Five killed in Air Force plane crash

AN Air Force aircraft crashed at 9:45am yesterday morning near Nay Pyi Taw airport, killing five people.

The mid-sized Beech-1900 D Type crashed while conducting a regular flight check. The aircraft crashed into a field between Thegon and Kyangin villages in Lewe Township, 2,000 feet from the northern end of the runway of Nay Pyi Taw Airport. The plane crashed killed a major, who was the pilot; two captains, who were the co-pilots; and one squadron sergeant, who was a crew member, on the spot. A lance corporal, also a crew member, was injured in the crash and later succumbed to the injuries at the Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw around 12pm.

A fault-finding mission is inspecting the plane’s Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR) to investigate the plane crash.—Myanmar News Agency

SME Dept looks to support toddy-palm beverage

"Manufacturers have to own machines for processing the value-added products. It is important to have the markets for their products."

According to the department, works are underway to have access to the international market for the value-added toddy-palm beverages and crafts.

In the ASEAN region, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Philippines are exporting toddy-palm drinks and alcoholic beverages to the international market.

In Myanmar, such production based on toddy-palm is seen on a manageable scale in the central part of the country where NyaungU and Kyaunkpadaung produce 1000 tons of jiggery a year contributing 60 per cent to the country’s consumption.

According to locals, those who earn a living in toddy-palm business have moved to other towns to find new jobs due to impact of low toddy-palm product price on their livelihoods.

With the aim of developing value-added toddy-palm products in Myanmar, the department conducted paper-reading sessions and workshops involving faculty members and experts in Yangon and Bagan recently.

Environmentalists suggested that country’s green economy and environmental conservation be realized by improving livelihoods of toddler-palm farmers.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Joint Bill Committee, forms two other parliamentary committees

The second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s first regular session entered its third day, approving the Joint Bill Committee and forming the Joint Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Scrutinising Hluttaw Representatives yesterday.

First, Dr Sai Hseng Kyaw Hsam of Shan State Constituency 6 clarified formation, duties and the functions of the Joint Public Accounts Committee.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha announced that the Joint Public Accounts Committee is set to comprise 15 members involving Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung as the chairman and U Saw Than Hlut of Kayin State Constituency 2 and U Aung Min of Zalana Constituency as the vice-chairmen, Dr Sai Hseng Kyaw Hsam of Shan State Constituency 6 as the secretary and U Khin Maung Than of Toungoo Constituency as the joint secretary.

Then, U Min Oo of Bago Region Constituency 6 elaborated on formation and duties and functions of the Committee on Scrutinising Hluttaw Representatives.

The Speaker than informed parliamentarians of the committee which is also set to be formed with 15 members led by Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyay Thasun Constituency as the chairman and U Min Oo of Bago Region Constituency 6 as the secretary.

Next, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the 15-member Joint Bill Committee headed by Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung together with vice-chairmen U Zaw Min of Sagaing Region Constituency 6 and U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein of Nawin Kioo Constituency, Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 3, Joint Secretary U Stephen of Kenpengg Constituency and members Daw Khin Htay Kywe of Chaungzon Constituency, U Kyaw Soe Lin of Pyigyi Tagan Constituency, U Wai Hlaing Tun of Pathein Constituency, U Khin Maung Win of Lammadaw Constituency, Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Siruge Maung Maung, U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region Constituency 4, U Thein Lwin of Kachin State Constituency 10, Daw Kyein Ngaik Man of Chin State Constituency 7, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State Constituency 2 and U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State Constituency 4.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s fourth day session continues today. — Myanmar News Agency

Results of Mingalar Zay inspections to be submitted to YCDC in second week of Feb

The report on the results of inspections to the endurance of the Mingalar Zay market, located in Yangon’s Mingalar Taung Nyunt township, which suffered fire damage will be submitted to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) during the second week of February according to the Myanmar Engineers Association (MEA).

Inspections on the Mingalar Zay market, which caught ablaze on 9 January, by the MEA began on 28 January. The YCDC will then make a decision based upon the results of the inspections as to whether to construct a new market building or to make maintenance and repair to the existing fire damaged structure.

“The two floors above the floor which was burnt out can’t be used for anything anymore. There’s no way it can be used. The iron structural supports have been bent by the heat of the fire. We are making thorough inspections.” said U Nyunt Mang San, executive of the MEA.

The YCDC will loan out K1,000 million to shops that were affected by the blaze, while of those 1,636 stores which suffered fire damage over 800 have submitted applications for the financial loans, said U San Shwe Htun head of the YCDC’s department of markets. — Myitnakha News Agency

Indian International Fleet Review for 2016 conducted

The Indian Navy conducted their International Fleet Review (IFR-16) off Visakhapatnam from 4 to 08 Feb. A Fleet Review is a traditional maritime practice wherein the country’s Head of State of India inspects the Naval Fleet.

In India it is a practice to conduct a Fleet Review once in the five year term of the President. This year the Review was special in that it included participation not only by Indian warships but also by those from foreign countries.

In all 22 warships from foreign navies were present amongst the 70 warships that were ceremonially inspected by the Honorable President of the Republic of India, H.E Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 6 Feb. A flypast by 45 naval aircraft was also undertaken during the Fleet Review.

The International Fleet Review 2016 was able to bring together navies from around the globe and signified the common desire to promote peace, harmony and co-operation on the ‘global commons’, as the oceans are also referred to.

In addition to the ships, 23 Heads of Navy were also present at Visakhapatnam with another 26 sending a delegation. In this manner, IFR 16 saw representation from 50 foreign navies from around the world.

Vice Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Navy, attended IFR 16 and had successful meetings with H.E Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of the Republic of India, H.E H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, important Cabinet ministers and Adm RK Dhowan, Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy.

UMS King Aung Zeya was also present for the Review. The presence of the marching contingent from the Myanmar Navy that participated in the City Parade on 7 February was witnessed by the Prime Minister of India and other attendees.

Besides the Review by the President, several other activities like the International Maritime Seminar, International Maritime Conference, Cultural Show, International City Parade, International Band Concert and Operational Demonstration were conducted from 4 to 8 February. —GNLM

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Water could become a scarce resource in Myanmar

CERTAIN divisional regions and states are at risk of experiencing water scarcity, especially the arid zone of upper Myanmar, in Shan State and around the delta area according to the Forestry Department who have called on the government to pursue policy which would protect against such a problem.

“Each and every one of us are responsible for storing rain water in the reservoirs”, said U Hlaing Tun of the Forestry Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

“To ensure sufficiency of water, we need to plant more trees. The government should also cease to permit coal industry activities”, said Dr. Tun Lwin, a Meteorological Scientist.

“The diminishing water supply can be attributed to the indiscriminate felling of trees, ultimately leading to global warming”, he added.

In 2010 Myanmar faced a water scarcity crisis. The departments concerned, particularly the Yangon City Development Committee, are required to ensure a sufficient supply of water by overseeing and improving the sourcing and distribution of water. — Ko Moe
Mandalay rental rates shoot up

ACCORDING to real estate brokers in Mandalay, there has been a distinct increase in the price of rentals in the city over the last three years due to a rise in the number of business entrepreneurs and workers from the countryside descending upon the city in search of employment.

The average price of rental properties in Mandalay in 2013 ranged between K100,000 and K800,000, whereas now, the pricing spectrum has shifted to between K200,000 and K1 million.

“Depending on the location, it’s rare to find a ground-floor flat in the city for less than K200,000 a month. Prices are slowly going up year upon year. Homeowners are also increasing the prices of their properties by around 10 per cent each year,” said Ko Htet Hpi, a Mandalay real estate broker.

A ground-floor apartment located near Mandalay University, the central train station or the moat of the Mandalay Palace can cost between K500,000 and K1.2 million per month, with a first-floor property going for considerably less at K300,000 per month. Properties on the edge of town are more affordable at around K200,000, but they are hard to fill, say real estate brokers.

“Rental properties in the centre of the city are narrow, but those who can afford them will rent them anyway. There’s a great proliferation of working-class people renting outside the perimeters of the city,” said Ko Aung Htau, another real estate broker.

In a similar manner to rising rental prices within the city, a trend is present in areas outside Mandalay, such as in Ayyar Htn and sections of the New City housing area, where a month’s rent in the past was once K40,000 but now costs K60,000.

“The New City is spacious. Properties with bamboo walls incur monthly rents in the tens of thousands, and brick-walled properties in the hundreds of thousands. The prices are increasing year after year. For my house, for example, I paid K30,000 a month when I first started renting and am now paying double that,” said Ko Gyo Thar, a real estate broker from the New City.

Local residents say the government must provide affordable rental housing to those who cannot afford housing in the increasingly expensive city. —Myitmakha News Agency

Low-cost Housing for Shwe Lin Pan Workers 95% complete

LOW-cost housing for employees of the Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone are targeted for completion by February. A 6-year housing project is more effective than just giving plots of land to the workers. The apartment buildings can accommodate 7,200 people.

About 95 per cent of the project is finished now. There will be 1,440 flats in total”, said U Nyunt Win, leader of the housing project.

The construction of 720 apartments will be completed at the end of February. Workers will be able to live at the site starting from May when electricity and water supply is available.

The project has operated under the supervision of Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone Management Committee and five Construction Companies. — Thau Hseik

Migrants rescued from jail by Myanmar Association in Thailand

MYANMAR migrant workers in Thailand, who were arrested and put under the custody of Thailand’s Mahachai Police Station, were rescued by the Myanmar Association in Thailand (MAT) on Monday.

Four migrants, including a young girl, were seized by Thai police on the same day.

“We brought all of the migrants out of custody after paying fines of 1,000 Thai baht for Maung Soe Paing, 5,000 baht for Ma Khin Zaw and 1,000 baht for Zaw Min Oo.”

On the morning of 8 February, Thai authorities seized passport holder Tun Zaw Aung, 31, and pink identification card holder Maung Soe Paing, 26, who visited the former’s residence in Mahachai, a Thai port town, from Banfe in Samupkan District. The two migrants were arrested while waiting for the bus back to Banfe. Police said Maung Soe Paing was arrested for illegally traveling from Mahachai from Banfe.

Likewise, 19-year-old Ma Khin Zaw and 20-year-old Zaw Min Oo were also arrested by police while they waited for a bus near Mahachai Market in order to go back their home in Banfeay that same day.

Thai police elaborated on their investigation of the case, saying they arrested Ma Khin Zaw, who was found in possession of documents related to an illegal three-digit lottery, and Zaw Min Oo, who was unable to produce a work permit.

The four migrants immediately made contact with the MAT to ask for assistance.

Migrants who face violations of their rights as workers in Thailand may dial 084 6705727 and 080 588 5548 to reach the Myanmar Association in Thailand. —Soe Win

Monogamy case unfolds in Yangon

A VIOLATION of the monogamy law was reported when one Ma Kay Thwe Soe from Taikkyi filed a complaint against her husband Ko Thawda Phyo Wai Lwin, who is reportedly living with another woman, according to the Yangon Region Police Force.

Ko Thawda Phyo Wai Lwin legally married Ma Kay Thwe Soe, a final year student specialising in Myanmar at Western University, on 16th December. He left her on 29th December saying that he had found work as a driver at the Global Art School, according to the report of the Yangon Region Police Force.

Foreign investment in Dawei drives up land and rental prices

THE arrival of foreign investment enterprises into the capital of Myanmar’s southern Tanintharyi Region, Dawei, has caused the price of land and housing rentals to increase, according to those involved in the local real estate businesses.

There has been a slow rise in prices within the Dawei real estate market since 2012, but the arrival of foreign investors to the sleepy southern town during this year has accelerated that trend.

“Land prices have been creeping up for three or four years. But this year, the resurfacing of roads within the town and the arrival of Chinese and Thai construction enterprises have seen a distinct hike in the price of land,” said U Ba Myint, a local property agent.

The rental market in Dawei back in 2012 was almost non-existent. Four years on however, and the market is showing signs of business opportunities.

“There was nearly nothing to the housing rental market [in Da- wei] before. Starting from the end of 2014 though we got distinctly more business. And now, with a good road connecting the town with Yangon, we are sure to see an onslaught of business folk arriving in the town,” said Ko Soe, a local real estate broker.

With such a poor housing rental market in Dawei in the past, the majority of rentals were for spaces in shared dormitories. Just like the price of land along Htun and Ye roads, along the left hand side of the main thoroughfare though the town would fetch approximately K7 million back in 2013, whereas the current price for the same land is going for over K10 million. Of apartment rentals, while a few years ago an apartment would cost around K45,000 a month, they are now priced at over double that rate.

According to those involved in local tourism enterprises, this year has also seen a surge in foreign tourists visiting Dawei.

Construction on the Dawei deep sea port project by a Thai-Italian firm, which is believed will be the largest industrial zone in South East Asia, has been put on hold since 2013 but the arrival of foreign investors into the town which are connected to the project has had an impact on the local property market. —Myitmakha News Agency

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Iranian counterpart

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2016. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Iranian Foreign Minister

U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2016. —Myanmar News Agency
**Women’s walking race aims to raise awareness of iron deficiency**

A WOMEN’S walking race will take place in mid-February, with the aim of promoting awareness of anaemia, a common health problem for women.

Organised by the Ministry of Sports in cooperation with an iron supplement manufacturer, the event will run on 14 February at 5.30 a.m. at the National Indoor Stadium, No. 1 in Thangangyin Township in Yangon. This is the third time the organisers have held such an event in conjunction with a free medical examination, public health seminars and entertainment programmes.

“Anaemia is common in Myanmar women and it remains a major health problem,” said Dr Thin Maung Oo. The disease was found in women in Kayah, Shan and Rakhae states as well as Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions. According to the survey conducted in 2003 and 2005, seven in ten pregnant women were found to be anaemic.

Young females should eat iron-rich foods or take iron supplements to treat low levels of iron, the healthcare provider suggested. —Tin Sei (Myanma Alinn)

**1,000-year-old pagoda in Sagaing needs renovation**

The estimation is based on the Chaungsone-Nantmawgon Pagoda in the region which is over 800 years old, the elderly resident said. Currently, locals from those villages have conserved the ancient pagoda as much as they can. They are hoping local authorities will renovate the ancient site as quickly as possible. —Than Maung Lay (Kachinmye)

The pagoda is located in a village in Katha District in Sagaing Region, an ancient pagoda requires renovation, locals say.

According to a senior citizen from Mampin Village said; “The ancient pagoda was found in a quiet place situated 10 miles from Baआumawk Township.”

“It is believed that the pagoda is more than 1,000 years old.”

**12 buildings damaged by electric shortage on Maungmakan Beach**

The incident occurred around 3am on Monday.

Maungmakan Beach in Dawei District. Photo: Phyo Soe (Dawei)

AN electric shortage caused a fire that destroyed 12 buildings in Maungmakan village, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region. According to an investigation, the fire broke out because of a faulty transformer installed at Maungmakan Beach.

**Thief caught at Municipal market**

A WOMAN was arrested following a tip-off which stated that the suspect would be visiting a jewelry shop in Municipal market on Friday.

Ma Ohnma, 24, the owner of the jewelry shop said that Ma Khin Htar, 20, visited the shop and said she wanted to buy a necklace. When the shopkeeper showed a gold necklace, she snatched and ran away with it.

The people from the jewelry shop caught the culprit in the market and brought her to the police station.

**Waw farmers face watermelon woes**

“I guess the reason for decline in the price of watermelons this season. As most of the growers depend upon exports to China, they are suffering great losses on account of the steep drop in watermelon prices.” —Kyaw Zawyer (Magway)

**6,435 Yabba pills lead to arrests**

AUTHORITIES have seized 6,435 Yabba pills from a motorbike being driven by one Ma May Thant Zin Oo in Kaung Hmu Ton township on Friday. Acting on a tip-off at 3:50 a.m. at the National Indoor Stadium, No. 1 in Thangangyin Township in Yangon. This is the third time the organisers have held such an event in conjunction with a free medical examination, public health seminars and entertainment programmes.

The police have filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—Myanmar Police Force

**Heroin and Yabba seized**

A LOCAL, anti-drug squad discovered 286 grams of heroin on a motorbike being driven by one Yan Khite Phan on Kutkai-Ta Moe Nye road on Thursday.

Police also arrested one Woo Chan Kite, who followed Yan Khite Phan on another motorbike.

Similarly, members of the police searched a house owned by one Yin Htaik in Than Hlyin township and discovered 196 Yabba pills.

Local police further discovered 1,250 pills at another house owned by one Thin Tun alias U Kaung.

The police have filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—Myanmar Police Force

**Boy drowned in Sinpaungwe**

A BOY was drowned in Sinpaungwe township, Thayet, Magway on 7 February, according to Sinpaungwe police. According to an investigation, Ko Paing, 13, was carrying water near a pond, 150 feet wide and 11 feet high when he fell down into the pond and was drowned.—Kyaw Zawyer (Magway)

**Marijuana and knives seized in Dala**

A local police squad seized Marijuna, a mobile phone and money at a house in Sekmey ward, Dala township on Friday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched a house owned by Kyaw Min Htaik and found 428 grams of Marijuana, a mobile phone and K 34,900 earned through the sale of the drugs. Police also confiscate three knives and swords at the house. Charges have been filed under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—Maung Yin Oo (Dala)

**Watermelons. Photo: Phyo Ko Lin**

**Drop in watermelon prices.**

China, they are suffering great losses on account of the steep drop in watermelon prices.

**Waw farmers face watermelon woes**

““I guess the reason for decline in the price of watermelons this season. As most of the growers depend upon exports to China, they are suffering great losses on account of the steep drop in watermelon prices.” —Kyaw Zawyer (Magway)
Indonesia plans ‘big bang’ opening of economy to foreign investment

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Joko Widodo yesterday unveiled plans for a “big bang” loosening of restrictions on foreign investment in nearly 50 sectors of the economy to encourage competition.

Widodo’s proposal, which will ease rules in the e-commerce, retail, healthcare and movie industries, is the most far-reaching yet in a string of stimulus packages rolled out over the past six months to arrest a slowdown in growth. Southeast Asia’s largest economy which has been growing at its slowest pace in six years because of falling commodity prices and cooling growth in major trading partner China.

But Widodo told Reuters in an interview at the presidential palace he was very optimistic that growth would rebound to 5.3 per cent this year after a slide to 4.8 per cent in 2015.

His trade minister, Tom Lembong, told Reuters that the sweeping changes planned for the so-called “Negative Investment List” signalled a greater openness to foreign investment and would partly prepare the country for free trade agreements, including eventually the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). “We are seriously considering deregulation across the board, but focusing on e-commerce, healthcare, and creative industry,” Widodo said ahead of a cabinet discussion of the proposals.

“There are 49 sub-sectors (that will be affected) so in my opinion this is the big bang.”

Lembong said separately that retail was also among the sectors that would be opened up under the plan.

He said there would be an opening up to some degree in each of the 16 main sectors in the negative investment list, which include agriculture, forestry, energy, communication and transport. In some cases this would raise the limit on foreign investment stakes in companies from a minority to a majority.

The healthcare push which would open hospitals, clinics and laboratory services to foreign companies could bring a sea-change in a country where at present foreign medical professionals are not allowed to practice.

Indonesia has a long history of protectionism, and powerful vested interests have often stood in the way of trade and investment from abroad. The last revision to the negative list was done in 2014 and was seen by many as less investor-friendly. Widodo said that, so far, he has not faced any political backlash or resistance to deregulation steps he has taken.

“For me competition is very important,” he said. “If we have already launched our deregulation, the bureaucracy and the system must follow the new rules.”

Widodo’s meteoric rise from furniture businessman to president of the world’s third-largest democracy — and the first to come from outside the political or military establishment — was widely seen in 2014 as a watershed moment for Indonesia.

Supporters had predicted that the former governor of Jakarta would root out corruption, promote people based on merit rather than connections and create a vibrant economy.

Instead, as economic growth sagged last year, critics said he seemed out of his depth at times and struggling to get around politicians determined to preserve the status quo. A cabinet reshuffle last August, which brought inexperienced technocrats into his team, set a new tone. Since then Widodo’s administration has rolled out nine stimulus packages cutting red tape, offering tax breaks and loosening regulations.

Widodo said there were two prongs to his growth strategy: deregulation to create competition, efficiency and better services, and infrastructure development.

His government struggled last year to disburse funds for roads, ports and power stations and many critical infrastructure projects were hamstrung by bickering ministers and red tape. However, data released last week showed that investment growth picked up in the last quarter of the year thanks to rising public spending.

The central bank spurred growth prospects further last month by cutting interest rates for the first time in 11 months. Widodo said he would like to see rates even lower but said he could not force the hand of an independent central bank. — Reuters

SINGAPORE — The law and order situation in Singapore continues to be favourable, although there was a slight increase from 2014 due to a significant increase in online crimes, said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) yesterday.

Apart from online crimes, almost all crime categories registered a fall. Violent/serious property crimes and house-breaking and related crimes have dropped to the lowest levels in 20 years.

The number of unlicensed moneylending harassment cases continues to decline and is the lowest in 10 years, said MHA, while travel2living,” Arita Taxi President Shigetoshi Mieda said.— Kyodo News

Coffee-serving taxi gains popularity in southwestern Japan

SAGA (Japan) — A taxi serving coffee freshly brewed inside the vehicle for free has gained popularity among passengers since it began operating in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Saga last month.

The nine-seat “Barista Taxi” is equipped with a coffee machine beside the driver’s seat, and its driver serves all-you-can-drink coffee in local specialty Arita porcelain cups inside the vehicle.

The taxi, operated by Arita Taxi, provides service to groups of tourists to the area or locals travelling between Saga airport and the town of Arita with reservations, according to the company.

The taxi service was launched after Arita Taxi approached the local chamber of commerce and beverage maker Nestle Japan Ltd. with the plan around January last year, when the two parties were planning to make original Arita coffee cups, the company said. “We’d like to treat customers with the aroma of coffee and entertain them while travelling,” Arita Taxi President Shigetoshi Mieda said.—Kyodo News

Singapore’s crime number slightly increases

SINGAPORE — The law and order situation in Singapore continues to be favourable, although there was a slight increase from 2014 due to a significant increase in online crimes, said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) yesterday.

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The number of unlicensed moneylending harassment cases continues to decline and is the lowest in 10 years, said MHA.

The drug situation remains stable and the number of immigration offenders arrested continued to remain low.

There was also a decrease in fire incidents, with fire fatalities remaining low, under 0.1 per cent per 100,000 population in the last 10 years.

However, MHA also pointed out several trends that remain of concern. Online crimes rose sharply, especially scams, and this has been the trend since 2013, MHA noted.

The number of new drug abusers, in particular those aged below 30 years old, continued to rise. And the number of arrested habitués and employers of immigration offenders has also increased.

Unauthorised change of use of premises and illegal fire safety works continue to cause the highest number of fire safety violations.

“Our officers will continue their best to protect Singapore against terrorism, and the public can also play a major role by being alert to potential dangers and warning signs of terrorism.”

The ministry also noted that the Home Team is facing increasing work load in many areas, with the number of emergency ambulance calls increasing at a rate of about 5 per cent a year over the last five years. “This trend will worsen as our population continues to age,” the ministry said, asking the public to give their support and understanding.

“Our officers will continue to work round-the-clock to minimise inconvenience to the public and the highest priority of keeping Singapore and Singaporeans safe,” it said. — Xinhua

Arita Taxi President Shigetoshi Mieda sits inside the “Barista Taxi” in Arita, in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Saga on 8 February 2016. The nine-seat taxi has gained popularity among passengers as the driver serves coffee, freshly brewed inside the vehicle, in local specialty Arita porcelain cups for free. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
South Korea to suspend Kaesong industrial zone over North Korea actions

SEOUL — The South Korean government said yesterday it will completely suspend operations at the joint industrial zone in North Korea’s border city of Kaesong in response to Pyongyang’s recent long-range rocket launch and nuclear test. The announcement of South Korea’s unilateral sanction against North Korea came as the international community is discussing at the UN Security Council the adoption of an additional resolution against Pyongyang over the incidents.

JAKARTA — Indonesia’s president has been slated for Thursday, which, if true, would be the latest in a series of executions, purges or disappearances under its young leader.

The news comes amid heightened tension surrounding isolated North Korea after its fourth nuclear test, both in defiance of earlier UN Security Council resolutions.

South Korea is likely to keep the industrial zone closed until North Korea agrees to abandon its nuclear weapons and missile development programmes. If Pyongyang does not respond appropriately, the complex may close down.

Closure of the industrial zone, the last functioning inter-Korean joint project and a key source of hard currency for North Korea, is certain to further escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula. About 54,000 North Koreans are employed by about 120 South Korean companies operating factories in the zone, which opened in 2004 to combine South Korea’s capital and technology with North Korea’s cheap labour.

The North’s military leadership has been in a state of perpetual reshuffle since Kim Jong Un took power after the death of his father in 2011. He has changed his armed forces chief several times since then.

Some other high-ranking officials in the North have been absent from public view for extended periods, fueling speculation they may have been purged or removed, only to resurface.

—Reuters

North Korea executes army chief of staff — South Korean media

SEOUL — North Korea has executed its army chief of staff, Ri Yong Gil, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported yesterday, which, if true, would be the latest in a series of executions, purges or disappearances under its young leader.

The North rarely issues comments and it was not possible to independently verify the report. The North rarely issues public announcement related to purges or executions of high-level officials.

A rare official confirmation of a high-profile execution came after Jang Song Thae, leader Kim Jong Un’s uncle and the man who was once considered the second most powerful figure in the country, was executed for corruption in 2013.

In May last year, the North executed its defence chief by anti-aircraft gun at a firing range, the South’s spy agency said in a report to members of parliament.

—Reuters

Indonesian president may include new parties in next cabinet reshuffle

JAKARTA — Indonesia’s President Joko Widodo said yesterday he may consider including members of new political parties in his cabinet in a future reshuffle.

“IT is in process,” Widodo told Reuters in an interview at the presidential palace, adding that erstwhile opposition parties like Golkar, which is also the country’s second-biggest, may be featured in a new lineup.

Several former opposition parties like Golkar and the National Mandate Party (PAN) have pledged their support for the government in recent months.

Only one party, failed presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto’s Gerinda, remains in opposition.

Widodo’s last reshuffle in August was aimed boosting investor sentiment in Southeast Asia’s biggest economy and was seen to be largely free of political interference from his backing coalition.

Six cabinet ministers were replaced in that reshuffle including the chief economics and trade ministers.

—Reuters

Indian school declares holiday after 3 leopards stray into campus

NEW DELHI — In a bizarre incident, a school in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru Wednesday declared a holiday after three leopards had been spotted near its campus.

A forest department official said that the first leopard was spotted straying into the Vibgyor school premises Sunday, while the other two were found near its campus Tuesday evening.

“Efforts are on to track down the other two leopards and nab them,” the official said, adding residents of nearby areas have been asked to remain alert.

—Xinhua

Pakistani-American’s testimony in Mumbai terror attacks case called off

NEW DELHI — A Pakistani-American’s testimony in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks case before a special Indian court via video link from the US was cancelled yesterday, following a technical glitch.

David Coleman Headley, who is currently serving a prison term of 35 years in the United States for conspiring with the banned Pakistani terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba and Pakistani spies in plotting the Mumbai massacre, has been deposting before the special court in Mumbai since Monday.

However, the video link could not be established for over three hours this morning, following which the testimony from an undisclosed location in the US had to be called off and has been slated for Thursday.

There were technical problems from America. There was no visual link, only an audio link. We tried again and again but every effort failed. Our lines were working but American experts failed,” Ujjwal Nikam, special Indian public prosecutor, told the media.

“The US Department of Justice informed us that they regretted that the hearing could not be established for the government in recent months.

—Xinhua

Chinese disabled artists perform during an event to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 8 February 2016.
**Border fences will not stop migrants heading to Europe – think-tank**

LONDON — Efforts by European countries to deter migrants with border fences, tear-gas and asset seizures will not stem the flow of people into the continent, and European leaders should make their journeys safer, a think-tank said on Wednesday.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) said Europe must act now to reduce migrant deaths in the Mediterranean, where nearly 4,000 people died last year trying to reach Greece and Italy, and more than 400 have died so far this year.

European governments could open consular outposts in countries like Turkey and Libya which could grant humanitarian visas to people with a plausible asylum claim, the think-tank said.

Allowing people to fly directly to Europe would be safer and cheaper than for them to pay people smugglers, and would help cripple the smuggling networks that feed off the migrant crisis, the London-based ODI said.

More than 1.1 million people fleeing poverty, war and repression in the Middle East, Asia and Africa reached Europe’s shores last year, prompting many European leaders to take steps to put people off travelling.

But the ODI said new researach showed that thousands other forcibly are forced to enter people’s thinking or merely divert flows to neighbouring states.

Researchers interviewed 52 migrants from Syria, Eritrea and Senegal who had recently arrived in Germany, Britain and Spain. Their journeys had cost an average 2,680 pounds ($3,880) each.

More than one third had been victims of extortion, and almost half the Eritreans had been kidnapped for ransom during their journey. — Reuters

**Pentagon budget requests $146 million in support for Israel defence**

WASHINGTON — The US Defence Department’s fiscal year 2017 budget requests $145.8 million in support for Israel, including Iron Dome and other cooperative defence programmes, according to Pentagon documents released Tuesday.

The Iron Dome system is designed to defeat short-range missiles and rockets. The United States will also continue to help fund David’s Sling, a medium-range missile interceptor, set to be deployed this year, as well as the Arrow ballistic missile interceptor.

The systems are meant to form a multi-level shield that the Israelis are developing with Washington’s help as a bulwark against Iran and its allies on the Israeli border.

The US Missile Defence Agency’s fiscal 2017 budget request included $103.8 million for Israeli cooperative programmes, down from $267.6 million in fiscal 2016, plus $42 million for Iron Dome, down from $55 million in fiscal 2016.

The budget forecast total spending on Israeli cooperative programmes of $340 million over the next five years, with no additional funding for Iron Dome envisioned after $42 million in fiscal 2017. Vice Admiral James Syring, director of the US Missile Defence Agency, told reporters the agency was working with Israel under a co-production agreement signed for the Iron Dome system, with a “not insignificant” workshare going to US firms. He declined to give the specific percentage share.

Syring said the United States and Israel were working on a second co-production agreement for the David’s Sling programme, although he declined to give a timeframe for reaching a deal.

He said a test of the David’s Sling system late last year exceeded expectations.

Raytheon Co is working with Israel’s state-owned Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd on the Iron Dome and David’s Sling programmes.

Syring said Israel had not signalled any plans to request additional funds for missile defence programmes, as it did last year, after the agency sent its budget request to Congress. He said any decision on funding would be up to Congress, which must approve the budget. Robert Scher, assistant defence secretary for strategy, plans and capabilities, told Congress last year that the US government had provided more than $3 billion to Israel for work on David’s Sling and other missile defence programmes since 2001. — Reuters

**Turkey detains 34 people with explosives, suicide vests at Syrian border**

ISTANBUL — The Turkish military detained 34 people and seized up to 15 kg of explosives and four suicide-bomber vests as they tried to enter Turkey from Syria, Turkish media reported the army as saying yesterday.

The private Dogan news agency and other media outlets said the group, consisting of four men, 10 women and 20 children, was detained on Tuesday night in the Oguzeli district of southeastern Gaziantep province, across the border from an area controlled by Islamic State militants. — Reuters

**Mihajlovic: We are not giving up rationalization**

BELGRADE — The Serbian government will not give up public administration rationalization, despite the forthcoming elections, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic said Tuesday, adding that all ministries would come up with their proposals by the end of February.

Asked by journalists if the government had given up on laying off employees in the public sector, since the deadline for rationalization had expired with the start of February, Mihajlovic said that “rationalization implies not only dismissals, but also a better organisation of the public administration, and the government has definitely not given up on rationalization.”

Mihajlovic said that given the complexity of the rationalization task, a period of six months or a year to carry it out was not too long, stressing that it was certain to be done and leave a well-organised administration. — Tanjug

**South Korea says to suspend operations at joint factory park with North**

SEOUL — South Korea said yesterday it would suspend operations at a factory park just north of the inter-Korean border run jointly with North Korea following the North’s long-range rocket launch over the weekend.

South Korean Unification Minister Hong Yong-pyo told a media briefing that Seoul had notified Pyongyang of its plan to suspend operations at Kaesong, the last remaining project of economic cooperation between the two Koreas, and would take necessary measures for the safe return of South Korean nationals there. Hong said suspending operations was “to stop funds for the Kaesong Industrial Complex from being used for North Korea’s development of missile and nuclear weapons programmes”. — Reuters

**UNDP raises $60m for food aid in drought-hit Zimbabwe**

HARARE — The United Nations Development Programme has raised $60 million for food aid in Zimbabwe and is feeding 1 million people as the country faces its worst drought in a quarter century, the agency’s local head said yesterday.

The UNDP head of mission in Zimbabwe, Bishow Parajuli, said the UN plans to raise $130 million under an emergency fund.

Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Tuesday appealed for nearly $126 million in aid to help pay for grain and other food after a drought in the southern African nation badly affected harvests and left 3 million people in need.

Farmers in Zimbabwe have lost cattle and crops to drought but fear the worst is yet to come.

Zimbabwe is struggling to emerge from a steep 1999-2008 recession that saw its economy shrink by more than 40 per cent and the drought is expected to exacerbate its problems. — Reuters

**Tajiks to vote in referendum on giving president unlimited terms**

DUSHANBE — Tajikistan will hold a referendum on 22 May on constitutional changes that would give veteran president Imomali Rakhmon the right to run for any number of terms, while also allowing his son to run in an election in 2020.

The former Soviet republic’s parliament, dominated by Rakhmon’s allies, announced the vote yesterday after receiving approval from the constitutional court. — Reuters
In search of a proper president

Kyaw Thura

Ten days into the term of Myanmar’s second parliament, speculations over the amendment or suspension of Section 59(f) of the constitution and the question of who will succeed President U Thein Sein runs rampant.

The section bars Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from holding office as president because of her marriage to a foreigner. According to the constitution, no one with a foreign spouse or foreign offspring can hold the top position in the Myanmar government. It would take the support of over 75 per cent of parliament to amend the constitution.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw kicked off on 8 February, with Upper House Speaker Mahn Win Khine Than announcing that nominations for the presidency would be made public on 17 March. Political analysts and researchers have described the delay as an attempt by the National League for Democracy (NLD) to buy more time for negotiations with the army over the prospect of their chairperson ascending to the presidency.

It is clear that a president should be a person with extraordinary determination defined by accountability and duty-consciousness. The word ‘president’ carries connotations of national prestige and identity.

All things considered, our future president should be someone who has made an enviable record of sacrifices for the good of the people and the country as a whole—someone who is capable of running the country’s administrative machinery and protecting the people.

Once the executive, legislative and judicial powers can work in tandem with the armed forces to make a sincere effort to realise the people’s desires, our country will no doubt be on the threshold of a new era.

Let’s Be Patient

Khin Maung Myint

I cannot understand why some people are so impatient with the pace of the developments taking shape. It is easy for the bystanders to be readily critical of those who had to take the responsibility in the running of an administration. Right after the November elections, people are anxious to know as to who will become what, in the new administration set up by the winning party. The process of establishing a new administration is not an easy task. It is very important to get the right persons in the right places. Measuring vetting and screening should be made in choosing the persons to fill the various positions. As the practice of the democratic process is still not well familiar to most of us, some people do not know the intricacies involved in the transition from one administration to the other. Thus it is not surprising that some are impatient for the wait.

At first they wanted to know who will become the president and deputy speakers of the upper and the lower houses of the parliament. Many speculations and rumors emerged. When the names of those chosen for the said positions were emerged, indicating their incompe- lence; they should be more discreet. If they are speculations, why can’t we be patient to wait. Such news are annoying and undesir- able. Such irresponsible reporting are unethical. They may have done it intentionally to spread misinformation, but they are very misleading and could create undesirable misunderstandings. As our country is in the process of transition, the situations are very fragile and caution should be taken not to create misunderstandings. I’m not a politician, but just a dutiful citizen who wants to see our country develop and prosper. I’m not advocating for any political party or organization. However, I deem it my duty to point out if I come across any action that is detrimental to the development and prosperity of the country and affect the nation-building process.

I would like to urge my fellow-countrymen to be patient and have understanding to the complexity of the transition process. As this would be the first time ever, in the history of our country, for us to witness a proper transfer of the state power between the incumbent and the incoming governments. Every step of the process need be trodden with caution and meticulous planning, especially for the incoming government.

I would like to mention about an article, titled “Navigating the choppy waters in the Myanmar’s post-election era”, which appeared in the 15 January issue of the GNLM daily. The article was written by the incumbent Pyidaungsu Minister U Soe Thane, the minister at the Office of the President. He had outlined constructively with deep sincerity, the challenges, which the incoming government would have to face. These chal- lenges are indeed very pressing and sensitive issues that would need extreme caution and tactfulness in tackling them as in navigat- ing a ship through the choppy waters. I will not be discussing what those challenging issues are, but just mentioning to make my point that we need to be overly cautious and tactful in planning a course of action to be able to navigate smoothly through the choppy waters.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of the roles we citizens must play to assist in the nation-building process. We need to be patient and give the new government a chance to do their duties without pressuring them. We should not worry them by spreading rumors and misinformation. Such activities could create misunderstandings and backfire. Those who want to see our country develop and prosper, need to be extra cautious and tactful in conveying their views to the incoming government.

The construction of a new rail bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Road is 75 per cent completed and it is estimated that the bridge will be fully completed in March this year, according to the project engineer from Myitnge Railways.

“The two-way Myitnge Rail Bridge is nearly complete as all our engineers and work- ers put more effort into the project to complete within the set time frame,” said the pro- ject engineer.

Located between mile posts No. 376/2-5 in Myitnge of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region, the new rail bridge is 17 meters away from the eastern part of the current Myitnge Rail Bridge.

The bridge will be 721 feet long and 158 feet wide. Since the 2014-2015 fi- nancial year, under the supervision of engineering staff from MR, tender winning companies have implemented the development project.

The new rail bridge will bring better transportation to locals when it opens, one of project implementers said.—

Tin Maung Lwin (Myanmar Alinn)

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 khinmaungmye@hotmail.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.

Myitnge Rail Bridge nearly complete

Photo shows Myitnge Rail Bridge which is under construction. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN (MYANMA ALINN)
MPT store opens in downtown Yangon

A MPT store opened in downtown Yangon yesterday.

The opening of a new two-storeyed reinforced concrete school building opened for students in Myawady.

The opening of a new two-storied reinforced concrete building for Hwaishtvan village Basic Education High School (branch) was held at Hwaishtvan village, Myawady in Kayin State on Sunday.

The building was constructed with the use of capital funds of the 2015-2016 FY.

At the opening ceremony members of the Kayin State Government cut the ribbons to open the new building while U Chit Hlaing, State minister for Social Affairs, made an opening speech.

State Education officer U Aung Maung explained the process of constructing new school buildings. An official of the Shwe saye Region. —Tha Muang Lay

Jade mining reported in Indaw Tsp forest reserve

A JADE mining company has reportedly been operating in a forest reserve in Indaw Township in Katha District, Sagaing Region.

Plants are underway to open MPT stores in downtown Yangon.

People who want to know the latest information about MPT may visit its Facebook page, website and the company’s official page on the LIME massaging application.

There are over 80,000 MPT sales centres across Myanmar.

Plans are underway to open MPT stores in downtown Yangon.

MPT has already opened 14 service centres in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

NINELS massaging machines, as well as sand purifying machines. The people from the township don’t know what they’re up to. In the past, Chinese companies also came here to dig up and test the sand along the coastline,” said U San Htun, a resident from the Angumaw village.

A Chinese company started to test the seabed sand back in 2007, while the last tests were carried out by a company called Gold Finder in 2014.

“Just one or two, and then we dig up sand. Then took it to Yangon for tests. The companies comprise both Chinese and Myanmar workers. What the residents know about these excavation activities is from what we witness. There’s been no explanation from the government as yet,” said local resident U Htun Wai.

There are over twenty variants of minerals, such as titanium, platinum and amalgam, located within the seabed of the Rakhine State beaches of Rathedaung, Angumaw and Maungdaw districts. The Myanmar government started to permit companies to test for minerals in these locations in 2013. —Myinnanda News Agency

MPT Branded Store in downtown Yangon. Photo: Soe Win (MLA)

Rakhine seabed tested for mineral deposits

Tests on the seabed of Angumaw beach for mineral deposits, in the Rakhine State township of Rathedaung, by the Yemyaeshin company commenced at the end of last month, it is known.

Tests were already conducted by Chinese companies after it was said that the seabed along the stretch of Angumaw coastline contained the minerals of aluminium and titanium. Now, it is the turn for the Yemyaeshin company to try their luck.

“We’re sucking the sand out from the seabed with a machine. Then we purify the sand. The purified sand is then sent to Yangon to test whether it contains minerals or not. We’ve currently taken a break from our digging activities as it’s Chinese New Year,” said a worker from the Yemyaeshin company.

The aforementioned company is carrying out testing on sand samples, for possible traces of minerals, with a 12 month permit from the Ministry of Mines.

“So many machineries arrived in our village. Sand extracting machineries, as well as sand purifying machines. The people from the township don’t know what they’re up to. In the past, Chinese companies also came here to dig up and test the sand along the coastline,” said U San Htun, a resident from the Angumaw village.

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Angumaw beach in Rathedaung, Rakhine State. Photo: Myinnanda News Agency

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Thanks for the report, Mainmahala Island Wildlife Sanctuary protects endangered crocodiles (GNLM, Jan 5). It is important to mention that endangered salt water crocodile has been wiped out of the majority habitats in South and SE Asia. Mostly restricted in the Sunderban mangroves of India and Bangladesh; Bhitarakani Mangroves of Orissa (India) and the Mangrove belts of the Andaman and Nicobar islands of India, in small numbers in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines. Large populations are still reported from East Timor, Papua & New Guinea and Australia. The species have become extinct in China, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. Once large populations existed across Mekong delta; however they are now limited only to the Ayerawady delta mainly within Myanmar. Myanmar represents the last breeding stocks of the wild saltwater crocodiles of the old Indo-China region. Hence any step taken to conserve this beautiful species must be appreciated. Hopefully the conservation efforts initiated in Myanmar can multiply the number of saltwater crocodiles and serve as stepping stone in reintroducing them to their broader habitats across SE Asia. Furthermore, the front page picture of beautiful flamingos in the Nay Pyi Taw zoo is greatly appreciated.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours

Saikat Kumar Basu
Food aid to run out in Ethiopia unless donors step in, says charity

ADDIS ABABA — Emergency food aid for 10 million Ethiopians hit by the worst drought in 50 years will run out in April unless donors provide more funds by the end of February, the charity Save the Children said on yesterday

“The international community has just three weeks to provide $245 million in emergency food aid to help prevent a potentially catastrophic escalation in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases...” it said in a statement.

“If these emergency funds do not arrive in time, there is no question that there will be a critical fracture in the food aid supply pipeline,” country director John Graham said in the statement.

The $245 million now being sought is the cost of food aid for Ethiopia for the next two months, Graham said. But tensions in Somaliland to speed up the delivery of an advanced Russian-made anti-missile system from Russia, which has also started talks on the supply of the Russian-made Sukhoi-30 fighter jets to Iran, Dehghan said. “We have even decided on the number of Sukhoi-30 fighter jets that we want to buy,” Dehghan said. —Reuters

Court tags a month onto former Israeli PM Olmert’s 18-month prison term

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court yesterday tagged a month onto former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s 18-month prison sentence for bribe after rejecting a plea bargain over an obstruction of justice charge.

Olmert, 70, will begin serving his term on Monday, making him the first former head of government in Israel to go to prison.

The bribery charges related to his 1992-2003 term as Jerusalem’s mayor and real estate deals in the city.

Olmert, prime minister from 2006 to 2009, was also accused separately of obstruction of justice over allegations he tried to persuade a Swiss court to acquit him. Olmert reached a plea bargain on that charge, agreeing to a six-month sentence that would be served concurrently with his 18-month term.

But a Jerusalem district court yesterday partly rejected the deal, ordering him to serve five months concurrently and one independent sentence, and his lawyers said they would consider an appeal. A centrist, Olmert was credited with working towards a peace settlement with the Palestinians until the graft scandal forced him to step down.

Olmert was found guilty in 2014 of two bribery charges — accepting $500,000 shekels ($129,000) from developers of a Jerusalem real estate project and 60,000 shekels ($15,500) in a separate land deal. He was sentenced to six years in jail by a judge who said Olmert’s crimes as a public official were akin to treason.

Ruling in December on his appeal, the Supreme Court said it had not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Olmert had solicited the 500,000 shekels, and cut his jail term to 18 months. —Reuters

Iran also due to start developing missiles this year, the defence minister says.

Iran is also due to start developing missiles this year, the defence minister says.

Iran first tested the Emad missile in October. With improved accuracy over its existing arsenal, Iran says the new missile will be an important part of its conventional deterrent.

But the United States says the Emad is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and the test therefore violated a UN resolution.

The United States believes that Iran is also due to start taking delivery of the S-300 missile system from Russia in the next two months, Dehghan said, and the order would be completed by the end of the year. Russia cancelled a contract to deliver the advanced anti-missile rocket system to Iran in 2010 under pressure from the West following UN sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear programme.

Dubai — Iran will unveil an upgrade of its Emad ballistic missiles this year, the defence minister was quoted as saying, advancing a programme that has drawn criticism from the United Nations and sanctions from the United States.

The Islamic Republic would also start taking delivery of an advanced Russian S-300 surface-to-air missile defence system in the next two months, Hossein Dehghan added — a system that was blocked before a landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

Tehran agreed the deal on curbing its nuclear work in July last year and international sanctions were lifted in January. But tensions with Washington have remained high as Tehran continues to develop its military capabilities.

Iran has already told the International Atomic Energy Agency that it has the capability to enrich uranium to the bomb-grade level, although it insists its programme is purely peaceful.

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Hawaii’s Big Island declares emergency over dengue fever infections

HAWAII — The mayor of Hawaii’s Big Island declared a state of emergency on Monday to deal with a growing outbreak of dengue fever, spread by infected mosquitoes, with 250 cases confirmed over the past four months.

As a result of Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi’s order, people on the Big Island will be allowed to resume disposing of old tires in landfills, since tires which are left lying around are a known breeding spot for mosquitoes.

There have been 250 confirmed cases of dengue fever on the island since 29 October, making it the largest outbreak in the state since the 1940s, according to the mayor’s declaration and Hawaii health officials.

Dengue fever causes flu-like symptoms and can develop into the deadly dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Hawaii Governor David Ige said in a statement he supported the efforts on the Big Island but would not issue a statewide emergency declaration unless the outbreak spread to other islands or expanded to include other diseases, such as the Zika virus.

Zika is spreading rapidly in South and Central America and the Caribbean and has been linked to severe birth defects in Brazil.

Last month, a baby born with brain damage at a hospital in Oahu, Hawaii, was apparently the first case of the mosquito-borne Zika virus in a birth on US soil, health officials said.

Dengue is not endemic to Hawaii but has occasionally spread after being imported by infected travellers. The outbreak on the Big Island is the first cluster of locally-acquired dengue fever since a 2011 outbreak on Oahu, the Hawaii Department of Health said.—Reuters

Snug as a bug: the hated cockroach inspires a helpful

WASHINGTON — People use a lot of words to describe the reviled cockroach: disgusting, ugly, sneaky and repulsive, to name a few. But it may be time to add a surprising new one: inspirational.

Scientists said on Monday they have built a small search-and-rescue robot, inspired by the ability of cockroaches to squeeze through tiny crevices, designed to navigate through rubble to find survivors after natural disasters or bombings.

“We feel strongly that cockroaches are one of nature’s most revolting animals, but they can teach us important design principles,” University of California, Berkeley integrative biology professor Robert Full said.

Using a specially built obstacle course, the researchers observed how cockroaches scurried in less than a second through crevices smaller than a quarter of their height by compressing their jointed exoskeletons in half.

Once inside the crevice, the cockroaches managed to move rapidly, at nearly 20 body lengths per second, with their legs splayed completely out to their sides.

“If you scale it up to the size of a human, it would be equivalent to about 70 miles per hour (113 kph), over twice the speed of the fastest sprinter,” said Harvard University biologist Kaushik Jayaram, who worked on the research while at UC-Berkeley.

The researchers said the cockroaches were about a half inch (13 mm) tall when they ran freely, but compressed their bodies to about a 10th of an inch (7.5 mm) to get through cracks.

Experts have been studying animal locomotion in order to invent robots that can maneuver in tough environments. For example, side-winder rattlesnakes inspired a serpentine robot.

“Nature has a library of design ideas. This diversity enables discovery. You never know where basic research will lead. The most important discoveries are often from the most unexpected creatures, some of which are disgusting,” Full added.

The observations involving the species Periplaneta americana, the American cockroach, inspired the design of a prototype soft-bodied, multi-legged robot called CRAM (Compressible Robot with Articulated Mechanisms) that in the future could be used in swarms to help locate survivors in collapsed structures.

The simple and inexpensive robot, 7 inches (18 cm) long, 3 inches (7.6 cm) tall and weighing 1.6 ounces (46 grams), was constructed using an origami-like manufacturing technique, Jayaram said. It can reorient its legs and compress its body like a cockroach to get through “vertically constricted spaces,” Jayaram added.

The research was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.—Reuters

China confirms first case of Zika virus

BEIJING/HONG KONG — China has confirmed its first case of the Zika virus in a man who had recently travelled to South America, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The virus, which is causing international alarm after spreading through much of the Americas, was detected in a 34-year-old man from Guangxi county in the eastern province of Jiangxi, Xinhua said, citing China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Chinese health authorities downplayed the risk of the mosquito-borne virus spreading because of the winter cold, Xinhua added. Hong Kong’s Department of Health said in a statement that the man, who had travelled through the city on his return to China, worked in Dongguan, a bustling manufacturing city in the neighbouring southern province of Guangdong. Hong Kong’s Port Health Office has stepped up inspections at the airport in response and reinforced training for boundary control inspectors, the statement added.

There is a risk that Zika could be spread locally if it was introduced to Hong Kong, the statement said, because Aedes Albopictus mosquitoes, which transmit the virus, live there. But no cases of the virus in Hong Kong have been reported so far, it said. The infected man had been quarantined at a hospital in his hometown since 6 February, Xinhua said, adding that he was recovering with normal body temperature and a fading rash.

Hong Kong Secretary for Food and Health Ko Wing-man told reporters that the bureau was seeking details of the man’s travel history from the mainland authorities because he had transited through the city. The risk of contracting the virus through human contact was low, so the bureau was not worried about the spread of the illness in Hong Kong, Ko said, but he added the authorities were monitoring the situation closely.

Mainland health authorities could not be immediately reached for comment. Zika has spread quickly in South and Central America and the Caribbean, with Brazil the worst affected country.

The World Health Organisation declared an international health emergency on 1 February over the virus, citing concern over a possible link with a rise in cases of microcephaly, a birth defect characterised by an abnormally small head that can result in developmental problems.

Most infected people have no symptoms or mild ones including fever and skin rashes. The infected Chinese man had travelled to Venezuela and displayed symptoms including a fever, headache and diziness on 28 January, Xinhua said. He returned home on 5 February via Hong Kong and Shenzhen.—Reuters
Manchester — Sen. Bernie Sanders and businessman Donald Trump, neither of whom is in the mainstream of the Democratic or Republican party, won the first primary of the US presidential election Tuesday in New Hampshire, local reports said.

The victory for the candidates, who both placed second in the first state-level contest last week in Iowa, is likely to make the already heated nomination race for the two parties firmer ahead of next contests later this month and Super Tuesday on 1 March.

Sanders, a senator representing the adjacent state of Vermont, pitched his policy of distancing himself from vested interests prior to Tuesday’s primary and easily beat his rival, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who had won the Iowa caucus.

“The right wing Republicans we oppose must not be allowed to gain the presidency,” Sanders, 74, told supporters. He was defeated by Trump, 62, in party caucuses in Iowa last week by a slim margin.

It remained uncertain, however, whether Sanders can keep the momentum in the months-long race as most polls show Clinton, with her strong name recognition, still leading the nomination contest nationwide.

On the Republican side, Trump, a 69-year-old real estate mogul, clinched the first win in the nomination race, beating Ohio Gov. John Kasich, 63, Sen. Ted Cruz, 45, who won the Republican caucuses in Iowa, and other contenders.

“We are going to make America great again,” Trump said at a gathering declaring his victory in the primary.—Kyodo News


Photo: Reuters


Photo: Reuters

15 killed in LPG tanker truck explosion in Pakistan

Islamabad — As many as 15 people including five schoolchildren were killed yesterday when a liquefied petroleum gas tanker truck exploded after colliding with a car in northeastern Pakistan, administration officials and media reports said.

The accident occurred in the morning on Manawala Road in Nankana Sahib district, about 350 kilometres southwest of Islamabad. District rescue officer Muhammad Azam said 10 bodies were recovered at the district hospital.

“Twenty victims were burnt beyond recognition,” he said, adding that 17 people were injured including five children, some of them in critical condition.

According to witness reports, the tanker truck burst into an inferno after the collision. Several auto rickshaws, a school van, people and shops in the vicinity were engulfed in the fire.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2016 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 Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HYUNDAI PROGRESS VOY NO (005N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HYUNDAI PROGRESS VOY NO (005N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2016 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO (0005)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO (0005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY NO (473N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (473N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Phone No: 2301185

Climate change studies need not fear uncertainties

NEW DELHI — Uncertainties are a crucial part of climate change narratives and need to be accounted for in policy-making, say leading climate experts and social scientists at a conference organised during the launch of the South Asia Sustainability Hub in New Delhi in January.

Climate change narratives remain incomplete until scientists account the lived experiences of indeterminate factors such as unexpected drought or over-precipitation said Anshu Ogra, scholar at the Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Centre for Studies in Science Policy.

Ogra presented a paper highlighting glaring uncertainties in coffee production projections due to unpredictable weather conditions. According to the latest International Coffee Report, the Coffee Board of India has reduced the production forecast for 2014-15 by four per cent due to unfavourable weather. However, the same report says that the expected output of the two varieties of Indian coffee would still be up from that of 2013-14.

Ogra’s paper notes that the concern is about the expected yield and not the realised yield. “How does this fluctuation in expected yield, due to variation in weather, inform the growers’ risk when the realised yield might actually be better than the previous year.”

Dom Kniveton and Gino Fox from the University of Sussex, UK, argued in another presentation that rather than trying to minimise uncertainty it should be embraced as a space “where power can be shared and social learning undertaken, leading to transformative action.”

Quoting earlier studies the researchers said that the evolution of the atmosphere could be minute perturbations in the initial setup of a computer atmosphere. These perturbations are so small that realistically no system of observation could ever specify them, thereby ruling out possibility of predictions with absolute accuracy.

They also pointed out that uncertainty in a forecast increases more quickly for smaller spatial phenomena, such as thunderstorms, than for large scale phenomena such as winter storms.

Lyla Mehta visiting professor from Norwegian University of Life Sciences and her team in their paper ‘Climate change and uncertainty from above and below’ highlighted the possibilities of predictions from “the above”. Uncertainty in one lead to varied discourses of uncertainty from ‘above’ and ‘below’.

Mehta said ontological differences exist in how climate change is discussed and understood by different actors across ‘above’, ‘middle’, and ‘below’, and how uncertainties manifest themselves in diverse discourses and practices.—Reuters
Rapidly ageing Thailand tells businesses to hire more elderly

BANGKOK — Pornsak Bowornrisuk pulls an umbrella towards him to shield his head of thick grey hair from the blazing sunshine at the Bangkok bus terminal he manages.

“You’ve got to be damned tough to do this job,” says the 63-year-old, who records bus arrivals and departures, and toots up fares collected from journeys across Thailand’s capital.

Septuagenarian bus conductor Pranom Char-yothin moves nimbly to a door to guide students off the vehicle. She waves at the driver, 66-year-old Plang Pansaior, who glances in his rear view mirror before pulling away.

Such scenes will only become more common in Thailand as its population rapidly ages, unlike its neighbours with more youthful populations. The World Bank estimates the working-age population will shrink by 11 per cent by 2040, the fastest contraction among Southeast Asia’s developing countries.

Thailand’s stage of economic development, the rising cost of living and education, and a population waiting longer to get married are among the reasons it is ageing more quickly than its neighbours. An effective conception programme in the 1970s also played a part, said Sutayit Oornpraporn, a human development specialist at the World Bank in Thailand.

Thailand’s fertility rate dropped to 1.5 in 2013 from 5.6 in 1970, according to United Nations data.

The government is urging businesses to hire more older people to soften the impact of the ageing workforce on productivity, as well as limit the rise in the cost of its modest pension scheme. Thailand will have to boost productivity to foot the bill for supporting the elderly, Bank of Thailand Governor Veerathai Santithamchali said in an interview in January.

“Everyone has to be able to earn more to be able to shoulder the cost of our ageing society,” he said.

The state paid 61.37 billion baht ($1.73 billion) in 2015 in pensions and the cost is expected to rise to around 71.23 billion baht in 2020. The government established a Department of Older Persons in March 2015 to tackle elderly employment and related issues.

The Bangkok Transport Co, which employs Pornsak, Pranom and Plang, is embracing the change. Around 13 per cent of its workforce is over 60. The firm likes older staff as they can keep their cool in Bangkok’s bumper-to-bumper traffic, said the director Phatharawadee Klomjaroon.

“Bangkok’s streets are jammed,” she said. “Young employees sometimes still cannot control their temper, but the older employees are focused and more mindful. They can keep a calm demeanour when it comes to driving.”

With monthly pensions of 600-1,000 baht a month ($17-$28), many Thais have no choice but to work on. Many older people are seeking jobs.

“We’re getting more calls asking if we accept old applicants,” said factory owner Varanut Vongsurakai, adding that 62 of his 1,600 workers are over retirement age. He said he valued older workers for their reliability and experience.

One of those is Danumee Kamwong, 72, a cleaner who has five children and helps pay for the education of two of her grandchildren.

“It is tiring but we just have to keep going. There isn’t anyone to take care of me,” said Pranom, who used to work as a cleaner and became a bus conductor after her husband died.

Nearly 40 per cent of the 10 million Thais who are above the mandatory retirement age of 60 are still in the workforce, said Anusan Thienthong, head of the Department of Old Persons.

The government is considering extending the retirement age for some occupations, he said.

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“I think I’ll work another five years,” she said. “I’m old already but I can’t rest just yet.”

Ten died, more than 80 injured in Bavaria train crash

BAD AIBLING – Ten people were killed and at least 81 injured on Tuesday when two passenger trains collided head-on at high speed in remote countryside in southern Germany.

One passenger was still missing, police said, and 18 of those injured were in a serious condition.

The crash happened during the morning rush hour about half way along a six-km (four-mile) stretch between the spa town of Bad Aibling and Kolbermoor in Bavaria, near to the border with Austria.

Ambulances could not reach the site, which was heavily wooded with a steep hill on one side and a river on the other, so helicopters had to airlift people to nearby hospitals.

Police said recovery operations with heavy machinery would be suspended overnight and restart at daybreak yesterday.

The trains had been carrying about 100 passengers, mainly commuters. Police said more people would have been travelling if it had not been a holiday week.

Hundreds of emergency service workers, including mountain rescue teams, worked to save passengers at the crash site, where several derailed blue, yellow and grey train carriages lay on their side next to the track.

Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt said the trains and track had been fitted with an automatic brake system that was introduced across Germany after 10 people died in 2011 near Magdeburg when a train driver drove through two red signals.

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**Actor Ken Watanabe in early-stage stomach cancer**

TOKYO — Japanese actor Ken Watanabe was diagnosed with an early-stage stomach cancer, his agent said Tuesday, adding the actor, who starred in a Broadway musical in 2015, has already undergone endoscopic surgery to remove it.

The 56-year-old actor released a comment seeking understanding for the postponement of his upcoming musical engagement at the Lincoln Center Theater, planning himself in earnest for the beginning in March. “I am prepared myself in earnest for the (Broadway) stage. I would like to ask for your understanding that the start of my performance in New York will be a little delayed,” the actor is currently recuperating at a hospital in Japan, the agent said. The cancer was detected in a medical checkup.

Watanabe has a history of overcoming leukemia, a type of cancer, and expanding his career abroad afterward. In 1989, he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia but he returned to acting the following year, in 2004, he was nominated for an Academy Award. Watanabe announced his Broadway debut in April 2015 when he starred in “The King and I” at the Lincoln Centre Theater, playing the king of Siam who develops an unexpected bond with an English teacher in a story set in the 19th century in what is now Thailand.

For this performance, he was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical.

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**Actress Gwyneth Paltrow testifies in trial of accused stalker**

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow told a Los Angeles court on Monday that she feared for her safety after receiving dozens of letters from a man accused of stalking her for the past 17 years, according to media reports.

Paltrow, who read aloud from the letters sent by Dante Michael Sou, 67, told the jury she found the messages “religious to pornographic to threatening,” the California wire agency City News Service (CNS) reported.

“I have a goal to marry Gwyneth Paltrow,” one letter said, according to CNS.

A 2010 letter declared: “You are hopelessly lost.” CBS News reported. “Now you must die. Yourself, must die so that Christ can have preeminence.” Paltrow, who testified for about three hours, told the court she feared for the safety of her family and said at least one of the letters had arrived directly to her Los Angeles home. Sou’s attorney, Lynda Westlund, told the court he was harmless and said Paltrow misinterpreted his letters, many of which were biblical in nature and meant as religious messages to the actress.

Sou has pleaded not guilty to one felony count of stalking. This is the second time Sou, of Columbus, Ohio, has faced trial on charges of stalking Paltrow. He was found not guilty by reason of insanity in a 2001 trial.

He spent more than three years in a mental health facility after the trial, CBS News reported.

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**First-time director shares grim dystopian vision in ‘The Survivalist’**

LONDON — In “The Survivalist,” director Stephen Fingleton’s feature film debut, there is a dark imagining of a post-apocalyptic world where society has collapsed and each must fend for themselves.

Shot in Fingleton’s native Northern Ireland, “The Survivalist” has little dialogue. However Fingleton tries to evoke a sense of the end of the world with a stark atmosphere and nuanced acting.

“The interesting thing about working on low budget is you don’t necessarily have a long time to rehearse so we had to be guided as a director and as cast by what the characters would really do,” Fingleton said.

“And so it kind of came from that fever dream of imagining who I would become,” he added.

Fingleton, a BAFTA nomination as shown in this photo, was selected as the year’s symbolic characters that appear in various kinds of Japanese literature. They can also deepen their knowledge about deepening puzzles. They can also

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**Kanji Museum to open in Kyoto in June**

KYOTO — The Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation, the group that announces the single Chinese character best symbolising the year at year-end, will open a facility in June where visitors can learn about kanji while having fun.

The Kanji Museum, which will be located in Kyoto, western Japan, will feature a 10-metre-tall tower whose surface is printed with some 50,000 kanji characters that have been selected as the year’s symbolic kanji will be also printed on the tower at the center of the museum.

Visitors can learn four-character idioms by solving puzzles. They can also deepen their knowledge about the shape, sound and meaning of each kanji by using a touch panel.

The kanji foundation’s headquarters will be relocated to the museum, which will open 29 June in Kyoto’s Gion district. A library will be located on the second floor of the facility.

“We hope the museum will be a place where people can learn about Japan’s kanji culture,” a foundation official said, adding the organisation will aim at drawing an annual 200,000 visitors. The foundation has yet to decide on amounts of admission fees.
**NEW YORK —** The copyright to the world’s most popular song, “Happy Birthday to You,” has been in dispute for decades, but if an agreement by Warner/Chappell Music to pay $14 million to end a lawsuit over the song is approved by a US court, it will be free for all to use as they please.

The settlement, unveiled in federal court in Los Angeles on Monday, would eliminate the music publisher’s claimed ownership of the song. It also specifies that once the settlement is approved by the court, the song will be in the public domain.

A group of artists and filmmakers filed a class action lawsuit in 2013 against Warner/Chappell, the music publishing arm of privately held Warner Music Group. In a court filing on Monday, the group hailed the settlement as “unquestionably an excellent result.”

“We are pleased to bring this matter to resolution,” a Warner/Chappell spokeswoman said in a statement on Tuesday. The settlement money will be distributed among those who paid licensing fees for the song back to 1949.

In September, Chief US District Judge George King ruled that Warner/Chappell, the music publishing arm of privately owned Warner Music Group, did not have a valid copyright claim to the song’s lyrics.

The case garnered attention from around the world not only because the tune is so commonly performed, but because many people were not aware it was still under copyright, let alone purportedly owned by a major corporation. People who sing “Happy Birthday” in their homes or at private gatherings have typically never been at risk of a lawsuit. But when the song was used for commercial purposes, such as in films, Warner demanded payment and took in an estimated $2 million in royalties for such uses each year.—Reuters

**World’s second-largest diamond named before road show to find buyer**

CAPE TOWN — The largest diamond uncovered in over a century was officially named on Tuesday ahead of a secretive road show to find a buyer for the rare stone. Named “Lesedi La Rona” — which means “Our Light” in the Setswana language — the 1,109-carat diamond is about the size of a tennis ball and will soon embark on the road show.

The gem was pulled from the ground in November by Lucara Diamond Corp at its Karowe mine in Botswana.

“The road show is to showcase the stone to any potential buyer,” Lucara’s chief executive William Lamb told Reuters after the naming ceremony on the side-lines of an African mining conference in Cape Town.

Lamb said this could include “ultra-high-net-worth individuals” who might be interested in the stone for its value as a collector’s item.

But don’t expect an invite. “The biggest challenge on the road show is that the weight to value ratio of the stone makes it potentially the highest value item on the planet,” Lamb said.

“So because of the security around the stone, there will be no telling people where we are going to be taking it, we are not going to be putting any of that information out because we want to protect our asset.” The diamond was named after the winning entry was picked from a competition that was open to citizens of Botswana, an arid and sparsely-populated Southern African nation that relies heavily on diamond mining.—Reuters

**Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, sixth man to walk on moon, dies at 85**

Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, sixth man to walk on the moon, died on Monday in West Palm Beach, Florida, NASA said in a news release. He was 85.

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**Magnitude 6.3 quake hits central Chile, no major damage seen**

SANTIAGO — A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck off the coast of central Chile on Tuesday evening, the US Geological Survey said, although there were no immediate reports of major damage.

The quake, centered 48 miles (79 km) southwest of Coquimbo, was around 20 miles (32 km) below the seabed. It struck at 9:33 pm (0033 GMT).

Chile’s emergency office said some homes had been left without electricity and local media reported rock falls on the highway following the quake, which was also felt in neighbouring Argentina.

No other damage was reported, and the navy said the earthquake had not generated the conditions to cause a tsunami.

The Coquimbo area was hit by a magnitude 8.3 quake last September, which killed several people and caused a small tsunami, and it has been regularly affected by aftershocks since then.—Reuters

**Myanmar International**

(11-2-2016 7:00am ~ 12-2-2016 7:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Ivtradana Hospital)
07:50 Am Next Weekend
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Akha their life and customs (Part-I)
08:46 Am Myanmar Betels
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Products Of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
09:42 Am Wonderful Indonesia
10:03 Am News
10:48 Am Tea

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

**Prime Time**

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm A Trip To The City Of Rakhat, Rakhati
07:46 Pm Kyeyikheyo: Welcome All
07:52 Pm Today Myanmar “First Chapter of New History” (Anyotha Hluttaw)
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations: The Making Procedure Of Goldsmith
08:42 Pm Black Gold (Part-II)
08:47 Pm Chef Life “Nut Hoc”
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)
Honours go to Ogbonna as last-gasp West Ham advance

ANGELO Ogbonna leapt high to power home a winner in the dying seconds of extra time to claim a timely first goal for the club as West Ham United sank Liverpool 2-1 on Tuesday to reach the last 16 of the FA Cup.

The Italian defender met a free kick from Dimitri Payet and sent his effort back across keeper Simon Mignolet and into the far corner of the net to seal the London team’s first-ever FA Cup win over Liverpool in eight meetings.

The hosts took the lead in the fourth-round replay when Michael Antonio guided a superb volley into the top corner moments before halftime after Liverpool had controlled the early stages without being able to find a breakthrough.

The lead was swiftly wiped out, however, as Philippe Coutinho sidefooted a clever free kick below the jumping West Ham wall three minutes into the second half.

It took 44 minutes for triple winners West Ham, who face second-tier Blackburn Rovers in the next round, to break the deadlock.

The fans inside Upton Park were left wondering how the tie stayed goalless for so long with the woodwork being struck three times in the first 37 minutes.

Liverpool, who had manager Jurgen Klopp back in the dugout after he missed the draw with Sunderland on Saturday to have his appendix removed, played a young side but they were more than a match for their more experienced opponents.

Christian Benteke forced West Ham keeper Darren Randolph into a good save from a corner before a deflected effort from home defender Joey O’Brien cannoned back off the foot of the post.

Coutinho, on his return from injury, then sidefooted an effort against the post before West Ham got a foothold in the game and Payet became the third player to hit the woodwork from a free kick.

The deadlock was eventually broken when Antonio guided a superbly-controlled sidefooted volley into the top corner.

The lead did not last long as Coutinho drew Liverpool level, waiting for every man in the West Ham wall to jump before rolling the ball nonchalantly beneath them into the bottom corner.

With neither side able to force a winner, the match went into extra time and Benteke was guilty of pulling a good chance wide and then failing to beat Randolph in a one-on-one.

With penalties looming, Ogbonna headed in powerfully to send the home crowd wild.— Reuters

Heroes vs Samurais: MYN-JPN boxing match comes to Yangon

A BOXING tournament for Myanmar and Japanese contestants titled ‘Heroes vs Samurais’ will be held in Yangon on 14 February, the event is being hosted by the Myanmar Lethwei Federation and is being organised by the Myanmar Lethwei Management and Naing Moe Entertainment. MPT is the event’s primary financial backer.

“[This event] won’t be broadcast live. It will be replayed on 4TV five days after the event. No profit is being made from televising the fights,” said Soe Thura Shwe from Myanmar Media Management.

While the Japanese fighters who will compete in the competition are current MMA fighters, they don’t seem to be on the radar of Myanmar Lethwei gold belt champion Tha Pyay Nyo.

“I know nothing about them. I don’t know their weight, height or age. I’ve also never seen one of their fights. I haven’t got a clue about these guys,” he said. Myanmar traditional boxer Saw Gw Mudo, who will also compete against a Japanese opponent, said despite not being familiar with who his Japanese competitor will be, he will compete as good as he can and aim for victory.

The Heroes vs Samurais event kicks off at 2pm this coming Sunday at Yangon’s Thimbaya Stadium.

Ticket prices have been set at K10,000, K25,000, K35,000 and K70,000. “We are promoting this event. We’ve got a buy-one-get-one-free promotion for couples who come to watch the show and purchase a K25,000 ticket. But this offer is only applicable to heterosexual couples. It doesn’t apply to two guys or two girls,” explained Aung Naing Moe of Naing Moe Entertainment.

—Myanmar News Agency

Mourinho tells friends Man United job is his — reports

LONDON — Jose Mourinho has told friends and associates that he will replace Louis van Gaal as Manchester United manager at the end of the season, according to reports in several British newspapers on Wednesday.

The Daily Mail, Daily Star, Daily Mirror and Daily Telegraph all quoted an unnamed source close to the 53-year-old Portuguese as saying his installation at Old Trafford was a “done deal”.

The former Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto coach was sacked by Chelsea in December but said in an interview last week that he would soon be back in management, preferably in England.

Van Gaal, who has another year left on his contract after this season, has had to deal with constant speculation about his position after United made a stuttering start to the season.

The Dutchman said on Sunday he thought reports of negotiations between United and Mourinho were an invention of the media.— Reuters

Nishikori eyes 4th straight Memphis championship

MEMPHIS — Kei Nishikori said Monday he has no trouble imagining himself winning the Memphis Open for the fourth straight time.

“On top of it being a tournament in which I do well, I have confidence. I want to get a good result this year as well,” the world No.7 told reporters.

The top-seeded Nishikori reached the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, where he posed a stern challenge to world No.1 Novak Djokovic but was denied many chances for easy winners.

In Melbourne, he suffered from some minor wrist pain, but dropped just one set and faced just one tiebreak prior to losing 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to Djokovic.

“I’ve had a number of days to rest completely. I’ve been practicing pain-free for a week,” said Nishikori, who has been acclimatizing to the new surface at the Racquet Club of Memphis.

“Compared to how fast it had been until last year, it’s changed dramatically,” Nishikori said. “Because rallies can go longer, it’s very easy for me to compete.”— Kyodo News