UNHCR, says.

Thousands have died trying to reach Europe, and on Monday alone 27 migrants, 11 of them children, drowned off Turkey’s Aegean coast as they tried to reach a Greek island, the Turkish coast guard said.

“We left from death,” said 28-year-old Esma, face framed by a cream-coloured headscarf, who fled fighting in Syria’s biggest city of Aleppo with her two children, hoping to reunite with her husband in Germany.

Sitting nearby, young girls consoled their crying siblings, one mother breastfed her hungry infant, while another woman kissed a copy of the Koran and held it up to her forehead.

For most on board, the hardest and most dangerous part of their journey will end once they reach Greece and continue their trek through the Balkans to wealthier northern Europe.

Eighteen-year-old English student Siba, who fled the Syrian city of Deir al-Zor, said her family spent 25 days trying to cross into Turkey from different entry points and five days on the Turkish coast, unable to board their boat to Greece because of choppy seas and storms.

“Past what drove them to leave Syria, she imitated the sound of explosions and said: “Our house is finished... My uncle is dead. He died in front of my eyes. His head was cut,” she said.

Others spoke with sorrow of being forced to leave their homes. Mustafa, a 24-year-old mathematics student, also from Syria, said he longed for the time that refugees would be able to return safely to their country.

“No one wants to go. All the people want is to go back to Syria. If the war (ends), everyone will go to Syria and build the country,” he said.—Reuters
Academy Award winner Sofia Coppola to direct first opera in Rome

ROME — Academy Award winner Sofia Coppola will make her operatic debut in May, directing a new production of Giuseppe Verdi’s romantic tragedy “La Traviata,” Rome’s opera house said on Monday.

Coppola, who won the gold statuette for the screenplay of the 2003 film “Lost in Translation,” was invited to direct the production by its patron, fashion designer Valentino Garavani, the Teatro dell’Opera di Roma said in a statement.

Garavani asked the American film director and producer to swap screen for stage after watching her 2006 historical drama “Marie Antoinette,” in which

Rihanna’s ‘Anti’ scores Billboard 200 top spot

NEW YORK — Rihanna’s new album, “Anti,” officially took the top spot on the Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, a week after 1 million giveaway copies made it ineligible for Billboard consideration.

“Anti,” sold 166,000 units, comprising album and song sales and streaming activity, in its second week of release, according to figures from Nielsen Soundscan.

That was enough to unseat Adele’s “25” from the No.1 spot, while American rapper Kevin Gates’ debut album, “Ihah,” took second place with 112,000 units sold.

“Anti,” Rihanna’s eighth album, was released on 27 January exclusively on online music platform Tidal. Through a deal with Samsung, a million copies were offered free to fans who signed up for Tidal membership, making “Anti” ineligible for Billboard charts rankings in the first week, since Billboard does not count sales of albums priced under $3.49.

British band Coldplay’s “A Head Full of Dreams” got a chart week to see the chart impact of their performance on the most-watched annual TV event in the United States.

The only other Billboard 200 debuts were from Australian indie pop singer Sia, whose “This Is Acting” album landed at No.4, and American YouTube star Charlie Puth, whose first studio album, “Nine Track Mind,” came in at No.6.

On the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, former One Direction singer Zayn Malik beat Drake to the top spot with 267,000 downloads for his “Pillowtalk” release.

Beyonce to go on world tour from 27 April

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Beyonce has announced that she would embark on the “Formation” world tour from April.

The North American trek is scheduled to open on 27 April at Marlins Park in Miami, FL and hit stadiums across the country including Santa Clara, CA’s Levi’s Stadium where the Super Bowl game took place.

Beyonce, 34, will also visit Toronto, Detroit and New York until mid-June before starting the European leg later that month.

The “Formation” tour marks Beyonce’s first solo tour since 2011’s “Mrs Carter Show World Tour” which spanned two years and brought her to five continents.

Prior to this, she and husband Jay-Z joined forces for the “On the Run” tour.

Tickets for Beyonce’s upcoming North American shows go on sale 16 February.—PTI

Hugh Jackman has another skin cancer growth removed

LOS ANGELES — “X-Men” star Hugh Jackman said on Monday he had another skin cancer growth removed from his nose, and urged people to wear sunscreen.

Jackman, 47, posted a photo to his Instagram account, showing a bandage across his nose. It was the Australian actor’s 5th known basal cell carcinoma removal since 2013.


Jackman, who also starred in the movie musical “Les Misérables,” has, in the past, attributed his condition to not having used sunscreen while growing up in Australia.

He now gets checkups every three months, and has launched a range of sunscreens for children.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer, affecting more than 90 per cent of US skin cancer patients. Such carcinomas rarely spread, but if not removed, may damage or disfigure the surrounding tissue.—Reuters
As China tourists tighten belt, retailers face unhappy New Year

SYDNEY/HONG KONG — Watching a lone browser in his Sydney Chinatown shop, Bing Chen is worried business is being squeezed this Lunar New Year by what’s ailing the world economy at large — the weakest Chinese economy in 25 years.

In years gone by, Chen would stay open until the wee hours, selling kangaroo skins and Australian wool to crowds of Chinese tourists. But as the Year of the Monkey begins, stores like Chen’s are seeing a drop in trade with newly budget-conscious Chinese either staying home or spending less.

“Our customers have halved,” said Chen, standing by neatly stacked shelves at his Sydney store. “We had to work by 2am and there were still customers buying things but not any till 2am and there were still customers buying things but not any more.”

While record numbers of Chinese are travelling outside the mainland — 109 million last year, according to researcher GfK — Chen’s fears echo data showing growth in tourist spending is dropping off quickly.

The China National Tourism Administration in December forecast 2015 outbound tourist spending at $194 billion, according to state media. That equates to per tourist spending growth of just 1.5 per cent, compared with a 16.5 per cent rise the previous year.

China’s slowing growth is also showing up in weaker tourism spending much closer to home than Sydney.

In Hong Kong, visits from the mainland were down 15.5 per cent in December, compared to the year earlier, according to the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

Streets in Sheung Wan District, lined with stores selling dried seafood and various tonics, are quiet rather than bustling. Shop owner Lin Ying Jui says trade for his abalone, edible dried seafood and various tonic drinks, are quiet rather than bustling. Shop owner Lin Ying Jui says trade for his abalone, edible birds nests and natural medicines is the worst in decades.

“I have been here for around 20 to 30 years, this year’s business performance is the worst,” said Lin Ying Jui.

Fueling growth in the overall number of Chinese tourists is a new breed of younger, independent travellers from the mainland. Countries like Australia are investing in targeting that market, and more than 100,000 Chinese nationals applied for visas to visit Australia in January alone, a record for a single month.

But numbers of large, elderly tour groups are dwindling in Sydney’s Chinatown. How much they and others will spend over the Lunar New year remains to be seen, and traders are bracing for customers being picky where they once were spendthrift.

“Price is extremely important,” said Chenchao Zhuang, chief executive of Chinese travel platform Qunar Cayman Islands Ltd. “Consumers will have a wish-list of places, and wherever has the deepest discounts, that’s where they’ll go.”

Back in Sydney’s Chinatown, shop owner Anna Liu said Chinese tourists — her target customers — “wouldn’t even haggle” in the past as they bought handfuls of vitamins, honey and kangaroo and shark extract products.

“They are more reluctant to spend their money now,” Liu said. “They are more careful, they look up the prices online before they come to compare.” —Reuters

Nearly 112 million watch Super Bowl 50 on TV, below record

DALLAS — A lock of singer John Lennon’s hair is expected to sell for more than $10,000 when it is sold at auction later this month.

Heritage Auctions, which is selling the hair of the late singer, said it was clipped and saved by a hairdresser in Germany in 1966. “To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest lock of Lennon’s hair ever sold at auction,” the auction house said in a statement.

The sale, which will be held on 20 February, will include other items linked to the Beatles.—Reuters
Chelsea’s Zouma faces six months out after knee surgery

LONDON — Chelsea’s French defender Kurt Zouma will be out for six months after surgery on a knee injury suffered at the weekend, the Premier League champions said on Monday.

The prognosis means the 21-year-old is ruled out for the rest of the season and will also miss the European championship finals in his home country, which open with France playing Romania in Paris on 10 June.

The injury came just as Chelsea, whose hopes of retaining their domestic title are effectively over after a poor campaign, prepare to play Paris St Germain next week in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Chelsea said the centre back, who has made a big impression this season, injured his anterior cruciate ligament when he fell awkwardly in the 1-1 draw against Manchester United at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

“Kurt will undergo surgery in the next 48 hours and is expected to be out for approximately six months,” the west Londoners said on their website (www.chelseafc.com).

Zouma has been on the fringes of his national team ahead of Euro 2016, earning his first cap last March and playing twice. He has made 32 appearances for Chelsea.

Since Guus Hiddink replaced sacked manager Jose Mourinho in December, he has started every game.

“I will have surgery this week & will come back strongly. Thank you everyone for all the messages,” the player said on Twitter.

His absence could mean more regular starts for reportedly unsettled defender Gary Cahill, while the club might also want to re-consider the future of captain John Terry, who said recently he was not getting a new contract.

England international Cahill had fallen behind Zouma in the pecking order and was growing concerned about the lack of playing time impacting on his Euro 2016 ambitions.

Chelsea are at home to relegation-threatened Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday.—Reuters

Matsuyama wins Phoenix Open for 2nd US tour title

SCOTTSDALE — Hideki Matsuyama defeated American Rickie Fowler in a four-hole play-off to claim victory at the Phoenix Open on Sunday.

After finishing off the final round with a bogey-free 67 for a 14-under 270 total and a share of the lead in regulation, Matsuyama two-putted for par on the fourth extra hole while Fowler shot a ball into the water at the TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course.

“My form wasn’t at its best. It was a tough match but I was given a chance when Rickie missed No. 17,” Matsuyama said of Fowler’s bogey on the par-4 17th.

“My birdie putt on the 18th hole (in the final round) was the best putt of my entire career. I’m so glad to have won in front of a large crowd. Winning a second title was my goal for the year.”

While Matsuyama is well-liked by fans, he was overshadowed by Fowler’s popularity with the crowds that totalled over 618,000 in four days.

“Ninety-nine per cent were not supporting me. That made me want to win even more,” said Matsuyama, a four-place finisher here in 2014, who missed a 16-foot putt a year ago that would have forced a playoff. On Sunday, Matsuyama, whose putt has rarely been kind to him, birdied from 17 feet on the final hole before Fowler sank a 10-foot birdie to force the playoff. “I was conflicted, but I thought if I hit it straight, it might go in so I firmly struck it,” Matsuyama said. “I didn’t feel anxious at all in the playoff.” The loss was a bitter playoff for Fowler, whose maternal grandfather, Yutaka Tanaka — the man who introduced him to golf at the age of six — was in attendance. Tanaka had not seen his grandson win before. “I mean, the hard part is having, you know, all my friends and family and grandfather who haven’t seen me win,” said Fowler, whose middle name is Yutaka and who has his grandfather’s name tattooed on his left arm.

The victory moved up Matsuyama from 19th last week to a career-best 12th in the rankings. The 23-year-old posted his second win on the PGA Tour and first since June 2014. Matsuyama became the second Japanese player to win more than one tournament in the United States after Shigeki Maruyama, who had three titles by 2003.—Kyodo News

Messi undergoes tests for kidney problems

LONDON — Barcelona striker Lionel Messi is expected to play in Wednesday’s King’s Cup semi-final against Valencia despite missing training on Monday to have tests on his kidneys, the La Liga club said.

“Barcelona striker Lionel Messi will undergo several tests on Monday and Tuesday to assess the evolution of the kidney problems he suffered last December,” Barcelona said in a statement on their website (www.fcbarcelona.com). “Messi will return to his normal duties with the first team on Wednesday.”

The Argentina international missed his team’s FIFA Club World Cup semi-final in December as he was suffering from renal colic, a type of abdominal pain often caused by kidney stones.

Despite the problem, he played in the final three days later and has also played in all of Barcelona’s league games since.

Barcelona visit Valencia in the second leg of their King’s Cup semi-final on Wednesday. The La Liga leaders take a 7-0 lead into the match.—Reuters

Confident Arsenal hopes to stifle Leicester charge

LONDON — Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey hopes the North London club can choke Leicester City’s unexpected Premier League title charge after picking up their first win in five matches on Sunday’s 2-0 win over Bournemouth. Arsene Wenger’s men, who are third in the table after 25 games, host the table-topping Foxes on Sunday seeking to reduce the gap between the two sides to two points.

Arsenal were tipped to win their fourth league title under Wenger when they started 2016 on top of the league, however, they went off the boil in January, winning just one of their four league games that month.

“It was important to bounce back from the results we have had of late. So it was important to stay in touching distance of Leicester,” Ramsey told British media.

“What they have done this season is quite remarkable but we have got to be right on it to get all three points. It was important to win at Bournemouth.

“Hopefully now we can take this away momentum and come away with a victory against Leicester as well. We are in a good position now and hopefully we can maintain this.”

The importance of the clash was not lost on young right back Hector Bellerin, who has urged his team mates not to be overwhelmed by the occasion and just focus on picking up three points.

“It doesn’t matter who you play, you need to get the three points. Obviously, this will be one of the more important ones but we need to play it like any other game,” the 20-year-old said.—Reuters