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TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN

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 Naw 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 at 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*



A soldier looks on the site of a military plane crash near Nay Pyi Taw Airport on 10 February 2016.
PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE

SME Dept looks to support toddy-palm beverage



A man climbs a toddy tree to collect palm juice. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Ko Moe

THE Department of Small and Medium Enterprises is ready to provide technological support to producers who are interested in production of value-added toddy-palm beverages in Myanmar, said an official from the department.

"Technological support is available for making value-added products based on toddy-palm in the country," Director U Swe Tint told The Global New Light of Myanmar daily.

The department received enquiries from five manufacturers who have interest in value-added toddy-palm beverages, added the director.

"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 Kyaukpadaung 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 toddy-palm farmers.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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 Scrutinizing Hluttaw Representatives yesterday.

First, Dr Sai Hseng Kyauk 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 Than 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 Htut of Kayin State Constituency 2 and U Aung Min of Zalun Constituency as the vice-chairmen, Dr Sai Hseng Kyauk 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 Scrutinizing Hluttaw Representatives.

The Speaker then informed parliamentarians of the committee which is also set to be formed with 15 members led by Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyay Thasan 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 Nawngkio Constituency, Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 3, Joint Secretary U Stephen of Kengtung Constituency and members Daw Khin Htay Kywe of Chaungzon Constituency, U Kyaw Soe Lin of Pyigy Tagun



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

Constituency, U Wai Hlaing Tun of Patheingyi Constituency, U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency, Defense Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Brig-Gen 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 Associ-

ation (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.— Myitmakha News Agency

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 Myo Lwin 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

Indian International Fleet Review for 2016 conducted



Officers from India and foreign countries pose for photo at the closing ceremony of Indian International Fleet Review. — Myanmar Delegation is at Left. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY INDIAN EMBASSY IN YANGON

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 Honourable President of the Republic of India, H.E Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 6 Feb. A fly past 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 Shri 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

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 prices 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, too,” said Ko Hset 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.



Motorcyclists are seen in Mandalay . PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

“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 Htay, 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 Ayeayar Htun 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 but 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.

“The low-cost 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 1440 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. —*Than Hteik*

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 pass-

port 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

Banfayo 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*

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Iranian counterpart

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic 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*

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 Phyto Wai Lwin, who is reportedly living with another woman, according to the Yangon Region Police Force.

Ko Thawda Phyto 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.

He then eloped with Ma Sandar Aung, a waitress, on 1st February. He was living illegally with his second wife at his parent’s home located in Sagaing Region. A relative tipped off the man’s first wife who then filed charges against her husband at the Police station in Taikkyi Township under section 13 of the monogamy law.

There have been 46 cases of violation of the monogamy law since its enactment in 2015.

A total of 26 cases were investigated in January of this year according to the Yangon Police Force. —*Ko Moe*

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, have 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 Dawei] 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 Hnit Pan 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 seat 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*

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



1,000-year-old ancient pagoda. PHOTO: THAN MAUNG LAY (KACHINMYE)

LOCATED in a village in Katha District in Sagaing Region, an ancient pagoda requires renovations, locals say.

According to a senior citizen from Manpin Village said; "The ancient pagoda was found in a quiet place situated 10 miles from Bamauk Township."

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

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)*

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 Thingangyun Township in Yangon. This is the third time the organisers have held such 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 Naing Oo. The disease was found in women in Kayah, Shan and Rakhine states as well as Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions. According to the survey conducted in 2003 and 2005, seven in ten pregnant 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 Soe (Myanma Alinn)*

Waw farmers face watermelon woes

WATERMELON growers in Waw Township, Bago Region, have expressed disappointment over the low 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.

"I guess the reason for decline in the price of watermelon is the eve of Chinese New Year. We invested roughly between K1,500,000 (US\$1,181) and K2,000,000 (\$1,587) into each acre of our watermelon cultivations," said U Tin Ngwe, a local grower.—*Phyo Ko Lin*



Watermelons. PHOTO: PHYO KO LIN

Crime News

12 buildings damaged by electric shortage on Maungmakan Beach



Maungmakan Beach in Dawei District. PHOTO: PHO SHWE THUN (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.

The incident occurred around 3am on Monday.

The fire was finally brought under control by 70 firefighters with the assistance of local people at around 3:50am. It took seven fire engines to put out the blaze which damaged six restaurants, five shops and the Maungmakan Beach Development Affairs Committee office.—*Pho Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

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.

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 HmuTon ward, Muse on 5th February.

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 Zayyar (Magway)*

Heroin and Yabba seized

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

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

Similarly, members of the police seized 589 Yabba pills from a motorbike being driven by one Nilar Oo on Chaung Taung bridge, Yay township on Saturday.

All suspects have been charged under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—*The Mirror*

Marijuana and knives seized in Dala

A local police squad seized Marijuana, a mobile phone and money at a house in Sekmyay 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 confiscated three knives and swords at the house. Charges have been filed under the Anti-Narcotic law.—*Maung Yin Oo (Dala)*



Kyaw Min Htaik. PHOTO: MAUNG YIN OO (DALA)

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



Indonesian President Joko Widodo gestures during an interview with Reuters at the presidential palace in Jakarta, Indonesia on 10 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 experienced 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

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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. Apart from online crimes, almost all other crime classes 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.

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 remain 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 ar-

rested harborers 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.

"While our law and order situation remains positive, Singapore continues to face various threats, the most significant being terrorism," MHA said, adding that the Home Team will do its utmost 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, with the foremost priority of keeping Singapore and Singaporeans safe," it said. —Xinhua

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 late 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 travel2ling," Arita Taxi President Shigetoshi Mieda said. —Kyodo News



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.

North Korea launched a rocket Sunday purportedly to put an Earth-observation satellite into orbit — an action widely seen as a cover for testing its ballistic missile technology — and conducted in early January its fourth nuclear test, both in defi-

ance 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.—*Kyodo News*

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Chinese disabled artists perform during an event to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 8 February 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

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 and disappearances under its young leader.

The news comes amid heightened tension surrounding isolated North Korea after its Sunday launch of a long-range rocket, which came about a month after it drew international

condemnation for conducting its fourth nuclear test.

A source familiar with North Korean affairs also told Reuters that Ri had been executed. The source declined to be identified, given the sensitivity of the matter.

Ri, who was chief of the Korean People's Army (KPA) General Staff, was executed this month for corruption and factional conspiracy, Yonhap and other South Korean

media reported.

Yonhap did not identify its sources. The source who told Reuters the news declined to comment on how the information about the execution had been obtained.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service declined to comment 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.

el officials.

A rare official confirmation of a high-profile execution came after Jang Song Thaek, 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.

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, fuelling speculation they may have been purged or removed, only to resurface.—*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.

Widodo's ruling coalition has four major parties, all of

which control seats in the cabinet.

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 Gerindra, 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*

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 terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba and

Pakistani spies in plotting the Mumbai massacre, has been depositing 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 can take place only Thursday."—*Xinhua*

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 have 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.

"In the wake of the three wild cats straying into the school

campus, the school has declared holiday for a day, following our advice," he said, on condition of anonymity. Three forest department officials sustained injuries Sunday when they tried to tranquilise the first leopard that was spotted in the school.

"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*



Syrian migrants cross under a fence into Hungary at the border with Serbia, near Roszke, on 27 August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 research showed such attempts either fail to alter 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 \$540 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*

NEWS IN BRIEF

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 \$1.6 billion 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*

— OPINION —

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 Khaing 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 coun-

try'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.

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 khinmaungaye@hotmail@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

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. Meticulous 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 speakers 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 confirmed and the Hluttaws were in session, their attentions or rather their curiosities turned to who will

become the president and vice presidents and so on.

Some were hasty to comment that a certain ethnic group was not represented in the selection of the speakers. I had to reason with one such person and told him to wait and see, as there are many positions of importance remaining to be filled. Then when some important parliamentary committees are formed, we noticed that most of the members of the minority groups, irrespective of the parties they represent, are chosen as members. Even some prominent members of the ruling party and the military representatives are included. These developments indicate the inclusiveness and the diversity in representations. Such moves would be very beneficial to the national reconciliation and the unity of the people.

As I'm outside the country at the moment, I was unable to keep myself updated on the latest developments at home. Only a few days ago, I had the opportunity to read some news online and was disappointed with some media coverages. One local English language journal made an assumption that due to the delay in making the nominations for the ministers' posts, public, the foreign investors are cautious and hesitant to invest in Myanmar. I couldn't imagine

how they came to such conclusions. Even ordinary persons can guess that the majority of the ministers in the new administration would be new faces, unknown even to the locals let alone the foreigners. In my opinion, the government policies, rather than the individuals who will be the ministers, are more important to the foreign investors at this stage of the transitions. Another piece of news is more absurd. It reported that the inability to reach an agreement between the military and the elected party must be the reason that the presidential nominee hasn't been named as yet. The media should not make such blind or random speculations. It is the most unfounded news item that shouldn't have been printed, as it can be misleading. They should know better than the public that there is still ample time, for the election of a president to replace the outgoing one, whose tenure would expire only at the end of March.

Here is yet another disturbing news. It's about the leakage of the nominees for the speakers' posts in the state and regional parliaments. I can't imagine what purpose it would serve by knowing beforehand. Are these the truths or speculations? If they are true, they tarnish the image of the party concerned, indicating their incom-

petence; they should be more discreet. If they are speculations, why can't we be patient to wait. Such news are annoying and undesirable.

Such irresponsible reporting are unethical. They may not have done it intentionally to spread misinformations, 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 writ-

ten 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. Those challenges are indeed very pressing and sensitive issues that would need extreme caution and tactfulness in tackling them as in navigating a ship through the choppy waters. I will not be discussing what those challenging issues are, but just mentioning to make my point that the incoming government has 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 misinformations. Such activities could create misunderstandings and controversies that would require them to clarify and address. We must avoid any action that could hinder or stall the nation-building process. Don't make waves that would cause the choppy waters choppier. It is the civic duty of every citizen to assist in the nation-building. Let's hope there are no uncharted waters ahead, which could be more difficult to navigate than the choppy waters.

Myitnge Rail Bridge nearly complete

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

"The two-way Myitnge Rail Bridge is nearly complete as all our engineers and workers put more effort into the project to complete within the set time frame," said the project 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 financial 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 (Myanma Alinn)*



Photo shows Myitnge Rail Bridge which is under construction.
PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN (MYANMA ALINN)

MPT store opens in downtown Yangon



MPT Branded Store in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

MYANMAR Posts and Telecommunications, one of the country's leading telecom operators, opened its own store in downtown Yangon yesterday.

The store is located at the corner of Bosunpet Street and Maha Bandoola Street. It is one of 100 MPT stores that are scheduled to open before the end of March this year near public areas nationwide, aiming to provide a wide range of services to

customers. Mr Koichi Kawase, chief commercial officer of the MPT-KSGM Joint Operation, said: "We have plans to accelerate the upgrading of service businesses for all MPT users within the year." MPT has already opened 14 service centres in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

People who want to know the latest information about MPT may visit its Facebook page, website and the company's offi-

cial page on the LINE messaging application.

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

Plans are underway to open MPT stores in Kyauktada, Thimgangyun and Shwegondine townships in Yangon; Aungmyethazan, Pyin Oo Lwin, Nyaung U, Meiktila, Myingyan and Mogok townships in Mandalay; and other regions and states before March.—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 ma-

chines, 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.

"How should I know [what they're objectives are]. Companies came here. They dug 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 tests for minerals in these locations in 2013.—Myitmakha News Agency



Angumaw beach in Rathedaung, Rakhine State.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA 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; Bhitarkanika 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 Pi Taw zoo is greatly appreciated.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

Jade mining reported in Indaw Tsp forest reserve

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

Since the early February, Dream Mining Co. has been mining in the reserve with a permit for mining in Mohnyin, Kachin State.

"No green light has been given to that company by the Farmland Management and Statistics Department in Indaw Township," said U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, the head of the department.

An official from Dream Mining Co. said: "The work has been carried out with the use of heavy machinery, including seven 10-wheel vehicles. But no jade was found at the project site." The project area is located near the southern part of Laytan Creek and west of Mawlu Modern Village. It is 18 miles northeast of Indaw Township, 1.5 miles from Auktaw Village and five miles from Ohnshitgon Village in Sagaing Region.—Than Maung Lay

New two-storeyed reinforced concrete school building opened for students In Myawady

THE opening of a new two-storeyed reinforced concrete building for Hwaitshan village Basic Education High School (branch) was held at Hwaitshan 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 Kamar Company spoke at the event.—Htin Lin Aung (IPRD)



Attendees pose for documentary photo at the opening ceremony of the new two-storeyed building. PHOTO: HTIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

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 three months from May to July, Graham said.

It can take four months to buy food aid and transport it into landlocked Ethiopia via neighbouring Djibouti’s congested port, so the window for action “is



Woman wait to collect water in the drought stricken Somali region in Ethiopia, on 26 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

rapidly closing,” the charity said.

The El Nino weather phenomenon has caused drought and flooding across Africa, leaving 20 million people short of food in the south of the continent and 14 million in the east, the United Nations says.

The number in need is greatest in Ethiopia, Africa’s second most populous country.

Famine, triggered by war and drought, killed one million people in Ethiopia in 1984. The nation now has one of Africa’s fastest-growing economies but many people are still small-scale farmers and herders dependent on seasonal rains.

A \$1.4 billion appeal by the government and aid partners for 2016 has raised \$680 million, UN figures show.

More than 400,000 Ethiopian children under five are predicted to suffer from severe malnutrition this year, and a further 1.7 million under-fives, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers will need treatment for moderate malnutrition.

The World Food Programme has started importing food from Berbera in Somaliland to speed up the process.—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 bribery 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 former aide not to testify against 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 independently, 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.



Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 it cut his jail term to 18 months.—Reuters

Iran to upgrade missiles, get Russian defence system: minister

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 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. Washington imposed fresh sanctions last month against

Iranian individuals and businesses linked to the missile programme.

“We will unveil the next generation of Emad with improved precision in the next (Iranian) year (starting from 20 March),” Dehghan was quoted as saying by the Fars news agency late on Tuesday.

“The Emad missile is not a violation of the nuclear deal or any UN resolution

since we will never use a nuclear warhead (on it). It’s an allegation,” he said, adding that mass production would begin in the near future.

Iran is also due to start taking delivery of the S-300 missiles 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.

Tehran and Moscow have 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (127N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (127N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (457N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (457N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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



Tourists and locals watch the sunset from White Sands Beach Park in Kailua-Kona, on Hawaii's Big Island, on 31 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 clus-

ter 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



Three cockroaches squeeze through a 3mm crevice under a room door at different stages of traversal, in this undated handout photo courtesy of PolyPEDAL Lab, UC Berkeley. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 (2.5 mm) to get through cracks.

Experts have been studying animal locomotion in order to invent robots that can maneuver in tough environments. For example, sidewinder 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 confined 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 Ganxian 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 dizziness on 28 January, Xinhua said. He returned home on 5 February via Hong Kong and Shenzhen.—Reuters



Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are seen inside Oxitec laboratory in Campinas, Brazil, on 2 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sanders, Trump win 1st primary in US presidential race

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 fiercer 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 Clinton, 68, 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 nom-

ination 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*

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 change 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 studies take into 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, ar-

gued in another presentation that rather than trying to minimise uncertainty it should be embraced as a space "where power can be challenged 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 conditions of the 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: Perspectives from India' stressed that it has now become imperative to look at climate change and uncertainty from "the above". Diverse framing of uncertainty lead to varied discourses of uncertainty from 'above' and 'below'.

Mehta said ontological differences exist in how climate change is conceptualised and understood by different actors across 'above', 'middle', and 'below', and how uncertainties manifest themselves in diverse discourses and practices.—*Reuters*



Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump reacts at his 2016 New Hampshire presidential primary night rally in Manchester, New Hampshire on 9 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Democratic US presidential candidate Bernie Sanders smiles after winning at his 2016 New Hampshire presidential primary night rally in Concord, New Hampshire on 9 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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.

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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 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

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.

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 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.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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 city of Sheikhpura district, about 350 kilometres southwest of Islamabad. District rescue officer Mo-

hammad Azam said 10 bodies were received at the district hospital.

"The victims were burnt beyond recognition," he said, adding that 17 people were injured including five students, 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*

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 tots up fares collected from journeys across Thailand's capital.

Septuagenarian bus conductor Pranom Charthyothin moves nimbly to a door to guide students off the vehicle. She waves at the driver, 66-year-old Plang Pansaor, 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 contraception programme in the 1970s also played a part, said Sutayut Osornprasop, 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 Santi-prabhob told Reuters 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 by 16 per cent to 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 keep working.

"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 Older Persons.

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

Just outside the Thai capital, the Cho Heng Rice Vermicelli Factory Co, says more and more older people are seeking jobs.

"We're getting more calls asking if we accept old applicants," said factory owner Varatus Vongsurakrai, 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 Darunee Kamwong, 72, a cleaner who has five children and helps pay for the education of two of her grandchildren.

"I think I'll work another five years," she said. "I'm old already but I can't rest just yet."—Reuters



Members of emergency services at the site of two crashed trains near Bad Aibling in southwestern Germany, on 9 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 ma-

chinery would be suspended overnight and restart at day-break 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.—Reuters

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

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- TEAK CONVERSION (253) TONS
HARDWOOD LOGS
- PYINKADO/THAYET/HNAW/THITYAR/
INGYIN/IN-KANYIN/ THINGAN/TAUKKYAN/THINWIN
ABOUT (2600) TONS
- HARDWOOD HANDSAWN/TAMALAN
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(2 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-074(15-16)	600 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (2) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB-075(15-16)	900 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (1) Set	US\$
(3)	IFB-076(15-16)	1500 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (4) Sets	US\$
(4)	IFB-077(15-16)	Mud Agitator Unit with (15KW) Motor (4) Sets	US\$
(5)	IFB-078(15-16)	Spares for GM 8V-71 Engine Ex Cementing Unit (21) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-079(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Butterfly Valves(12)Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-080(15-16)	Spares for Drawwork and Catwork(28)Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-081(15-16)	Adaptors, Flanges and Gate Valves(24)Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-082(15-16)	Rig Floor Handling Accessories (41) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-083(15-16)	Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit	US\$
(11)	IFB-084(15-16)	Low Bed Trailer (50 Ton) (2) Nos	US\$
(12)	DMP/L-013(15-16)	Generator (18KVA) with Diesel Engine (1) Set	KS
(13)	DMP/L-014(15-16)	95mm ² Cable, 1 Core, Aerial Bundle Cable, AL / XLPE (3500) Meters	KS
(14)	DMP/L-015(15-16)	10 HP Induction Motor Complete with Motor Starter (10) Sets	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-3-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 10th February, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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Zsa Zsa Gabor listens in court in Beverly Hills, as she is sentenced to over 145 hours of community service after a judge ruled she failed to complete her prior community service sentence for slapping a Beverly Hills traffic police officer, on 1 May 1990.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Zsa Zsa Gabor hospitalised, husband hopes she will live to 100

LOS ANGELES — Ailing movie actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was in a Los Angeles hospital on Tuesday awaiting surgery, her husband said, adding that he hoped the star of Hollywood's golden age would survive to celebrate her 100th birthday in a year's time.

Gabor's ninth husband, Frederic Prinz von Anhalt, told Reuters Gabor was admitted to the UCLA Medical Centre on Monday after having difficulty breathing. Gabor, the Hungarian-born star of 1950s films "Moulin Rouge" and "Lili" who turned 99 on 6 February, has been

confined to her home for years following the 2011 amputation of her leg and other complications.

"We are waiting for the surgeons to remove her feeding tube and put in another. We don't have a date yet for the surgery," von Anhalt said.

Von Anhalt said Gabor's health was not bad for her age.

"She talks a little but not very much. She is hanging on. I hope she will hang on for a couple more years, and celebrate her 100th birthday next year. I think everything will be ok," he said.—Reuters

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow testifies in trial of accused stalker



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow poses at the 2015 amfAR Inspiration Gala in Los Angeles, California on 29 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 Soiu, 67, told the jury she found the messages "religious to pornographic to threatening", the California wire agency City News Service (CNS) reported.

Paltrow, 43, said Soiu sent her about 70 letters, a cookbook, clothing and other items from 2009 and 2014, 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. Soiu'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, CNS said.

Soiu has pleaded not guilty to one felony count of stalking.

This is the second time Soiu, 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.—Reuters

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 himself.

It is enough to have earned Fingleton a BAFTA nomination on his first go.

The low-budget thriller stars Belfast-born Martin McCann as the unnamed survivalist, a loner making his own way in the wilderness. His life changes drastically when two women, portrayed by Mia Goth and Olwen Fouere, come across his shack.

"Our civilization is based

on a foundation of resources that can't be replenished and I began to imagine what I would try and do to try and survive in such circumstances," Fingleton told Reuters in an interview.

"And so it kind of came from that fever dream of imagining who I would become."

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 we were trying to find out the truth of the situation, the truth of what their characters would do."

The movie premiered at last year's Tribeca Film Festival and last month, Fingleton was nominated for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards, which will be held in London on Sunday. "The Survivalist" hits UK cinemas on 12 February.—Reuters

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 reappearance in the musical "The King and I" in New York.

Watanabe had been scheduled to star again in the musical beginning in March. "I am preparing 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 de-

layed." 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 for Best Supporting Actor for his role as Lord Katsumoto Moritsugu in the US film "The Last Samurai."

Watanabe made 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



Japanese actor Ken Watanabe, as shown in this photo, was diagnosed with an early-stage stomach cancer, his agent said on 9 February 2016. The 56-year-old actor has already undergone endoscopic surgery to remove it. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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.—Kyodo News

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 appear in various kinds of Japanese literature. 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.—Kyodo News

Warner settles 'Happy Birthday' copyright suit for \$14 million

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 hearing is scheduled for 14 March.

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



Singer Selena Gomez blows on sparklers for her birthday after accepting the Choice Music Group Award at the Teen Choice Awards at the Gibson amphitheater in Universal City, California on 22 July 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 peo-

ple 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

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



Apollo astronaut Edgar Mitchell is seen in an undated picture released by NASA. Mitchell, lunar module pilot on Apollo 14 and one of only 12 men to walk on the moon, passed away on 4 February 2016 in West Palm Beach, Florida, NASA said in a news release. PHOTO: REUTERS

WEST PALM BEACH, — Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the moon as module pilot on the record-setting Apollo 14 mission in 1971, has died at the age of 85, the US space agency said on Friday.

Mitchell died in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Thursday, on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the lunar landing, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said. The Palm Beach Post reported that he died at a hospice centre after a brief illness.

On his only space flight, Mitchell joined Apollo 14 com-

mander Alan Shephard, Jr., the first American in space, in the lunar module Antares when it landed on 5 February, 1971.

Their mission was to deploy scientific instruments and perform a communications test, as well as photograph the lunar surface and any deep space phenomena, the space agency said.

Mitchell and Shephard set mission records for time of the longest distance traversed on the lunar surface, the largest payload returned from the moon, and the longest lunar stay time, at 33 hours. They were also the first to transmit colour TV from the

moon.

Mitchell helped collect 94 pounds (42.6 kg) of lunar rock and soil samples.

He was the sixth of 12 men to walk on the moon. In his book "The Way of the Explorer," Mitchell wrote, "There was a sense that our presence as space travellers, and the existence of the universe itself, was not accidental but that there was an intelligent process at work."

Mitchell retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the US Navy and founded the Institute of Noetic Sciences in 1973, organised to sponsor research in the nature of consciousness.

In 1984, he co-founded the Association of Space Explorers, an international organisation devoted to providing an understanding of the human condition resulting from space exploration. Mitchell was born in Hereford, Texas, and held a doctorate in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He was selected as an astronaut in 1966. In a 1997 interview for the agency's oral history project, Mitchell said he was drawn to space flight by President John Kennedy's call to send astronauts to the moon.

"I've been devoted to that, to exploration, education, and discovery since my earliest years, and that's what kept me going," he said.—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 1,100 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 sidelines 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

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 me-

dia 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 07:00am ~ 12-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana 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 Rakkhita, Rakhine
07:46	Pm	Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
07:52	Pm	Today Myanmar "First Chapter of New History" (Amyotha 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 "Thit Htoo"

(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 header 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 Michail 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 Juergen Klopp back in the dug-out 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



West Ham's Andy Carroll in action with Liverpool's Simon Mignolet during FA Cup Fourth Round Replay at Upton Park on 9 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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

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 wasted 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

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 Myanmar Media 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 Gaw 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 Theinbyu 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.—Myitmakha News Agency