



Govt spares no effort to promote education & health of Chins

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and Paletwa Jetty Construction which will help Chin people to gain access to foreign countries through the water way are the proofs of these efforts.

President's message on PAGE 3



A ship churns the Ayeyawady at dusk, Bagan.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Keep a watchful eye on Sagaing fault: experts

Ko Moe

EARTHQUAKE experts have called for putting the Sagaing fault under a watchful eye, warning of a possible return of earthquakes after around 100 years of calm as the fault is moving quickly.

"A quake of about 7 magnitudes is likely to appear at any time as the last quake of 7.3 magnitude which was known as Bago quake struck Thongwa Township in 1930," said U Soe Thura Tun, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee.

An earthquake of 7.3 or lower is expected to occur according to a 100-or 120-year cycle for earthquakes, added the vice-chairman based on the committee's Sagaing fault survey, pointing out that there was no major quake in the following 85 years in the Sagaing earthquake zone.

According to the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, the intensity of another earthquake appears to be lower than that of the earlier one if it reoccurs within a short period after the first one.

Dr Myo Thant, secretary of the committee, warned that many parts of Myanmar are at quake risk, stressing the need to keep a watchful eye on the Sagaing fault.

According to geological surveys, the Sagaing fault is more than 1,000km long running from the Mottama Gulf to the south to Hukaung basin near the Indian border to the north.

The committee's vice-chairman highlighted the importance of taking earthquake-resistant measures while constructing buildings in towns and cities where the Sagaing fault passes through.

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CLEAN THE AYEYAWADY

Dredging of sandstones for proper flow of Ayeyawady reaches 70 per cent completion

Aung Thant Khaing

DREDGERS are conducting the removal of sandstones from the Ayeyawady River to ensure the proper flow of the waterway which helps watercraft run safely, according to the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in Mandalay.

The dredging of sandstones has been carried out near Ywathit village in Ngazun Township in the region, said Director U Win Hlaing of the department, adding

that works have reached 70 per cent completion.

Upon completion, cargo ships will be able to smoothly run along the Nat Sin Kyauk-Nyaung-yin waterway, said the director.

According to an engineer at the worksite, skill plays a vital role in removing stones which is harder than dredging sand.

Completion of the dredging work which is under the Ayeyawady river development project is slated for next month. A fund of K9.5 million is allocated to the project.



Sandstones being dredged and removed from the floor of the Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

VP U Nyan Tun returns home from US-ASEAN Leaders Summit

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The 19-ton bronze bell to be installed at Dawei's Shwetaungsar Pagoda

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Nissan to start producing cars in Myanmar for the first time

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Norwegian Deputy FM, Italian Ambassador

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than yesterday received a Norwegian delegation led by Mr. Tore Hattrem, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway and Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr.

Pier Giorgio Aliberti in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes Mr. Tore Hattrem, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway. PHOTO: MNA

Keep a watchful eye . . .

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Earthquake-resistant design is imperative for every building to resist the lateral forces of an earthquake, he added. It is necessary to use good quality construction materials that can help buildings to see less damage in the event of a quake, said the committee's secretary, echoing the vice-chair's view

on the subject. Myanmar has experienced a number of quakes including the Sagaing, Kabaw, Papun and Kyaukgyan incidents. In the event of the Turlay quake in 2011, 76 people were killed, 100 were wounded and 229 houses were destroyed. The Thabeikkyin quake in 2012 left 26 people dead, 231 injured and 462 houses damaged.

MoC, UNESCO take further steps for Pyu cities, Bagan

THE Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO held a meeting recently in Yangon, focusing on tasks to be continued in three ancient Pyu cities and for the Bagan cultural heritage zone to be put on the world heritage list. During the Meeting for Planning MoC-UNESCO World Heritage Cooperation Activities, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu clarified future plans and experts from the UNESCO-Bangkok dis-

cussed with participants of the meeting tasks to be carried out for the preservation of Pyu ancient cities as well as Bagan, with funding from Italy and Japan.

The Pyu Ancient Cities includes the remains of three brick walled and moated cities of Halin, Beikthano and Thayay Khittara located in vast irrigated landscapes within the dry zone of the Ayeyawady (Irrawaddy) River basin.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and officials hold talks with experts from UNESCO over future plans for Pyu cities and Bagan. PHOTO: MoC

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets foreign delegations



Speaker U Win Myint receives Ambassador of Italy to Myanmar Mr Pier Giorgio. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met Ambassador of Italy to Myanmar Mr Pier Giorgio at 1:30pm and Foreign Minister of Norway Mr Tore Hattrem at

2:30pm in his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Their discussions focused on creating new levels of mutual cooperation and strengthening

friendly ties. The Norwegian foreign minister was accompanied by Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Ms Ann Ollestad.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues, form parliamentary committees

THE Formation of three more parliamentary committees was proposed yesterday at the second Pyithu Hluttaw's first regular session following the approval of three proposed committees.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced parliamentary approval of the formation of the Banks and Monetary Development Committee that will

be chaired by Dr Than Myint of Hlinethaya Constituency, the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee by U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat Constituency and the Education Promotion Committee by Dr Tin Aung of Kyaukse Constituency.

Next, the Speaker informed parliamentarians of a process of forming the Health and Sports De-

velopment Committee, the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee and the Transport, Communications and Construction Committee, proposing Dr San Shwe Win of Yaykyi Constituency, U Soe Thura Tun of Kungyangon Constituency and U Nay Phu Ba Swe as chairmen of the three respective committees.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw session goes on with parliamentary committee formation

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's first regular session went on for its eighth day with the process of creating parliamentary committees yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the parliamentary approval of the formation of the Education Promotion Committee, the Local and Overseas Employment Committee, the Citizens' Fundamental Rights and the Democracy and Hu-

man Rights Committee with 15 members each.

According to the Speaker, Dr Win Myat Aye of Bago Region Constituency 4 was appointed as chairman of the Education Promotion Committee while U Kyaw Htway of Yangon Region Constituency 8 as chairman of Local and Overseas Employment Committee and Dr Htay Kywe of Yangon Region Constituency 1 as chairman of Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and

Human Rights Committee.

Next, the Speaker proposed to create a Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee with 15 members, naming U Kyaw Thiha of Mandalay Region Constituency 12 as chairman of the committee.

The eighth-day session came to an end, with the Speaker announcing that the next meeting for the ninth day is set for 22 February.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Induction Programme for MPs concludes

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday concluded its induction programme aimed at empowering its representatives to deal with parliamentary functions whilst meeting international standards.

British MP Ms Meg Munn and Ms Janelle Saffin, together with former local representative

DawDwe Bu, gave talks on the role of female representatives and their effectiveness.

On the fourth day, Mr Paul TseWai Chun and Ms Nola Marino, parliamentarians from China and Australia, gave talks on legislative procedures and the role of MPs.

The programme was joint-

ly conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nay Pyi Taw from 15 to 19 February.

The five-day programme drew 465 representatives who have actively participated in panel discussions and group discussions.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Govt spares no effort to promote education & health of Chins

Following is the unofficial translation of the message sent by Agga Maha Thare Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 68th Anniversary Chin National Day (20th February 2016).—Ed

To the esteemed nationals and brethren residing in Chin State,

It is my honour to send you this message on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of Chin National Day on 20th February today.

After gaining independence an agreement was reached at the people's conference held in Falam, Chin State, on 20 February 1948, to substitute the rule of chieftains with the democratic administration. Later on 9th October 1950, there was a motion tabled at the conference of the Chin Affairs Council to designate Chin National Day. At the conference, an approval was sought from the Chin parliamentarians to designate the 20th February, the day on which the people's conference was held in Falam, as "the Chin National Day". Therefore, counting from the year 1948, in which

the Chin National Day which was started to designate this year marks the 68th year.

Chin State lies on the western range of the country which runs from the north to the south, and the Kaladan River empties itself into the Bay of Bengal after passing through Chin State. The famous Natma Mountain situated in Chin State is home to rare species of plants and creatures. The Kennedy Peak famous for being a battlefield during World War II, is one of the historical values of Chin State. Under-ground and above-ground natural resources like beautiful Reed Lake, Manipur River, Bwenu River, Bontalar Falls, etc, lie within Chin State.

The Union government has been making all out efforts to supply electricity from the National Grid to the areas across

“The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and Paletwa Jetty Construction which will help Chin people to gain access to foreign countries through the water way are the proofs of these efforts.

Chin State, and focusing on better transportation. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and Paletwa Jetty Construction which will help Chin people to gain access to foreign countries through the water way are the proofs of these efforts. The government spares no efforts to promote education, health and other sectors in Chin State.

Torrential rains, flash floods and landslides in 2015 caused loss and damages in Chin State. Prompt actions have been taken by the Union and the State governments to reconstruct the roads and rebuild houses by allotting satellite towns.

The Union Government is striving to ensure internal peace and as a result, the Nationwide

Ceasefire Agreement was signed by eight ethnic armed groups on 15 October 2015. Based on the agreement, the Union Peace Conference was held from 12 to 16 January 2016 at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw. As stability and the rule of law play a pivotal role in the national development of a country, all the indigenous peoples need to maintain the stability already achieved if they are to strive for national development in unity with the government.

I send this message to the brethren living in Chin State to urge all of you to take part in marching toward the goal of a developed democratic country through the stability of the nation, unity among our brethren and a good foundation of development.

Appointments of Heads of Department

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as heads of service organisations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.
- | Name | Appointment |
|---|--|
| (a) U Kyaw Min Oo
Director General
Water Resources Utilisation
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
and Irrigation | Director General
Agricultural Planning Department
Ministry of Agriculture
and Irrigation |
| (b) U Kyaw Myint Hlaing
Director General
Irrigation
Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Irrigation | Director General
Irrigation and Water Utilisation
Management Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Irrigation |
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons on probation as heads of service organisations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.
- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) U Kan Chun
General Manager
No.1 Heavy Industries
Ministry of Industry | Managing Director
No.1 Heavy Industries
Ministry of Industry |
| (b) Daw Nu Nu Yin
Deputy Director General
Administration Department
Union Attorney General's Office | Director General
Administration Department
Union Attorney General's Office |
| (c) Daw Khin Cho Ohn
Deputy Director General
Prosecution Department
Union Attorney General's Office | Director General
Prosecution Department
Union Attorney General's Office |
| (d) U Aung Win
Deputy Director General
Legislative Vetting and Advising
Department
Union Attorney General's Office | Director General
Legislative Vetting and Advising
Department
Union Attorney General's Office |
| (e) Daw Myint Myint Kyi
Deputy Director General
Internal Audit Department
Central Bank of Myanmar | Director General
Governor's Office
Central Bank of Myanmar |
| (f) Daw May Malar Maung Gyi
Deputy Director General
Policy Research,
International Relations and
Training Department, and Monetary
Policy Affairs Department
Central Bank of Myanmar | Director General
Monetary Policy Affairs,
and Financial Institutions Regulation
Department
Central Bank of Myanmar |
| (g) Daw Thida Myo Aung
Deputy Director General
Financial Institutions Supervision
Department
Central Bank of Myanmar | Director General
Financial Institutions Supervision
Department
Central Bank of Myanmar |
| (h) U Win Thaw
Deputy Director General
Foreign Exchange Management
Department
Central Bank of Myanmar | Director General
Foreign Exchange Management
Department
Central Bank of Myanmar |

—Myanmar News Agency



Vice President U Nyan Tun being welcomed upon arrival back in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Nyan Tun returns home from US-ASEAN Leaders Summit

VICE-President U Nyan Tun, who attended the US-ASEAN Leaders Summit in California, USA, arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw via Singapore yesterday morning.

The Vice-President was welcomed back at the Nay Pyi

Taw International Airport by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw command commander, dep-

uty ministers and officials from the US Embassy in Myanmar.

Together with the Vice-President, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Ye Htut and Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin also arrived back on the same flight.—Myanmar News Agency

UEC sets date for return of election deposit

THE Union Election Commission announced yesterday that those who are eligible to draw their election deposits from the commission are to contact the respective offices of district election commissions not later than 30 June, 2016.

If they fail to draw their election deposits within the

prescribed period, the deposits will be brought to the State fund in accord with the rules and regulations enacted, said the UEC.

Election deposits are being returned to candidates who won parliamentary seats, garnered more than one-eighth of the vote, withdrew their candidacies

from the elections due to various reasons, made the payment of deposit twice, represented constituencies where voting was cancelled, were rejected from contesting the elections or died before the election at the respective offices of district election commission.— Myanmar News Agency

Chinese tourist convoys visit Myanmar via border



Myint Hlaing and Win Hlaing. Photo: PATHEIN- HLA KYI

TWO Chinese tourist convoys have visited Myanmar via Muse separately this month, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Under the arrangement of the Moe Sin Kyal travel agency, a convoy of eight vehicles carrying 26 Chinese tourists arrived in Myanmar via Muse on 9 February and visited Muse, PyinOolwin, Mandalay and Bagan during their six-day stay in the country.

Myanmar welcomed another Chinese convoy of nine vehicles carrying 33 visitors on 10 February. They also visited Muse, PyinOolwin, Mandalay and Bagan before leaving for China via Muse on 15 February under the arrangement of Myanmar Impression Co., Ltd.—Myanmar News Agency

KBZ foundation funds Shan State Buddhist University

KANBAWZA's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has funded K1.6 billion to the development of the Shan State Buddhist University and the university's convocation hall.

Vice Chairperson of KBZ Bank Ltd Daw Nan Than Htway and directors contributed K1.3 billion, the second donation to the university, to construct buildings including convocation hall, through Oxford SayadawDrBhaddantaDhammaThami, Secretary-General of the Buddhist Universities' Association on Monday. With a previous donation of K300 million, the total donation of the foundation to the university has now reached K 1.6 billion.—GNLM

Crime News

Three men arrested for snatching money

POLICE arrested three men who snatched money at Pabedan township, Yangon on 14 February. According to the investigation, three men approached U Thein Htaik while he was counting the money near a temple. The police with

the assistance of the people nearby caught the perpetrators. The police have taken action against Moe Kyaw Than (a) Saw Moe Kyaw, 31, Soe Gyi, 32, and Pyay Son (a) Nyan Lin, 29.—Myanmar Police Force



Moe Kyaw Than (a) Saw Moe Kyaw, Soe Gyi and Pyay Son (a) Nyan Lin. PHOTO: MPF

Fire destroys two houses and a cowshed in Chauk

A COWSHED and two houses were destroyed by a fire on Tuesday in Chauk Township, Magway Region. The fire began from an overcharged battery within a solar power system. The fire rendered two house-

holds of six homeless but no people or animals were injured.

Police have filed charges against the house owner, U Tu, 50, from Thanbo village-tract, Chauk Township.—Win Ei Mon (IPRD)

Two snatchers caught in Pathein

POLICE arrested two men trying to sell a gold necklace at a shop in Myoma market, on 16 February.

On 15 February, Maung Aung Soe Moe, 20, the manager of the gold shop said that, two men wearing motorbike helmets with a motorbike arrived at the gold shop, one of them saying he wanted to buy a necklace. When the shop manager showed a gold necklace, he chose a gold necklace worth K 1.2million. Then, he told his fellow man to give money for the gold necklace. Instead of paying, they looted it and ran away with the motorbike. The shop manager informed to the police.

The police from Pathein police station investigated and arrested Myint Hlaing, 19, and Win Hlaing, 27 from Saepingyi village. The local police station has filed a lawsuit against them.—Pathein- Hla Kyi



Myint Hlaing and Win Hlaing. Photo: PATHEIN- HLA KYI

Raw opium seized in Mohnyin

LOCAL authorities seized raw opium from a motorbike at milepost 20/1 on Nang Mon-Mai Naung road, Mohnyin township on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, members of the police stopped a motorbike being driven by one Zaw Wan with one Ma Aye Myint Zaw on board and found 9.1 kilograms of raw opium.

Likewise, members of the police seized 260 yabba pills from a house owned by one Daw Su alias Sandar Aung in Railway Station ward, Nawng-hkio town on 14 February.

Similarly, police seized 200 yabba pills from a house owned by one Aye Tun alias Ah Tum in Pyin Oo Lwin on Monday. Ah Sam alias Liyee Hauk was

found together with the owner. The police have filed charges against the suspects under the

anti-Narcotic and psychotropic substances law.—Myanmar Police Force



Aye Tun alias Ah Tum and Ah Sam alias Liyee Hauk. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Nissan to start producing cars in Myanmar for the first time

JAPANESE automobile giant Nissan Company will begin assembling cars in Myanmar for the first time in 2016. Nissan Company, which is known as the second biggest automaker company in Japan, is expected to produce 10,000 cars per year. Local production will target manufacturing cars for family use, creating 300 jobs this year.

“Because Tan Chong Motor cooperated with Nissan Company and settled to place the industry in Bago region, masses of local people will secure jobs and it will lift up the

country with economic exports. In fact, we are proud that a company like that, which is internationally popular, came to our country”, said U Nyan Win, Chief Minister of Divisional Region.

The signing of the land contract was held at the Htun Shwewa Hotel, Bago Township on Wednesday. Deputies and Executives from the company and governmental ministers signed the agreement before Mr. Mohamad Haniff Abdul Rahman (Ambassador of Malaysia).—*Sein Yi*

Traditional blacksmithing gradually fades away in Monywa

TRADITIONAL blacksmithing is gradually fading away in Monywa, Sagaing Region because of technological advances, one blacksmith says.

The decline of forest-based firms in the regions located around the upper part of the Chindwin River is one of main reasons for blacksmiths turning to other commercial business, U Zaw Min, a local blacksmith said.

“Currently, only two blacksmith businesses from 15 remain in the region and they produce around 2,000 knives for the whole year. Merchants from Minkin, Kalaywa and Mawleik, Homalin townships are the main clients for them.”

In the past, those blacksmiths largely manufactured their iron products to distribute to people who operate traditional forest-based businesses in the regions along the river. A typi-

cal blacksmith firm could produce between 4,000 and 5,000 knives per year.

U Zaw Min said, “The new generation shows very little interest in pursuing the traditional blacksmithing techniques as it is not easy for learners to reach a professional level during a short period of time.”

Myanmar’s traditional blacksmith craft (Pabe) is one of 10 Myanmar traditional arts.

Pabe is the tempering of iron in the furnace to make items. The artisans make ox cart axle, ox cart iron, tyre, scissors, hammer, adze, pickaxe, knife, hatchet, axe, digging hoe and mattock.

The traditional blacksmith craft emerged in the early Bagan period (11th century A.D) and improved in the mid Bagan Inwa and Yadanapon period.—*Pho Chan (Monywa)*



A blacksmith prepares for making a knife. PHOTO: PHO CHAN (MONYWA)

MAPCO and Myanmar Yeit Mon International Company to build salt processing plant

PLANS are underway by MAPCO and the Myanmar Yeit Mon International Company for collaboration on the construction of a high quality salt production plant, it has been learned.

The salt processing plant is to be constructed in Maubin township, Ayeyawaddy Region. It is expected the facility will be run by November this year.

“Local salt farmers still don’t have the capacity to produce high quality salt with new technology. The [salt] market is also depleting because of a lack of investment. If a high quality salt processing plant could be built within the country, then it would better for the salt farmers.” said U Win Htein, managing director of the Myanmar Yeit Mon International Company.

Machinery produced by the India and Viet Nam based Spain company will be imported for use in the construction of the salt processing facility.

“The majority of salt consumed [within Myanmar] is imported from foreign countries, as the quality of domestically produced salt is poor. We could produce quality salt domestically, and if the price of this salt was cheaper than that imported from abroad then the public would only consume domestically produced salt.” explained U Hnin



A salt maker working in a field in Ayeyawaddy Region. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Oo, deputy chairperson of the Myanmar Salt Federation.

The annual nationwide consumption of salt is approximately one million tonnes, but domestic salt processing facilities fall far behind being able to meet consumption needs. Currently, they only have the capacity to produce 100,000 tonnes per annum.

There are currently over 700

salt producers within the country and over 200 salt farmers producing the commodity, although the total salt field acreage of 40,000 acres is underworked with only 10,000 acres currently in use.

It is known that the main importer of salt into Myanmar is neighbouring Thailand which averages 50,000 tonnes of salt imports per annum.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar gold falls in value during start of third week of February

DUE to a decreasing value in gold on the market, the start of the third week of February saw the value of Myanmar pure gold follow suit, with the price of one tical’s worth (0.567oz) fall by around K10,000, according to those involved in the gold business.

An ounce of gold on the world market at the end of the second week in February peaked in value at \$1,260, later falling to \$1,220 during the start of the third week. This decrease in value of the precious metal had a knock-on affect on Myanmar pure gold, causing one tical’s worth to fall in value from K802,000 to K792,000, it is known.

“You can say that the price of gold has fallen. It’s difficult to predict [the market] since the world market for gold is unstable. Business is as normal though.” said U Zaw Aung, member of the

Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association and owner of Taite gold shop.

The price of gold on the world market hit its lowest on 8 February when an ounce was valued at just \$1,120 before rising to \$1,260 for the same quantity on 11 February. This rise, however, was short lived as the value then fell again a few days later on 14 February when an ounce was priced at \$1,246, while it is known that the value is continuing to decrease.

“Increase in the American evening gold market has brought the price of gold on the world market up. As the market changes so quickly it’s a difficult market to estimate.” said U Maw Maw, general manager of the Aung Thamardi gold shop.

The value of Myanmar pure gold is dependent upon gold on the world market and the price of

the US dollar. The exchange rate of Myanmar kyats to the dollar during the start of the third week of February was stable at \$1 equal to K1,240 while the price of gold on the world market fell.

The price of one tical of gold in the Myanmar gold market back in 2012 reached record breaking highs with a value of K792,000 while during the following two years the highest price for the same quantity hovered around K700,000. In October of last year however, the price of gold rose even further to the point whereby one tical was worth K803,000.

In regard to the markets on the afternoon of 14 February, one tical was worth K792,000 and a tical of 15 carat gold was valued at K742,000 while the exchange rate for one US dollar was K1,240 and an ounce of of gold on the world market cost \$1,220.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Beijing's air quality improving, despite winter setback, official says

BEIJING — Air quality in China's capital, Beijing, has improved over the last two years, a senior environment official said yesterday, despite a dramatic three-week episode of hazardous smog that drew worldwide attention last year.

The thick smog that shrouded the city for 22 days over November and December had distorted the picture of Beijing's environmental record since 2014, city official Yu Jianhua told reporters.

"Many people feel things got worse, because the impression of the pollution in December remains very deep," said Yu, referring to an episode that sparked Beijing's first pollution red alerts.

The impression would have been different if the same number of heavy smog days had been scattered over several months, Yu, a director at the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, told a news briefing.

Concentrations of sulphur dioxide, a gas that can cause breathing difficulties, fell 49 per cent in Beijing from 2013 to 2015, while particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometres, a dangerous airborne component of smog, fell 10 per cent, Yu added.

Weather conditions, including unusually high humidity and

low wind speeds, had worsened the smog last year, but authorities still needed to respond better to emergencies, Environment Minister Chen Jining told reporters on Thursday.

Yu was speaking at a briefing on efforts to integrate Beijing with neighbouring Hebei Province and the port city of Tianjin, a priority set by President Xi Jinping in 2014 to ease regional economic and environmental pressures and cut congestion in the capital.

The efforts include a five-year plan for integrated development until 2020 that envisages a 1,000-km (621-mile) rail network, among other projects, as well as unified regional pollution standards.

Wang Haichen, an official of Beijing's planning commission, said it aimed to shift manufacturing industries, research bodies and other organisations that have no critical reason to be in the capital to outlying cities.

Environmental concerns had prompted authorities to force a total of 718 firms to move out of Beijing in 2015, he added.

Hebei, which produces around a quarter of China's steel, had seven of the country's 10 smoggiest cities last year, despite



A woman wearing a protective mask makes her way in a business district on a heavily polluted day in Beijing, China on 3 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

efforts to clean up industries and cut coal consumption.

The reluctance of China's provincial governments to pool resources with each other has fed

industrial overcapacity and created huge income disparities.

Unable to lure investment in high-tech businesses, Hebei had long relied on low-end steel pro-

duction to keep its economy afloat, worsening pollution and leaving it painfully exposed to China's industrial slowdown.—Reuters

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North Korea satellite tumbling in orbit again



A metal object believed to be a part of North Korean long range rocket launched on 7 February, 2016, is seen in this undated handout picture provided by South Korean Defence Ministry and released by Yonhap on 9 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — North Korea's recently launched satellite is once again tumbling in orbit, after stabilising briefly, according to a US official and other sources.

The satellite update came as a key congressional watchdog agency said the US military had not demonstrated its ability to protect the United States against a possible North Korea missile attack.

Earlier this month North Korea launched what it said was an earth observation satellite but what the country's neighbours and the United States called a missile test. It was earlier believed to have achieved stable orbit but not to have transmitted data back to Earth.

The US official, and two other sources with knowledge of the issue, said they are less concerned about the function of the satellite than with the technology involved in launching it. They added that the launch was clearly intended to demonstrate North Korea's ability to launch an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The US Government Accountability Office, the research arm of Congress, highlighted concerns about missile attacks from North Korea in a report released on Wednesday.

"GMD flight testing, to date, was insufficient to demonstrate that an operationally useful defence capability exists," the GAO

said. GMD is an acronym for a ground-based missile defence system.

The report said that the missile defence system, or the Ground-based Midcourse Defence, had only demonstrated "a partial capability against small numbers of simple ballistic missile threats."

Ken Todorov, former deputy director of the Missile Defence Agency, said the organisation faced a difficult balancing act in meeting the needs of the US military and operating with limited resources for testing.

Last month the Missile Defence Agency conducted a successful test of the ground-based US missile defence system managed by Boeing Co aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of a redesigned "kill vehicle" built by Raytheon Co.

The test purposely did not include an intercept by a ground-based interceptor but was designed to demonstrate the ability of new "divert thrusters" that were developed by Raytheon to manoeuvre the warhead.

The report said that while there were benefits in the way the agency was acquiring the kill vehicle, challenges remained.

It added that the Pentagon's goal to reach 44 ground-based missile defence systems by the end of 2017 was based on a "highly optimistic, aggressive schedule" leading to "high-risk acquisition practices."—Reuters

Thai king recovers from fever and multiple illness

BANGKOK — Thailand's Royal Household Bureau said on Thursday that King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been hospitalised since last May, has recovered from fever.

A statement said he is still being given antibiotics for infections of undetermined cause, while constantly being administered oxygen together with physical therapy.

An announcement on Tuesday said Thailand's 88-year-old king, the world's-longest reigning monarch, was being treated for rapid breathing exhaustion, among other ailments, but Thursday's statement said his breathing and pulse had slowed and his tiredness had decrease.

Tests on the king's blood showed that no inflammation as a result of infection had been found, although inflammation had been found elsewhere in his body, including in his joints, which had improved, the statement said.

The king has mostly been confined to hospital since 2009. He was last seen by the public on 11 January when he briefly traveled from the hospital to Chitralada Place for a change of atmosphere.—Kyodo News

Nepal announces energy development and crisis elimination decade

KATHMANDU — Nepal on Thursday announced an ambitious plan to significantly reduce power cuts within a year, eliminate them within two years, and generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity in a decade.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli unveiled in Kathmandu the master plan for the National Energy Crisis Elimination and Electricity Development Decade, passed by the Cabinet on Thursday.

The master plan projects Nepal's electricity demand to reach 1,423 megawatts next winter, and supply to reach 1,067 megawatts, including the 320 megawatts already being generated by domestic hydropower projects, 67 megawatts to be added by under-construction run-of-river projects that will have the total installed capacity of 200 megawatts, 580 megawatts imported from India, and 100 megawatts to be generated from wind and solar sources.

Nepal currently faces up to 14 hours of power cuts a day, with the country's predominantly run-of-river type hydropower projects generating just one-third of their total capacity because of receding water levels in the snow-fed rivers feeding their turbines.



Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli (C) announces an ambitious plan in Kathmandu on 18 February. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Nepal has just two reservoir projects, the Kulekhani I and II, with a total capacity of 92 megawatts, and which can function at full capacity in winter too.

The master plan projects demand to reach 1,550 megawatts in the winter of 2018 and targets increasing supply by then to 1,850 megawatts, including 330 megawatts from currently operating projects, 400 megawatts from

under-construction projects that will have a total installed capacity of 1,000 megawatts, 930 megawatts imported from India, and 200 megawatts from wind and solar sources.

Energy Minister Top Bahadur Rayamajhi said Nepal would fast-track hydropower development in the next 10 years, replacing outdated and cumbersome policies with developer-friendly

ones. "It has been 105 years since we started generating hydropower, and today we are generating just around 300 megawatts in the dry season. The old policies will take us nowhere. We will make fundamental changes in the energy sector," he said.

Rayamajhi added that in this period Nepal will focus more on reservoir projects and peaking run-of-river projects, which are

more useful in the dry season and peak hours. Renewable energy, like wind and solar, will also be exploited, he said.

The government plans to introduce take or pay agreements to attract developers. It also plans to upgrade Nepal-India cross-border transmission lines for facilitating the import and export of electricity, and overhaul the domestic transmission grid in this period. Incentives will be provided for generation of power from solar, wind and biogas, Rayamajhi said.

Nepal currently has an installed capacity of 700 megawatts against a demand of around 1,400 megawatts.

With total domestic generation standing at just 320 megawatts, Nepal is importing 200 megawatts from India and is scheduled to import an additional 80 megawatts from this weekend.

Nepal has a total hydropower potential of 83,000 megawatts, of which half is technically feasible and financially viable.

Ten years of Maoist insurgency from 1996 and another decade of political transition scared away potential investors and delayed the progress of under-construction as well proposed hydropower projects. —Kyodo News

Viet Nam protests China missile deployment, Australia, NZ urge restraint

HANOI/SYDNEY — Viet Nam protested to China yesterday at a "serious violation" of its sovereignty over Beijing's apparent deployment of an advanced missile system on a disputed South China Sea island, while Australia and New Zealand urged Chinese restraint.

Tensions between China and its neighbours over maritime territory have risen since Taiwan and US officials said Beijing had placed surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island, part of the Paracel archipelago it controls.

"Viet Nam is deeply concerned about the actions by China. These are serious infringements of Viet Nam's sovereignty over the Paracels, threatening peace and stability in the region as well as security, safety

and freedom of navigation and flight," Foreign Ministry spokesman Le HaiBinh said in a statement.

"Viet Nam demands China immediately stop such erroneous actions."

The statement said diplomatic notes had been issued to China's embassy in Hanoi and to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to protest at Beijing's activities, including the building of a military helicopter base on Duncan island.

Earlier, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull had urged claimants to refrain from island-building and militarization in the South China Sea.

"It is absolutely critical that we ensure that there is a lowering of tensions," said Turnbull,

speaking after a meeting in Sydney with New Zealand counterpart John Key.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year and which is believed to have huge deposits of oil and gas. Viet Nam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

The Philippines said it was "gravely concerned" about the reports of missiles being deployed on Woody Island.

"These developments further erode trust and confidence and aggravate the already tense situation," its Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Australia's Turnbull said if Chinese President Xi Jinping was serious about avoiding the



Viet Nam's Foreign Ministry spokesman Le HaiBinh. PHOTO: REUTERS

so-called Thucydides Trap, a foreign policy metaphor inspired by ancient Athens and Sparta in which a rising power causes fear in an established power that escalates towards war, he must resolve disputes through international law. "President Xi is right in identifying avoiding that trap as a key goal," said Turnbull. —Reuters

Suspected plane debris found in Viet Nam

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnamese authorities have been examining a debris suspected of being part of a plane, local media reported yesterday.

The military command of Van Ninh District, Khanh Hoa province (in the southern part of central Viet Nam) has examined the debris found by a local fisherman in Dai Lanh Commune, and initially thought that it came from an aircraft, daily newspaper *Tuoi Tre Thanh pho Ho Chi Minh* (Ho Chi Minh City Youth) quoted Vo Hoan Hai, Secretary of the district's Party Committee, as saying.

The 41-year-old fisherman Le Tan Binh said he found the aluminum debris with 3.1 metres in length, and nearly 100 km in weight on 11 February off Khanh Hoa's coast some 42 nautical miles. Being busy working on the sea, he did not report the case to local authorities.

On 17 February, a group of photographers came to Dai Lanh to take photos, heard about the debris and reported to local press.

Binh is still keeping the mental piece at his house, local newspaper *Tien Phong* (Pioneer) reported yesterday. —Xinhua

Mekong Delta faces worst drought, saltwater intrusion in century

HO CHI MINH CITY — Parts of Mekong Delta in Viet Nam have been experiencing the most serious drought and saltwater encroachment in the past nearly 100 years, local media reported yesterday.

The ongoing drought and saltwater intrusion in the Mekong Delta has caused serious damages to rice and fruit tree-growing areas, forests, agriculture and animal hus-

bandry, as well as freshwater shortages in many southern cities and provinces, daily newspaper *Tien Phong* (Pioneer) reported.

The drought and saltwater encroachment have damaged many rice fields, causing losses worth some 1,000 billion Vietnamese dong (44.4 million US dollars), said Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Cao Duc Phat.

Kien Giang Province has erected 82 small dykes with total investment of nearly 20 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly 89,000 US dollars) to prevent further saltwater intrusion, but saltwater still has encroached on rice fields, destroying over 30,000 hectares.

The province currently needs more capital to build 27 bigger dykes.

The Southern Irrigation Science Institute forecast that all localities in the Mekong Delta, excluding Can Tho City, An Giang Province and Dong Thap Province, will have suffered saltwater encroachment this year.

The delta needs some 4 billion US dollars to effectively deal with the drought and saltwater encroachment, said the agriculture minister. —Xinhua

OPINION

Good teaching happens only when students learn

Kyaw Thura

A country prospers when led by a government that cherishes a strong sense of responsibility and accountability and is willing to improve public services. The same thing can be said of teaching, a passion-driven profession.

To become a teacher, one must be truly passionate about teaching and keen to be an inspiration to both students and others. We have all seen many a teacher enter and leave the world of teach-

ing. Zealous teachers find teaching rewarding and enjoyable, while impassionate teachers consider teaching challenging and exhausting. It takes perseverance and enthusiasm to remain in the teaching career. That's why effective teachers are made over time.

Frankly speaking, there are some teachers who take their profession as it is in the thought that all they have to do at school is to teach the textbooks to children as instructed. A teacher must be smart enough to make the lessons as interactive and engaging as possible. Judging from a saying that goes "With great power, comes great responsibility", teachers are required to perceive the responsibility that comes with their teaching career. On a more serious note, good teaching happens only when students learn.

In addition, teachers should be aware that very few parents send their children to school just for passing the exam with high marks. Most have other

expectations, too. Furthermore, it is absolutely necessary for teachers to note that it is one thing to do well in the exam, but it is quite another to be educated. Interestingly, children hardly distinguish effective and ineffective teachers. They love and respect both kinds of teachers but only tend to remember genuine teachers for the rest of their lives.

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.

Recollection of the tragic days in Rangoon under the Japanese occupation

U Win Sein

ANY disputed issue between two countries if resulted into an arm conflict, it can't be resolved by means of war. Even after a great bloodshed is being spilled from both sides and with the outcome of the victor country started to devise a method of suppressive administration on the loser country, so that from this unjust treatment, there is bound to be no peace for the two countries at all. In a short time, the defeated country would always find chance to rise up and start a new war again. The resultant answer for both countries would be destruction of human lives and properties, the ruins of vital infrastructure of the two countries for development.

War broke out between Great Britain and the Japanese Empire in the Pacific, because invasion of Malaya was taken at first by the Japanese landing on Kota Bharu in Kelantan on 8th December 1941, at 00.25 hour nearly an hour before the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and thereafter the Japanese with a major bombing on Rangoon on 23rd December 1941, the Mingaladon Airfield and downtown areas including Rangoon to be taken as the principal targets. For the Japanese the Shwe Dagon Pagoda would provide an excellent navigation landmark from the air. This bombing of Rangoon Town was as a havoc to create terrors and panics on the city's inhabitants and also to demoralize them the will to support the British war effort and hopping that such raids would force the Burmese people to turn against the British colonial ruler.

Let's look deeper into this conflict of war that Japan had come into the theatre of 2nd World War. In 1930, China was a divided country, Chiang Kai

Shek was governing the country with the support of Kuomintang [KMT] on one side and was opposed by Mao Tse Tung, chief of Chinese Communist Party [CCP] on the other side, fighting each other in many fierce clashes of war. Causing casualties on both sides, until at last the KMT and CCP had agreed to fight side by side against the common enemy Japan. In the 1930s the Chinese suffered continued territorial encroachment from the Japanese, using Manchuria as a cause, the whole north of the country was gradually taken over by the Japanese. As the Japanese had quickly captured all key Chinese ports and industrial centers including cities such as the Chinese Capital Nanking and Shanghai in this brutal conflicts, both sides used "Scorched Earth" tactics and last of all causing heavy damages to the Chinese factories and public communication sectors for the Chinese government only. Massacres and atrocities were common by the Japanese. The most infamous event came after the fall of Nanking in December 1937, when the Japanese troops slaughtered an estimated 300,000 citizens and raped 80,000 women. In addition many thousands of Chinese were killed in the indiscriminately bombing of cities by the Japanese Air Force. There were also reprisals carried out by the Japanese against the Chinese peasants in retaliation for attack by the partisans who waged a guerrilla war against the invaders by ambushing Japanese supply columns and attacking isolated units. From this Japanese aggressive war experience on China's weakness in her armament and a country divided in political idealism, thus encouraging the stronger Japan to expand further her war efforts toward South East Asia.

On the 23rd December 1941,

the horror of war was first experienced by me at the age of 8. When Father sent words to us, in which stated that war in Rangoon was not yet in a devastated state so better come back to Rangoon from Bogalay Town. Previously my Grand-father, Mother, Elder sister, Elder brother, me and Younger brother were told first by Father in a short notice to get away to Bogalay to escape the danger of Rangoon being attacked by the Japanese. As soon as we had arrived at Sinothan jetty, suddenly, siren wailing out a loud warning signal. We saw several Japanese planes with the circular red sign that designated the Japanese flag was clearly appearing on the side of the plane, diving down low and shooting with machine guns at the British gun boats that were docked alongside the nearby jetty. The British navy men were not in full alert of the fact that the Japanese planes were pinpointing them as the sitting targets and started a bombardment of bombing and firing the machine guns at random speed. At this moment, when I raised up my head to search for my Father, he was standing on the foreshore waiting for us to meet him. In confusion at this time, Mother took the initiation to lead us all to hold each other hand fast and not to let go of them, so we all trailing behind her wherever she went. The noise of the bomb explosion and machine guns' shooting were terrifying to hear. By covering my both ears with the palms in order to avoid the distressing noise from perhaps the dog fights between the British and the Japanese planes engaged in a deadly tangle. When I raised up my head again to see what was it, it was so happened in coincidence, that the Japanese plane was directly hit by the guns firing from the British gun boats. I saw a burst of

flame so bright that had made my eyes hurt to see clearly and the noise of the explosion came out from the plane's engine being hit was so frightful as if a thousand thunders with loud cracking and deep rumbling noise coming out at the same time, making your ears unbearable to hear. I was so scare myself that I had to drag myself onward step by step slowly, hopping my Mother at this time would find a place for us to hide. As we reached 14th street, we saw a house with door ajar, Mother, with her pitiful voice asking for entry but was refused instantly by the owner of the house, so we could do nothing, kept on walking until we reached 7th street, the siren had rang again to announce that it was safe for walking on the road now. We returned to Lanmadaw Street home and had found Father, who met us there and allowed us no respite, Father made a quick decision and ushered us to go back to Bogalay Town again.

After a few days, we met Father again, when he finally came to Bogalay Town to stay with us at last. We heard him retell that terrible incidence of that first time air raid by the Japanese Air Force. He

said that when the Japanese plane was shot down by the British gun boat at the foreshore of Sinothan jetty. The Japanese pilot was killed, but one of his severed leg dropped from the sky on to the platform in front of the silversmith shop at Lanmadaw Street, the engine head of the downed Japanese plane fell on the charcoal shop at 17th street. The Mingaladon Airfield was scattered everywhere with various plane parts of the British as well as the Japanese after their dog-fits. There was also a most horrible scene described by my Father, that was when one Japanese plane dived low and started shooting easily with the machine guns at the water front area where most of the imported Indian laborers were working, who had low standard in education running and scrambling here and there on the road of Phonegyi Street, instead they should quickly seeking safe shelter nearby, just like ants when their nest was being poked open by someone making them running mad everywhere, providing easy targets for the Japanese gunners. The casualty was amounted to nearly 1000 persons.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

With reference to the interesting and informative article by Tommy Pauk, regarding the old names of Yangon's roads and streets, I wish to point out one error.

The present Ziawaka Street in Dagon Township was actually named after the last Emperor of India, Zafar Shah who was captured by the British and brought over to Yangon along with his wife. He was kept in captive and died at this very road. There is a big mausoleum at his resting place on this road, nearer to the U Wisara Road. Thus the road was named "Zafar Shah Road" (and not "Sapashaire Street") and later changed as Ziawaka Road.

This is just to make the record straight without any disrespect to Tommy Pauk.

Thanks
San Lynn



Myanmar Police Force concluded its Sub-Inspector Police Training Course No 81/2015 at Zibingyi, PyinOoLwin Township, on 19 February 2016, with a speech of Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win. A total of 314 : 211 men and 103 women graduates completed the Yethurein Company training course. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

Demand for cabbage cools in Sagaing Region

ALTHOUGH villages across Wuntho Township in Sagaing Region increased its production of cabbage this season, dealers are facing cooling demand at the local market.

"Increasing migrant sellers in the market is one of challenges for local dealers," said a vendor from Seinle Village. "We currently sell a large cabbage for K200 (US\$0.16) and a small one for K100 (\$0.08)."

"Discontinuation of the local gold mining businesses with a huge number of workers in the township is the main reason for

the dealers declining demand in local market."

Makyigone, Zeephyubin, Seinle, Kyaingkhwin, Thabyaytha, Auounggon, Okapho and Thyeik villages mainly distribute seasonal fruits and vegetables to Kawlin market. They faced a serious natural disaster last year.

"The majority of rice plantations were destroyed during flooding last monsoon season across the region. As a result, Kawlin Township lost a lot of customers," a grower said.—*Sai Lu Min (Media Group)*

The 19-ton bronze bell to be installed at Dawei's Shwetaungsar Pagoda

A NEW bronze bell weighing about 19 tons will be placed within the area of Shwetaungsar Pagoda, a famous historic pagoda of Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region.

The Maha Wizaya Bronze Bell has been established at a cost of K140 million (US\$ 112,999) contributed by local well-wishers.

Organised by Taninthayi Region government, the opening ceremony of the installation of the bell is scheduled to be held within the first half of 2016 on a grand scale. On that day, a new e-library will be officially launched within the compound of the pagoda.

With the aim of promoting public observation of the Buddhist culture to both local and foreign researchers, students and



19 ton bronze bell. PHOTO: NAY MYO HTUT (Ye)

other interested people, the regional government established the e-library, where numerous books on religion are being kept. For more information about

Shwetaungsar Pagoda and other significant religious buildings across Dawei, enthusiasts may visit www.shwetaungsar.com.—*Nay Myo Htut (Ye)*

Residents of Kanthaya Village to get enough water next month

LOCATED within NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, Kanthaya Village will receive an adequate amount of water next month, a spokesperson from the

rural region development department said. According to news published in the state-owned newspapers on Monday, the rural region development department

recently visited Kanthaya Village to solve the water problem villagers have been facing recently.

The village of 285 households has a population of 1,500 and about 8,500 farm animals. It has only a tube-well for water, 680 feet in depth, producing 1,200 gallons of water per hour.

According to an investigation, they found that the five-acre wide reservoir cannot produce sufficient water for locals because of its declining water level.

The department has put more effort into carrying out renovations of water pipes linking with the Natthamee Kanpa river pump project in NyaungU Township. The renovation of such pipe lines is nearing completion with the department planning to distribute water to Kanthaya and nearby villages in March.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Villagers carrying tanks on the bullock are seen on their way to take to fetch water. PHOTO: MNA

Recollection of the tragic days in Rangoon under the Japanese occupation

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The fall of Malaya so quick was being blamed for the failure on the British Supreme Command which has a high hope on the plan for defense of Malaya with a misconception of thinking very high of the capability of the two battle ships which should be enough to defend the Malaya Peninsula without air cover, but the Japanese troops took cover behind the steam engines at Jahor Railways Station in the final stage of their advance down the Malaya Peninsula which culminated in the surrender of the British Force and the occupation of the British Naval Base in Singapore by the incredible courage of the Japanese Air Force's torpedo bombers on 10 December 1941 with bombardment of heavy torpedoes launching from the air. Thus crippling the two battle ships HMS

Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse and met the fate of being sunk at sea.

With the Japanese occupation of Kuala Lumpur, the Capital of Malaya on 13th January 1942 and of Rangoon, the Capital of British Burma on 7th March 1942 The new Commander of Burma, General Harold Alexander ordered the city of Rangoon to be evacuated after the ports and oil refinery had been destroyed. The remnants of Burma broke out to the north, narrowly escaping encirclement, to make way to Imphel and Manipur in India just before the monsoon broke out in May 1942.

During the occupation of the Japanese in Burma, so many incidents of Japanese brutality and inhuman treatment of the Burmese people had taken place. Due to the lack of manpower, the Japa-

nese invaders had recruited many Taiwanese natives who were mostly uneducated from the remote village tracts, naturally their behaviour were rude. On the first day that the Imperial Army of Japan had taken control of Bogalay Town, it was a small column of about twenty soldiers, many of them equipped with army rifles and bullets and the last soldier was carrying a machine gun. As a youngster I was afraid, however, I had to crouch behind the elderly relatives, to have a glimpse. A few days ago likewise about thirty townsfolk young and old, carrying various old fashioned rifles and even including some air guns, marching past the same square, where were they now, they were supposed to guard the town against the Japanese invaders, they all had fled into hiding. About some days later, I was

heading to the market to buy some edible titbits for breakfast on the 1st street, suddenly a Japanese soldier, came out from the market looking in distress, quickly standing in broad day light, urinating before the eyes of townsfolk including women, without any shame and regards at all to the elderly persons around.

Many times, from the high command of the Japanese Military in Rangoon had sent immediate orders to many townships to send in laborers for works in the frontier areas in which stated that if not being fulfilled in time, very bad consequences would be fallen upon them. So the various townships would be scrambling to search for the said laborers and when such laborers had been obtained, the respective township elders would have to organize financial teams to collect the re-

quired amount of money to be used as transport charges and daily allowances for the laborers to go off to the frontier area. Mostly those went away laborers never returned back to their homes, presumed to be dead or from time to time, some recurring news said about those laborers being sent to the border town of Thanbyusayat near Kwai Noi River of Thailand to construct a railway for the transport of war materials by a short cut of loading these materials in Thailand. There were news of some daredevil type of villagers daring to risk their lives by accepting the offer of money, and then on the way to their destination by double decker steamers. These laborers had planned their escape at some riverine remote areas, jumped ship and swimming away to the nearby thick jungles.

(To be continued)

No refugees, no money —Italy's Renzi threatens EU's east



Migrants walk towards a makeshift camp close to the Austrian border town of Spielfeld in the village of Sentilj, Slovenia, on 16 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi warned Eastern European leaders on Thursday that they may get less European Union development money if they do not help with the refugee crisis, participants at an EU summit in Brussels said.

In the midst of the worst migration crisis in Europe since World War II, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have been among the staunchest opponents of EU plans to transfer asylum seekers arriving in southern Europe to other EU states.

"The migration crisis is a common problem for all EU

countries. If you do not show solidarity, countries contributing the most to the EU budget may show less solidarity to you," said one person familiar with Renzi's comments to fellow leaders at a dinner which last into the early hours of Friday.

He threatened Eastern European countries with reductions in EU development funds channelled to their poorest regions.

About one third of the EU's seven-year, 1-trillion-euro (\$1.11 trillion) budget for 2014-20 is set aside for projects in poorer, mainly formerly communist countries and regions of

the bloc through so-called "structural funds".

Negotiations for the next seven-year budget will start this year. Italy is the third biggest contributor to the EU budget after Germany and France. As the costs of sheltering asylum seekers are growing, the countries hosting most of them are calling for some financial support from the EU budget.

The Netherlands, which holds the six-month presidency of the EU, has raised the possibility that a portion of the current budget's structural funds be reassigned to deal with the migration crisis.—Reuters

Ahead of Obama visit, Cuba says ready to talk about rights

HAVANA — Cuba is willing to talk with the United States about human rights, its top diplomat for US relations said on Thursday in reference to a historic visit by US President Barack Obama set for March.

The White House earlier said Obama would raise Washington's concerns about rights to free speech, free assembly and independent civil society during his two-day Cuba trip, the first by a sitting US president since 1928.

"Cuba is open to speak to the US government about any topic, including human rights," Josefina Vidal, director of US affairs for the Cuban Foreign Ministry, told reporters after the White House said Obama would travel to Cuba on 21-22 March.

The trip follows the two countries' move in 2014 to reopen ties after more than 50 years

of hostile relations.

But Vidal made clear that Cuba's idea of what constituted human rights did not coincide with Washington's perception.

"We have different ideas (about rights), in the same way that different ideas exist about other topics like democracy, political models and international relations, she told reporters.

"We hope that President Obama will have the opportunity to converse with the real Cuban civil society," Vidal said, using a term to draw a distinction from the opposition, which the government considers illegitimate.

Cuba says critics of its human rights record overlook a low crime rate and guaranteed healthcare and education.

Obama will meet with dissidents when he visits Cuba, the White House said. Republicans complained that the trip would

lend legitimacy to the island's Communist government.

Anti-government activists face harassment and short-term detention if they gather and protest in Cuba.

The Cuban Commission of Human Rights and National Reconciliation, a dissident group, says there has been a spike in such detentions since November.

Cuba released 53 political prisoners around the time of rapprochement in December 2014.

But there are still about 90 political prisoners in Cuba, the commission said on Thursday, an increase of about 20 since it issued its annual report in June 2015.

The Cuban government sees the dissidents as a tiny minority with little public support and financed indirectly by Washington.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian arms sale to Iran without approval would violate ban

WASHINGTON — A reported sale of Russian combat aircraft to Iran would violate a UN arms embargo if it occurred without advance UN Security Council approval, the US State Department said on Thursday.

Russia's RIA news agency on Wednesday reported that Russia will this year sign a contract to sell a batch of its Sukhoi Su-30SM multi-role fighters to Iran. As the United States and five other major powers negotiated the 14 July nuclear deal with Iran, the six agreed to maintain a ban on conventional arms sales to Iran for five years unless they were blessed in advance by the Security Council.—Reuters

Blast hits Turkish cultural centre in Sweden

STOCKHOLM — An explosion severely damaged part of a building that housed a Turkish cultural association in a Stockholm suburb late on Wednesday but no one was injured, police said.

Police said all the windows of the centre were blown out and that technicians were on site to investigate the cause. The centre was located in the basement of a building in Fittja, in southwest Stockholm.

"No one was inside. No one was injured. It had been locked since earlier in the evening," a police spokesman said.

No one has been arrested and there are currently no suspects, he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, 28 people were killed and dozens wounded in Turkey's capital Ankara when a car laden with explosives detonated next to military buses near the armed forces' headquarters, parliament and other government buildings.—Reuters

India, Brazil, South Africa begin joint naval exercise off western coast

NEW DELHI — India, Brazil and South Africa yesterday began a joint naval exercise off the country's western coast, aimed at increasing interoperability amongst the three navies.

The Indian Navy said that Exercise IBSAMAR is being held in Indian waters for the first time and the earlier four editions were held off the coast of South Africa.

"The primary aim of this exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the three navies as well as develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations," the Navy said.

The scope of the exercise includes wide-ranging professional interactions during the harbour phase and a diverse range of operational activities at sea during the sea phase, it added.—Xinhua

US donates MRI workstation to Clinical Centre in Belgrade

BELGRADE — A new workstation for processing MRI data, donated by the US Army, was put into operation at the Clinical Centre of Serbia (KCS) in Belgrade in the presence of US Ambassador to Serbia Kyle Scott and Serbian Health Minister Zlatibor Loncar on Thursday.

It will halve the time in which patients receive diagnostic results.

The workstation costs USD 100,000 and the money was provided by the United States European Command.

The US ambassador said he was very pleased to see the equipment, the latest technology which would greatly improve diagnostic work, installed and working. It is a great pleasure to see the good doctors you have that will work with the new equipment for the future of Serbia. I am grateful to the European Command for providing the funds, the ambassador told.—Tanjung

Sri Lankan government vows to fight AIDS, leprosy

COLOMBO — The Sri Lankan government yesterday vowed to control the spread of HIV/AIDS and leprosy which was on the rise in the island nation.

Health Minister Rajitha Senaratne said that the objective of the government was to lower the disease prevalence in 5 years.

Over 1,000 leprosy patients were detected in Sri Lanka by November last year while over 150 people were detected with HIV/AIDS.

The National STD Eradication Unit Director, recently asserted that the majority of victims infected with HIV/AIDS were between the age group of 25 to 45. The Health Ministry said that the spread of the disease was due to the tourism industry, use of drugs, homosexual behaviour, and immigration.—Xinhua

UN aims to air drop food to IS-besieged city in eastern Syria

GENEVA — The United Nations plans to make its first air drops of food and other aid in Syria, to Deir al-Zor, an eastern city of 200,000 besieged by Islamic State militants, the chair of a UN humanitarian task force said on Thursday.

UN aid agencies do not have direct access to areas held by Islamic State, including the city, where civilians face severe food shortages and sharply deteriorating conditions.

Speaking a day after UN road convoys reached five areas, some besieged by government forces and others by rebels, Jan Egeland said the organisation's World Food Programme (WFP) had a "concrete plan" for carrying out the Deir al-Zor drop in coming days.

"It's a complicated operation and would be in many ways the first of its kind," he told reporters in Geneva.

Egeland, who is head of the Norwegian Refugee Council, later told Reuters in Oslo: "It is either airdrops or nothing. Airdrops are a desperate measure in desperate times."

The government had given permission for access to Kafr Batna, on the outskirts of Damascus, he said, adding: "And we hope to deliver there in the next few days."

Referring to peace talks between the government and opposition, due to resume next week, Egeland said: "I hope it will also help the parties back to the negotiation table."

The WFP is planning a "high-altitude operation" to drop the life-saving assistance by parachute to the ground in Deir al-Zor where it will be collected and distributed by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, WFP spokeswoman Bettina Luescher said.

The agency, which provides logistics support for UN aid operations, would use a single aircraft initially, she said, adding: "It will take a little while."

Speaking in Damascus, UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said he hoped to expand aid deliveries to other civilians under siege, citing needs in areas including rebel-held eastern Aleppo and government-besieged Daraya in Ghouta.—Reuters

Hundreds protest in Cairo over police shooting

CAIRO — Hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Cairo security directorate on Thursday night after a policeman shot dead a man in the street, in the latest outburst of anger over alleged police brutality in Egypt.

A statement from the Cairo security directorate said the policeman had shot dead a driver after an argument and was forced to flee a mob of local people who attempted to catch and kill him. Police later found the policeman.

Footage posted on social media showed hundreds of people massing outside the security directorate to protest the death.

The incident comes amid mounting public anger over alleged police brutality. Last week, thousands of doctors held a rare protest against police they say beat two doctors at a Cairo hospital for refusing to falsify medical records.

Earlier this month, the body of a missing Italian graduate student was found on the outskirts of Cairo showing signs of torture, including electrocution. Activists said the injuries had

the hallmarks of Egyptian security services. The Interior Ministry has denied allegations of

involvement in the death.

Anger over perceived police excesses helped fuel the 2011

revolt that ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule and began on a Police Day holiday.—Reuters



Riot police officers stand guard in front of the Cairo Security Directorate as hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the building in Cairo, Egypt, on 18 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia warns Assad not to snub Syria ceasefire plan

MOSCOW — President Bashar al-Assad was out of step with the views of his main ally, Russia, when he said he planned to fight on until he re-established control over all of Syria, Russia's envoy to the United Nations was quoted as saying on Thursday.

In the first public sign of cracks in the alliance between Moscow and Damascus, the envoy, Vitaly Churkin, said Russia had helped Assad turn the tide of the war so it was now incumbent on him to follow Russia's line and commit to peace talks.

Churkin said Russia was working towards a peaceful settlement for Syria, and that attempting to take back control over the whole country would be a futile exercise which would allow the conflict to drag on indefinitely.

Asked in an interview with *Kommersant* newspaper about Assad's comments that

he would keep fighting until all rebels were defeated, Churkin said: "Russia has invested very seriously in this crisis, politically, diplomatically, and now also in the military sense.

"Therefore we of course would like that Bashar al Assad should take account of that."

"I heard President Assad's remarks on television... Of course they do not chime with the diplomatic efforts that Russia is undertaking.... The discussions are about a ceasefire, a cessation of hostilities in the foreseeable future. Work is underway on this."

Moscow and Damascus have been in lock-step since the end of September last year, when Russia launched air strikes on Syria which focussed on attacking rebels opposed to Assad's rule.

The Russian strikes saved Assad's forces from imminent

collapse and turned the tide of the fighting in his favour, exasperating the United States and its allies which have been working for years to defeat him.

Western diplomats expressed hope that Russia could use its influence over Assad to persuade him to start talks with armed opposition groups and eventually agree to step down.

Unofficial reports have emerged of Assad refusing to meet opposition figures proposed by Moscow as potential negotiating partners, but Churkin's remarks are the first public sign that Moscow is frustrated with Assad's reluctance to compromise.

On Assad's comments about fighting on in Syria, Churkin said in the interview: "In this case I think that we ought to be guided not by what he (Assad) says, with all my respect to the remarks of such a high-ranking

person, but by what he does in the end.

"If the Syrian authorities... follow Russia's lead in the resolution of this crisis, then they have a chance to get out of it with their dignity intact."

"But if in some way they are knocked off that path — and this again is my personal opinion — then a very difficult situation could arise. Including for the Syrians themselves. Because whatever the capabilities of the Syrian army, it was the effective operations of Russian air forces that allowed them to push their opponents back from Damascus."

"If they take the position that they don't need any ceasefire, and they need to fight on to the end and to victory, then this conflict is going to carry on for a very long time. And it's frightening to imagine that," Churkin said.—Reuters

Palestinian teens stab, kill Israeli in West Bank supermarket

JERUSALEM — Two Palestinian 14-year-olds stabbed and killed an Israeli in a packed supermarket in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, Israeli and Palestinian officials said, as a five-month wave of bloodshed shows no sign of abating.

An armed civilian shot the two teens, who were taken for treatment at Israeli hospitals in Jerusalem, the Israeli military said. Palestinian officials said both were 14.

A witness named only as

Uziel told Army Radio the supermarket was packed at the time with Israeli and Palestinian shoppers.

"We heard screaming and it was clear there was an attack ... Civilians and soldiers began running and shot one (attacker) ... and then the another," he said. "Everyone was shocked at how young they were."

The Israeli killed in the stabbing was 21 years old, a police spokesman said. A second Israeli was also stabbed and was in a

moderate condition in hospital, an official there said.

Since the spate of violence broke out in October, stabbings, shootings and car rammings by Palestinians have killed 28 Israelis and a US citizen.

Israeli security forces have killed at least 163 Palestinians, 107 of whom Israel says were assailants, while most others were shot dead during violent anti-Israeli protests.

Many Palestinian attackers have been teenagers.

Tensions have been fuelled by factors including a dispute over Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque compound and the growth of Jewish settlements on land Palestinians seek for an independent state.

Palestinian leaders have said that with no breakthrough on the horizon, desperate youngsters see no future ahead. Israel says young Palestinians are being incited to violence by their leaders and by Islamist groups calling for Israel's destruction.—Reuters

Russia government mulls five per cent cut in defence procurement spending

MOSCOW — Russia's government is considering cutting spending on defence procurement this year by 5 per cent, four official sources told Reuters, a move that would extend the budget squeeze to a sector that up to now has been immune from real cuts.

The proposal has support across several ministries and in other state institutions, enough for it to go forward for discussion at a cabinet meeting, the sources said. Until now, the idea has not gained traction beyond the finance ministry.

That it is now about to be put on the agenda of the full government is a sign that, as Russia begins its second year of recession caused by low oil prices and Western sanctions, no area is safe from budget cuts.

Cutting defence spending is symbolically important because President Vladimir Putin has made restoring Russia's military might a priority, a stance reinforced by military engagements in Ukraine and in Syria.

Russia spent 1.65 trillion roubles (\$21.60 billion) on defence procurement in 2015, according to defence think tank CAST. That represented about

half of total budget spending on national defence, it said.

A 5 per cent cut in defence procurement spending is unlikely to bring in significant additional budget revenues. The saving would be not more than 100 billion roubles, according to an estimate from one of the officials who spoke to Reuters.

"But this is not about money, it is about a political precedent," the official said. One of the sources, who all spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said that there had been talk of a 7 per cent cut, but there was "mighty opposition" from the defence ministry to that plan and most likely the reduction would be 5 per cent.

There is no final decision and it is yet to be approved by the prime minister or the president, two senior officials said.

"But we are trying to persuade our bosses that it is impossible for the budget to bear such spending today," a source in the finance ministry said.

The finance ministry spokeswoman declined to comment. The defence ministry did not immediately reply to Reuters' request for comment.

If approved, this would be

the biggest cut in defence spending under Putin, who in 2011 announced an ambitious programme to revitalise the Russian army and its ageing equipment by spending 23 trillion roubles in the decade to 2020.

It would also represent a small but symbolic victory for the finance ministry which has often argued that Russia could no longer afford a multi-billion-dollar revamp of the armed forces, and called for a 10 per cent spending across ministries.

Budget amendments, which would include the cut in spending on defence orders, are to be submitted in April.

With the economy already in recession last year, bitten by low oil prices and Western sanctions imposed on Moscow for its actions in Ukraine, the government adopted a 2016 budget in October that saw a rise in military spending.

Already the world's third biggest spender on defence, after doubling expenditures in the past decade, Russia has allocated 3.14 trillion roubles (\$41 billion) to the military this year, up from 3.12 trillion roubles in 2015. —Reuters

Museveni in early lead in Uganda election — electoral commission



Uganda's incumbent President Yoweri Museveni displays his inked finger after casting his vote at a polling station during the presidential elections in Kirihera in western Uganda, on 18 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

KAMPALA — Uganda's incumbent president Yoweri Museveni took an early lead in the country's election, preliminary results from the Electoral Commission showed yesterday.

The commission said Museveni garnered 1.36 million

votes out of a total 2.32 million votes counted from 6,448 polling stations out of a total 28,010 stations.

The tally gave Museveni 61.75 per cent of the votes counted, followed by opposition leader Kizza Besigye with 33.47 per cent. —Reuters

One in three American adults not getting enough sleep — CDC

ATLANTA — Did you get enough sleep last night? If not, you are not alone.

More than one out of three American adults do not get enough sleep, according to a study released Thursday from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

"That's a big problem" says, Dr Nancy Collop, director of the Emory Sleep Centre at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, who is familiar with the study.

"You don't function as well, your ability to pay attention is reduced, and it can have serious, long term side effects. It can

change your metabolism for the worse."

At least seven hours of sleep is considered healthy for an adults aged 18 to 60, according to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society.

CDC analysed data from a 2014 survey of 444,306 adults and found 65.2 per cent of respondents reported getting that amount of sleep.

"Lifestyle changes such as going to bed at the same time each night; rising at the same time each morning; and turning off or removing televisions, computers, mobile devices from

the bedroom, can help people get the healthy sleep they need," said Dr Wayne Giles, director of the CDC's Division of Population Health, in a statement.

Getting less than seven hours a night is associated with an increased risk of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and frequent mental distress, the study shows.

Conducted by the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the study is the first of its kind to look at all 50 US states and the District of Columbia.

The study found that among those most likely to get great sleep were married or have a job, with 67 per cent and 65 per cent respectively saying they get enough. Only 56 per cent of divorced adults said they get enough sleep, and just over half of jobless adults sleep seven hours a night regularly.

Among the best sleepers were college graduates, with 72 per cent reporting seven hours or more.

The study found geographical differences as well as ethnic disparities. Hawaiian residents get less sleep than those living in South Dakota, the study found. Non-Hispanic whites sleep better than non-Hispanic black residents, with 67 and 54 per cent respectively. —Reuters



A woman takes a nap next to her bicycle in Central Park in New York in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran proposes nuclear power cooperation with Hungary

BUDAPEST — Iran has proposed a project with Hungary to design and develop a small nuclear reactor that could be sold across Asia and Africa and also built in the Islamic republic, Tehran's top nuclear official said on Thursday.

Iran's Ali Akbar Salehi said he envisaged a joint pilot project with Hungary to design a 25-megawatt reactor and then a reactor of up to 100 megawatts, a size he said would be marketable across Asia and Africa.

He told a conference in Budapest that small reactors would be more affordable to poorer countries and require less cooling water, a critical consideration in Africa and Asia.

"One particular project that I suggested was to see if we can... together design a small reactor of 25 megawatts," Salehi said. "It was received well and we hope that we can start this project, just on paper."

"It requires a lot of scientific work to come up with such a design, certainly a number of years of hard work. We want to see if we can do this."

Referring to the lifting of international sanctions on Iran's economy last year, Salehi added: "We intend to fully utilise all commercial and technical opportunities, including the pursuit of peaceful nuclear activities, emanating from this deal."

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán visited Tehran late last year.

Iran will build two more Russian-designed large reactors in addition to its current single reactor at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, a project that could take a decade, Salehi said.

"After these three reactors, we have made our decision that we would look into small reactors," he said. "That is our strategy for the future. That takes time (but) we need to develop these modular smaller reactors."

Hungary has a single nuclear reactor at Paks, currently operating four updated Soviet-made reactors, and Budapest has signed an agreement with Russia to double the plant's capacity, using Russian technology and financing. —Reuters

Los Angeles-area methane leak declared permanently sealed

LOS ANGELES — An underground natural gas pipeline rupture that caused the largest-ever methane leak in California has been permanently capped, paving the way for thousands of displaced Los Angeles residents to return home, state regulators said on Thursday.

The leak, which began in October and accounted for a fourth of all daily methane emissions statewide at its height, was confirmed by a series of independent laboratory tests to have been successfully sealed as of Wednesday night, officials said.

The leak originated from a broken injection-well pipe deep beneath the surface of the 3,600-acre (1,457-hectare) Aliso Canyon natural gas storage field, owned by Southern California Gas Co.

State officials said the uncontrolled release of 80,000 tons of methane, the main component of natural gas and a far more potent greenhouse agent than carbon dioxide, ranked as

the largest such discharge on record in California.

Environmental groups seized on the breach to call attention to hazards posed by the state's aging fossil fuel energy infrastructure, and Governor Jerry Brown declared the gas leak a state emergency.

The stench of fumes from the site sickened scores of people for weeks and prompted the temporary relocation of more than 6,600 households from the northern Los Angeles community of Porter Ranch, located at the edge of the gas field.

Jason Marshall, chief deputy director of the California Department of Conservation, said it was safe for residents to return, and that the utility had agreed to continue paying their relocation expenses through next Thursday morning.

The announcement came a day after the utility, a division of San Diego-based Sempra Energy, pleaded not guilty to criminal misdemeanor charges stemming from the leak, which prosecutors said the



A gas company sign marks a fence near the site of the Aliso Canyon storage field where gas has been leaking in Porter Ranch, California, United States, on 21 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

company failed to report in a timely manner. Local, state and regional authorities, as well as dozens of residents, have also sued SoCal Gas.

In addition to facing possible fines and civil liability, the utility expects pipeline repair costs and housing relocation expenses

will end up running about \$300 million, said SoCal Gas Chief Executive Officer Dennis Arriola.

The actual leak was apparently stanchied late last week. The utility said on Friday that infrared monitoring by state regulators showed a newly

drilled relief well had managed to intercept the pipeline breach and halt the gas flow.

A series of follow-up emissions and infrastructure tests confirmed that the cement plug pumped into the crippled injection well pipe was holding, Marshall said.—Reuters

Kenya's wildlife rangers search for roaming lions in Nairobi

NAIROBI — Kenya's wildlife rangers yesterday embarked on a thorough search for two lions that sneaked out of the Nairobi National Park on Thursday.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) spokesman Paul Udoto said a team comprising of veterinary officers has been dispatched across the city to hunt down the two lionesses that were last sighted around Lang'ata residential estate and other neighbourhoods near the park. "We have dispatched our teams comprising veterinary official to search for the two lions. You know the wild animals have their own boundaries and today they have been able to roam until where people are settled in Langata along Southern Bypass," Udoto said by telephone. According to Udoto, the lions are reported to have strayed from the park late Thursday but four of them were found. Two of them are still roaming within the city.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HYUNDAI ADVANCE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HYUNDAI ADVANCE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.2.2016 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 PAUL RUSS VOY NO (0022S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAUL RUSS VOY NO (0022S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.2.2016 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

Argentine jeweller turns tech trash into wearable art

BUENOS AIRES — Argentine electronic technician and jeweler Hernan Bressan combines electronics, art and environmental protection together by transforming discarded technological hardware into wearable art in the shape of jewelry and accessories.

Bressan's company Electron Memories recycles small electronic components that no one usually notices because they are buried deep inside computers, and turns them into cutting-edge earrings, rings, pendants and key chains.

"It began after I found a computer server that was dropped in the street," Bressan told Xinhua. "The server I found was a great computer, and I thought to myself this cannot be dumped in the street," he said.

That's when he decided to salvage the parts and give them a new purpose.

"The idea is that when someone wears an electronic piece that has been

recovered and reutilized, others can see beyond the item's uselessness to its artistic expression," Bressan said.

He gains inspiration from a range of electronic gadgets such as computer components and mobile phones, and there is no shortage of material for him since new versions of electronic products are constantly being produced.

He hopes his initiative "helps to dissuade people from throwing things out in the street."

"They should take them to a place like my workshop where I recycle and reuse them in an artistic way, or to a place where they take out the raw material for recycling," Bressan said. He takes pride in each piece of his electronic art and regards it as "part of my family." He currently has seven different collections, all of which combine a passion for technology, art and environmental protection.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R TURKU VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.2.2016 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (218N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (218N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Coldplay, Wolf Alice and Yoko Ono winners at London's NME awards

LONDON — British bands Coldplay, Wolf Alice and The Libertines were among the winners at music magazine NME's annual awards, which also saw artist Yoko Ono honoured with an Inspiration Award.

Coldplay, who performed at this month's Super Bowl, received the "Godlike Genius" award at the London ceremony on Wednesday night while rock band Wolf Alice scooped best live band and best track for their

song "Giant Peach".

Artist, peace activist and widow of Beatle John Lennon, Ono, who turned 83 on Thursday, received the NME Inspiration Award.

"It's so flattering, I feel very good thank you," Ono told Reuters of the award on arrival.

Asked how the public's perception of her had changed over time, she said: "Well I don't think it changed so much but at least they understand that I'm a working girl."

Other winners on the night — where the awards are voted for by NME readers — included indie rock bands The Macabees, who were named best British band, and Foals, who took best album for "What Went Down".

Rock band The Libertines took two awards: music moment of the year for their for their secret Glastonbury festival set and best fan community.

"Boom Clap" singer Charli XCX received the best British solo artist prize while American Taylor Swift, who made Grammy history this week by becoming the first woman to win album of the year twice, was named best international solo artist.

Other categories saw the Foo Fighters' singer Dave Grohl awarded the "hero of the year" accolade and US Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump named "villain of the year".—Reuters



Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay, performs during the half-time show at the NFL's Super Bowl 50 between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos in Santa Clara, California, on 7 February.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Adele 'cried all day' after shaky Grammy performance

LOS ANGELES — British superstar Adele said she cried all day after what was supposed to be a triumphant return to the Grammys stage turned into a shaky live performance in which she sang off-key.

"I was so embarrassed," the "Someone Like You" singer told US talk show host Ellen DeGeneres in an interview recorded on Wednesday and to be broadcast on Thursday.

"I cried pretty much all day yesterday," said Adele, a six-time Grammy winner in 2012. "I don't feel like it could go that much worse than the Grammys, though."

Monday's Grammy Awards marked the biggest appearance for the 27-year-old singer in four years. It followed the release in November of "25," which broke US sales records and quickly became the best-selling album of 2015 with worldwide sales of some 15 million.

The November release made it ineligible for Grammy consideration on Monday. Accompanied by just a piano on the Grammy stage in Los Angeles, she sang her new single "All I Ask." But the performance was marred by tech-

nical issues when a microphone fell onto the piano's strings, and she turned in an uncharacteristically shaky performance, hitting sharp and flat notes.

Adele told DeGeneres she heard immediately that the song was not going well and wished she had stopped and started again. "Next time I have any sound is-

sues, I am gonna stop. I'll be like, sorry that's not working for me. If we have time to do it again, let's do it; otherwise, bye!" she said. She also acknowledged feeling more pressure now to perform well than a few years ago. "The more successful I get, the more pressure there is, really," she said.—Reuters



Singer Adele performs "All I Ask" on stage at the 58th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 15 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Don Cheadle says his Miles Davis film meant to show full legacy



Director Don Cheadle addresses a news conference to promote the movie 'Miles Ahead' at the 66th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, on 18 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Actor Don Cheadle said on Thursday that in his biopic of Miles Davis he chose to focus on the latter years of the great jazz trumpeter's career because it was a way into the broader legacy of the man considered one of the all-time best jazz musicians.

Cheadle's "Miles Ahead", in which he plays Davis and which he also directed, was shown on the sidelines of the Berlin International Film Festival.

It focuses mainly on a period when Davis had not made a record for several years and was in dispute with his record company, Columbia, over having failed to live up to the terms of his contract.

"I felt like it would give me the opportunity to look at all of the decades, it would give me the opportunity to be expansive as opposed to reductive," Cheadle told Reuters in an interview on Thursday.

"You just start giving short shrift to all of the eras as opposed to putting the music front and center and letting that music from any era and any decade push us through. So I think by focusing on the specific it gave me the abili-

ty to be very expressive and talk about any part of the film and any part in his library and his discography that I wanted to."

Appearing in Berlin the same week that director Spike Lee was here to promote his film "Chi-Raq", Cheadle said he generally agreed with Lee's public criticism of the lack of diversity in the Hollywood Academy Award nominations for best actor this year, with not a single black among the candidates.

"I mean if you had asked if, you know, the industry was good for black people in the '70s I'd say yes it was. And then it wasn't again. And in around the mid-'80s it was and then it wasn't again."

"You know, these are pendulum swings and we revisit times when diversity is something that is a big issue and for awhile Asian, you know, Asians were represented in a way in studio films that were much more represented than they are now," he added.

"So diversity is not just about black and white, it's about the multiplicity of ethnicities and stories from all over the world."—Reuters

Jessica Chastain launches production company

LOS ANGELES — Actress Jessica Chastain has launched her own production company Freckle Films, where she will serve as president alongside development executive Elise Siegel.

Freckle Films has entered into a first-look overhead deal with Maven Pictures, headed by Celine Rattray ("The Kids Are All Right") and Trudie Styler ("Still Alice", "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels") along with Charlotte Ubben, reported Variety.

Maven will provide development funds and cover overhead costs to acquire projects such as books, screenplays, plays and intellectual properties for Freckle Films and Maven to jointly

produce. "I'm excited to launch Freckle Films, and I can't imagine a better production partner than Maven Pictures," said Chastain.

"Trudie and Celine are not only both highly experienced and successful producers, but the projects they've created demonstrate their tenacious dedication to strong characters and compelling stories that clearly resonate with audiences. It's an honour to work with them."

Freckle Films and Maven have a number of films in various stages of early development and have already optioned two books, "The Magician's Lie" by Greer Macallister and Camille Pagan's latest novel, "Life and Other Near-Death Experiences".—PTI

In memoriam

Family shares merits gained
Maha Thayay Sithu
Lieutenant-General Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lieutenant-General Tin Oo who suddenly left us fifteen years ago, we family members have made donations and offered ‘soon’ and provisions to members of the Sangha on 19-2-2016. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife

Sons and daughters

Grandchildren

- Daw Khin Than Nwe

- U Maung Maung Kyaw + Daw Cho Leh Oo

- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo

- Dr Myat Noe + Yin Mar Oo

- Zaw Tun Oo+ Khin Thida

- Nay Tun Oo

- Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe,

- Phu Ngon Kyaw,

- Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)

Owner of ‘Big Lebowski’ house hopes to inspire with LA museum gift

LOS ANGELES — The owner of a luxury house featured most notably in the 1998 film comedy “The Big Lebowski,” is donating it to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art with the hope that people will build more architecturally creative homes.

James Goldstein, owner of the Sheats Goldstein residence nestled in the Los Angeles hills, has promised to leave the unique building, along with its gardens, art pieces and his fashion collection, to the museum so that it will one day be open to the public. “Los Angeles should represent a city that’s contemporary and moving into the future,” Goldstein told Reuters in an interview.

Goldstein does not give his age but has been reported to be in his 70s. “I want people to build houses in a way that haven’t been done before that are moving into the future instead of the past, so I hope my house is an inspiration for that kind.” The house was featured prominently in “The Big Lebowski,” the Coen brothers’ surreal stoner film, when Jeff Bridges’ character, The Dude, finds himself at the house of sleazy pornographer Jackie Treehorn.

The residence, with its sweeping vistas of the Los Angeles skyline and coast, represents a quintessential Hollywood party house with low-slung couches and a well-lit pool snuggled into a corner where the roof, speckled with hundreds of skylights, curves into the ground. Goldstein’s art collection includes works by Ed Ruscha and Kenny Scharf. In an adjoining building, the owner has created “Club James,” most recently the venue for a private post-Grammy Awards party, with a bar and seating carved into the concrete floors.

The property also includes a “Skyspace” light installation by artist James Turrell within the tropical gardens. Goldstein, a self-confessed fan of filmmaking brothers Ethan and Joel Coen, said he was “very proud of my house being included” in the cult film. The house has also appeared in 2003’s “Charlie’s Angels: Full Throttle” and is often used for high-fashion photo shoots. The owner, dressed in a cowboy hat and a bright blue leather jacket stamped with his initials from his own clothing label, said he has spent decades enhancing the 1960s house built by John Lautner. He co-designed many elements, from the frameless windows to the concrete floors, blurring the lines between the outdoor and indoor spaces.

“No matter what the taste of people is, whether they like contemporary architecture or not, when they come through this house, their mouths drop open and they all seem to love it,” Goldstein said.—Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(20-2-2016, Saturday)

6:00 am

7:35 am

8:35 am

9:35 am

11:15 am

11:35 am

12:35 pm

1:00 pm

• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

• Hyper Sports

• The Farmer

• MRTV’s Youth Programme

• Documentary

• Game For Children

• Round Up of The Week’s Local TV News

• Round Up of The

Week’s Hluttaw

3:15 pm

(Live)

5:35 pm

6:35 pm

7:15 pm

8:00 pm

9:00 pm

News

Gitadagale

Phwintbaohn

Ooredoo MNL-1 2016

(Ayeyawady United FC Vs Horizon United FC)

Poem For Chindren

Business News

Radio Drama

News / International

News / Weather Report

News

Gitadagale

Phwintbaohn

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Obey or get wiped out: Australia’s surfers bond with their dogs

SYDNEY — An Australian dog trainer and former surfing champion is using the discipline of surfing as a way of teaching owners to build healthy relationships with man’s best friend.

On sunny morning on the outskirts of Sydney, Chris de Aboitz heads out on the surf on his stand-up paddle board, joined by Rama and Millie, two rescue dogs who perform tricks, jumping on their owners shoulders and back as he rides the waves. The Sunshine Coast dog trainer, who is a former world tandem surfing champion, has been hitting the waves with his dogs for around ten years and has since taken to using it as a way to teach people to understand their dogs. “Surfing is not just about training dogs, it is about understanding them and their behavior,” said Aboitz.

“When you are surfing with the dogs they are allowed to look around but they have to sit on the board and not move, or we fall off and get wet,” he said. “Training dogs for everyday life is the same.” Aboitz travels up and down the Australian east coast with his four dogs, all rescued from shelters, using this unique method to teach owners and encourage them to take a more disciplined approach with their pets. “So many dogs are given away because people don’t have control, their dog turns from an asset to a liability. The ultimate result is to have less dogs euthanised,” said Aboitz.

Aboitz said he has had a positive response from dog owners, some of whom had taken to the waves with him, while others have embraced his training but stuck to land. “People make a lot of mistakes in training their dogs, who end up being dominant over them. Training the dog is the easy part, you also need to train the owner” he added.—Reuters



Australian dog trainer and former surfing champion Chris de Aboitz rides a wave with his dogs Rama (L) and Millie off Sydney’s Palm Beach. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(20-2-2016 07:00am ~ 21-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am

07:26 Am

07:39 Am

07:51 Am

08:03 Am

08:26 Am

08:37 Am

09:03 Am

09:26 Am

09:41 Am

09:49 Am

News

Great Shwedagon- Auspicious Grounds And Devotional Posts

ABU Song Festival

Coin Collectors

News

Serene and Fun Festivities of Yaw

On the River

News

Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy Of Golden Days

Talented Musicians

Black Gold (Part -I)

10:03 Am

10:26 Am

10:43 Am

News

Size Does Matter (Ep-3) Human-Elephant Conflict, “Existing Laws”

A Chance to Change Their Future

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm

07:26 Pm

07:38 Pm

07:49 Pm

08:03 Pm

08:26 Pm

08:54 Pm

News

Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep - IV)

Safari World

Today Myanmar: Fire Insurance

News

Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-1)

Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(20-2-2016, Saturday)

6:00 pm

6:10 pm

6:35 pm

• Classical Songs

• Real Story, Real Movie

• Myanmar Series

6:50 pm

8:05 pm

9:20 pm

• Cassette Drama

• Dramatic Arts

• Myanmar Video

3:45 Pm 100 Plus Stars Cup MFF Beach Soccer Championship 2016 (live)

From 20.2.2016 (Saturday) 06:00 Pm
To 21.2.2016 (Sunday) 06:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

More United woe in Europa League, red-hot Valencia

LONDON — Manchester United's hopes of salvaging their season in the Europa League suffered a stinging setback when they lost 2-1 at Danish side Midtjylland in the first leg of their last-32 clash on Thursday.

With the triple European Cup winners already immersed in a pall of gloom after a hugely underwhelming campaign, their best hope of returning to the Champions League next season is now in peril.

It should have been as straightforward an evening for United as it was for Borussia Dortmund and holders Sevilla who were among the high-profile clubs to secure comfortable wins as the Europa League's knockout stages got underway.

There was rare joy for former United stalwart Gary Neville when his Valencia side crushed Rapid Vienna 6-0. Tottenham Hotspur drew 1-1 at Fiorentina while Liverpool were held 0-0 at Augsburg.

United conceded the winner in the 77th minute when substitute Paul Onuachu pinched the ball on the edge of the area and swivelled before firing home a low bouncing drive.

It was another cruel blow for United. Their poor season has left them fifth in the Premier League although the club's financial might dwarfs the meagre resources of Midtjylland.

According to their latest annual report, the value of the entire Midtjylland squad is 55.6 million Danish crowns (£5.8 million) — United spent around 18 times that amount on close-season transfers.

One of the Old Trafford club's biggest close-season acquisitions



FC Midtjylland's Pione Sisto scores a goal during UEFA Europa League soccer match between Manchester United and FCM at MHC Arena Herning, Denmark, on 18 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sitions Memphis Depay, bought from PSV Eindhoven for 20 million pounds, put them ahead in the 37th minute.

Midtjylland replied a minute before halftime when Pione Sisto pounced on a mistake from United captain Michael Carrick and scored with a low shot.

"Our performance was nowhere near good enough and it has to be better," said Carrick. "We caused a lot of our own

problems."

Sevilla's grip on the trophy showed no sign of loosening as their bid for a third straight triumph began with a 3-0 victory at home to Norway's Molde.

Fernando Llorente netted twice for the holders who, like United, were playing their first game in this season's competition having dropped into it after failing to reach the knockout rounds of the Champions League.

Sevilla, who beat Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk in the final in Warsaw in May, opened the scoring against Molde when Llorente fired a pinpoint effort into the net off the post 10 minutes before halftime. The Spain striker doubled his tally when he held off his marker and blasted the ball into the roof of the net four minutes after the restart. Kevin Gameiro made it 3-0 with 18 minutes to go.—Reuters

Man United's De Gea needs scan on knee injury

HERNING — Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea will have a scan on a knee problem he suffered warming up for their 2-1 Europa League defeat by Danish side Midtjylland on Thursday.

Manager Louis van Gaal said the injury would need further investigation after the Spaniard was forced to sit out the last-32 first-leg tie where United's troubled season took another turn for the worse.

Sergio Romero replaced De Gea in the team for the Old Trafford club who were already without 12 players through injury or illness including captain Wayne Rooney.

"David de Gea has a knee problem so we have to wait and see. We will investigate that with a scan," Van Gaal said.

"When you play with another team every week, with other players, it doesn't help."

With United struggling to make the top four of the Premier League, the Europa League presented them with their best chance of qualifying for the Champions League next season.

The visitors took the lead against Midtjylland in the 37th minute with a scrappy goal from Memphis Depay.

Their advantage was wiped out a minute before halftime when Pione Sisto pounced on a mistake from Michael Carrick and scored with a low shot.

United were undone again in the 77th minute by substitute Paul Onuachu who swivelled before firing home a low bouncing drive to earn the Danes victory.

It was a second straight defeat for United who lost to Sunderland by the same score in the Premier League on Saturday.—Reuters

Pacquiao may still win senatorship after losing Nike in anti-gay outburst

MANILA — For all the criticism over his anti-gay comment and the loss of a lucrative endorsement deal with Nike Inc, Philippines world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao still looks set to win election to the country's senate in May, according to political analysts.

Nike, the world's largest sportswear maker, cancelled its contract on Wednesday with the 37-year-old boxer-turned-politician, who has been the world champion in eight different weight divisions, after he described gays as "worse than animals".

But voters in the mostly Catholic Philippines appear unready to abandon support for the

country's biggest sporting hero, who is running for one of 12 vacant senatorial seats up for grabs in the 9 May election.

The fighter has apologised for the comments, and analysts reckoned the controversy has caused limited damage to his campaign.

"Pacquiao has clearly offended the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community with his comments on same sex marriage, but this group represents a minority and this will not affect the boxer's popularity among the voters," Benito Lim, political science professor at the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University, told Reuters.

"He may still win in the

elections."

Many ordinary Filipinos believe Pacquiao made a mistake in his remarks on same-sex marriage because he hurt some sensibilities.

Many are more interested in what happens in April, when Pacquiao tries to win back the WBO welterweight title he lost last year to Floyd Mayweather.

Billed as his final fight, Pacquiao is going up against American Timothy Bradley.

"The criticism against Pacquiao has no effect on us," said Annabelle Magsipoc, a government employee, told Reuters Television, adding that the boxer retains popular support in the community.—Reuters



Manny Pacquiao (R) of the Philippines fights Antonio Margarito of Mexico during the second round of their 12-round WBC World Super Welterweight title boxing fight in Arlington, Texas in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS