El Niño warning puts fish farmers on alert

By Soe Soe Yu

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) yesterday warned of the impact of El Niño on fish farming, calling for necessary measures to be undertaken to avoid possible losses.

High temperatures caused by El Niño can kill farmed fish, said the MFF, expressing worries over the possible death of farmed fish while the country’s fish farms are in the stage of recovery in the aftermath of the floods last year.

Last year’s flooding destroyed more than 30,000 fish farms in several parts of the country, said Dr Myint Swe, secretary of the Myanmar Fish Farmers Association under the federation. The more damage there was to infrastructure, the slower the recovery, he added.

According to the MFF, there is a prediction that the country’s fisheries sector is likely to get worse in 2016 than in previous years due to natural disaster-affected inland fisheries and shortage of fish stock to catch in the waters of the country.

According to statistics, fish stocks caught in Myanmar waters was 1.1 million tons in the 1980s but there has been a gradual decrease in the country’s fish production since 2013, declining to 103,000 tons.

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**Pyithu Hluttaw forms three committees**

THE Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday discussed the formation of a committee for banks and monetary affairs development, a committee for agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery development and a committee for education promotion.

Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat briefed the parliament on the responsibility, power, rights and tenure of each committee, followed by parliamentary approval of the three committees.

Speaker U Win Myint appointed Dr Than Myint of the Hlaingthaya constituency as chairman of the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee, Dr Tin Aung of the Kyaukse constituency as chairman of the Education Promotion Committee. The committees are staffed by 15 members each.

—*Myanmar News Agency*

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets foreign guests**

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received a British parliamentary delegation from the House of Commons of the UK led by Mr. Paul Scully of the Democratic and Human Rights Committee to be formed to be announced by U Ba Myo Thein and the Farmer Affairs Committee chaired by Daw Shila Nan Taung alias M Nan Taung of Kachin State Constituency, the Farmer Affairs Committee by U Ba Myo Thein and the Women and Children’s Rights Committee by Dr Mya Thaung, with 15 members each.

The British delegation was staffed by 15 members each.

Dr Win Myat of Bago Region Constituency 8 and Dr Htay Kywe of Yangon Region Constituency 7, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency 7, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency 7, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency 7, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency 7, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency 7.

The second Amyotha Hluttaw’s first regular session continues for its eighth day today.

—*Myanmar News Agency*

**Amyotha Hluttaw approves, forms parliamentary committees**

THE Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its seventh day session yesterday, approving and proposing parliamentary committees.

Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than announced parliamentary approval of the formation of the Ethnic Affairs Committee chaired by Daw Shila Nan Taung alias M Nan Taung of Kachin State Constituency, the Farmer Affairs Committee by U Ba Myo Thein and the Women and Children’s Rights Committee by Dr Mya Thaung, with 15 members each.

Next, the Speaker proposed the Education Promotion Committee, the Local and Overseas Employment Committee and Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, the Democracy and Human Rights Committee to be formed by 15 members each, announcing the list of chairmen and secretaries.

—*Myanmar News Agency*

**Millions of under-five children to receive polio vaccines on 20-22 Feb**

THE Ministry of Health launched a national immunisation programme in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as part of reducing the under-five mortality, with an address by Union Minister Dr Than Aung.

The nationwide immunisation campaign, scheduled from 20 to 22 February, is expected to see 4.6 million children under five vaccinated against polio.

The union minister said that the country has conducted vaccination programmes for children under five years of age before, giving fresh momentum to the campaign since 1996.

All ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including Myanmar, were declared polio-free in March 2014, he quoted the World Health Organisation as saying.

The vaccination campaign conducted last month covered 2.45 million children under the age of five from 171 potential pandemic towns across the country with the union minister estimating the vaccination rate at 99.8%.

Two cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) have been confirmed by officials in Myanmar in December last year.

A 16-month-old boy who developed acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) on Oct 5 tested positive for VDPV2. The child had received oral polio vaccine (OPV), which on rare occasions can cause the disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO also said that a 28-month-old child who developed AFP on Apr 16 also tested positive for the same VDPV2 strain. Both children live in the same township in Rakhine state in southwest Myanmar on the Bay of Bengal.

—*Myanmar News Agency*
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged construction site

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged which is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the Home for the Aged for retired Tatmadawmen and their families, the Senior General heard reports on progress in construction of the Home and arrangements being made to accommodate the aged.

In his discussion, the Senior General highlighted the importance of ensuring health care services for the aged including adequate supply of ambulance, medical staff and medicine.

Construction of the Home at the corner of Shwekyar and Yadana Myintzu roads in Dekkhinathiri Township began on 27 October, 2015. Nearly 45 per cent of construction has been completed so far. — Myannewsy

US-ASEAN to co-operate strategically

>> From page 1

The US is also interested in finding ways and means to how the universities and research institutions will co-operate to effectuate economic development in a sustainable manner—i.e. They want ASEAN members to keep pace with the changes in the system of conservation of the environment, said Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

He added that CEOs from IBM, CISCO System and Microsoft discussed the use of technological innovations in order that ASEAN can bridge the development gap between the rural and urban areas within the region.

The summit also discussed extremist activities. Their activities have become widespread, sparing no region. Regarding this issue, we’ve had very frank and friendly discussions. ASEAN will now enjoy strategic co-operation with the US. This was a very successful summit, said Minister for Foreign Affairs U Winna Maung Lwin.— Myanmar News Agency

MNHRC holds human rights talks for senior military officers in Kalaw


MNHRC Chairman U Win Mra and member U Yu Lwin Aung gave lectures on human rights to trainees who are taking Course No.63 and instructors of the colleges, totaling 220 personnel and held discussions with them. According to the MNHRC, human rights courses for senior military officers have been conducted since 2014. It has been learned that the commission plans to conduct human rights talks for military officers from the Army Combat Forces Schools in Bantaung and Bayintnaung Forts.—GNLM

El Niño warning puts fish farmers on alert

>> From page 1

Despite being supported by the ministry concerned for recovery of the country’s aquaculture sector with the provision of fingerlings worth K150 million, a certain length of time is needed for the farmed fish to be ready for public consumption, said the secretary.

For this year, the volume of fish stocks to produce for self-sufficiency is more important than exports, added the secretary, predicting an increase in prices of fish due to the destructive impacts of floods on freshwater fish farms last year.

Although Myanmar earned US$86 million from the export of 7.9 million tons of fish stock in 2015, reaching the $120 million fish export target will be impossible for this fiscal year, said the MBF.

The confiscation of the foodstuff took place at four markets in Mandalay following the combined efforts of the committee’s three departments dealing with sanitation, health and markets and slaughterhouses.

According to laboratory experiments, dyes and formalin were found in the three types of food being sold at the markets, said Dr Thwin Kyaw Kyaw of the MCDC.

Such tampered foods are not allowed to be sold for public consumption as the misuse of formalin and dyes in the preservation of bean paste, fish paste and chili powder is very bad for public health, said the MCDC member.

All the food that was seized from the shops will be incinerated immediately and those who failed to meet food safety measures will be fined and their businesses will be banned, he added.

According to the MCDC, regular and surprise checks are being carried out in markets across the country to remove unsafe food from shops and to ensure better public health by strengthening food safety measures.—Min Het Aung (Mann Sub-printing)
KB Kookmin Bank and KOICA to cooperate in supporting developing countries

KB Kookmin Bank signed an MOU with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Seoul yesterday regarding cooperation in supporting developing countries, including Myanmar.

Accordingly, KB will act as the financial advisor for the project feasibility evaluation and its competences in housing finance that will be applied to KOICA’s Saemaul Undong project, Korea’s new village movement model, and urban development projects.

Both parties will also cooperate in carrying out joint CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities including financial education for the rural areas where Saemaul village development projects are under way, overseen by KOICA.

A KB official said that such collaboration will become the exemplary case of public-private partnerships in developing countries.

To initiate, KB and KOICA will carry out joint activities in Myanmar.

Currently KOICA is participating in evaluating infrastructure development projects, the Saemaul Undong Project, MDI (Myanmar Development Institution), MYANTRA (Myanmar Trade-Investment Promotion Agency) project, etc. in Myanmar.

KB Kookmin Bank has been working closely with its local partner, CHD Bank (Construction & Housing Development Bank), to transfer its housing finance competences since 2014.

In addition, KB has been participating in many other CSR activities since opening its representative office in 2013. KB has been sponsoring the KB Korea Language Centre for Myanmar youth and carried out joint activities with YMCA (Yangon) to aid rural area development. KB has also participated in relief programs for flood victims.—GNLM

Brine shrimp bred in Mon State salt fields as feed for fish and prawns

PLANS are being made for the breeding of artemia shrimp, known as brine shrimp, within salt fields as a source of feed for fish and prawns, according to the Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association (MPEA).

“The extremely salty water of the salt fields allows for breeding of brine shrimp. A breeding farm is the main important factor to make breeding successful. They also require to be fed,” said chairperson of the MPEA, U Hnin Oo.

The association has made it known that the species of brine shrimp are to be bred in order to provide a source of feed for fish and prawns which have become scarce and expensive.

“A contract has been signed with the MPEA to collaborate together in the salt field of Dr. Aung Kyaw Zaw to breed brine shrimp as salt enterprise is going through a rough patch,” explained U Soe Htun, vice chairperson of MPEA.

European experts are currently giving free technical trainings for the breeding of brine shrimp in the Mon State townships of Mawlamyine and Ye, while plans are currently being made so that such trainings can also be given in the Ayeayarwaddy Region township of Lahutta which was devastated by cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Brine shrimp are being bred in neighbouring countries of Thailand and Viet Nam where a kilo, dependent on quality, can fetch for anywhere between K30,000 – K80,000.—Myitmakha News Agency

Bamboo sellers in Mon State face low demand

BAMBOO sellers in Thaton, Mon State face financial problems as demand for forest products continue to decline by year, dealers say.

“In past years we received more demand for bamboo and thatch products than we could supply before the monsoon,” a local dealer said.

“As locals turn to using copper or zinc roofs rather than the forest products sales have been steadily declining.”

“Currently we have very little demand for bamboo and dried leaves. We estimate that demand will likely to be higher in March, April and May this year,” the dealer added.

A local said, “I bought zinc roofing for my house. It is more expensive than bamboo and thatch but it is more suitable for protecting against natural disaster than forest products.” —Thet Oo (Thaton)

Tour operators hold talks to boost Myanmar group tours to Thailand

DISCUSSIONS have been held to coordinate cooperation between Thai and Myanmar tour operators to accommodate Myanmar companies on holiday in neighbouring Thailand.

More Myanmar tourists in Thailand travel for pleasure, seeking relaxing breaks and shopping. As such, independent travel is still the main form of tourism. In order to develop group tour enterprises, discussions were held between the Thailand conference and event bureau and Myanmar tourism operators.

“The only types of trips made to Thailand by Myanmar people are for shopping, relaxing and for medical related trips, such as having blood tests. There aren’t yet hundreds of companies, associations or groups travelling to Thailand for meetings or retreats. These discussion groups are the beginning of implementation plans to allow for these,” said Nopparat Maythaveekulchaisri, chairperson of the Thailand Conferences and Events Bureau.

Further talks will be held in August in the Mon State capital of Mawlamyine between 20 Thai tourism enterprises, plus the department of international civil aviation, the Bangkok civil aviation department, hotels, event centres and project management companies, along with fifteen Myanmar tourism operators.

“MYANMAR’s tourism industry is expected to grow by as much as 10 per cent following the change in government. The Thai embassy and Thai government will also provide financial assistance so that safe and reliable travel services can be provided to travellers,” said Nopparat Maythaveekulchaisri.—Myitmakha News Agency

SHINHAN Bank provides US$50 million to clinker grinding mill plant project

A KOREAN developer signed a reservation agreement with MJTD yesterday on the building of a clinker grinding mill plant.

Under the agreement, Korean’s Yojin Construction and Engineering will build the clinker grinding mill plant in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (Phase-2).

The plant is expected to produce one million tons of cement a year. Construction will take about one and half year and total investment cost will be around US$ 80 million.

On the same day, SHINHAN Bank signed an MOU with Yojin for providing financial advice and the arrangement for US$ 50 million to go towards the project.—GNLM

The clinker grinding mill plant would be built on 24 acres and expected to start the work on construction of the plant in September this year.
Shinhan Bank, a trustful Companion of Myanmar

Shinhan Bank always puts in effort to get one step closer.

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Scholarship programs for students of universities of foreign languages in Yangon/Mandalay (120 students)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Support for construction of Hlegu region’s rural school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>Support for Myanmar representative athletes in Asian Games</td>
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<td>Contribution to Myanmar's hosting of the SEA GAMES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>Provision of trade finance to import and distribute modernized farming machines to Min of Cooperatives (USD 85 million)</td>
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<td>Donation to Korean NGO for providing micro-financing to low-income farmers</td>
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<td>General</td>
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<td>Medical Support</td>
<td>Support providing free surgeries to 18 children by Korean medical team</td>
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Australia accused of dragging feet on Syria refugee intake

SYDNEY — Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton yesterday rejected charges his country was dragging its feet in resettling refugees from Syria and Iraq, having resettled just 26 in the same time it took Canada to process 26,000.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott last September pledged to accept 12,000 refugees from Syria on top of Australia’s current humanitarian intake programme of 3,750 people.

Dutton said the pace of resettlements was determined on national security grounds. Border security is a hot-button political issue in Australia, which is scheduled to hold a national election later in the year.

“The Australian public demands that the government does everything possible to make sure that first and foremost our national security is protected and secondly that we’re bringing right people into our country so that they can start a new life,” he told reporters in Washington.

At a Senate estimates hearing last week, immigration officials said just 26 Syrian refugees had arrived since the 12,000 intake was announced in September.

According to the Canadian government’s main website, 21,313 refugees have resettled since November, while a further 4,687 have had their asylum applications approved but not yet arrived.

The Refugee Council of Australia noted that neighbouring New Zealand had resettled 82 of 200 Syrian refugees it agreed to accept last year under a similar programme. “Our government is struggling its feet while the rest of the world is acting much more quickly to meet their promises,” said refugee council chief Paul Power. “It is a shame for all concerned that the Australian resettlement programme is bogged down in bureaucratic delays, when the governments of Canada and New Zealand have proven that it is possible to move much more swiftly.”

The Australian decision to accept 12,000 people fleeing Syria and Iraq came in response to a call by the United Nations for more cohesive asylum policies to deal with the growing numbers of refugees flooding into Europe to escape the four-year-old Syrian conflict. The number of asylum seekers trying to reach Australia is small in comparison with those arriving in Europe, but under its tough immigration policies, anyone intercepted trying to reach the country by boat was processed for processing to camps in Nauru and Papua New Guinea’s Manus Island.

They are never eligible to be resettled in Australia. Australia’s High Court this month rejected a legal test case that challenged its right to deport 267 refugee children and their families who had been brought from Nauru, about 3,000 km (1,800 miles) northeast of Australia, for medical treatment.— Reuters

South Korea brushes off China’s concerns on deploying antimissile system

SEOUL — A South Korean official yesterday brushed off China’s concerns that the anticipated deployment of a US missile defence system in South Korea will threaten its security interests.

“We are explaining to the Chinese side (that deploying the missile system) is being considered as a defensive measure to be prepared for North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June Hyuck said during a press briefing.

“There is virtually no impact on China’s security interests,” he added.

Cho’s comments came after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Wednesday that China has “expressed firm opposition” to South Korea’s deployment of the antimissile system, known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence.

Hong said deployment of the THAAD system in South Korea would “damage China’s national security interests.”

But Cho said South Korea’s position is to approach the issue of THAAD deployment “in the context of our security and national interests.” As part of efforts to cope with North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats, the United States and South Korea have proven that it is possible to move much more swiftly.”

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India plans to launch 60 space missions in 5 years

NEW DELHI — India is planning to launch at least 12 space missions every year for the next five years, a top official of the state-owned space agency has revealed. “We have already launched 55 missions during the past five years and we are looking at 12 launches per annum in the next five years,” Y.V.N. Murthy, who is Secretary (science) of the space agency, told the media Wednesday on the sidelines of the Make in India week celebrations in Mumbai.

“We have already launched two missions this year and two more will be launched next month, and the space agency’s budget will be around 1.1 billion US dollars this year,” he said.

According to the space agency, the fiscal budget for the Financial Year 2017-18 and this mission will be focused solely on defence against North Korea, which recently launched a rocket and conducted a nuclear test in defiance of UN resolutions. — Kyodo News

Indian Congress leader to call on president on student leader arrest, violence at court

NEW DELHI — India’s opposition Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi and the chief minister of the Indian capital Arvind Kejriwal will call on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee Thursday over the arrest of a student leader and violence at court.

The Congress had also accused the Delhi Police of doing nothing to stop the repeated attacks in Patiala House court in central Delhi by rightwing lawyers upon students, journalists and their supporters, calling it “jungle raj” (rule of jungle).

Police arrested a student leader at the Jawaharlal Nehru University for alleged “sedition” last week and a court in Delhi authorized his detention till next month.

The act has triggered widespread protests by leftwing parties, students, intellectuals and journalists.

Some Hindu rightwing lawyers attacked the accused student, Kanhaiya Kumar, some journalists as well as their supporters on Tuesday and Wednesday within the premises of a court here.

Police stood by doing nothing to stop the attackers, according to media reports.— Xinhua

Iraqi refugee children walk near trees with clothes hung to dry in an Iraqi refugee camp in the village of Mabrouka, Western countryside of Ras al-Ain, Syria, on 6 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

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North Korea could conduct 5th nuke test without warning: US institute

WASHINGTON — North Korea has made it even harder for intelligence authorities to detect its preparations to carry out a nuclear test and could now conduct its fifth nuclear test “with little or no warning,” a US institute that monitors the test site said Tuesday.

The US-Korea Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Washington said on its 38 North website that the fourth and latest test by North Korea on 6 January that Pyongyang “appears to have altered its past test preparation practices” and test preparations can no longer be detected simply by analysing satellite imagery.

North Korea said last month it successfully conducted its first hydrogen bomb test, in defiance of repeated international warnings. Many countries are skeptical of North Korea’s claim that it detonated a hydrogen bomb.

The Institute released commercial satellite images dated 1 February and 7 February showing the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in North Hamgyong Province. The institute said the images show “unidentified objects in various locations” near the test tunnel, which could be a survey team making an assessment of the 6 January nuclear test, preparing for another test, or sealing the tunnel to prevent radiation leakage.

“The while detecting nuclear test preparations is, under the best of circumstances, an intractable art, in the North Korean case it may be the result of careful planning to avoid detection by commercial satellites as they pass overhead or by instituting a practice of gradual, low-key preparations that take place over months — activity almost indistinguishable from construction, tunnel excavation and maintenance,” the institute said.

The institute also warned that North Korea “may have tunnels already completed and ready for a test should it decide to move forward.” — Kyodo News

US flies F-22 fighters over South Korea after North’s rocket launch

OSAN — The United States flew four F-22 stealth fighter jets over South Korea yesterday in a show of force following North Korea’s recent rocket launch and ahead of the allies’ joint military drills next month aimed at deterring Pyongyang’s threat.

The flight of the radar-evading F-22s, based in Okinawa, Japan, is the latest deployment of key US strategic military assets to the South after the North defied warnings from world powers and conducted a fourth nuclear test last month.

South Korea and the United States said the North’s rocket launch on 7 February was a long-range missile test and violated UN Security Council resolutions that ban the use of ballistic missile technology by the isolated state.

The US military said at the weekend that it had deployed an additional Patriot high-velocity missile interceptor unit to South Korea in response to recent North Korean provocations.

The allies were also expected to begin discussions on the deployment of the advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) missile defence system.

Last month, the United States flew a B-52 bomber capable of carrying nuclear weapons on a low-level flight over the South following the North’s 6 January nuclear test.

The joint military drills scheduled to start in March, which in most years last eight weeks and involve hundreds of thousands of South Korean and US troops, will be the largest ever, according to South Korean officials.

There are 28,500 US soldiers stationed in the South as part of combined defence with the South’s military of more than 1.2 million. North Korea claims to have an army of 1.2 million, North Korea claims the annual drills are war preparations.

South Korea and the United States say the exercises, which have been conducted for years without major incident, are defensive. — Reuters

China installs missile system on South China Sea island: US report

WASHINGTON — China has deployed an advanced surface-to-air missile system on one of the disputed islands in the South China Sea, Fox News said Tuesday, with Taiwan authorities also confirming the deployment.

Civilian satellite imagery Fox News obtained shows that China has installed the missile launchers and a radar system on the Chinese-controlled Yongxing Island in the Paracel Islands, according to the broadcaster.

Viet Nam and Taiwan also claim the island, which is also known as Woody Island.

The broadcaster said the deployment is “more evidence that China is increasingly ‘militarizing’ its islands in the South China Sea and ramping up tensions in the region.”

A US official confirmed the accuracy of the photos and that the imagery appears to show the HQ-9 air defence system, which has a range of about 125 miles (200 kilometres), according to Fox News.

The system would pose a threat to any airplanes, civilian or military, flying close by, the broadcaster said.

The report comes as US President Barack Obama suggested his administration will continue with military operations to counter China’s maritime activities in the sea after a summit with leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in California.

China also constructing large-scale facilities, including airstrips, on artificial islands it created in the Spratly Islands, another group of islands in the South China Sea, prompting the United States and other countries to worry the move could lead Beijing to seek to control an air defence identification zone over the sea.

US Defence Department spokesman Bill Urban said, “While I cannot comment on matters related to intelligence, we do watch these matters very closely.”

The US Navy last month sailed a destroyer near another disputed island in the Paracels to protest at China’s unilateral activities to claim sovereignty, and to defend US interests in the sea.

The Chinese-controlled Zhongjian Island, also called Triton Island, is claimed by Taiwan and Viet Nam.

In October the US Navy also sent a destroyer within what China claimed to be territorial waters near the artificial island Beijing built on Subi Reef in the Spratlys.

In Taiwan, a National Defence Ministry spokesman said authorities have confirmed the missile deployment and that Taiwan will “closely watch developments hereafter.”

He also warned that interested countries should refrain from “taking any unilateral steps that will intensify tensions” in the South China Sea region to maintain peace and stability, without directly naming China. — Kyodo News

China says missile deployment reports are creations of some Western media

BEIJING — Reports that China has deployed an advanced surface-to-air missile system to one of the disputed islands it controls in the South China Sea have been created by certain Western media, the country’s foreign minister said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi also told reporters he hoped Western media would pay more attention to the lighthouses China is building in the region. Taiwan and US officials told Reuters and other media outlets yesterday that China had deployed the missile system.

At the same news conference, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, who is visiting China, urged restraint in the region and called on all sides to settle disputes peacefully, adding that Australia does not take a position on South China Sea claims.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than $5 trillion in global trade passes every year, and has been building runways and other infrastructure on artificial islands to bolster its claims. — Reuters
A good beginning makes a good ending

Kyaw Thura

It is interesting to note that researchers have identified early childhood quality education as critical to the children's cognitive development in the formative years. This highlights the importance of high-quality teachers capable of setting students on the path to academic and social success.

In this respect, the government, the parliament and civil society should come together to provide the emotional support for teachers to be able to create effective teaching in their classrooms with greater autonomy. There is reason to believe that effective teaching produces better outcomes for children. It is, therefore, imperative for policymakers to take a crucial step in providing the educators with the training and resources they need.

In the past five years, private schools have been allowed to meet the rising demand for early education. Despite this, the quality they render is not that satisfactory. To ensure effective teaching, the government's educational bodies need to consider the professional backgrounds of teachers, including their educational training and the years of their experience in the profession.

Thus, the education departments should give careful consideration to the fact that teaching young children is not a small matter. In addition, they should not assign the reform of the kindergarten syllabus to those teachers who have not been trained properly. This highlights the need for policymakers to take a crucial step in providing the educators with the training and resources they need.

A good beginning makes a good ending, after all.

Compiling the list of former names of roads, thoroughfares and streets in Yangon local Areas

Tommy Pauk

Recording the old and historic buildings and monuments are rather interesting. So is the compiling the old names of roads and streets in Yangon. The Yangonites who are now in their thirties want to know Yangon's old names of roads and streets. Those foreigner interested in collecting the old or former names of roads and streets in Yangon local areas.

Actually, this is not a complete list of former names of roads, thoroughfares and streets in Yangon local areas. However, to some extent, the learners can find some of the former names of streets in Yangon matched with current names on the list.

The intended purpose of this article is to share general knowledge with the young local readers as well as those foreigners interested in collecting the old or former names of roads and streets in Yangon local areas.

The compilation of the list was contributed by the septuagenarians who were born in Yangon (Rangoon). Some are taken from reliable reference books. Hopefully, this article will contribute to those who learn the history of Yangon. The scholars can acquire historical knowledge including the names of streets used in the past. Normally, each and every city has its own background history and the dwellers use to record or archive the things related to their native city. As we love our native city, we ought to learn or record or archive about Yangon's former and current names of the streets, thoroughfares and roads.

This article could be in-formational and entertaining for the readers of both locals and foreigners who take keen interest in Yangon city. Thanks to the contributions made by Yangon city elders and reference of ollilasa- men.wordpress.

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<tr>
<th>Former Name</th>
<th>New Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Avenue</td>
<td>KhaPaung Street (Kamayut)</td>
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<td>Masjid Road</td>
<td>Thamein Bayan Road</td>
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<td>Maung Haw Lay Street</td>
<td>Bo Sun Pet Street</td>
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<td>Maung Khang Street</td>
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<td>Mogul Road</td>
<td>Shwe Bontha Road</td>
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<td>Montgomery Road</td>
<td>Bogoyoke Aung San Road (East)</td>
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<td>Pagoda Road</td>
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<td>Promee Road</td>
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<td>Park Lane</td>
<td>Nat Maun Lai Thwae (Bahan)</td>
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<td>Park Avenue</td>
<td>Nat Maun Lai Thwe (Bahan)</td>
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<td>Sapashaire street</td>
<td>Zewaka Street (Dagon)</td>
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<td>Signal Pagoda Road</td>
<td>Alan Pya Pagoda Road (Dagon)</td>
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<td>Sparks Road</td>
<td>Bo Aung Kyaw Road</td>
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<td>St.Anthony's Street</td>
<td>U Pho Kyar Street (Mingalar Taung Nyunt)</td>
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<td>St.John's Street</td>
<td>Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street</td>
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<td>Stevenson Road</td>
<td>Hledan Road</td>
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<td>Stockade Road and Judah Ezekiel Road</td>
<td>Theinbyu Road (South and North)</td>
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<td>Suburban Street</td>
<td>Ngw War Street (Aholone)</td>
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<td>Strand Road</td>
<td>Kama Street</td>
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<td>Stevenson Street</td>
<td>Hledan Street (Lammadaw)</td>
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<td>Transport Street</td>
<td>Ahar Zar Ni Street (Dagon)</td>
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<td>Thompson Road</td>
<td>Botataung Pagoda Road</td>
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<td>Tower Lane Street</td>
<td>Bogoyoke Aung SanPya Taik Street</td>
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<td>Upper Phayre Road</td>
<td>Upper Pansodan Road</td>
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<td>University Avenue</td>
<td>Tekkatho Yeik Thar Street</td>
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<td>Voyle Road</td>
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<td>Windermere Road</td>
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<td>Windsor Road</td>
<td>Shin Sawpu Road (San Chaung)</td>
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<td>Windermere Crescent Street</td>
<td>Pan War Street (Dagon)</td>
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<td>York Street</td>
<td>Yaw Mingyi Street</td>
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This article could be informative and entertaining for the readers of both locals and foreigners who take keen interest in Yangon city. Thanks to the contributions made by Yangon city elders and reference of ollilasamen.wordpress.
Evidences of ancient habitation discovered in Monywa

Ye Khaung Nyunt

EVIDENCES of human settlement in the early Bronze Age were found in two villages of Butalin Township, Sagaing Region following the discovery of remains and artifacts by Myanmar and French archaeologists recently.

“We unearthed skeletal remains, the burial of an infant in a pot as well as other pieces at old cemeteries in Nyaungkan village and Okaing villages of the township,” said French Archaeologist Dr Thomas Oliver Pyce at a seminar at the French Cultural Centre in Yangon Wednesday.

The evidences of human habitation suggest that human settlement is dated to 2000-1000 BC, added the archaeologist.

Myanmar and French archaeologists began conducting exploration at the archaeological sites in 2001 after the Department of Archaeology in Mandalay uncovered remains buried with stone tools, pots and bronze items at an old cemetery near an extinct volcano in Nyaungkan village in 1998.

“Village people feel proud for having unearthed artifacts as there was human settlement at their loca-...
Farmers across Pale Township receive agricultural water for summer paddy

WITH the aim of establishing summer paddy plantations and other crops, Myaukyama Dam in Pale Township in Sagaing Region, has distributed agricultural water to farmland.

Farmers across Pale and Yinnabin townships in Sagaing Region have received agricultural water. The process began in mid-February.

“We, the Pale Township Irrigation Department, normally supply water to nearly 6,000 acres of farmlands via the Myaukyama Dam,” The irrigated area may be increased by as many as 4,120 acres if farmers change their irrigation system.

The 100,000 acre-foot Myaukyama Dam is able to distribute an adequate supply of agricultural water to around 10,000 acres of farmland.

Thanks to the dam, farmers in Pale Township are able to regularly operate their agricultural businesses year round, even though they are farming in a dry area.

Last year, farmers established 2,790 acres of plantation space including 400 acres of paddy field.—Min Khant Soe (Zeyamy)

Crime News

Yabba seized in Loilem

A LOCAL anti-drug squad seized yabba and heroin from a car on Loilem- Namsan road, Loilem township, on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched the car being driven by one Myo Kyaw Htoo alias Kyaw Htoo Aung and Kyaw Zay Tun alias Pho Kyaw on board when they found 5,000 yabba pills and 1.05 kilograms of heroin.

Similarly, police seized 1,600 yabba pills from a motorbike being driven by one Ko Sai alias Nyi Kham near Municipal park, KoneKhar ward, Mabein town on 14 February.

On that same day local authorities seized 656 yabba pills and K10,000 at a house in Kyaw Khine road, Duwintama ward, Loilem town owned by one Ma Nan Moh Kham alias Lin Lin Thaw. One Hlaing Myint Toe was found with the host. Police have filed charges against the suspects under the anti-Narcotic and psychotropic substances law.— Ko Ye

A man arrested for attempted rape in Nay Pyi Taw

POLICE arrested a man who has attempted to rape a nine-year-old girl at Gate-1 Public toilet, Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February.

The girl came back from the toilet when she met with Aye Kyaw, 25, who was on security duty. Aye Kyaw forcibly took her by the hand to the toilet back and attempted to rape about 10 minutes.

As the same time, the child’s father arrived at the toilet and found two legs of a man on the ground. As he became suspicious, he looked over the partition only to find Aye Kyaw attempting to rape his daughter. He informed to the police, who filed a lawsuit against Aye Kyaw under section 376/511.— Ko Paung (Okkar Myay)

Fire destroys a factory in Insein

AN outbreak of fire caused by electrical short circuit destroyed a factory on Bayintnaung road, Gyogon ward, Insein township on Tuesday. According to an investigation, the fire began from an overheated air compressor. The factory was owned by Daw Than Than Aye. U Thawdaw, Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Fire Services Department said that the fire began at 4:15pm and was called in at 4:20. The fire was brought under control by firemen at about 5:00. It took 59 fire engines and over 150 firemen to put out the blaze with 35000 gallons of water used.— Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)
Obama to make historic trip to Cuba in coming weeks, official says

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will visit Cuba in the coming weeks, a senior administration official said on Wednesday, marking a historic trip in the final year of his presidency that will mark a turning point in US relations with a long-time Cold War foe.

The White House plans to announce the visit on Thursday. The Cuba stop will be part of a broader trip to Latin America.

The visit to Havana by Obama would cap what administration officials see as one of his legacy foreign policy achievements: normalising relations with Cuba and taking steps toward expanded commercial relations after a 54-year freeze. Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro shocked the world in December 2014 by announcing the former adversaries would move to normalise relations.

The Republican majority in Congress has defined Obama’s call to rescind the five-decade-old embargo, so he has used his executive authority to relax trade and travel restrictions. Republican presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, both sons of Cuban immigrants, have been sharply critical of his opening to Cuba in the absence of political change there. A visit by Obama to Havana in late March would correspond with the finalisation of a peace deal for Colombia that was encouraged and sponsored by Castro. The Colombian government and the FARC rebel group are expected to finalise a peace deal by 23 March in Havana that would end a 50-year civil war in the South American nation.

Obama said in a December interview with Yahoo News that he hoped to visit Cuba in 2016 but only if enough progress had been made in bilateral relations and he was able to meet political dissidents as part of an effort to “nudge the Cuban government in a new direction.”

A Cuban foreign ministry official said in reaction to the December interview that Obama was welcome to visit Cuba but not while it is in its internal affairs. It was not immediately clear what detailed arrangements would be made for the trip or how diplomats from the two nations proposed to bridge that divide as part of the plans. Washington and Havana restored diplomatic ties in July but commerce remains limited by the US trade embargo, which includes a ban on American tourism to the island. On Tuesday, American and Cuban officials signed an arrangement to restore scheduled air services between the two countries after half a century.

Rubio wasted no time in criticising the reported plans for the trip. Asked at a CNN town hall event in South Carolina whether he would visit Cuba, Rubio replied: “Not if it’s not a free Cuba.” At the same event, Cruz also criticised Obama’s move, saying he would not go to Cuba “as long as the Castros are in power.”

“What Obama has shown to our enemies is weakness and appeasement,” Cruz said, lumping together Obama’s steps toward improving US relations with Cuba and Iran. “I think it’s a real mistake. I think the president in stead ought to be pushing for a free Cuba,” he said. Instead, he will go and “essentially act as an apologizer.”

The last and only sitting US president to visit Cuba was Calvin Coolidge in 1928. — Reuters

Austria to cap refugee flow at 3,200 a day, with Slovenia’s help

VIENNA — Austria will limit the number of migrants it lets in at 3,200 a day from Friday, the country’s interior minister said, turning an annual cap on asylum claims into a daily entry quota that is likely to cause backlogs on the main refugee route into Europe.

Austria, the last stop on the way to Germany for the hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants who have flocked to Europe since September, is increasingly diverging from its big neighbour by taking steps to restrict the influx.

“We must apply the brakes step by step,” Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told reporters. Austria’s move to tighten border controls is seconded by Slovenia, which plans similar policies in solidarity.

“A backlog could develop, but Slovenia will also take further steps in agreement with us,” she said. Germany is also likely to announce its own border restrictions, Mikl-Leitner said, without elaborating.

The Slovenian Interior Minister Vesna Gyorkos Znidar said that Slovenia would step up controls on the border with its European Union neighbour Croatia, which is not part of the Schengen zone of free movement within Europe.

“The number of migrants Slovenia will receive will be within the (daily) quota imposed by Austria,” she told a news conference.

After initially throwing open its borders with Germany six months ago, Austria has progressively tightened its entry restrictions, first largely in step with Berlin, and now apparently without Germany’s approval.

Around 1,000 migrants a day have been arriving at Austria’s busiest crossing, on the border with Slovenia. That is far fewer than the 15,700 who came from Hungary in one day at the height of the migration crisis, but the pace is expected to pick up in spring. — Reuters

UN Security Council urged to protect Guinean peacekeepers

CONAKRY — Guinean President Alpha Conde yesterday urged members of the UN Security Council to protect his country’s peacekeepers who are fighting terrorists in northern Mali.

Speaking during a meeting with diplomats and representatives of international institutions in Conakry, Conde appealed for security measures to be taken to avert barbaric attacks against Guinean soldiers based in Kidal, northern Mali. Conde said it was important to secure camps of peacekeepers operating under the UN Mission in Mali, by properly equipping them. Positions of Guinean peacekeepers in Kidal were targets of terrorist attacks on 12 February, which left seven Guinean soldiers dead and 20 others injured. — Xinhua

Japan’s MSDF conducts joint drills with Vietnam’s navy

DANANG — The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force conducted joint exercises with the Vietnamese navy for three days through Thursday in the Southeast Asian country and nearby waters.

An MSDF team was dispatched to Danang, central Vietnam, along with two P-3C patrol aircraft for the drills aimed at reinforcing defence cooperation between the two countries and keeping a check on China amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Viet Nam, one of several states involved in disputes over reefs and islands in the waters, are at odds with China over claims to the Paracel and Spratly island groups. Just this week, China’s deployment of an advanced surface-to-air missile system on one of the Paracel Islands came to light. — Kyodo News

Britain scrambles fighters to intercept Russian bombers

LONDON — British Typhoon fighter jets intercepted two Russian Tu-160 bomber planes heading towards British airspace on Wednesday, a spokesman from the Ministry of Defence said.

The British aircraft were scrambled from a Royal Air Force base in eastern England and escorted the Russian planes while they flew in an area which is closely monitored by Britain, but outside its territorial airspace.

“At no point did the Russian aircraft enter UK territorial air space,” the spokesman said, without giving more specific details of the location of the incident. The Russian Defence Ministry did not respond to written questions submitted by Reuters. — Reuters

Austria wait to cross the border from Slovenia into Spielfeld in Austria, on 16 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Migrants wait to cross the border from Slovenia into Spielfeld in Austria, on 16 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Egypts Sisi says wont hesitate to send troops to Gulf if asked

CAIRO — Egypt will not hesitate to send military forces into the territory of Arab Gulf allies to offer protection if asked by the leaders of those countries, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday.

The most populous Arab state, the recipient of billions of dollars in aid from the Gulf, has entered a Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen but has yet to formally commit to sending ground troops.

Sisi has often said that the Gulf’s security is synonymous with Egyptian national security.

“The president made it clear that Egypt will not hesitate to send forces to brotherly Gulf counties to defend them if they face any direct threat or aggression,” the presidency said in a statement. Sisi made his comments at a briefing with Kuwaiti journalists on Wednesday. — Reuters

Militants kill 9 tribal policemen, destroy girls’ school in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least nine tribal policemen were killed in two separate attacks by militants who also destroyed a girls’ school in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Mohmand Agency yesterday, local media reported.

ARY News reported that in the first incident, some unknown militants attacked and killed two tribal policemen who were guarding a solar tube-well in Darwazai area of Mohmand Agency, a restive tribal area along Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The militants also set the tube-well on fire before fleeing the scene. In the other incident seven tribal policemen were killed when the militants opened fire at a check post in Pandalayi area of Mohmand Agency. Several policemen also got injured in the attack and were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. — Xinhua

News in Brief
US Republican presidential race erupts into four-way battle

CHARLESTON — The Republican race for the party’s 2016 presidential nomination erupted into a four-candidate crossfire on Wednesday over who has the proper experience and is the most conservative, days before South Carolina voters put their stamp on the campaign.

In TV interviews and campaign events, front-runner Donald Trump threatened to sue Senator Ted Cruz of Texas over a negative TV ad, while Senator Marco Rubio of Florida accused Cruz of lying about his record, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush questioned Rubio’s experience to serve as president.

Amid the squabbling, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley endorsed Rubio as the Republicans’ best hope for winning the White House, a boost that could give him a boost to Bush, who had lobbied hard for her to pick a blow to Bush, who had a party nominee for the 8

The endorsement gave Rubio, 44, a valuable ally to try to sway voters ahead of Saturday’s South Carolina Republican primary, the third contest after Iowa and New Hampshire to pick a party nominee for the 8

November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama. Bush had a tough day, learning of Haley’s endorsement right before a town hall meeting in Summerville, South Carolina, where four members of the audience second-guessed his campaign strategy and offered tips on how to have a greater impact in the state.

Much of the debate took place over the television airwaves, as Trump, 69, a billionaire businessman and former reality TV star, lobbed charges at his rivals on an MSNBC town hall, and Rubio and Cruz battled in back-to-back appearances at a CNN town hall in Greenville, South Carolina. Trump turned about a TV ad put out by the Cruz campaign that brought up Trump’s past position in support of a woman’s right to an abortion.

“Trump says he has evolved into a conservative and is now against abortion. “You look at a guy like Ted Cruz, he’s a nasty guy,” Trump said. “He doesn’t have one Republican endorsement from the Senate and he works with the Senate. Think of it. Hard to believe.”

Cruz dared Trump to sue him over the campaign ad, which featured a 1999 video clip of Trump saying he was “very pro-choice” on abortion. Cruz said Trump sent his campaign a “cease and desist letter” demanding it drop the ad. At the CNN town hall, he said he laughed out loud when he got the letter threatening what he called a “frivolous lawsuit.”

“In any defamation case, truth is a complete defense,” Cruz said.

Questioners at the town hall pressed Cruz, 45, on charges levied against him by Trump that he may not be eligible to be president because he was born in Canada, and that none of his US Senate colleagues liked him.

Cruz said he met the constitutional requirement that a president must be a “natural born citizen” because his mother was an American.

As for his Senate colleagues, Cruz said some may not like him because he serves the interests of his constituents, not fellow senators.

The latest national Reuters/Ipsos poll showed Trump taking a more than 20-point lead over Cruz in the Republican race.

Trump had 40 percent support in the poll conducted from Saturday to Wednesday, compared with 17 percent for Cruz, 11 percent for Rubio, 10 percent for retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, and 8 percent for Bush.

The results contrasted with those of an NBC News/Wall Street Journal national poll that put Cruz ahead of Trump among Republican primaries by 28 percent to 26 percent. Rubio, hoping to overtake Cruz for second place in South Carolina, where Trump leads in the polls, accused Cruz of spreading falsehoods with an ad attacking Rubio over his position on immigration.

Photo: Reuters

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley (L) and US Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio react on stage during a campaign event in Chapin, South Carolina on 17 February. 

Ugandans start voting for president amid long delays

KAMPALA — Ugandans started casting their votes yesterday to decide whether to give Yoweri Museveni, in power for three decades, another term in office.

Voting at most polling stations in the capital, Kampala, was yet to start 90 minutes after the official opening of polling at 7 am local time (0400 GMT), leading to concerns among some voters. “If the voting time is reduced like this there will be many people who will not be able to vote,” said Dickson Mabom, a 34-year-old history teacher, who had been waiting in line for two hours at Muyumbe polling station in Kampala.

Voting at the station still had not started by 0545 GMT. All sides contesting the election accuse each other of using tactics and assembling vigilante groups, and the leading opposition candidates have predicted vote rigging.

Museveni, 71, has pleased Western allies by ending in peacekeeping troops to hotspots such as Somalia. He faces two main challengers — longtime opposition leader Kizza Besigye, who has run unsuccessfully in three previous elections, and former prime minister Amama Mbabazi, who until recently was a close ally.

Besigye told Reuters on the eve of the vote Museveni was “not going to go peacefully” and said his supporters may stage street protests to dispute the election outcome. Museveni’s supporters have sought to stir the enthusiasm of younger voters.

“We have had peace for a long time and these young people are taking it for granted,” said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market.

The United States last week supported calls for a peaceful, transparent and credible vote.

Museveni, who came to power in 1986 after waging a five-year guerrilla war, is hailed by many Ugandans as providing decades of relative peace and economic stability. His rivals, however, are drawing strength from a clamour for fresh leadership.

Uganda is an overwhelmingly youthful country, and all the candidates have sought to stir the enthusiasm of younger voters. Museveni’s rallies featured performances by leading pop stars, while Besigye and Mbabazi have centred their campaigns on pledges to boost employment and tackle corruption, issues that young voters emphasise.

On the streets of Kampala, most young voters identified themselves as Besigye supporters.

Joel Nyanintonto, a 26-year-old entrepreneur, said he was ashamed of the condition of Uganda’s roads and hospitals and craved an innovative leader. “We are so far behind. We need to open our eyes and move into the ‘now’ tense,” Nyanintonto said as he sat near a church in Kampala.

Other voters say the idea of “change” makes them nervous.

Nanteza Beatrice, 56, a fruit vendor in a Kampa market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market.

Young people are taking it for granted,” said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a peaceful market.

Voting is scheduled to last for nine hours, ending at 4 pm. (1300 GMT) — Reuters

Claims Day Notice

MY BC SAN FRANCISCO VOY NO (025W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (025W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 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: MS OCEAN OVERSEA CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice

MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 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: MS/CM/CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 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: MS/EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185
“Wedding Announcement”

With the agreement of both parents and in the presence of the honourable guests, the wedding reception of

Maung Kyaw Zeya

B.S.EE (San Jose State University, USA), MBA (University of Western, USA)

and

Dr Thandar Aye

MM.BS (Yn), MIRC&P(UK)

residing at No.630, Barnard Way, Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA

residing at No.132, 18th Street, Lahada Township, Yangon, Myanmar was successfully held at Western Park Royal Restaurant on 18th February 2016, Thursday.

Maung Kyaw Zeya + Dr Thandar Aye
Actress Winslet says playing a Brit ‘would be ultimate challenge’

LONDON — Having put on an array of foreign accents in her award-winning career, British actress Kate Winslet says she really wants to play an English character, adding it would be “the ultimate challenge”.

The “Titanic” star has pretended to be American, Australian, Polish-Armenian and in her latest film, crime thriller “Triple 9”, a Russian-Israeli mafia boss.

“My M.O. (modus operandi) is just keep doing the unexpected. Although I also do keep trying to play an English person but that just doesn’t keep happening for me at the moment,” Winslet told Reuters in an interview.

“That would be the ultimate challenge and then I’d have no dialect option at all. No one is going to have my back and I would be all by myself and probably more terrified than ever before. Wouldn’t that be novel?”

Winslet plays the bejeweled and designer-clad Irina Vlasov in action-packed “Triple 9” about corrupt police and the criminal underworld — a role she said “felt very out of my comfort zone”.

“I don’t know anyone like this woman. I didn’t like her. I didn’t empathize with her. I wanted that challenge of playing a character who really felt like a character,” she said.

Winslet is in the running for an Academy Award for her portrayal in “Steve Jobs” of the late Apple co-founder’s colleague Joanna Hoffman.

Asked if going to Broadway was next, Winslet said: “Well I suppose it probably is now. And that’s more because of my 12-year-old son Joe, who ... is just obsessed with records.”

“So since he has learnt about this ‘EGOT’ thing, he’s like, ‘Mum you’ve gotta do it.’”

Winslet has backed her “Titanic” co-star Leonardo DiCaprio to win the best actor Oscar this year for “The Revenant”.

Both have been honored this awards season, reuniting on the red carpet, much to the delight of “Titanic” fans, something that surprised Winslet.

“It’s crazy but it’s wonderful how people still get such a kick out of the (‘Titanic’ characters) Jack and Rose combo.”

Composed Morricone hopeful for sixth time lucky Oscar

LONDON — Ennio Morricone is hoping it will be sixth time lucky at this year’s Oscars, where he has been nominated for the musical score for Quentin Tarantino’s “The Hateful Eight”.

“I hope that this time there will be (Oscar victory),” 87-year-old Morricone told Reuters in an interview.

Morricone’s previous Oscar bids include his work for “Bugsy” and “The Untouchables”, but it is perhaps his loss for his critically-acclaimed “The Mission” score — when Herbie Hancock scooped the honor for “Round Midnight” — that is the sorest.

“I am not certain it will happen so I am going there tranquil, serene, hopeful that it goes well,” said Morricone, who received an Honorary Academy Award in 2007 for “his magnificent and multifaceted contributions to the art of film music”.

His “The Hateful Eight” work has already won a Golden Globe and a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) award which he received in London on Tuesday after being unable to make the official ceremony due to his tour commitments.

“This is something amazing, unexpected because in my type of work, you don’t think of the positive or negative consequences,” Morricone said.

“In general there aren’t negative ones. But sometimes there can also be negative consequences, that is the film doesn’t succeed or people don’t like the music. But this time, everything went well, thank goodness. I am happy, amazed.”

Before the 28 February Oscar bids, Morricone will be honored with a star on the Walk of Fame, with Tarantino among the guest speakers at the ceremony on the famed Hollywood boulevard.

Born in Rome in 1928, Morricone began his film music composer career in 1961 with the Luciano Salce directed movie “Il Federale” and has since scored more than 450 films.

Asked if a particular period in his career stood out, Morricone said he had several preferred directors: “There are, but I won’t say, some whom I prefer, because it is not just one. I prefer to stay quiet.”

Conductor Ozawa to share delight of winning Grammy with orchestra

KYOTO — Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa expressed his joy Wednesday at winning the Best Opera Recording award at the Grammys, saying he wants to share this delight with the other performers.

“I am surprised. I am happy we were able to receive this kind of award and I would like to share my joy with members of the Saito Kinen Orchestra,” Ozawa, 80, said at a press conference in the western Japan city of Kyoto, where he is staging a performance.

His opera recording won at Monday’s 58th Grammy Awards, which are considered the top honors in the US music business. It was Ozawa’s first Grammy award after being nominated eight times.

Ozawa’s award-winning recording is of a performance of Ravel’s “L’Enfant et Les Sortileges” (“The Child and the Spells”) given in August 2013 in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, by the Saito Kinen Orchestra as part of the orchestra’s festival.

The conductor, who has led top orchestras such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, called the Saito Kinen Orchestra his “dream orchestra” and said he will work hard not to let any health concerns get in the way of his future performances.

Ozawa has been based in Kyoto since early this month for opera performances to be performed on Thursday and Saturday.

Known for his activities in and out of Japan, Ozawa was also music director of Vienna State Opera.

Lady Gaga vows never to turn fashion designer

NEW YORK — Pop sensation Lady Gaga has ruled out ever turning her passion for fashion into a side career, insisting she respects designers too much to intrude on their territory.

Gaga, 29, known for her unique sense of style, said she is happy to be dressed by her stylist and friend Brandon Maxwell, reported the New York Post.

“The thing is, at the end of the day, I have a real respect for fashion designers. And it’s the reason I don’t have my own line and the reason I never will. “If I ever do anything in fashion, it will always just be as a muse or as an aesthetic, creative. I like to be a part of helping artists find themselves and feel good about who they are. I would never for a second claim to be proficient in fashion design (just) because I know good looks,” she said.

Gaga goes on to express her admiration for Brandon, who she credits with helping to embrace her more girly side.

Lady Gaga vows never to turn fashion designer

Italian composer Ennio Morricone.

Photo: Reuters

To be proficient in fashion design (just) because I know good looks,” she said.

Lady Gaga goes on to express her admiration for Brandon, who she credits with helping to embrace her more girly side. — PTI

Photo: Reuters
USJ mulls rescinding plan to build new theme park in Okinawa

OSAKA — The operator of Universal Studios Japan is considering canceling its plan to open a new theme park in Okinawa due to concerns that the park may not be able to attract enough visitors to cover the expected massive investment required, sources familiar with the matter said yesterday. USJ Co. is looking into whether opening the park in the southwestern island prefecture would be profitable as its parent company, US media giant and cable operator Comcast Corp., has been reluctant to give the green light, the sources said. USJ opened in 2001 in Osaka city and has become a major tourist draw in western Japan. According to the sources, USJ had been thinking of creating another US movie theme park in the Ocean Expo Park, which is a popular area featuring attractions such as Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, and preparations had been under way.

In July last year, Glenn Gumpel, former USJ chairman and CEO, visited Okinawa and agreed with Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga to cooperate over the USJ plan to build the new theme park by 2020. But the plan was put on hold after Comcast’s acquisition of a 51 percent stake in USJ in November. At his first press conference on February since becoming chief executive officer of USJ, Jean Louis Bonnier only said that the matter is being assessed within the company. USJ had seen a drop in visitors at one point but numbers picked up again thanks partly to the addition of a zone based on the popular Harry Potter film series. In fiscal 2014, the theme park drew a record 12.7 million visitors, and the figure is projected to be higher in fiscal 2015. As talk about USJ opening in Okinawa continues, the issue of having a Disney Resort Futenma, Mayor Atsushi Tanaka of the Okinawa government has also expressed interest in the park and the prefecture has also surfaced. In Okinawa’s Ginowan city, home to US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa Prefecture Governor Takeshi Akira has been pushing for Disney to build on the land to be vacated after the base is relocated. The central government has also expressed its support—Kyodo News

LOS ANGELES — A Vampire Breast Lift. A laser skin-tightening procedure. A 10-day first-class trip to Israel. Those are a few of the services included in the $200,000 gift bags that one marketing firm has promoted for celebrities attending the Oscars ceremony on Feb. 26. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the awards, wants the public to know it hasn’t approved any of those items. In a federal lawsuit filed on Tuesday in Los Angeles, the organisation accused Distinctive Assets of promoting the gift bags as official Oscars swag. “Distinctive Assets uses the Academy’s trademarks to reap the profits of its ‘gift bags’ and falsely create the impression of association, affiliation, connection, sponsorship and/or endorsement,” said the lawsuit, which names the company’s founder, Lash Fary, as a defendant. Neither Distinctive Assets nor a lawyer representing the company immediately responded to a request for comment early on Wednesday. Gift bags have been a persistent headache over the years for the Academy, which stopped giving gift baskets to presenters and performers in 2007 after the practice came under closer scrutiny by US tax authorities. Celebrities who receive gifts and free vacations at awards shows are expected to declare them as income and pay the appropriate taxes, according to the Internal Revenue Service. The lawsuit said Fary was misleading media outlets by promoting the gift bags with slogans like “Everyone Wins Nominee Gift Bags in Honor of the Oscars(R),” adding that the use of the trademark symbol was a deliberate attempt to imply an official connection. The Academy cited numerous news articles that referred to the gift bags as “official” or as “Oscar Swag Bags,” arguing the coverage shows Fary has engaged in deceptive marketing. The lawsuit asked a federal judge to prevent Fary from using any Academy trademark and seeks compensation for damages as well as three times the amount of Fary’s profits and the academy’s legal fees.—Reuters
Ronaldo breaks Roma resistance as Real win 2-0

ROME — Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 12th Champions League goal of the season with a superb strike into the top corner as Real Madrid took a firm grip on their last-16 tie against AS Roma with a 2-0 first leg win on Wednesday.

The record 10 times European champions took the game to Roma, but were frustrated in the first half as the hosts kept men behind the ball, while looking to catch Real out on the break.

Ronaldo, however, ended their resistance just before the hour mark.

He audaciously controlled a fine pass from Marcelo on the left edge of the box, before unleashing a powerful, curling shot that deflected off Alessandro Florenzi and looped over keeper Wojciech Szczesny into the net.

The emphatic finish sparked a joyous celebration from the Portuguese who raced across to embrace coach Zinedine Zidane.

“It was a great match by him and the rest of the (team),” Zidane told beIN Sports.

“I’m happy (about the celebration) but above all because he scored,” added the Frenchman, who was a Champions League winner with Real as a player in 2002 but was making his competition debut as coach.

“It’s been a very special day, we played well but it was a difficult match because they (Roma) played well.”

Substitute Jese added the Spanish team’s second four minutes from fulltime with a solo run into the box and shot across the face of goal that flew inside the far post.

Two minutes earlier, Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas came out sharply to save at the feet of Stephan El Shaarawy after one of Roma’s fast and dangerous counter-attacks.

Ronaldo might have had a second goal a quarter of an hour from the end but his header at the far post was just wide from James Rodriguez’s superb cross. Karim Benzema then saw his goalbound shot from another James cross hit Lucas Digne in the head.

At the other end, Roma substitute Edin Dzeko hit the side-netting with a header and Real were relieved when the home side were not awarded a penalty after a tackle by Dani Carvajal on Florenzi.

“I think it was our best performance of the season this evening against a top team,” Florenzi told Mediaset.

“We’re bitter because we played really well and to see this score is not pleasing.”

Real did not have a single shot on target in the first half, but twice had Raphael Varane and Mohamed Salah to Diego Perotti, before blocking a shot by El Shaarawy.

Zidane remains unbeaten since he took over from the sacked Rafa Benitez early last month and the coach was given enthusiastic backing from Real defender Sergio Ramos.

“We’re all on the same wavelength as Zinedine Zidane, we’re very happy with him,” Ramos said. — Reuters

300-up Messi makes history as Barca open big lead

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi became the first player to notch 300 La Liga goals as his double blast powered Barcelona to a 3-1 win at Sporting Gijon that sent them six points clear at the top of the table on Wednesday.

“To have Messi is a privilege,” coach Luis Enrique told reporters. “We are where we wanted to be.”

Luis Suarez missed a second-half penalty but made amends soon after by scoring the third goal to take his tally in all competitions to 24. Romero was brought down by Cuellar but the goalkeeper dived to his right to save Suarez’s effort, the seventh penalty miss by a Barca player this season.

Suarez atoned for the miss when he fought his way past a defender on the right five minutes later and curled a fine shot in off the far post to take his total as La Liga’s top marksman this season to 24.

“We’ll have to work on this matter of the penalties (though) it doesn’t worry me at all,” said Luis Enrique.

“It’s obvious we want to improve but we have confidence in Luis, Messi and Neymar because they are great penalty takers.” — Reuters

The lead lasted two minutes before Giron launched a fast counter-attack as Pablo Perez passed to left winger Alex Menendez and his low cross was turned home at the far post by striker Carlos Castro.

Messi, playing in his 334th La Liga match, restored Barca’s lead just past the half hour when Suarez shielded the ball with his back to goal and laid it off to the Argentine who steered it into the net with the outside of his left foot.

Ivan Cuellar denied Messi a hat-trick a minute later when he parried his shot and Brazilian Neymar almost scored when he curled the rebound on to the far post.

Neymar was awarded a 62nd-minute spot kick when he was brought down by Cuellar but the goalkeeper dived to his right to save Suarez’s effort, the seventh penalty miss by a Barca player this season.

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“It’s obvious we want to improve but we have confidence in Luis, Messi and Neymar because they are great penalty takers.” — Reuters

Masters in mind for McIlroy on Riviera debut

PACIFIC PALISADES — Rory McIlroy says he is excited about his Northern Trust Open debut this week at Riviera Country Club as he starts his tournament build-up in the United States for the Masters in April.

While the opening major championship of the year will be firmly in his mind over the next two months, McIlroy has long desired to compete at Riviera, which is consistently ranked by the players as one of the top courses on the PGA Tour.

“I wanted to come here because of what I had seen on TV, and the great things that people say about Riviera,” world number three McIlroy, 26, told reporters on Wednesday after playing in the pre-tournament pro-am competition.

“And this was the perfect timing. I had a week off after all the stuff I did in the Middle East (on the European Tour), and that gave me time to sort of regroup and get myself over to the West Coast. It just fitted into the schedule.”

The iconic par-71 layout at Riviera is a ball-striker’s paradise where long, medium and short hitters can all thrive.

“It’s a real treat when you come to a golf course like this where it’s not overly long, you don’t have to really bomb it off the tee, but it’s real strategic,” said McIlroy, a four-times major winner.

“It’s a real thinker’s golf course and it’s a real treat to play something like this because we don’t get to play them that often anymore.”

McIlroy will be making his first PGA Tour appearance of the year this week after recording top-six finishes in his last three events on the European Tour dating back to November — all three of them in the United States for the Masters in May.

“A couple of things in Dubai I wasn’t quite happy with, so I worked on those in Florida last week,” he said, referring to his tie for sixth at the Dubai Desert Classic earlier this month.

“I tweaked my driver a little bit. I felt like I was struggling to turn it over from right-to-left, so I put the loft up. I felt like the rest of my game was in pretty good shape.” — Reuters

Barca’s Lionel Messi and Sporting’s Roberto Canella in action during match during Spanish Liga BBVA at El Molinon stadium, Gijon on 17 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Real Madrid’s Lucas Digne (R) in action during the match against Real Madrid during UEFA Champions League Round of 16 First Leg at Olympic stadium, Rome, Italy, on 17 February. PHOTO: REUTERS